



American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

January 2007

FROM THE DEAN

WHEN IS IT GOING TO BE OVER?

The above was a recurring theme from our younger son. The chorus was played again and again, ad infinitum. It didn't matter the venue, or the hour, or the cast, or the place - the overriding theme was the same. (See title above.) Answers were furnished in a variety of phrases: "Pretty soon", "Any moment now", escalating up to "SSSSHHHHH!"

I would hope that the members of this Chapter will ascribe to the answer: "Never!" Our current year is only half over and there are more wonderful experiences to come. Let's try something new. Yes, something new! Not the old tried and true and recycled stuff. Thanks to Don Jackson, we're going to host a Colleague's Class. (Not the exam but the interpersonal relationship.) Don suggested this from a previous chapter to which he had belonged. About six organists (consider yourself asked) volunteer to play a piece from whatever part of the musical spectrum you are most comfortable on Sat., Jan. 27th. The presenter will discuss and demonstrate any problems they had overcome with the piece or perhaps how it could be played on various instruments.

Carmen Massaro and Diane Cieslak are assisting in this endeavor and would welcome your presence or your musical contribution. Diane's church has a wonderful 3- manual, 48 rank Casavant - doesn't that sound tempting? After the class with your friends (and colleagues), those interested will be able to lunch at a neighborhood restaurant. Please come and bring a friend.

If you'd like to participate in a larger venue, you must put our Choral Festival on your calendar for Sun. Feb. 11 at 7:00pm at First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland. Dr.

Robert Schneider will host and Sub-Dean Marcia Snaveley is coordinating this effort. PLEASE NOTE: The second piece for the mass choir has been changed! It is "Gloria" by Joseph Haydn from Heiligmesse, ed. Bennett Williams, Plymouth FS-104, in the key of G. The other mass choir piece is still Healey Willan's "Thou Hast Searched Me Out and Known Me". You may bring your choir and perform or, if only a partial choir is available, please come and they can sing in the mass choir if they know the music. Our conductor will be Dr. C.M. Shearer from Kent State Univ., Chorus Master of the Canton Symphony and Opera Cleveland. The sanctuary is large - bring a group of friends. (A free-will offering will be taken.)

So, our answer to the title question initially listed above is: NEVER! It will never be over for us. There will always be an encore, always a bow and always a new challenge to face in the years to come.

Grace and peace,

Michon (Missy) Koch

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Monday, January 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.
Old Stone Church
91 Public Square
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
(216)-241-6145

Next Chapter Meeting:

Saturday, January 27, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.
Olmsted Community Church
7853 Main Street
Olmsted Falls, Ohio
(440)-235-3326

January Chapter Program

A Colleague's Class

That's colleague as in the relationship, not the AGO exam.

Saturday, January 27 is shaping up to be a fun and helpful day for Cleveland area organists. Presenters to date are Chris Toth, Ginny Mitchell, David Blaser, Jeannette Ostrander, and Don Jackson. A full repertoire list will be posted on the website in January. As of the newsletter deadline, we know that one presenter will be presenting two contemporary (praise) hymns on the organ, another will focus on organ music for those who are primarily pianists, and another will feature several Gerald Near Chorale Preludes.

Plan to join your AGO colleagues on Saturday, January 27 at Olmsted Community Church from 10 a.m. to Noon, 7853 Main Street, Olmsted Falls.

From I-480 in North Olmsted, take Great Northern Blvd (Rt 252) south about 3 miles to Main St. and turn left.

Those interested will also go to lunch at a nearby restaurant after the class.

There is time for one or two more presenters. If you would like to volunteer, contact either Carmen Massaro (440-835-2823 or cgmassar@aol.com) or Don Jackson (440-356-7138 or donclef@aol.com). See you in Olmsted Falls.

SAVE OUR APRIL MEETING DATE

Saturday, April 21st, 9a.m.-1p.m.: Friends of the pipe organ, come with us on an organ crawl! We will be visiting three churches in the near west side area to learn about their pipe organs, hear them being played and, as far as possible, even crawl about among the pipes. The churches are: St. Stephen's, Trinity Lutheran, and Pilgrim Congregational. Afterwards we'll be going to a nearby restaurant for lunch. Further details will be in forthcoming newsletters. If you have questions, please contact: Ginny Roedig, e-mail: Roedig5@msn.com, tel: 440-257-3281, home, or 440-333-4888, work (Rocky River Presbyterian Church).

