



David Dahl prepares for a superb demonstration concert of the 1863 E. & G. Hook at Elm Street Congregational Church in Bucksport. (October 2010)

A Hook Holiday in Review continued

On Wednesday, the participants rode in a coach down scenic Maine country roads to visit churches and hear diverse music suited to four 19th century organs: an 1847 Hook organ in Stockton Springs demonstrated by Carlton and Lorna Russell, an 1863 Hook organ in Bucksport demonstrated by David Dahl, an 1848 George Stevens organ demonstrated by George Bozeman, and an 1866 Hook organ in Augusta demonstrated by Gunter Kennel. The group enjoyed the hospitality of two of the churches for lunch and dinner. On Friday afternoon, Anne Marie Rigler demonstrated a 1909 Hook and Hastings in Hampden.

On Friday morning, the participants were graced with another facet of Hook Opus 288, hearing the St. John's Chamber Choir and transcendental music for organ, choir, and violin by Bach, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Parry, and Rheinberger. On Thursday and Friday, Paul Tegels and Dana Robinson both masterfully demonstrated their exceptional artistry and the versatility of Opus 288 in evening recitals with works of Bach, Gade, Mendelssohn, Guilman, Paine, Schumann, and Widor.

David Coco, Gunter Kennel, George Bozeman, Scot Huntington, Robert Newton, Barbara Owen, David Wallace, and David Dahl presented lectures and participated in lively panel discussions about organ conservation and restoration and other topics related to these historic Maine organs.

The celebration was reviewed by Barbara Owen and Carol Britt in the Spring 2011 issue of *The Tracker*, the Journal of the Organ Historical Society, which featured Len Levasseur's photo of Hook Opus 288 on the cover! To quote Barbara Owen, "It was a well-planned week filled with exceptional artistry, splendid and well-restored organs, and inspiring music." Carol Britt summarized, "Spending a few days in and around Bangor and hearing about the organs and the people who influenced church music 150 years ago made clear to the attendees how important the Hook brothers were and how special the organ is St. John's is. The organ is a testament to the faith and determination of those who settled there and those who are there now."



Organ Students Johan Halvorsen, Jacob Gould, Cathy Bruno, Abe Ross, Sarah Johnson with Kevin Birch and guest artist Mark Dwyer, Organist-Choirmaster, Churst of the Advent, Boston. (March 2010)



A Hook Holiday participants (left to right): David Dahl, George Bozeman, Paul Griffin, Bob Newton, Scot Huntington, Paul Tegels, Anne Marie Rigler, Dana Robinson, Barbara Owen, Carlton Russell, Lorna Russell, Grant Batchelder, Cathy Bruno, Abe Ross, David Wallace, Kevin Birch, Gunter Kennel. Not pictured: Kay Byther Eames, David Coco (October 2010)

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH | 207 YORK STREET, BANGOR, MAINE 04401 | WWW.HOOKOPUS288.ORG



our historic E. & G. G. Hook Organ throughout the state of Maine and as far away as Berlin, Germany.

Major recitals by international artists including Jean Boyer (Paris, France), Gunter Kennel (Berlin, Germany), Carolyn Shuster Fournier (Paris, France), Matthias Schmelmer (Berlin, Germany), Pierre Bardon (Aix en Provence, France) and Mark Dwyer (Boston) have been well received by large and appreciative audiences. Our recent project, *A Hook Holiday*, was a special opportunity to celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of Opus 288. A beautiful review of *A Hook Holiday* is included in this newsletter.

Many performances on Opus 288 have been recorded and broadcast locally on Maine Public Radio and on national programs including *With Heart and Voice* and *Pipedreams*.

Read on to discover more about our 2012 Summer Organ Concerts (our twentieth year!) and the establishment of a new annual giving program. It would be a pleasure to see you at the Summer Organ Concerts, and I sincerely hope that you will consider supporting our ongoing efforts with a contribution.

It is a special joy to serve as Executive Director of St. John's Organ Society. I am grateful to our excellent Board of Directors, to our many volunteers, to the many organists and instrumentalists for their beautiful performances, and, of course, to organ builders George Bozeman, David Wallace, and Robert Newton of the Andover Organ Company - and those who have worked with them - for their expertise in caring so well for this cultural treasure.

