Hilbus Chapter
The Organ Historical Society, Inc.
Where the Tracker Action Is!
www.hilbus.org



Volume 55 Number 6 March 2025 Whole, Number 485
published monthly except for July and December

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025
3:00 PM

ORGAN RECITAL BY RANDY SHEETS
Rededication of the M. P. Möller organ at Fort Meyer, Old Post Chapel

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE FOR THIS CRAWL

PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT OCCURS ON A MILITARY INSTALLATION WITH ACCESS RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Crawl Prepared by Charles English

Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Old Post Chapel
204 Arlington Avenue
Fort Myer, VA 22211

M. P. Möller
Opus 6301, 1935
3 manual/pedal - 46 Ranks - 2,956 Pipes
Tonal design by Richard O. Whitelegg
Restored by Lewis & Hitchcock, Inc.

It is highly recommend that attendees go on the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall website and apply for a 24 hour pass. Information and instructions are at this link https://home.army.mil/jbmhh/my-fort/all-services/access-gate-info

Chairman: Charles English, 2910 Moores Road, Baldwin, MD 21013 (410) 557-7990
Vice-Chairman
Secretary-Treasurer: Carolyn Lamb Booth, 9200 LaBelle Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 (301) 869-6271
Editor: Carl Schwartz, 12802 Ruxton Road, Silver Spring, MD (301)-221-4815

Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: ruxtoncar@icloud.com

Applying for a pass can be done 14 days before the event, but no later than 3 days before the event. This will expedite entering the base. If you do not get a pass in advance, plan on arriving at least an hour before the recital to go through the check in process.

The main and visitor entrance, Hatfield Gate, is open at all times. It is north of the intersection of Washington Blvd and South 2nd Street in Arlington. South 2nd Street turns into Carpenter Road which leads to the guard booth and Visitor Control Center. The guards can provide directions to the Old Post Chapel.

You must have one form of authorized photo identification such as State Identification Cards/Drivers Licenses, Passports, Non-DoD Common Access Cards, and Green Cards. All documents must be original – no copies or digital versions.

Questions regarding access to the base should be directed to the Visitor Control Center – Hatfield Gate – 703-696-0186.

Directions: From the North and East sides of the DC Beltway take I-295 South and take exit 18-C, I-695 to downtown DC

- Continue onto I-695 West and then onto I-395 South
- Take exit 8A to merge onto VA-27 West/Washington Blvd
- Use the left lane to merge onto VA-27 West/Washington Blvd
- Use the 2nd from the right lane to continue on Washington Blvd
- Take the exit toward Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall
- Merge onto Carpenter Road. Proceed through the gate and follow the instructions of the guard

Directions: From the West side of the DC Beltway: Take I-495 to I-267 East. Merge onto I-66 East.

- Take exit 75 to merge onto VA-110 South toward I-395/US-1/Pentagon City/Crystal City/Reagan Nat'l Arpt/Alexandria
- Merge onto VA-110 South
- Use the right lane to merge onto VA-27 West/Washington Blvd via the ramp to VA-244 West/ Columbia Pike/I-395 South
- Use the right lane to continue on Washington Blvd
- Use the 2nd from the right lane to stay on Washington Blvd
- Take the exit toward Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall
- Merge onto Carpenter Road. Proceed through the gate and follow the instructions of the guard

Directions: From I-95 continue straight onto I-395 North.

- Take exit 8A to merge onto VA-27 West/Washington Blvd toward VA-244 West/Columbia Pike
- Continue on VA-27 West/Washington Blvd. Drive to Carpenter Rd
- Merge onto VA-27 West/Washington Blvd
- Take the exit toward Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall
- Merge onto Carpenter Road. Proceed through the gate and follow the instructions of the guard

For More Information About the Hilbus Chapter and to Contact Us

- Hilbus Chapter website: https://hilbus-ohs.org/
- Hilbus Chapter Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/hilbus/
- Hilbus Chapter email: hilbus.ohs@gmail.com
-

For More Information About the ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- https://organhistoricalsociety.org/
- https://www.facebook.com/OrganSociety/

DUES FOR OCTOBER 2024 TO SEPTEMBER 2025

The Hilbus Chapter 2024-2025 fiscal year begins on October 1, 2024. Dues are $20 per year. Additional contributions from members have made it possible to support the Organ Historical Society Biggs Scholars Program. The Chapter has been able to contribute $2500 every year to introduce an outstanding applicant to the historic pipe organ through conventions of the Organ Historical Society. Please visit this link to learn more about this program: https://organhistoricalsociety.org/biggs-scholars-program/biggs-scholars/

The last page of this newsletter is a Dues/Roster form that should be filled out and returned with your $20 dues payment. Please consider including an additional amount in support of the Organ Historical Society Biggs Scholars Program. We need equip and educate the next generation of organ performers, researchers, and builders to appreciate and preserve the historic value of the organ.

