

JOHANNUS

Happenings

2011 has kicked off with some very exciting happenings! Bernie has long been a champion of the role of the organ in church and, through the provision of scholarships, sponsorships and other activities, has sought to raise awareness of the organ and to encourage the development of organists.

Many of our Musicclubbers know local organist Brendan Lukin quite well. For the last 18 months Brendan has been working on his accreditation to become Victoria's first and Australia's second Suzuki Classic Organ Teacher.

Hang on! Do I hear you say...? Isn't The Suzuki method all about violins and pianos? Well think again.

In 1988, Swedish Suzuki teacher Gunilla Ronnberg and organist Lars Hagstrom started developing a course for classic organ that embraced the principles of Shinichi Suzuki and the Suzuki Method. This holistic approach involves the student, parents and teacher as all being as important as each other in a child's learning process. Not only are the children taught, but parents must also complete an eight-week course in which they learn the basic elements of music and how to support their child.

Then the children start learning. By incrementally mastering tonalisation (touch, attack, articulation, etc) and aural/listening skills using step-by-step teaching and repetition/imitation patterns, children soon develop an affinity and ease at the organ. The parents are involved at lessons and the students sometimes learn in a group situation so they can gain performance experience in a comfortable and safe environment.

Cooranbong based organist, David Clark, brought this method to Australia a few years ago. David also has a long standing relationship with Bernies Music Land, being organist at Avondale College and Avondale Memorial SDA Church, where two Johannus Rembrandts live within one kilometer of each other.

During a recent visit to Cooranbong with David and after several calls with Brendan, we were approached to sponsor the Inaugural 2011 Suzuki Organ Summer School at Abbotsleigh Girls Grammar School in Sydney. This was an exciting opportunity not to be missed. We were very proud to be involved by the provision of Johannus and Hammond organs for performance and tuition.

Imagine the scene: 16 organ students under the age of 15, literally climbing over each other for the chance to play the organ. If you had asked me 10 years ago if this was possible, I would have said no! But I am a convert. With due



Student performances on Johannus Opus 15 and WM-44 organs at the Suzuki Organ Summer School

respect to methods of the past, whilst tried and tested, we have seen a steep decline in the number of organ students, resulting now in a serious lack of organ students and organists with some institutions even canceling organ and even entire music programs.

It does the heart good to see children so enthusiastic about learning, playing, exploring and most of all enjoying the organ. We heard some brilliant solo, duet and even trio playing from ages 8-15, with some of us feeling seriously lacking after hearing that 12-year-old play the famous Bach Toccata in D Minor (BWV565) at the Sydney Opera House a while ago. To see a five-year-old start playing two hands and pedals after a 30 minute lesson was a real eye opener.

I really can't convey my excitement and Suzuki Australia were so very grateful for our involvement.

Watch this space for more exciting Suzuki Organ developments unfold this year!

Craig D.

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New Models

The Vivaldi 35, now on display, has received an exciting response from all who have played it. Hot on its heels is the new Symphonica 47 AGO. The Symphonica represents and complete sea change in the design, layout and aesthetics of the classic organ, built especially for home.

Gone are the somewhat austere lines of a traditional church organ. They have been replaced by dramatic curves and sweeping lines and then combined with comprehensive stop dispositions to make the ultimate home organ. There is a lot more to this organ than the specifications below, probably more than Michelle will give me room for in this edition. But after seeing this organ at the USA launch in Las Vegas last year, the capabilities are mind-blowing. Come in and have a coffee and a chat with me about the Symphonica, which arrived in May. You will be as excited as I am and understand why I have already taken an order for one.

Craig D.



Technical Specifications Include:

- ♦59 English/American Romantic voices, 59 French Symphonic voices, 59 European Baroque voices, 59 Historic German Baroque voices, 39 additional organ and contemporary voices
- ♦LiveReverb (TM) real time acoustics sampled from historic buildings with Real-time chuff dynamics
- ♦Digital Equalisation Audio System (DEAS) with 12.1 Audio
- ♦Physiological expression pedals
- ♦27 internal speakers including 8 surround speakers and forward facing tweeters for stunning realism and presence
- ♦Integrated subwoofer for firm bass notes
- ♦Note-by-note, stop-by-stop voicing with Intonat™ software.