



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

September 2008

FROM THE DEAN **GREETINGS!**

As you read this, I will hopefully be out West hiking some of the National Parks and enjoying the great scenery without developing bunions or blisters. I had mentioned in last month's Newsletter that I would introduce myself this month, so here goes. I was born and raised in Sharon, PA., where I started studying piano at the age of 5 and performing at the age of 6. When my legs grew long enough to reach the pedals, my teacher started me playing the organ, and we frequently would play piano-organ duets for Sunday evening services. At the age of 12, I was offered a job playing the organ at The First Baptist Church in Sharon, and I played there every Sunday until I left for college.

I was offered a full scholarship to Western Reserve University to study chemistry. I arrived in the Cleveland area and have never left. I continued studying piano but before my Junior year a fellow classmate, Walter Klauss, (now organist/conductor in New York City) strongly recommended that I take lessons from his organ teacher, Walter Blodgett, who was Curator at the Art Museum and Director of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Hts. Who could not love organ lessons with Walter? He was so much fun, so witty and so knowledgeable. I became "hooked."

My dual science and music careers continued. After graduation, I worked as a research chemist at Sohio/BP, specializing in absorption spectroscopy. Later, I became Manager of Public Affairs at the Research Center. At the same time I completed musical studies in graduate school at CWRU/CIM. I subbed at many of the major churches in Cleveland while

raising a family until I accepted a job as Music Director at Valley Presbyterian Church in Bainbridge.

In 1994, I accepted a job as Organist at The Federated Church (UCC) in Chagrin Falls because it had two Schantz pipe organs. It is a position I hold today. We have a dynamic music program at the church which includes six choirs. I play for four of them—the Chancel Choir, the Ensemble, Forte (teen choir), and the Children's Choir. All choir members are volunteer, but we are fortunate to attract excellent musicians and soloists.

There are about 1600 members in the church and two services are held each Sunday at 9 and 11am; the Ensemble usually sings at the early service and Chancel Choir at the later service. Both services are traditional or blended. We do not have a Contemporary service yet, although there are serious plans to investigate the possibilities this fall.

I feel really fortunate because we have a very supportive staff (our Senior Minister is a good tenor and loves to sing at every opportunity) and a growing, thriving church with a multitude of programs from cradle to grave.

Since I usually coordinate the special music programs, the summer music program and play for weddings and memorial services, I am kept VERY busy. I also do a lot of free-lance accompanying – for Cleveland Opera on Tour, Northern Ohio Opera League, and Chagrin schools. Another love is theater, and I have been musical director at Actors' Summit professional theater in Hudson the past two summers.

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FROM THE DEAN (cont'd)

I married my husband, Greg Polyak, nine years ago and together we have 10 children/stepchildren and 12 grandchildren. (Who's counting?) We love to party, ballroom dance, travel and have fun. So you can see that I really mean it when I say I am busy. I definitely will need help from all of you to make our chapter function at its full potential.

However, everyday I am thankful to be blessed with the gift of music and the capability of sharing it with others. And hopefully, I'll come back from our Western excursion full of energy and enthusiasm to start the exciting year which lies ahead. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the picnic on September 14.!

Musical Blessings,

Marcia

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, August 27, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.
Home of Marcia Snavely and Greg Polyak
138 Southwyck Dr.
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022
(440) 338-6606

Next Chapter Meeting:

Sunday, September 14, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.
Picnic at Juanita & Dick Schubert's
1329 Mattingly Rd.
Hinckley, Ohio 44233
(330)- 278-2298

CHAPTER CONCERNS:

Thank you for your wonderful letters, cards, calls, visits and hugs during my time-out after falling on ice last March. I am now starting to play around (hmm) and am back to teaching.

Gratian Nugent

AGO PICNIC SEPTEMBER 14

Don't forget to save the date for the Cleveland Chapter's welcome picnic on Sunday, September 14, at 4:00 p.m. at Juanita and Dick Schubert's magnificent property at 1329 Mattingly Rd. in Hinckley, OH 44233. Spouses, partners and friends interested in getting to know the Guild are all welcome.