PLEASE DO NOT make the check out to Carolyn Booth, but to Hilbus Chapter - OHS. Mail it and the form on the last page of this newsletter to Carolyn Booth; 9200 LaBelle Lane; Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025 OHS CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE IS NOW OPEN

The 2025 OHS Convention is being held in Milwaukee from Monday, August 4, to Thursday, August 7. Prelude and Postlude events are optional on Sunday, August 3 and Friday, August 8, respectively. For more information on the convention and to register, please visit the convention website at the following link: https://organhistoricalsociety.org/2025/

UPCOMING HILBUS CHAPTER CRAWLS

The following areas are being considered for future 2025 crawls. They are not firm and open to change. Your ideas and suggestions for venues to visit in these areas are welcome.

- April 26, 2025: TBD (Western Maryland?)
- May 24, 2025: TBD (Across the Pennsylvania border?)
- June 28, 2025: TBD (DC?)
- August 3 – 8, 2025: Organ Historical Society Convention - Milwaukee
- September 27, 2025: TBD (Annual meeting and ?)
- October 25, 2025: TBD (Eastern Shore, Salisbury, St. Michaels?)
- November 15 TBD (Annapolis?)

Please consider putting together a crawl in an area of your choosing. Joint crawls with AGO Chapters and concerts are also options for crawls. If you wish to prepare a crawl for one of these dates or can assist in setting up a crawl in a specific area, please email the Hilbus Chair at charles.maccengl@gmail.com or at hilbus.ohs@gmail.com, or call 410-557-7990 and leave a message. The Chapter will work with you to put the crawl together. The Chair can also assist in providing a list of potential churches to visit given an area of interest.

UPCOMING CONCERTS AND EVENTS

March 9, 2025, Sunday, 4:00 pm: Todd Fickley of National Presbyterian Church plays a recital at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy St. NE., Washington, DC.

March 16, 2025, Sunday: DC AGO Members' recital, Our chapter will celebrate Women's History Month with a members' recital on March 16 at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 1334 29th St. NW.

March 21, 2025, Friday, 7:00 pm: Todd Wilson, Solo Organ Concert, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chesterstown, Maryland

March 23, 2025, Sunday, 3:00 pm: Randy Sheets will play a recital to rededicate the organ at Old Post Chapel, Arlington Cemetery. Co-hosted by the NOVA chapter.

March 25, 2025, Tuesday, 7:00 pm: Westminster Cathedral Choir, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington

April 6, 2025, Sunday, 10:30 am: Ken Cowan, Service of Worship, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Maryland

April 6, 2025, Sunday, 4:00 pm: Trichapter recital, Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, 1400 Quincy St. NE. Presented by members of the DC, Potomac and Northern Virginia Chapters.

April 6, 2025, Sunday, 5:00 pm: Ken Cowan, Solo Organ Recital, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Maryland

April 20, 2025, Sunday, 1:30 pm: Easter Day Organ Recital, Washington National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016. https://cathedral.org/music/concerts-recitals/

May 2, 2025, Friday, 7:00 pm: Ken Cowan, Solo Organ Concert, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chesterstown, Maryland

May 11, 2025, Sunday, 4:00 pm: Laura Blevins Douglass and Melvin Goodwyn (duo) play a recital at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy St. NE.

May 25, 2025, Sunday, 2:00 pm: Organ Recital: Thomas Sheehan, Washington National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016. https://cathedral.org/music/concerts-recitals/

Please email concert and events to the Hilbus Chapter email address for inclusion in the newsletter and posting on our website: hilbus.ohs@gmail.com

HILBUS CHAPTER FEBRUARY 22, 2025 CRAWL REVIEW
Faith Reformed Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Maryland
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Towson, Maryland

Crawl Prepared and Reviewed by Charles English

A cool but sunny day brought the Hilbus Chapter to Faith Reformed Episcopal Church, located in the Armistead/Herring Run part of Baltimore City. Situated at the terminus of a dead end street and backing up to Herring Run Park, Faith Reformed Episcopal Church was a quiet refuge from the hustle and bustle of the industrial/commercial area just a few blocks away. We were met by our hosts, Reverend William Jenkins Jr., Rector and Church Organist, and Chris Alsruhe, parishioner.





