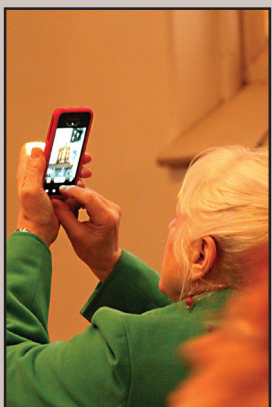


“AN INTRODUCTION TO THE KING OF INSTRUMENTS” APRIL 2014

Photos by Anita Kurth



Penobscot Valley Senior College Field Trip to Elm Street Congregational Church in Bucksport. E. & G. G. Hook, Opus 328 (1863).



*(left) A PVSC participant taking a photo of Opus 288
(right) PVSC participant William Shook with Kevin Birch and Anatole Wieck*



Introduction to the King of Instruments: Participants take a closer look at an early organ by George G. Hook and William Hook, Salem, MA, 1827 (Collection of Peabody Essex Museum)



INTERNATIONAL ORGAN CONCERT - 2014

Ruth Nelligan

It was with deep pleasure and excitement that on April 4, 2014 St John's Organ Society welcomed Hatsumi Miura to Bangor.

Hatsumi was educated at Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music. She also studied at the New England Conservatory of Music where she was an assistant to the organ faculty. At this time she was also assistant organist at All Saints Church in Ashmont. While at the Conservatory she received the coveted Artist's Diploma.

Hatsumi is presently organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Yokohama which has an 1889 Hook and Hastings organ originally built for a church in Providence, R.I. In addition she teaches organ at Ferris University in Yokohama. She is active in educational programs such as organ workshops for children and internships for young organists in Japan.

Hatsumi has garnered for herself an international reputation as an outstanding concert organist drawing large and enthusiastic audiences. In 2009 at a concert in Gloucester, Massachusetts her featured work was "Danse Macabre" by Camille Saint-Saens, transcribed for two organists on one organ.

For her concert at St. John's Catholic Church, Hatsumi performed beautifully and with artistic flair works ranging from Bach to the present day composer Hina Sakamoto.

Steve Dieck, husband of Hatsumi Miura has an impressive resume of his own. As a young student at Harvard he dreamed of building a major pipe organ for his Alma Mater. As a physics major he often tinkered with organ pipes in his dorm room. His passion for the pipe organ compelled him to abandon a career in physics to become an organ builder. In 1973 he received a B.M. in organ performance at DePauw University.

In 1993 he became executive vice-president of C.B. Fisk, Inc. He is past president of the American Institute of Organ Builders.

With the installation of Opus 46 in Memorial Church in 1967, his dream of building an organ for Harvard was realized. It influenced American perceptions on how organs could and should be built for years to come.

April 2012 marked the inauguration of New England's most notable new pipe organ in decadesFisk Opus 139 in the Memorial Church at Harvard University. The amazing engineering and craftsmanship of this "King of Instruments" will inspire, accompany, lead and teach for many generations.

ST. JOHN'S ORGAN SOCIETY

Annual Newsletter

JUNE 2014

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



E. & G. G. Hook, Opus 288 (1860)

Dear Friends of Opus 288,

Welcome to the pages of our third annual St. John's Organ Society Newsletter!

Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers and the generous financial support of our donors the St. John's Organ Society continues to share the beauties of E. & G. G. Hook's celebrated Opus 288 through public concerts, education and community outreach.

Our efforts during the last year included a series of well-attended Summer Organ Concerts, an International Organ Concert featuring distinguished organist Hatsumi Miura (Yokohama, Japan) and another exciting collaboration with the Penobscot Valley Senior College. The five-week course "An Introduction to the King of Instruments" took place on Friday afternoons in March and

April. With Opus 288 as the primary teaching instrument we explored the history of the pipe organ from antiquity to modern times and heard related organ music including the earliest keyboard music to works of Sweelinck, Frescobaldi, Buxtehude, Bach, Bruhns, Mendelssohn, Thayer, Buck, and Vierne. Our last class included a field trip to historic organs in Belfast, Stockton Springs and Bucksport. This year we were joined by violinist Anatole Wieck who performed works of Heinrich Biber and Josef Rheinberger.

Read on to discover more about our 2014 Summer Organ Concerts (our twenty-second year!) and enjoy the excellent articles prepared by our board members Ruth Nelligan, and Carlton T. Russell. Please also consider participation in our Annual Giving Program.

I am very grateful to serve as Executive Director of St. John's Organ Society. My thanks to Fr. Timothy Nadeau, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Parish for his enduring support of our work, 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.

I hope to see you this Summer!

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

St. John's Organ Society
Summer Organ Concerts 2014
22nd Annual Series
Thursday Evenings at 7:30

July 24
Rudolf Innig
Bielefeld, Germany

July 31
Naomi Shiga & Jonathan Wohlers
Tacoma, Washington

August 7
Robert & Nancy Ludwig
Bangor, Maine

August 14
Reiko Okamoto
Yokosuka, Japan

August 21
Jacques Boucher
with Sophie Poulin de Courval,
saxophone
Montreal, Canada

August 28
Kevin Birch
with Anatole Wieck, violin
Bangor, Maine

E. & G. G. Hook Organ, Opus 288 (1860)
St. John's Catholic Church
207 York Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

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, 207 York Street, Bangor, Maine.

