

international
year of the
organ
2008-2009

American
Guild of
Organists



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

March 2009

FROM THE DEAN

Things are humming (literally) for our Mozart concert to be held at the Federated Church in Chagrin Falls on March 22nd under the direction of Robert Porco with organist, Tim Robson. Participating choristers are busy practicing at weekly choir rehearsals, and three special workshops have been held .

Our auditions for the quartet positions were an outstanding success. Over thirty magnificent singers auditioned, and Mr. Porco said he had a great deal of difficulty in making the final decisions. Congratulations to Marian Vogel (soprano), Sandi Ross (alto), Tim Culver (tenor) and Nik Budimir (bass). We will get their bios and send it via one of our Thursday newsletters. But believe me, they are well worth hearing.

Don't forget to sign up with Ginny Roedig. Roedig5@msn.com or 440.257.3281 if you have not already done so, and if you would like to share in the light supper (\$5). Please help us spread the word about the concert and encourage your friends and colleagues to attend. I am really excited about this experience—I don't think we have ever attempted anything quite like this, and it is thrilling to have such a renowned conductor and performers of such high quality.

Other chapter happenings are occurring as we move hopefully toward spring and more desirable weather. Two of these events deal with one of our chapter's most important missions—to encourage organ

students with support and scholarships. Our AGO/Quimby Region Competition for Young Organists (RCYO) competition will take place on Saturday, March 7, at 2:00 p.m., at Fairmount Presbyterian Church with Robert Moncrief hosting. Chapter members are welcome to attend. The winner will go on to compete at the Regional Convention in Detroit in June.

Then we have our own chapter scholarship competition for students of all ages and all levels organized by Carol Neff. An application is included with this newsletter. Please forward it to interested students.

We also will be having our chapter election for officers and executive committee members. Our Nominating Committee consisting of John Seiz, chairman, Dale Hukill, Robert Day, and Charles Carr have provided a slate of nominees. Our Chapter Operating Procedures which describe this election procedure are now available on the website or from our Secretary, Leslie Bauer.

We are delighted to report that several members have "stepped up to the plate" to apply for various vacancies. This is very different from other years, and I feel is a definite sign of a vibrant, active chapter with a lot of potential for the future.

I hope to see all of you on March 22nd. In the meantime, THINK SPRING!

Musical Blessings,
Marcia

AGO CHORAL FESTIVAL

MARCH 22ND

The concert of Mozart Masterpieces conducted by Robert Porco and accompanied by organist, Timothy Robson is at 7:30pm at The Federated Church in Chagrin Falls. You are invited to come for the rehearsal from 2:00-6:00 p.m and the light supper (\$5) at the church but if you plan to do so, you must register with Ginny Roedig, Roedig5@msn.com or 440.257.3281 so that we have enough food. Program notes on The Coronation Mass and Ave Verum that will be performed were in previous Newsletters. We include Laudate Dominum here. A poster is attached to this Newsletter. Please post it and help us get the word out for this marvelous concert.

W.A. Mozart: "Laudate Dominum" from the Vesperae Solennes de Confessore, K.V. 339

At the time of writing his two *Vesperae*, Mozart was in a very difficult relationship with his employer, Hieronymus Graf Colloredo, Archbishop of Salzburg. Not only did Colloredo restrict Mozart in his travels, he also made extensive restrictions on the composition of liturgical music. In spite of everything, Mozart did manage to write two *Vesperae* in the two years before finally leaving Salzburg to seek his fortune in Vienna.

The Vesper is originally the penultimate religious service of the Catholic Church. Originally an independent musical form consisting of five pieces based on specific psalms, Mozart broke with tradition by writing six parts based on the text of the same psalms in the same order.

The *Laudate Dominum* takes its text from Psalm 117. It concludes with the words many of us know as the *Gloria Patri*. Originally written for violins and continuo, the piece can be seen as having two parts. After an extensive introduction, the dominant seventh prepares the way for the soprano entrance in F-Major. The second text verse of the Psalm is highlighted through the use of a secondary dominant leading temporarily to the key of C-major. The movement eventually returns to F-major where it stays to introduce the choir into the second part of the piece using the text of the *Gloria Patri*. Towards the end of the piece, Mozart surprises us with a deceptive cadence into the relative key of D-minor where the soprano soloist reenters singing a melisma over the choral amen. The voices gradually return to the key of F-major and the piece closes with a

perfect authentic cadence.

