



American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

January 2008

FROM THE DEAN

WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

Cold December has flown away. Now we're in for the really cold weather. What shall we do to occupy ourselves during these months when we'd rather just hibernate – join together for learning and music. So what is our problem? Read on.

Please remember that our January morning of Workshops will soon be upon us and our Sub-Dean, Marcia Snavely, with the able assistance of Carmen Massaro and Ginny Roedig have put together a wonderful selection of choices for you.

Carmen and organist, Jeff Acker, will host us at Rocky River United Methodist Church. If you attended the magnificent bell concert conducted by Maestro Massaro, you will remember the church well. It was the May meeting from two years ago. What a beautiful venue to enjoy for a Saturday morning in January.

As for workshop subjects, your first choice will be Contemporary Hymn Playing presented by Chris Toth. If you remember, he impressed and interested us so much with his approach at the Colleague Class that we've asked him to enlarge his presentation. Dave Powers will do a Choral Reading Session as only he can do – we all look forward to it and his smooth conducting. Adding to this will be a treat from Jim Riggs: "Conducting while Playing the Organ". This is something we can all use and we are delighted that Jim has agreed to teach us. A special treat is something quite different. Marcelline Hawk Mayhall will

display some of her historical Masterpiece Manuscripts. What a treat to see these wonderful items.

Finishing up as our Grande Finale are two of our Scholarship Winners: Mark Heiskanen and Chiawen Wu, both students of our own Margaret Scharf. You absolutely must hear them play. What a joy!

The Welcome and refreshments begin from 9:15-9:55 a.m., so please come, relax, learn and support our Scholarship students. (Our problem is that we cannot attend all these workshops!)

Grace and Peace,
Michon (Missy) Koch, Dean

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Monday, January 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
3749 Mayfield Road
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44121
(216)-382-4545
Beth Lucas, hostess

Next Chapter Meeting:

Saturday, January 26, 2008
Morning of Workshops
Rocky River United Methodist Church
1914 Detroit Road
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440)-331-7676

JANUARY MEETING:

The January meeting will be a morning of workshops on Saturday, January 26, 2008 at Rocky River United Methodist Church, 19414 Detroit Road, Rocky River with Jeff Acker and Carmen Massaro, hosts. We will gather at 9:00 AM for a social time, coffee and pastries. There will be two workshop times with two concurrent sessions taking place at each.

The workshops will be (in no particular order):

Conducting from the console – Jim Riggs

Cue the tenors, general 4, a page turn, oh no---HELP!
□ Conducting from the console can be challenging. □ This session will address some of these challenges as well as offer some hands on suggestions for improving your conducting skills at the organ.

Choral Reading Session – Dave Powers

The choral reading session will feature general literature for the church year. It will include a blend of older and new titles, and will try to include 2 and 3 part voicings for smaller choirs.

How To Accompany Contemporary Tunes on the Organ – Chris Toth

Chris believes that the organ is an extremely effective instrument to use to accompany congregational singing of contemporary tunes. This workshop will cover reasons to use the organ, techniques to develop appealing accompaniments, registration and sample accompaniments. Bring a troubling tune with you, if you would like!

The Bach Collection

Marcellene and Walter Mayhall will create an interesting and revealing display of first printings of Bach's major keyboard works – the Well-Tempered Clavier, Toccatas, Suites and first editions of the St. Matthew Passion, the B minor Mass, the Orgelmesse as well as 18th and early 19th century editions of Handel, Haydn and Corelli.

Scholarship Winners in Recital

Then at 11:30 we will gather in the sanctuary to hear our two scholarship winners play. They are Chiawen Wu and Mark Heiskanen.

Please come to join with our colleagues and take part in this learning experience.

CHAPTER CONCERNS:

Condolences to Eleanore Robinson, whose husband Ken passed away in December 2007. Eleanore is organist at Breckenridge Village Chapel. Ken was 93 years young and they had been married 55 years. The memorial service was held in December.

Condolences to our Sub Dean, Marcia Snively, whose mother passed away on December 13. Also, Marcia's brother passed away on December 6. A memorial service for Marcia's mother will be held at a future date.

FROM THE AKRON CHAPTER

Dear AGO Friends,

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This afternoon (11/24) I received a call from our friend and sub-dean, Dawn Filler. □ She called to tell me that she has been incommunicado for over two weeks. □ Most of that time has been spent in the hospital. □ I shall respect her medical privacy, but I can say that at her worst point, the doctors had concern for her survival. □ I can happily report that she has weathered the storm and that she hopes to be sent home very soon. □ Nonetheless, she still will have some recuperating to do at home. □□□□ Some of you do not know Dawn. □ Let me tell you that she has been a wonderful AGO officer! □ She has worked tirelessly as this year's program chairperson and last month she was a featured performer at the Halloween concert.

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This note is to ask each of you to take a few moments to send Dawn a get-well card. □ She is not receiving this e-mail, so an avalanche of cards would be a wonderful, spirit-lifting surprise.

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Please send your get-well cards to:

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Dawn Filler
620 Girard Street
Akron, OH □ 4301-2641

□

Thank you for your help. □ know that Dawn will appreciate your kindness!

ALLELUIA CORNER

“Thanks for the Memories....” How Sweet it is?

One of my ‘churches’ wanted some memories of my experience there and I wrote up a sentence which somehow wormed itself into a page of memories which inspired my memories of church positions gone by.

