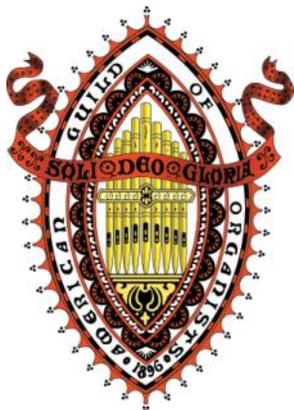


Guild of Organists

A.G.O. Pipe Notes

February 2018



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! I hope you had a rewarding and inspiring musical experiences, in church and elsewhere, during the Christmas Season. Congratulations are in order to composer, Floyd Farmer, and the musicians who performed the premier of the opera *Panov's Dream* in November. A large audience was on hand to hear this work, and there is the possibility that the opera will be performed again in the near future. I was sorry to have been unable to attend. Also, many thanks to Shane Arkels for again organizing and hosting the very enjoyable Holiday/12th Night Christmas party at his home.

My wife, Eileen, and I were able to attend a recital on January 14 by organist Peter Sykes, under the auspices of the Grand Rapids AGO Chapter. With your indulgence, I will comment on my experience on the occasion. Peter Sykes has a fine career as an educator and organist, and his playing was splendid. It was of interest to me that, of all the fine organs in Grand Rapids, Mr. Sykes chose (I assume it was his choice) to perform at Grace Episcopal Church.

The church is home to a three-manual Noack mechanical-action organ. The instrument, which is visually resplendent, is free-standing, with historic (not equal) temperament, virtually no registration aids, and a straight and flat pedal-board. The auxiliary casework at the back supports the pipework of the 16' Trombone, the 16' Principal, and the 32' Subbass, all of wood.

This is a very distinctive instrument, designed to be particularly suitable for the performance of music composed during a specific period. So, we heard music of Buxtehude, Scheidt, and Bach but also others, including a 20th Century partita. To my ears, the program was interesting and engrossing. But, I am biased. I really enjoy hearing certain organs, and I like to see and experience the work of particular organ-builders. I am very fond of the Bach *Fantasia and Fugue in C Minor*, which was performed magnificently. I spoke with others who had a much different reaction to the instrument and the program. But, a divergence of opinion does not detract from the glory of the organ, an instrument which appears in a myriad of forms and even *genre*. Its music is represented by compositions from many ages and nationalities.

At the Sykes recital, no French organ music was heard, which is unusual in itself. The program was mostly “of a piece,” if you will, but I was satisfied with that. The organ-builder Gerhard Brunzema stated, regarding the attempt to design organs that would play all literature with validity, “All art is a preference for something.” Fritz Noack chose to provide an organ for Grace Episcopal Church which has a decidedly “North German” accent. Mr. Sykes fashioned his fine program accordingly, and I very much enjoyed hearing it.

Carry on, and I hope to see you at our February “Progressing From Piano to Organ - Start Here” program.

Sincerely,
Richard T. (Dick) Hoogterp, CAGO, Dean

Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter

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

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)

Memories... *We Have Memories!*



Dave & Judy Tish

I received this wonderful note from Judy and thought you would like to read it too.

We are still crazy busy with church music and trying to keep up with family. We have 15 grand kids ages 8-25. We both are handling old age

pretty well with lots of doctor’s care. Our daughter, Carmen sings everywhere. Sending wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in the Guild.

~ Dave & Judy

Financial Report

As of January 31, 2018

General Fund

\$1,291.52

Scholarship Fund

\$2,219.51

Young Artist Fund

\$1,143.00

Contributions are always accepted!

*Submitted by: Juanita R. Joiner, Treasurer
(Feel free to ask for a more detailed report.)*



Irene Kolkema Scholarship Fund— Deadline March 31, 2018

Enclosed with this newsletter, you will find the Application and Guidelines for our Kolkema Scholarship Fund. The Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter is very proud of this program and our history of helping young organists with lessons etc. Over the years we have assisted *many* people begin their journey to become an organist or assisted in their further study of the organ.

Please print both of these attached documents so you can share them with students or young organist who need our support and encouragement.

Next Program—February 24, 2018



Our next meeting, “Start Here - Progressing from Piano to Organ,” will take place from 10:00-12:00 on Saturday morning, February 24, at Samuel Lutheran Church. Our presenter will be Dr. Elizabeth West who has wide experience as an organist and instructor. We hope to have a number of interested musicians of any age who will want to learn about transferring piano skills to the organ or simply learning more about the instrument.

It is hoped that our members will attend this event for his/her own benefit (I personally expect to be enlightened as I always am when watching skilled teachers at work)) and please feel free to invite others to attend.

Anyone wishing to play a hymn or other short piece for Dr. West would be welcome to do so. Playing the organ is the work of a lifetime, usually, and each of us was at one time engaged in “progressing from piano to organ.” We had great friends and teachers who assisted and encouraged us (or at least allowed us to practice at a church) during our journey to becoming a musician/organist, and now we are in position to offer support and practical assistance to others.