Per the usual format, please plan to bring a dish to share:

A-H-please bring a salad or side dish

I-O please bring an dessert

P-Z please bring a appetizer

For those of you who have not been to the Schubert's, this is a unique opportunity to see their beautiful property and their Schantz 11 rank organ. The console was built of red oak by Dick Schubert to Holtkamp specs. Dick and Juanita are planning to move within the next year and a half to Walnut Creek, OH., so this also might be a final opportunity.

Along with your rsvp to Juanita (key2x12@aol.com) or (330) 278-2298 by Friday, Sept. 5, please send her the title of your favorite hymn. Juanita is planning an evensong with a mini hymn festival. One of her pastors will be giving scripture and hymn backgrounds. What a rare treat this promises to be!

Directions to the picnic, September 14, 2008, 4 p.m., at the Schubert's.

Directions from the East:

I-77 south to Rte. 82; 82 West to Ridge Road;
Ridge Road (Rte. 3) south to Mattingly Road;
East to 1329 Mattingly , north side of road

Directions from the West:

I-480 East to I-71;
I-71 south to Rte. 82 East
Rte. 82 East to Ridge Road
Ridge Road (Rte. 3) south to Mattingly Road
East to 1329 Mattingly, north side of road

We hope that all of you can attend. This picnic offers a marvelous opportunity to renew friendships, greet newcomers and provide a great start to our "International Year of the Organ."

And don't forget to bring your lawn chairs!

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ORGAN: ORGAN SPECTACULAR

Plans are progressing nicely for October 19 to be an exciting day for both the informed organist and the curious newcomer. If you have friends who wonder "what it's all about," bring them to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights. This is what the IYO and Organ Spectacular are all about. The day is designed so that people can come for as long as they like. The schedule of events for the day is:

- 2:00 pm: Demonstrations of all three organs at St. Paul's
- 2:45 pm to 4:45 pm: Performances by local and international artists who reside in the Cleveland area
- 2:00 pm to 4:45 pm: Multi-media exhibits on the organ, organ building, and being an organist
- 5:00 pm: Choral Evensong Service led by the St. Paul's Choir and musicians. Karel Paukert, organist & choir director

St. Paul's is located at 2747 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland Heights 44118 (at Coventry Rd). Remember, this is a day for us to celebrate the instrument we love and introduce it to those who don't realize what they are missing. Watch the chapter website for more details. We will include the performers' names when they are all confirmed. We hope to have a flyer ready by Labor Day. If you would like copies, contact me at donclef@aol.com or by phone at 216-991-3432 (ext. 10).

Don Jackson
Publicity Chair

POWERPOINT PROGRAM

Powerpoint Program available: Several members have inquired and yes, Don Jackson will provide a copy of his Powerpoint slide show of recent new organs. It will be available soon after Labor Day. Contact Don at donclef@aol.com or 440-356-7138.

ORGAN SPECTACULAR SUNDAY

In addition to the afternoon and evening events at St. Paul's on Sunday, Oct. 19, many churches are planning their own celebrations in the morning. Please send your special events to Linda Gardner, Newsletter editor, before Sept. 15, so they can be included in the October Newsletter. Our August Newsletter already described what Don Jackson is doing at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westlake, OH.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cleveland Hts. Beth Lucas is preparing a bulletin insert (pamphlet) about their 1950 Hillgreen-Lane, 27 rank pipe organ, with stop list, history of the instrument and upgrades made along with program notes about the musical selections chosen for that particular morning's worship service. She plans to play an extended prelude that morning and during the worship service will use the organ as a solo instrument, as well as combining with brass, choir and handbells for festival anthems and hymn arrangements.

The Federated Church (UCC), Chagrin Falls There will be a mid hour service with a representative of the Schantz Organ Company who will describe and demonstrate how an organ works; special organ music will be included as Prelude and Postlude during the two services.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 North Prospect Street, Akron, Ohio 44304. 7:30 PM. There will be an organ recital given by Jane Parker-Smith (London, England) co-sponsored by the Akron Chapter, AGO.

We hope you are planning your own special music that day. Let us know about it!

