

and publications. The project concludes with a comprehensive opus list. ISBN 978-3-921140-90-1, 627 pages, numerous illustrations and organ dispositions, linen, sewn hardbound, with colored dustcover; €88; shipping €5; <www.pape-verlag.de>.

**Oxford University Press** announces new releases in its series English Church Music, edited by Robert King: Volume 1, Anthems and Motets; Volume 2, Canticles and Responses. The volumes together include over 80 examples of English sacred music, spanning the 16th to the 21st centuries—both favorite and lesser-known works by such composers as Taverner, Tallis, Byrd, Purcell, Wesley, Stanford, Vaughan Williams, Howells, Walton, and others. New editions have been prepared using primary source material. For information: <www.oup.com>.

**The Royal School of Church Music** announces the publication of a new book featuring Sydney Nicholson and the setting up of the College of St. Nicolas and the School of English Church Music (now the Royal School of Church Music), written by John Henderson and Trevor Jarvis. Through the testimony of former choristers, archive letters and photographs (many of which have never previously been published), together with Nicholson's personal accounts and diaries held in the RSCM archive, the authors have pieced together a detailed account of the college's first ten years. As well as biographical details of choristers, students, and tutors at the college, there are details of many well-known persons who were associated with the early years of the SECM. The book also reviews the life and achievements of Sydney Nicholson.

With a foreword by Martin How and a wealth of photographs, the book also contains a detailed list of sound recordings made by the college choir, a list of Nicholson's publications, and comprehensive endnotes listing all the sources used, as well as additional information on the many characters mentioned. Order code: G0134; price: £12.50; phone: 0845 021 7726; <www.rscm.com>.

**VocalEssence** announces their new CD, *From the Land of Sky Blue Waters*, which explores the musical treasures of Minnesota. Its includes a medley of Minnesota's pop songs called *The North Star Hit Parade*, traversing the state's connection to the national top 40 charts. The program features music made ubiquitous by The Merry Macs ("Sentimental Journey"), Judy Garland ("Somewhere Over the Rainbow"), Bob Dylan ("Blowin' in the Wind") and Prince ("Purple Rain")—all the way to Owl Cities' "Fireflies" and Semisonic's "Closing Time." Even some of Minnesota's best-known products are included, with a salute to Hamm's Beer ("From the Land of Sky Blue Waters") and "The SPAM Song" (courtesy Monty Python). For information: <www.vocalescence.com>.

In addition to the planned 2012–13 restoration of Odell Opus 313 (III/45, 1893) at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in New York City, **J.H. & C.S. Odell** is pleased to announce they have been awarded the contract to complete restoration of the two-manual mechanical-action organ built by C. E. Morey (ca. 1896), located at Diamond Hill United Methodist Church in Cos Cob, Connecticut. Work is scheduled to commence in the latter half of 2012. For information: <odellorgans.com>.

An **Allen organ** was played for Pope Benedict XVI during the 84-year-old pontiff's visit to Germany. Allen organs have provided music for Pope Benedict's celebration of Mass in the United States, Australia, and Portugal. On this occasion, an Allen three-manual digital organ was played during the open-air Mass at Freiburg Airfield, where some 100,000 people attended the service. The organ was provided by Musikinstrumente Cremer of Pulheim-Brauweiler, Germany.

## Harpsichord News

by Larry Palmer



**At Virginia Pleasants' 100th birthday celebration: (front row) Richard Germann, Virginia Pleasants; (back row) Karen Flint, Willard Martin, Joyce Lindorff, David Lindorff** (photo by Susan Mize)

Centenarian early keyboardist **Virginia Duffey Pleasants** died peacefully at her apartment in Philadelphia on November 26, 2011, seven months

after celebrating her 100th birthday (see "Harpsichord News," THE DIAPASON, May 2011, p. 12).

Born in Urbana, Ohio on May 9, 1911, Virginia attended Wittenberg University and completed her baccalaureate degree with a major in piano performance at the Cincinnati College of Music (now the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati). Following further piano study in New York City and a first prize in the MacDowell Chamber Music Competition, she married Henry Pleasants, music critic of the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*. After the conclusion of the Second World War, she joined her husband in Europe. Following more than two decades of assignments on the European continent, the couple moved to London in 1967, where Henry served as music critic for the *International Herald Tribune* and wrote a number of important books focused on the art of singing. Mrs. Pleasants taught early keyboards at Cambridge University for twenty years as an adjunct lecturer and was frequently heard as a recitalist on fortepiano, clavicord, and harpsichord. Four years after her husband's death, Virginia returned to the United States in 2004. She continued to perform at her retirement home, Cathedral Village in North Philadelphia, and gave a memorable lecture-recital on the keyboard compositions of the Philadelphia composer Alexander Reinagle as part of the 2007 annual conference

of the Southeastern Historical Keyboard Society, held at the University of North Texas, Denton.

*Comments and news items are always welcome. Address them to Dr. Larry Palmer, Division of Music, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275. E-mails to <lpalmer@smu.edu>.*








## Carillon News

by Brian Swager

Two Dutch organist/carillonners were named Knights in the Order of Oranje-Nassau: **Adolph Rots** of Garrelswaer and **Gert Oldenbeuving** of Zutphen.

**Carleton University** (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada) and the School for Studies in Art & Culture announce that the school's Bachelor of Music program is now accepting applications from Canadian and international students wishing to pursue carillon performance studies. The university has installed a practice carillon in a specially designed room on campus, and has entered into an agreement with the House of Commons whereby Carleton students may play at regulated times on the Peace Tower carillon. For more information: <www.carleton.ca/music>.

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- St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Savannah, GA: repair water damage in Swell division
- First United Methodist Church in Newnan, GA: new III-manual console and solid-state relay
- Cuthbert United Methodist Church in Cuthbert, GA: rebuild II-manual console and solid-state relay
- Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA: rebuild 38-rank pipe organ and III-manual console with additions
- Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Burke, VA: rebuild with new III-manual console, new exposed Great and facade
- The Temple of the Inevitable Congregation in Atlanta, GA: rebuild IV/56 vintage F&C/Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ

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