Entering the sanctuary, one sees an impressive sight! This is a rather large and tall organ with absolutely gorgeous pipe stenciling and beautiful, unblemished casework. Installed in the rear corner of the church, one takes stairs down to the lower level of the church where the keydesk and mechanicals are located. Pipes are completely visible beginning at the floor level of the sanctuary up to within an inch of the ceiling. This is an unusual installation where one looks down to watch the organist. Access to view the organ internals was amazingly possible and showed an organ in rather surprisingly very good condition for its age! This is truly an amazing installation that retains the organ in its original form, despite a building that was not designed for such a large organ.

The Pomplitz organ list (Hilbus Newsletter, Volume 45, Number 1, September 2014, Whole Number 404) lists a new organ installed in Redeemer Reformed Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Bolton Street, in 1880 of 2 manuals and 9 stops. Established in 1875, the official name of the congregation was the Reformed Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. A rented hall for services gave way to an 1877 small wood frame church with the Pomplitz organ installed in 1880. In 1894, a larger stone church was constructed at 1311 Bolton Street in the Bolton Hill area of Baltimore City, with the organ being moved into the new church. In 1923, Reformed Episcopal Church of the Redeemer merged with Emmanuel Reformed Episcopal Church. However, the decision was to not use either of the existing buildings but to construct a new stone church at the corner of Harford Road and Kentucky Avenue (3517 Harford Road) in Baltimore City. The new church, Emmanuel Reformed Episcopal Church, was completed in 1924 and the Pomplitz & Company organ moved into the new building. This organ was heard at the 1991 Organ Historical Society Baltimore Convention. The Convention handbook includes a picture of the organ

installed in the 1924 building. In 2008, Emmanuel Reformed Episcopal Church merged with Faith Reformed Episcopal Church. Emmanuel Reformed Episcopal Church was closed. Through the efforts of Reverend William Jenkins Jr., an organist and lover of pipe organs, the organ was moved to Faith Reformed Episcopal Church, but in need of a rebuild. Rather than let the organ fall into further disrepair, Reverend Jenkins recognized the significance of the organ resulting in money being set aside to fully restore it.

In 2022, Phase 1 of repairs and restoration of the 1880 Pomplitz Tracker Organ, Opus 220 was begun by Harbor Pipe Organs, LLC, Asher Hammond, President. Phase 1 focused on wind-lines and chest leathers. The original Pomplitz reservoir was removed at some point and replaced with only one regulator that was never correctly installed and adjusted. The result was a significant wind loss even when playing a chord with just one stop drawn! Pipes were cleaned and repaired to their original condition. It is evident that the pipework is original to the 1880 Pomplitz organ. This work was completed in November 2022 with Phase 2 of repairs and restoration pending. Notes 1-5 of the Open Diapason 8' are of stopped wood. Notes 1-12 of the Dulciana 8' and Viola 8' are capped zinc.

One would expect such a large organ installed in a relatively small building would be overbearing. That was not, however, the case. The organ produces a clear, robust sound, cheerful and colorful. The Open Diapason is big and full-toned, and a perfect foundation for the 4' Octave. The Dulciana is broad and full, and the 4' Flute is utterly charming.

Many thanks to Reverend Jenkins and Chris Alsruhe for allowing us to visit this remarkable and historic pipe organ. It is believed this organ to be the last extant Pomplitz pipe organ within the Baltimore area. Reverend Jenkins is to be commended for recognizing the historical significance of this organ and we hope this treasure continues to be an active part of Baltimore. It was truly a pleasure to visit this fantastic church and organ. This is one crawl that those present will remember.

Pomplitz & Co. / Pomplitz Church Organ Co.
Opus No. 220, 1880
2 manual/pedal - 9 Ranks - 433 Pipes

Great (I)
Gr. 8 ft Op. Diap. 58
Gr. 8 ft Melodia 58
Gr. 8 ft Dulciana 58
Gr. 4 ft Octave 58
Sw. to Gr. Unison
Sw. to Gr. Octave

Swell (II - Expressive)
Sw. 8 ft Viola 58
Sw. 8 ft Stop^{d} Diap. 46
Sw. 8 ft Unison Bass 12
Sw. 4 ft Flute 58

Pedal
Ped. 16 ft Sub Bass 27
Sw. to Ped.
Gr. to Ped.



