

EVANSVILLE A.G.O.  
**OUTREACH PROJECTS: Spring 2011**  
**SHARING THE JOY OF ORGAN PLAYING**

**Out-reach**

Pronunciation: \ 'aüt-rēch \

Function: noun

1 : the act of reaching out

2 : the extent or limit of reach

3 : the extending of services or assistance beyond current or usual limits <an outreach program>

Building on the success of programs such as Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, our chapter would like to expand our efforts to share the joy of organ playing with people in our communities. We propose to involve every member of our chapter in events designed to introduce new people to the experience of playing the organ. This year we want to have a number of events in communities and individual churches around the Tri-state. These events will vary in size and content, from a simple organ demonstration following a worship service to a community-wide Pedal, Pipes and Pizza event. We encourage all chapter members to take some initiative in deciding what type of event would best fit the needs and resources of their own community.

**SUGGESTED EVENTS**

- ◆ **Pedal, Pipes and Pizza:** Three-hour event consisting of:
  - 1) An introduction to very basic principals of organ design and the function of organ pipes;
  - 2) Demonstration of the stops and mechanisms of the organ(s);
  - 3) Playing of some organ literature by a local organist(s);
  - 4) Time for students to play the organ(s);
  - 5) Going inside the organ or organ chambers;
  - 6) Watching the video “Close Encounters”;
  - 7) A simple meal or snack of pizza, fruit, juice or soft-drinks, cookies, etc.

In past Evansville PP&Ps, we often have included a small portativ pipe organ and/or portable reed organ in addition to the primary pipe organ in a local church, for a wider variety of organ-playing experiences.

- ◆ **Keyboard Kaleidoscope:** An event similar to Pedal, Pipes and Pizza, except that instruments such as a harpsichord, clavichord, etc., could be included in addition to the organ(s).
- ◆ **After-Service Organ Demonstration:** A simple demonstration of the organ following a worship service. This could consist of playing a special postlude, with members of the congregation invited to gather around the console to observe, followed by a demonstration of the stops and mechanisms of the organ and an invitation to those gathered to “play something” on the keyboards and pedals. (Optional look inside the organ or organ chambers.) This event could be advertized in the church bulletin several weeks in advance, along with an article in the church newsletter. It could be targeted to particular ages or open to all ages.
- ◆ **Introduction to the Organ Event:** An event connected with some other church or community activity (Sunday School, youth group meeting, fellowship meal, Bible School, scouting project, etc.), or a stand-alone event incorporating some elements from the suggestions above. This could be combined with a demonstration of other musical instruments the church has, such as handbells.

We encourage you to be creative and design an event of your own, or with one or more nearby organists. Below are some resources which might provide ideas for projects as well as suggestions for implementing events. Please let our Executive Committee know about all plans for outreach projects, large and small, by contacting Barbara Waite at 812-477-8339 or [alcbjw@insightbb.com](mailto:alcbjw@insightbb.com) .

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

- Pedal, Pipes and Pizza booklet, by the American Guild of Organists, available for download at [www.agohq.org/docs/pdf/pedpipe.pdf](http://www.agohq.org/docs/pdf/pedpipe.pdf)
- A Young Person's Guide to the Pipe Organ by Sandra Soderlund, with drawings by Catherine Fischer. Have one copy for each student. A delightful introduction to the pipe organ for young people of any age. This book of cartoons gives a brief history of the instrument and cleverly illustrates types of action, varieties of pipes, divisions of the organ, organ builders, players, and composers. There is also a glossary of terms and a bibliography of sources for more information.
- Lindeen-Martin, Cindy. "Hosting a Pedals, Pipes and Pizza Event," *The American Organist* 41/2 (Feb. 2007): 70-72. Available at <http://www.agohq.org/education/indexoutreach.html>
- Black, Elizabeth. "A Close Encounter of a Different Kind," *The American Organist* 37/4 (April 2003): 95. This article describes a program for introducing youth to the pipe organ that is smaller in scope than a Pedals, Pipes and Pizza event, but very effective. Available at <http://www.agohq.org/education/indexoutreach.html>
- Dolbashian, Ann T. "The New Organist: An Organ Demonstration for Children," *The American Organist* 31/5 (May 1997): 36. This article is a description of an hour-long presentation that acquaints youth of the parish with the pipe organ. Available at <http://www.agohq.org/education/indexoutreach.html>
- Video: Close Encounters (the one we have shown at PP&Ps)
- An outline of past Pedals, Pipes and Pizza hosted by the Evansville AGO.
- Organ pipes for demonstration purposes
- The University of Evansville and First Presbyterian Church in Evansville both have a small portable organ (portativ) which might be available for use in organ demonstration events. (This might be particularly useful for events in churches or communities that don't have a real pipe organ, or that have a pipe organ that doesn't have any visible or accessible pipes.)
- Members of the Evansville Chapter who have participated in a Pedal, Pipes and Pizza event before will be glad to assist in the planning of similar events in other communities as needed.