



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Cleveland Chapter

May 2007

FROM THE DEAN

WE'RE BUSY

One of the AGO's main tenets is education: both for ourselves and for new organists. What a privilege. We have been occupied every year with this prospect and totally involved in our mission.

First, we appreciate Fern Jennings, who volunteered yet again, to conduct classes for our members who wish to take the national examinations. Thank you Fern. She has been busy for years with this.

Second, we applaud Bob Moncrief who chaired the Quimby organ competition this past month at Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Our winner will go to the Regional Convention in Columbus with our support and encouragement. Our judges for that event were Anne Wilson, Barbara MacGregor from Akron and David Kienzle from Canton and we thank them. They were busy.

Third, we are grateful to Carol Neff who chaired our Scholarship auditions with the able help of Gratian Nugent and Alan Higbee. There were ten student organists vying for funds. How gratifying to see and hear such music. We were all busy.

Fourth, we thank Linda Gardner and keep her in our hearts as she is facing a health issue. She is unable to edit your newsletter for a while so David Powers and Tim Robson have stepped up to ease her burden. Linda has published our newsletter for some years now and we appreciate her faithfulness. She's been really busy. Best wishes.

So what's the secret here? There is an underlying theme of love of music and dedication to the Guild's thrust of education and good music.

Come to the first weekend in May's festivities. They're just for you. Saturday is an open rehearsal and a master class with Gerre Hancock at Church of the Covenant hosted by Todd Wilson (who is the busiest of us all). Sunday, a concert followed by our annual dinner meeting featuring Gerre Hancock who is reputed to be entertaining and hilarious! Please see Marcia Snavely's article elsewhere as she and her faithful committee of Ginny Roedig and Carmen Massaro have been busy on your behalf too. These people are much appreciated and hard-working. Please thank anyone who helps our Guild and let's finish our year in fine musical fashion!

Grace and Peace,
Michon (Missy) Koch, Dean



NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

Sunday, May 6, 5:30 PM at the Church of the Covenant. Everyone is invited to attend, which will be held in the Covenant Dining Hall following the 4:00 PM concert of Gerre Hancock's music with the Covenant Choir, organ, brass and timpani, Gerre Hancock conducting. See details inside.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 21, 2007 at 7:30 PM
Olmsted Community Church
7853 Main Street
Olmsted Falls, Ohio 44130
Diane Cieslak, Hostess

HALLELUJAH! A GLORIOUS ENDING TO A GLORIOUS YEAR!

The last meeting of the year is coming up! And it will resound with organ, choir, brass and tympani! Our Annual Dinner will be held at The Church of the Covenant on Sunday May 6 at 5:30pm. Everyone (including spouses and friends) is invited to this gala event, which will be held in the Covenant Dining Hall following the 4:00PM concert of Gerre Hancock's music with The Covenant Choir, organ, brass and timpani, Gerre Hancock conducting. Dr. Hancock will conclude the concert with one of his famed improvisations.



A special Thank You to Todd Wilson and Church of the Covenant for hosting this gala event!

The menu for the Annual Dinner Meeting includes cream of broccoli soup, prime rib, baked potato, Key West vegetable blend plus strawberry cream pie for dessert. A vegetarian selection will also be available upon request. **COST IS \$20 PER PERSON. CHECKS FOR THE DINNER (MADE OUT TO AGO-CLEVELAND CHAPTER) SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO JUANITA SCHUBERT AT 1329 MATTINGLY RD. HINCKLEY, OH 44233. RESERVATIONS FOR THE DINNER CAN BE MADE BY EMAIL TO MARCIASNAVELY1@AOL.COM OR CALLING 440-338-6606 BY SUNDAY, APRIL 29.**

On Saturday, May 5 everyone is also invited to attend the open rehearsal with Dr. Hancock and the Covenant Choir from 10am to noon and return for an improvisation workshop with Dr. Hancock at 1:30pm.

