

**CONVERSATIONS AND LEGACIES:  
Exploring American Organ Pedagogy Through Oral History**

**Ann Marie Rigler, D.M.A.  
American Guild of Organists national convention  
25 June 2014**

***Interviews to date***

<b>1-3 April 2011</b> Iowa City, IA Degrees:	<b>Dr. Delbert Disselhorst</b> Residence University of Illinois (2), University of Michigan	<b>University of Iowa</b>
<b>4-5 April 2011</b> Des Moines, IA Degrees:	<b>Dr. Carl Staplin</b> First Christian Church Syracuse University, Yale University, Washington University of St. Louis	<b>Drake University</b>
<b>11-12, April 2011</b> Cincinnati, OH Degrees:	<b>Dr. Roberta Gary</b> Studio at CCM University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (2), Eastman School of Music	<b>University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music</b>
<b>12-13 April 2011</b> Knoxville, TN Degrees:	<b>Dr. John Brock</b> School of Music organ studio and conference room University of Alabama (2)	<b>University of Tennessee</b>
<b>14 April 2011</b> Nashville, TN Degrees:	<b>Dr. Wilma Jensen</b> Choir room at St. George's Episcopal Church Eastman School of Music (2)	<b>St. George's Episcopal Church</b>
<b>3, 5 May 2011</b> San Diego, CA Degrees:	<b>Dr. Marilou Kratzenstein</b> Residence Calvin College, Ohio State University, University of Iowa	<b>University of Northern Iowa</b>
<b>10 May 2011</b> Leawood, KS Degrees:	<b>Dr. John Obetz</b> Residence Northwestern University (2), Union Theological Seminary	<b>Community of Christ and UMKC Conservatory of Music</b>
<b>22 May 2011</b> Houston, TX Degrees:	<b>Dr. Clyde Holloway</b> Organ recital hall at Rice University University of Oklahoma (2), Union Theological Seminary	<b>Rice University</b>
<b>23 May 2011</b> Austin, TX Degrees:	<b>Prof. Gerre Hancock</b> Organ studio at UT-Austin University of Texas-Austin, Union Theological Seminary	<b>University of TX-Austin</b>
<b>24 May 2011</b> Waco, TX Degrees:	<b>Dr. Joyce Jones</b> Organ studio at Baylor University University of Texas-Austin (2), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	<b>Baylor University</b>

<b>25 May 2011</b> Denton, TX Degrees:	<b>Dr. Lenora McCroskey</b> Residence Stetson University, Harvard University, Eastman School of Music	<b>University of North Texas</b>
<b>26 May 2011</b> Dallas, TX Degrees:	<b>Dr. Larry Palmer</b> Residence Oberlin College, Eastman School of Music (2)	<b>Southern Methodist University</b>
<b>9 June 2011</b> Kansas City, MO Degrees:	<b>Dr. John Ditto</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church Drake University, University of Michigan, Eastman School of Music	<b>UMKC Conservatory of Music</b>
<b>11 October 2012</b> Decorah, IA Degrees:	<b>Prof. William Kuhlman</b> Residence St. Olaf College, Syracuse University	<b>Luther College</b>
<b>16 July 2013</b> Pittsburgh, PA Degrees:	<b>Dr. Ann Labounsky</b> Residence Eastman School of Music, University of Michigan, University of Pittsburgh	<b>Duquesne University</b>
<b>22 July 2013</b> Baltimore, MD Degrees:	<b>Prof. Donald Sutherland</b> Organ recital hall at Peabody Conservatory Syracuse University (2)	<b>Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University</b>
<b>26 July 2013</b> Evansville, IN Degrees:	<b>Dr. Douglas Reed</b> Neu Chapel at University of Evansville University of Michigan (2), Eastman School of Music	<b>University of Evansville</b>
<b>2 August 2013</b> Northfield, MN Degrees:	<b>Dr. John Ferguson</b> Residence Oberlin College, Kent State University, Eastman School of Music	<b>St. Olaf College</b>

**American teachers of  
at least two interviewees**

Robert Baker  
Mildred Andrews Boggess  
David Craighead  
E. William Doty (Dean Doty)  
Fenner Douglass  
Robert Glasgow  
Marilyn Mason  
Arthur Poister  
Russell Saunders

**Harpsichord**

Isolde Ahlgrimm  
Kenneth Gilbert  
Gustav Leonhardt  
Edward Parmentier

**Other North American teachers**

Robert Clark  
Catharine Crozier  
Vernon DeTar  
Wayne Fisher  
Harold Gleason  
Jerald Hamilton  
Warren Hutton  
Wilbur Held  
Warren Hutton  
Paul Jenkins  
David N. Johnson  
Kim Kasling  
Charles Krigbaum  
Bernard Lagacé  
Russell Hancock Miles  
Garth Peacock  
William Porter

**European teachers**

Marie-Claire Alain  
Nadia Boulanger  
Jean Guillou  
Anton Heiller  
Jean Langlais  
André Marchal  
Olivier Messiaen  
Karl Richter  
Finn Viderø  
Harald Vogel  
Helmut Walcha

**Pre-college study**

Roberta Bitgood  
Reginald Foort  
August Huybrechts  
Paul Sifler

**Please note:** Underscore denotes greatest prominence in interviews to date. List of teachers is incomplete.

## Topics of conversations

### Background

Discovery of the organ  
Piano study  
Educational institutions  
Major teachers  
First jobs in the profession  
Position from which person retired

### Technique

Use of published methods  
Many were raised on Gleason, but don't currently use it  
Roger E. Davis, *The Organist's Manual* (1985)  
Ritchie & Stauffer, *Organ Technique: Modern and Early* (1992/2000)  
Brock, *Introduction to Organ Playing in 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Century Style* (1988/2002)  
Pedal technique  
Position and movement of body

### Rethinking Baroque style

Introduction to teaching of Harald Vogel  
Influence of other major figures  
Early fingering  
All-toe pedaling  
Ordinary touch

### Recommended oral history resources

*Handbook of Oral History*. Ed. by Thomas L. Charlton, Lois E. Myers, Rebecca Sharpless. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press, 2006.

Neuenschwander, John A. *A Guide to Oral History and the Law*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

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- Prof. Marianne Webb: phone conversations (2011-2012; died 7 December 2013)
- San Francisco AGO chapter Special Projects Grant (2014)
- Preliminary interviewees:
  - Emma Leigh Daugherty, Olathe, KS
  - Dr. Sharon Hettinger (former Director of Music/Organist, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, KCMO)
  - John Schaefer (Canon Musician, Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, KCMO)
  - Robert L. Burns, Overland Park, KS (formerly of Simpson College, Indianola, IA)
  - Dr. Arnold Epley (William Jewell College professor emeritus of music, Liberty, MO)
  - Grace Fitzgerald, Iowa City, IA (student of Mildred Andrews Boggess)

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[www.annmarierigler.com](http://www.annmarierigler.com)  
[www.concertartistcooperative.com](http://www.concertartistcooperative.com)  
[www.jewell.edu/music](http://www.jewell.edu/music)

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### Church music

Hymn playing  
Improvisation  
Impact of "culture wars"  
Career preparation

### Personal and sociological dimensions

Gender-related responses  
Family relationships  
Military service  
Faith journeys  
European travel  
Friendships with students

### Other pedagogical considerations

Memorization  
Practice techniques  
Registration  
Masterclasses  
Use of recordings  
Attribution vs. assimilation  
Relationships