



American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

February 2007

FROM THE DEAN

JOY!!!

You must permit me another personal detour on our road to musical excellence. As some of you know, I've been retired for several years now but am still substituting. However, I find myself working more than ever and virtually flitting around from church to church. I am particularly grateful to those of you who have invited me to play in your stead. One of these people, is our former Dean, Carol Neff. I love playing on her blended Rodgers organ but that's another story. Her church members and clergy are warm and friendly just as she is.

Well, I had been invited to play at her church the Sunday after Christmas (everyone knows that this is historically the musician's week off). I was glad to oblige after some family obligations were changed. I programmed my music choices and was ready.

That Sunday morning, at 5 a.m., our younger son phoned us to say that he and his wife were the new parents of a son, Alexander Cyrus Koch, who was born at 4:09 a.m. He had been eagerly awaited and the Dr. had expected his appearance BEFORE Christmas. My husband, Fred, and I were so elated that we could not return to sleep so we stayed up and I eventually made my way to Carol's church for the 8am service.

There I was greeted with my music choices listed in the bulletin.

My postlude was "Overture: Unto Us a Child is Born - J.S. Bach"!

Grace, Peace and Blessings,
Michon (Missy) Koch

P.S. I'll be looking forward to seeing you at the Colleague Class on Sat., Jan. 27th and at our Feb. 11th Choral Festival. Listings are elsewhere in this newsletter. Be aware, I come armed with baby pictures.

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
3740 Mayfield Rd (at Crest)
Cleveland Hts. 44121
(216)382-4545

AGO CHORAL FESTIVAL

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007 at the First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Blvd. The AGO Choral Festival, which has been in the planning stages for the past several months, is almost here! Hopefully all of you are planning to attend, either in a listening or participating role. An announcement with all the details, suitable for posting, is included elsewhere in the Newsletter. Help spread the word and encourage your friends, family, and the public to attend this remarkable event!

We trust that those of you who are participating in the Mass Choir have received your music and have learned it, as Dr. Shearer expects. The Mass Choir will sing "Lord, Thou Hast Searched me out and Known Me" (Healey Willan) and "Gloria" from Heiligmesse (Haydn). Bring your copies of the anthems. If you would like, the Guild has a few extra copies of the anthems which you can purchase. Email or call the number listed at the end of the article for details. Choir Robes are not necessary but can be worn if desired.

The schedule for the Mass Choir is as follows:

- 4:45 p.m.:** Warm up and rehearsal in the sanctuary with Dr. C.M. Shearer
- 6:00 p.m.:** Light supper (Cost of \$5.00 per person) at the church
- 7:00 p.m.:** Concert

The choirs which are participating and the approximate numbers are listed below (as of Jan 15):

Churches Performing Anthems:

Forest Hill Presbyterian (40); First Baptist Church (26); Heights Christian Church (16); Church of the Saviour (25); The Federated Church Ensemble (27)

Additional Churches Performing in the Mass Choir:

Pearl Road United Methodist (6); Euclid Avenue Christian (15); Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Akron) (3); Mayfield Methodist (6); Avon Lake United Church of Christ (18); St. Mark Lutheran (Chesterland) (10); St. Paul's Episcopal (Medina) (4)

Please notify me immediately of changes or additions so we can have the correct information for the program and an accurate count for the light supper. (Email marciasnavely1@aol.com or call (440) 338-6606. SEE YOU ON FEB. 11TH!

ALLELUIA CORNER

“Church organists perform more repertoire in one year than many concert orchestra musicians and pianists. Some church organists and recitalists perform over 150 selections during that job period.”

-- Roberta Bitgood, composer, former President of the National AGO

As the above quote states, that's an awesome work load. It takes a tremendous amount of time for a church musician to prepare just the notes for playing hymns, anthems and music coming and going. But there is another twist in this repertoire business which surprised me to learn and to be aware of as I grew “up” organistically; and I am still growing.

Having started piano lessons at the ripe old age of fifteen, I immediately had a church job (piano) and became acquainted with hymns and such. However, when entering college and professional music lessons, there was more to this music making ‘career’ than I imagined. The most vital musical tool was my exposure to the varied articulation and styles that one uses in playing the musical language of the composer. This involves the century, the country, the spoken dialect and the styles of ornamentation of that time. For example French Classical Couperin vs American Jazz George Shearing vs. English Romantic Felix Mendelssohn or German Baroque J. S. Bach, etc. are each diverse in style, performance, fingering and registration. Each one would be performed according to the style of sounds, ornamentation and dialect used at that occasion. My labored learning came from knowledgeable teachers, studying and experimenting with ‘style,’ attending recitals and master classes, and listening to various organ performers and repertoire at college library record collections. (Oberlin College is outstanding in this regard.)

