

international
year of the
organ
2008-2009

American
Guild of
Organists



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

December 2008

FROM THE DEAN

“The day was exhilarating! “

“I got to see all the innards and ask questions to my heart’s content”

“What a fabulous variety of activities”

“The AGO is to be congratulated for putting on a wonderful afternoon”

These were some of the comments we heard at the Organ Spectacular Sunday which WAS SPECTACULAR! The six or more months of planning took fruition at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on Sunday, Oct 19, and was the result of a lot of AGO members working together to honor our beloved musical instrument.

Special thanks to Karel Paukert and St. Paul’s, who were the most gracious hosts. The afternoon included Karel giving demonstrations of the chancel organ {Holtkamp Organ Company} (1952), the gallery organ (Gerhard Hradetzky) (1986) and the Carol Tillinghast Forbes Positive Organ (Vladimir Slajch, Czechslovakia).

Multi-media exhibits were held in adjoining rooms. These included films, DVD’s and presentations, plus an exhibit by the Holtkamp Organ Company where they had mockups of mechanical and electropneumatic key actions, a pipe-making demonstration, a voicing demonstration and construction photos. The film “Apparitions of the Eternal Church,” which captured the confrontation between thirty-one mostly non-religious artists and the music of French Catholic composer Olivier Messiaen, was also shown.

The “Organ as a Solo Instrument” featured Linda Gardner playing the Stephen Paulus piece commissioned for the Organ Spectacular, Horst

Buchholz with Improvisations, and Jonathan Moyer playing Bach and Messiaen. How gracious of these artists to showcase their considerable talents.

The “Organ in Ensemble” included Irene Roberts, mezzo-soprano, Oscar Soler, violin, members of the handbell choir (Elke White, director), members of St. Paul’s choir (Steven Plank, conductor) and Karel Paukert, organ. There were many unique and exciting pieces performed very well.

The day ended with a Choral Evensong featuring the Senior Choir (Dr. Steven Plank, conductor) followed by a carillon recital by David Osburn. It was a beautiful way to conclude the day’s activities.

I think everyone came away from the event feeling that it was a big success and fulfilled the goals for Organ Spectacular Sunday. The “behind the scenes” committee responsible included Bob Day, Chairman; Don Jackson, publicity; Michon Koch; Ginny Roedig; Carmen Massaro; Nicole Keller; and Karel Paukert. Karel referred to the committee, I think appropriately, as “the Dream Team.”

Thanks to all the participants, the planning committee, the hosts, and to those of you who attended. It really was a special day.

And now that we have the Spectacular Sunday behind us, we are looking forward to preparations and planning for the holiday season. In the hustle and bustle (and frenzy?), please remember to take some time for yourself and enjoy the music! It’s a once- a- year blessing and opportunity!

Musical Blessings,
Marcia

JOIN OUR CHORAL FESTIVAL WITH ROBERT PORCO!

We're starting to firm up plans for our choral festival and need to know who will be interested. On Sunday, March 22nd, we will sing Mozart's *Coronation Mass* under the leadership of Robert Porco, Director of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus. This will be one of the highlights of our AGO year, and what a unique opportunity it is. The program will also include two shorter works also by Mozart: *Ave Verum Corpus* and *Laudate Dominum*.

All choirs and /or individual singers are invited to participate in the event, which will be held at The Federated Church in Chagrin Falls. The rehearsal is 2-6 p.m., there will be a break for dinner (provided at the church @\$5), and the concert will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Prior to this, on Saturday, March 21st, we'll be holding a dress rehearsal at Federated from 10:00-12:00, so we can get used to singing together. Director for this rehearsal will be Dr. William Foley, choir director at Federated. Marcia Snavely will provide the accompaniment.

