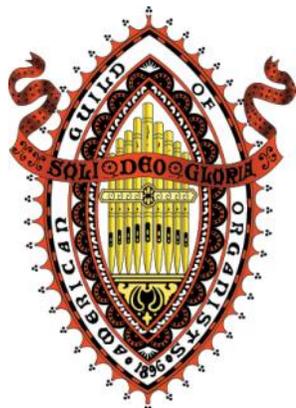


Guild of Organists

# A.G.O. Pipe Notes

December 2016



Soli Deo Gloria

*“Sing psalms,  
hymns, and  
spiritual songs  
with gratitude  
in your hearts  
to God.”*

*Colossians 3:16*

## *From the Dean*



Happy Advent and Christmas season!

I hope many of you were able to attend our outstanding November event in the Chapel at First Congregational Church in Muskegon. Peter Kurdziel premiered an organ, string and brass work, Solee Lee-Clark performed on the harpsichord, and Tom Clark presented some beautiful choral music with the help of a small vocal ensemble from Muskegon Community College. How fortunate we are to have such hard working and professional members in our chapter. Thank you to those who brought the delicious treats for a reception between performances.

Well, how do you prepare for this challenging season of parties, concerts and worship services? Do you dive in with energy and excitement? Are you getting exhausted at the end of week one? Is there a moment in your day to stop and listen to the silence or the tick of the clock? Waiting and preparing in the midst of our work and play takes discipline and stamina! I hope for a healthy and beautiful month of music for each of you. May we bring joy and comfort to our community with every performance and worship service we offer. Please find in the newsletter this month many wonderful opportunities to support our local musicians. Their gifts of discipline and stamina inspire me!

Sincerely,

*Maryanne Beery*

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**Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter Website:**  
[www.mlago.org](http://www.mlago.org)

**Facebook:**  
Muskegon Lakeshore AGO

  
*Winter Social*

Friday, January 6, 2017  
6:30 p.m.

Home of Shane Arkels—1220 Lakeshore Dr.

**RSVP by January 3 — Bring an appetizer to share!**

**Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter**

2017

**January 6, 2017**

**“Winter Social”**

Shane Arkel’s Home

**February 18, 2017**

**“Ringin In The Round”**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

**March 12, 2017**

**“Young Artist’s Recital—Amanda Mole”**

4 PM

First Presbyterian Grand Haven

**April 9, 2017**

**“In Memoriam—Members’ Recital”**

3 PM

First Congregational Church

**May 7, 2017**

**“Hymn Festival with Bob Batastini”**

4 PM

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

**Holland and Grand Rapids**

**AGO Chapter**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Great programs are being planned for 2017.

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Wreath of Carols on December 3**

See below for more details.

**Feeding the Soul of the City**

**December 13, 2016**

**“Christmas at the Organ”**

Caron Farmer, organist

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church—Muskegon

12:15-12:45 PM



**from your Muskegon-Lakeshore Board**

**Maryanne, Dick, Ron, Juanita, John,  
Melody, Eileen, and Caron**

**Muskegon Chamber Choir**

*Presents*

**“A Wreath of Carols”**



**December 3, 2016 — 7 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
508 Franklin Ave. Grand Haven, MI**

**Guest artist will be William Brettschneider, classcal guitarist. The Choir, its soloists and the guest artist will cover five centuries of Christmas favorites. FREE**

**Financial Report**

**As of November 30 2016**

**General Fund**

**\$1402.08**

**Scholarship Fund**

**\$2,359.51**

**Young Artist Fund**

**\$1,100.00**

*Submitted by: Juanita R. Joiner, Treasurer*



## FTC and Cleaning House

Submitted by Floyd Farmer



While cleaning a closet recently I came across a copy of "Music: The AGO & RCCO Magazine" from June of 1978. (For the "youngsters" in the Guild, that was the former name of *The American Organist*.) The magazine was open to the cover article entitled "Introducing A New AGO Publication - 'Compensation of the Church and Synagogue Musician'." I don't recall having read the article in many years (perhaps not since 1978) nor do I even remember saving it. (As an aside, page one has an advertisement with a photograph of a very young Huw Lewis.) Now back to the subject at hand. I quote below some of the more pertinent portions of the article.

"It had been clear for some time that a new approach to salary determination was needed, a plan that had maximum flexibility for all the variables of our profession. ... [A] copy of a clergy compensation plan from California fell into the hands of the Committee, and it soon became clear that this was the new approach we had been

waiting for."

