



Weekly Update - Cleveland Chapter

American Guild of Organists

November 21, 2013

From the Dean



Fern Jennings

We've raked the leaves, taken out the air conditioners and put up the storms. We are battening down the hatches for an Ohio winter. I still go to the market for root crops, apples and the greens that they grow in greenhouses now in Cleveland. We keep changing our jackets, unsure what to wear with the weather so changeable. There is still a week to go till the great American feast and a small break before the onslaught of the Christmas rush. I am writing this on Monday before a busy week with the Master Class, Thomas Trotter recital and the Benjamin Britten anniversary concert on Friday. Next week we will take a break from the weekly update so I will take this opportunity to wish you a most happy Thanksgiving. I hope yours is filled with good food and fellowship with family and friends.

I send you this prayer found on the wall of an English pub as my Thanksgiving wish for you.

*Give us, O God, a bit of sun, a bit of work and a bit of fun.
Give us all in the struggle and splutter our daily bread and a bit of*

butter.

O give us health, our keep to make. And a bit to spare for poor folk's sake.

Give us sense, for we're some of us duffers, and a heart to feel for all that suffers.

Give us, too, a bit of a song, a tale and a word to help us along.

Give us our share of sorrow's lessons that we may all prove how grief's a blessing.

Give us, O God, a chance to be our goodly best, brave, wise and free,

Our goodly best for ourselves and others, 'til we all learn to live as sisters and brothers.

-Anon. On the wall of an old inn, Lancaster, England, adapted by Ann MacDonald Diers

With Gratitude,
Fern

NEXT WEEKLY UPDATE

The next Cleveland Chapter Weekly Update will be Thursday, December 5. For those who like to plan ahead, the last Weekly Update for this calendar year will be December 19. The updates will resume again on January 9, 2014. The deadline is Tuesday at 5 PM preceding the Thursday of publication.

UPCOMING CHAPTER PROGRAM

Christmas Choral Concert - Clare College Choir, Cambridge

Saturday, December 14- 7:30 pm

Fairmount Presbyterian Church

2757 Fairmount Blvd. Cleveland Heights



Clare College Choir

The Choir of Clare College, University of Cambridge, UK, has gained an international reputation as one of the leading university choral groups in the world. On tour in the U.S. with their director, Graham Ross, this SATB choir will sing a program of Advent and Christmas choral works.

We have been invited to co-sponsor this event by Fairmount Church. This will likely be the highlight concert of the Christmas season!

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 3, 2014, 7:30 pm, Place TBD

FEATURED CONCERT

NEW ORGAN CONSOLE DEDICATORY RECITAL SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2013 3:00 p.m.

Organist **Robert Day** will present a free recital as part of the dedication of the new organ console in the sanctuary at Church of the Saviour. This also coincides with the celebration of the 85th Anniversary of the beautiful gothic-style sanctuary building. He will be joined by Betty Meyers, piano and Virginia Steiger, flute. A native Clevelander, Mr. Day holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Otterbein College and a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from The Ohio State University. Retired from 30 years of public school teaching in choral music, Mr. Day is in his 28th year as Organist at Church of The Saviour. Mr. Day has also served as musical director for numerous productions in and around the Cleveland area, and he is well-known as a talented accompanist.

After almost three years of planning, and proposals, the new state-of-the-art organ console arrived on September 24. It was designed and built by the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, Connecticut, the same builders of the church's magnificent four-manual pipe organ, in use since the building of the sanctuary 85 years ago in 1928. The new console realizes several years of vision, with digital upgrades and several other state-of-the-art features using current technology, enabling anyone playing it numerous new options, notably hundreds more banks of "memory" in terms of organ registration. The new console is also a beautiful piece of woodwork—dark oak chosen to match the craftsmanship of the lectern and pulpit, and even incorporating the "vine and branches" motif on those same two pieces and elsewhere in the sanctuary.

Before and after the recital, you are invited to visit the church parlor to view a mixed media art show entitled I REMEMBER: Art That Brings Back Memories... There will be a reception following the afternoon's concert.

