



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

January 2010

FROM THE DEAN

By the time you read this, the holiday frenzy will have dissipated with a new year, 2010 just about to begin. It's a great time to reflect on the events of the past year and look forward to the future.

2009 was a busy year for our AGO Chapter. Some of the highlights included the Mozart Masterpiece Concert with Robert Porco conducting a combined choir of >100 voices; the Steve Egler-Frances Shelly organ-flute duo at our Annual Meeting; Thomas Murray's organ concert at Severance Hall and our Region V convention in Detroit.

Our fall concerts included co-sponsorship of Barbara Dennerlein, jazz organist and the American Choral Group, Gloria Dei Cantores. The year has encompassed a great variety of music and venues and the excitement is not going to stop! We have many things to look forward to in 2010.

First of all in January, we have our workshops on Saturday morning, January 23 at Epworth-Euclid Methodist Church (Eric Charnofsky, host). These workshops on "Global Songs for Worship" and a second one on clergy-musician interaction entitled "Who's in Charge Anyway?" are free and open to the public. It is a fine opportunity to invite your clergy and other musical staff personnel to join us for a morning of learning, discussion and socializing. I hope all of you will attend and bring one or two guests with you. Details are included in this Newsletter.

We are looking forward during the spring of 2010 to co-sponsoring a Bach Marathon with ten different local organists; David Schelat, recitalist; and Donald Sutherland, organist. Plans also include a fund-raising event in April as well as a program shared

with the Akron AGO chapter in Hudson in May. Then our National Conference is in Washington, DC in July. This is well within driving distance, so hopefully, many of our members will be able to attend.

In addition to the events mentioned, our chapter looks forward to a revision of our operating procedures. This arduous but necessary task has been tackled by the able committee of Karen Holtkamp, Bob Day, Jim Riggs, Max Bunker, led by Peg Limkemann. They have stayed "on task" tenaciously for the past several months and will have a revised set of op's ready to be voted on during our Annual Meeting in May.

So "stay tuned" to our chapter activities and meetings. We are grateful for the old year with its many memorable moments and hope for a very successful and gratifying New Year. Please stay healthy, happy and musically active.

Musical Blessings

Marcia

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Monday, January 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church

3445 Warrensville Center Road

Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122

(216) 991-3432

Don Jackson, host.

Next Chapter Meeting:

Saturday, January 23, 2010, at 9 AM - 12 NOON

Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church

1919 E. 107th St.

Cleveland, Ohio 44106

(216) 421-1200

A MORNING OF WORKSHOPS

Eric Charnofsky, host

WORKSHOPS JANUARY 23

AT EPWORTH-EUCLID UMC

In the December newsletter we reminded Chapter members to “mark your calendars” for the January 23, 2010, workshops, seemingly far into the future. Suddenly January 23 is now just a few weeks away.

Our Cleveland Chapter AGO Workshops will be on Saturday morning, January 23, 2010, at Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church in University Circle, with Eric Charnofsky, Director of Music at Epworth, as our host. While the church is probably familiar to most, along with its affectionate moniker of “the Holy Oil Can,” its official address is 1919 E. 107th St., at the corner of E. 107th and Chester Ave., just west (or north, depending on your point of view) of Euclid Ave. There is ample parking either in the church lot itself, or directly across the street in the parking lot adjacent to Judson Manor. And the church is handicapped accessible.

The morning will begin with some gathering and social time with coffee, tea, and breakfast goodies. The first workshop session will be Anne Wilson, Organist and Music Director at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, along with global song specialist Amanda Powell presenting “It Takes A Village: Global Songs For Worship.”

The second session is entitled, “Who’s In Charge, Anyway?” presented by Nicole Keller, Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church Episcopal in Hudson, along with the rector from Christ Church, the Reverend Brian S. Suntken. This session is described as “an open conversation between clergy and musicians about the joys and perils of working together in the parish.

AGO Chapter members who plan on attending are strongly encouraged to invite their respective clergy to join them for this workshop. We hope all will extend this special invitation and hope many of our area clergy will be able and choose to attend.