"This plan [made] two basic assumptions not previously a part of the negotiating process between musician and church or synagogue. First, it [assumed] that there is a *potential equality* between clergyman and musician. ... The second assumption contained in this plan is that the budget of the religious institution in question should not be the determining factor in the final salary figure."

As the article pointed out, religious institutions would set the musicians' salary after all other budget obligations were met and then would go about looking for someone who would work for what was being offered. "Regrettably, ... there always seemed to be someone willing to cooperate in the inequitable system of negotiation ... ."

The approach, as any approach should be, was measured by the *weight* of the job; hours required, primary or secondary position, level of responsibility, and special skills and experience of the musician. When all of those factors are considered, the article surmised that, "[t]he figure will astound most musicians who are conditioned to penury." It was further pointed out that "the highest figure attainable through [the AGO] formula would very likely be only half the salary of the head clergyman in a given parish."

The penultimate paragraph of the article states what is a true saying and worthy of full acceptance. "This booklet is only as good as your capability to make use of it. ... You must also believe that you are worth what the formula may reveal about a particular position." I have (found in an old brief case I was cleaning) the booklet "Compensation of the Church and Synagogue Musician" published by the AGO in 1978 and "The Work and Compensation of the Church Musician" published by the Boston Chapter in 1979. I will gladly share them with any of you who may have an interest and/or need.

## Christmas Lessons & Carols — Dr Richard Webster directing



**Friday December 9th - 7:00pm** - St John's Episcopal Church  
524 Washington Avenue  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

**Sunday December 18th - 5:00pm** - St Paul's Episcopal Church  
1006 3rd Street  
Muskegon, MI

## 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Christmas

Sunday, December 11, 2016  
3:00 pm & 7:00 pm.

Come celebrate with music from Ireland, Scotland, and Brittany at the 79<sup>th</sup> Candlelight Christmas! The First Congregational Church of Muskegon will present two performances of "Music of The British Isles" on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm and at 7:00 pm. The exuberant and dramatic cantata "Gloria" by John Rutter will highlight the event. The performance will feature the sixty-member Motet Choir and Double Brass Choir under the direction of Thomas Clark. Pipes and Drums and treasured carols from Wales, England, and Ireland will round out the program.

In addition, the 3:00 pm concert will include a performance by the young voices of the Youth Alive Choirs. Also, joining both performances will be the Canterbury Handbell Ensemble and the Shema Choir.

A goodwill offering will be taken and a reception will follow each performance. The church is located at 1201 Jefferson Street, Muskegon.

For more information you may call the church office at 231-726-3254



### THE 2017 GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN YOUNGSTOWN, OH JULY 2-5, 2017



My name is Adam Zagotti and I am the coordinator of our next **Great Lakes Regional Convention in Youngstown, Ohio!** We have quite a fantastic line-up of artists, organs, and workshops as well as some spectacular meals and other fun things planned for you!

We hope that every chapter in our region will have representation at our convention. We have set the early registration fee, which will begin on January 1, 2017 at \$275.00. We thought this was a very reasonable fee and that would be attractive to many people. We will stay at the beautiful and newly expanded and remodeled Holiday Inn in Boardman, Ohio a suburb just south of downtown. The hotel room rate is \$129.00 per night with free parking and many free amenities. <http://holidayinnboardman.com/>

We will also feed you breakfast each day, and two dinners are being underwritten for you as well! We have one of the finest chef's in Ohio cooking dinner for you twice during the convention!

We hope everyone will find our social media page on Facebook as well as our convention website: [www.agoyoungstown.com](http://www.agoyoungstown.com) There you can find links to artists, view convention instruments etc

We hope to see everyone in Youngstown in 2017!

Adam Zagotti  
Convention Coordinator



*Next Meeting...*

**January 6, 2017**

## MISSION STATEMENT

The American Guild of Organists is an organization devoted to the advancement of organ and church music in the United States.

Since its founding in 1896, the Guild has grown from approximately 100 members clustered around New York to over 24,000 nationwide, with chapters in all 50 states and abroad. Synagogues and churches of all denominations and sizes are represented in the Guild's membership, which ranges from students to world-renowned recitalists and teachers.

The Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter currently has some 30 members serving churches throughout the Western Michigan area.

A.G.O. Pipe Notes  
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