

Free recitals fete look, sound of pipe organs

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By Andrew Druckenbrod, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Organist Paul Jacobs headlines a week of celebration of the art and architecture of the pipe organ today through next Saturday at various venues around Pittsburgh.

The Washington, Pa., native, chairman of the organ department at the Juilliard School since 2004, gives a recital at East Liberty Presbyterian Church at 8 p.m. Thursday as part of the Organ Historical Society's National Convention. All of the recitals are free and supported by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Here is the schedule:

- Peter Guy at 7:30 p.m. today, Calvary Episcopal Church, Downtown.
- Kevin Birch at 4 p.m. Tuesday at St. Benedict the Moor Church, Uptown.
- Thomas Murray at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Harbison Chapel, Grove City College.
- Paul Jacobs at 8 p.m. Thursday at East Liberty Presbyterian Church.
- Wolfgang Rubsam at 8 p.m. Friday at St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland.
- Neil Stahurski, with Yeeha Chiu, piano, at 8 p.m. Saturday at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, East Liberty.

Since its founding in 1956, the Organ Historical Society has awarded citations to organs of "historical, musical, technological and cultural significance." Of the more than 100,000 pipe organs built in North America, only 393 have been cited and two are in Pittsburgh: the 1895 Farrand & Votey organ in Calvary Methodist Church and the 1907 Kimball organ in Temple Rodef Shalom. As part of the convention, the society will dub five more regional instruments:

The 1962 Beckerath organ in St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland; the 1838 Joseph Harvey organ in St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church, Zelenople; the 1872 Derrick & Felgemaker organ in St. Benedict the Moor Church, Uptown; the 1905 Austin organ in First Methodist Church, West Newton; and the 1931 Kimball organ in Harbison Chapel, Grove City College.

More information: organsociety.org.

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