Kevin Birch
Executive Director, St. John's Organ Society

Nearly twenty years ago, St. John's Organ Society was established to further the stewardship and appreciation of E. & G. G. Hook's magnificent Opus 288 - built for St. John's Catholic Church in 1860 - through a program of public concerts, education and outreach.

Annual Summer Concerts have featured an impressive roster of artists from the United States, Europe and Japan. Community outreach has included guided tours, demonstration recitals, and collaborative projects with organizations including the Bangor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, University of Maine's School of the Performing Arts, All Saints Catholic School and Bangor Public Library Summer Reading Program. It has been my joy to present illustrated lectures related to

St. John's Organ Society
Summer Organ Concerts 2012
20th Anniversary Series
Thursday Evenings at 7:30

July 26
Michael Kraft (Dover, MA)
Works of Bach, Dupré, Reger

August 2
Scott & Linda Vaillancourt,
organ/viola (Lewiston, ME)
Works of Faulkes, Mulet, Pärt

August 9
George Bozeman (Deerfield, NH)
Works of Bach, Duruflé, Franck,
Hindemith, Peeters, Schumann

August 16
Abbey Hallberg Siegfried
(Portsmouth, NH)
Works of Alain, Bach, Liszt, Paulus

August 23
Jay Zoller (Augusta, ME)
Works of David, Schumann, Wunderlich

August 30
Nancy Granert (Boston, MA)
Works of Bach, Dupré, Schumann,
Walther

With appreciation to our host hotel

The Charles Inn
20 Broad Street, Bangor
207-992-2820
www.thecharlesinn.com

ST. JOHN'S  ORGAN SOCIETY
WWW.HOOKOPUS288.ORG

A nonprofit organization committed to the preservation and appreciation of the historic E. & G. G. Hook pipe organ, opus #288 located at St. John's Catholic Church, York Street, Bangor, Maine.

Recitals, March 2011 - March 2012: An Overview

Carlton T. Russell



Celebrated French organist Pierre Bardon discussing a piece during his masterclass at St. John's. (March 2011)

A fine organ, like a fine choir, must have individual voices of beauty and integrity; and these voices must combine to form balanced and blended ensembles. While on such an organ one may play music of some periods with more historical authenticity than others, the instrument needs to have enough versatility to play convincingly music in various historical styles.

The seven recitals played on the magnificent St. John's Hook, Op. 288, between March of 2011 and March of 2012 proved again that this splendid instrument meets all of these criteria. The five summer recitals, with the two March programs, spanned six centuries of music history (from 1599 to 2008), with composers from a dozen different countries. This broad musical panorama covered not only France and Germany—the most strongly represented—but also other European countries, as well as Russia, the United States, Canada, and Japan.

On March 29, 2011, internationally known French organist Pierre Bardon, who had recently celebrated his 50th anniversary as titular organist of the Sainte-Marie-Madeleine Basilica in Saint-Maximum in Provence, presented a program of 17th and 18th Century French music and that of Bach (*Orgelbüchlein* chorale preludes and the famous Toccata and Fugue in D Minor).

The first of the five 2011 Summer Organ Concerts was on July 28, with Carlton Russell playing late 20th and early 21st Century music by two Winston-Salem, North Carolina composers, Dan Locklair and Margaret Vardell Sandresky. This was Dr. Russell's 20th recital at St. John's.

On August 4, Yohei Endo, a native of Japan and a student of Dana Robinson and Paul Tegels, played music of Bach, Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Franck, as well as a transcription of "Etenraku" [Music of Divinity] by contemporary Japanese composer Tsugutoshi Aragaki. A week later Steve Burgess played rarely-heard music of Russians Georgi Lvovich Katuar [Catoire] and Ivan Kryzhanovskiy, the Magnificat of Marcel Dupré, and portions of

Dutch composer Hendrik Andriessen's Sonata da Chiesa (1927). Douglas Beck presented a varied program on August 18, including standard repertory by Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Franck, as well as less familiar material: music of the 20th Century Swiss organist Guy Bovet, Estonian Arvo Pärt, and 19th-Century Belgian organist and pedagogue Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens.

The climactic Season Finale, on August 25, featured Dr. Kevin Birch, St. John's Director of Music, violinist Anatole Wieck, and 'cellist Peter Handford. Music of Guilmant and Dutch composer Samuel de Lange, Sr. was framed by ensemble music of Josef Rheinberger, including his Suite for Organ, Violin and Violoncello, Op. 149, a jewel of Romantic chamber music.

