

Anniversary Finale

Calvin Hampton at Calvary Episcopal Church

by Raymond A. Brubacher

By early Sunday afternoon the severe snowstorm which struck the city the evening before had deposited over 14 inches of glacial beauty, and all but halted surface vehicular traffic. However, those members who braved the intensity of the storm and got to Calvary Episcopal Church were treated to a recital of music both written and not written for the organ by Calvin Hampton. Mr. Hampton is indeed a genius, gifted with a sense of feeling and expression second to none; one of the rare organists who have the nerve to perform orchestral music on the organ.

Mr. Hampton said that it is his aim to keep this magnificent organ largely a product of its time while making well thought out modifications in order that all forms of music may be played upon it.

Mr. Hampton began his program with a transcription for organ of Edward Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite. By the time Mr. Hampton had reached "In the Hall of the Mountain King" he had demonstrated his superior musicianship in both registration and technique so well that this reviewer feels impelled to ask why our breed of church musicians of today tend to look down on this type of craftsmanship in organ playing. Next came the only legitimate work for the organ by the French organist and composer, Maurice Durufle, the famous Suite in three movements. The most electrifying moments came in the toccata when the capabilities for contemporary music on this instrument were fully demonstrated.

After a five minute intermission to allow piston changes to be made, Mr. Hampton returned to the console to bring us what I have always considered impossible to perform on the organ — Chopin. The finale proved to be the masterpiece of the program, his own transcription of the complete Pictures at an Exhibition by Modeste Moussorgsky. The dazzling display of tonal color and contrast that was achieved during the performance of this work left listeners with a lasting impression of how really fortunate we are to have in our midst such a musician, a term which so few players of musical instruments really deserved to be called, as Calvin Hampton.



Brian Ingoldsby, Jr., of Friday Harbor, Washington, who performed with a concert for the ATOE Puget Sound Chapter June 4, 1967 at the Lincoln Theatre, Mount Vernon, Washington (where he restored, on his own initiative, the two-manual seven-rank Wurlitzer) is now stationed in the Far East on a tour of Naval duty resulting from the present Asian conflict. This young artist is a member of the Naval Reserve, and became well known to movie goers in Mount Vernon and Bellingham, Washington, resulting from his performance there, as well as his popularity playing for roller skating devotees in Washington and Oregon, when he received his call to active duty in February, 1968.

While in service of his country he will be taking advantage of every opportunity to examine and play pipe organs wherever his ports of call take him — so look in future issues for some interesting reports on his experiences in far-off places.

RESUME OF NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING February 8, 1969 — Statler Hilton Hotel — New York City

The meeting was called to order by the President at 9:40 p.m. The minutes of the meetings of July 13 and July 15, 1968 were read and approved. A statement of income and disbursements was read and it was noted that the deficit of 1968 will decrease but slightly for 1969. ATOE finances will be on the agenda for the July, 1969 meeting.

The subject of the Los Angeles chapter's relation with the Console magazine was discussed at great length. It was pointed out the ATOE had no interest in curtailing the editor of the Console in his rights to publish the magazine but to have the chapter officially separated from it. A motion was made and carried with but two dissenting votes to suspend the Los Angeles Chapter Charter until the July meeting. (Since then, the Los Angeles Chapter has found it possible to comply with the Chapter Charter Agreement and has been fully reinstated. They also register the resolution that they were not transgressing the agreement with their previous methods.)

Stillman Rice, chairman of the Connecticut Valley Chapter, explained how their chapter was able to incorporate as a charitable organization. An ATOE first. Other chapters could make a study of the procedure and then the National could also apply if desired.

Motion made and carried to charge

an additional dollar membership dues for foreign overseas members due to additional postage.

Motion made and carried that subject to acceptance by the New York Chapter Board of Directors, this Board accept their bid for the 1970 convention. Ben Hall suggested and the recommendation was accepted that 4th of July week-end be avoided.

President Mason requested that chapters wishing to make changes in updating the By-Laws submit their ideas by April 1 for possible printing in the June issue and at the July meeting.

Suggestions have been made to add electronic information to our magazine. A motion was made and carried to keep the official magazine centered on pipe organ as there is enough copy to occupy the available time and talent in our field.

There was a discussion about a possible theatre organ museum but the lack of space and personnel would forbid at this time. It was preferred that each chapter maintain its own records for the present.

Since hotel and other facilities are booked far in advance, it was tentatively planned to try to hold 1971 convention in Seattle and 1972 in Richmond, Virginia.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 a.m.