

The American Center of CHURCH MUSIC

Volume 2, Number 1

August 1990

Acoustics revisited

Do you hear what I hear?

THE HYMN: A JOURNAL OF CONGREGATIONAL SONG. VOLUME 41:3 (JULY 1990).
SINGLE COPIES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE HYMN SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA,
P.O. BOX 30854, TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, FORT WORTH, TX 76129. \$5.00 (POSTAGE
AND HANDLING, ADD 10%, \$1.00 MINIMUM.)

Over the past 25 years, many denominations have undertaken a renewal of their worship that is reflected in the abundance of new hymnals, ritual reformation and renovated worship space. While it is true that the dynamics of our worship may have been heightened by renewal of song and rite, renovation of the environment often has had a negative impact. Those of us who work in or who have visited new or rebuilt churches are aware of the increasing similarity of our worship space to the padded and carpeted comfort of the home. While this may muffle the footsteps of the assembly and provide a modicum of comfort on chilly Sunday mornings, such acoustical environments also deaden the song of our congregations as well as the spoken Word of God.

The July 1990 issue of *The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song* is devoted to the subject of our acoustical environment. In six articles written by an acoustician, architect, musician, organ builder, theologian, and pastor, the relationship between acoustics and our worship is thoughtfully explored from as many viewpoints. If you are contemplating a building renovation, this issue is an invaluable aid; if you have already renovated and are wondering what has happened to your assembly's song, you may find the answer here. If any case, this particular issue should be in every church's library and in the hands of each member of a building committee.

In discussing this issue with several colleagues, I was amazed at the number of church musicians who were unaware of the fine work done by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada whose journal is published quarterly. Addressed to a diverse population of musicians, clergy, scholars, poets and others with varied backgrounds and interests, the

journal contains scholarly as well as practical articles and reviews of new materials. The Hymn Society reflects multi-denominational and diverse cultural interests. In addition to the journal, the group also publishes periodic newsletters, holds an annual conference, sponsors an annual hymnological tour and hymn search, and provides a book service.

On the local level, the Hymn Society has its own chapter—the Huron Valley Chapter begun in 1987 by Bill Rowan, composer and Director of Music at St. Mary Cathedral in Lansing. This group has sponsored several hymn festivals, most recently in conjunction with the ACCM at Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor, as well as competitions for new hymns, both texts and

Continued on page 4

A Look Ahead

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1991 FROM 9 TO 3

■ A Day with Brian Wren in Ann Arbor

Lectures, hymn singing, small group discussions, worship.

Brian Wren is an internationally acclaimed hymnwriter. Ordained in Britain's United Reformed Church, he is much in demand as a hymn-poet, practical theologian and worship leader. He lives in Oxford, England, and visits North America frequently.

February 23 will offer us the possibility and opportunity to hear a theologian's point of view regarding hymn texts which speak to today's issues, today's Christian communities, and today's needs.

Watch for details!

Coming Events

MONDAYS AT 7:30 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

■ Marilyn Mason Masterclass

First Congregational Church, State and William Streets, Ann Arbor (Enter by the William Street entrance under the portico)

Play the Karl Wilhelm organ and study the partitas of Johann Pachelbel (Bärenreiter edition is suggested) and the collection of small pieces of César Franck entitled "l'Organiste."

September 10, 24 and October 1
Fee: \$50 for the three sessions
or \$20 for one session

REGISTRATION FORM

Please enclose a check for \$20 (payable to ACCM) as a non-refundable application fee which will be credited toward the Class selected below.

RETURN TO:

The American Center of Church Music
3339 Burbank Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(313) 662-8612

CHECK ACTIVITY DESIRED:

- Mason Master Classes
 One Day Worship School

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Interested persons may also register at the door each week. Why not photocopy this registration form and pass it along to a friend?

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1990

■ Worship School 1990—All About Hymns

Bethlehem United Church of Christ
423 South Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor

Our Worship School was so successful last year that we are very excited to present *Worship School 1990—All About Hymns*.

Here is your opportunity to learn more about hymns in every way: how to play them better, how to get people to sing better, history and background, new developments, and much more!

Saturday, November 3, 1990

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (No home football game!)

Fee: \$10

Includes instructional materials, refreshments and beverages. Please bring a sack lunch.

WORSHIP SCHOOL 1990—ALL ABOUT HYMNS IS SPONSORED BY THE CONSORTIUM OF EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY—DR. MARY IDA YOST; CONCORDIA COLLEGE—DR. DONALD WILLIAMS; THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN—DR. JAMES KIBBIE; THE ANN ARBOR CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS—MARGARETE THOMSEN; AND THE AMERICAN CENTER OF CHURCH MUSIC—DR. MICHELE JOHNS.