ALLELUIA CORNER

"To live content with small means...to seek elegance rather than luxury...and refinement rather than fashion...to be worthy - not respectable...to be wealthy - not rich...to listen to stars and birds...babes and sages with open heart...to study hard, to think quietly...act frankly, talk gently...await occasions - hurry never..in a word - to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious...grow up through the common.....this is my symphony."

---Wm. Henry Channing

Last year, while attending a Mather College event at Haydn Hall on CWRU campus, I saw this poetic 'symphony' that had been hand carved into a century-old room's wood wall. I copied it down, moved by its simple, elegant message. These words are now forever a part of the room, and a constant reminder of a wealthy family's motto for living and doing business.

With the current headlines of malfeasance lurking within our various local, national and worldwide political offices (and churches), it is both awesome and refreshing to read this declaration of how to live worthily within the fabric of our current times.

Perhaps some of our politicians need to be reminded of such a motto for living while making financial music for our state, our cities, our country.

The word 'Symphony,' derived from the Greek word sym (together) and phone (sound), was designed in the Middle Ages. Its form was used to play music that was extended and developed for a sterling group of musicians.

Such music was a major work, requiring all players involved to abide with the rules -- creating sound for the sake of the group's power and excellence in communicating musical ideas. From that discipline, music began to bloom as the works of Bach, Mozart and Beethoven became masterpieces of sound, color and power.

As church musicians, we, too, continue that tradition, creating symphonic music within the confines of the worship service through the playing of hymns, preludes, anthems, postludes while all the time lightening up the air with sparks of beauty and power.

Keep listening to stars and birds (as did Messiaen).

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:

ORGANIST/PIANIST: Lakewood Baptist Church, 14321 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107. Accompanist needed for congregation and choir. Average six hours per week. One Sunday service and Thursday evening choir rehearsal. Church experience essential. Salary: \$5,000 per year, plus extra compensation for weddings and special events. Interested persons should send resume/references to LBC Pastor at the Church address above.

ORGANIST: Solon Community Church, 33955 Sherbrook Park Dr., Solon, OH 44139, (440) 248-4180. Part-time organist for Sunday and holiday worship and choir rehearsals. Salary: \$7,000 per year. For more information, please call Gloria Herr at the church phone number listed above.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, ORGANIST, AND YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 23114 West Rd., Olmsted Falls, OH 44138, (440) 234-0150. Opening(s) for this (these) positions to begin mid-August, 2008. Part-time position(s). The Director of Music directs choirs and coordinates music for worship. Organist will lead congregational singing, accompany the choirs and soloists, and perform for weddings, funerals. Ruggles pipe organ. Youth Choir Director is required to work with children and direct the choir. These may be three separate positions, or combined into a one-person or two-person position(s). Salary for a combined one-person position is \$15-16,000 per year. Resumes may be sent to the church address above.

INTERIM ORGANIST: Old Stone Church, 91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio. We are searching for an interim organist for August, 2008-May, 2009. Salary is \$17,000. (negotiable). The position description is available from Dr. David Horne via e-mail. Please write: DHorne9650@aol.com

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR: Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 2592 West 14 St., Cleveland, OH 44113, (216) 861-7388. One Sunday service. 18-25 voice chancel choir. Sunday morning rehearsal (no weeknight rehearsal). Three-manual Farrand & Votey Organ (restored in 1992). Salary: \$16,700. annual. Contact Geno Taylor at (216) 651-2803 or via e-mail: genot3@sbcglobal.net, or contact the Church office as listed above. Website: www.pilgrimalive.org

ASSISTANT ORGANIST: First Congregational Church, 47 Aurora St., Hudson, OH 44236, (330) 650-4048. Hudson Community Church is seeking an Assistant Organist to accompany anthems during Sunday morning services, and to share in the playing of voluntary music and hymns with the Organist. Two Sunday morning services, with occasional extra services, such as a December Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve services. Thursday evening rehearsals. Three-manual Wilhelm tracker organ (1991). Salary: \$4,500 to \$7,000 for the program year (September through May). Interested persons should contact Charles Carr, Organist & Choir Director, at the church address above (or by phone at the church phone no. above), or via e-mail at: ccarr@hudsonucc.org

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: . All concerts are free unless otherwise noted. www.agocleveland.org

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.

