

The Organizer

Monthly Newsletter
The Atlanta Chapter
AMERICAN GUILD
of ORGANISTS
NOVEMBER — 2005

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE

Plan to come and learn about Tamara's wonderful new resource on music and the arts, designed for children but adaptable to any age group; and to hear Timothy present his exciting series of organ hymn preludes, and play on the delightful instrument at St. Bede's. It promises to be an enjoyable and enlightening day!

Copies of Dr. Albrecht's "Grace Notes" will be available for sale, along with CDs of Timothy's performing at the organ. Tamara's book, "Singing Through the Church Year: A Children's Choir Resource Book" will also be available for purchase. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, please call or email Michael Morgan as soon as possible, so we can anticipate how many copies to provide (770-964-0085, or michael30213@earthlink.net).

There will also be a Used Music Sale, where you may browse through scores and purchase them at rock-bottom prices — such a deal!

We look forward to seeing you at St. Bede's!

Michael Morgan,

DUAL WORKSHOPS

"Singing Through the
Seasons of the Church"
and "Grace Notes"

with

**TAMARA & TIMOTHY
ALBRECHT**

Presenters

10 AM — 2 PM

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 12

at

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

2601 Henderson Mill Road

Atlanta

770.938.9797

Lunch - \$7

Tamara Albrecht, Hostess

We need your help...and Exact Change

Our wonderfully dedicated volunteers who sign you in and collect fees for dinners and lunches have made a URGENT REQUEST.

If at all possible, please always pay your reservations with
a *PERSONAL CHECK*

-OR-

CASH (with exact change)

This will be especially helpful for the November Luncheon so we won't have the need for change-making. It would be appreciated if all future dinner reservations are paid in the same manner—please!

Thanks for your cooperation.

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An Opportunity to Share on All Saints...

AGO members:

This past summer, St. Luke's Choir went on tour to England and spent about a week in residence at Bristol Cathedral. We developed a pretty good relationship with them and have talked of future plans.

Recently, I asked Bristol Cathedral in England if they would sing the hymn "*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*"—the New Orleans version—on All Saints Sunday, November 6, sort of in solidarity with us after the destruction by Hurricane Katrina. Much has been offered for ways to donate money, etc. but, I thought that if we could get as many churches as possible to sing this hymn on this day it would be a great way to remember those who perished, those who lost their homes, those displaced because of the destruction, those still missing, those working in the recovery effort, and to help in the process of healing. Bristol Cathedral has said yes to this request and is passing the word to other Cathedrals in England to ask them to join us on this Sunday.

Please pass this information to as many churches and musicians as you can. I know it may not be standard hymn repertoire for some churches, but it also honors the musical heritage of New Orleans. So far, over 1000 bodies have been recovered and there is still so much more rubble to go through, not to mention further destruction from Hurricane Rita. I think it was Mother Teresa who said the worst thing in the world is to be a nobody to nobody. This is such a simple thing to do and can be so meaningful. Please pass the word to as many musicians as you can and ask others to join in singing this hymn on November 6.

With Thanks!

Bonita Clark, *Music Associate*
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
(404) 873.7634
bonita@stlukesatlanta.org

Did You Know?

Longtime AGO member **Sarah C. Porter** has recently moved and would enjoy hearing from her fellow members.

New phone number is 678.363.0809.

You may write to her at

Sarah C. Porter
The Legacy
1011 Merchants Drive
No. 339
Dallas, GA 30132

ROBERT I. COULTER ORGANBUILDER

American Institute of Organbuilders
Colleague Certification

Featured Client:
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Montgomery, Alabama
1985 Casavant — III/52

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires."
Beverly Sills

404.931.3103
<http://coulterorgans.com>



In Memoriam

Elizabeth Hemphill Elder

December 13, 1911 — September 30, 2005

Lifelong Music Educator
First Organist at Callonwalde Fine Arts Center (25 yrs)
Organist-Choir Director - Morningside Presbyterian



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A Message from The DEAN

A group of more than 100, comprised of AGO Members, their clergy and other guests, shared dinner at Columbia Presbyterian Theological Seminary on October 11th! Together we listened to the wisdom and wit of Austin Lovelace, whose choral and organ works were included in the beautiful Vespers service prepared for us by Michael Morgan and the harmonious seminary choir.