CHAPTER CONCERNS:

Please send your prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery to Hildred Tornberg. Hildred has recently returned home from a week in the intensive care unit with internal bleeding.

UPDATE ON AGO CHORAL FESTIVAL!

Definitely mark your calendars to attend the AGO CHORAL FESTIVAL on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 7:00pm at the First Baptist Church on Fairmount Blvd. Bring your choir members and friends. Hosted by Dr. Robert Schneider, this promises to be a memorable event. Five excellent choirs from the area will be performing two anthems each. They include:

First Baptist Church: Dr. Robert Schneider, Director
Forest Hill Presbyterian Church: Anne Wilson,
Director

Church of the Savior: Judith Higbee, Director
Heights Christian Church: Dale Hukill, Director
The Federated Church Ensemble: Jodie Ricci,
Director

In addition, there will be Prelude and Postlude by Dr. Robert Schneider on the Skerritt-Cumming organ and a jazz number by soloist Beth Rutkowski and jazz saxophonist, Rich Shanklin.

The Grand Finale of the program will be the Mass Choir of well over 100 voices singing "Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me Out and Known Me" (Healey Willan) and "Gloria" from Heiligmesse (Haydn) under the direction of Dr. C.M. Shearer. Dr. Shearer is Director of Choral Activities at Kent State University and Chorus Master of the Canton Symphony Orchestra and Opera Cleveland.

Churches in addition to the ones listed above that have signed up to participate in the Mass Choir include (as of Dec. 15) Lakewood Presbyterian, Pearl Road United Methodist, Euclid Avenue Christian, Avon United Church of Christ, Holy Trinity Lutheran (Akron), and Mayfield Methodist.

This is the last call to sing in the Mass Choir. If you do not see your church listed above and you would like to sing in the Mass Choir, you must get copies and LEARN THE ANTHEMS BEFOREHAND. You must plan to attend the 5:00-6:00 pm rehearsal on the Sunday of the concert. A light dinner will be provided between 6:00-7:00 pm for the cost of \$5. We need to know that you are planning to do this, so if you have not previously done so, please email marciasnavely1@aol.com or call (440) 338-6606.

Please SPREAD THE WORD, and COME and ENJOY!

ALLELUIA CORNER

“Amen” - a Hebrew word from the root ‘mn’ which means “to be Trustworthy.” (Groves)

Who would have thought that when we sang “Amen” at the end of our hymns, we were actually singing “to be trustworthy.”?! In most of the current hymnals, the final “Amen” has been eliminated, and some of the contemporary songs used in our various services simply repeat (over and over) the final phrase instead. As an organist, I always rather liked the use of Amen as I found it interesting to play around the cadence making the ending more fitting for reflection or sheer joy on the verses we just sang.

Some singers and parishioners tell me they still miss the hymn Amens, once a historical liturgical acclamation in response to or a “seal” upon a Doxology or prayer. In the Bible, ‘Amen’ is mentioned 78 times, i.e. as when Christ’s assertions are introduced with the word “Amen.”

In the early Christian church, “Amen” was an acclamation chanted unceasingly in the heavenly liturgy, a symbol of Christ as the sure rectifier of God’s word. It was also used at the end of the Gloria as well as of the Credo in the Mass. Interestingly the word “Amen” has usually been left untranslated into other languages; it has become a universal word used as an act of faith.

During the Reformation, Martin Luther added Amens to other liturgical chants. In the polyphonic Masses of the 17th and 18th centuries, the dynamic character of the Amen led to the writing of extensive finales in fugal style. So important was ‘Amen’ in religious rites, that over the centuries, composers developed the Amen Chorus where the word is repeated over and over again. This practice, begun in the 1600’s with Bertali, continues through the music of Mozart, Bach, Handel, Beethoven, (in Parsifal), Bruckner, Mendelssohn and even in various contemporary anthems. In Cherubini’s D minor Mass, at the end of Credo, the soprano section alone repeats the word 107 times.

In Europe the settings of ‘Amen’, IV-V ending, also called the ‘Amen Cadence’, was appended to various 19th century Hymnals. It was always a reminder that the scripture or words expressed were ‘Trustworthy’ – a word meaning honest, faithful, upright and dependable. It is a statement of power, a word much needed in this period of chaos, crime and deception. Maybe it’s time to bring it back into our current musical vocabulary.

Amen. -- Gratian M. Nugent

SUGGESTIONS NEEDED FOR AGO

2007-2008 PROGRAM!