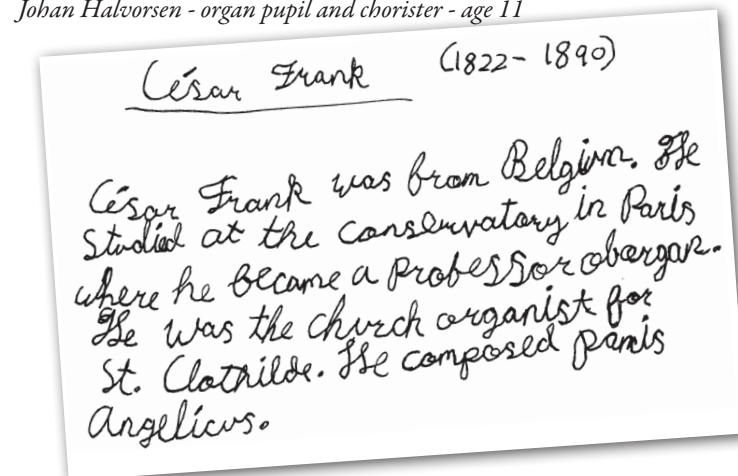
Paralleling the Bardon recital was that of Mark Dwyer on March 6, 2012. Dwyer, an established Anglican church musician and recitalist, is currently Organist/Choirmaster at The Church of the Advent in Boston. He played a stylistically varied and historically wide-ranging program which, in addition to music of Buxtehude, Bach, Handel, and Franck, included an early work of the recently-deceased Gerre Hancock as well as music of French virtuoso Jeanne Demessieux, English/Canadian Healey Willan, and the rarely-heard, Mendelssohnian *Three Tone Pieces* by the 19th-Century Danish composer Niels Wilhelm Gade.

All in all, the seven recitals impressively demonstrated the broad artistic scope of E. and G. G. Hook's 1860 masterpiece, Op. 288, in the breathtaking acoustic of St. John's Church.

Young Organists and Opus 288 from composer assignment for Mark Dwyer Concert - March 2012

César Franck (1822-1890) César Franck was from Belgium. He studied at the Conservatory of Paris where he became a professor of organ. He was the church organist for St. Clothilde. He composed Panis Angelicus.

Johan Halvorsen - organ pupil and chorister - age 11



In Appreciation

The Board of Directors wishes to express deepest thanks and appreciation to Dr. Carlton T. Russell for his long-standing support of St. John's Organ Society. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors, Carlton has performed twenty beautiful programs on Opus 288 including a pivotal recital in 1979 which launched the restoration campaign.



Dr. Carlton Russell and Dr. Kevin Birch (August 2011)

Carlton T. Russell is Professor of Music and College Organist, Emeritus at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, where he taught for 41 years. After he and his wife Lorna S. Russell, also an organist, moved to Stockton Springs, Maine in June of 2005, Dr. Russell served for 15 months as interim minister of music at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Camden. In October of 2006, the Russells became ministers of music at St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church in Blue Hill. An Episcopal priest, Dr. Russell holds degrees from Amherst College, Princeton University, and The Episcopal Divinity School, and the Choirmaster (Ch.M.) certificate of The American Guild of Organists. He has written a number of articles, mostly in the field of church music. Several of his anthems and a setting of the Holy Eucharist, Rite Two have also been published. In addition to conducting the choir at St. Francis, he continues to do some organ recital playing and to compose sacred choral music. He currently serves as dean of the Bangor (Maine) Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and as instructor in the Organ Education Program of the Belfast Bay Area Ministerium.

Did you know that you can find the St. John's Organ Society on Facebook?

Stay on top of all that's going on with the Hook Opus 288 and music by visiting

<https://www.facebook.com/hookopus288>

and giving it a "like!"

