

international
year of the
organ
2008-2009

American
Guild of
Organists



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

January 2009

FROM THE DEAN

Greetings,

I hope everyone had a happy and gratifying holiday season, both professionally and personally. It is always so rewarding to perform the music which makes the holiday season so special. I enjoyed a variety of musical experiences, which ranged from playing "The Dingaling Family Holiday Circus" for Chagrin Falls Elementary School to Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" at the Federated Church, and from playing five minutes for a special bassoon solo to playing my usual ten-hour marathon on Christmas Eve.

Anyway, it was a whirlwind of activities and I must admit it is somewhat of a relief (although touched with a tinge of sadness) to have it now relegated to important 2008 holiday memorabilia. But to compensate for any "letdown" feelings, there is much to look forward to in the New Year, 2009.

First, we have the Westminster Choir Concert on Thursday, Jan 8. I know this is choir night for many, but perhaps you can change or cancel for one night. Our choir director at the Fed (Dr. Wm. Foley), surprised me by stating that he will cancel our rehearsal, IF and only IF, everyone goes to the Westminster concert. Perhaps that suggestion would work for you? This is a special opportunity to hear one of the best collegiate choirs in the nation. And after performing so often over the holidays, you can sit back, relax and listen (and get ideas and inspiration for your own choirs).

Then in March we have Robert Porco conducting Mozart's "Coronation Mass" with our own combined choristers. Plans are well underway (see related articles in this Newsletter). Our Program Committee has been working hard to assure us of an exceptional musical event. If you haven't heard the Coronation Mass, I urge you to beg, borrow or buy a CD and listen. It truly is an impressive piece, one worth learning and performing.

This is still the International Year of the Organ (IYO), and I hope our members individually will continue to take the opportunity to highlight and showcase the organ as the musical gem it is. As for our Guild, we will be doing this in some events later in 2009. These are still in the planning stages, so please stay tuned in. And it isn't too early to start saving the dates for the Guild's Regional Meeting in Detroit (June 28-July 1).

I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and blessed New Year. We hope you will take advantage of the many musical opportunities in our northeast Ohio area, and we hope to see you at ALL of the upcoming Guild events!

Musical blessings and best wishes for the New Year, 2009.

Marcia

WESTMINSTER CHOIR

JANUARY 8

Our next Cleveland Chapter AGO event will be a performance by the Westminster Choir, from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, on Thursday, January 8, 2009, at 7:30 pm. They will be performing at The Church of the Saviour (United Methodist), 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights. We are proud to be co-sponsors of this event, along with Church of the Saviour's "Arts In The Cathedral" concert series.

Westminster Choir College has a long history of being one of the premiere choral schools in the United States, and hearing this ensemble, long noted for its excellence, promises to be a treat. As Dean Marcia Snively mentioned in her column in this issue of the newsletter, perhaps those whose choirs regularly meet on Thursday evenings will "take the night off" in order to attend this wonderful program.

There will be a \$10 admission charge at the door. Church Of The Saviour is located at 2537 Lee Road, one block north of Fairmount Blvd. between Bradford and Monmouth Roads in Cleveland Heights. There is ample free parking both in the rear of the church or in the north lot off of Bradford Road, and all facilities of the church are handicapped accessible.

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Tuesday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

9205 Brecksville Rd.

Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Rte. 82 and I-77.

Missy Koch, Hostess

Next Chapter Meeting:

Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ

Church of the Saviour

2537 Lee Road

Cleveland, Ohio 44118

Handbell Reading Session

Invitation

JANUARY 10, 2009

A FREE ring through of new handbell issues. Registrants will be the sight-readers for the sessions. Contact Lynn at B&Y Music Co. (440.331.5343) to make a reservation.

9:30 am--12 noon 2-3 octave music

12 noon--1:30 pm lunch on your own

1:30 pm-- 4:00 pm 3-5 octave music

Music will be available for purchase at the end of each session. Carmen Massaro and James Riggs, conductors.

PLYMOUTH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2860 Coventry Rd.

Shaker Hts., Ohio 44120

CHAPTER CONCERNS:

Condolences to the family of Edward Mason, former organist of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lakewood. Mr. Mason passed away in his sleep on December 8, 2008. He was 88 years of age. He requested that his remains be donated to the CWRU Medical School. Accordingly, there will be no wake or funeral and a decision regarding a memorial service has not been made.

