

Guild of Organists

# A.G.O. Pipe Notes

September 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*

Greetings Muskegon-Lakeshore Colleagues:

Our Dean, Maryanne Beery, has found it necessary to step down from her position. Maryanne steered a steady course for us during the last chapter year, which included stellar recitals and other fine programming. We offer her our thanks for the good work accomplished as Dean, and I am happy to report that Maryanne intends to continue her important involvement with the chapter.

The current Chapter officers have been busy for several months with the work of planning interesting, informative, enjoyable and worthwhile meetings for 2017-2018. We are well aware of the ongoing trend favoring the use of instruments (or tape recordings) other than the organ in worship. There are fewer organ majors at the college level, and inevitably a shortage of substitute organists. However, I suggest that we as a group, and as individual members, re-commit to giving the best of ourselves as musicians in our work and doing all we can to promote the prominence and the glory of the King of Instruments in West Michigan.

I encourage each of you to plan to attend the Evensong/Installation service on September 24, 5:00 P.M., at the Basilica of St. Adalbert in Grand Rapids. This program/dinner event will feature the choir of St. John's Episcopal Church, Detroit, directed by Huw Lewis, with Basilica Music Director Peter Kurdziel as organist. Officers from the Grand Rapids, Holland, Muskegon-Lakeshore and The Southwest Michigan chapters will be installed as we begin the year, and join with our West Michigan colleagues in fellowship and sharing what promises to be an unforgettable worship experience. See page 4 for more details.

Should anyone need transportation to any event, please feel free to contact me. In fact, I would be happy to hear suggestions or comments from any chapter member at any time. Thank you for your continued interest and membership in the American Guild of Organists. May God bless you in your lives and work.

***Practice as often as you are able; enjoy the challenge, mystery, and wonders of the organ, and play well.***

Sincerely,  
Richard T. (Dick) Hoogterp, CAGO, Dean  
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231.755-0141 land line

## Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter

**September 24, 2017 — 5 PM**

“Installation/Dinner/Evensong”

Basilica of Saint Adalbert—Grand Rapids

**October 8, 2017 — 3 PM**

“*Monica Czausz—Young Artist*”

Central United Methodist Church

**October 29, 2017 — 4 PM**

“*Spooktacular*”

First Presbyterian — Grand Haven

**November**

**January 12, 2018 — 6:30 PM**

“*Holiday Party*”

Home of Shane Arkels

**February 24, 2018 — 10 AM-12 PM**

“*Start Here—Progressing from Piano to Organ*”

Samuel Lutheran Church—Muskegon

**March 11, 2018 — 4 PM**

“*Young Artist—Matthew Bickett*”

First Presbyterian — Grand Haven

**April 15, 2018 — 3 PM**

“*Members’ Recital*”

First Congregational Church—Muskegon

**May 4, 2018 (date could change) — 6:30 PM**

“*Celebrating Healey Willan: Organ & Choral Works*”

Potluck Supper

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Muskegon

## **Feeding the Soul of the City**

2017-2018

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church — Muskegon, MI

12:15 PM-12:45 PM

**September 26, 2017 —**

Sylvia Norris, harp (classical)

**October 24, 2017 —**

Diane Penning, soprano, with Paul Langford, piano/tenor (Broadway music)

**November 28, 2017 —**

AnDro (Celtic/world music)

**December 12, 2017 —**

“Christmas at the Organ” with Jonathan Tuuk

**December 17, 2017 — 5:00 PM**

*Festival of Lessons & Carols* with The Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys

**February 27, 2018 —**

*Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet* (barbershop quartet)

**March 27, 2018 —**

*Solee Lee-Clark*, piano

**April 24, 2018 —**

*Folias* (Tango and South American folk)

**May 22, 2018 —**

“*Il Duo Lyrico*” (classical)

**June 5, 2018 —**

*Ruth and Max Bloomquist* (folk and bluegrass)

