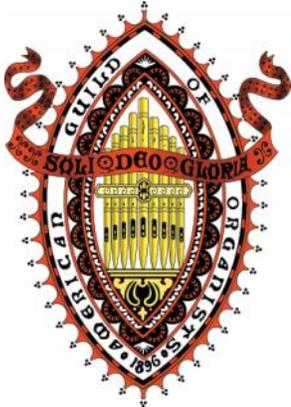


Guild of Organists
A.G.O. Pipe Notes

August 2019



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 ~ Richard Hoogterp

Greetings to All Chapter Members,

I hope you are enjoying summer. The Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO Chapter was founded in 1960, so 2020 will mark our 60th Anniversary. Your officers are planning what we expect to be a special program year. The complete list of events will be announced in next month's newsletter. I hope you will maintain an active interest in chapter affairs and take part in and attend chapter programs as your schedule permits.

I want to mention my biased opinions on the 2019 Great Lakes Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists. Personally, I enjoyed every minute of it. I have attended nine Regional AGO conventions and I can say that the 2019 Grand Rapids event offered a roster of performers which was phenomenal. I met a man from St. Louis who said that he chose Grand Rapids, from the seven AGO regionals offered this year, solely on the basis of the remarkable list of organists set to perform. The instruments heard included a theater organ, a very nice 19th Century Johnson, half a dozen mechanical-action organs by outstanding organ builders, and an array of large (four were 5-manual instruments!) and impressive organs in splendid churches and a concert hall. In 2011 the Muskegon-Lakeshore Young Artist performer was Katelyn Emerson. At the 2019 Convention she presented a beautifully crafted program on the Noack organ at Grace Episcopal Church. All in all, I think the convention was meticulously planned and successful in every way.

On July 16, a group of some twenty young people from the Boys and Girls Club of Muskegon attended *Pipe Organ Blast*, a program designed as an introduction to the instrument. The program, held at Samuel Lutheran Church, prominently featured the Kimball organ. Rob Hlebinsky played excerpts of well-known organ standards (one boy remarked that the Bach *Tocatta in d* minor made him think of vampires!) and an original composition on a Disney theme, as he demonstrated the capabilities of the organ as an instrument. David Gritter provided a varied and fascinating film of Steven Ball playing the Atlantic City organ, a clip about the famous Grand Rapids *haus orgel*, and a walking tour through the Kimball organ case. Descriptions of how an organ pipe produces sound, the tone families of the organ, and an interaction with a small demonstration organ and a portable zimbelstern were included. Michael Match and Eileen and Dick Hoogterp organized and oversaw details, including bottled water and cookies. The event concluded with all the young people crowded around — and on — the organ bench as Rob played a truncated but still scintillating version of the Widor *Tocatta*. The attendees were attentive, interested and polite to a fault, and trust me, it was a pleasure to meet and make our presentation to them.

If you have not done so, please renew your membership as soon as possible. Let me or any Board member know if you have any questions or if we could be of service in any way.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

If you haven't renewed your AGO membership, please read the information located at the bottom of this page.

I want to thank the 21 who already have renewed. That number includes our newest member, Denise Newell. Let's give a huge *welcome* to Denise!

Please let me know (also let National know) of any address, email or phone changes. I will also need to know if you have a change in your position.

Juanita Joiner — jrjoiner@comcast.net

Feeding the Soul of the City

2019-2020

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

We are anxiously waiting to see what the next season will bring for this wonderful series of programs.

Keep watching this spot.

If you haven't attended these concerts in the past, we hope you will during the coming year.

Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO Chapter

Our programs will be listed in our September Pipe Notes. For now, just know the wait will be worth it. **This is a perfect year to contribute to our Young Artist and Irene Kolkema Scholarship Funds.**

HEADS UP FOR SEPTEMBER!

On Sunday, September 15, we will hold our Vespers/Installation at St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven. We will go out for dinner after the program

Details will be announced SOON!

A Financial Report As of July, 2019

General Fund
\$2,172.76

Scholarship Fund
\$2,980.51

Young Artist Fund
\$233.00



Contributions are always accepted!

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

TIME TO RENEW! — TIME TO RENEW! — TIME TO RENEW!

By now each of you have received your notice from National about renewing your membership for 2019-2020. If you haven't please check your ONCARD account.

I will be overseeing membership again this year so if I can make this process easier for you in any way, please get in contact with me at jrjoiner@comcast.net or 231.722.3689.

You will use the same method again this year...you will have to go to ONCARD and enter your username and password. Nothing has changed from last year, so it should go smoothly for you.

