

Guild of Organists

A.G.O. Pipe Notes

February 2020



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

Welcome to a new decade! I hope it will be good health and happiness to all! The 12th Night Christmas Party at Shane Arkel's lavishly decorated home was delightful, as it is every year. It was good to spend time with chapter members as well as a number of guests who are not organists.

Dr. Michael Match, Director of Music at First Congregational Church, will lead a choral workshop from 9:00-11:00 AM, Saturday, February 29, at Mona Shores Middle School. This event was well-attended and well-received by choir singers and directors last year. Those who will be attending this year's workshop are highly requested to leave your reservations at the following address: MuskegonLakeshoreAGO@comcast.net by February 7.

The year 2020 marks the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Due to the careful work of past members, we have a fairly complete compendium of Chapter Board minutes and programs, and I will provide periodic articles mentioning notable people and events from the distant and more recent history of the MLAGO.

In the February issue of *The American Organist* (TAO), James Thomashower stated that a national survey of AGO membership revealed that only 12% are under the age of 40. When I recovered my composure after reading that statistic, I went on to read about the large new organ pictured on the cover. The instrument is an 86-rank Schoenstien & Co. organ, with a stunning 32-foot facade and pipes in the chancel and a gallery. The company has been very successful building fine romantic-style instruments, which might be classified as the opposite end of the spectrum from the mechanical-action builders. I would guess that the organ in question is magnificent in every way. I did notice that the stop-list includes:

“Percussion (Walker) - Chimes, Tower Chimes, Orchestral Harp, Harp, Celesta, Orchestral Bells, Xylophone, Handbells, Cymbelstern. Timpani are controlled by stop-knobs in their respective divisions. The following percussions are controlled by push buttons on the left key desk. Crash Cymbals, Roll Cymbal, Bell Tree Up, Bell Tree Down.”

I would venture that deploying the “Full Percussion” piston is quite an experience!

Now is the time to consider playing on our “Members’ Recital” which will take place on Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 3:00 PM. This year’s recital will take place at First Congregational Church. Michael Match will be happy to receive the selections you will play. Simply email him at tenormatch@aol.com. Michael and John Mattson will be devising a rehearsal schedule. Please check with either of them. They will also be very happy to help you with accessing a memory level for your convenience. Members may perform solos or works with instruments or voice. The offering from this fund directly benefits our Irene Kolkema Scholarship Fund.

We have two extraordinary events planned to celebrate the 60th Anniversary Year. The first will be the 60th Anniversary Banquet and Celebration on Friday, May 8. Dr. Steven Egler, of Central Michigan University, former AGO Regional Councillor and current Dean of the Saginaw AGO Chapter, will be with us as guest speaker. Also, member Nicholas Palmer of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Grand Haven has been commissioned to write an organ composition in honor of the occasion. It is my hope that every member will be able to attend the banquet and plan on bringing a friend, too. Sixty years of diligent work promoting the organ and fine worship and choral music is a remarkable achievement and needs to be celebrated!

Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO Chapter

2019-2020 Programs

Complete details will be printed in your directory.

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

The Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition

Application Date: Postmarked by February 15, 2020

Eligibility: A competitor must be under 24 years of age as of August 1 of the competition year and be a resident of Kent County, MI or any county adjacent to Kent County and/or a resident student attending a junior high school, senior high school, college, or university in Kent County or any county adjacent to Kent County (Ottawa, Muskegon, Newaygo, Montcalm, Ionia, Barry, or Allegan Counties)

Competition Date: April 27, 2020

Questions? It’s all right here: <https://grago.org/competitions/>

Peter Kurdziel, DMA
Competition Co-chairperson



A Financial Report As of January 31, 2020

**General Fund
\$2,738.73**

**Scholarship Fund
\$3,290.51**

**Young Artist Fund
\$799.00**



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

Feeding the Soul of the City

2019-2020

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

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”

Music of Japan

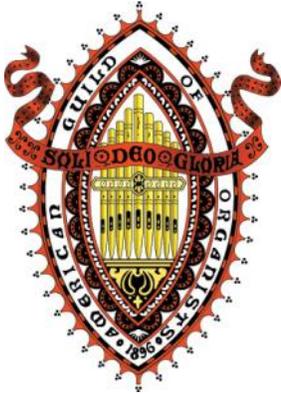
This concert happened in the fall in Holland and Kalamazoo, to great acclaim, and if you missed it then, you have another chance in February!