## **Financial Report**

As of August 30, 2017

**General Fund**

**\$1,769.00**

**Scholarship Fund**

**\$2,209.51**

**Young Artist Fund**

**\$685.00**

Submitted by: *Juanita R. Joiner, Treasurer*



## **Membership Report**

As of August 30th, our membership stands at 34. Thank you to everyone that renewed in a timely manner. We are very excited about our **five** new members! If you know of anyone else who would still like to join, send me their name and I’ll guide them with using ONCARD. *Juanita Joiner*

**THIS IS HAPPENING ON OCTOBER 8, 2017**

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1011 SECOND STREET— MUSKEGON, MI  
3:00 P.M.**



**MONICA CZAUSZ  
Biography**

Monica Czausz is in her fifth year of study with renowned Professor Ken Cowan at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, Texas, where she is pursuing the five-year combined Bachelor of Music and Master's Degree program in Organ Performance. Since September of

2015 she has been serving as Cathedral Organist at Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in Houston, Texas, under the leadership of acclaimed director Robert Simpson. She has been recognized as one of the top 20 organists under 30, for her "superior accomplishments, leadership, creativity, and innovative thinking" and was featured in the May 2016 issue of *The Diapason*. She has received first prize in numerous competitions, including the 2015 American Guild of Organists Regional Competition for Young Organists (Region VII: Southwest), 2015 Schweitzer Competition in the Young Professionals' Division, 2013 William C. Hall, 2012 L. Cameron Johnson, and 2011 Oklahoma City University Competitions.

Monica performed at the 2016 AGO National Convention in Houston Texas, both for Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, and as a "Rising Star," where she gave "a fabulous performance that displayed artistic mastery far beyond her years" according to *The American Organist*. She also performed at the 2016 Organ Historical Society National Convention in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, where she "played with great flair" (*The American Organist*). In 2015, she was featured at the OHS National Convention in Western Massachusetts, the AGO Regional Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, and the East Texas Organ Festival in Kilgore, where *The Tracker* reported, "this young lady just blew us all away." Last summer she accompanied the Christ Church Cathedral Choir on tour to England where they fulfilled residencies at the Cathedrals of St. Paul's (London), Durham, and Bristol. She recently performed for "Pipedreams Live!" at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas and at other major venues including Broadway Baptist Church of Forth Worth, St. John the Divine in New York City, the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, and Trinity Church on Copley Square. She has additionally performed at the recent invitation of the Columbus, Richmond, Tulsa, Austin, and Brazos Valley (Texas) chapters of the AGO. Over the summer of 2017, she will be featured at the Regional Convention of the AGO in Dallas, the joint AGO/RCCO Convention in Montreal, and the OHS National Convention in Minnesota. Monica's performances have been broadcast on Pipedreams, WRTI Philadelphia, 91.7 Houston, and KTRU Rice Radio.

*Central United Methodist Church Vesper Series  
and  
Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter of The American Guild of Organists  
present*

*Monica Czausz, organist*



*October 8, 2017*

*3:00 pm*

*Central United Methodist Church  
1011 Second Street*

*Freewill Offering to benefit the AGO Young Artist Series*

*Reception following in Parish Hall*

**A poster in both PDF and JPG formats have been included with your September Pipe Notes. Please print these and post at your church and in places that you frequent.**



As things start to get underway for the fall, I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of the Spooktacular organ concert that we will be having at First

Presbyterian in Grand Haven. **The concert will be on Sunday, October 29, at 4 PM.** This concert is open to anyone and everyone who would like to play some spooky organ music. Examples of pieces to play would be Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, the toccata from Boellmann's Suite Gothique, the finale of Dupre's Ave Maris Stella, etc. **Performers are encouraged to dress in costume** (family friendly, please).

I'm trying to get a head count of how many people want to play and a general sense of the program, so please **let me know** if you're interested in performing and what you think you'd like to play. If you have any questions, please let me know. This should be a fun concert and a great way to share our love of the organ with the community!