Even though 2006 has barely ended, it is time to think about AGO programs for Sept-June 2007-2008. There will be a planning committee meeting in Jan or Feb to discuss potential programs. If you are interested in being a part of this planning committee, or next year’s Program Committee, or if you are planning a concert which you would like AGO to co-sponsor, please email Marcia Snavely at marciasnavely1@aol.com. The number and types of meetings will depend largely on your responses. This is YOUR organization, and we welcome your suggestions and participation.

Marcia Snavely
Program Chair

Recruiting:

At the moment I am recruiting students for our Master of Sacred Music program at the University of Notre Dame.□This program is in its second year, and it is a wonderful program that has already attracted nine really fine students.□We are extremely excited about what is going on here. The degree combines music (two organ recitals, organ literature, music history) and liturgy courses.□Here are details of the program on the website:□<http://www.nd.edu/~msm/>

The assistantships pay full tuition for two years plus a stipend of \$10,000 per year for two years.□If you know of any prospective undergraduate students or others who are not currently enrolled in a graduate program, I would appreciate hearing from you.□If you have any names to suggest, I am happy to contact them.

Typically a student on an assistantship works in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on campus.□The Sunday morning mass has been broadcast across the country every Sunday on the Hallmark Channel for the last five years; the average viewership was around 1.5 million per week.□This broadcast will change soon to another network.□There is so much musical work to be done there that it is a great hands-on learning experience.□

Our new Fritts organ and organ hall are stunning.□We have an eclectic-style tracker organ in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart that is also used for teaching, practice, and performance.□You can see the Fritts at <http://www.nd.edu/~music/omalley.html>.

Many thanks for your help, and all the best,

Craig Cramer, DMA; Professor of Organ, University of Notre Dame; Notre Dame, Indiana, 574-631-7836
<http://www.nd.edu/~music/faculty/cramer.html>

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

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 28455 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, OH 44145, 440-899-0928. Adult Chancel Choir Director (September through June). One Sunday service at 11 a.m.; Thursday evening rehearsal from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Christmas Eve and Holy Week services. Monthly staff meeting on first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Salary is \$5,000. per year. Interested persons should contact Ron Kear at (440) 899-0928.

ORGANIST: Wickliffe Presbyterian Church, Wickliffe, Ohio. Sunday service at 10 a.m. and rehearsals (maximum ten hours per week total). Salary (approximate): \$10,000. per year. Interested persons should contact the Church at (440) 585-8412 or Kelly Zajac at (216) 233-1975.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR: St. Paul United Church of Christ, 7507 York Rd., Parma, OH 44129. Sunday service at 10 a.m. In addition to playing the organ, this person will direct the vocal and handbell choirs. Galanti Organ. Salary negotiable beginning at \$8,500. per year minimum. Interested persons should call the church office at (440) 843-8039 to request an interview and/or for more information regarding this position.

FOR SALE:

Crossroads Community Church at 6685 Middle Ridge Road in Madison, OH (440-428-1435) has a pipe organ for sale. It is a 1959 Wicks 4 rank console with 3 ranks of pipes. We have not set a price on it.

3.5-rank 1942 Wicks unit pipe organ (diapason, flute, strings). 2 manuals, full 32-note pedal board. Zimbelstern available. Asking \$6500. Purchaser to remove. Contact Barbara Shearer: (330)-688-6810; e-mail: bjshearer@sbcglobal.net.

Lester 6 ft. grand piano, completely refurbished four years ago. If interested, please call Mrs. Jean Skinner at (419)-468-6930. Mrs. Skinner would also consider donating the piano to a church or school.

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 3 and 10: Florence Mustric: Florence Mustric will perform “Great expectations.” A different program each week, featuring music by J.S. Bach, Cesar Franck, and Jehan Alain.

January 17 & 24: Robert Myers will perform “Mendelssohn and Brahms.” One of the Mendelssohn sonatas and selected preludes from the last works by Brahms.

January 31: Linda Gardner will perform “Clerambault and Bach,” featuring a suite by L.N. Clerambault and music by J.S. Bach.

Sunday, January 7 at 3:45 p.m.: St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118. **Karel Paukert, organ.** Messiaen’s *La Nativité du Seigneur* (1935). Free will offering. (216)-932-5815.