Austin Lovelace possesses the unique ability to share so much in a single hour: valuable keys to communication between musicians and clergy; reminders of the critical importance of weekly choices we make - especially regarding the hymns; to give us specific resources for scholarship and musical survival; and to bring us healing laughter from a lifetime of his own observations!

What might Austin Lovelace say to our Members absent on October 11th? Many of the important points in his Lecture were about hymns, HYMNS! I quote:

- 1) practice them with your choirs, and arrange creatively into anthems.
- 2) Pay attention to the entire hymn text
Example: "Come, ye thankful people, come" is NOT a Thanksgiving Hymn!
- 3) The CONGREGATION is The First, The essential CHOIR; all other choirs are AUXiliary!
- 4) Take time to help children learn thoroughly Hymns of deep meaning.
- 5) There's a wonderful new Canadian Hymnal of which you may not be aware: 'Voices United'.
- 6) I urge you to JOIN The Hymn Society of America" 1-800-THE-HYMN (www.thehymnsociety.org)

The brochures and flyers Austin Lovelace brought, will again be available at our November meeting.

Beginning on November 12th, drop your contributions into a BOX labeled MAINTAIN CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS! You can also make and pay for Christmas Party Reservations, on November 12th or by mail to David Barber (mail by December 17th). Those of us who don't have a worship service every Christmas Day, will in all probability be working on this December 25th Sunday! The following Tuesday, December 27th, treat yourself and a friend to a holiday evening at Warren Williams' house, which will be both elegant and relaxing (and grandly decorated)!

Many of you are aware of the "Grace Notes" organ pieces by Timothy Albrecht, but did you realize that the five pieces commissioned last year by our Chapter were recently published as part of the TWELFTH and final collection of these widely useful chorale preludes! As a graduate of Candler, who for three years heard Dr. Albrecht accompany worship services in Cannon Chapel, I can tell you that musical ideas such as these will enhance the quality of spontaneity in singing, and also encourage your own creativity as organists. Following Lunch on Saturday, November 12th at St. Bede's Episcopal Church near Northlake Mall, Timothy will play his compositions and share ways he has used them.

Our Host at St. Bede's, Tamara Makdad Albrecht, will be demonstrating the many practical uses of her new book which I hold in my hands, "*Singing Through the Church Year: A Children's Choir Resource Book*," published by Morningstar. This Children's Choir Resource Book includes Rehearsal Plans, Musical Games and Activities, Instrumental Parts and Ostinatos for arrangements, and original music by Tamara - all conveniently organized according to the Liturgical Year. I was surprised by the excellent ART resources for Christian Education, in the form of Fact Cards, Picture Cards, and Coloring Pages with specific Goals and Instructions. INVITE Sunday School teachers from your church to join us for Tamara's Session at 10am - once they see, along with you, the potential of these Materials, I predict that excitement, smiles, and enthusiastic planning incorporating the music will result!

Remember what FUN some of us had in November 2004, chatting and browsing around tables of music, new and used, before and after Wilma Jensen's Organ Class? Why not come prepared to make some worthwhile purchases (beginning at 9:30am on November 12, 2005), and leave eager to put valuable activities into practice!

I am wishing each one of you a Happy Thanksgiving, and a gracious and satisfying entrance into the Season of Advent.

Joanne Brown, Dean



Positions Available



Further details on these and other positions may be found at the Chapter's web site: www.agoatlanta.org — then click on "Employment."

Rehoboth Presbyterian Church 2729 Lawrenceville Highway, Decatur, GA 30033 (Inside I-285), is looking for one or two persons to lead and develop our current music program. If you feel called to serve God in this worship, we welcome a call from you and/or a faxed resume. Day phone: 770-939-3594. Evening phone: 404-292-3585. FAX: 404-292-3585. Start date: as soon as possible.

Sandy Springs Christian Church 301 Johnson Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30328-1819, 404-256-2582 Permanent Director of Music Ministries <http://www.sandyspringscc.org>. Send resume to map@mindspring.com or Fax to 770-956-7766.