This work is short and stunning in its simplicity; an outstanding example of Mozart's brilliant gifts.

HOW TO PRACTICE SINGING CHORAL MASTERPIECES

(including the Mozart Coronation Mass)

If you want additional practice singing the Mozart Mass before March 21st and 22nd, go to Cyberbass.com. Click on *Major Works*. Scroll to *Mozart Coronation Mass* and click. The screen will show the movements and vocal parts. Click on the appropriate one (e.g, if you are an alto and are having trouble with the 1st movement, click on Kyrie, Alto Part and you will hear your part played with the accompaniment.) Of course, this experience can't replace actual singing with a chorus, but it is an excellent way to learn or review parts in major works.

Voilà!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Included with this newsletter is the application for scholarships sponsored by our chapter. These scholarships are intended for organ or choral students that study in the greater Cleveland area. Please apply for a scholarship yourself, or pass the application on to someone you know who is studying and could benefit from our support! Thank you!

Carol Neff, Scholarship Committee Chair

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

ALLELUIA CORNER

"Alleluias sereins d'une ame qui desire le ciel"

(We beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we may in mind dwell in Heaven.) from L'Ascension, pour Orgue by Olivier Messiaen

While studying piano and then organ, I was fed the usual musical diet of Bach, Mendelssohn, and ended up working with Bill Tinker, brilliant beyond his years, who threw everything at my fingers and said "learn!" My tears were for naught and so I began. Dick quietly shut his office door and the kids grew fond of the outdoors year around, while I danced into the worlds of Langelais, Durufle, Alain and finally jumped into the bottomless ocean of Messiaen. I then began to wonder if the musical world had truly gone mad, or maybe it's just the French cooking -- (as it is truly out of this world.)

I must admit that in time I grew to treasure the music that inspired those daring, sacred chants blooming fire from centuries old masses. The words left scars of awe, fear and power as well as beauty upon these composers' minds where the hands of God speak a language of hell and heaven with human beings in between. While reading about this miraculous star-studded mass of universes that have no end but fire, one can be swept into the awesome language of the heavens that surround this life. It is through this somewhat modern, marvelous, clashing music beyond our ken, that we have an experience of falling off the world, still having faith that someone will catch us and that we have not, as yet, lost our minds. (As an aside, it's interesting to note that scientists now believe that in the very beginning there was just only ONE atom -- and it bloomed into all this!)

I eagerly looked forward to attending Karel Paukert's recent all-Messiaen organ recital at St. Paul's, a marvelous, inspired, demanding program that is now forever in my mind. It was a chance to hear many of Messiaen's works at one sitting, while admiring Paukert's talent, guts and passion to play such a handful and a footful of music. It was also wonderful to hear the Holtkamp organ so beautifully alive and able to speak the Messianic's language, regardless of delicacy of line or full range of fiery

dynamics and then some. It was all a perfect match of talent, power, genius and sound.

It served to remind me of another concert where I heard Messiaen's music played by his wife and then new music by the composer himself. His wife was a perfectly trained pianist; she played everything correctly, careful to play every note, every phrase and every dynamic; it was clean to the point of being sterile. I listened, wondering why nothing was memorable - just notes tumbling over each other while her beloved was sitting by listening intently to his music.

After many, many pages, followed by the so-so applause, Olivier got up and walked to the piano. I remember his casual style clothes, especially a medium blue shirt sort of carelessly half on - and I wondered how much more of this I could take.

He began to play his music - the blue shirt began to softly sway - his face was full of light as he became attuned to the sound - his hands caressed the keys, his whole body was playing - the music sang, - the air sang - the room sang - my body began to sing colors with his music. It became another world - the stage - the hall were gone - and even after he finished, the music was still there - the air was filled with the sound of colors. It was a powerful experience and still in my mind for one never loses heaven in the soul. I don't remember anything afterwards, yet to this day I still hear his music, more powerful than ever. What an honor to hold that bit of heaven, that bit of an atom exploding into colors of life, of sound, of a quiet power of reality.