The morning will conclude with a scholarship winners’ recital. The schedule is as follows:

9:00-9:40 Gathering/Social time

9:45-10:30 Session #1 – “It Takes A Village: Global Songs For Worship”

Anne Wilson, Amanda Powell, presenters

10:40-11:25 Session #2 – “Who’s In Charge, Anyway?”

An open dialogue between clergy and musicians.

Nicole Keller, the Rev. Brian S. Suntken, presenters

11:30-12:00 Scholarship winners’ recital

Lastly, we are asking Chapter members to help contribute pastries, goodies, etc., for the social gathering time at the beginning of the morning. If you are able to bring something please contact Bob Day, Sub-Dean & Program Chair at jickbob@aol.com, or at 216-295-2235.

We hope to see as many of you who are able to attend. And as always, bring a friend, and for this program, the clergyperson with whom you work!

HANDBELL READING

SESSION

Saturday, January 16—9:30 a.m.--3:30 p.m.

A FREE ring through of new sacred handbell issues for winter/Lent/Easter/Spring. Registrants will be the sight-readers for the sessions. Contact Lynn at B&Y Music Co. (440.331.5343) to make a reservation. The event is held at Plymouth Church, UCC 2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights.

FOR SALE

Reed organ ca. 1880, Miller Organ #16204, Lebanon PA; full mirrored top with candle holders; beautiful finish; needlepoint adjustable stool; \$975.

Reed organ ca. 1860, US Organ #8159, Whitney & Raymond, Cleveland; no top; about 4½ ft high; red velvet adjustable stool; \$375.

Player piano ca. 1922, F. Radle #59986, NY; cabinet grand upright; 70+ rolls; tiltable bench needs repair; \$1,850. **Call 440.610.4922.**

ALLELUIA CORNER

“Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be, in working or in waiting, another year with Thee.”

Samuel S. Wesley

While perusing the Friday Cleveland Paper, I read the movies' "Capsule Reviews", of previously released films in the Cleveland area." There are usually 23 reviews of current movies by the PD's film reviewer. To summarize, 23 of the 23 films were viewed lately and all were rated "R" for "bad language" and most other films were rated for violence and torture, rape scenes, sexual references, drug content, nudity, incidental smoking, gore and bad language, plus some horror flicks with brief nudity and scary images. (PD words)

"Coming attraction to see" mentions a film story about a miserable, pregnant high school girl struggling with continuing abuse and neglect. And then there's also a new movie showing two installments of the vampire saga, plus other movies ("must see") "Anti Christ" and "The Men Who Stare at Goats" (no goats, no glory.) rated "R". Having grown up with movies of old (i.e. "Wizard of Oz") I still treasure them in my mind. I do not envy today's youth choice of available movies now showing. I often wonder if our young people truly prefer and support these current tales and their hurtful messages. It may just be a fad, to be followed by a new style of story telling in the coming years. But currently speaking, one can spend a mint to see trash in stunning color.

Speaking of current trends in our 'alleys', the music programs in many of our churches are alive and beautifully serving the flocks in various ways. Now, and during the past several years, some contemporary music groups are filling the churches, their music being preferred by the young, some of the congregations and clergy. When the music in general is in "tiresome, bad taste," and poorly rendered, it tends to take away from the profound message that the church is striving to give. When contemporary and classical music are both well composed and performed, it adds a meaningful experience to the service. I think church musicians are that wonderful, important element that gives on giving mid tribulations, rehearsals, weather, evening "gowns" and reflections.

At one church I was asked by a contemporary music band (guitars, drums, etc.) to direct them for Sunday's service and so we began rehearsing together. However there were missed chords, keys, fermatas, retreats, etc. and when I stopped directing, the group continued playing to the end. They then looked at me and I began to make suggestions of getting missed notes, etc. and the players said "Oh, we don't read the music or the notes. We just follow the tapes. We don't pay attention to the music."

I found out to my amazement that the band had learned all of their many hymns, etc. by following the taped chords, tempos, repeats, etc. As they had the music they copied by ear down pat, I said let's keep on playing what you've learned and so we continued to the end. The tape was the 'director' and all the players followed it carefully. It was an awakening experience for me, and, as far as I know, they're still playing together as one. I do realize that other contemporary bands do read scores and sometimes even mingle with each other. It does happen!

