

# The American Guild of Organists

**Cleveland Chapter** 

February 2009

#### FROM THE DEAN

"WOW! WOW! WOW! What a fabulous concert!"

This and similar remarks were all I heard following the Guild's January meeting—which was the concert given by the Westminster Choir under the direction of Joe Miller. Thanks to the Church of the Savior Foundation and hostess Judith Higbee for the opportunity to cosponsor such a beautiful event. It was unfortunate that Westminster's schedule only allowed a Thursday night concert, since many of our members could not cancel regular choir rehearsals. Even so, there was a large, enthusiastic crowd in attendance, and they were treated to an exceptional blend and variety of exquisite choral singing.

The performance was mesmerizing, from the Kyrie (Messe Solennelle, Op. 16) of Louis Vierne with its dramatic organ accompaniment, to the tender a cappella "A Boy and a Girl" by Eric Whitacre (b. 1970), to a rendition of "Elijah rock" by Moses Hogan which literally "rocked your sox off." I felt, as the New York Magazine stated previously, that "this superb choral group could do no wrong."

And now it is time to begin concentrating on our own choral/organ event, –the Mozart Coronation Mass—sung by our mass choir, led by Robert Porco and accompanied by Timothy Robson. This is our next chapter meeting, and we hope you are planning to join us. Numerous opportunities abound for learning and practicing the music. Details are included elsewhere in this Newsletter. If you are unable to sing with us, you are still welcome to attend the rehearsal at 2:00PM on Sunday, March 22 to watch Robert Porco at work, and to join us in a light supper at the church (\$5 cost) before the 7:30pm concert. However, if you plan to do this, please make reservations for the supper with Ginny Roedig, <u>Roedig5@msn.com</u> or phone: (440) 257-3281 by March 15.

The solo positions (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) will be auditioning with Mr. Porco on Sunday, Feb. 15 beginning at 5:00 pm. These are paid positions, and I hear that we have already received an excellent response.

Special thanks go to Ginny and the Program Committee (Robert Day, chairman; Carmen Massaro, Michon Koch) who are working behind the scenes to make this an unforgettable event. And our appreciation also goes to Timothy Robson who has agreed to take on what he has called the "daunting" task of accompanying the Mozart on the Federated Church's 3-manual Schantz organ. We know of his skills and talents and are certain he will do a superb job.

Now it is up to all of you. We need you to  $\underline{\mathbf{P}}$  articipate, to  $\underline{\mathbf{P}}$  ractice, to  $\underline{\mathbf{P}}$  romote and to  $\underline{\mathbf{P}}$  ublicize the event. Enjoy the unique experience of working with Robert Porco ,your fellow guild members, and choristers to celebrate the genius that is Mozart.

Musical Blessings, Marcia

#### Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Westlake United Methodist Church 27650 Center Ridge Road Westlake, Ohio 44145 Leslie Bauer, Hostess

#### Next Chapter Meeting:

Sunday, March 22, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. The Mozart Coronation Mass The Federated Church of Chagrin Falls 76 Bell Street Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

#### CORONATION MASS WITH ROBERT PORCO

#### Last chance to sign up to participate in the Coronation Mass with Robert Porco!

In case you haven't yet registered to participate in our choral festival with Robert Porco, Director of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, please let us know by February 15th! Once again, the program will be on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd,</sup> at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls. Rehearsal with Mr. Porco will be from 2:00-6:00 p.m. followed by a concert at 7:30. Dinner will be available at the church for \$5.00. The all-Mozart program will contain: the Coronation Mass, Ave Verum Corpus, and Laudate Dominum. Participants are requested to prepare the music beforehand. There will be a general dress rehearsal on Saturday, March 21st, also at Federated Church from 10:00-12:00 noon. Please let us know if you plan to attend the festival so we can organize seating, scores, dinner, etc. This is a rare opportunity to work under the direction of a nationally famed choir director and to have the opportunity to sing a stunning work of classical choral repertoire.

If your choir will not be participating as a group, we are offering the following workshops to assist individual singers in preparing the music:

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:45-12:45 at Church of the Saviour, Cleveland Heights

Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 9-1:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Willoughby

Saturday, February 21st, 9-1:00 p.m. at Brecksville United Methodist

Tuesdays or Thursdays, 7:30-8:15 p.m. at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls.