Following is a schedule for the entire weekend:

Saturday, May 5

- 10am-Noon: Open rehearsal with Gerre Hancock and the Covenant Choir
Noon: Lunch on your own (at any of the nearby restaurants in Univ. Circle and Little Italy)
- 1:30 pm: Improvisation workshop with Gerre Hancock

Sunday, May 6

- 4:00 pm: Concert: The Music of Gerre Hancock
The Covenant Choir with organ, brass and timpani Gerre Hancock, conductor
Kevin Kwan, Todd Wilson and Gerre Hancock, organists
- 5:30 pm: AGO Annual Dinner, Covenant Dining Room
Brief Annual Meeting and installation of officers
After-dinner talk by Gerre Hancock

Call Marcia Snavelly at 440-338-6606 or email marciasnavely1@aol.com with any questions.

ALLELUIA CORNER

“For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother’s womb, I praise thee, for I am wondrously and fearfully made.” Psalm 139

Several weeks ago, after taking a shower, I carefully stepped out of the tub with my left foot and suddenly felt a painful ripping sensation in the ligament of my left ankle and the tendon leading up to the knee. I passed out from the shock of the injury and discovered myself lying on the floor six feet away having just missed slamming my head on the nearby double sink’s laminated vanity... (don’t tell me there aren’t angels around us...) When revived I visited the good Doctor who checked for any broken bones, (none), ordered X-rays and then a visit to the bone specialist.

A week later after my x-rays arrived, our son Ted (no – not that Nugent) drove me to a medical office where two specialists ‘clowns’ entertained us with stories, games, jokes and hand tricks. (I assume many of their patients are of the ‘child’ variety and I was glad to be so considered.) One ‘clown’ began playing footsie with my foot as we watched it continue swelling up like a fancy, purple balloon – (ouch!). He was feeling for broken bones, ugh. The ‘real’ doctor finally arrived with x-rays, found only a tiny fracture (maybe old, maybe new), said I had a sprained ankle and fitted me with a removable bubble cast with strict orders to wear it six weeks. (It is wonderful to wear.) After a few bad days, I continued recovering and three weeks later went back to church playing.

To my surprise I discovered I could now play ‘two notes’ simultaneously with my booted foot, much to the confusion of the singers and congregation. I thought about playing crazy chopsticks for the offertory – but the grim looks and actions of the ministers in devout prayers held me back. Such additional purgatory in my life seemed unnecessary. However such a feat by my current state of foot did not stop me from playing a chopstick improvisation for the Postlude where somehow it all felt justified. Thankfully the congregation’s and choir’s quick recession let me rejoice aloud in gratitude to the Easter lilies filling the sanctuary.

Now I find that I am constantly reminded the above Psalm’s quote of how wonderfully we are made – and still marveling at all the rebuilding of my own bony chop sticks along with the constant repairing and stitching employed by elves (like in Disney’s stories) to repair my muscles, tendons, ligaments and nerves. It’s all happening in my foot and leg by itself, fostered by a mysterious inherited power working within, not of my own thinking and making. (Of course there are many times when not even ‘elves’ can totally fix things alone – and ongoing medical science will always be in a state of research.

Like ‘ODOT,’ some of my ‘orange barrels’ still warn that the body is still under road repair, reconstructing my foot like new, only more secure. That such a miracle of engineering exists within us is awesome; to a musician using bone, muscle, feet, hands, legs, eyes, ears, heads and touch, plus a touch of angelism, is surely worthy of awe, praise and thanksgiving.

Happy Blooming Spring
Gratian M. Nugent

ELAINE SHAKELY HONORED AT FESTIVAL

(Quoted from *Ohio Music Club News*)

At last year’s District I-A Festival Awards Ceremony at Cleveland State University, Mrs. Elaine Shakely was honored with 82 roses, “one for every year she has blessed the lives of those who know her.” She is a member of The Fortnightly Music Club of Cleveland.

She taught music in public schools, hosted a year-long public TV program, “Songs, Sounds and Symbols,” on WVIZ; then traveled around the world to investigate educational TV. She also taught an expressive arts course at CSU for more than 38 years, played the organ and directed handbell choirs for her church, and taught thousands of private students in both violin and piano. In 2002, she was awarded the first Heidelberg College Alumni Excellence Award. Even after quintuple bypass surgery in the summer, she still entered 43 piano students. In the I-A Festival in 2006. Oh, and by the way, Elaine is listed in Who’s Who in America for 2007! Amazing!

(ed.: but not if you know Elaine.)

IT'S UP TO US!!