First Presbyterian Church — 206 Willowbend Road, Peachtree City, GA is seeking an organist for traditional worship. Interested musicians may contact Tom Perkins, 770-487-7757 or tperkins@firstpres.com.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church (USA) 1272 Ledford Rd., Blairsville, GA 30512 706-745-0607 Organist/choirmaster for 130 member church in the mountains of North Georgia. Send resume or contact The Rev. Susan Johnson (fathersue@alltel.net).

Chattahoochee Christian Church 10800 Bell Rd., Duluth, GA is searching for a Part-time Director of Church Music. For job description and interview contact Dr. Jack L. Snellgrove at chchch@bellsouth.net or call 770-418-1101.

Music at The Cathedral of St. Philip

Sunday Afternoon Recital Series - All recitals begin in the Cathedral at 3:30 p.m. as a prelude to the 4 p.m. Evensong, which is sung by the Cathedral Schola or Choir. Evensong on Third Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. is sung by the Choir of Girls, Boys and Adults.

NOVEMBER

- 6 Zach Hemenway (Rochester, NY)
- 13 Gregory Hooker (Arlington, VA)
- 20 Timothy Denton (Noblesville IN)

DECEMBER

- 4 Anne Conover (Richmond, VA)

Liturgical Highlights

SUNDAY AFTERNOON at 4 o'clock

**27 NOVEMBER
AN ADVENT PROCESSION**
The Cathedral Choir

**18 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS LESSONS
AND CAROLS**
The Cathedral Schola

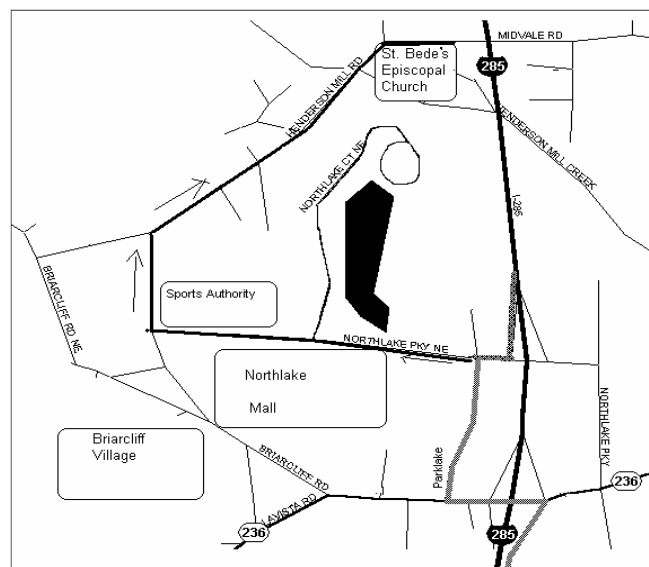
St. Bede's Episcopal Church
2601 Henderson Mill Road—Atlanta 770.938.9797

Lunch Menu for Saturday Nov. 12

Chicken Salad & Pimento Cheese Sandwiches
Vegetable Soup — Chips with Dip
Dessert Assortment
Iced Tea & Coffee

ChicAGO 2006 Convention

access it from
The AGO National Headquarters home page,
www.agohq.org.



