

Guild of Organists

A.G.O. Pipe Notes

February 2016



Soli Deo Gloria

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

Colossians 3:16

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From the Dean



Dear AGO Members,

First, a big thank you to Shane Arkels for hosting our Winter Social! What a great time was had by all.

Our next meeting will be February 27 and is a handbell workshop with Janet Van Valey. As many of you know, she is an expert in this field and promises to come with a wealth of tips for ringers and their directors. We are having her especially concentrate on ringing techniques and good ringing practice in general. We will be using two new bell pieces which will be provided for use that day. The meeting will be in the gym at Forest Park Covenant Church, 3815 Henry Street in Norton Shores, beginning at 9:30 a.m. (Follow the signs to the gym.) We will have a break midway for coffee and a snack to give us a brief rest and will finish at 12:30 p.m. The cost per ringer is \$5.00.

Directors of bell choirs: Please let me, Caron Farmer, caronfarmer@comcast.net know the number of ringers you will be bringing to this event so we can plan setting up, etc. Even though your whole choir may not be able to attend you may bring any number of ringers.

We have been programming each year for several years our Young Artists concert. Three of those organists that we have had in Muskegon are on the list of “20 Under 30” nominations by the Diapason magazine. They are Joseph Balistreri, Katelyn Emerson, and Christopher Houlihan. I am so pleased that these talented musicians are being recognized in this way and that we have had a small part in promoting them in their chosen careers. Also, Nicholas Quardokus, while not being recognized by Diapason this year, is presenting concerts in various locales and is getting quite a bit of “press.” Our thanks to all who have contributed to this very worthwhile endeavor of our chapter.

Our next young artist is Madeleine Woodworth, the winner of the Quimby competition held during the Indianapolis Regional Convention in 2015. This concert is March 6, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven. I had the privilege to speak with her at the convention and I enjoyed our conversation very much. She is a fine player and I know you will want to encourage organ aficionados to attend this concert.

I hope to see you at the bell workshop on the 27th.

Sincerely,

Caron Farmer

**Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter
2015-2016 Events**

February 27, 2016 (Saturday)
**“Handbell Workshop” with
Janet Van Valey**
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Forest Park Covenant

March 6, 2016 (Sunday)
“Young Artist: Madeleine Woodworth”
4 p.m.
First Presbyterian Grand Haven

April 15, 2016 (Friday)
**“Practicing: the lesser of two
taxing realities!” with Huw Lewis**
7 p.m.
Samuel Lutheran Church

May 13, 2016 (Sunday)
“Members’ Recital”
3 p.m.
First Congregational Church

June TBA—End of Year dinner

**Feeding the Soul of the City
2015-2016**

**All performances are held
Tuesdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.
unless otherwise noted.**

March 22, 2016
“Quintessence Woodwind Quintet”

April 26, 2016
“Arthur Campbell and Helen Marlais”
Clarinet and Piano

May 24, 2016
“The Hildegard Singers”
Medieval Music

June 7, 2016
“GVSU Steel Drum Ensemble”

**Financial Report
As of January 31, 2016**

**General Fund
\$822.58**

**Scholarship Fund
\$2,459.51**

**Young Artist Fund
\$883.00**



Submitted by: Juanita R. Joiner, Treasurer

This is a perfect time to consider making a donation to our Young Artist Fund. This is the fund that allows us to schedule concerts...it's a win/win for everyone. You get a tax deduction and the public gets to hear these wonderful artists. Won't you please consider doing this today? Thanks.

The Kolkema Scholarship Fund



It's time to be thinking about applying for the Irene Kolkema Scholarship Fund.

A PDF document has been attached to your email or one was included in your mailed copy. The information about who can apply and other qualifying information is included on page two. Keep in mind that chapter members also qualify for this scholarship. Maybe it's time to think about doing further organ study...it's never too late.

Applications must be submitted by March 31. All notifications will be made by May 1.

Print this document out today!

**AGO National Election Nominations
for 2016**

The National Nomination Committee is proud to submit the following candidates for the 2016 election.

Caron Farmer, AAGO
for Regional Councillor for the
Great Lakes Region

FEBRUARY AND MARCH PROGRAMS



Janet L. Van Valey holds a B.A. in Music from Hanover College and a M.M. in Choral Conducting from Colorado State University. She has taught both middle school and high school vocal music in North Carolina and Virginia, and has also served as director of music for a variety of denominations for over thirty-five years.

Mrs. Van Valey has worked with handbells since 1978 when she began her studies with Donald Allured. She is an active member of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, having served as Michigan State Chair, Chair of the Handbell Industry Council, Co-Chairman of the National Youth Handbell Camp, and as a member of CHIME (Committee on Handbells In Music Education). She also served as the National Secretary for four years and the Chair of the AGEHR Endowment. Currently, she serves on the National Priorities Committee.

In addition to the *Learning to Ringseries*, she has co-authored two resource books for elementary music teachers—*Handchimes in General Music* and a Curriculum Guide published by AGEHR—and has written numerous articles on the use of bells and chimes. She is also the founder and director of the Kalamazoo Ringers, one of the oldest community handbell choirs in the country, established in 1981.

As an experienced teacher and director, Mrs. Van Valey has served as an in-service instructor for schools, as a clinician for handbell workshops, state music education meetings, Choristers Guild, and denominational church conferences. She has also been a guest conductor for many massed bell festivals and conferences.

We will be sponsoring a workshop with Janet Van Valey on February 27. We encourage you to join us even if you don't plan to ring...there is a lot to learn even without a bell in your hand. See you on the 27th. Details found in Dean's Letter on page one.



Madeleine Woodworth is a sophomore at the Eastman School of Music, studying organ with Nathan J. Laube. While at Eastman, she sings in the Christ Church Schola Cantorum, performs in recitals in the Rochester area, and is active in student government, the Eastman Orientation Crew, and the professional music fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota. Growing up in Oak Park, Illinois, Madeleine began studying piano at age 6 with Dr. Sally Sloane and organ at age 13 with Dr. Dennis Northway. In May 2014, she graduated as a music major from the Chicago Academy for the Arts where she studied with Rick Ferguson (piano), Jesse Langen (theory, composition, and new music), Daniel Bruce (jazz improvisation), and Alyssa Bennett (voice). Madeleine has attended six Pipe Organ Encounters, including the POE-Advanced in Rochester and in Ann Arbor. She recently won the Great Lakes Regional Competition for Young Organists in Indianapolis and will be featured as a “Rising Star” in the American Guild of Organists’ National Convention to be held in Houston in June 2016. Madeleine’s solo organ performances in the Chicago area include the “Bach and Beyond” series at the Marmion Abbey in Joliet, a concert as guest artist with the Gargoyle Brass ensemble in Indiana, a solo recital at St. John Cantius Church in Chicago, and a performance in the Organ Historical Society’s 2012 National Convention Chicago.

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Start inviting your friends now to join us on March 6 for this event...a must hear if there ever was one. We are co-sponsoring this with First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven. See you on the 6th. Details found in Dean's Letter on page one.



Next Meeting...

February 27, 2016

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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