Today we have a generation of technically endowed musicians playing on contemporary multifaceted instruments, performing various periods of music with technique to spare. Some are marvelous in this manner of style. Yet still others often speak “American” in their music, usually in the style of vast, dry prairies, big and loud (eight cylinders and counting), and show what the player along with the rodeo styled “contemporary instrument “can really do. Lately I attended an organ recital in Cleveland and the whole varied program was played in the same style, speed, color and dynamics from beginning to end. The audience was thrilled and loud in its praise. It was a wonderful show of unbridled talents, but I departed sadly, my musical thirst gauges reading empty.

There is something amiss when a performer plays various periods of music and it all sounds the same. I confess that playing in ‘style’ to be the most

demanding and exciting requirements of my organ/piano studies and degrees. I found that it also helped to “practice” improvisation in various styles of musical repertoire, so that if I'm really lost, I just keep going through 2-5 measures of (my) brain material and by some miracle come out right on target. Once, after such an ordeal, someone said - “Wow – that was an interesting interpretation of that work.” I blushed and nodded but did not answer as I did not want to disillusion such a kind soul. To continue to make music in the same style of the composer is awesome indeed; one should make it a habit.

In reading organ reviews in the TAO or “The Tracker” or in other sources, it is typical that such recognition of ‘style’ is mentioned, along with comments about technique and the instruments used. If we as musicians want to continue to attract people to our church services and recitals, the varied styles of humanity over centuries of music repertoire is a powerful magnet. Somehow, it brings humankind's history to light, and we all become one, a much needed element in today's world.

Valete!

---- Gratian M. Nugent

PROGRAM COMMITTEE ALERT!

We need help planning the AGO programs for Sept-June 2007-2008. There will be a planning committee meeting in the next month 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 Snavelly 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 Snavelly
Program Chair

AGO DISCOVERS COLUMBUS

The brochure featuring the complete schedule for the Region V Convention in Columbus, Ohio appears on pages 66 and 67 of the January TAO. You will have to register online or request hard copy registration materials from Sally Beske, 119 Keethler Drive North, Westerville, Ohio 43081.

CHURCH MUSIC EXPLOSION REVIEW

I have just had my batteries recharged in a magnificent way! I attended the Church Music Explosion in Ft. Lauderdale at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church from Jan 2-7. I must admit it was not too difficult to take the sunshine and 80-degree weather, especially after the hectic holiday season. Classes, concerts, master sessions, worship services, and social activities filled the days from morning to evening. Most of the time I was torn between choices of what to attend!

Dr. Paul Leddington Wright from Coventry Cathedral and BBC was the "Christmas to Easter" Gala Concert Director (which included Vivaldi's Gloria). Joyce Jones (Baylor University) and Samuel Metzger (Coral Ridge Church) gave organ concerts and held sessions to discuss repertoire and pedagogy. Ken Berg and K. Lee Scott taught vocal techniques and arranging. Christine Anderson was the handbell expert and gave unbelievable solo handbell performances-- a beautiful, graceful octopus with bells.

But one of my favorites was Joseph Martin, pianist, composer and arranger and senior editor for Shawnee Press. Not only was he very humorous and down-to-earth, but his candid talks about the music industry were enlightening. He composes about 70 anthems and 2 cantatas every year, in addition to editing for Shawnee and being a clinician at numerous workshops. Such energy, such drive, such creativity!

The clinicians were most generous in sharing their ideas for resources for enhancing the musical experience. I will bring copies of their lists to our Colleague Class on Jan 27.

I hope all of you will take the opportunity in 2007 to attend a conference, workshop or special concert to "recharge your batteries." And please share your experiences with all of us at meetings or through the AGO Newsletter.

Marcia Snavelly

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

The contest continues. We have had two entries thus far. You still have time to enter the contest. 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 Sunday.