AREA EVENTS CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2005

Tuesday	1	8:15 PM	Georgia State Univ. Singers	Spivey Hall — \$15
Friday-Sunday	4-6	Variety	Jaeckel Organ Celebration - 4 FREE events -	Schwartz Ctr/Emory www.schwartzcenter.edu
Saturday	5	8 PM	Jaeckel Organ in Concert with Emory Chorus & Orchestra	Schwartz Center/Emory Free
Sunday	6	8:15 PM	Netherlands Chamber Choir	Spivey Hall — \$25
		8:45 & 11 AM	Atlanta Boy Choir with the PRUMC Choir <i>Feast of All Saints</i>	Peachtree Road UMC
		3 PM	Ensemble Due Solisti	Sandy Springs UMC \$10
		3:30 PM	Zach Hemenway, <i>organ</i>	Cathedral of St. Philip
		4 PM	Atlanta Sacred Chorale	Dunwoody UMC
		4:30 PM	William Krape, <i>organ</i>	Peachtree Road UMC
		5 PM	Solemn Evensong for <i>The Feast of All Saints</i>	Peachtree Road UMC
Saturday	12	7:30 PM	A Concert for All Saints <i>by the Redeemer Choir</i>	Redeemer Lutheran Church
		10 AM– 2 PM	AGO Workshops <i>Singing Through the Seasons</i> with the Albrechts	St. Bede's Episcopal
		8 PM	Munich Symphony Orchestra <i>Philipe Entremont—All Beethoven</i>	Ferst Ctr. at GA Tech.
Sunday	13	2:15 PM	Redeemer Piano Ensemble	Redeemer Lutheran Church
		3:30 PM	Gregory Hooker, <i>organ</i>	Cathedral of St. Philip
		5 PM	Scott Atchison, <i>organ favorites</i>	Peachtree Road UMC
Th/Fr	17/18	7:30 PM	Southern Crescent Symphony Orchestra & Student Chorus <i>Handel MESSIAH</i>	Henry County Performing Arts Center
Saturday	19	8:15 PM	PRUMC Combined Choirs <i>with The Atlanta Brassworks</i>	Peachtree Road UMC
Sunday	20	8:45 & 11 AM	PRUMC Combined Choirs <i>with The Atlanta Brassworks</i>	Peachtree Road UMC
		3 PM	Clayton State Univ. Chorale	Spivey Hall — Free
		3:30 PM	Timothy Denton, <i>organ</i>	Cathedral of St. Philip
Sunday	27	4 PM	An Advent Procession	Cathedral of St. Philip
Tuesday	29	8 PM	GA Perimeter College Chorale	GPC—Clarkston
Saturday	29	5 PM	High School Honor Choir	Spivey Hall—CSU

Holiday Party with A.G.O. Atlanta

Tuesday • December 27

— Time to be Announced—

at the home of

Warren Williams

4124 North Ivy Road NE • Atlanta • 404.237.5791

Advance Reservations Required no later than December 17th.

\$20 per person

Make your reservation at the Nov. 12th meeting

-OR- Mail to David Barber

317 Noel Way — Hampton, GA 30228-6011



In Remembrance

JOHN THOMAS WIDENER, Jr. ORGANBUILDER (1922 - 2004)

EXCERPTS from A Reminiscence Given by Thomas L. McCook at the Memorial Concert February 4, 2005, Grace United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

John Thomas Widener, Jr., was born in Atlanta, Georgia, October 16, 1922, the only child of John Thomas Widener, a Baptist preacher and Railway Express Agency employee, and Jesse Henry, one of the first female graduates of what is now the State University of West Georgia in Carrollton. He was raised in the 800 block of Boulevard (now Monroe Dr.), attended Inman Elementary School, O'Keefe Middle School and Tech High where his favorite classes were shop and drafting. In his youth, he built crystal radios and many models of airplanes and ships from scratch and took them apart again - and according to his cousins sometimes very unceremoniously. During and after high school, he was a late night engineer for WSB radio, when it was in the Biltmore Hotel, and knew all the personalities of that era. In the mid-1930's, he learned to play brass instruments and joined the Atlanta Philharmonic conducted by Enrico Leide. His trumpet stand-mate at one time was none other than Beverly Wolff, who later became the leading mezzo-soprano for the New York City Opera Co. He entered Georgia Tech in early 1941 but left in 1942 to enlist in the Army. As a member of the Signal Corps he never went overseas, but non-commissioned officer Widener taught Engineering Drawing to commissioned officers at St. Louis University. While in St. Louis, he happened to meet Mario Salvador, the virtuoso organist of the Catholic Cathedral. This really began his interest in pipe organs with the sound of a very large instrument in a basilica with nine seconds reverberation.