Also, if you know of potential singers who would like to participate, but whose choir directors won't have time to teach the music during normal rehearsals, we will be offering study workshops after Christmas to learn the scores. We currently have workshops planned in Willoughby, Cleveland Heights, Brecksville, and Strongsville. The exact times will be available in the January newsletter. **Singers must know the music before coming to the March 22nd rehearsal and performance.**

If your choir does not yet own the scores to any of the works, scores of the *Coronation* will be available to borrow (on a limited basis) or purchase for \$5.00 apiece. We can also provide octavos of the shorter works.

If you and your choir are planning to attend or know of individual singers who will be attending, please register with Ginny Roedig, Roedig5@msn.com. A number of choirs have already committed. This should be a wonderful event—one none of us should miss.

ROBERT PORCO, GUEST CONDUCTOR

AGO CHORAL FESTIVAL, 2008

Robert Porco was appointed director of choruses for The Cleveland Orchestra in 1998. He follows a line of very distinguished choral leaders including Robert Page and Robert Shaw. In addition to preparing the Orchestra Chorus for performances in Severance Hall, each year he also conducts the annual series of Christmas concerts featuring the Chorus and the Children's Chorus.

Mr. Porco has had an active career as director of opera and choral works with orchestra. He is a regular guest conductor and director for the Cincinnati May Festival and has conducted the Cincinnati Symphony, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and other orchestras throughout the US and Europe. He has prepared choruses for such prominent conductors as Pierre Boulez, James Conlon, Andrew Davis, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Robert Shaw, Leonard Slatkin and Franz Welser-Most.

A native of Steubenville, Ohio, Robert Porco served as chairman of the choral department at Indiana University from 1980-1998 and as artistic director and conductor of the Indianapolis Symphonic choir from 1989-1998.

CONDOLENCES:

Condolences to Sharon Markworth and family on the death of her mother, Virginia Chinn, wife of the late Cyril Chinn. The funeral service took place on Friday, November 14. Carol Neff served as organist. The funeral was held at Faith United Church of Christ. The following pieces were played at the service: "Improvisation on Miles Lane" by Maurice Whitney, "Song of Peace" by Jean Langlais and "The Serenity Prayer" set to music by Cyril Chinn.

ALLELUIA CORNER

Since music is the only art capable of expressing what is impossible of being said in words, it is marvelously suited to the inexpressible aspirations of the soul toward an infinite of which our senses, with their narrow limits of perception and comprehension, cannot conceive. “ Louis Vierne

During this month of Christmas, language is important when telling the various stories leading up to this holiday. Surprisingly, several ‘languages’ are involved; words, music and art to mention a few. Speaking of words, their history is interesting. The letters of an alphabet really began as early sound signs. The English alphabet was based on the Roman alphabet which is 2,500 years young, and similar to Roman inscriptions of the 3rd century. Those people living thousands of years ago recorded events with picture writing, used by many primitive people, and called Ideographic (idea) writing. Such pictures were highly developed by the ancient Babylonians, Egyptians and Chinese; i.e. a picture of a foot would mean ‘to walk’, or a skull and crossbones would mean “poison.” Unfortunately, the Chinese and Egyptians have never passed beyond this stage of writing.

Because men have been living together in society for over a million years, our human language must also be that old. More than 3,000 known languages exist today, many only found in written records. Of these, English is the most widespread language in the world, and Chinese is second. Over time, symbols came to represent combinations of sounds and, about 3,500 years ago, our alphabet was slowly born within the sphere of a new language, Latin. It is interesting to note that the current ‘English’ language began in a tiny isolated German settlement and slowly spread over to the British Isles and then to the new world. Even today the English language is still growing (now over one million words, more than any other language), and is constantly changing through the addition of interaction between countries, war terms, computer and cell phone ‘languages’ plus medical terminology, to mention a few.