In teaching piano and organ, I found the students are very much the same as I was as a learning student, and one simply adjusts to the current trends. It's just that 'life' and ideas are so much more open, and that the current ideas about 'sin' are really no cause for alarm. We're just an open society today, which at times can be a good thing.

Yet the movie reviewers really tell it like it is, and we gradually adjust to the current trends, knowing, and hoping that it will all change or fade away. Life is forever unstable and we're still experimenting (yes, we do experiment!) and working with old, new and contemporary music and musicians, we continue to grow, glow, endure and make lively music. So, whatever your bent, my your "New" year be full of surprises in your music and peace within your soul.

Happy New Year.

Gratian M. Nugent

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

MUSIC DIRECTOR: First Baptist Church, 835 Trebisky Rd., South Euclid, Ohio 44143. We are seeking a faith-filled person who will help re-build our music program. The Music Director should also have keyboard skills sufficient to accompany congregational singing and to accompany the choir (after the choir has been re-organized). Two Sunday services at 11:00 a.m. and 6 p.m. Choir rehearsal Sunday at 5 p.m. Four weeks paid vacation per year. Salary: \$1,000. per month. For further information, please call Pastor Bruce McLaurin at (216) 401-2179 or Deacon Walter Berman at (440) 476-0705

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST: Lutheran Church of the Covenant, 19000 Libby Rd., Maple Hts., OH 44137. Part-time. Position for someone to provide musical leadership and accompaniment on Sunday mornings and on other seasonal holidays and special services at the church. Familiarity with liturgical worship and choral experience preferred. Salary: \$8-10,000. annually, depending upon experience and background. Please send resume to Rev. Abraham Allende, Pastor, at the church address listed above or via e-mail at covenantlc@sbcglobal.net

ORGANIST/PIANIST: Trinity Christian Church, (meeting in the Solon Community Church Bldg.), 33955 Sherbrook Park Dr., Solon, Ohio, (330) 998-6248. Organist/pianist needed to accompany congregational singing and the choir. Sunday service and weekly choir rehearsal, as well as other occasional events. Salary: \$200. per week. Interested persons should submit a cover letter and resume via e-mail to tcc.smith@yahoo.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: South Euclid-Hillcrest United Methodist, 1534 S. Green Rd., South Euclid, OH 44121, (216) 381-2953. Part-time. Direct traditional choir and oversee music program. Experienced organist preferred. Sunday service at 10:45 a.m. and weekly choir rehearsal. Salary: approximately \$8,000. per year. Interested persons should send resume to Rev. Liz Nau, Pastor, at the church address above or via e-mail to revlznau@sbcglobal.net.

ORGANIST: Chesterland Baptist Church, 12670 Chillicothe Rd., Chesterland, OH 44026, (440) 729-7101. One Sunday morning service and weekly (evening) choir rehearsal. Salary: approximately \$5,000. per year. Interested persons should contact Garland Likins at (440) 564-5813 or via e-mail garland@pile.com or Pastor Joe Woods at the Church office (as listed above) for further information.

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Christ Presbyterian Church, 12419 Chillicothe Rd., Chesterland, OH 44026, (440) 729-1688. Sunday service at 9:30 a.m.; Thursday evening choir rehearsal. Salary: \$7,200. per year. Interested persons should contact the church office (as listed above) 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

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

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 6 & 13: Organist **Florence Mustric** presents "The wind at my back," a program of music by Kerll, Bach, Haydn, Pachelbel, and others. **January 20 & 27:** Organist **Robert Myers** presents "Baroque partitas," a program of music by Georg Boehm and J. S. Bach.

Sunday, January 3 at 3:00 p.m.: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights. Olivier Messiaen's cycle "La Nativité du Seigneur", **Karel Paukert**, organ.

Friday, January 15 at 7:30 p.m.: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights. **Robert Walters** (Cleveland Orchestra, English Horn), **Sandra Simon**, soprano, **Karel Paukert**, organ. Music by J.S.Bach, L.Sowerby, M.Houghton and H.Andriessen. Freewill offering

Sunday, January 17 at 2:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44118. Keyboard Recital by **Robert Schneider** and **Betty Meyers**. A varied program of music for piano and organ, 2 harpsichords and 2 pianos. Each artist will perform solo and in collaboration on the magnificent Skerritt-Cumming organ, Sperrhake and Dowd harpsichords and Steinway grand pianos.