RECITALS, JUNE 2013-APRIL 2014: AN OVERVIEW

by Carlton T. Russell

It gives special pleasure to begin this account a bit early. The 2013 summer series was prefaced by a recital at St. John's on June 9. Co-sponsored by the St. John's Organ Society and the Bangor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, this program was played by Abraham Ross, a long-time organ student of Kevin Birch and now an organ scholar under James David Christie at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. A "native son" on the noble Hook he knows so well, Abe played Bach, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Hindemith, and Dupré with impeccable technique and musical maturity, also providing thoughtful program notes.

The summer series began on July 11, with young German organist Matthias Schmelter, who regularly plays another 3-manual Hook organ at Holy Cross Church in Berlin. Including transcriptions from Wagner and a strikingly pictorial 20th-century work, "bright and dark" by Sophia Gubaidulina, Matthias' program ended with a masterful performance of Liszt's mighty Prelude and Fugue on B.A.C.H., player and repertory ideally suited to St. John's Hook, Op. 288.

Portland Municipal Organist and organ educator Ray Cornils returned to St. John's on July 18 with a varied program of organ works and transcriptions, some standard (e.g., Vierne's Westminster Carillon, Bach's "St. Anne" Fugue, and Franck's B Minor Choral) and some unusual, most notably "Penguin's Playtime" by English theatre organist Nigel Ogden (b. 1954).

July 25 saw a choral and organ program on a grand scale. The Children's Choir (*Choeur d'Enfants*) of the *Ile de France*, conducted by Francis Bardot, sang works by Bach, Franck, Saint-Saëns, and Fauré, interspersed with Kevin Birch's playing of organ pieces chosen to match the choral music, by Schumann -- a march arranged by French composer Alexandre Guilmant -- Bach, and Vierne, as well as a piece by Marcel Fournier (d. 1963) called *Cloches* (Bells).

Rosalind Mohnsen, a well-known Boston area recitalist, performed on August 1. Rosalind arranged her program by nationality: French works by Dubois and Vierne, and two pieces each from Germany (Rheinberger and Fanny Mendelssohn), Belgium (Fiocco and Peeters), and Bohemia



*International Organ Concert 2014
Organist Hatsumi Miura (Yokohama, Japan) in recital
at St. John's Catholic Church, April 4, 2014.*

(Dvorák and Cernohorsky). She ended her recital with three American works (by Frederick Shackley, Henry M. Dunham, and Richard Keys Biggs), together with an arrangement of "Amazing Grace" by the Americanized English jazz pianist Sir George Shearing.

On August 8, Netherlands-born Lubbert Gnodde demonstrated why he had won several European organ competitions, in an exceptional recital of music by (or arranged by) Bach, with a set of German late-Romantic chorale preludes of Reger and Karg-Elert. Having moved with his family to Vermont, Lubbert started working with organ builder A. David Moore in 2010.

Michael Menne plays an organ built by A. David Moore, at historic All Hallows' Parish near Annapolis, Maryland. His August 15 program, "A Summer Evening Potpourri", included, along with standard repertory, a trio, *Alles was du bist* - in the style of Bach and based on Jerome Kern's "All the Things You Are" - by the late theatre organist Billy Nalle. The August 22 Season Finale program was,

like that of July 25, an extensive one. St. John's Director of Music Kevin Birch played solo works by Mendelssohn, Walther, Vaughan Williams, and Dr. Birch's own teacher, Dutch organist Klaas Bolt. Kevin was joined by violinist Anatole Wieck in two pieces from Rheinberger's Op. 150, and by Wieck and 'cellist Abraham Ross in Rheinberger's Suite for Organ, Violin, and 'Cello, Op. 149, a masterpiece of chamber music.

April 4 saw the continuation of the St. John's International Organ Concerts, the performer being the Japanese organist Hatsumi Miura. Ms. Miura is resident organist of Minato Mirai Hall in Yokohama, a 2,000-seat auditorium which houses a large C. B. Fisk organ, and a faculty member of Ferris University and organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, both in Yokohama. Her program was sensitively designed to have a Lenten flavor, and included two chorale preludes of Bach for this season as well as two large and "dark" major works: Bach's Fantasia and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 537, and Max Reger's intense but ultimately triumphant Introduction and Passacaglia in D Minor. Also featured was the premiere of "All Glory, Laud, and Honor", music written for this recital by the organist's friend Hina Sakamoto and dedicated to the memory of the latter's composition teacher in Tokyo, Akira Miyoshi, who died during the composition of the piece and in whose style Ms. Sakamoto completed this Palm Sunday hymntune setting.