It is only necessary to attend a workshop(s) at one of these locations, not all! The Mass and two other pieces are not very long.

Scores will be available on loan for these works at each of the workshops.

Please contact Ginny Roedig, Roedig5@msn.com, or (440) 257-3281, if you are planning to attend one of the workshops so that we have enough sheet music for all participants or if you need further information.

#### AUDITIONS FOR THE CORONATION MASS

Ginny Roedig reports that she has learned that Bob Porco will not be able to begin auditions for solo parts of the Coronation Mass until 5:00 p.m. on February 15th, the date that was originally scheduled. Therefore, the solo auditions for the choral festival with Robert Porco will begin at 5:00 p.m. and not at 2:00 as originally scheduled. The date and place remain the same: at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls, 76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls 44022.

Auditions will be held 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, <u>Roedig5@msn.com</u> 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 7<sup>th</sup> so that we can schedule an audition time slot. Remuneration for the solo position will be \$150 for each soloist.

#### AGO CHORAL FESTIVAL Background Notes on the Selections

If you have not yet signed up to attend our choral festival, here is some additional information about the works to give you a better idea of the scope of the music. If your church has good soloists, single movements of the *Mass* as well as the entire *Laudate Dominum* would be very effective during worship. Even without soloists, the *Ave Verum Corpus* is a gem that should be in every church choir repertoire. We hope you will join us in getting to know these works.

Mozart's Mass K. 317 acquired the nickname "Coronation" by the nineteenth century. Rumor had it that it was written as a part of the annual celebration of the Virgin Mary at Maria Plain near Salzburg, but actually it seems it was performed at the coronation of Emperor Leopold II under the direction of Mozart's archfiend, Salieri. As typical for Masses of the Ordinary, the Coronation is divided into five parts: Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus with Benedictus, and Agnus Dei and takes about 25 minutes in its entirety. It is written for a full chorus plus solo quartet. At the Salzburg Cathedral, where Mozart worked at the time, early 1779, the choir and solo quartet were placed at different locations within the church, recalling the polychoral traditions of the late Renaissance

The Mass begins and remains in the key of C-major with the exception of a visit to the key of F-minor during the crucifixion portion of the Credo and an opening in F-major in the soprano solo of the Agnus Dei. It is basically homophonic with occasional short sections of polyphony, particularly during the solo quartets. A short digression into chromaticism is present in the middle section of the Gloria, giving the impression of a development section, and, again, during the crucifixion portion of the Credo, the latter for purposes of expression. This is an amazing little piece and well worth exploring whether you have done major classical works in the past or would like to get to know one under outstanding leadership. The *Laudate Dominum*, K. 339, is a movement out of one of Mozart's two *Vesperae*. These were written about the same time as the *Coronation Mass*, also while he was working in Salzburg. They are based on Psalm texts and conclude with the text of the doxology. This particular movement is actually a soprano aria with chorus entering as a sympathetic echo as the soprano completes her aria. Both join in a stunning amen at the conclusion. This piece runs about 5 minutes and is very effective as a church anthem.

Ave Verum Corpus, K. 618, is one of a group of miscellaneous works for choir. Written in 1791, it is purely choral and homophonic. The work is short, under 5 minutes, homophonic, and has some chromatic development to underscore the emotional nature of the text. This, also, would be a very good anthem, particularly during Lent.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE WELCOMES IDEAS

The Program Committee (Sub-Dean Bob Day, chair) will begin meeting in February to plan the chapter's 2009-2010 program year. Our biggest resource for ideas is the chapter members themselves. What programs would you as a chapter member like to see? To participate in? What educational and professional development opportunities might we explore? What recitalists might you suggest?

These and any other topics of interest you may suggest are welcome. Let us know of any programs you'd like us to pursue for the next year. Sending suggestions by email is most efficient, but phone messages or letters are just as welcome.

Emails may be sent to Bob Day at jickbob@aol.com, or you may contact him by phone at 216-295-2235, or if you prefer a longer, more formal communication, to Bob Day, 3630 Glencairn Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio, 44122.

## ALLELUIA CORNER

"The glory of the organ is heard in its pealing choruses of Diapasons, its variety of tone colors, the immense range of its eleven-octave spectrum of pitch and the profound bass." Stevens Irwin

While re-reading pipe organ data in various books, I've learned some 'quiet' thoughts about resounding organs. If these revelations caught my eye, they may also tickle your brain as you slide onto the organ bench to make merrie musique in the New Year.

