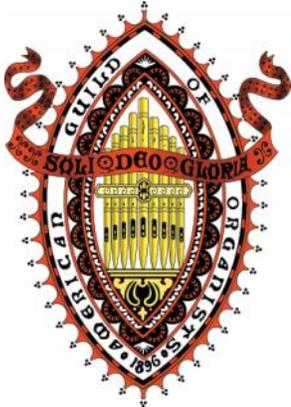


Guild of Organists  
**A.G.O. Pipe Notes**

November 2019



Soli Deo Gloria

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

*Colossians 3:16*

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Muskegon Lakeshore AGO

*From the Dean ~ Richard Hoogterp*

I ask that you make every effort to hear Young Artist Matthew Wachtman in recital at 3:00 PM on Sunday, November 10, at Central United Methodist Church in Muskegon, and that you might encourage others to attend.

Matthew is a student at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music in Ohio, studying with Nicole Keller. He took part in the Quimby Organ Competition during the Grand Rapids Regional Convention 2019; Caron, Ron and I had the opportunity to meet and get to know him there.

Hard-working, dedicated young organists are vital to the future of the organ, as we know, and Matthew appears to be on his way to a fine career in this field. I am confident that everyone will enjoy Matthew's performance. Please do greet him following the recital at the reception. I am sure you will enjoy his friendly and unassuming personality.

It is noteworthy that the three young organists who participated in the Quimby Competition (2019) will be heard in recital in West Michigan in the near future. Matthew Wachtman will play here on November 10; Noah Klein (who won first prize in the Quimby) will perform under Grand Rapids AGO Chapter auspices, on November 18 at Westminster Presbyterian Church; and Emily Amos will play our Young Artist recital at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven on April 19, 2020.

It is my understanding that the third annual *Spooktacular* program was a great success once again due to the promotion and efforts of Rob Hblinsky and Maryanne Beery. This is a very creative program that has brought delight to many who may not have exposure to the organ as the "King of Instruments!" Thank you to Rob and Maryanne for continuing to include this program as part of our annual chapter schedule of events.

As an ardent supporter of the organ, I am always disappointed to hear that organs are allowed to fall into disuse, or be sold or just thrown away. The good news is that sometimes older or less capable organs are replaced with finer instruments. Referring to the Grand Rapids area, I have learned that an 11-rank Wicks organ (1965?) in a Catholic church has been replaced by a new 3-manual Allen organ. The Wicks was not a successful instrument, and the current generation of Allen organs certainly offer a wealth of tonal resources. A small Kilgen instrument in an Episcopal church has been replaced by a 4-manual Allen. In a vaguely encouraging development, a very complete 2/23 Schlicker organ (1966) is being moved from one Catholic church to another. I hope these examples indicate that the organ may be holding its own as the instrument of choice for leading worship, and that the trend toward cavalierly discarding organs may be slowing. It is a clear that the market for newly constructed pipe organs, especially those of modest size, is dormant. The elite organ builders, if I may so characterize them, including C. B. Fisk, Paul Fritts, Schoenstein, Martin Pasi, and Taylor & Boody (my apologies to any firm who should be named here) all appear to have contracts for new organs in hand. In Michigan, the Fritts firm is in process of installing two substantial new organs at Hillsdale College.

As always, let me or a Board member know if you have a question or suggestion. I hope to see you on November 10.

## **Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO Chapter**

### **2019-2020 Programs**

*Complete details will be printed in your directory.*

**November 10, 2019 (Sunday) 3 p.m.**

**"Young Artist: Matthew Wachtman"**

Central United Methodist Church—Muskegon

**December—No Scheduled Meeting**

**January 10, 2020 (Friday) 6:30 p.m.**

**"Twelfth Night Party"**

Home of Shane Arkels—Muskegon

**February 29, 2020 (Saturday) 9-11a.m.**

**"Choral Workshop" — Dr. Michael Match**

Mona Shores MS Choir Room—Muskegon

**March 15, 2020 (Sunday) 3 p.m.**

**"In Memoriam: A Members' Recital"**

First Congregational Church UCC—Muskegon

**April 19, 2020 (Sunday) 4 p.m.**

**"Young Artist: Emily Amos"**

First Presbyterian Church—Grand Haven

**May 8, 2020 (Friday) Time TBA**

**"60th Anniversary Banquet and Celebration"**

Prince of Peace Catholic Church—Muskegon

## **Grand Rapids Chapter**

**November 18 at 8 p.m.**

Quimby Young Organist winner—Noah Klein

Westminster Presbyterian Church—Grand Rapids

## **Holland Chapter**

**November 16 (Sat) time TBA**

Organ Tour of Grand Rapids LaGrave, CRC—

Basilica of St. Adalbert, and St. Mark's

## **We Need You!**

Even though we don't have a scheduled December meeting, I'm encouraging each of you to let the Editor know what is happening during your Christmas, New Year and Epiphany Season so I can let our membership know and help spread the word for you.

The editor is also encouraging you to submit articles and music suggestion for choir and organ to also share with our membership.

Any other suggestions? Contact your Editor.

231-722-3689 or 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.