After leaving the Army in 1946, he married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Louise Browne, and they had two daughters, Janet and Patricia. During this time, he was employed by AT&T and was involved in not only laying out the route of their first long-line cables from Atlanta to Jacksonville, Florida, but also in physically tromping through the south Georgia swamps to install them. John and his family had been longtime members of First Baptist Church on Peachtree Street (where Ray Smathers was choir director for so many years). When their old Pilcher organ began having action problems, Mr. Smathers, knowing of John's mechanical abilities and his interest in pipe organs, asked John to see if he could do some repair work on it. Ray was so impressed with the outcome, he introduced John to Chester Raymond, who had a well-known organ company in Princeton, NJ. Mr. Raymond offered John an apprenticeship which involved a residency in Princeton. One of their maintenance contracts was the large Skinner organ in the chapel of Princeton University. Many afternoons John would see Albert Einstein walking alone on campus.

Because he was a quick learner, John returned to Atlanta in the late 1940's as representative of Chester Raymond's company. In 1950, he decided to form his own business naming it Widener and Co., Ltd., with Mary as the "and Co." In the early years of the new business, living was difficult, what with trying to get work and then doing all the work, raising two small children and literally

living in a log cabin (with outhouse) on Osborne Road. From 1952-1954, he almost single-handedly restored the 3-manual, 1873 Pilcher organ at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Atlanta. Sadly, there are no remnants of this landmark instrument, except for a couple of mono recordings, as it was destroyed by a freak electrical fire in 1983. But business progressed with John's reputation for good work and he hired his first full-time employee, Breck Camp, who became his partner when the company was incorporated in the early '60's as Widener and Company, Inc. In the late '50's, John and Breck began the first restoration work on the Moller organ in the Fox Theatre spending many late hours in the pit after the last show of the day. The cabling system they devised under the console is the same type used today.

In the late 1940's, John had met Paul, Bruce and John Schantz, third generation principals in America's oldest pipe organ building family. This began a long association with Schantz Organ Co. of Orrville, Ohio, with installation and maintenance of their instruments just becoming known in the South. To honor this long relationship, the entire management team of Schantz Organ Company was present at John's Memorial Concert.

The Atlanta area did not have as many pipe organs or the number of large organs it has now, so when I joined the firm as a go-fer in 1967, maintenance and installation contracts stretched from Cape Hatteras to Midland, Texas, to Miami, FL. This meant lots of work in some very interesting places including the restoration of the 1916 Welte organ with automatic pneumatic player at Vizcaya, James Deerings' 75-room palazzo (now Dade County Art Museum) in Miami. (Deering was the major stockholder of International Harvester in the early years of the 20th century.)

John was a hard worker all his life. In 1984, while recuperating from prostate surgery and still not even supposed to leave his house, his work ethic would not let him be still. He had his living room cleared and brought all the parts for a portable instrument he had designed to him and he assembled this one-manual, 4-stop organ right there. Again, mainly because of John's reputation, Widener and Company was chosen to install and become the curator of the magnificent Fratelli Ruffatti concert organ in Spivey Hall. This was the last new organ he completely supervised and probably the crowning achievement of his career, even though he oversaw maintenance contracts at such prestigious churches as the Catholic Cathedral of Christ the King, the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, First Presbyterian, Peachtree Road United Methodist, Northside Drive Baptist and Grace United Methodist. But his legacy is not limited to the instruments alone. He designed many of the tools we use in our work. And he was a great teacher. In the last 50 years, he trained several young organbuilders who now have their own businesses or are in management at other major companies. And his co-workers always knew where they stood with him. The anomaly that he did not play organ was balanced by the most remarkable pair of ears one could have for listening and tuning.

Mary Widener passed away from cancer in 1985 and in the last few years, John suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, probably brought on by many years of smoking, but was in his shop every day until the last. It was from complications of this disease that he passed away peacefully the evening of November 4, 2004.