JUILLIARD HONORS PAUL JACOBS

The Juilliard School has honored its organ department chairman PAUL JACOBS by appointment to the William Schuman Scholars Chair for 2007. The award, named for a former president of The Juilliard School, is given annually to an artist and educator who has made significant contributions to both the intellectual and artistic life of the Juilliard community.

Past recipients include the Juilliard String Quartet and composer Milton Babbitt among a distinguished list of other faculty members.

The recipients of the award present lecture-performances during the academic year which are open to the general public.

Paul Jacobs will offer three such public forums. The first will be a presentation "Blowing Hot Air for 2,600 Years" to be given at Juilliard at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 2007.

Next will be a panel discussion entitled "A Broader View of the King of Instruments" at The Juilliard School on Tuesday April 10, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. Paul Jacobs will moderate a panel consisting of Samuel Adler (composer), Barbara Jepson (classical music critic for The Wall Street Journal), Greg Sandow (critic, composer, consultant), and Craig Whitney (author and assistant managing editor of The New York times).

The final public event of the award year will be a performance of Olivier Messiaen's "Livre du Saint Sacrement" by Paul Jacobs at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Times Square, on Tuesday October 9, 2007, at 8:00 p.m.

CHAPTER CONCERNS:

Prayers for a speedy recovery go out to Evelyn Muranko, who was hospitalized for a staph infection. Evelyn is now recovering at home.

We are grateful that Hildred Tornberg has recovered nicely.

We continue to pray for Cyril Chinn.

Condolences to the family of John Schantz, of the Schantz Organ Factory, who passed away in January 2007.

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/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.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/WORSHIP: Ridgewood United Methodist Church, 6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129, (440) 885-1360. Coordinate and supervise the music program. Direct the Chancel Choir. □ Thursday evening choir rehearsal. □ Sunday morning performance(s) plus seasonal services. □ Schedule Logos Choirs, Handbell Choir, and "Beyond" and other groups/soloists for services. □ Paid vacation days. □ Salary: \$11-13,000. annually.

ORGANIST: Thursday evening rehearsal and two Sunday morning services plus seasonal services. □ Weddings and funerals extra. Schantz Organ. □ Occasional use of piano and keyboard. □ Paid vacation days. □ Reports to Director of Music/Worship. □ Salary: \$10-12,000. annually. Persons interested in either position should send resume and references to the attention of Staff-Relations Committee at the Church address above or contact Gloria Homolak at 440-885-4983.

FOR SALE:

Roland □ AT80r, Music Atelier

It is in excellent condition with minimum usage. We would like sell the organ for approximately \$7,000, but will entertain other offers.

Please contact Pat Anderson at (440-582-2772) to make an appointment to see this excellent organ.

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.

February 7: Florence Mustric: “Philip Glass meets Mission Impossible”

February 14: Graham Schultz: “Modal Masterpieces

February 21 and 28: Robert Myers: “Forty Days and Forty Nights”

Friday, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m.: Forest Hill Church 3031 Monticello Blvd. at Lee, Cleveland Hts. Anne Wilson, director of music at Forest Hill Church and Cleveland Museum of Art docent-in-training, presents the second program in the new *Art and Music Nights* series. □ This broad overview of western art through the ages will feature beautiful slides, sumptuous live music (Forest Hill Chamber Choir and Anne on the keyboard), and insightful commentary. Free admission.

Saturday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m.: Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio. (216)-321-8880. **Joe Drew, Trumpet.** Avant-garde music inspired by the chants of medieval mystic Hildegard von Bingen.

Sunday, February 4 at 3:30 p.m.: Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio.

Baldwin-Wallace College Alumni Brass Collective. Jim Wonnacott, Peter Hoekje, Nicole Scafidi, trumpets; Linda Gardner, horn; David Betts, trombone; and Randy Border, tuba. Music by Hassler, Holst, Purcell, Henderson, Gershwin, Rossini, Fillmore. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

February 11 at 3:00 p.m.: Hiram College Campus, Hayden Auditorium, State Route 700, Hiram, OH **Tom Trenney**, Silent Film Improvisation: Buster Keaton, THE GENERAL,

Sunday, February 11, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.: Rocky River Presbyterian Church, 21750 Detroit Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116. (400)-333-4888. **“Te Deum” by Marc-Antoine Charpentier** performed by the combined choirs of St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown and Rocky River Presbyterian Church. Free-will offering. Free parking.