Please let me know if you or a friend would like to learn more about the possibility of playing as part of this event.

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Many of you are about to embark on what you always refer to as the busiest time for church musicians: *Lent!*

I think the hymn, ***Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*** is a good reminder of the time you not only will be sitting on the bench preparing your music, but the endless hours you will spend selecting your music for choirs, bell choirs and children’s choir. And let’s not forget all the services we will be responsible for during these 40 Days.

I once had a pastor at a church where I served as organist speak to me about not letting myself slip through the cracks during these 40 Days. He spoke about the importance of learning to *stop and worship* and not let the music consume what Lent or any Sunday was all about. He felt organists can get caught up with checking registrations, setting pistons and checking our musical scores while the congregation is worshipping and praying. His biggest concern was that **we** also must insist on *worshiping* from the bench. I truly appreciated his thoughts and yes, concern for not only me, but for all organists in general. Hopefully, your minister or priest also has this concern for you even though he is at this very moment scheduling service after service after service for you to provide music at during Lent.

For over fifty years the Central United Methodist Sanctuary Choir recited this prayer at the beginning of each rehearsal. ***Almighty God, who hast called us to participate in the church’s worship here on earth, grant to each of us such a love of You, that we may always want to sing Thy praises, and magnify Your holy name. Teach us to be reverent, humble, patient and attentive, that our offerings of prayer and thanksgiving may be wholly acceptable unto You; and above all else, may our ministry of music be such in Your sight, and before All, that they may be drawn, ever as we, unto Your throne of grace,***

Sharing from the Holland Chapter: I love reading both the Grand Rapids and Holland AGO Chapter's Newsletters. I am always inspired by what each chapter is doing to further church music in the West Michigan area. When you think about it, West Michigan is filled with many music opportunities and all are within driving distance. This month I would like to feature a few things going on in the Holland area that just might be of interest to many of you.

Tuesday, February 6 at 7 p.m., Dr. Huw Lewis, from Hope College, will present a program on "Preparing for the AGO Service Playing Exam". This will be held in his Organ Studio on the Hope College Campus. For those within our Chapter who have been considering do this, it will be something you will want to attend.

Tuesday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m., Aaron Tan will be performing at Dimnent Chapel on the Hope College Campus. Perhaps you will recall that the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter also had Aaron perform on November 10, 2013. I think this is worth the drive to once again hear this very talented "young artist".

Monday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Jen Adams and Steve Jenkins from Grace Episcopal Church will present a program "Clergy-Musician Relations". Another worthwhile trip for this program.

Repertoire for Weddings AGO Meeting - November 6, 2017

Messe De Marriage – Music Mass for organ - Theodore Dubois – Edward B Marks Music Corp. NY, NY.

Recessional – Music for a Sunday Morning – Robert Cundick – Concordia Publishing House

The Rejoicing – Postlude Collection – Callahan – Morning Star

Nun danket alle Gott-Augsburg Organ Library/Marriage- Robert Hobby- Augsburg

Variation on a Theme of Corelli – Augsburg Organ Library/Marriage – Aaron David Miller

Trumpet Voluntary – John Stanley – Diane Bish Classical Organ Favorites- Service Music for Organ –Gentry Publications

Aria – Flor Peters – Augsburg Organ Library/Healing and Funeral – Augsburg

Aria – Paul Manz – Morning Star

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah –Bert Carlson - Augsburg Organ Library/Autumn –Augsburg

God of Grace – Paul Manz – Ten Chorale Improvisations Set V – Concordia

Trumpet Tune in D Major – David Johnson – Augsburg

Spring – Four Seasons –Oxford book of Wedding Music – Oxford University Press

Fanfare – Jacques Lemmens

Suite for Organ – Telemann

From Rick Van Oss:

Processional of Joy – Hal H. Hopson – Carl Fischer P3236 – This piece uses *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* as its theme and is moderately easy to moderate and works well, depending on registration, as a prelude, processional, recessional, or postlude.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee – Robert Lau from *Symphonic Hymns for Organ* – Lorenz 70/1905L. This incorporates Rondeau by Mouret and is also moderately easy. It's a great recessional or postlude.

Joysong – Carson Cooman from *Carson Cooman Organ Music* Vol. IX – Wayne Leopold Editions WL600291. This piece is on the difficult side but well worth the effort. It makes for a joyful prelude.

Collections

Augsburg Organ Library/ Marriage – Various composers – Augsburg Fortress

Wedding Music - Volumes I and II -Various composers - Concordia

Wedding Music - Volumes I - IV - David Johnson – Augsburg Fortress

Ultimate Organ Book – For weddings, funerals and church year – compiled by Hal Hopson – Hope



Next Meeting
February 24, 2018

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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