Condolences to the family of Barbara Denison, former member of the Cleveland AGO died November 8, 2008. A memorial service was held at Plymouth Church (James Riggs, organist) on November 22, 2008, where friends gathered to remember and pay tribute to Barbara for her years of service to the choir and as former Assistant Organist.

JOIN OUR CHORAL FESTIVAL WITH ROBERT PORCO!

Once again, it's time to sign in for participation in our Choral festival for 2009. On **Sunday, March 22nd at 7:30 p.m. at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls**, we will sing Mozart's *Coronation Mass* under the leadership of Robert Porco, Director of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus. This is a unique opportunity and promises to be one of the highlights of our AGO year. The program will also include two shorter works also by Mozart: *Ave Verum Corpus* and *Laudate Dominum*.

The *Coronation Mass* has been chosen because it should be accessible to choir singers who may not be accustomed to singing major classical works and/or whose choirs may not have enough members to perform a larger work. For those singers who have had experience with major works, the *Coronation Mass* is a highly respected part of the classical sacred music repertoire with considerable challenges and promises to be an extremely rewarding experience. Having an opportunity to sing under Mr. Porco's direction will definitely enhance everyone's approach to sacred music.

All choirs and /or individual singers are invited to participate in the event, which will be held at The Federated Church in Chagrin Falls. The rehearsal is 2-6 p.m., there will be a break for dinner (provided at the church for @\$5), and the concert will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to this, on Saturday, March 21st, we'll hold a dress rehearsal at Federated from 10:00-12:00 so participants can get used to singing together. Director for this rehearsal will be Dr. William Foley, choir director at Federated.

Also, if you know of potential singers who would like to participate, but whose choir directors won't have time to teach the music during normal rehearsals, we will be offering study workshops to learn the scores. We have the following workshops scheduled:

Church of the Saviour, Cleveland Heights:
Saturday, February 7th, 8:45-12:45, contact Bob Day

First Presbyterian Church, Willoughby: Saturday,
February 14th, 9:00-1:00, contact Ginny Roedig

Brecksville United Methodist, date TBA, contact
Joy MacGuire

Please encourage individual choir members to attend even if the entire choir will not be able to study the music during your rehearsal time. **Singers must know the music before coming to the March 22nd rehearsal and performance.**

If your choir does not yet own the music to any of the works, scores of the *Coronation* will be available to borrow (on a limited basis) or purchase for \$5.00 apiece. We can also provide octavos of the shorter works.

If you and/or your choir are planning to attend or know of individual singers who will be attending, **please register by January 31st** with Ginny Roedig, Roedig5@msn.com. A number of choirs have already committed. This should be a wonderful event — one none of us should miss.

AUDITIONS FOR PAID SOLO POSITIONS FOR THE CORONATION MASS

Auditions will be held on Sunday afternoon, February 15th starting at 2 p.m. for the four solo parts of the *Coronation Mass* as well as the soprano solo to the *Laudate Dominum* at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls, 76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls 44022.

Mr. Porco has asked that the soprano candidates prepare the solo at the beginning of the *Agnus Dei*. If you do not already have this music, please get in touch with me, Ginny Roedig, Roedig5@msn.com and I will mail you a copy. Alto, Tenor, and Bass candidates may provide a solo of their choosing for the audition. This should, however, be by a composer from Viennese Classic period or J.S. Bach. An accompanist will be provided. Please register for these auditions by February 7th so that we can schedule an audition time slot. Remuneration for the solo position will be \$150 for each soloist.

THE CORONATION MASS AND THE VIENNESE CLASSIC

Throughout history, it seems the clergy and the church musician have had an ongoing tug-of-war as to the role played by music in the service. Way back in the Middle Ages, the only music allowed was an unaccompanied unison plainchant. Then the musicians snuck in a second voice running parallel to the first, and, having gotten away with that, they added a third voice, forming the first chords, albeit standing on their heads.

This gradual usurping of the attention of the congregation went along for a while without apparently creating many ripples until one day the clergy noticed that, for all the music swarming around the choirs in the late Renaissance, no one had any idea what words the choir was singing. So in the 16th Century, the musicians were put in their places by the Council of Trent only to sneak back into center stage two hundred years later, riding along the wave of general opulence of the high Baroque.