As various centuries and organ building fads come and go, the organ instrument you play today was well known several centuries ago. It was ecclesiastical in nature, projected sounds that at that time were new and original, displayed vocal colors and pitches previously unknown to the human ear and could accompany varied voices of all colors and range.

The beauty of such an instrument was that it also could add color and rhythm to inspire the congregational singing as well as accompany a solo, or play a composition on its own. With such versatility in one package, plus having one player, it is a small wonder that such an instrument has stood the test of time, traditions, students, contemporary music, clergy, committees, musicians, electronics and church budgets.

The musical families of today's organs are reeds, strings, flutes and diapasons. Of these, one of the most interesting of the 200+ variety of organ pipes is the humble flute, an instrument with a range of over eleven octaves on the organ, and still the most ancient and beloved of all musical instruments. We have to thank those gifted ancient, inventive Egyptians who played vertical flutes made from animals' bones, a custom starting from 1580 B.C. Today's organs may have several ranks of these humble flutes (now made of wood and metal), all varying in different sounds, range and timbre. Somehow they always seem to work well in whatever space they roam. I feel that flutes are an important element in organs; they never fail whether soloing or accompanying, are never out of place and possess grace and charm especially when played by loving fingers.

Whereas the varied sounds of the flute were well known to the public ear, the new sound provided by the organ was the dynamic chorus of Diapasons also known as 'Principals.' This revealed a varied musical color that was once unknown in the then existing range of instruments. Unlike the familiar oboe or the trumpet, the Chorus of Diapasons was a growing contribution of power and color to organ music. The now familiar sound of diapasons was provided by a well-regulated vibrating air column, adding a newly developed spread of power, range and depth to the organ's sound. This was a new shade of 'color' to the congregation's ear, as it added its wide range of sound. This also revealed a whole new set of musical colors that blended well without being boringly overpowering.

As the organ grew into an instrument of note, there came the addition of another manual added to the mix. The new trick was the gradual 'invention' of the pedal division, first consisting of only a few pedals and eventually 32 keys to be played with only two feet. Pedals were added to pianos, but never became overly popular. Currently the organ is the only existing instrument that adds feet to a third staff, gradually adding support to the upper manuals. With the added use of feet, the organ's richness became deep and wonderfully magnified (and so did our work.).

Yet somehow I feel it's a shame that we don't have rings on our fingers and bells on our toes. Then we too could make verrie merrie music wherever we play.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Gratian M. Nugent

#### **CHAPTER CONCERNS:**

Did you see the article in TAO (PIPINGS) regarding our own Chris Toth? Congratulations Chris!

**OVERHEARD AT SEVERANCE HALL:** At the December 22, 2008, concert of the Burning River Brass Christmas program, including Todd Wilson on organ, there was a projection screen on each side of the stage. Upon entering Severance Hall, the following conversation was heard:

Husband: What are those big boxes on the stage?

Wife: Those are the speakers for the organ.

#### SPECIAL DISCOUNT TO THE ROSE ENSEMBLE CONCERT FEBRUARY 2

Chapel, Court & Countryside is happy to offer a discount to the concert on February 2 by the Rose Ensemble: "Cantigas from the Land of Three Faiths: A Celebration of Ancient Mediterranean Vocal Music." Tickets for choral groups of 8 or more are \$18 (instead of \$27). Email the names of the group to chapel@case.edu, and the tickets can be purchased at the door.

In this program spanning four centuries, the Rose Ensemble presents a diverse collection of Arab-Andalusian dances, Sephardic laments, Spanish *villancicos*, Hebrew chants, and Galician spiritual *cantigas*. It's a fascinating exploration of language, culture, and faith from a time that is not so different from our own.

In addition to their glorious voices, the musicians will also perform on medieval instruments, such as hurdy-gurdy; vielle and rebec (predecessors to the modern violin); riqq, dumbek, frame drum, and other percussion; and 'ud (Arabic precursor of the lute). Among the composers on the program are Juan del Encina and Salamone Rossi, along with music from Sephardic, Turkish, Arab-Andalusian, Spanish, and Italian traditions.