Music from Japan will be the theme unifying an afternoon of powerful and evocative sounds, on Sunday, February 16 at 3pm at First United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids, as part of their Festival of the Arts. Featured instruments will be pipe organ, marimba and Taiko drums. Combining aspects of classical and world music, drawing on various facets of Japanese culture, and involving a group of talented and eclectic performers from across West Michigan, this concert will provide a soundscape ranging from the intimate to the thunderous.

One of the highlights will be the piece Fujin-Raijin by Japanese composer Tokuhide Niimi. In this version for organ and Taiko drums it will surround the listener with a sonic depiction of the Japanese God of Thunder and Wind. Another first will be a piece written for this ensemble by the composer-in-residence at Harvard University, Carson Cooman, and supported by a grant from the San Francisco AGO chapter.

Performers will include Rhonda Sider Edgington, Organist at Hope Church in Holland and Organ Instructor at Calvin University, Mark Lopez, Marimba, performer, arranger, educator and Lecturer in the Hope College Dance Department, Carolyn Koebel (Taiko), music therapist and world percussionist based in Kalamazoo, and JungWoo Kim, professor of voice at Hope College.

*~ Rhonda Edgington
Holland Chapter*



The History of the Muskegon-Lakshore AGO Chapter

On April 27, 1960, Arnold Bourziel chaired a meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church to discuss the formation of a Muskegon Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Twenty three persons were in attendance. The National AGO had been formed by a group of about 45 men in New York City in 1896. A second meeting in Muskegon was convened on May 18, 1960. A slate of officers was elected, including Arnold Bourziel, John Wheeler, Dorothy Sheets, Irene Kolkema and Bertha Leenstra. There was unanimous approval of the chapter name *Muskegon-Lakeshore*. On June 8, 1960, a meeting at First Congregational Church included the reading of a letter from the National AGO office stating that the chapter was duly "organized." It was noted that the letter ques-

tioned the chosen chapter name. Arnold Bourziel said that he would bring up the chapter name issue with proper authorities at the up-coming Detroit AGO National Convention.

(note: The *Western Michigan Chapter* had been chartered in Grand Rapids in 1937, but the name was changed to *Grand Rapids Chapter* in the late 1980's).

Minutes from an October 1962 meeting reported that Marilyn Mason would require a fee of \$350 to play a recital under chapter auspices. Dr. Mason suggested that one of her "doctoral" students "could be had" for \$50-\$75. Coincidentally, 1962 was the year that brothers Grady and Gordon Wilson became the first to earn AMusD degrees in organ performance at the University of Michigan. Minutes from March 16, 1963, mention a chapter program with high school singers under the direction of Dr. Joan Boucher of Grand Rapids (Dick Hoogterp studied organ with this wonderful lady from 1962-1964). It was decided to send Dr. Boucher a check for \$10 as an honorarium. A program was scheduled at Our Savior's Lutheran Church to learn about and hear the new Moller organ with George Shirley, presenter. Nick Pool was appointed to head the nominating committee.

In November (?) of 1963, Kathryn Eskey, a student of Marilyn Mason, was presented in recital at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Kathryn Eskey had been awarded the AMusD in organ performance at the University of Michigan that year. Another program featured a panel discussion at First Baptist Church with clergy and organists. A summary of the meeting stated, "The plight of the church musician was discussed."

To be continued. (collated by Dick Hoogterp, Dean)

If you are holding some Muskegon-Lakeshore documents or interesting letters or pictures and would like to donate these to the chapter, please contact Dick Hoogterp at richardhoogterp@gmail.com

Possible Pipe Organ Donation

I received the following email and was asked to share it with the membership. ~Juanita

I work for a hospice organization out of Muskegon as a Chaplain and we are currently caring for a patient who has possession of an old pipe organ on his home property that one of his last desires is to possibly donate to a suitable site or organization.

He and his father restored it sometime ago and it used to be installed at the First Reformed Church in Muskegon which is no longer an active congregation. I have made some phone calls to a few places but haven't found a suitable organization as of yet. One place recommended contacting the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter.

I'd appreciate hearing back from you about any leads you may or may not have regarding this inquiry.

Thank you,

Rev. Michael Weaver, Chaplain
Hospice of Michigan
mweaver@hom.org



Muskegon Lakeshore

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

PRESENTS:

A FREE workshop for area choral singers, music directors, cantors, and organists/pianists.

Vocal Techniques for the Choral Singer



All participants receive a **FREE** music sample packet!