Friday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m.: Cathedral of St John, East 9th St & Superior Ave, (downtown Cleveland). **Nathaniel Dett Chorale** (Montréal Québec Canada) **Brainerd Blyden-Taylor**, founder/director. *A Drum Major for Peace:* A celebration of the life of Reverend Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Works by: Barnwell, Brown, Dett, Demuynck, Dilworth, Hailstork, Hatfield, Henderson, Hogan. Canada's first professional choral group devoted to the performance of Afrocentric music of all styles, dedicated to sharing the vision of Nathaniel Dett. **FREE** concert; Free secure parking in Cathedral Garage on Rockwell Ave.

Friday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 44118-4098. **Cabaret Returns to Fairmount.** The **Fairmount Choir** section leaders present a program of Broadway and operatic hits, accompanied by a gourmet dinner. Advance tickets required.

Sunday, January 21 at 4:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Hts., Ohio 44118. Words of Schweitzer and Music of Bach. Organists: **Robert Day, Dale Hukill, Betty Meyers, Robert Schneider, and Leslie Smith.**

Sunday, January 28 at 3:00 p.m.: **The Hilliard Ensemble** will appear on the Case Music Department's concert series "Chapel, Court & Countryside: Early Music at Harkness" on Sunday, January 28, 2007, at 3 pm. Their concert features English and Italian madrigals and songs from the late 15th and 16th centuries. They've been called "the Rolls-Royce of vocal ensembles." So bring a group of 10 or more and enjoy a sizable discount (\$20). Regular tickets are \$27; seniors \$23; Case/CIM/CSA students free; other students \$10. For more information: <http://music.case.edu/ccc/>; 216-368-2402; chapel@case.edu

Sunday, January 28 at 4:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 44118-4098. Russian-born pianist, **Halida Dinova**, performs Schubert, Liszt, and Chopin.

MANY VOICES, ONE SONG

March 2 - 4, 2007: A **Weekend Workshop** for conductors, organists, singers, ringers, church musicians of all ages.

Early-bird registration fee (includes Saturday meals): \$50/adult; \$10/child, youth. (Due by January 22, 2007).

For more information on this event, please contact Tom Trenney, Artistic Director, at (248)-644-2040, ext.136, or tomtrenney@fpcbirmingham.org

At First Presbyterian Church and First Methodist Church, Birmingham, Michigan

Presenters:

Joseph Flummerfelt, Adult Choir
David Higgs, Organ
Anne Wilson, Youth Choir, Organ
Carment Pelton, Voice
Alice Parker, Congregational singing
Lynnel Joy Jenkins, Children's Choir
Kevin McChesney, Handbells
Bradley Sowash, Church Jazz
Jonah Weisskopf, Alexander Technique

Definitions:

- * **string quartet:** a good violinist, a bad violinist, an ex-violinist, and someone who hates violinists, all getting together to complain about composers.
- * **detaché:** an indication that the trombones are to play with their slides removed.
- * **glissando:** a technique adopted by string players for difficult runs.
- * **risoluto:** indicates to orchestras that they are to stubbornly maintain the correct tempo no matter what the conductor tries to do.
- * **senza sordino:** a term used to remind the player that he forgot to put his mute on a few measures back.
- * **crescendo:** a reminder to the performer that he has been playing too loudly.
- * **conductor:** a musician who is adept at following many people at the same time.
- * **clef:** something to jump from before the viola solo.
- * **transposition:** the act of moving the relative pitch of a piece of music that is too low for the basses to a point where it is too high for the sopranos.
- * **vibrato:** used by singers to hide the fact that they are on the wrong pitch.
- * **half step:** the pace used by a cellist when carrying his instrument.
- * **coloratura soprano:** a singer who has great trouble finding the proper note, but who has a wild time hunting for it.
- * **bar line:** a gathering of people, usually among which may be found a musician or two.
- * **beat:** what music students do to each other with their instruments. The down beat is performed on top of the head, while the up beat is struck under the chin.
- * **cadence:** when everybody hopes you're going to stop, but you don't.
- * **diatonic:** low-calorie Schweppes.
- * **opera:** when a guy gets stabbed in the back and instead of bleeding, he sings.

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Other chapters have clever names for their newsletters; i.e. Rohry (I think the LA Chapter).

In the past, one of our columns was called "chiff and chatter."

Here is your opportunity to rectify this situation. While sitting on the bench, listening to yet another long, boring sermon, you could be thinking of some names. Send in your ideas to newsletter@agocleveland.org.

The Prize: **WHO KNOWS?** Perhaps someone could send in ideas for that, too.

Deadline: Easter



American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

January 2007

QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2006-2007

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