Sunday, February 11th at 4:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118-4098. (216)-321-5800. **A. Grace Lee Mims, soprano:** “Black Song: The Beauty and Meaning of the Negro Spiritual.”

Friday, February 16th at 8:00 p.m.: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 North Prospect Street, Akron, The Trinity Organ Series and the Akron Chapter, American Guild of Organists, will present organist **Diane Meredith Belcher** at on Friday, February 16 at 8:00 p.m. Her program will include works by Bach, Dupré and Liszt. An offering will be received.

Sunday, February 18th at 2:00 p.m.: Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church, 1919 East 107th Street and Chester, University Circle, Cleveland, Ohio, (216)-421-1200. Free parking. Free-will offering. **Lloyd Max Bunker Recital Series. “The King of Instruments”** featuring the recent American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition Winner Scott Montgomery. Music by Bach, Mendelssohn, Reger Vierne, Bohm, and Decker. Reception to follow.

Tuesday, February 20, at 12:00 p.m.: St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 317 E. Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio 44256. (330)-725-4121. Brown Bag Concert featuring “Limited Edition,” a Barbershop Quartet. Bring your own lunch. Coffee and tea provided. Free-will offering.

Wednesday, February 21, at 8:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118-4098. (216)-321-5800. **City Music Cleveland.** Music by Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Haydn, with cellist Matt Haimovitz and guest conductor Daniel Rachev.

Friday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.: Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, East 9th and Superior Avenue, NE, Cleveland, Ohio. (216)-771- 6666 x5510. **Les Delices.** Music by Couperin, Marais, and others. Free-will offering.

Friday, February 23 at 8:00 p.m.: Trinity Evangelical Church, 2031 W.30th St., West 30th at Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. (216)-281-1700. **Christa Rakich,** Distinguished Artist in Residence, First Lutheran Church, Boston, MA. Free-will offering.

Sunday, February 25 at 3:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church, 3630 Fairmount Boulevard, Shaker Heights, Ohio. (216)-932-7480. **Verdi Requiem.** The combined choirs of Fairmount,, Plymouth Church Shaker Heights and First Baptist Church and orchestra perform. **Robert Page** conducting.

Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.: Rocky River Presbyterian Church, 21750 Detroit Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116. (400)-333-4888. **City Music Cleveland.** Music by Beethoven, Haydn, and Mendelssohn. Free-will offering. Free parking.

New CD recordings have been recently released by pianist RICHARD STEINBACH (of the piano duo Steinbach & Helvey) and by soprano DIANE PENNING and pianist PAUL BISACCIA (of "Simply Gershwin" and "A Night at the Opera") on the Towerhill label and available on line at www.towerhill-recordings.com. Steinbach's album is entitled "George Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue and other American favorites." The duo's album is called "Simply Gershwin" and includes many of the popular songs as well as music from Porgy and Bess. It contains bonus tracks of favorite opera arias. JOSEPH GRAMLEY has also recently re-released his CD "American Deconstruction" which is available also at the Towerhill site.

These are stories and test questions accumulated by music teachers in the state of Missouri...

- * Agnus Dei was a woman composer famous for her church music.
 - * Refrain means don't do it. A refrain in music is the part you better not try to sing.
 - * A virtuoso is a musician with real high morals.
 - * John Sebastian Bach died from 1750 to the present.
 - * Handel was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was rather large.
 - * Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling him. I guess he could not hear so good. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died from this.
 - * Henry Purcell is a well-known composer few people have ever heard of.
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Cleveland Chapter

February 2007

QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2006-2007

Dean: Michon Koch, (440) 946-8499, **Fax:** (440) 946-8499, e-mail:
MichonKoch@aol.com

Sub-Dean: Marcia Snavely, (440)338-6606, e-mail: marciasnavely1@aol.com

Secretary and Registrar: Leslie Bauer (440)871-5265 **Fax:** (440)871-4481, e-mail:
lgbauer@comcast.net

Treasurer: Juanita Schubert (330)278-2298 e-mail: Key2x12@aol.com

Placement: Gerry Mass (440)884-4904 **Fax:** (440)884-1661, e-mail:
gerry@gerardskeyboards.com

Newsletter Editor: Linda L. Gardner (440)734-6122 e-mail: newsletter@agocleveland.org

Website: www.agocleveland.org

AGO Cleveland Chapter
36752 Beech Hills Drive
Willoughby Hills, Oh 44094