I now know that Messiaen's atoms are alive as are yours and mine and certainly Karel's, whose hands are surely part of the cosmos. We too are all in this magic planet of sounds, of colors, of light -- living in a world of music that leaves us breathless with power, while being a part of creation. As musicians we speak the language of music, of becoming future Messiaens, of creating light through music and thereby being the sun for others still in darkness. It is our ministry.

Happy Spring.
Gratian M. Nugent

CHAPTER CONCERNS:

Longtime member Eleanore Robinson fell on the ice and broke her wrist. She is in a cast for a few weeks, and is expected to heal quite nicely. Eleanore is 92 years old and still plays the organ for services twice a week in the chapel at Breckinridge Village. Amazing! If you'd like to send her a card, her address is: 61 Ranch Drive, Willoughby, OH 44094.

PLEASE NOTE: Please send all job postings to: **Gerry Mass**, (440)884-4904, **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: 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 e-mail at ckukuk@firstcongelyria.org

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

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.

March 4: *Hannah Brewer* performs music by J.S. Bach.

March 11: *Dexter Kennedy* performs music by Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, and Brahms.

March 18 & 25: *Robert Myers* presents "Music for the Lenten season," by Bach, Brahms, Held, and Walcha.

Wednesdays: Christ Episcopal Church, 3445 Warrensville Center Rd., Shaker Hts., Ohio 44122, (216) 991-3432. www.cometochristchurch.org

Midday Musical Mosaic Concerts at 12:10 p.m.

March 4: *Nathan Carterette, piano*

March 18: *Glenn Hunter, organ*

Sunday, March 1 at 3:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd. **Creation by Franz Joseph Haydn.** Marking the 200th anniversary of the composers death, the choirs of *Fairmount Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church and Plymouth Church* join forces, with orchestra and soloists, to present this work. Robert Page, guest conductor. General Admission and Preferred Seating available. Tickets will be available at Plymouth after January 15 by calling 216.921.3510 x34. Proceeds will benefit the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Sunday, March 1 at 4:00 p.m.: First Church in Oberlin, UCC, 106 North Main Street (Corner of State Routes 58 and 511). Oberlin, ***Music for Organ and Brass.*** *James David Christie, organ; James DeSano, trombone; Roland Pandolfi, horn; Roy Poper, trumpet; Michael Rosen, percussion; and Philip Highfill, conductor.* Benefit concert to aid the Family Promise of Lorain County/Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Sunday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.: St. Sebastian Church, 476 Mull Ave., Akron, Ohio. 330.836.2233. x111. ***COLORS OF GRACE: LESSONS FOR LENT.*** The concert features music/visual aid to Christ's teachings of service, obedience, humility and forgiveness. The program features the choirs of ***St. Sebastian and Christ United Methodist.*** This is part of the Musical Arts Series for 2008/09 of St. Sebastian.

Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 p.m.: St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 627 McKinley Avenue NW, Canton. ***Alan Morris.***

Sunday, March 15, 3:00 p.m.: Fairlawn Lutheran Church. ***Wittenberg University Choir*** in concert from Springfield, Ohio. Directed by ***Dr. Donald Busarow.***

Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 p.m.: Rocky River Presbyterian Church, 21750 Detroit Road, Rocky River. ***Lance Bryant Jazz Quartet.*** The church offers easy handicap access and abundant free parking. A freewill offering will be taken.

Sunday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m.: Westminster Church, 1250 W. Exchange St., Akron. ***Paragon Brass Quintet.***

Tuesday, March 17 at 12:10 p.m.: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 318 East Liberty Street, Medina. 330.725.4131. The ***Limited Edition,*** barbershop Quartet.

Wednesday, March 18 at 12:10 p.m.: Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Avenue. 216.771.4815. ***Horst Bucholz.*** Organ Music for the Lenten Season.

