



American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

December 2007

FROM THE DEAN

TO MY COLLEAGUES:

I wish you Joy!

The Joy of knowing that you are fulfilling an important role by bringing music into people's lives and uplifting their souls.

The Joy of a summer morning when the mist caresses the grass.

The Joy of sparkling holiday lights that reflect the stars of heaven.

I wish you Peace!

The Peace you see when a baby is asleep. Trusting and secure.

The Peace that calms your mind and emotions and strengthens you.

The Still, Small Voice that is your companion through life.

I wish you Love!

The Love you feel towards others which is so enriching.

The Love you experience when your feelings are returned and your heart and mind are warmed and happy.

The Love we show through music which reveals a deep cherishment of our ideals.

I wish you Hope!

The Hope of a perfect world.

The Hope which expands our talent and encourages us onward to emulate those great musicians who came before us.

The Hope of eternal life.

Merry Christmas!

Michon Koch, Dean

WHAT'S NEXT?

Saturday, January 26, 2008 will be our Morning of Workshops at Rocky River Methodist Church. Please read Marcia Snaveley's column for more details, but I would like to point out to all our members that the very last workshop from 11:30-12:00 will be our Scholarship Winners in recital. Be sure to come and enjoy the entire morning beginning at 9:15 for our Social Hour and thank our hosts Carmen Massaro and Jeff Acker for sharing their beautiful church with us.

Michon Koch

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Our Guild chapter was invited to Thomas Trotter's Masterclass on November 12th at Church of the Covenant. It was free and open to all AGO members. We would like to thank Todd Wilson for his generous offer and wish him a Happy Holiday season.

Michon Koch

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Monday, January 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
3749 Mayfield Road
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44121
(216)-382-4545
Beth Lucas, hostess

Next Chapter Meeting:

Saturday, January 26, 2008
Morning of Workshops
Rocky River United Methodist Church
19414 Detroit Road
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440)-331-7676

WORKSHOPS IN JANUARY

I hope everyone has placed Saturday morning, Jan. 26 on their calendars for the AGO workshops. Come to learn a little, socialize a little, get inspired a little and enjoy a lot. The workshops will be held at Rocky River United Methodist Church with Carmen Massaro and Jeff Acker as hosts. It is located at 19414 Detroit Road, Rocky River, OH 44116. There is no charge for the workshops, but we will be taking a free-will collection to benefit our AGO student scholarship fund.

The schedule is as follows:

9:15-9:55am	Welcome and refreshments
10:00-10:40am	Two Concurrent Sessions (Choose one to attend)
10:45-11:25am	Two Concurrent Sessions (Choose one to attend)
11:30-12:00 noon	Scholarship Winners' Recital

The four sessions and the presenters include Contemporary Hymn Playing (Chris Toth); Choral Reading Session (Dave Powers); Conducting while Playing the Organ (James Riggs); and a display of historical Masterpiece Manuscripts (Marcelline Hawk Mayhall).

Following the workshops, we will have an opportunity to hear two of our scholarship winners, Mark Heiskanen and Chiawen Wu, (both students of Margaret Scharf), perform.

Our next AGO Newsletter will have more information on the sessions and the presenters, but the morning of workshops promises to be a notable event, one you will not want to miss!

Marcia Snavelly

EACH ONE—REACH ONE

AGO Membership Development and Chapter Support Committee Announces 2007–2008 Member Challenge and Prizes for Leading Recruiters

NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and its Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support announce the third and final year of the "Each One—Reach One" membership campaign. The 2007–2008 challenge is designed to stimulate membership retention and recruitment activities at all levels of the Guild—from the local to the national level—and to award those who excel at recruitment.

"Each One—Reach One" is designed to be a grass-roots effort to strengthen Guild membership nationwide by inspiring and empowering local chapter members and officers to focus on membership recruitment and retention. Leading membership recruiters will be awarded expense-paid registrations to the 2008 AGO National Convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. Expenses include convention registration with the transportation package, and five nights in the convention hotel—a \$1,400 value. Up to five prizes will be awarded. Some restrictions apply. Complete information, guidelines, and forms are available online at www.agohq.org/eachone-reachone.

The Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support was established as a task force in 1994. In 1999, the task force became an AGO national standing committee. Chaired by Herbert R. Buffington (Atlanta, Ga.), the current committee consists of David Lincoln (Willowbrook, Ill.), Sharron Lyon (Brentwood, Tenn.), and Stephen Park (El Segundo, Calif.). Geographical diversity is intentional so that committee members have experience with AGO membership issues in various regions.

For further information about Each One—Reach One, please contact Jennifer Madden at 212-870-2311 (ext. 4304) or e-mail jem@agohq.org.

ALLELUIA CORNER

“Star”...A spherical mass of hot gas generated by nuclear reactions, which shines by the light within itself. ” - Dictionary of Astronomy and Astronautics

In the Bible, Matthew 2, the natal star is a pivotal point in the story of Jesus’ birth. Today’s scientists now know that stars move rapidly in space though they may seemed slow to the human eye. The light from our own private star, the sun, 92,000,000 miles from earth, travels at 186,282 miles per second, taking 8 minutes to reach our planet. The next nearest star’s light (Alpha Antauri) takes 4? years to reach our planet. Biblical texts of Jesus’ birth telling of the Magi following the natal star are now idealisms that would have surely impressed early generations of believers. And still today, even though we may know better, the star mentioned in Jesus’ birth is a vital part of the Christmas story, symbolically stressing that something special was happening in that little town of Bethlehem.

Man has always had a fascination with stars and, in early times of astronomy, the visible stars had names, some being members of a ‘constellation.’ (I well remember Dick’s love for the sea and sky, and, at night, as we and the children boated over Lake Erie, he would show and name the stars and constellations one by one, my favorite being Orion, The Hunter. In the quiet darkness of the water the North Star would always help guide us home.) After the invention of the telescope revealed so many ‘new’ stars, scientists ran out of names and had to use numbers. Paloma Observatory in California has photographed over one million individual stars and still counting. Some of the stars’ light takes so long to reach earth that the star itself may no longer exist, and the light of stars still forming will reach earth millions of years from now. It seems the creator has all the time in the cosmos to work such magic; fierce waves of heat and wind sweep away gas and dust from the center of the Orion Nebula revealing a brilliant cluster of newborn stars, with hundreds more forming. Early revelations by astronomers Kepler and Galileo ran counter to Roman Catholic doctrine, and Pope Urban VIII ordered Galileo to Rome to face a full-dress inquisition. Galileo was commanded to house arrest while forced to recant the whole concept of a planetary system with the earth not the center of ‘heaven.’ Galileo cried out in despair “...my work is condemned to rot.” He died in 1642 and more than a century passed before Rome accepted his visible proofs.

An inquisitive astronomer dissected a distant star’s spectra (its chemical elements) and, to his amazement, found that these elements are all present in the earth and some in our DNA. We are all made of star-stuff! Even though the cosmos is a stunning, glowing, magnificent arena, I believe that earth’s humankind and the animal kingdom are far more vital, alive, precious, enjoyed, yea even loved by its Creator. We may be just a heavenly experiment, but how wondrous it works. And how does this all connect with Christmas and its music, the star, the Magi, life, death, logos and our individual spectra?

Symbolically, the word ‘star’ has another meaning – ‘the best of the best’ and, in our earthly musical journey, we, too, are surrounded by stars whose music’s sound still shines in our royal, mystical journey. These stars’ fire dwells long within us as we carry its glow far beyond the cosmos. Our beloved Christmas Carols tell us: There’s a star in the sky...Wondrous star, lend thy light... Break forth O beauteous, heavenly light.. By the light of that same star...All the plains were lit that night... Whence comes this rush of wings afar, following the Noel Star...to mention a few.

The cosmos may be exploding all around us in atomic fire and glory, but still we sing: “Wondrous star, lend thy light...sleep in heavenly peace.”