Sunday, January 17 at 3:00 p.m.: The Marian Chapel. Church of the Jesu, 2470 Miramar Blvd., University Heights. **Gesu Music Ministry**. **Julia Russ**, piano. Award-winning pianist and current choral accompanist at Gesu Church, Julia Russ received her Master of Music in Piano Performance from Kent State University. Free will offering.

Sunday, January 17 at 4:00 p.m.: Church of the Covenant, 11250 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. **Martin Luther King Tribute Concert**, featuring **Robert Cantrell**, operatic bass-baritone and **The R. Nathaniel Dett Concert Choir** from the Cleveland School for the Arts, **Dr. William Woods**, director. Free admission.

Friday, January 22 at 7:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, (216) 321-5800. **Cabaret Dinner and Song**. Fairmount Choir section leaders. Tickets required.

DONATION

My recently deceased uncle, who was both electrically and musically talented, built an electric organ with 3 keyboards. He played various electric organs his whole life and played on this one for several years. My cousin is now in search of a new home for this instrument and I told him I would do the research. Could this instrument be donated to you or do you know of a Cleveland area church or chapel that might be interested?

Linda Campbell linda351@commspeed.net



A LETTER TO AGO CLEVELAND

Dear Cleveland AGO,

As a member of the chapter and member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Dover, Ohio, I wanted to share with you a unique and historic organ.

When I was 15, and I am now 37, I began playing the pipe organ on our church's 1881 / 1938 Vottler-Holtkamp pipe organ. It is a RARE and beautiful site in the church! Several hundred metal and wooden pipes from the 1881 Vottler organ were

incorporated into the "new" Holtkamp organ of 1938. The organ as a two, tall and wide cases, one on each side of the front choir nave. The open 16 foot pedal pipes are on each side, in the front, with the Great and pedal in the right loft and the Positiv and Swell on the left.

The organ has the original oak and maple casework, action, and pipework. The only things done to the organ over the last 128 / 71 years were general cleaning, tuning, and in about 2005, the original console was kept, but renovated with new and additional thumb / toe pistons, console cleaning, new electronic parts, and added a programmable Crescendo / Sequencer. Releathering and pipe removal and cleaning was also performed by the Holtkamp Organ Company of Cleveland, Ohio.

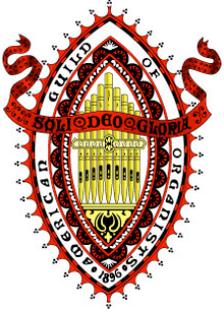
This organ is a remarkable salvation of both eras. Over 128 years, then 71 years since 1938, the original casework and pipework remains intact with no additions or alterations, is fully playable, and a true site to see. While I cannot speak for the church Elders, please feel free to give them a call, or simply call to stop by. This would be an amazing instrument for members to see!

It all began in 1986 for me at the age of 15. On that very organ, before I was 18, I learned to play JS Bach's Toccata in D Minor BWV 565, his 8 short Preludes and Fugues, Prelude and Fugue in C, its variants, and many other wonder organ works. I played in two musical concerts that included the use of the pipe organ, and with keeping as a then member of the Canton chapter in the 1980's and 90's, and now the Cleveland AGO to present date, the memories of playing and learning this fantastic and extremely rare unaltered 1881 / 1938 pipe organ have been a passion for me. The church is also lucky to have had the same organist from the mid 1950's to present. I also have wonderful pictures of this fine instrument, and was even married in St. John's UCC with the organ works of JS Bach playing.

May we always remember the words of JS Bach in this famous quote: "The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul." We, as organists, know that very feeling. It's a remarkable passion and a unique way to connect with God. May God always bless our fine Guild and chapter.

With Best Regards,

Paul R. Jones, LPN (and Organist)
Cleveland AGO member
330-745-6313
www.myhamshack.com/ka8wwk



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

January 2010

QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2009-2010

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