



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

ABN 18 754 002 095

AnnRpt2012

ANNUAL REPORT

for year ending 31st August 2012

1. OFFICE BEARERS

At the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, 20th November, 2011 at Barker College, Pacific Highway, Hornsby, members present elected the following office bearers:

President	Hugh Knight
Vice Presidents	Neil Cameron, Peter Jewkes
Honorary Treasurer	Kerrie Keene
Honorary Secretary	Geoff Lloyd

The following members were elected to the Committee:

Greg Cunningham, Robert Fox, Godelieve Ghalalas, Garry Hoyle and Peter Meyer.

2. MEMBERSHIP

<i>Year Ended</i>	<i>31/8/10</i>	<i>31/8/11</i>	<i>31/8/12</i>
Ordinary Members	233	232	226
Pensioners	66	67	82
Students	12	14	8
Journal Subscribers	60	52	49
OS Journal Subscribers	21	17	17
Total Members and Subscribers	392	382	382
Complimentary Journals	39	38	33

We record here, to the date of this meeting, the passing during the year of Norman Johnston, Peter McMillan, Roy Riley and Henry Venables.

3. LIFE MEMBERS

With the passing of Norman Johnston during the year, the Society now has six Life Members, viz., Keith Asboe, Geoff Bock, Audrey Cummins, Peter Kneeshaw, Howard Pollard and Ron Sharp.

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4. SYDNEY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

There are sixty-seven members at the time of preparing this report. Eleven new members joined during the year, but five did not renew their subscription.

All members receive the monthly magazine *The American Organist*, which is now produced in full colour. Problems experienced with the postal delivery of the August 2012 issue are still to be resolved.

Two members attended the 2012 National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, and reported that it was an excellent event, with outstanding recitals.

5. FINANCIAL

An improved surplus of \$10,361.30 was achieved due to the following factors:

- An increase of almost \$1,000 in subscriptions received before the close of the Society's financial year on 31st August.
- Deposits of \$3,890 held for the forthcoming Sydney Summer Organ Academy.
- A substantial reduction (almost \$4,200) in the cost of producing *The Sydney Organ Journal*. This was achieved by improved liaison between the editor and printer, and a limit to the number of pages in each issue.
- Printing and stationery costs decreased by \$823. The previous year included the cost of printing membership post cards.

Membership rates were not increased, but the committee decided on a \$5 increase in the cost of Journal subscriptions.

The Junior and Intermediate Organ Competitions were held in October 2011. The cost to the Society, in addition to the prizes donated by our generous supporters, was \$1,480.40.

Our new Treasurer, Kerrie Keene, has been a valuable member of the committee. We again thank David Wheatley, who audits the Society's accounts, and Garry Hoyle, Membership Secretary, who receives and banks incoming payments, and maintains the register of members.

6. THE SYDNEY ORGAN JOURNAL

The Sydney Organ Journal this year has maintained its popularity, due in no small part to the value of the contributions and the expertise of the editor.

We must particularly thank our Editor, Peter Meyer; Associate Editor, Robert Parkinson, for the *Mixture* columns; Peter Jewkes, Reviews Editor, and those who assist him.

The spring edition, due for issue on 1st September, is to celebrate the fifty years of journal publication. Congratulations to all who have been involved with production of the Journal throughout all of those years and thanks to the printers, BEE Printmail, for their assistance.

7. SOCIETY'S WEBSITE.

As the Organ Music Society's web site has been running for over fifteen years, most of the work these days involves keeping it up to date. The largest job is uploading details for all the known organ recitals in Sydney, creating ads for the 'For Sale' and 'Positions Vacant' pages and adding photos of organs to those pages lacking them in our organ database. Specifications are added from time to time to those pages lacking these details. These are mostly supplied by organ tuners who take photos with their mobile phones and note the specifications on tuning visits which they then email to Mark Quarmby, our webmaster, for uploading.

YOUTH News is always added to the site for easy download as is our three-monthly recital brochure and latest *E-letter*.

In the past eleven years, our site has had 54,000 hits.

Many thanks to Mark for his efforts in maintaining this important aspect of the Society's communication capability.

8. CONCERT DIARY

Godelieve Ghavalas has continued to produce the *Concert Diary* for inclusion in *The Sydney Organ Journal*. The information is also available on our website.

Godelieve now wishes to pass preparation of the diary to someone who is completely email savvy and also willing to "find" recitals and do follow-ups, chase people for information, etc. The person does not even need to be an organist, just someone who is interested in the organ. "Training" will be provided. Please consider volunteering for this valuable communication task.

9. EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Garry Hoyle, our Membership Secretary, has continued to produce a regular e-letter. Thank you, Garry.

We do remind you to advise us of any change to your email address, otherwise the *e-letter* will not reach you.

10. YOUNG ORGANIST NEWSLETTER

Godelieve Ghavalas started *the YOUTH news* in July 2008.

Another four issues (now totalling sixteen) of e-*YOUTH news* were emailed to over two hundred recipients this year. There were many interesting articles including programming recitals with comments by Pastor de Lasala, Jacques van Oortmerssen and Dame Gillian Weir; practice tips by Stephen Hough; Christian Lane on Yo Yo Ma and performance and the famous Sesame Street composer Ad Wammes.

The newsletter also brings many excellent YouTubes and news and dates of recitals of our young organists.

Any interested person may be added to the email distribution list. Issues are also available on our website.