That was the closing line by Gary Pinter at Fairlawn Lutheran in January 2006 at the end of a masterclass on hymn playing. It was his intro line encouraging everyone to invite their church members to the wonderful hymn festival the next day led by a national artist. Gary also pointed out that in order for our instrument to continue to be a viable musical instrument in worship we need to practice all the skills discussed in the class and always present the organ in the best possible ways lest we be replaced by other instruments.

To his comments I would add that it is also up to us—AGO chapters—to be leaders in presenting recitals by national and international artists. Locally, Severance Hall has cancelled the organ series and a number of churches have cut back their concert series or eliminated concerts altogether. It is up to us to fill gaps or even take the lead.

In the near future it will be time to renew your membership in the AGO. One of the purposes of the Guild is to promote the organ as a musical instrument. The importance of that role is going to be ever increasing given the current state of our culture. Concerts by noteworthy artists cost more than our chapter can regularly afford given the number of members we have and the portion of dues that is available for programming. There are two ways increase these funds. First, significantly increase chapter membership and second, member donations above the dues set by national. Others in the chapter are promoting the first option. Let's look at the second.

This year the regular dues rate will be \$88 total with \$36 allocated to the local chapter. This is a minimal dues structure compared to many professional associations. In the corporate world, my dues were several times this amount and the benefits were much less than the AGO. Thus, I would like to suggest that we all give serious consideration to making a donation to the chapter above the dues amount. I have been doing this for over 10 years because \$36 times 170 members is a very tight budget. Even one concert a year by a national artist is not realistic without additional contributions.

Gary was right. It is up to us to promote the organ. There was an article in the April TAO about the church growth movement. The mega-churches have people and money, but refuse to even consider our instrument. However, I have read two books recently that show that churches with organs can still grow. Their approach is: first you have to want to grow; second, be willing to share your faith with others and third, do what you do well. If you change "faith" to enthusiasm these principles also apply to growing an AGO chapter and promoting the organ. There are people in Cleveland and in our chapter with the right attitudes. We just need to garner the financial resources to regularly remind the public that the organ is the king of instruments.

Please give this consideration when writing your dues check. Contributions are tax deductible and you will get a receipt.

Don Jackson



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

There are no new positions available at this time.

Please send all job postings to Gerry Mass, 440-884-4904, Fax: 440-884-1661, email: gerry@gerardskeyboards.com

REMINDER

The deadline for submitting articles to the newsletter is midnight on the 15th of every month for the next month's issue. There will be no issue in July. All articles should be sent to newsletter@agocleveland.org.

TO THE EDITOR

[With apologies, the following letter to the editor was inadvertently omitted from last month's newsletter. We re-print it here as received. (ed.)]

I would like to address the "state" of worship in the church today. As a former organ major, music educator for 35 years, former member of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, long-time member of the A.G.O. Cleveland Chapter and current Minister of Music (organist/director) for 31 years, I have seen significant change in musical style and preference, not only within the Church, but also within culture itself.

In my present Church (Highland Sixth Presbyterian in Highland Heights), we have a wide variety of musical offerings: a Praise Team/Band (vocalists, guitars, flute, saxophone, drums & piano) which leads primarily Contemporary music for our Contemporary service; a Chancel choir, accompanied by organ or piano, which sings Classical, traditional and Contemporary literature; a Men's Quartet; a Kids Praise (singing songs and sacred musicals); a Teen Praise Band (in the formative stage); Piano/Organ and Piano/Piano duets; and various vocal and instrumental solos throughout the year. There is a smorgasbord for virtually every musical palette!

It is only natural to want to preserve traditional hymns, as well as fine Classical choral and organ music...it is in our blood, it is how we worshipped for many years and how we were trained as professional musicians. Much the same could be said of fine Classical music performed in Concert Halls. It is my hope that such exquisite, beautiful and powerful music will continue to be composed, performed, preserved and experienced by audiences of all ages

Nevertheless, I would hate to see all Contemporary Christian music "painted with the same brush." There are several types within this genre, ranging from pop, rap, and hard rock to more beautiful adult-pleasing ballads and anthems. Certainly some is very repetitive, easily attained and rather quickly exhausted. Other types are more complex, carefully composed and performed by talented and educated musicians. Yet, if this "new" music can reach "the masses" convert the un-churched and provide a vehicle for evangelism, then I will gladly support it. It may not compare (in the slightest) to Verdi's "Requiem," however, if the lyrics are scriptural and its intent is to help strengthen one's Faith and offer grace, then it is certainly a valid form of worship, not entertainment.