Friday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.: Cathedral of St John, 1007 Superior Ave, (downtown Cleveland). ***Cleveland Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble, Dr. Victor H. Liva, Director.*** A select group of 20 musicians from the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra founded in 1938, performing works by Schubert, Symphony #5; Boyce, Symphony #8; Bach, Double Oboe & Violin concerto in c. FREE concert; Free secure parking: Cathedral Garage on Rockwell Ave at E 9th. gheislman@dioceseofcleveland.org; 216-771-6666.

Friday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m.: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 North Prospect Street, Akron. ***Johannus Unger,*** organist, from St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, Germany. Parking adjacent to the church. 330.376.5154 or visit trinity.lutheran-church.org online.

Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 p.m.: Westshore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd, Rocky River, 440-333-2255. Words of Albert Schweitzer & Music of J. S. Bach. A multimedia dramatic presentation on the life of Albert Schweitzer and his love of the music of Bach. Tickets \$15. A benefit performance for the medical and educational work in Zambia of Orphan Medical Network, Int'l. Cosponsored by Westshore Unitarian, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Westlake, and St. Peter's Episcopal, Lakewood with performances by David Blazer, Don Jackson, and Ian Tomesch.

Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 p.m.: St. Francis de Sales, 4019 Manchester Road, Akron, OH 44319. The Parishes of ***Summit South Cluster 6, Nativity of the Lord Jesus, Queen of Heaven, St. Francis de Sales and St. Paul*** will hold a combined choir concert including ***Youth Choirs, Contemporary Choirs and Adult Choirs.*** All are welcome. There is no admission, although a donation of a non-perishable food item is encouraged. For further information contact Deacon **Dennis L Smith** at nativitydeacon@neohio.twcbc.com or 330-699-5086.

Sunday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.: The Federated Church, 76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls, OH 440.247.6490 ***Mozart Masterworks for Chorus,*** Robert Porco, conductor; Timothy Robson, organist. The program features a community chorus of more than 100 singing Coronation Mass, Ave Verum Corpus, Laudate Dominum with soloists Marian Vogel, Sandra Ross, Timothy Culver, and Nikola Budimir.

Sunday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd, Shaker Heights. 216.932.7480. ***Heights Chamber Orchestra.*** Music by Weber, Chabrier, and Brahms. ***Anthony Addison,*** conducting.



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

March 2009

QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2008-2009

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American Guild of Organists, Cleveland Chapter

Music Scholarship Application for Organ or Choral Study

The Cleveland Chapter of the AGO is pleased to make available several scholarships up to \$500 each to encourage the study of organ or choral music. Eligible are those who study in the greater Cleveland area. These scholarships are one-time grants and are not renewable. The scholarships are to be used by May 2010 only for continuing education in organ or choral study. This covers music-related school tuition or private music lesson fees. The application must be post-marked by March 31, 2009.

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

Phone (include area code) _____ E-mail _____

How would you use these funds? (Check all that apply)

_____ Music-related School Tuition at (school): _____

Are you currently enrolled in this school? _____yes _____no

Please include a letter of recommendation from one of your school's music faculty. Ask this person to describe your proposed course of study, to provide an evaluation of your work, and to include his/her phone number.

_____ Private Lessons with (teacher): _____

Please provide a letter of recommendation from your teacher. Ask your teacher to describe your proposed course of study, to evaluate your work, and to include his/her phone number.

What would you study with these funds?

_____ Organ Study _____ Choral Music Study

Personal Statement

Please include on a separate sheet of paper why music study is important to you and how this scholarship would help you to meet your specific study goals.

After the application deadline, finalists will be contacted to schedule an audition for the Scholarship Committee. Playing two verses of a hymn and a short solo piece of your choosing will be required. A two or three manual organ or a piano will be available for the audition. Organ students of varying abilities are encouraged to apply, including beginning organ students.

Send this completed application to: **AGO Scholarship Committee, c/o Carol Neff, 3750 Avondale Road, Cleveland, OH 44122.** A decision will be made by May 31, 2009. Applicants will be informed by letter.

I understand the rules for this scholarship application and state that all the information I have provided the committee is truthful to the best of my ability. If awarded a scholarship, a check will be issued to the school or private lesson teacher. I understand that applying for this scholarship in no way guarantees that I will receive any funds.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____