Church of the Saviour is located at 2537 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

THIS WEEK IN CLASSICAL MUSIC HISTORY

As you probably are aware because of the number of Birthday concerts scheduled, **Benjamin Britten** was born one hundred years ago on November 22, 1913. St. Cecilia Day! I love Britten's "Hymn to St. Cecilia" but never realized that the Saint was his name-day saint. Major influences on

Britten was his teacher, Frank Bridge and W.H. Auden, the poet on whose text the "Hymn to St. Cecilia" was composed. The St. Cecilia work was written during Britten's return voyage to England in 1942 after a sojourn in the United States. In spite of the many awards he received Britten was not arrogant; he stated, "People sometimes seem to think that, with a number of works now lying behind, one must be bursting with confidence. It is not so at all. I haven't achieved the simplicity I should like in my music, and I am enormously aware that I haven't yet come up to the technical standards Bridge set me." Rather than choosing a you-tube clip from the many Britten performances I suggest you why choose your own or better yet, attend the Birthday concert at Trinity Cathedral on Friday. See Concert Calendar below for details. [F.J.]

Here is a recording of The Cambridge Singers, directed by John Rutter, performing Britten's "Hymn to St. Cecilia."



Britten: Hymn to St Cecilia

Concerts and Events of Interest

Remember to send us your concert listings for our Google calendar and weekly updates. Send them to newsletter@agocleveland.org. Some of our concert listings have been gleaned from ClevelandClassical. For a complete list of concerts plus previews, reviews and more from Cleveland's classical music scene click the link www.clevelandclassical.com.

Happy 100th Birthday, Benjamin Britten! Friday, November 22, 7:30 p.m. Benjamin Britten 100th Anniversary, with the Trinity Cathedral Choir, Trinity Chamber Singers, John McElliott, countertenor, JR Fralick, tenor & Trinity Chamber Orchestra, Todd Wilson, conducting. Britten's *Hymn to St. Cecilia*, Canticle II "Abraham and Isaac" & *Rejoice in the Lamb* & J.S. Bach's Cantata, "Lobet Gott in seinen Reichen", BWV 11. Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. Freewill offering.

Karel Paukert, Organ. November 24, 2013, 3:00 p.m. With Sandra Simon, Soprano, and John Rautenburg, flute. Works by: Johann Sebastian Bach, Jehan Alain, Greg D'Alessio, Charles-Marie Widor, Jean Langlais, Eugene Bozza, Norbert Rosseau, John Corigliano. Gesu Church, 2470 Miramar Blvd., University Heights

Messiah - 91st annual performance. November 24, 4:00 pm. Cleveland Messiah Chorus, Virginia Wieland-Mast, director, with Christopher Toth, organ, Janine Porter, soprano, Andrew Lipian,

countertenor, Jason Fuh, bass & Traci Nelson, trumpet. Handel's Grace Lutheran Church, 13001 Cedar Rd., Cleveland Heights. Freewill offering.

John Schwandt, organ. Sunday, November 24, 4:00pm. Dr. John D. Schwandt, University of Oklahoma Works of: Bach (arr. Fox), Manz, Proulx, Rachmaninoff, Reger, Schwandt and Vierne. The console will be visible via video screen. Basilica of Saint John the Baptist 627 McKinley Avenue NW Canton.

Advent Music with music of Hugo Distler. Sunday, December 8, 3:00pm. A service of organ and choral music by Hugo Distler set in a reflective service of Evening Prayer. Violin, flute, oboe, and cello will join First Lutheran's Adult Choir under Director of Music Brian Wentzel. Featured music will include Distler's A Little Advent Music (for combined forces); organ partitas on Savior of the Nations, Come and Wake, Awake!; and Maria Walks amid the Thorn for a cappella choir. Hymns and service music will also be sung by all. First Lutheran Church, 603 Washington Ave, Lorain OH

A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten, Wed, December 11, 12:10pm - 1:10pm. The sopranos and altos of the Trinity Cathedral Choir with harpist Jody Guinn present this holiday favorite. Trinity Cathedral 2230 Euclid Ave Cleveland OH .

Quick Links

[Web Site](#)

[Job Openings/Substitutes](#)

[Join AGO](#)



A Note About Job Postings

Gerry Mass, our Cleveland Chapter Placement Officer collects and updates job openings in the area. Although they are not listed in the weekly updates, there is a link in the "Quick Links" section every week that will take you to the updated list on the chapter website. Questions or need help finding a position? Email: placement@agocleveland.org

About These Updates

Each week on Thursday, we publish this email newsletter to help you stay informed about activities and programs of the Cleveland AGO Chapter. Questions or comments? Please let us know: admin@agocleveland.org. Have a news item for a future issue? Send to: newsletter@agocleveland.org. The deadline each week is Tuesday at 5 PM for Thursday publication.

Contact Us

American Guild of Organists
Cleveland Chapter
21600 Shaker Blvd
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122
216-751-2320

About Us

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.