Abe Ross, organist



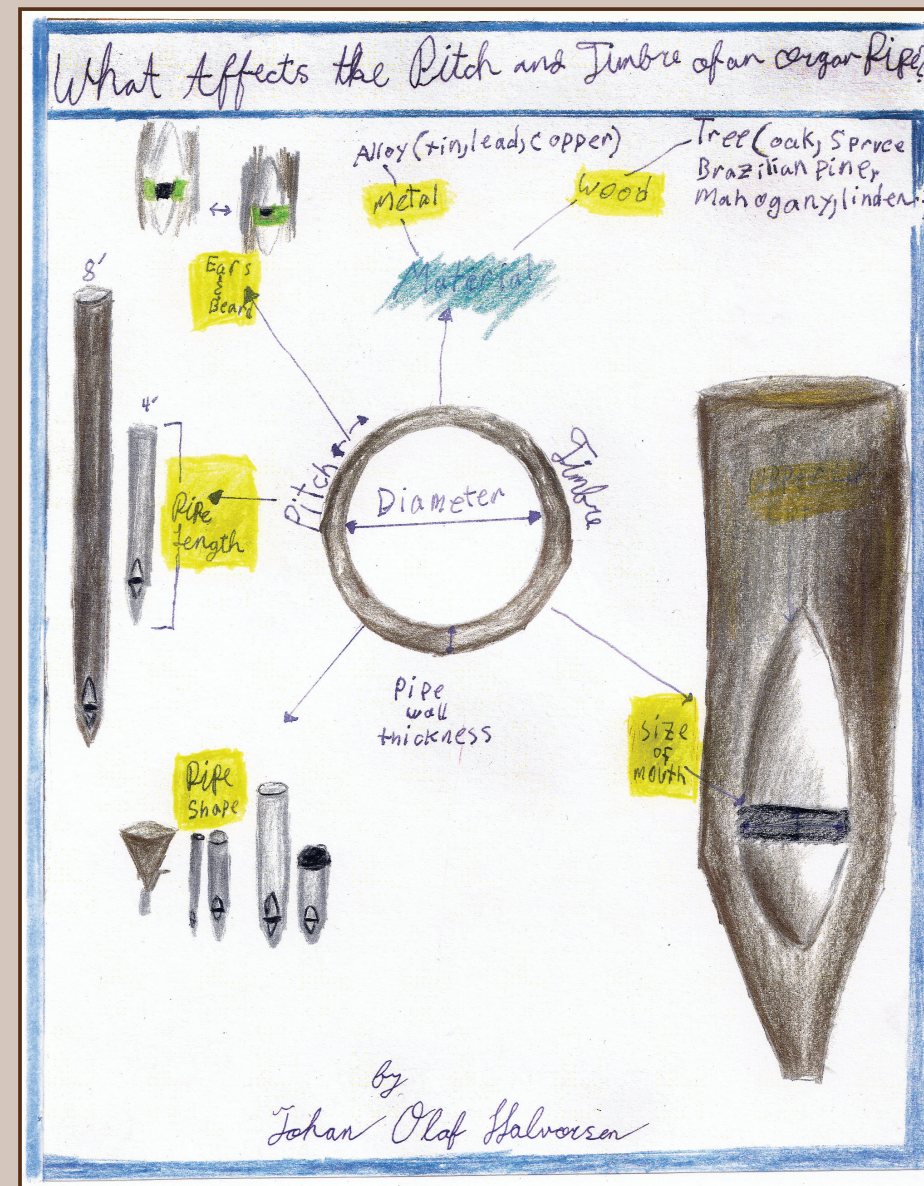
GUESTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

In 1992 the St. John's Organ Society began inviting organists to Bangor to play summer concerts on E. & G.G. Hook's Opus 288 at St. John's Catholic Church. In the past 22 years, 50 organists from 6 countries (U.S., Canada, France, Germany, The Netherlands and Japan) and 10 States

(California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri and New Hampshire) traveled to Bangor to perform. The above map demonstrates both the geographical diversity and the hot spots of the home cities of our visiting organists.

YOUNG ORGANISTS AND OPUS 288

a project on organ pipes by Johan Halvorsen (organ pupil and chorister at St. John's)



ST. JOHN'S ORGAN SOCIETY ANNUAL FUND 2014

It is through the generous support of our donors that we are able to share the beauties of E. & G. G. Hook's Opus 288 through public concerts (Summer Organ Concert Series and a mid-winter International Artist Concert), education, and community outreach.

Your tax-deductible donation will enable us to continue and expand our efforts, and maintain the historic Opus 288. Donors will be listed by category in all concert programs.

- Giving levels are:**
Benefactor (\$500+)
Patron (\$250-\$499)
Sponsor (\$150-\$249)
Contributor (\$100-\$149)
Friend (\$50-\$99)
Supporter (\$20-\$49)

Gifts may be sent to: St. John's Organ Society, 207 York Street, Bangor, Maine 04401. Please include your name, address, and email address if you have one.

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

ST. JOHN'S ORGAN SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kevin Birch - Executive Director
Catherine Bruno - Secretary
Karen Kydd - Treasurer
Ruth Nelligan - Director
Carlton Russell - Director
Bonnie FitzPatrick - Director

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ORGAN SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK!**
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288, concerts, and more by searching and liking
HOOKOPS288*