If you are a Chapter Friend you have two ways to renew...use ONCARD like you have in the past or you may send your \$35 check to me. If you send your check directly to me National will drop your AGO member number until you reactivate your account.

We are encouraging each of you to join our chapter challenge this year... **"GROW WITH US!" Let's see if we can ADD 5 and replace the 3 that we already know will not be renewing. That's a total of 8 NEW members! Remember, we reached 60 years by doing this...keeping our membership numbers and spreading the word about AGO.**

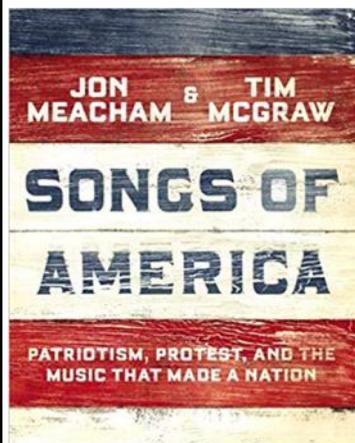
Won't you grow with us during 2019-2020?

~Juanita Joiner

Regular-TAO Print & Online
Regular-TAO Online only
Special-TAO Print & Online (65 and over)
Special-TAO Online only (65 and over)
Young Organist-TAO Print & Online (under 30)
Young Organist-TAO Online only (under 30)
Dual Chapter Regular (paid to second chapter)
Dual Chapter Special (paid to second chapter)
Chapter Friend (contact your chapter)

Book Review

Floyd Farmer



Question: What do you get when you cross a Presidential historian with a Country music singer? Answer: *Songs of America - Patriotism, Protest, and the Music That Made a Nation*. Jon Meacham and Tim McGraw have combined to present an overview of American music from pre-Revolutionary War days to the present time. As one would expect from a work by Meacham, *Songs of America* is heavily sourced and annotated, but all of the notes are at the end and not at the foot so the flow of the narrative is not interrupted. McGraw contributes sidebars from time to time, commenting on specific songs from an artist's point of view.

Many of the songs discussed are well known to those of us old enough to have had music as a part of our educational curriculum. In a sad way the book is probably somewhat unintelligible to anyone born at the end of the twentieth century. To put things in perspective it is only necessary to realize that persons now becoming old enough to enlist in the military were not born on September 11, 2001. "Vietnam" ranks in the same sphere with World War II and the Korean Conflict in the minds of those too young to have lived through more turbulent times. To many of the "twenty somethings" Martin Luther King and Abraham Lincoln marched together over the Edmund Pettus Bridge at Gettysburg, so much of what is in this book may not be relevant to the younger generation of Americans. Most of us with graying hair will recognize most, if not all, of the songs addressed by the authors. For those who did not grow up singing, much of what Meacham is saying will be an intellectual stretch.

Meacham puts into historical perspective the songs that have shaped our social consciousness, reminding us that in nearly every major historical event music has been a vehicle for the presentation of respective points of view. Patriotism and protest songs did not arise as abstract academic exercises. Those songs arose out of passion and the power of persuasion. The one drawback for this reviewer (and probably for others adept at reading music) is that the tunes for the songs are nowhere printed in the text of the book. Meacham makes a point of emphasizing that it is the *music* that often carries the message, and for that reason the missing five lines and black dots are just a little frustrating. All in all, *Song of America* is a reminder that music is an essential part of the fabric of our nation, and not just a frill.

A Look Down Memory Lane

Starting in January our Dean, Richard Hoogterp, will start including some "Muskegon-Lakeshore Memories" for each of us to enjoy. We each have memories from long ago, but Dick will go back into our history books and find some gems to share with each of you. You may even want to share some of your own.

To get in the spirit of our "A Look Down Memory Lane" series, I'm sharing something I found on Facebook. There is a group you can join called "Muskegon's Memory Lane". I always find this group interesting but this particular "memory" literally popped off the screen at me. I think you will agree. This picture holds the memories for a very young 15 year old (Jacqueline Rose Fisher) and one of our founding members (Dorothy Sheets).

Notice who Dorothy is smiling at...I think she always knew that Jacqueline would always be a church musician...would always be an advocate for AGO.

Enjoy!



Student Organist Winners
Mrs. Robert E. Sheets, chairman of the Student Organ Competition, sponsored by the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter, American Guild of Organists, and the winners are obviously pleased with the results. The students will present a public recital next Sunday at 4:30 in First Congregational Church and will receive their awards. From left are Mary Mil-kamp, 18, Jacqueline Rose, 15, and Paula Christoph-ersen, 17.

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.



Next Meeting

September 15

A.G.O. Pipe Notes

Juanita R. Joiner, Editor

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