Keydesk Attached, Traditional With a Keyboard Cover That Can Be Lifted To Form a Music Rack
Manuals: 2
Key and Stop Action: Mechanical
Stop Layout: Drawknobs in Horizontal Rows on Terraced/Stepped Jambs
Pedalboard Type: Flat Straight
Expression Type: Balanced Expression Shoes/Pedals (Not Meeting AGO Standards)

Maintenance issues at our planned restaurant resulted in a change of venue to the Valley View Inn in Parkville. This is a fine local restaurant with great food! After lunch, we headed to nearby Immaculate Heart of Mary in Towson, Maryland. Our Chapter last visited this church and its Schantz pipe organ in February 2010. We were met by our host, Thomas Bozek, Director of Music and Liturgy. Tom also hosted us on our 2010 visit. Information for this review was compiled from the Organ Historical Society database, church history, and from Kevin Clemens February 2010 review of this organ.

The Parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary is a Roman Catholic Congregation established on December 3, 1948. The Parish is located along Loch Raven Boulevard on six acres of land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Guidera. At that time there was one building on the property, believed to be used as a hunting lodge. The "great room" of the lodge was the site of the first celebrations of Mass for the new parish. This room later became the convent chapel and is still used as a chapel for small celebrations. The original section of the Church (the nave) was built in 1950. It was expanded later with the addition of the two side chapels. Over the years, the Church has undergone several remodels, the last being completed in 1999. The Parish has grown to a thriving Catholic Community of about 1500 households, a school enrollment over 300 students, and a religious education program to serve the needs of those children who do not attend the Parish School, as well as many other organizations and ministries for people of all ages.



The first organ at Immaculate Heart of Mary, installed in 1950,. It was a straight forward three-rank M. P. Möller (Opus 8203, 1950) Artiste, with a detached console. It may have been installed in a purpose built enclosure, only a standard Moller Artiste grille and shades accompanied the organ on its long journey over the years. Sometime in the early 1960s, the choir gallery was extended over the rear pews and the console was moved forward.

It was clear that a more substantial organ was necessary for this church. A 2 manualm, 27 rank Austin (Opus 2434) was installed in the summer/fall of 1965. The choice of Austin was an economic decision; the most organ for the money. The pipes were installed in chambers under the eaves of the roof on both sides of the choir loft. The entire

organ was enclosed with both chambers having black painted, large swell shades that opened into the gallery. It was obviously a great improvement over the Artiste and reportedly a fantastic organ to play. According to organists the sound did suffer from being installed under the eaves of the gallery. An 8' Trompette en Chamade was added in the 1990s by Albert Bowders Pipe Organ Service.

The Möller organ was removed and stored in the Church's social hall for short while, with the thought of installing it there. However, it was quickly sold to an individual in the Fall of 1965 who installed it in his row house in Baltimore City, not too far from the Church. Being a theatre organ enthusiast, he wired a castenets action to the Chime tab and installed a toe stud on the console that operated a crash cymbal. In 1968, the purchase of a 2 manual / 7rank Style E Wurlitzer from the State Theater in Baltimore resulted in the Moller being sold and moved in 1969 by Tom Allen to the residence of Fague and Connie Springman near Washington, D.C. As for the Wurlitzer, it was restored by David Storey and is installed in the Engineer's Club in Baltimore. The Möller was sold again in 1994 to James Weed of Columbia, Maryland and again in 2004 to Carl Schwartz who moved it to a home in Vermont.

The Austin organ served the parish for four decades. The placement of the organ on the sides of the gallery with small tone openings only into the gallery resulted in two issues. First, the sound of the organ in the gallery was described as deafening. Second, with no tone openings into the nave, any sound that made it into the nave was absorbed into the room and at times barely audible in the front of the sanctuary. It served its purpose of accompanying the choir in the gallery, but was not sufficient to lead congregational singing. In 2002 a committee of parishioners was formed to look at correcting this problem and also address the problems of the organ console and wind chests. The committee consulted various builders to decide the best course of action. After many months of consultation, analysis and discussion, with the approval of the Parish Council, the Schantz Organ Company was selected as the builder of the new instrument with installation in 2008. Nine Austin ranks were retained in the new organ and placed on new chests. The Schantz organ is installed in the rear gallery with the Great exposed on the back wall on either side of a central window. The Swell is in a chamber on the right. There is also an exposed, divided chancel division of 3-ranks; Gemshorn, metal Gedeckt and Principal.



