



The Organ Music Society of Sydney Inc.
Incorporating the American Guild of Organists (Sydney Chapter)

ABN 18 754 002 095

AnnRpt2016Spcl

ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending 31st August 2016

1. OFFICE BEARERS

At the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 7th November, 2015 at St Jude's Anglican Church, 106 Avoca Street, Randwick, the nine members present elected the following office bearers:

President	Dr Gregory Cunningham
Vice Presidents	Mrs Godelieve Ghavalas and Mr Peter Jewkes
Honorary Treasurer	Mrs Kerrie Keene
Honorary Secretary	Mr Geoff Lloyd

The following members were elected to the Committee:

Messrs Gareth Baard, Andrew Davidson, Robert Fox, Garry Hoyle and Peter Meyer.

It is accepted practice that the elected president also assumes the office of Dean of the Sydney Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the elected secretary also assumes the office of Secretary of the Sydney Chapter of the American Guild of Organists as well as the Public Officer under the Associations Incorporation Act.

2. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The OMSS aims to advance the love of the organ and its Committee has sought to further this objective in 2016. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the outgoing President, Hugh Knight, for his outstanding service in this role over five years, but also his many years as Treasurer of the Society.

In their individual roles on the OMSS Committee, each member has made an incredibly important contribution to the activities of the Society. Peter Meyer as Editor of the Sydney Organ Journal deserves special mention in the way in which the Journal not only showcases the Society's activities, but includes scholarly and informative articles on a range of subjects related to organ building and performance. I am most grateful, also, to our Membership Secretary, Garry Hoyle, who has patiently dealt with the interface between the OMSS and AGO membership. This is an important international alliance between two organ music organisations and one which strengthens ties in many ways. In fact, several of our joint members attended the 2016 AGO National Convention in Houston. Equally, several OMSS/OHTA members attended the OHTA 2016 Conference in New Zealand.

The Organ Music Society of Sydney has continued to forge links domestically, too. Although theoretically outside the period of this report, this includes our sharing of resources between the Sydney Organ Competition and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music last October where Competition adjudicator, Sarah

Kim, was also an International Tutor at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Open Academy. Also in October, the Sydney Organ Competition 2016 included an international competitor which was exciting as was the standard of performance across all three sections. The OMSS wishes again, publicly, to acknowledge the interest and active contribution of the Federated Music Clubs of Australia, the Friends of the Sydney Town Hall, the Sheppard and Vern-Barnett families, Ellen Dyer and Betty Roberts in supporting the Sydney Organ Competition prizes. My thanks to the Organ Education Sub-committee led by Godelieve Ghalas and Society Secretary, Geoff Lloyd, for their superb organisation of and contribution to this important annual OMSS event.

We continue to advertise organ concerts in Sydney and to encourage our members to attend. We congratulate the organisers of these concerts at the Town Hall, University, cathedrals and churches. Thank you to Garry Hoyle for the regular OMSS e-letters to our members in this regard.

Organ Rambles, which showcased some of Sydney's interesting instruments, have been a feature this year, particularly our visits to a new hybrid organ in Earlwood and a return to the former First Church of Christ Scientist, Darlinghurst. These opportunities maintain interest in historic and new approaches to organ building.

The Society also extends its thanks to City Organist, Robert Ampt, for his continued support of young organists in making available the Sydney Town Hall Organ for the Young Organists' Day in December. Equally, Amy Johansen's exposure of the University of Sydney's Great Hall organ to young people is gratefully recognised.

I wish to add my sincere thanks to the Committee and to all our members for supporting our activities and in encouraging the love and performance of organ music in and beyond Sydney.

- **MEMBERSHIP**

<i>Year Ended</i>	31/8/14	31/8/15	31/8/16
Ordinary Members	217	202	207
Pensioners	78	79	78
Students	11	7	9
Journal Subscribers	33	37	-
Institutional Subscribers			7
O/S Journal Subscribers/Members	20	14	14
Total Members and Subscribers	359	339	314
Complimentary Journals	18	26	16
Overseas Complimentary	-	-	9
Total Mailed Out	-	-	339

4. LIFE MEMBERS

The Society has five Life Members, viz.

Keith Asboe, Audrey Cummins, Peter Kneeshaw, Howard Pollard and Ron Sharp.

5. SYDNEY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Some alterations have become necessary in our AGO Sydney Chapter membership procedures due to the changes in AGO's system, the consideration for overseas payments and vagaries of international exchange rates.

Basically, we are unable to accept late subscription renewals but this does leave the option for the member to pursue own arrangements (but more expensive) for AGO membership.

All members receive the monthly magazine *The American Organist*, which is full of information on the organ scene in the US and the world.

Some members from our chapter attended the National Convention in Houston, Texas from 16th- 23rd June 2016.

6. FINANCIAL

(Please also see the Notes in the Financial Statement)

The surplus is \$1,233.87 this year. Interest rates continued to decline throughout the year, providing less income on investments by \$878.87 compared with the previous financial year. Journal advertising revenue reduced by \$734 and journal costs increased by \$2,218.05

The Organ Academy and 2015 Competition provided surplus funds of \$1,486.46 and \$447.12 respectively.

Our thanks is extended to David Wheatley who has most generously audited the Society's accounting documents this year.

7. THE SYDNEY ORGAN JOURNAL

Again, we thank our Editor, Peter Meyer, for his continuing production of an excellent The Sydney Organ Journal. It goes from strength to strength in content and interest.

Thank you, Peter.

Thanks, too, to the printers of the SOJ, BEE Printmail, for their assistance and to the various contributors of articles, photographs, interviews, letters to the editor, reviews and advertising.