Schedule for the day:

9:00 a.m. Registration in lobby directly off of parking lot. The lot can be reached from 4th Avenue. (note: the parking lot door will be the only accessible door)

9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Classes and practicum in hymn playing: How to learn a hymn, various styles of hymn playing, improvisation, registration practices, plus a bird's eye view of the major new hymnals now being published.

12:00—12:45 p.m. Lunch

12:45—1:45 p.m. We will study hymn festival production and build our own hymn festival! Using the newly published Presbyterian Hymnal, and the resources of our Worship School faculty, we will discover various ways to plan and produce a Festival of Hymns.

2:00—2:45 p.m. Festival of Hymns Informally presented in the sanctuary by the faculty and participants of the Worship School. Open to the public.

WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15 TO 12:45 P.M.

■ Advent Music Series

First Congregational Church

Three noon-hour organ concerts on the Karl Wilhelm organ

December 5, 12 and 19

Admission: free

Light lunch following each concert

The
American Center
of CHURCH MUSIC

An Ann Arbor, Michigan based non-profit organization for the promotion of church music and the enrichment of church musicians

Executive Director & Editor: Michele Johns

Artistic Director: Marilyn Mason

ACCM Board Members: Jack H. Chisholm,
Lawrence W. Jones, Henry H. Swain

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1990

■ **Polishing Your Bell Program
Handbell Workshop for Directors**

Shrine of the Little Flower
12 Mile Road & Woodward Avenue
Royal Oak, Michigan

Want to give your bell program a shot in the arm? This workshop is for you! Topics will include director preparation, score marking, uniform ringing, bell assignments, selection of repertoire, plus . . . examples of worship music to add color to parts of worship such as organ preludes, Psalm-singing, hymns, anthems, and more!

Saturday, October 20, 1990
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20. Includes instruction packet of music, workshop materials, beverages and dessert. Please bring a sack lunch.

POLISHING YOUR BELL PROGRAM IS SPONSORED BY
THE AMERICAN CENTER OF CHURCH MUSIC.

Schedule for the day:

- 8:30 Registration and coffee
- 9:00 Review of the basics—
Fine-tuning your program
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Ringing the repertoire
Bell musicianship
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Bells in Liturgy/Worship

The Clinicians

Susan Berry, Handbell Clinician

Susan Berry – Handbell specialist, certified Orff instructor, organist, choral director. Susan is the co-author of the *Learning to Ring* series (Lorenz Corporation) and the author/producer of *Bell Basics*, a beginning instructional video tape (Hope Publishing Co.). She is also the Michigan-Ohio Area Manager for the Malmark Handbell Company. Hundreds of beginning programs have been organized and developed under her tutelage.

Michele Johns, Liturgy Specialist

Michele Johns teaches Church Music at The University of Michigan and is Director of Music at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Plymouth, where multiple choirs and staff provide a growing and comprehensive music ministry. She is the author of *Hymn Improvisation* (Augsburg-Fortress Publishing Co.), a step-by-step method for people of all ages and abilities. With her five handbell choirs, Dr. Johns has overseen the development of improvisation techniques for bells in worship, increasing participation and adding color and drama to the worship experience.

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Handbell Workshop Registration

Registration deadline: October 10, 1990

Fee: \$20 – Includes instruction packet of music and workshop materials

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

I have had _____ years of handbell experience.

I am willing to bring equipment: (will be contacted if needed)

Bells Foam Covers

Please make check payable to:

ACCM
3339 Burbank Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Questions? (313) 662-8612



▶ Handbell Workshop

▶ A look ahead

▶ Brian Wren in Ann Arbor

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In this issue:

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music. For further information on local involvement, contact Margarete Thomsen at 455-5304.

If you believe that congregational song is an integral part of worship, if you want to be on the "cutting edge" of hymnody in North America in the promotion of new texts and tunes, if you are interested in sharing interdenominational resources, if you value the work of scholars in hymnody, or if you simply care about our song

of the future, this is a membership for you! Fill out the application below today.

Margarete Thomsen. Director of Music Ministries, Our Lady of Victory Church, Northville, Michigan; Dean, Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

(Effective January 1989)

- \$30.00 Regular (Individual)
- \$17.00 Student
- \$30.00 Institutional
(School, Church, Choir, Library)
- \$100.00 Donor
- \$200.00 Patron
- \$500.00 Life

(Donors, Patrons and Life Members will be listed annually in *The Stanza*.)

- Add \$5.00 postage for addresses outside the USA
- Add \$19.00 postage for Air Mail delivery of *The Hymn* to addresses outside the USA
- Also enclosed is my additional tax deductible gift to The Hymn Society of America of \$_____

Note: Make all checks in United States funds only.

(US Postal Regulations require the following statement: \$22.00 of the membership dues is for one year subscription to *The Hymn*.)

Detach and mail with check

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Religious Denomination _____

Mail to: The Hymn Society of America
Box 30854
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas 76129