A Hook Holiday in Review

by Cathy Bruno

In early October 2010, 73 people gathered from around the world for *A Hook Holiday*, four days of music, lectures, and discussions to celebrate the 150th anniversary of E. & G. G. Hook Opus 288 (1860) at St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Bangor, Maine. The group enjoyed nine concerts on six historic pipe organs located within two hours' drive of Bangor, and six lectures and two panel discussions from a diverse group of presenters on topics related to the Hook brothers and the magnificent instruments they built. Many people donated their time and talents to celebrate with us. The recitalists, presenters, and organ builders came from far and wide and made sure that the six organs were tuned and ready. Conceived and organized by Kevin Birch, Director of Music at St. John's and Executive Director of St. John's Organ Society, together with a superb steering committee, this celebration was a tribute to Hook Opus 288 and to all the people who invested their time and resources to preserve and maintain this superb organ over the years. To name a few: David Coco organized a recital by Carlton Russell to raise awareness and funds to restore Hook Opus 288 in 1979; and George Bozeman, Scot Huntington, David Wallace, and Robert Newton all participated in the restoration over the past 35 years.

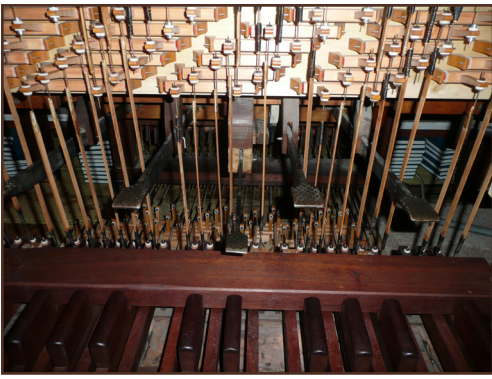
Community members and friends of Opus 288 had spent months preparing for *A Hook Holiday* by raising funds, designing brochures, providing publicity and logistics support, and baking cookies. Practice time was at a premium as the performers vied for time to register their music and prepare for their performances.

Each organ was showcased by recitalists who demonstrated their varied voices with music from the 17th through the 20th centuries. After mention on TV news on Tuesday, October 5, St. John's Church was filled for that evening's grand opening concert with Kevin Birch, organist, and the choirs of St. John's and All Souls Congregational Churches, conducted by Kay Byther Eames. This concert featured works of Mendelssohn, Franck, Fauré and Vierne, demonstrating the organ as a sensitive and brilliant solo and accompanying instrument.

Continued on back page



Organbuilders Robert Newton, George Bozeman and David Wallace at the console of E. & G. G. Hook's Opus 288 at St. John's in Bangor. (October 2010)



Photos from the Hook Op. 288 Restoration 2009-2010

Organ maintenance in preparation for Opus 288's Sesquicentennial Anniversary - 2010. Pictured are Bob Newton of the Andover Organ Company, Kevin Birch, Director of Music at St. John's, and organist Steve Burgess, a dedicated and tireless volunteer!



St. John's Organ Society Launches New Donor Program

To support our public concerts, education, and outreach, the St. John's Organ Society developed an annual giving program with the following levels:

\$20-\$49 – Supporter
\$150-\$249 – Sponsor

\$50-\$99 – Friend
\$250 - \$499 – Patron

\$100-\$149 – Contributor
\$500 and up – Benefactor

To make your tax-deductible donation, a donation form is printed in this newsletter or you can visit our website, www.hookopus288.org for a donation form, or call Kevin Birch, 207-217-6740. Donors will be listed by category in each summer concert program.

ST. JOHN'S ORGAN SOCIETY

WWW.HOOKOPUS288.ORG

2012 - Our 20th Annual Summer Concert Series - and a new annual giving program

Our Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new annual giving program.

Your tax-deductible donation will enable us to continue and expand our efforts to share the beauties of E. & G. Hook's Opus 288 through public concerts (Summer Organ Concert Series and a mid-winter International Artist Concert), education, and community outreach.

Donors will be listed by category in all concert programs.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for considering a donation to St. John's Organ Society!

Kevin Birch
Executive Director

St. John's Organ Society Board of Directors

Kevin Birch - Executive Director

Catherine Bruno - Secretary

Karen Kydd - Treasurer

Ruth Nelligan - Director

Carlton Russell - Director

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St. John's Organ Society Annual Donor Opportunity 2012-2013

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\$100.00-\$149.00 - Contributor

\$150.00-\$249.00 - Sponsor

\$250.00-\$499.00 - Patron

\$500.00 + - Benefactor

Thank you for supporting our ongoing efforts with your contribution!

Donors will be listed by category in all concert programs.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION