Lecture

Lynn Edwards Butler
Interconnections: Werckmeister, Silbermann and Bach

Lynn Edwards Butler is an organist and harpsichordist with a special interest in the music of the Baroque. She co-founded and for twenty years directed the Westfield Center, a non-profit organization that continues to promote classical keyboard instruments and repertoire.

Her concert career has taken her to fine tracker organs in Canada, the United States, Europe, and Mexico, and her first CD, an all-Bach recording, has just been issued by Loft Recordings. She currently is researching the history of Central German organ building in the first half of the eighteenth century as part of a joint project Bach as Organist in Leipzig she has undertaken with her husband, musicologist Gregory Butler. A native of Ontario, Lynn now lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Lecture-Demonstration

Hellmuth Wolff & Michael Gormley

Hellmuth Wolff made his apprenticeship in organbuilding with Metzler & Söhne in Switzerland and continued his training in Holland, in Austria (Rieger), and in the United States (C.B. Fisk). In addition to piano lessons and singing in different choral groups, his musical training consists of organ lessons, mainly with Bernard Lagacé in Montreal. He participated in the revival of organ building in North America ever since its beginnings early in the 1960’s. Thanks to three Beckerath organs, the ensuing partial “trackerisation” of the Casavant firm and a cluster of new organ shops, Québec was to become a major organ centre in North America.

Since 1968, Wolff & Associés produced around fifty instruments covering a wide variety of styles, such as the French Classic aesthetic in sound and appearance for the Repath Hall organ at McGill University in Montréal, the Swedish Baroque stoplist in a New-Gothic case for the Knox College Chapel organ at the University of Toronto, or presently, a more eclectic style for a concert hall organ at the University of North Texas, in Denton. With the variety of music being played in church services, a more eclectic approach is also the norm on most of our church organs.
Orphei Organi Antiqui, “for the Orpheus of the Historic Organ,” celebrates the multifaceted career and visionary endeavors of Harald Vogel, a pioneering authority on German keyboard performance of the eighteenth-century and earlier. This Festschrift publication, in celebration of Vogel’s 65th birthday, brings together twenty-one articles and essays on topics reflecting the colorful spectrum of his interests. The volume begins with writings about Harald Vogel—the man, teacher, performer, and scholar. Further contributions deal with issues of keyboard literature, performance practice, improvisation, congregational singing, organ restoration, and organ culture. This presentation will offer an overview of the book’s contents and a reflection on its editorial premises.

Cleveland Johnson is Professor of Music History and Dean of the School of Music at DePauw University. He holds a B.Mus. degree from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Fenner Douglass and William Porter, and the D.Phil. from Oxford University, where he worked under such scholars as Denis Arnold, John Caldwell, and Alan Tyson. In Germany, he studied for two years as one of the early students of Harald Vogel and is a respected scholar/performer with a special interest in the seventeenth-century German organ and its literature. Funded by such organizations as DAAD, Lilly, Mellon, NEH, AIIS, and Watson, he has produced a pioneering reference work on keyboard intabulations, Vocal Compositions in German Organ Tablatures, 1550–1650: A Catalogue and Commentary (Garland, 1989), a three-volume edition of the motet intabulations of Heinrich Scheidemann (Heinrichshofen, 1990–93), and six CD recordings of Scheidemann’s organ works (Calcante, 1997–2003). Most recently, he has begun to investigate the history of keyboard instruments in India, documenting historic pipe organs there and unearthing the early history of the indigenous Indian harmonium.
The legacy of Harald Vogel may someday be summarize as his collective (and tangible) output of recordings, music editions, books, articles, and well-restored historical organs. Not to be overlooked, however, is his important role as a teacher. In that capacity, he is certainly without equal, for not only does he teach, he brings together a complete multi-dimensional world within which his students can learn. Vogel’s most pivotal accomplishment, his founding and long-term maintenance of the Norddeutsche Orgelakademie, was all about teaching. This presentation explores the history of the North Germany Organ Academy through the voices of his former students; it outlines the significance of the institution for both Vogel and his students and the role it has played in all of their lives.

Elizabeth Harrison is Assistant Professor of Music and College Organist at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. She received bachelor’s degrees from Duke University and Southern College, a Master of Music degree from New England Conservatory, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from Stanford University. Dr. Harrison also spent three years studying at the North German Organ Academy in Germany, where she was chosen as the Organ Assistant to help with teaching. Since returning to the United States, she has distinguished herself as one of the leading experts on Baroque organ pedagogy and one of the sought-out performers in the United States and Europe. Her publications include several papers on eighteenth-century keyboard pedagogy and an article in the Revised New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians. She has recorded for the Raven and Dabringhaus und Grimm labels. In the spring of 2001, she founded the Westminster Historic Organ Program, a unique organization that assists students and teachers to practice, study, play, and learn from historical and historical-style instruments. In addition to her other activities, she is Organist and Choirmaster at First United Methodist Church in Sharon, Pennsylvania.