Music also has its own ‘language’ and, as Vierne said, we need to use music to express the inexpressible as well as the infinite character of our being. Indeed. music has the power to bypass

language and enter a different part of the brain, into that 90% of the unconscious brain in which our creative being lies. Yet for centuries, authors, poets and musicians have tried to explain the character and acts of the Holy Family, especially the child we honor at Christmas time. Words are not enough. Still, when reading the following passage, I know the words and their messages and actions, but often I am in a state of wonder. What does it all mean? What inner language is speaking and how does one respond? Perhaps Vierne’s quote has touched on the answer; for it is through music that we are granted the gift to express that which is impossible of being understood in words. Music has the power to go beyond the words, to delve into the deeper spiritual part of the brain. Yet these following words are beautiful, heartfelt and majestic, but in what creative speech are they entering into our brain, our lives? So John I speaks:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.

He was in the world, and the world was made by Him and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe in His name, which were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God.

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Ah! Monsieur Vierne: Au Secours!

May the Word and the power of Music continue to be with you all.

Merry Christmas!

Gratian M. Nugent

EASTMAN ROCHESTER ORGAN INITIATIVE FESTIVAL

I attended the Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival at the Eastman School of Music October 16-18. EROI is a long-range plan of the Eastman School to build the Eastman organ department into a global center for organ performance, research, building and preservation. The 2008 Festival celebrated the completion of one phase of this plan- the inauguration of the Craighead-Sunders organ in Christ Church, Rochester. This instrument is a reproduction of a 1776 instrument built by Adam Gottlob Casparini in Vilnius, Lithuania. The original instrument, itself in the process of restoration, represents perhaps the only existing intact large instrument of the type J.S. Bach would have played in Central Germany.

The first afternoon of the symposium was given to celebrating the legacies of David Craighead and Russell Saunders, legendary teachers at Eastman. Remembrances and a preview of a new book on Saunders, "The Silver Fox: Life and Legacy of Russell Saunders" were presented. David Craighead was present and narrated a slide show of his life and career.

The inaugural concert included greetings from dignitaries, a performance by a Lithuanian girls' choir and an improvised organ stop demonstration by William Porter. Performers included Harold Vogel, Hans Davisson, and David Higgs. Prior to the first note of the organ, the video screens which had been set up to allow the audience to see the gallery performers, showed the preparation in the bellows rooms as two students stepped in sequence on the six bellows that power the organ. The concert ended with a performance by the Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Ensemble, directed by Paul Odette.

The organ is stunning, both visually and tonally. The facade is impressive- all gilt, blue and white with a large carving of King David playing his harp on the frontpiece. The drawknobs look like large skeleton keys. The tone is warm and enveloping. The sound fills the room without being too loud. The

temperament is distinctive, but was chosen to be able to play with instruments in all keys.

Friday and Saturday events included papers and round table discussions on topics around performance practice in the time of Bach, instrumental pitch, temperament, and transposition, congregational singing in the time of Bach, the Leipzig organ, Bach's pedal playing, and the use of the organ as obligato instrument. Christoph Wolff gave the keynote lecture on new biographical and musical discoveries in Bach research.

A distinguished alumni recital was played by Roberta Gary and Larry Smith. The Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Ensemble with Paul Odette and the Eastman Collegium Musicum performed a concert of Bach Cantatas. The Three Professors, David Higgs, Hans Davidsson, and William Porter played a concert on Saturday afternoon. The festival continued through Monday with more concerts and presentations on the reconstruction of the Craighead-Saunders organ, but I returned home to play for church and attend our chapter events for the Year of the Organ Celebration at St. Paul's. The organ faculty at Eastman were gracious hosts. Meals were shared, friendships made and renewed. Others attending from Cleveland were Nicole Keller, Warren and Margaret Scharf, and David Boe. Next year's topic is the organ music of Mendelssohn. I heartily recommend that you consider attending.