The Schantz instrument has a warm and pleasant sound and includes a chancel division of three ranks to accompany the cantor and provide additional support for congregational singing. The nave of the church is long and narrow and acoustically is not ideal. However the sanctuary division has successfully remedied this acoustical issue. The new placement of the organ in the gallery now allows the sound to fill the church. The sound remains solid wherever you sit in the nave or sanctuary. This is a very successful instrument that is very popular with Baltimore organists and organ enthusiasts Thanks to Tom Bozek for hosting our Chapter and demonstrating this fine organ.



References for the history of Immaculate Heart of Mary and its organs:
M. P. Möller (Opus 8203, 1950) https://pipeorgandatabase.org/instruments/34983
Austin (Opus 2434, 1965) https://pipeorgandatabase.org/instruments/12483
Schantz (Opus 2290, 2008) https://pipeorgandatabase.org/instruments/37115
The Schantz Pipe Organ: https://users.neo.registeredsite.com/9/4/4/22552449/assets/Organ_Information_for_Program.pdf
Hilbus Newsletter, Where the Tracker Action Is! Volume 39, Number 7, March 2010

Schantz Organ Co. Opus 2290, 2008, 2,044 pipes
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
Sanctuary; front & gallery

Great
(* denotes stops which are exposed. All others are expressive)
16' Lieblich Gedeckt
*8' Open Diapason
8' Stopped Diapason (from 16')
8' Flauto Dolce
8' Flute Celeste (TC)
*4' Octave
4' Koppelflöte
*2' Fifteenth
*IV Mixture
8' Trumpet (Swell)
8' Clarinet
Tremulant
8' Trompette en Chamade
Chimes (Digital)
Harp (Digital)
Celesta (Digital)
Cymbelstern (Digital)
Chancel on Great

Swell
8' Diapason
8' Viola
8' Viola Celeste (GG)
8' Chimney Flute
4' Principal
4' Hohlflöte
2-2/3' Nazard
2' Piccolo
1-3/5' Tierce
IV Plein Jeu
8' Trumpet
8' Oboe
4' Clarion (from Trumpet)
Tremulant
16' Trompette en Chamade (TC)
8' Trompette en Chamade
Chancel on Swell

Chancel
8' Gemshorn
8' Gedeckt
4' Principal
4' Flute (from 8' Gedeckt)
2' Gemshorn (from 8' Gemshorn)

Pedal
32' Violone (Digital)
16' Principal
16' Subbass
16' Lieblich Gedeckt (from Great)
8' Octave (from 16')
8' Subbass (from 16')
8' Stopped Diapason (from 16')
4' Super Octave (from 16')
4' Open Flute (from 16' Subbass)
32' Contra Trombone (Digital)
16' Double Trumpet (from Swell Trumpet)
8' Trumpet (from Swell)
4' Clarion (from Swell)
4' Oboe (from Swell)
8' Trompette en Chamade



October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 Hilbus Chapter Dues

Name: _____

Include name in the Hilbus Chapter Roster? ▫ Check if YES ▫ Check if NO

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Include full address in the Hilbus Chapter Roster? ▫ Check if YES ▫ Check if NO

Landline Phone Number: _____

Include Landline Phone in the Hilbus Chapter Roster? ▫ Check if YES ▫ Check if NO

Cell Phone Number: _____

Include Cell Phone in the Hilbus Chapter Roster? ▫ Check if YES ▫ Check if NO

Email Address: _____

Include email address in the Hilbus Chapter Roster? ▫ Check if YES ▫ Check if NO

NOTE: The Hilbus Chapter Roster will only be made available by email and mail. It will not be posted on Facebook or the website. The roster may not be distributed beyond those who receive it by email or mail.

2024-2025 Hilbus Chapter Dues ($20.00) $_____
($14.00 if postmarked or hand delivered by September 30, 2024)

Donation to Hilbus Chapter to support a Biggs Scholar
attendance at the 2025 OHS Convention in Milwaukee $_____

TOTAL: $_____

Please make checks payable to: Hilbus Chapter, OHS
DO NOT MAKE CHECKS OUT TO CAROLYN BOOTH

Mail this form and check to: Carolyn Booth
9200 LaBelle Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20879