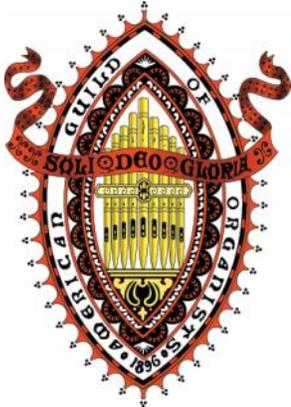


Guild of Organists
A.G.O. Pipe Notes

July 2017



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



Happy Summer to all. I hope you are enjoying many of the fruits of the season. There are many local opportunities to attend concerts locally. Please also note the Organ Recitals at Pillar Church in Holland. Several of our members will perform on this series in the next two months.

Your board has put together another wonderful season of events for 2017-2018. Our season will begin with a joint Installation and dinner including the Grand Rapids Chapter on September 24 at St. Adelbert's. Please put this on your calendar now and join us!

I leave this weekend for the Great Lakes AGO Convention. This will mark my very first AGO Convention, and I look forward to hearing many outstanding performers, singing hymns and meeting new friends. I'm sure it will be a time of growth.

I wish you a happy summer.

Maryanne Beery

The Ten Commandments of Organ Practice

(by Daniel E. Gawthrop, as published in Keyboard World, ca. 1975)

1. Thou shalt practice every day, even if only for a short period.
2. Thou shalt NEVER practice faster than thou canst play perfectly, for it is written: Perfect Practice Makes Perfect.
3. Thou shalt NOT put off working on the hard parts; David did not invite Goliath to come back after tea.
4. Thou shalt work out a usable fingering, inscribe it on thy papyrus and NEVER vary from same, for Fumble Fingers Find Fate Fickle.
5. Thou shalt never apologize for thy playing, nor say "Oops!" when thou makest a mistake, for thou wilt only draw attention to things which otherwise would never be noticed by the thick people.
6. Thou shalt practice each composition in short segments; that thy fingers may not break off more than thy mind can chew.
7. Thou shalt listen ... and not only to organists, for it is written: What this untidy world needs is fewer organists and more musicians who can play the organ.
8. Thou shalt NOT play pedals without shoes ... for thy Odor-Eaters may be spent, and besides, it leads to sloppy playing.
9. Thou shalt begin and end each practice session with something thou canst play readily, that thou mayest not be discouraged.
10. Thou shalt always remember that thy practice is a labor of love and that by persistence, oft proved by thyself in other undertakings, thou canst bring to pass many wonders.



Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter

2017

HERE'S A PEEK!!

September 24, 2017

“Installation/Dinner with Grand Rapids

October 8, 2017

“Monica Czausz—Young Artist”
Central United Methodist Church

October 30, 2017

“Spooktacular”
First Presbyterian —Grand Haven

November ?

It will be exciting!

February ?

Lots of ideas...will nail these down SOON!

That's all for now...keep watching!



Membership Renewal

If your AGO Membership expires on July 1, 2017 (for most of you this is true), notices have already been mailed/emailed.

Thank you to several members who have already renewed their

Muskegon-Lakeshore Membership!

Ready-Set-RENEW!!!

MORE GOODBYES!

Tom and I are writing to inform you of some imminent changes in our life. I have accepted an offer to become Assistant Professor of Music at Monmouth College, a four-year co-educational private liberal arts college located in Monmouth, Illinois. It has been ten years since Tom and I joined the chapter. We have learned a lot from you and made many good memories. We will miss all of you.

Please pray for our family as we prepare for a change that often feels overwhelming.

Tom and Solee

I hope you agree with me; summer is a perfect time to relax and have fun. You will have to do the relaxing...I have provided some “fun” in the July newsletter by inserting many music jokes. Hope you enjoy the laughs. Here's one to get you started! *Juanita*

How many organists does it take to change a light bulb? TWO! One to change the bulb, and one to complain that the switch doesn't have any combination pistons. :)

Financial Report

As of May 31, 2017

General Fund

\$1,270.00

Scholarship Fund

\$2,109.51

Young Artist Fund

\$610.00



Submitted by:

Juanita R. Joiner, Treasurer

Guide To Understanding Your Organist

(from *Ye Olde Organist's Humor Page*)

- ◆ Bach Prelude and Fugue:
Organist is happy!
- ◆ French Toccata: Organist is very happy!
- ◆ French Toccata at double speed:
Organist went to pub during sermon!
- ◆ Improvisation on hymn: Organist has lost his glasses!
- ◆ Long chord cluster: Organist has gone to sleep!
- ◆ Silence: Organist has gone back to pub!

OK—they'll get better. Keep reading your newsletter! *Juanita*

Wedding Time

The most popular time for weddings, April through October, is in full swing. Many of you are too young to be a regular recipient of the *AARP Bulletin* so I am taking this opportunity to pass along to you one of my perks of being ancient and semi-fossilized. In the June issue (page 22) is a column having to do with who pays for the costs of a wedding today and how to save some money on those expenses.

Shocking as it may be, the national average cost for a wedding is \$35,329.00. But wait; if you live in a rural area the average is only \$20,000, but if you live in an East Coast city the cost is a whopping \$80,000! Are people nuts, or what? Recommendations for saving money included budgeting for the wedding dress at a "reasonable" \$1,000.00. [Seems about right for a garment that will be worn only once.] The wedding reception is usually the "big ticket" item at \$125.00 per guest. [Seems like a lot of money for rubber chicken and cheap wine.] So, limiting the guest list can add up to big savings.

