

Visualizing Collaborative Sound

A lecture-demonstration by: Ryan Mueller

If you were an artist tasked with selecting only thirty colors from which to paint with for the rest of your life, which colors would you choose? What if you were required to collaborate with a group of ten or more people to choose these colors? Arguably one of the most important musical collaborations in the life of a parish community, the creative process of giving voice to a new pipe organ is no easy task. Based on real world examples this lecture-demonstration will explore the many challenges and rewards of the collaboration between tonal director, voicers, consultants, organists, organ committees, donors, and other individuals who give way to creating musical art through a pipe organ's sound. In addition to philosophical approaches on collegial collaboration, we will touch on the psycho-acoustic effects of why individuals can perceive the same sound differently. Do such things cloud or enhance such collaborative efforts? How is an end goal realized with so many variables?

Ryan Mueller holds a lifelong fascination of music, history, and all things mechanically inclined. A 23 year old native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he credits the local landscape of instruments as inspiration for his passion. In addition to his primary vocation as an organ builder, Ryan is nationally recognized as a recitalist, advocate, speaker, and scholar. He has previously served in various capacities for the AGO, ATOS, NTHP, and is also an active member of the AIO, AGOYO, ALCM, and the OHS. Ryan is chair of the OHS Youth Advisory Panel. His work has been published in *The Tracker*, *The American Organist*, and other journals. He was an OHS E. Power Biggs Scholar in 2014, AIO Scholar in 2017, and named to *The Diapason's* "20 Under 30" Class of 2019. He recently founded Cream City Preservation Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to preservation advocacy and the documentation of instruments, buildings, and other historical artifacts. Ryan resides in Ogden, Iowa with his wife Emily, where he works for Dobson Pipe Organ Builders Ltd. of Lake City, IA. While he takes part in a large variety of service work and shop activities, Ryan's primary responsibilities revolve around the tonal department. Outside of the organ scene, he enjoys restoring classic cars, photography, cycling, and perusing antique stores.