The concert is at 7:30 pm in Harkness Chapel, 11200 Bellflower Road on the Case Western Reserve campus. The performance is followed by an informal Q&A session with the artists, offering the audience a chance to become better acquainted with the artists and repertoire. The ensembles' residency also includes educational programs for students in the Case/CIM Joint Music Program. A free master class is available to the public on February 2 from 4 to 6 p.m., in Harkness Chapel.

Concert tickets are \$27 for the general public; \$23 for seniors (65 and older), members of early music societies, and CWRU Faculty/Staff; free for Case/ CIM/CSA/Oberlin students; \$5 for orchestra, band, and choral students (K-12); \$10 for other students (full-time). Group discounts are also available. Tickets can be purchased through the CWRU Music Department or at the door. Harkness Chapel is wheelchair-accessible.

For more information, call 216.368.2402, email <u>chapel@case.edu</u>, or visit <u>http://</u> <u>music.case.edu/ccc/</u>

#### AGO NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY

The 15th AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy, co-sponsored by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, will be held on March 11-14, 2009. This year's theme, "Teaching Church Music in North America: An Old Vocation in a New Millenium" will wrestle with some of the current and crucial issues facing congregations today.

Keynote speaker Martin Marty will be joined by Quentin Faulkner, Don Saliers, Bishop Robert Rimbo and Marva Dawn. We will hear details of representative church music programs from around the country, and leaders in the field will offer masterclasses in many aspects of church music leadership. The Yale organs will be heard in concert and liturgies.

Please follow the link below to register and take advantage of the discounted "early-bird" registration which ends Jan. 31:

http://www.yale.edu/ism/events/ago\_main.html

We hope to see you in New Haven!

Sincerely yours,

### AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education

Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, DMA, Director David Heller, DMA, AAGO Kimberly Marshall, PhD John E. Mitchener, DMA

Joyce Shupe Kull, FAGO, ChM, DMA AGO Councillor for Education Martin Jean, DMA, Director Yale Institute of Sacred Music 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 <u>wlbyumc@ameritech.net</u> or call (440) 942-9068 for further information.

**ORGANIST:** First Congregational United Church of Christ, 330 2nd St., Elyria, OH 44035. Part-time position. Two Sunday morning services. Work with Chancel and Bell Choir Directors to plan service music as needed. Additional worship services on Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Vigil. First option for weddings and funerals. Three-manual pipe organ. Starting yearly salary: \$10,000. (negotiable). Application deadline is February 15, 2009. Interested persons should send resume and cover letter of introduction to: Rev. Christina Kukuk at church address above, or via email at ckukuk@firstcongelyria.org

**ORGANIST/PIANIST:** Holy Martyrs Church, 3100 S. Weymouth Rd., Medina, OH 44256. Part-time. Accompany three Sunday Masses. Weddings and funerals (on a rotating basis). Work with cantors and instrumentalists. Occasional extra services during the year. Available immediately. Interested persons should contact Janet Payton, Pastoral Associate, at the Church at (330) 722-6633. **<u>REMINDER</u>**: The deadline for submitting articles to the newsletter is **midnight on the 15th** of every month. All articles should be sent to: <u>newsletter@agocleveland.org</u>

**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 worldfamous von Beckerath organ. FREE concerts AT NOON on Wednesdays.

**February 4 & 11:** *Florence Mustric* presents "Philip Glass meets Mission Impossible," a truly rare opportunity to hear "Riff-Raff" by Giles Swayne, and more. (There will be no music by Philip Glass.) **February 18 & 25:** *Robert Myers* performs music by Georg Boehm, Pachelbel, and J.S. Bach.

Friday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m.: Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Ave., Lakewood. *Lullaby Concert for Children.* The concert will feature members of the *Lakewood High School Orchestra* playing lullabies (arranged by *Ms. Beth Hankins*), storyteller *Misty Drotleff*, and singing lullabies with puppets. It will conclude with milk and cookies. Children are invited to wear their pajamas and to bring a blanket to sit on. This is a free event, with a freewill offering. If you would like any further information, contact Marjorie Hildebrandt at 440-331-0890 or the church at 216-521-8727.