Spend your **LEAP Day** singing!

Saturday, February 29, 2020

9:00 am—11:00 am

Mona Shores Middle School

Please join us for a special workshop event, sponsored by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, which will not only address healthful and lasting vocal technique, but also offer participants a practical opportunity to put their talents to use by rehearsing with a large ensemble. We will discuss topics including warm-ups, vocal ranges, breath control, and vibrato; as well as how/where to find tools for selecting and rehearsing music. Membership in AGO is *NOT* required and participation is *NOT* limited to professional musicians or those in church employment. Those of all interests and abilities are welcome!

REGISTRATION:

Advance registration is requested by **February 7, 2020.**

Please respond to:

MuskegonLakeshoreAGO@comcast.net

LOCATION:

Mona Shores Middle School Choir Room
1700 Woodside Road, Norton Shores, MI

Clinician:

Dr. Michael Match is a former member of the GRAMMY-winning ensemble *Chanticleer*, and has offered workshops for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM). Match has received awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Cincinnati Opera, and Indiana University, where he earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees in Vocal Performance.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

We need **YOUR** help in advertising this wonderful event!

You found a PDF file of the poster printed on page 4 of this newsletter attached to your email. Please **PRINT** and hand these out to your choirs/friends etc. We would also appreciate if you HUNG one on your bulletin board at your church.

Below you see a graphic that was also attached in your email and was designed/sized especially for your use with Facebook. Please download that PNG file and insert it on your Facebook page. Make sure you make that post "sharable" otherwise your friends will not be able to share with their friends.

MUSKEGON-LAKESHORE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

VOCAL TECHNIQUES FOR THE CHORAL SINGER

A FREE WORKSHOP FOR AREA CHORAL SINGERS, CANTORS, SOLOISTS, MUSIC DIRECTORS, AND ORGANISTS/PIANISTS!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29
9:00 - 11:00 AM

MONA SHORES MIDDLE SCHOOL
1700 WOODSIDE ROAD, NORTON SHORES

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUESTED BY FEBRUARY 7, 2020
MUSKEGONLAKESHOREAGO@COMCAST.NET

THE CHOIR OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

The Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge
In Concert March 25, 2020 – 7 PM
The Basilica of St. Adalbert

The inaugural presentation of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys' Biennial Andrew Larson Memorial Concert Series

Tickets: www.grcmb.org
Information - Phone: 616.460.0598

"Choral singing comes no better than the Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge. So glorious, we left feeling that we had met with God."
— Bruce Matthews, The Organist

The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys will join their voices with the Choir of St. John's College for the concert's concluding anthem: "Christ, Praise's Thy Great"

Continued from page 1

In October, distinguished organist Clay Christiansen, long-time staff member at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, will be presented in recital under Guild auspices at Central United Methodist Church. Mr. Christiansen, who served as one of the Tabernacle organists and choir accompanist from 1982-2018, has composed music for organ and choir and been heard in recital around the United States and abroad.

This program will only be possible through the cooperation of Central United Methodist Church, generous donors and a Memorial in the name of Kenneth Nelson. This promises to be a tremendous event for the city of Muskegon and a bench-mark in the history and current vitality of the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter. I hope that every member will help us promote and attend the Clay Christiansen concert.

Nominating Committee

The Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter has formed their Nominating Committee for 2020. Please be willing to "accept" if you receive a call from any of the following people: Shane Arkels, Eileen Hoogterp, Michael Match and Melody Walden.

Each of you could support our chapter in many ways. If accepting a position on the board is not possible for you right now, we are always in need of additional volunteers for various things throughout the calendar year. We will always welcome your help

We are also very open to your thoughts and comments about programming. Much thought goes into creating the calendar of events, so your suggestions might bring a new idea to the planning committee.

Irene Kolkema Scholarship

Included with your monthly newsletter are the forms and information you will need when you consider applying for the 2020 Irene Kolkema Scholarship. It's a wonderful opportunity for piano students interested in studying the organ, an opportunity for you to continue your own study on the organ or great opportunity for other organists in the area that you know who could benefit from further organ study or workshops.

Please read the guidelines before sending in your application. The deadline date is also printed on the forms. You will need to download and print those forms from the attached files. Make an extra copy to share and be sure to keep one copy for yourself.

This is a wonderful opportunity. If you have further questions, please contact Caron Farmer at 231-726-6098 or caronfarmer@comcast.net.

Next Meeting
February 29, 2020

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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