The Catholic Mass was one of the victims. Originally an extremely long, complex work with many movements and full orchestration, Kaiser Joseph II of Austria (late 18th century) and Bishop Collorodo of Salzburg, among others, pared it down radically. Among other things, it was required to last no more than 45 minutes. The fugues were cut as well as the introductions. Although not officially a Missa Brevis, the Coronation is clearly in line with many of the new restrictions imposed on the church music by the reigning nobility and clergy of the time. Mozart was very unhappy with his boss but continued to produce works of immense beauty within these rules. His colleague, Haydn, however, was apparently not as cooperative. He went on strike and didn't write another Mass for 14 years when Franz Joseph was safely under ground. Then he let out all the guns with the Nelson Mass.

The Coronation Mass, K. 317, was completed in March of 1779. Under 30 minutes in length, it is a beautiful but accessible jewel of short duration. The Mass is scored for a mixed chorus with a solo quartet. In keeping with the dictates of the time, it is

almost exclusively homophonic and rarely deviates far from the opening key of C-major.

For those members of church choirs, which may not have the opportunity to prepare large major works of sacred literature, this is a tremendous opportunity to become acquainted with this genre. The Coronation is accessible to those choir members who have been singing on a regular basis. For those choir members who sing classical repertoire on a more regular basis, the Coronation Mass is still an extremely powerful work that will be a wonderful experience to prepare and perform.

ORGAN COMPETITION

The Oklahoma City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is co-sponsoring the **Fourth Annual High School Organ Competition** with Oklahoma City University on **February 7, 2009**.

I am pleased to announce that the amount and number of prizes has increased this year to a total of more than \$3000! The competition is open to any student who is a High School senior or younger. The competition has very flexible parameters with the intent of allowing a wide array of competitors to enter.

Information about the competition can be found here: www.okcu.edu/music/organ/competition.aspx

I ask that you please forward this message to your members email list and anyone else who might have a student who is a potential competitor.

The deadline for entering is a postmark of **January 9, 2009**. Up to 10 competitors will be selected.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Timothy Olsen, DMA, AGO-OKC Chapter, sub-dean
Wanda L. Bass Chair
Associate Professor of Organ
University Organist/Chapel Choir Director
tolsen@okcu.edu, 405-208-5013 (office)
405-535-8124 (cell)

ALLELUIA CORNER

Once upon a time in the lovely state of Indiana, there lived a very good candy maker. His candy was always special, delicious and carefully made. During December, he was busy making sweet somethings for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Still, with all the goodies he made, he felt something was missing. He pondered over how he could make a meaningful type of candy for the holidays ... something that would be a special reminder of the real meaning of Christmas, a reason for the season.

His eye caught the bright colors of red and white in various candies that he made for the children and then he thought of a way to sweetly tell the story of the real meaning of Christmas...all in a piece of candy.

As a symbolism he decided to use pure white candy to remind us of the virgin birth of Jesus, a baby boy born pure of sin and who remained fearless and dedicated to truth throughout his life.

Then he made the candy hard (as a rock) showing that Jesus was strong in his beliefs and teachings and that God's promises are solid and true.

The candy maker shaped the candy in the form of a 'J' as in the first letter of Jesus' name. The 'J' also was a reminder of the Good Shepherd's staff, its shape symbolic of the watchful care given to his flock. The shepherd not only kept the sheep safe so they could eat and grow in peace, but also guided those erring, precious lambs when they go astray or become hopelessly lost.

The candy maker decided to use the red stripes to remind us of Jesus being whipped on his way to the cross. He used the three small stripes for Jesus' crown of thorns, the scourging and the nails in his feet and hands. The larger stripe represents the blood given by his body that we might be forgiven of our sins and live in peace with God. Thus the candy maker was able to make a special Christmas candy that reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save people as well as lambs, and that we can become holy messengers of the word.

Such an event needs its own language, and it is through music and the arts that we too can bring the message of a love that is sweet, nourishing and powerful.

Whatever situation you are in, grab a candy cane and smile.

Happy New Year.

Gratian M. Nugent

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SPONSORS NORTH GERMAN ORGAN STUDY TOUR

From July 28-August 10, 2009, the University of Kansas will sponsor KU European Organ Study Tour IV: North Germany, under the direction of professor Michael Bauer. This tour will include a significant number of the major Schnitger organs, as well as renaissance instruments, important 17th century organs by Scherer and Stellwagen, romantic organs by Ladegast and Sauer, and contemporary instruments by Ahrend and Metzler. We will also tour the Ahrend shop and have free time in Hamburg and Lübeck. For further information see www2.ku.edu/~organ, write mbauer@ku.edu, or call 785-864-9744.