Sunday, February 8 at 4:00 p.m.: Mayfield United Methodist Church, 7747 Mayfield Road, Chesterland. (440) 729-4006. *MUSIC OF PRAISE AND CELEBRATION* presented by organist *Carol Neff*, CAGO, including the glorious music of Bach and Buxtehude, and a special visit by *Mother Goose* (*Ruth Brintnall*). Reception following. An offering will be taken to benefit The City Mission. Sunday, February 8 at 3:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Hts. *Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra.* A concert of chamber music in the Memorial Chapel.

#### Saturday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m.:

Sunday, February 15 at 10:30 a.m.: St. Barnabas Anglican Church, 468 Bradley Road, Bay Village, Ohio, 44140. (Corner of Wolf and Bradley Roads). *Grove City College Touring Choir,* Dr. Douglas Browne, Director. Free Concert.

Friday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m.: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, will host Jazz Vespers II, a collection of sacred music arranged for jazz ensemble, featuring Paul Ferguson and the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. Paul Ferguson is lead trombonist and arranger for the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra and the Cleveland Pops Considered one of the finest jazz Orchestra. composer/arrangers of his generation, his music has been performed and recorded internationally. Founded in 1984, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra provides audiences with a rich variety of classical jazz of the '20s and swing era plus contemporary jazz by leading composers. It is the premier jazz ensemble in Northeast Ohio.

Friday, February 20 at 8:00 p.m.: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 North Prospect Street in Downtown Akron. The Trinity Organ Series will present Gustav Holst's *The Planets* as performed by *Peter Sykes* in his own transcription for pipe organ with special visual effects. Dramatic images of the planets and the universe will be projected as Mr. Sykes performs this monumental musical work. Audience members are invited to a pre-concert presentation on *The Planets* at 7:15 p.m. A freewill offering will be received. Lighted parking is conveniently located adjacent to the church. Saturday, February 21 at 3 p.m.: Hiram College Campus, State Route 303 in Hiram. *Tom Trenney*, organist. Silent Film improvisation (film title TBA). Hayden Auditorium (Bates Hall). This *Hiram Community Trust Fund Event* is free and open to the public. Tom will present *Introduction to the Pipe Organ* for 5th graders and home-schoolers during the day, Friday, February 20th.

Sunday, February 22 at 3:00 p.m.: First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti, 300 North Washington Street, Ypsilanti, Michigan. *Aaron Tan,* organist. The concert features the new pipe organ, a three manual, 34 rank instrument built by the *Martin Ott Pipe Organ Company.* 

Sunday, February 22 at 3:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio 44118. (216) 932-7480. *Robert Schneider* and *Betty Meyers* in recital. Music for piano and organ, 2 harpsichords and two pianos.

**February 25 - April 12:** Visit the *John D. Herr* Memorial Chapel to view photographs taken by Plymouth members and staff reflecting on Part 2 of *Handel's Messiah.* During the season of Lent, The *Chancel Choir* will sing several choruses from this work during worship.



## The American Guild of Organists Cleveland Chapter February 2009

QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2008-2009

Dean: Marcia Snavely, (440)338-6606, e-mail: <u>marciasnavely1@aol.com</u> Sub-Dean: Robert Day, (216)295-2235, e-mail: jickbob@aol.com Secretary and Registrar: Leslie Bauer (440)871-5265 Fax: (440)871-4481, e-mail: lgbauer@oh.rr.com Treasurer: David Powers, (440)888-8757, e-mail: dpowers8835@sbcglobal.net Placement: Gerry Mass (440)884-4904, e-mail: <u>gerry@gerardskeyboards.com</u> Newsletter Editor: Linda L. Gardner (440)734-6122 e-mail: newsletter@agocleveland.org

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AGO Cleveland Chapter 138 Southwyck Dr. Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022 440.338.6606

#### Grove City College Touring Choir Dr. Douglas Browne, Director

Saturday, February 14, 2009 7:30 p.m. - Free Concert

> Sunday, February 15 10:30 a.m. Service

St. Barnabas Anglican Church 468 Bradley Road - Bay Village, OH 44140 (corner of Wolf and Bradley Roads)

www.stbarnabasanglicanchurch.com (440) 871–6200

#### FREE ADMISSION

The Grove City College Touring Choir, comprised of 45 select student voices, has performed in Washington, D.C., Florida, Chicago, and Europe under the direction of Dr. Douglas Browne. Their repertoire of exclusively sacred music has thrilled audiences both big and small.

Please join us as we welcome them to Northeast Ohio.