I challenge all Ministers of Music and their Churches to perform well-written music of a variety of styles, perhaps at different services, to reach all those who desire to worship God. It may require hiring additional trained musicians, familiar with the genre, who embrace it enthusiastically and are comfortable leading a Contemporary Service. Ultimately, God will be worshipped in ways meaningful to each individual.

In Christ,

Pamela Belknap,
Minister of Music,
Highland Sixth Presbyterian Church
pbelkanp@ameritech.net

ELECTION RESULTS

The newly elected members of the Executive Board are: **Jeanette Ostrander, David Powers, and Ginny Roedig**. All have been notified. They will be installed at our Annual Meeting on May 6th, and begin their three-year term July 1, 2007.

Sixty-five ballots were returned. Our sincere thanks to all members who took the time to vote.

In addition, the following 'top' officers will serve one more year. Thank You!

Dean: Michon (Missy) Koch
Sub-Dean: Marcia Snavely
Secretary: Leslie Bauer
Treasurer: Juanita Schubert

FROM MARGARET EVANS

Vice President, AGO

Director, Task Force for Promotion of the Organ

Dear Chapter Dean,

We hope that you might be able to help us. As you know, in 2008-2009 the AGO will celebrate the International Year of the Organ., featuring scores of local recitals under the banner "Organ Spectacular!" on October 19, 2008. We are inviting all chapters to participate, as well as societies of organists around the world.

To promote the organ as effectively as possible, we feel that we need a famous spokesperson, someone who has had some experience with the organ and/or organ music, to serve as our organ "celebrity" and whom the general public will immediately recognize. It very well might be that this person will come from the entertainment industry or sports industry. With the help of professional media consultants we are engaging, we hope that our spokesperson will be able to make guest appearances on shows like Oprah, Ellen, Regis and Kelly, the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and the Late Show with David Letterman. The spokesperson should also be comfortable doing live interviews and talking to journalists who work with the print media.

What we'd like from you is suggestions for people in your area, Guild members or not, who might fit these qualifications. It would also be helpful to have an idea of how visible their organ connection is in your area. Lastly, it would help if you could give us some idea of how best to contact them. Through our media consultant? Through someone in your community?

Thank you for your assistance. Feel free to pose this inquiry to others in your chapter. We are eager to find the very best spokesperson, or spokespeople, that we can as soon as possible, so your early reply will be greatly appreciated. I can be reached at mevans@mind.net, tel. 451-482-3075, or at my home address 1250 Greenmeadows Way, Ashland, OR 97250.

Sincerely,

Peg

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR CLEVELAND CHAPTER MEMBERS

Did you know?

That the AGO Cleveland Chapter's web site is <http://agocleveland.org>?

That you can keep up to date with the latest chapter news on the site, sometimes weeks before it is printed in the newsletter. There is often content on the site that is never published in the newsletter.

That if you have an e-mail address you can receive the Cleveland Chapter Newsletter electronically about a week before you would receive it in paper? At the same time you will save the chapter funds that can be put toward guild programming and other services.

That each member in good standing with an email address can have access to members-only features of the web site? For example, you can download the current issue of each newsletter; you can download the annual yearbook and directory.

That registered members on the web site can log in and add events to the online AGO calendar? (Just log in with your user name and password, then click on the "Calendar" menu item, then click on the red plus sign that says, "add an event.") Online events are always more up-to-date than those published in the newsletter.

That you can join a voluntary e-mail announcement list? If you would like to send announcements to like-minded people, you can join the agocleveland-l list. To subscribe, go to the web site agocleveland.org and click on the "E-mail discussion list" menu item and follow the instructions. It is not necessary to be a member to join this discussion list, and you can unsubscribe at any time, if you find that the list does not meet your needs.

That you can find web links and other resources, even contribute useful links yourself that others can use?

2007 OHS CONVENTION INFORMATION

Mark your calendars now for the 2007 National Convention of the Organ Historical Society, to be held in the Indianapolis and Central Indiana region, July 11-17! The Convention will be headquartered at the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel and Suites, Interstate 465 and Keystone Avenue. Affordable room rates are available at \$103.00 per night/\$143.00 for suites, and parking is plentiful and free!

