

Nunc Dimittis

Clyde Neville English died June 18, three days short of his 95th birthday, in Morgantown, West Virginia. He was professor emeritus at West Virginia University, where he had been head of the organ department since 1945. He presided over the construction of the WVU Creative Arts Center and designed the 55-rank Möller organ there.

English held degrees from Carnegie-Mellon University and Union Theological Seminary, and had studied with Clarence Dickinson and Marcel Dupré. His church positions included Hitchcock Memorial Presbyterian Church, Scarsdale, New York, and East Liberty Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. As a recitalist, he had performed in Chicago, Dallas, London, and Paris.



Floyd Edwards Werle

Floyd Edwards Werle, prolific composer, arranger, and organist, died July 19 at age 81 in Oakland, California. A native of Billings, Montana, he was born May 8, 1929. He began piano study at the age of five, and added lessons on clarinet at age eight. During his youth, he played jazz with Billings school and community combos, performing on radio and for dances. He enrolled in the University of Michigan music department, and it was there that his talent for composing and arranging came to the fore.

In 1950, he joined the 695th Air Force Band at Great Falls, Montana. His abilities as a music arranger at the University of Michigan came to the attention of the Air Force Band, and he arrived in Washington, D.C., in 1951, beginning a 32-year career as chief arranger for the Air Force Symphonic Band, their Symphony Orchestra, and the Air Force Singing Sergeants ensemble. They broadcast on radio weekly. In the 1960s, he composed *Wonder of Flight* for symphony orchestra with antiphonal brass and two tape playback systems. By the time Werle had retired from the Air Force in 1982, he had created over 50 compositions, including four trumpet concerti for Doc Severinsen and two symphonies. His work in the field of sacred music is equally impressive, composing over 200 hymns, Masses, and other works.

Werle was minister of music at Faith United Methodist Church in Rockville, Maryland for 35 years. His university degrees included a belated Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1982 (having missed receiving it when he enlisted in the Air Force) and a Doctor of Fine Arts in 2001 from Rocky Mountain College of Billings, Montana. On January 9, 2008, in a special ceremony in the nation's capital, the U.S. Air Force Band Library (which houses over 900 of Werle's compositions and arrangements) was officially named the Floyd E. Werle Music Library.

In 2002, he moved to California, first to Almaden Hills, where he was music director for the United Methodist Church, then to Oakland, where he was organist at the Montclair United Methodist Church, and for the past four years, served both that church and Lake Merritt United Methodist Church as organist. He was married to his wife, Violet, until her death in 1999. Floyd E. Werle is survived by his sister, Arlene Cooke of West Chester, Pennsylvania, and her children.

Here & There

Michael's Music Service announces new publications of organ music. *Fantasia*, by A. Andrews, is a little piece from 1874 that was part of a series containing music by Batiste, Lefébure-Wély, Dudley Buck, and others. It alternates between dramatic bombast and beautiful sentimental melody. *The Lyric Trumpet*, by Michael Johnston, was written for a wedding in 1990 and is now in print. *Melody*, by Charles Dawes (former vice-president), is available as arranged by Marie Edwards Von Ritter. Michael's Music Service's website includes an article about the piece along with a recording on a period organ as well as Fritz Kreisler's original performance on violin and piano. The website also has an updated "About Us" page, including an article about organ sheet music and reasons for restoration. For information: <<http://michaelsmusicsservice.com>>.

The Vermont Organ Academy has announced the release of its new compact disc recording, *Aeolian-Skinner: The King of Instruments, Highlights*, featuring performances by Norman Coke-Jephcott, Thomas Dunn, Marie-Madeleine Duruffé, George Faxon, Edgar Hilliar, Robert Owen, Roy Perry, Ruth Barrett Phelps, Albert Russell, William



Aeolian-Skinner organ, First Presbyterian Church, Kilgore, Texas

Watkins, and John Weaver at the organs of Symphony Hall, Boston; Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City; First Presbyterian Church, Kilgore, Texas (pictured); The Mother Church, Boston; St. Mark's Church, Mt. Kisco, New York; Christ Church, Bronxville, New York; Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis; Asylum Hill Congregation Church, Hartford; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New York City; and Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston.

This is the first volume in a projected series of CD recordings revisiting Aeolian-Skinner's original "King of Instruments" series, long out of print, and re-mastered from the original master tapes. The "Highlights" disc includes

previously un-issued performances by Norman Coke-Jephcott, Thomas Dunn, and Marie-Madeleine Duruffé. The CD may be ordered, along with other volumes in *The Aeolian-Skinner Legacy* series, at <www.vermontorganacademy.com>, or by mail for \$14, postpaid, from Vermont Organ Academy, P. O. Box 1826, Laurel, MS 39441.

Parkey OrganBuilders has been commissioned by the Catholic Cathedral of St. John Berchmans of Shreveport, Louisiana, to build a new three-manual, 55-rank instrument for the cathedral's nave. Parkey OrganBuilders' Opus 12 will replace a Visser-Rowland from the early 1990s. Tonal plans have been carried out with James Dorroh, choir-master-organist of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama, who is serving as project consultant; Phillip K. Parkey, president and tonal director; and Justin Ward, cathedral organist/director of music and liturgy. Visual design is by Michael Morris in collaboration with Phillip Parkey. Rev. Fr. Peter Mangum is the rector of the cathedral.

In addition to the new organ, acoustical renovations in the cathedral's nave will also take place during this project under the direction of Dennis Fleisher, Ph.D., of MuSonics, a Michigan-based company. Installation is scheduled to begin in 2011. For information: <www.parkeyorgans.com>.

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