I remember Mama, (no, no, no...wrong story.) Well, yes I do remember Mom who sang and sat me down at the piano and ‘made’ me learn how to accompany her solos which she sang at church, meetings and clubs. In elementary school I was one of thirty kids in a ‘piano class’ and in high school I accompanied the choirs, learning as I experienced playing around. When fifteen I finally started piano lessons at CIM, a real shocker as I had to learn scales, theory, etc. and listen to others playing weird exercises, scales and strange music by Bach (which I pronounced Batch.) Someone heard me play and hired me to play at a church held every Sunday at the Cleveland Hotel and I discovered a world shattering event that being ‘hired’ meant I was being paid. Mom was thrilled and trilled the news all over town which ended in more playing and even teaching piano.

When in college at Mather (CWRU) on music scholarships, I was hired by a Presbyterian Church to play and direct a choir. Dick and I were married there by a wonderful Minister (who still continues to call every year on our wedding day.) It was a good experience, one I thought was it. However, a Methodist Church was next as associate organist, and director of youth choirs. However the main attraction was that it had a REAL pipe organ, something I knew about at my lessons at Old Stone Church. However, that job eventually got into an undertow so that I had to leave, learning that organ pipes were not the only ones full of air. It was a great experience as I was determined to study while attending Trinity Cathedral where Dick was soloist in the choir.

Auditions were being held the Olmsted Community Church and Dick said GO! When I arrived there to practice, I was lost trying to find the sanctuary, much more the organ. However, I did find the secretary who led me to the yellow brick door and being consoled to finally find the console, plus the settings of the Casavant Organ, I began to play Bach. But being stunned at the beauty and power of the instrument, I stopped mid-way, and broke into the Doxology in total gratitude of such a little farm town investing in such an instrument. My whole life passed through my brain: Mom, school, church jobs, pianos, scales.

real pipes, and getting clumsy feet to play as ordered: (TOES ONLY PLEASE!). It is a total love affair lasting over forty years. Even when the pipes reacted to the fluctuating temperature, and planes roaring just inches above the steeple, Dick, and son Ted and others climbed up and down the thin wood trails and tuned to my heart’s content.

Being wary of ministers (even though both my grandfathers were ministers) I remember the pastor whose ministry there was so supportive and important to me. Once, in tears, I asked him...’How does one forgive a person you love who has deeply hurt you’...and his quiet, thoughtful reply: “Forgiveness is when the person is more important than the deed.” Forever since, in my work and in my life, that reply has been my mantra.

Happy New Year.

Gratian M. Nugent

PLEASE NOTE: Please send all job postings to: **Gerry Mass**, (440)884-4904, **Fax:** (440)-884-1661. **e-mail:** gerry@gerardskeyboards.com.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Strongsville United United Church of Christ, 13740 Pearl Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. Part-time position. □ Our church is strongly supportive of a vibrant music ministry. □ Collaborative worship setting with minister and other musicians. □ One Sunday service; weekly evening rehearsal. Bell Choir and Children's Choir positions also open. □ Will consider one person for all positions. Salary range: \$6,000.-8,400. annually (based upon experience and background). □ Interested persons should contact Susan Tressa at 440-572-9245 or via e-mail: stressa57@hotmail.com

REMINDER: The deadline for submitting articles to the newsletter is **midnight on the 15th** of every month. All articles should be sent to: newsletter@agocleveland.org.

CONCERTS: For complete listings, see our website: www.agocleveland.org. All concerts are free unless otherwise noted.

Wednesdays: Music Near the Market at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, West 30th St. at Lorain Avenue, Cleveland. CONTACT: Florence Mustric: 216-321-1393. Featuring the world-famous von Beckerath organ. **FREE** concerts **AT NOON** on Wednesdays.

January 2 & 9: *Florence Mustric* performs "*Great Expectations*," music by J.S. Bach and César Franck. Each week's program will be entirely different.

January 16 & 23: *Shane Brandes* performs "*Like Clockwork*."

January 30: *Kirk Rich* performs "*Bach meets Buxtehude*," music by J.S. Bach and Dietrich Buxtehude.

Sunday, January 6 at 3:30 p.m.: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights. *Karel Paukert, organ; The Rev. Lisa Hackney, Meditations. "La Nativite du Seigneur", Oliver Messiaen.* Free-will offering.

Saturday, January 12 at 9:30 am—4:00 pm: □ Plymouth Church, 2860 Coventry Rd., Shaker Heights, 216.921.3510 x 34. *2008 Handbell Reading Session.* □ Contact Lynn at B & Y Music for a reservation and more information. □ The event is free.

Sunday, January 20 at 7:30pm: Cathedral of St John, 1007 Superior Ave, (downtown Cleveland). *Kentucky State University Concert Choir* Dr. Carl Smith, *director. A Celebration of the life of Reverend Dr Martin Luther King Jr.* FREE concert; Free secure parking: Cathedral Garage on Rockwell Ave at E 9th.

Sunday January 27 at 3:00 p.m.: The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd. *Robert Schneider and Betty Meyers.* Music of Franck, Liszt, Shostakovich, Poulenc, Moszkowski, and Haydn for piano, organ and two pianos. Freewill Offering

Sunday, January 27 at 4:00 p.m.: St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights. *Karel Paukert, organ* Music by Johann Sebastian Bach, Petr Eben, Marcel Dupre. Free-will offering

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Sunday, January 27 at 4:00 p.m.: St. James Church, 17514 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. *Dedication Recital. J. David Hart,* guest organist. Free.



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January 2008

QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2007-2008

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