Indianapolis is conveniently served by Interstate highways for those who wish to drive: I-65 from Chicago, North, and Louisville, South; I-74 from Peoria, Bloomington, Champaign/Urbana, and Danville, Illinois, West, and Cincinnati, East; I-70 from Saint Louis, West and Columbus, Ohio, East; and I-69 from Fort Wayne and Lansing, Michigan, North. The Indianapolis International Airport is conveniently served by many airlines.

Thirty organs will be heard, dating from the 1840's to the most recent years, and ranging in size from one to five manuals. Included will be instruments by builders such as: Skinner, Aeolian-Skinner, Kimball, Holtkamp, Ruggles, Möller, Goulding & Wood, Hook & Hastings, Felgemaker, Barton, Wicks, and Kilgen.

The list of exciting performers includes Ken Cowan, Thomas Murray, Marilyn Keiser, Christopher Young, Carol Williams, Carla Edwards, and Robert Hobby. Events include a hymn sing as well as several lectures. Exhibits will feature numerous items from the OHS catalogue, so that you can see items up close that can be purchased onsite or online.

Please visit the Convention website: <http://www.organsociety.org/2007/>. At this time, you can download an article from the OHS journal, The Tracker, with descriptive information for each day's events as well as a "slide show" of photographs of the organs. A link is provided for further information about the convention hotel, including online reservations. The convention website will be continually updated to include more schedule, performer, and instrument information, as well as online convention registration.



CONCERTS

For complete listings, see our web site: www.agocleveland.org. All concerts are free unless otherwise noted.

Friday, April 27, 7:30 PM

Art & Music Night III: American Art from Paul Revere to Andy Warhol. Friday, April 27th at 7:30 PM. Forest Hill Church (3031 Monticello Boulevard at Lee in Cleveland Heights). Anne Wilson—presenter. (Director of Music and Docent-in-Training, Cleveland Museum of Art) Forest Hill Chamber Choir. Come experience a survey of American art from Paul Revere (he was a silversmith) to Andy Warhol (think the Campbell's soup can) and beyond. Some of the modern images will leave you scratching your head wondering if this is really fine art—let's discuss it! Intertwined with the art images will be music by Billings (colonial period), Stephen Foster (19th century), Scott Joplin and George Gershwin (20th century). It's fun and it's free! More info: 216-321-2660 (church office).

Sunday, May 6, 4:00 PM

Brecksville United Church of Christ, 23 Public Square, Brecksville. The Tri-C Jazz Studies Performance Combo, under the direction of Ernie Krivda. This is the elite group of the Tri-C Jazz Studies Program. They represent the program at festivals, promotional events and a variety of concerts and fundraisers. The combo is made up of some of the most advanced jazz studies in northeast Ohio who are already individually performing in professional situations throughout the area. The ensemble plays mostly original compositions and all original arrangements as they work toward presenting an exciting, unique musical performance. Freewill offering, light reception. Contact David Debick, buccmusic@sbcglobal.net or buccoh@sbcglobal.net

Wednesdays in May, 12:15 PM

Music Near the Market. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, West 30th Str. At Lorain Avenue, Cleveland. Contact Florence Mustric: 216.321.1393. Featuring the world-famous von Beckerath organ. FREE.
May 2 & 9: Florence Mustric performs "Who's got my back?" Music by J.S. Bach and many others.
May 16 & 23: Robert Myers performs "A Touch of Toccatas". Music by Bach, Krieger, Pachelbel and Sweelinck.
May 30: Songsun Lee performs "Music for St. Albans." First-prize winner in the San Marino, CA Organ Competition, she will play her program for a competition at St. Alban's, England. Music by Stanley and Buxtehude, Brahms' Fugue in A-flat, and Anton Heiller's Tanz-Toccatas.

Sunday, May 20, 7:00 PM

Bethany English Lutheran Church, 15460 Triskett Road, Cleveland, (216)941-7880. Music for Pentecost by the combined choirs of West Park UCC and Bethany English Lutheran Church with James Clouser, organ, and Christopher Toth, keyboard. Free will offering.



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QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2006/07

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