CHAPTER'S YEAR AT A GLANCE

The 2005-2006 season's Calendar of Events

- November 12** Workshops: **Tamara & Timothy Albrecht**
St. Bede's Episcopal Church
(*Saturday, 10:00-2:00, with lunch*)
- December 27** Christmas Party at the home of Warren Williams
(*complete with pipe organ and exquisite food!*)
- January 10** Celebration of African-American Organ Music
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Trey Clegg, host
- February 17** **Christopher Pardini, Organist**
North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Jamie Shiell, host
- March 14** **Members' Recital — "Organ Plus One"**
First Presbyterian Church, Marietta
- April** Commissioned work for Easter
[No Monthly Meeting] *David Kocsis, composer*
- May 9** **Annual Guild Service**
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Atlanta
John Coble, host

*Mark your calendars, and plan to attend
as often as you are able!*

A First for The Pro-Mozart Society

The Pro-Mozart Society of Atlanta, Inc. announces its first Artist Chamber Music Concert of the 2005-06 season **Sunday November 6, 2005 at 3 PM** in the sanctuary of Sandy Springs United Methodist Church located at 86 Mt. Vernon Highway NE, Sandy Springs, Georgia.

The Program will be *ENSEMBLE DUE SOLISTI* with organist Dr. Kathleen Scheide, professor of organ at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas and flutist, Dr. Zofie Vokalkova, professor of flute at the Prague Conservatory, Czech Republic. This promises to be a very fine program — and the first time in the Society's 41 year history an organist has been scheduled!

Dr. Scheide has toured extensively in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe as an organ and harpsichord soloist and scholar. She holds degrees in both from the New England Conservatory & University of Southern California. Her teachers have included John Gibbons, Cherry Rhodes and Frank Taylor. Dr. Vokalkova is a graduate of the Prague Conservatory and completed her studies in France. She is a laureate of several international competitions and is principal flutist with the Prague Chamber Orchestra of which her husband is a conductor.

The program includes works by Handel, Mozart, Barabas, Martin, Ropek and Eben. Tickets at the door are \$10. Further

The Organizer & Other Important Information

Charles Redmon, *Editor* 404. 931.8668
chazredmon@aol.com

Edward Caldwell, *Events Calendar* 770.487.6791
caldwele@bellsouth.net

DEADLINE for DECEMBER issue: Nov. 15, 2005

Advertising space available:

Per issue — \$60 half page; \$30 quarter page; \$15 business card size

Chapter Web site www.agoatlanta.org
National Web site www.AGOHQ.org
Chapter Listserve AGOAtlanta-L@listserve.uga.edu

Executive Board Meeting

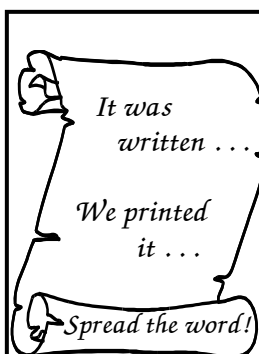
Saturday — November 12, 2005 — 12:PM (*ad libitum*)
St. Bede's Episcopal Church
2601 Henderson Mill Rd. (Atlanta)

Dinner Notes

Dinner Reservations David Barber, *Chair*
by email: d_barber@bellsouth.net

Karen Bunn, *Chair*
by phone: 770.446.2084

Reservations for monthly meeting dinners are a MUST and should be made no later than the Thursday before the next weeks meeting. CHECKS are to be made payable to *AGO Atlanta* at the dinner check-in desk. If you pay by CASH, please bring exact change. If you make a reservation and are unable to keep it, you are responsible for canceling the reservation 24 hours in advance of the dinner date - OR- you will be expected to pay for it regardless of your attendance. *Thank you in advance for honoring these requests.*

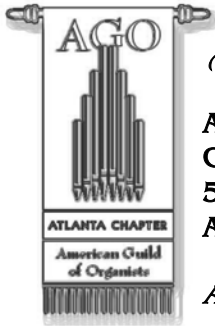


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The Organizer

Atlanta Chapter A.G.O.
Charles Redmon, *Newsletter Editor*
509 Garden Court NE
Atlanta, GA. 30328

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



First Presbyterian Church of Savannah

The A. E. Schluter Pipe Organ Company and First Presbyterian Church of Savannah, Georgia, are proud to announce the installation and dedication of their new 3-manual, 48-rank pipe organ. The dedication concert on October 9 featured recitalist Tom Alderman. The specification, stunning color photos of the installed organ, plus production photos are available for viewing on our website.



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