



PIPELINE

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER, 2001

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF THE PIPE ORGAN

By Lance E. Johnson, Pres.
Johnson Organ Company
Fargo, ND

Reprint of a workshop presented at the
Region VI Convention held in Fargo, ND

June 18-21, 2001

(continued from November 2001 *Pipeline*)

II. ANNUAL MAINTENANCE (repair and tuning)

A. TYPES OF MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

1. Contract (major and minor visits) Contains set costs
2. Automatic Service (Organ company comes once or twice per year as per instructions from a letter from church held on file indefinitely. Charges are by the hour plus travel.
3. Call-up service. Church calls when organ needs work. Not a good plan as organ will not get adequate servicing.

B. FREQUENCY OF VISITS

1. Spring, fall, or both.
2. Special calls
 - a) Never have anyone but organist make call.
 - b) Refer to black keys as sharps, not flats.
 - c) Identify note by it's octave. (Middle C is third octave C)
 - d) Can organist be present when tuner arrives?

C. ACCESS TO ORGAN. (making preparations for visit)

1. Have key in office or special place known to organ tuner. (Don't make tuner search for key. It will cost you.)

(continued inside)



Upcoming Events

January 13, 2002
CHORAL TECHNIQUES
 Presented by Paul Nesheim
 Concordia College
 South Choral Room
 Moorhead, MN
 4:00 p.m.

February 3, 2002
 Hymn Festival with Michael Burkhardt
 First Lutheran Church
 619 Broadway
 Fargo, ND
 7:00 p.m.

February 22, 2002
 Rose Ensemble
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 670 4th Ave. North
 Fargo, ND
 235-5591 for details

March 10, 2002
The Saga of the Toccata by Martha MacLeod
 Nativity Catholic Church
 1825 S. 11th St., Fargo, ND
 4:00 p.m.

FRENCH FLOURISH IN THE TWIN CITIES

Guy Bovet and Marie-Claire Alain will be appearing in the Minneapolis area March 7-9, 2002. The events include a master class with Alain and Bovet Thursday, March 7 from 3-5 p.m. followed by dinner with these two icons and an "Alain Family Concert at 7:30 p.m. On Friday, March 8, there is a recital by Marie Claire at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, March 9 features a master class with Bovet and Alain from 10-12 and a recital by Bovet at 8:00 p.m. These events are sponsored by St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis and Wayzata Community Church in Wayzata. Contact Dr. Lynn Trapp at St. Olaf, 612-332-7471, ext. 252 or Dr. Diana Lee Lucker at Wayzata Community Church, 952-473-8877, ext. 247 by Feb. 15.

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2. Make sure church is open at mutually agreed upon time. Organ tuner could be late so allow for this.
3. Is organ area well lit? Do all light bulbs work?
4. Is organ ladder accessible?
5. Make sure vacuum cleaner is not used. People should be kept out of sanctuary during tuning.

D. WHEN IS ORGAN IN TUNE?

1. If you feel organ is still out of tune when tuner has finished, be prepared to demonstrate this after you have approved the work. After the tuners have left, it is very difficult to call them back esp. if they are doing many organs on a tour.
2. Don't be afraid to ask tuner to demonstrate how the organ should sound when in tune. He can show you how each stop is tuned to the Great Octave 4' and how all octaves should agree. Remember stops such as the Unda Maris and Celeste are tuned not to unison so you will have beats when played. When testing tuning have the tremulants turned off.
3. Do not call the tuner a week later and say that the Flute 4' is still out of tune. This insinuates that he doesn't know what he is doing. Rather, say that the Flute 4' didn't stay. Usually the organ company will state that they will take care of it when in the area again.
4. Most organ firms will guarantee a tuning for about seven days so the organist has a chance to play at least one service in case some problem in tuning is evident.

A final thought: If the organ malfunctions on a Sunday, do not wait until after Monday to call as the organ tuner may be in your area earlier in the week. If he can get your organ along with someone else's the cost will be considerably less in the case of out-of-town travel.

From the Dean: I begin the letter this month wishing you all peace and health at this most blessed season. This is a Very busy time for church musicians and I hope we all take the time to relax and enjoy the very music we prepare at this time of year. We had a wonderful time at the Christmas Carol Sing-a-long, I'm still receiving comments on the "terrific program" from people here in Kindred—but the big question seems to be "when will you do it again?"

Not that this comes as a surprise to any of you, but music is hard work. I just hope we can all find some quiet time to sit and play alone, or with a few friends for the sheer enjoyment of it. A friend of mine and I took 1/2 hour the other day and played at Eventide for whoever wished to come. They sang with gusto and were so appreciative—now that makes me proud to be a musician. Martha Hagen MacLeod did a lovely job at the Sing-a-long as master of ceremonies, her enthusiasm had everyone excited. She did, however, remind us to take a little time and be with someone in need, or with someone who is sad or lonely. Music is the universal language, it evokes great emotions from those who play it, and from those who hear it. I think the ability to play an instrument or sing or dance is a gift from God—be sure to share your gift with others this season—and not just in the "work" setting. God's blessings to you all. See you in January.

OUR CHAPTER OFFICERS:

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