8. SOCIETY'S WEBSITE AND LIBRARY <omss.org.au>

The web site has continued providing members with a wealth of information. Various members continue to forward photos and updated specifications/details of Sydney organs to the webmaster to keep the

directory of Sydney organs as up to date as possible. Society functions are always advertised and further information for various events is made available for downloading.

A very useful function of the web site is the advertising of organist positions and second hand instruments. Feedback has shown that these ads are very successful in most cases.

Another service is providing free advertising for organ concerts and recitals in the Sydney area but only those details sent to the webmaster can be uploaded. Some recital organisers are now tending to send out Facebook invitations and no longer provide the Society and its members with their details. Our members can't attend if they don't know a recital is on and not all members are subscribed to the various Facebook organ groups to even see the Facebook ads. One major 'venue' didn't provide their details until June so none of their first six months of recitals was advertised.

The library is not being used as much as in previous years. While still being used by organists at St Stephen's, where it is housed, the recent development of IMSLP has seen the abandonment of musicians using libraries or even buying music (unless the work is still under copyright). Libraries are now only useful for possibly providing editions of works not found at IMSLP although most people seem to be content with using whatever is available online rather than comparing editions. Scholars tend to buy Urtext editions which are rarely available in libraries such as the Society's.

It would now be some nineteen years since the OMSS website came online and our webmaster, Mark Quarmbay, is to be congratulated for maintaining what is a very important part of OMSS.

9. EMAIL NEWSLETTER

The *E-Letter* continues to be produced by Garry Hoyle, our membership secretary. Its regular transmission to members is a valuable service. It has supplanted the Concert Diary. Thank you, Garry. Again, just a reminder that any change to your email address should be reported as soon as possible to enable continuing receipt of the *E-Letter*.

10. EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Our Education Subcommittee is chaired by Godelieve Ghavalas and includes Greg Cunningham and Robert Fox.

Peter Meyer happily receives any news of young organists and keeps us well informed through the Journal, including exam results.

The Sydney Organ Competition, Junior (12 entrants) and Intermediate (7 entrants) sections, was held on Monday, 5th October 2015. Once again we are indebted to our sponsors without whom the competition would not be viable. Daniel Moulton and James Parsons adjudicated. Sydney Grammar School and Pitt Street Uniting Church opened their doors for this important ever-successful event.

The Organ Academy (30th September to 4th October) was again hosted by Shore School. Daniel Moulton and James Parsons were invited as our overseas tutors. Five exciting days of 'not a moment to be spared' came to close with 'Next Gen takes Centre Stage'. Philip Swanton, Peter Kneesahw and Oliver Brett were our local experts and many venues opened their doors including Sydney Grammar, St Aloysius College, St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney Town Hall, Veerbrugghen Hall/Sydney Conservatorium, as well as

the Wurlitzer at the Orion Theatre which was hosted by TOSA. There were thirty students and quite a few observers.

Judy Deacon of Fine Music asked Samuel Giddy to open and close the Fine Music YPA event at the Veerbrugghen Hall. Judy is tireless at trying to reach new audiences by bringing the organ to life either in concerts like the one mentioned here and also giving broadcasting time on Fine Music. The Competition and Young Organists Day is recorded by Greg Ghavalas (Fine Music) and pieces are chosen for broadcast.

YOD (30th December) with Robert Ampt as host - once again a full Sydney Town Hall comes to hear our young organists perform. Another person forever instilling the love of being able to get that thrill playing a grand organ.

Easter Ramble (28th March) highlighted some organists, giving some the opportunity to perform in front of an audience. (not too judgemental) for the first time.

11. RADIO BROADCASTS

Broadcasting of organ music continues on Fine Music 102.5 FM with Andrew Grahame now in his fifteenth year.

You are all reminded that the Society's monthly programme "Colours of the King" is streamed live to the internet from finemusicfm.com as well as being broadcast on Fine Music 102.5 FM.

Thank you, Andrew

12. FUNCTIONS

(i) Rambles

Organ rambles held during the year were:

1. Visit to St Mary's Anglican Church, Waverley, prior to AGM at Randwick.
2. Roseville and Lindfield on Easter Monday, 28th March.
3. Churches in Burwood on Queens Birthday holiday 13th June.
4. St George's Anglican Church, Earlwood on 13th August for "Sounds of a Lost Organ".

(ii) Activities

- Sydney Organ Academy (3rd) from 30th September to 5th October.
- Sydney Organ Competition on Labour Day, 5th October. Junior and Intermediate Sections.
- AGM at St Jude's, Randwick, preceded by the visit to St Mary's, Waverley.
- Anzac Choral Evensong at St Andrew's Cathedral to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Sydney organists during the First World War.
- Young Organists' Day at Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday 30th December.

13. DEPUTY ORGANISTS

Andrew Davidson continues to maintain the Register of Deputy Organists. Of late, there has not been a heavy demand for the services of the register. Participants are always welcome. Andrew's contacts are by mobile 0414 385311 or email <ad046@hotmail.com>. Thank you, Andrew.

14. CONCLUSION

Thank you to President Dr Greg Cunningham for his leadership over the year.

Thanks also to the other office-bearers of the association (as referred to in the terms of the Constitution) - Vice Presidents, Godelieve Ghavalas and Peter Jewkes; Treasurer, Kerrie Keene and Secretary, Geoff Lloyd, and to Committee members, Gareth Beard, Andrew Davidson, Robert Fox, Garry Hoyle and Peter Meyer.

Would you like to join the committee? We'd love to have you – watch out for nomination time next year.

The Committee