Gratian M. Nugent

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

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/MANAGER: The Ohio Boychoir is seeking to add an Executive Director/Manager to our staff.□This is a new, part-time position and involves working closely with our Musical Director, David Kienzle, and the Board to help fulfill our artistic mission, i.e., "Enriching boys' lives through music".□ Salary is \$6,500 annual (negotiable).□ For further information, please contact□Thomas Shellhammer, Board Chairman, at 216-226-6974 via e-mail: ThomasShll@aol.com

□

POSITIONS AVAILABLE CONT'D:

ORGANIST/KEYBOARDIST: Advent Episcopal Church in Westlake seeks an organist/keyboardist to be Music coordinator for the Sunday Service at 10 a.m. We need a "team player" who loves traditional hymns, contemporary praise/worship music, and enjoys worshipping the Lord! Thursday evening and Sunday morning rehearsals, song selection, and occasional staff meetings with Pastor and Choir Director. Salary: \$120.(+) per week (with vacation). Interested persons should contact the church office at 440-871-6685.

ORGANIST: Rocky River Presbyterian Church, 21750 Detroit Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116, Year-round position, 10-15 hours per week. One Sunday service; Thursday evening choir practice. Occasional seasonal services, seasonal staff meetings, and personal preparation. Galanti Organ. Required B. Mus. or similar experience in church music. Salary: \$9,500-10,500. per year. Send resume to Rocky River Presbyterian Church Human Resources Committee via fax at 440-333-4896 or via e-mail to: mck052@ameritech.net

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: St. Joseph Catholic Church, 12700 Pearl Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136. Full-time position. Skills in organ, piano, and choral direction required. This individual would be responsible for music for all parish liturgical gatherings as well as weddings and funerals. Salary: \$35-50,000 annually. Please send resume to Fr. Barry Gearing at the church address above or via e-mail: BarGear@aol.com interested persons may also contact Fr. Gearing at 440-238-555, ext. 15, 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.

DID YOU KNOW?:

The year 2008 marks:

The 175th anniversary of the birth of Brahms.

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Messiaen.

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Cleveland Chapter of the AGO.

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. No further details available at the time of publication.

Sunday, December 2 from 1 - 6 p.m.: Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, 216-421-0482. **Circlefest!** Music and tours throughout the afternoon, with Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* performed at 4:00 p.m. by the *Covenant Choir*.

Sunday, December 2 at 2:30 p.m.: Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood. Organ recital featuring **Jim Clouser, organ and Cassandra Clouser, piano**. Concert celebrates the restoration of the Church's Moller Organ built in 1931.

Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 216-321-5800. **Feast of Carols and Pudding.** Singing and ringing of carols, accompanied by dessert and fellowship. Advance tickets required.

Sunday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.: The Magnificat Center for the Performing Arts, 20770 Hilliard Boulevard, Rocky River. **West Shore Chorale and Orchestra.** Carols and Choruses of Christmas Concert. **John Drotleff, Conductor.** Music includes the "Sacred Harp," Vivaldi, Beck, Fritschel, Conte and other seasonal offerings. Post-concert reception. Tickets are \$15, students are free. Call 216-221-1639 or visit www.westshorechorale.org.

Friday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m.: Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. 216-521-8727. **Coles Dusenbury Choral Festival** featuring the choirs of **McKinley Elementary School, Harding Middle School, Lakewood High School Chamber Choir with the Vive L'Four, and Ascension's Chancel Choir.** Also, organ selections performed by **Linda Gardner.** Free-will offering. Reception following the concert. Free parking.

Friday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m.: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 North Prospect Street in Downtown Akron on Friday. 330-376-5154. **A Festival of Lessons and Carols.** Music by Bach, Holst, and Shaw-Parker. The **Trinity Choir, Paragon Brass, Trinity Bells, and organ** will participate in this holiday festival. A wassail reception follows the service. Free-will offering.

Friday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m.: Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights. *Amahl and the Night Visitors.*” Sung in English by a professional cast and 24-member chorus. Tickets are \$10 adults and \$5 youth (18 and under) for the two performances. Tickets are sold at the door. Please call (216) 321-8880 by November 28 for information on group ticket sales. Directed and staged by **Judith Higbee, Sara Smith** is the accompanist with choreography by Carol Griffith and costumes by Kristi Bergren. Free parking and is Ahandicapped accessible.

Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio, 216-932-7480. *Christmas Vespers, Music of Michael Praetorius, Apollo’s Fire with the Oberlin Choristers.* For ticket information call 216-320-0012.

Sunday, December 9 at 10:15 a.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio, 216-932-7480. Spahr Center. *The Next Noel*, a Christmas Musical for Youth and Children.

Sunday, December 9: Christ Church Episcopal, 21 Aurora St., Hudson, Ohio. 330-650-4359. *Pre-service music at 4:15 p.m.:* **Jocelyn Chang, harp; Michael Leese, flute.** Music includes improvisations and music spanning several centuries. *Evensong at 5:15 p.m.:* An Advent Service. Music will include settings of the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis by Praetorius offered by the Canterbury Singers, Nicole Keller, Choirmaster and Organist, and harpist, Jocelyn Chang. The Reverend Brian S. Suntken, Rector. □All events are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 216-321-5800. *City Music Cleveland.* The orchestra performs a program entitled *Fire and Ice.* Music by **Beethoven, Suk, Mozart, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Debussy, and Dvorak.** *Harpist Megan Levin and guest conductor Julian Kuerti.*

Friday, December 14 at 7:30pm: Cathedral of St John, 1007 Superior Ave, (downtown Cleveland). **St Ignatius High School Choir; Jason Falkofsky, director.** ADVENT Lessons and Carols. FREE concert; Free secure parking; Cathedral Garage on Rockwell Ave at E 9th. gheislman@dioceseofcleveland.org; 216-771-6666.

Saturday, December 15 from 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.: First Unitarian Church of Cleveland 21600 Shaker Blvd. Shaker Heights. Info: 216-751-2320. AGO members are invited to observe **Alice Parker’s** rehearsal with the **First Unitarian Church Choir.** Please register with Fern Jennings, 216-751-2320.

Sunday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.: First Unitarian Church of Cleveland 21600 Shaker Blvd. Shaker Heights. Info: 216-751-2320. *Christmas Concert.* **Alice Parker** directs the **Choir of the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland** in Shaw-Parker carol arrangements. Audience carol singing with Alice. Free-will offering.

Sunday, December 16 at 11:00 a.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Heights, 216-321-5800. *The Bach Magnificat.* The **Fairmount Choir and Orchestra with soloists Lisa Litteral, Rebecca Hoke, Katie Oldham, Paul Clarke, Peter Bush, and Aaron Hoke.**

Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio, 216-932-7480. *A Festival of Lessons and Carols.* Music and readings performed by **the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, Children’s Choir, featured FBC soloists and readers** under the direction of **Dr. Robert Schneider.** A freewill offering will be taken.

Sunday, December 16 at 7:45 p.m.: Baldwin-Wallace College, Lindsay-Crossman Chapel, 56 Seminary Street, Berea, Ohio. *Music Under the Spire: Christmas Under the Spire.* The **Spire Singers**, under the direction of **Dr. Mark Chaney**, will perform music for the Nativity season. **Harpist Jocelyn Chang, flutist, Michael Leese** and **organist Warren Scharf** will also perform. There will also be carol singing by the **audience.**

Sunday, December 23 at 11:15 a.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio, 216-932-7480. The Christmas portion of Handel’s *Messiah* will be presented by the **Chancel Choir, Soloists, and Orchestra** under the direction of **Dr. Robert Schneider.** **Diane Menges, soprano; Lucy Lesczuk, alto; Matt Rizer, tenor; Richard Anderson, bass.**

Monday, December 24: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio, 216-932-7480. **At 7:00 p.m.:** *Pageant with Live Animals.* **At 11:00 p.m.:** *Candlelight Service.*



American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

December 2007

QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2007-2008

Dean: Michon Koch, (440) 740-0737, **Fax:** (440) 740-0737, 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
8007 Majestic Oaks Trail
Broadview Heights, OH 44147
440.740-0737