Thanks to Godelieve and all contributors for making *the YOUTH news* the publication that it is today.

11. YOUNG ORGANISTS

We continue to support and encourage our young organists. Judy Deacon of Fine Music FM (formerly 2MBS-FM) has continued an active role in promoting organ music played by young talented organists to go to air. The recordings used are those of the Organ Competitions.

A young organist's is generally invited to present a recital in St Jude's Church as part of the annual Bowral Music Festival,

Young organists are also involved during January in the Friday lunch time recitals at St Andrew's Cathedral. Thanks to Ross Cobb and the Cathedral authorities for facilitating this.

12. RADIO BROADCASTS

Last year we noted the milestone (July 2011) of Andrew Grahame's tenth anniversary as programmer/presenter of "Colours of the King" at 2MBS-FM (now Fine Music FM). We are pleased that Andrew continues his monthly programme, which is another avenue for promotion of the Society.

13. THE SYDNEY ORGAN COMPETITION

Mentioned in last year's report was that the Junior and Intermediate sections of the Sydney Organ Competition 2011 were held at Pitt Street Uniting Church on Saturday, 8th October, 2011. There was no Open section.

Also, as presaged in last year's report, planning indeed proceeded to enable the SOC 2012 to be held on the Labour Day Monday, 1st October (not 7th October as initially understood). This function does not fall within the ambit of this report but we take this opportunity to indicate the involvement of an additional and welcome donor - The Friends Of The Sydney Town Hall, contributing \$1,500 for Intermediate 1st prize.

We continue to enjoy the support of our donors, who are thanked for their involvement during the course of each competition.

Reported at the 2011 AGM was the passing of Dr Andrew Vern-Barnett, AM, MBE, one of the donors of the Doris and George Vern-Barnett Memorial Prize. Sadly, during the course of this year, we received news of the passing of his brother, Brian. It was with great satisfaction, however, that subsequently the Vern-Barnett family advised us that they would like to continue with the prize.

We are indeed, fortunate to enjoy the support of our donors.

14. FUNCTIONS

(i) Rambles

Organ rambles held during the year were:

- Labour Day holiday, 3rd October 2011 to: Wesley Uniting Church, Penshurst; Hurstville Christian Ecclesia, Oatley; Hurstville Uniting Church and the Atkinson residence, Hurstville. Forty-six names of members and guests recorded.
- Australia Day, Thursday, 26th January 2012: Recital at St Stephen's, Macquarie St and a visit to St Mary's Cathedral including recital, open console, wine and cheese. Number of attendees not recorded.
- Easter Monday, 9th April 2012 to: St Barnabas' Anglican Church, Westmead; St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral, Parramatta; St John's Anglican Cathedral, Parramatta and The King's School, North Parramatta. Thirty-five total attendance.
- "Head for the Hunter", a combined ramble with the Hunter District Organ Music Society and the Organ Society of Queensland over the long weekend of 9th to 11th June 2012. This was arranged to a nicety by HDOMS. We have no individual attendance figures.
- Hawkesbury; visiting St Stephen's Anglican Church, Penrith, St Peter's Anglican Church, Richmond and both Catholic and Anglican St Matthew's churches in Windsor. Thirty-four names recorded.

(ii) Activities

- DVD Evening at the home of Godelieve Ghavalas - *The World's Largest Pipe Organs*. With meal included. A well-received evening by those present.
- DVD Night at St John's Anglican Church, Asquith. Thirty-three members and parishioners in attendance. This, too, was well-received, particularly by the attending parishioners.
- Gordon Stewart Master Class and Concert at Shore School on Tuesday, 8th May 2012.

- Young Organists' Day (the twenty-third) was held on Thursday, 29th December 2011 at the Sydney Town Hall in conjunction with the Sydney City Council. There will be YOD in 2012 as part of the Sydney Summer Organ Academy.

Thank you to all who have been involved in any way in the arranging and conduct of these rambles and other functions, and to all the churches and other venues for their support.

Committee is keen to utilise members' skills in assisting with arranging rambles. Please register your interest with the Secretary.

15. SYDNEY SUMMER ORGAN ACADEMY

The success of the SSOA in December/January 2010/11 spurred us on and planning has lead to the second SSOA to be based at Shore School in North Sydney and to use organs to as far away as Hornsby. This will be 27th to 31st December 2012.

16. LIBRARY FACILITIES

Established at St Stephen's Uniting Church in Macquarie St, Sydney, the Society's organ music library has received several new 'libraries' donated by members over the past couple of years, It is now full to overflowing and a progressive culling will be implemented. We shall try to put some items on sale at rambles (and AGMs).

Mark Quarmby, to whom thanks are due, looks after the collection. Contact him for any borrowing.

17. DEPUTY ORGANISTS

The Register of Deputy Organists is managed by Andrew Davidson. Participants are always welcome. Andrew's contacts are by telephone: (02) 9489 6774, or email ad064@hotmail.com.

18. CONCLUSION

Thanks to Hugh for his leadership over the past year (under the Constitution he is eligible for re-election as President for another year). Thanks also to the other office-bearers of the association (as referred to in the terms of the Constitution) - Vice Presidents, Neil Cameron and Peter Jewkes; Treasurer, Kerrie Keene and Secretary, Geoff Lloyd, and to Committee members, Greg Cunningham, Robert Fox, Godelieve Ghavalas, Garry Hoyle and Peter Meyer.

And be assured, members, that your support is highly valued.

The Committee