Okay. You're getting the idea. People drop a lot of money on an event that has a 50% chance of ending in divorce. So now, do you really think you need to feel guilty about demanding a fair fee for playing the organ on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in the summer? And considering the rubber chicken and cheap wine dinner is going for \$125 a head, where do brides (and the churches where they marry) get off thinking a similar fee is a reasonable price to pay for a well trained organist?

While our National Headquarters will no longer permit the publication of fee schedules, [so much for "elevating the status of church and synagogue musicians"] I would suggest the next time you are asked to play a wedding, and just to keep things in perspective, that you negotiate your fee relative to the cost of the other wedding expenses. After all, the happy couple and their parents have no qualms about paying whatever is demanded by the other service providers. Let's say you charge \$375, the equivalent three reception guests. (There are probably at least three people the bride and/or groom want to cut from the list anyway.) How about charging half the cost of the wedding dress? Plenty of brides (or their parents) pay *more* than a thousand dollars for a dress. And face it; *no* bride is going to wear a dress that costs only twice as much as what she would otherwise want to pay *you*. Half the cost of the dress is a pretty reasonable fee considering the time you will spend in preparation and performance, not to mention the personal activities you will forego on a Saturday afternoon. It is probable you will spend more time on the bench than the bride will spend in the dress.

Really; aren't you worth more than three chicken dinners or half a dress?

~Floyd Farmer~

If Organists Wrote the Wedding Column

- On Saturday, the fifth of August, at well after the stated time of 2:00 P.M., Ann Jones and Bob Smith were married at Our Lady of Sorry Acoustics. The groom wore a black suit and the bride wore a dress. The organist's shoes, in tasteful basic black, were by Organmaster.
- The organ is a rebuild by Harvey Piston Schotz VI of a 2m Whisk which contains pipework from the original Ox tracker that existed before the tragic fire. The harmonic flute is to die for and the cor anglais is like buttah, but the combination action is unreliable.
- There were attendants all over the place, but the organist still got only 3/4 of the way through "The Prince of Denmark's March" with no repeats, ending in the dominant. That the 8' Tuba was the central feature of the processional was obvious; this could be seen on the smiling faces of everyone in attendance.
- After a few minutes of some speaking by some clergy-type, the organist played the first four phrases of the Schubert "Ave Maria" (in E-flat) on the Gemshorn 8' while the couple did something. Later, the bride's sister's best friend's adopted niece breathily sang "The Wedding Song" from the balcony, without interludes. (The organist left them in.) This didn't matter because she used the microphone, obliterating the subtle chuff of the Gedeckt 8'.
- The recessional was the Mendelssohn, played on a satisfying plenum. It was played in ABABA form to fit the length of the movement.
- The guests talked throughout the postlude, but the organist added stops as the noise level increased, masterfully maneuvering each drawknob, coupler, and reversible **WITHOUT MISSING A SINGLE NOTE OF THE WIDOR!!!** This noble feat did not go unnoticed by the congregation, as attested to by the audible sighs of relief which were heard as soon as the music stopped.
- The bride and groom went to college somewhere, but they did not take any music appreciation courses. After their honeymoon somewhere, they plan to blend into suburbia, where the highlight of each year will undoubtedly be the replaying of their wedding video and reliving each musical moment.



**2017
PILLAR CHURCH
WEDNESDAY NOON ORGAN CONCERTS
12:15 p.m.**

- July 5** **Stephen Terpstra**
- July 12** **Rob Hlebinsky — Muskegon-Lakeshore**
- July 19** **Thomas Fielding**
- July 26** **Aaron Goodyke**
- August 2** **Rick VanOss**
- August 9** **Norene Walters**
- August 16** **Caron Farmer — Muskegon-Lakeshore**
- August 23** **David Schout**
- August 30** **Jonathan Tuuk**

Let's see if we can support this sometime during the summer—lunch, shopping and music. Great idea!

Haydn's Chopin Liszt at Vivaldi's

- Rossini and cheese
- Schumann polish
- Bern-n-stein remover
- Satie mushrooms
- Batteries (Purcell)
- BeethOVEN cleaner
- Hummel microwave meals
- Orange Schubert
- TchaiCOUGHsky drops
- MarshMahlers
- Honey-nut Berlioz
- Cui-tips
- Chef Boyardee Raveli
- Sour cream and Ives
- Strauss (straws)
- Chocolate Webers (wafers)
- Del Monteverdi corn
- Mozart-rella cheese
- I Can't Believe it's not Rutter
- Bach of serial (opera)
- Chicken Balakirev
- New door Handel
- Golden Brahms
- Clemen-TEA
- Little Debussy snack cakes
- Oscar Meyerbeer bologna

I told you it would get better! Someone has more time on their hands than me.

Hymn Suggestions:

- The Dentist's Hymn:Crown Him with Many Crowns
- The Weatherman's Hymn:There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- The Contractor's Hymn:The Church's One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn:Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn:There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn:Standing on the Promises
- The Optometrist's Hymn:Open My Eyes That I Might See
- The IRS Agent's Hymn:I Surrender All
- The Gossip's Hymn:Pass It On
- The Electrician's Hymn:Send The Light
- The Shopper's Hymn:Sweet By and By
- The Realtor's Hymn:I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
- The Massage Therapists Hymn:He Touched Me
- The Doctor's Hymn:The Great Physician

For those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

- 45 mph: God Will Take Care of You
- 55 mph: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
- 65 mph: Nearer My God To Thee
- 75 mph: Nearer Still Nearer
- 85 mph: This World Is Not My Home
- 95 mph: Lord, I'm Coming Home
- and over 100 mph:Precious Memories**



Have A Wonderful Summer!

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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