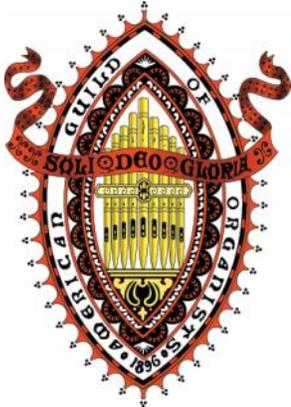


Guild of Organists  
**A.G.O. Pipe Notes**

May / June 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*

Greetings. I hope this finds you well and coping with the current distressing conditions in our country. I wanted to state again that I greatly regret the necessity of cancelling our March Members' Recital, the April Young Artist Recital with Emily Amos, and the Gala 60th Anniversary Banquet planned for May. It may still be possible for the banquet to be held in the fall and that Emily could possibly perform in spring of 2021.

Due to social distancing measures, our chapter Board has not met since March 9. Under unsettled circumstances, it may be that definite planning for the 2020-2021 Chapter Year will not be possible for some time, in any case.

If you have not done so, please renew your AGO National membership as soon as possible. Annual dues support National AGO initiatives and the production of the magazine The American Organist (TAO), as well as our local chapter programming. Sending membership renewals sooner rather than later is always helpful, especially because our chapter then receives our portion in a timely manner.

In recognition of the 60th Anniversary Year, chapter member Nick Palmer, Director of Music at St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven, has written an organ piece entitled *On the Shore*. I expect this composition to be well-received and a delight to perform for all of our organist members. Chapter members may expect to receive the score and a recording of Nick playing *On the Shore* shortly. We are hoping to look forward to a *premier* performance of this piece of music at a chapter event in the fall.

The Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter can take pride in the announcement that chapter member Caron Farmer, AAGO, has been elected to the position of Councillor for the Great Lakes Region of the American Guild of Organists. Caron will serve as a member of the National AGO Council under President Michael Bedford, AAGO and James Thomashower, Executive Director.

Regional Councillor duties include the mandate to “supervise and coordinate the work of the Guild” in our region, which includes some 40 AGO chapters in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. We know that AGO membership is in decline, and the work or supporting and assisting chapter leaders is critical now. Caron has served two terms as Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter Dean and, her husband, Floyd, has also served in that position. Congratulations! Caron.

I know that we will all continue to take precautions to stay safe. I am confident that the American Guild of Organists will survive the coronavirus pandemic and carry on with its important work, across the nation and in the Muskegon area.