-Submitted by Fern Jennings

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Monday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church
9205 Brecksville Rd.
Brecksville, Ohio 44141
Rte. 82 and I-77.
Missy Koch, Hostess

Next Chapter Meeting:

Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ
Church of the Saviour
2537 Lee Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44118
(440) 321-8880x235

**ESTONIAN PHILHARMONIC
CHAMBER CHOIR**

TALLINN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Our second chapter event for the year was also “spectacular.” It was the co-sponsorship of the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir with the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, Tõnu Kaljuste, director. The concert was held at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on Friday, Nov. 14. Greg Heislman was host.

The choir sang with vocal perfection to a large audience. The accompaniments and solo pieces by the orchestra were exquisite. The program included works by Arvo Pärt and Erkki-Sven Tüür. It ended with the *Beatus vir*, Rv597 for two choirs and two orchestras by Vivaldi. The cathedral was the perfect setting for these works and the performers were given a long standing ovation by the enthusiastic audience.

The choir’s recording of Arvo Pärt’s *Da Pacem* (Harmonia Mundi) won the Grammy award for Best choral Performance at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in 2007. The choir’s recordings have received 8 Grammy nominations and it is easy to see why.

Special thanks to Greg for hosting this event and allowing us to participate. Also, thanks to Don Jackson for publicity and Carmen Massaro for recruiting greeters and ushers.

ADDENDUM TO 08-09 YEARBOOK

New e-mail addresses:

Alan Higbee alanhigbee@roadrunner.com

Judith Higbee ajhigbee@roadrunner.com
(there is no DOT)

Jon Peterson jay8pea@yahoo.com.

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.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

(Youngstown Area):

ORGANIST-CHOIR DIRECTOR: St. James Episcopal Church, 7640 Glenwood Avenue, Boardman. One Sunday service, one adult choir rehearsal. Two-manual Kegg Pipe Organ. Salary commensurate with music degree and experience. Contact Fr. Kelly Marshall at 330.758.2727 or send a resume to the church office.

ORGANIST: Historic Trinity United Methodist Church, 30 W. Front Street, Youngstown, OH 44503. Responsibilities include one Sunday service and one adult choir rehearsal. Weddings, funerals and special services. The instrument is a 4-manual, 89 rank, Möller (restored by Schantz) pipe organ. Other duties include services (weddings and funerals) in the Chapel of Friendly Bells. Salary based on music degree and experience. Send resume to Vernon Brown, Chairman PPR committee. Closing date for applications is December 12, 2008 or until position is filled. Position available January 12, 2009.

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.

December 3 & 10: Florence Mustric presents "God among us," music by Bach, David, Messiaen, and Pachelbel.

December 17: Robert Myers presents "Music for Christmas," music by Bach, Pachelbel, Walcha, and Young.

December 24: Florence Mustric performs "Christmas eve around the world," music by Barber, D'Aquin, Ginastera, Pachelbel, and Walcha.

December 31: Robert Myers presents "Music for Christmas," music by Bach, Pachelbel, Walcha, and Young.

Wednesdays: Christ Episcopal Church, 3445 Warrensville Center Rd., Shaker Hts., Ohio 44122, (216) 991-3432. www.cometochristchurch.org

Midday Musical Mosaic Concerts at 12:10 p.m.

December 5: Kirk Rich, organ. Kirk is Oberlin student and was this year's featured rising star artist from the Minneapolis AGO convention

December 17: Robert Davis, clarinet and Nathan Carterette, piano. Brahms Clarinet Sonatas, opus 120.

Tuesday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Hts. **City Music Cleveland.** Works of Lully, Rossini, Sibelius, Beethoven, Corelli, and Gounod.

Friday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.: Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107. The **Coles Dusenbury Choral Festival** featuring the following choirs: **Empire CompuTech Center Performance Choir of Cleveland, Leslie Anne Bird**, Director; **Erievew 3rd and 4th grade Choir** from Avon Lake, **Michelle Swislocki**, director; and the **Bay Village Chamber Choir, Devon Gess**, Director. Also, **Leslie Anne Bird**, soprano and **Linda Gardner**, organist, will perform. Freewill offering. Reception following the concert.