**November 26, 2019**

"Lee Murdock, *The Christmas Ship*" (folk music)

**December 8, 2019 5 p.m.**

"Festival of Lessons & Carols"

Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys

**December 17, 2019**

"Christmas at the Organ" Peter Kurdziel

**February 25, 2020**

"Grand Valley Faculty Brass Quintet"

**March 24, 2020**

"Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet"

**April 14, 2020**

"Gregory Maytan, violin"

**May 26, 2020**

"Quintessence, Woodwind Quintet"

**June 9, 2020**

"Denise Newell, mezzo soprano and Caron Farmer, piano"

## **A Financial Report**

**As of October 31, 2019**

**General Fund**

**\$2,764.76**

**Scholarship Fund**

**\$3,290.51**

**Young Artist Fund**

**\$543.00**

**Submitted by: Juanita R.**

**Joiner, Treasurer**

**(Feel free to ask for a more detailed report.)**



## **LOOKING FOR A GOOD PIANO**

Caron Farmer knows someone who is looking for a piano that is tunable and available for purchase. Please contact Caron if you know someone who might be able to help. Caron can be reached at 231-726-6098 or caronfarmer@comcast.net

**TEMPTING TABLES 2019**  
and  
**THE MUSKEGON-LAKESHORE CHAPTER**  
**OF THE**  
**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

Submitted by Susan Rogalla Tindall

*Tempting Tables 2019* took place at the Delta by Marriott Hotel in downtown Muskegon October 9 through 12. It was another successful funder to raise proceeds for breast cancer research in Michigan. The *Tempting Tables* committee members are waiting to hear if this event made the mark to pass one million dollars since the inception of *Tempting Tables* in 1996.

Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO member, Susan Rogalla Tindall, serves on the *Tempting Tables* committee as the music co-chair person. Starting with the "Save the Date" notification email to the previous *Tempting Tables* volunteer musicians in June, she schedules and coordinates all aspects involving the music and the piano prior to the event, and has follow-up responsibilities post *Tempting Tables*. This year the pianists had the opportunity to play on a beautiful ebony *Boston* seven-foot grand piano, compliments of West Michigan Piano in Grand Rapids.

*Tempting Tables* would like to commend and recognize the following Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO members who willingly gave of their time, talent, and music to this year's event:

**Kristen Avila**  
**Caron Farmer**  
**Jacqueline Rose Fisher**  
**Eileen Hoogterp**  
**Elise Carlson McDonald**  
**Nicholas Palmer**  
**Susan Rogalla Tindall**

The *Tempting Tables* committee is grateful for all of the musicians who played during each "open to the public" hours of this community event. As *Tempting Tables* music co-chair, I am especially grateful for the presence and generosity of my colleagues and friends in the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter of the AGO. Thank you for providing the music that added much to the ambiance of this exquisite funder. I look forward to the next biennial *Tempting Tables* in 2021 and collaborating with many wonderful musicians again!



This year's Candlelight Concert will feature music of Christmas from around the world. We will feature 10 countries.

Featured will be FCC's Motet Choir and Canterbury Ringers, as well as the Youth Alive Children's Choirs and Bell Ringers with Piano, Organ, and Chamber Orchestra.

There is no admission fee but a free-will offering will be accepted.

Doors will open at 6:30 PM.

We hope to see you there!

~ Dr. Michael Match

# THE CONSOLE CRIER



Chapter website and member directory: [www.chicagoago.com](http://www.chicagoago.com)

*Dean's Pippings for October: The Importance of the Organ in Worship*

Last summer I played for a friend's wedding in Roanoke, Virginia. As is traditional in the south, the service was held at the church of the bride's parents. Although both bride and groom preferred traditional music, this Baptist church had switched to a worship band, consigning their Allen organ to the dust of disuse. I was relieved to find that it turned on after all these years and still functioned reasonably well.

The service contained a mixture of hymns traditional in the Baptist and Episcopal traditions, and the congregation in attendance blew the roof off with their excellent singing. Most of the guests were members of the home church, the bride's parents and grandparents being the proverbial movers-and-shakers of that community. After the service, I told the pastor how impressed I was by the congregational singing. He told me in amazement and gratitude that he had never heard them sing so robustly. Although Sunday worship always contained one or two old chestnuts in addition to the contemporary offerings, he said the congregation mumbled along while the band and amplified worship leader made most of the sound.

In this church's zeal to modernize, they lost sight of why the organ has successfully led congregational singing for centuries. Our instrument possesses a unique ability to support hundreds of voices in song while not overshadowing them. The sustained, wind-driven sound models good breathing in a way that guitars or even the piano struggle to do. The organ possesses the widest dynamic and timbre range of any single instrument, empowering congregations to sing of their full Christian experience, from joy to sorrow and everything in between. While the organ can of course be very loud, it complements the human voice without covering it up. An amplified soloist or worship leader covers up the voices, making participation feel unnecessary or optional. When a hymn is played on the organ, the most important element—the text—is missing, demanding the congregation's full engagement.

I realize that I am preaching to the choir, but I hope this brief reflection empowers us to take up our most important responsibility with renewed vigor. So many parishes are turning away from the organ in worship, and I believe they do so at their peril. The organ is the tried and true leader of congregational singing for concrete musical and acoustical reasons. The Bible teaches us that singing is a Christian imperative, so hymns should be your primary focus in any service. If you play with authority, sensitivity, beauty, and artistry, your congregation's appreciation for these great prayers of the church will grow and be nourished. Their faith will be deepened, their sense of community enriched. And their appreciation for the organ will be strengthened!

**Stephen Buzard, AAGO**

**Dean**

*Editor's Note:* Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter member Ron Vanderwest is also a member of the Chicago AGO Chapter. Recently, he shared the Dean's editorial from that chapter's October publication with me. I asked Ron to contact Stephen Buzard and get permission to share it with each of you. Ron not only was given permission to reprint, but also received a very nice email note from him responding to a discussion he had had with Ron about supplemental music that is used during the Sunday morning service. I think you will enjoy reading that also.

*These things seem obvious to us, but in a time when tradition is in question, many forget that there are musical fundamentals which make music singable or not. I'm certainly not against new resources and new hymns, but they have to observe the fundamentals of what makes music **singable** and **logical**. I think a lot of the supplement stuff is really designed for a praise band and cantor to sing **over** the congregation.*

**Next Meeting**  
**November 10, 2019**

## **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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