September 3: Robert Myers.

September 10 and 17: Violinist *Brittany Kubiak* joins *Florence Mustric* in "To sing and to soar" featuring music by Festing, Reger, J.S. Bach, and others.

September 24: Robert Myers.

Sunday, September 14 at 4:15 p.m.: Christ Church Episcopal, 21 Aurora St., Hudson, Ohio. Nicole Keller, Organist and Choirmaster. Concert at 4:15 p.m. by *Greg Banaszak* and his *Jazz combo*. Jazz Vespers at 5:15 p.m. led by the combo. Greg Banaszak has appeared as a concerto soloist and recitalist throughout the United States, Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. He is on the faculty of the Baldwin-Wallace College, the Cleveland Institute of Music/Case Western Reserve University, and Kent State University. Free and open to the Public. Handicap accessible

Tuesday, September 16 at 12:10 p.m.: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 318 E. Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio. (330)-725-4131. **Brown Bag Concert** featuring Highland Piper, *Lyn Lofton*.

Wednesday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.: Cathedral of St John, 1007 Superior Ave, (downtown Cleveland). **Quire Cleveland.** Peter Bennett, *Director*. (Debut concert of Cleveland's newest professional choral ensemble). Sing Joyfully! - Sacred choral music from Tudor England. Works by: Byrd, Mass for four voices; Tallis; Gibbons; Weelkes. **FREE** concert; Free secure parking: Cathedral Garage on Rockwell Ave at E 9th. gheisman@dioceseofcleveland.org; 216-771-6666.

THIS AND THAT!

Dr. Horst Buchholz has been named Canon for Music and Ministry at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Cleveland, OH. He comes to Cleveland from Denver, CO.

Jonathan William Moyer has been named the Organist-Director of Music at Church of the Covenant in Cleveland. Dr. Moyer is finishing his doctoral work at Peabody and has been the organist-choirmaster of Epiphany Episcopal Church in Timonium, MD. He will assume duties at Covenant in August.

Congratulations to **Virginia Roedig, AAGO**, for passing the Associate Exam this past spring. Ginny is an organ student of Daniel Laginya and was a member of our Youngstown Chapter a few years ago, during her graduate studies at YSU.

Ginny, we all offer our congratulations. Well done!



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QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2008-2009

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AGO Cleveland Chapter
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440.338.6606

2008/09 CALENDAR OF CHAPTER EVENTS

Mark these dates in your calendars now.

Details for each event will be published in the newsletter preceding the event and on the Cleveland Chapter website: agocleveland.org

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008, 4:00 PM

Chapter Picnic

at Juanita Schubert's home, 1329 Mattingly Rd. Hinckley, OH 44233

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008, 2:00 PM

International Year of the Organ Festival: Organ Spectacular Sunday

An afternoon of demonstrations, performances and exhibits to both introduce and celebrate the King of Instruments. The event is hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights (Karel Paukert, host) and concludes with Evensong Service at 5:00 pm led by St. Paul's Choir and musicians.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2008, 7:30 PM

**Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir/
Tallin Chamber Orchestra**

at the Cathedral of St. John, the Evangelist, Cleveland (Greg Heislman, host)

Event is co-sponsored with Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009, 7:30 PM

**The Westminster Choir of
Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ**

at Church of the Saviour, Cleveland Heights, (Judith Higbee, host)

Co-sponsored with Church of the Saviour Foundation

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009 or alternate date SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

Mass Choir Concert, Robert Porco conductor.

All members and their choirs are invited to participate in learning and performing a major choral work. Location and choral work to be announced.

Tentative schedule: 2 pm Rehearsal, 6 pm Dinner Break, 7:30 pm Concert

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2009 4:00 PM

Annual Meeting and Dinner

at Fairmount Presbyterian Church (Robert Moncrief, host) including concert on Fairmount's new Charles Ruggles tracker organ in their renovated chapel.