Friday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 North Prospect Street in Downtown Akron, Ohio. The traditional **Festival of Lessons and Carols** will be celebrated. This service will welcome the seasons of Advent and Christmas with sacred choral and instrumental music by the **Trinity Choir, Paragon Brass Quintet, Trinity Bells**, and **organ**. All are invited to a wassail reception immediately following the service. An offering will be received. Secure, lighted parking is located adjacent to the church. Phone 330.376.5154 for more information.

Sunday, Dec. 7 at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.: The Federated Church, 76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls. The **Chancel Choir** under the direction of **Dr. William Foley** performs **Bach's Christmas Oratorio** with an 18-piece orchestra.

Sunday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m.: The Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106. Office: 216-421-0482. Organ Recital by **Jonathan Moyer**. *La Nativite* by Messiaen (complete).

Friday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.: Cathedral of St John, 1007 Superior Ave, (downtown Cleveland). **Trinity High School Choir.** Thomas More Scott, Director. **Benedictine High School Choir.** Ian Crane, Director. The Cathedral's annual Diocesan High School Choir invitational concert. Music for the seasons of Advent & Christmas. **FREE** concert; Free secure parking: Cathedral Garage on Rockwell Ave at E 9th.

Friday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m.: Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Hts., Ohio. (216) 321-8880. **“Amahl and the Night Visitors”** by **Gian Carlo Menotti**. Tickets required: \$8 adults and \$4 youth (18 and under)

Friday, December 12 at 8:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio 44118. (216) 932-7480). **Joshua Smith**, flute (principal flutist of the Cleveland Orchestra), and **Jory Vinikour**, international harpsichordist. Music by Handel, Duple, Royer, Scarlatti and the Bach sonatas for Flute and harpsichord.

Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.: Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. The Ohio Boy Choir will perform a holiday program. Freewill offering. Reception following the concert.

Sunday, December 14 at 11:00 a.m.: Mayfield United Methodist Church, 7747 Mayfield Road, Chesterland, OH 44026 440-729-4006. **“The Music of Christmas”** presented by the **Chancel Choir** with organ, piano, percussion and bells. **Carol Neff, organist.**

December 14 at 3:00 p.m.: St. Sebastian Church, 476 Mull Ave., Akron. A **Ceremony of Lessons and Carols**. The **Ceremony** consists of nine readings of salvation with choral/hymn responses. The program will feature the **Parish Choir, Praise and Worship Ensemble, Children's Choir, Handbell Choir, Men's Quartet** and **instrumentalists**. The program is free and open to the public.

Sunday, December 14 at 4:40 and 7:00 p.m.: Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd., Cleveland Hts. (216) 321-5800. **Feast of Carols and Pudding**. The Fairmount tradition returns, with musical and dramatic revelry, a court wizard, audience caroling and delicious holiday dessert. Tickets required.

Tuesday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m.: Rocky River Presbyterian Church, 21750 Detroit Road, Rocky River, Ohio. **Burning River Brass**. Freewill offering.

Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 p.m.: The Federated Church, 76 Bell St., Chagrin Falls. Holiday Concert and Carol Sing-along featuring the **Cleveland Jazz Orchestra**. Free-will offering.

Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights, Ohio 44118. (216) 932-7480). **A Festival of Lessons and Carols**. Music by all choirs and festive carol singing for all.

Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.: First Presbyterian Church, 4785 Shankland Road, Willoughby, Ohio. **A Festival of Lessons and Carols** featuring: **First Presbyterian Chancel Choir, Lyons Chapel Choir, Breckenridge, Painesville Women's Chorus, First Presbyterian Handbells, Organist: Anne Wilson**. Guest readers: **Rev. Dr. Jeff Paschel, Rev. Connie Sterner, Rev. Harry Bigelow, Rev. Don Grauer, Rev. Natalie McWilliams**. A part of our 175th anniversary celebration



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QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2008-2009

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