-Rob Hlebinsky

[rhlebins@gmail.com](mailto:rhlebins@gmail.com)

## Weddings - A Postscript

by Floyd Farmer

In the July issue of *Pipenotes* I wrote a "Wedding Time" column, citing information from the June issue of the *AARP Bulletin* relative to the average costs of a wedding in various parts of the United States, the national average being \$35,329.00. In that column I suggested that organists might want to set their fees relative to the price of the wedding dress or perhaps the cost of the per guest bill for the reception dinner.

In the August 27 edition of the *Muskegon Chronicle* (page A6) was a small article about the average cost of a wedding in Michigan (\$24,799 per event) and with reference to various cities in the newspaper's circulation area. The article said that 73 percent of weddings nationwide cost less than \$20,000 and most cost \$10,000 or less. Those figures do not necessarily contradict the numbers given in the AARP article. In any case, ten to twenty grand is still a lot of money.

Specifically, according to the information published by the *Chronicle*, which cited its source as [costofwedding.com](http://costofwedding.com), the average for Muskegon in 2016 was \$19,494. In Grand Rapids the average cost was \$24,230. If you do the math you can figure out how your fee fits into the total package. In other words, if you played a wedding for \$250 in Muskegon your bill was less than 1.3 percent of the total wedding package. (Still feeling guilty?) If you really gouged the bride's father and charged \$350 you walked away with a whopping 1.8 percent of the event. If you were fortunate enough to land a gig in Grand Rapids and really made out like a bandit by charging \$500 you stole a hefty 2 percent of the pie.

Perhaps with the wedding season starting to wind down it might be time to think again about your services in terms of the time commitment, your skill level, and your place in the overall scheme of the event, and accordingly, adjust your fees before the next round of nuptials. Just a thought.

### Opera Premiere Sunday, November 19, 2017



First Congregational Church in Muskegon will host the premiere of a new unstaged one-act opera, "Panov's Dream," on Sunday, November 19 at 3:00 p.m. The work is a collaboration between librettist Foley Schuler of Blue Lake Public Radio and Floyd Farmer who wrote the music. The text is based on a short story by Leo Tolstoy about an old Russian shoemaker, Papa Panov, who dreams on Christmas Eve that Jesus will be coming to visit Panov on Christmas day. He is told to wait by his window so that he doesn't miss Jesus when he comes by. Papa watches all of Christmas Day, with many people passing by his little shop, but never sees Jesus. Or does he?

The opera calls for six principal singers, a chorus, and a seven piece instrumental ensemble. Michael Match, the new music director at First Congregational Church, will sing the title role of Papa Panov and Tom Clark will return to Muskegon to sing the role of Jesus. Other roles include Panov's deceased wife, to be sung by contralto Camille DeBoer; an old street sweeper, sung by tenor William Potts; soprano Jessica Coe in the role of a young mother with a small child; and the sanctimonious village priest, sung by tenor Joel Dulyea.

Mark your calendars now for this exciting afternoon of music.

**Basilica of Saint Adalbert  
654 Davis Avenue NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

**September 24, 2017  
5:00 p.m.**

**The Rev. Don E. Saliers, Phd  
Chaplain of the American Guild of  
Organists  
*Homilist***

**The Choir of Saint John's Episcopal  
Church, Detroit, Michigan  
*Dr. Huw Lewis, FRCO – Conductor***

**Majestic Brass of Grand Rapids**

**The Opening of the Year Banquet will  
immediately follow the service**

Installation of Officers from Grand Rapids,  
Holland, Muskegon and the Southwest  
Michigan Chapters

RSVP: by email: [agodinner@grago.org](mailto:agodinner@grago.org) or  
call Errol Shewman at 616-456-9232  
**by Monday, September 18.**

You will not want to miss this spectacular program. Mark your calendars now! In need of transportation? Give Richard a call at 231-755-0141. See you on the 24th.



**Next Meeting**  
**September 24, 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.

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