PLEASE NOTE: Please send all job postings to: **Gerry Mass**, (440)884-4904, **Fax:** (440)-884-1661. **e-mail:** gerry@gerardskeyboards.com.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

ORGANIST/PIANIST: Lakewood Baptist Church, 14321 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107. Accompanist needed for congregation and choir. Average six hours per week. One Sunday service and Thursday evening choir rehearsal. Church experience essential. Salary: \$5,000 per year, plus extra compensation for weddings and special events. Interested persons should send resume/references to LBC Pastor at the Church address above.

ORGANIST/PIANIST: Willoughby United Methodist Church, 15 Public Square, Willoughby, OH 44094. One Sunday service at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. (Sept.-May). Three-manual Austin Organ. Annual salary: \$8,730. Extra compensation for weddings, funerals, and extra services. Please send resume (via e-mail) to wlbyumc@ameritech.net or call (440) 942-9068 for further information.

REMINDER: *The deadline for submitting* articles to the newsletter is **midnight on the 15th** of every month. All articles should be sent to: newsletter@agocleveland.org

CHRISTMAS HYMN FESTIVAL

A Christmas Hymn Festival will be held on January 4 at 4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, West 30th and Lorain Ave.

The Festival is for the benefit of the Beckerath Organ (1956) at Trinity Lutheran Church. This organ was the first of its kind to be installed in the United States. The organ is in need of repair and a major campaign is about to start regarding its restoration. The organ is a gem and treasure to the Lutheran Church, to community and to the organ world.

We hope you will come and sing the joyous hymns of our Savior's birth.

There will be pre-service organ music beginning at 3:30 pm by Bob Myers and Florence Mustric. The hymn festival organist will be Linda Kempke.

A free-will offering will be taken and all proceeds will go to the "Friends of the Beckerath" Organ Restoration Campaign.

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

Wednesdays: Music Near the Market at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, West 30th St. at Lorain Avenue, Cleveland. CONTACT: Florence Mustric: (216)-321-1393. Featuring the world-famous von Beckerath organ. **FREE** concerts **AT NOON** on Wednesdays.

January 7 & 14: **Florence Mustric** performs "Great expectations" (or, what the dickens will she play?), Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Barber's Adagio, and Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E minor.

January 21 & 28: **Robert Myers** presents "Hindemith and company," featuring music by Manz, Peeters, and of course Hindemith.

Thursday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m.: Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44118, (216) 321-8880, ext. 235. **The Westminster Choir of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ**, Co-sponsored with Church of the Saviour Foundation (Judith Higbee, host)

Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio 44118, (216) 932-7480. **Michael Unger**, organ, in recital.

Saturday, January 31 at 7:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Hts. **Cabaret: Dinner and Song.** Chase away the winter cold with a gourmet meal and entertainment by the Fairmount Choir section leaders, demonstrating their vocal abilities on the lighter side. Tickets required.

EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT ANNOUNCED BY THE AGO

Restricted Access to Online Job Postings Begins
December 15, 2008

NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists is pleased to announce an exclusive benefit of AGO membership. Effective Monday, December 15, 2008, job listings posted online at www.agohq.org will only be accessible by AGO voting members. Individuals wishing to view these pages must first validate their membership using their AGO membership number, found on the mailing label of The American Organist Magazine. This policy decision, to deny the general public access to the job postings, was approved unanimously by the AGO National Council at its meeting in October 2008.

"Membership has its privileges," remarked AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. "By limiting access to our online job postings, we are increasing the value of membership to our voting members by providing priority access to job information not available to others. Employers can rest assured knowing that their job postings are being seen by the members of the world's largest organization devoted to the organ and choral music. These individuals have pledged to abide by the AGO Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Standards."

AGO membership is open to all and includes working professionals—organists, choral conductors, teachers, organbuilders, technicians, and suppliers to the field—as well as students, clergy, amateur musicians, and dedicated supporters. Individuals can join the AGO through local chapters or as a member without chapter affiliation. To join a local chapter, individuals can identify the chapter nearest them using the zip code search from the AGO home page. Membership numbers will be provided to those who join a local chapter once the chapter's dues report is received at AGO National Headquarters. Alternatively, an individual can join as an AGO independent member online at www.agohq.org/store and receive their membership number via e-mail within two business days. Independent members can always transfer to a chapter

membership at a later time.

A detailed description of all AGO voting membership categories can be found online at www.agohq.org/membership. For further information, please contact the AGO membership department, members@agohq.org or 212-870-2310.



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

January 2009

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