



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

April 2009

FROM THE DEAN

As I am writing this (March 15), the Mozart Coronation Mass Concert is imminent (March 22). The concert will be reviewed in next month's Newsletter, but I hope many of you took advantage of this unique opportunity and participated as a chorister or came to enjoy it.

Congratulations to Shawn Dawson and Alexander Whitacre, our Quimby competition winners this year of 1st and 2nd places, respectively. Special thanks to Robert Moncrief, host, and judges Anne Wilson (Cleveland) , Barbara MacGregor (Akron) and David Kienzle (Canton).

And now we can turn our attention to several other "Coming Attractions." Our annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3 at Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Details are included elsewhere in this Newsletter, so make your reservations now.

Don't forget to vote in our annual election. The slate is presented in this Newsletter and ballots will go out in early April. This year there was some confusion regarding election procedures and officers' terms of office. We will be forming a task force to look at our Operating Procedures (which were passed in 1991) to see if any changes are recommended. This task force will be active next year and will report back to the Executive Committee next spring and to our general membership next May (2010) at our Annual Meeting. If you would like to participate in this task force, please let me know.

This summer is the summer of organ-related conventions in our area. Organ enthusiasts can attend three back-to-back conventions. The first is our AGO Regional Convention in Detroit which will be held June 27-July1. It is time to make plans NOW. Go to the website Detroitago.org to read all the information and to register. (Early registration is suggested to save money).

Immediately following the Detroit Regional Convention, Cleveland will be the host city for two conventions. "Treasures of the Western Reserve" will be presented by the Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society and ATOS (American Theatre Organ Society) from July 1-5. Details are on their website at www.atos.org/conventions/2009.

Then the Organ Historical Society (OHS) will also hold their convention in Cleveland, from July 5-10. They will visit many of the area's historical organ sites and will feature several of our AGO members as performers. See the details at their website, www.organsociety.org/2009/

Our AGO Executive Committee voted last November to co-sponsor the final concert of the OHS convention at Severance Hall on July 10 which will feature Thomas Murray. All active Cleveland AGO members who have renewed their memberships before the deadline on May 31 will be sent a free ticket to this concert. (Please note the deadline for membership has been moved up; see next months' Newsletter.) You will definitely want to put this July 10 date on your calendars. (cont'd on p. 2)

FROM THE DEAN (cont'd)

All three of these conventions have numerous lectures, concerts and educational opportunities to enjoy, learn and grow professionally. We hope our members will take advantage of these special events in our own back yard.

Spring has sprung and a Happy Easter to everyone! See you at the Annual Meeting!

Musical Blessings,
Marcia

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Monday, May 18, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.
Church of the Saviour
2537 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
(216)-321-8880
Robert Day, Host

Next Chapter Meeting:

Sunday, May 3, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.
Annual Dinner Meeting
Fairmount Presbyterian Church
2757 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
(216)- 321-5800

CHAPTER CONCERNS:

Condolences to the family of Dr. Robert Ebert, whose mother passed away in March.

Kudos to H. Leslie Adams who has had two CD's released recently: **Love Rejoices: Songs of H. Leslie Adams (composer)/Darryl Taylor (performer)/Robin Guy (performer-piano).** **Twelve Etudes: Leslie Adams (composer), Maria Corley, (performer - piano).** In addition, pianist **Leon Bates** performed works by Mr. Adams in the Guest Artist Series "**African-American Originals**" in Marshall Auditorium at Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia.

RECITAL AND ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

SUNDAY MAY 3

The Cleveland Chapter AGO Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3, at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, 2757 Fairmount Blvd. (intersection of Fairmount and Coventry) in Cleveland Heights. Minister of Music Bob Moncrief will be our host for the afternoon and evening.

The event actually begins at 3:00 pm with a recital by organist Steven Egler, from Central Michigan University, and flautist Frances Shelly, from Wichita State University.

A buffet dinner by caterer Janet Cutlip, who has catered many of our Annual Dinners in the past, will begin at approximately 5:00 pm, followed by the Annual Meeting and installation of next year's officers and Executive Committee members.

Cost for the dinner is once again \$20 per person, and spouses and guests are most welcome! Reservations and payment (checks should be made out to "Cleveland Chapter AGO") should be sent to David Powers, AGO Treasurer, 2539 W. Sprague Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio, 44147. Deadline for reservations is Monday, April 27.

R. TOLAND WRIGHT'S STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

I'm doing some research on Toland Wright's windows. Wright was an excellent stained glass designer and had done some wonderful windows in several of the churches including First Baptist, Church of the Saviour, Grace Lutheran, etc.

I am interested in finding other windows that he might have crafted. If you know of any church that has one or more of his windows, please let me know.

Thanks.

Betty Meyers

NOMINATING COMMITTEE **ANNOUNCES SLATE OF** **OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010**

The Executive Committee has approved the following slate of officers and candidates for the Executive Committee as submitted by the Nominating Committee for 2009-2010. The slate is as follows:

Dean - Marcia Snavely
Sub-Dean - Robert Day
Secretary - Leslie Bauer
Treasurer - David Powers

Candidates for Executive Committee (3 to be elected, each to serve a 3-year term):

Lloyd Max Bunker
Peg Limkemann
Robert Moncrief
Jonathan Moyer
John Seiz

(See biographies of each of the above candidates.)

Voting, as in the past, will be by written ballot which will be mailed to chapter members in early April. Officers and newly elected members of the Executive Committee will be installed at the Annual Dinner Meeting on Sunday, May 3 (see article elsewhere in this newsletter).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE **CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES**

Lloyd Max Bunker has served in many capacities in the Cleveland Chapter of the AGO over past years. He was Dean of the guild from 1980-1982 and has been involved as a member of the professional concerns committee as well as being on the executive board at various times in the past. He was also involved in the planning of the 1974 National Convention held in Cleveland and on the executive planning committee for the 1989 regional convention. He has served in churches and temples

in the Cleveland area, including 24 years as music director of St. Christopher's by the River, in Gates Mills, 14 years as music director at Epworth-Euclid Church, University Circle, 8 years as music director at Suburban Temple, Beachwood, and 4 years at Fairmount Temple, Beachwood. He is currently music director at Lakewood Congregational Church, where he directs handbells, the adult choir, oversees the Fine Arts Series and accompanies the three children's choirs, in addition to playing the organ. He holds degrees from the Ohio State University in organ and voice and a Master's Degree from Kent State in choral conducting and piano. He has served on many committees and boards in Cleveland and is currently on the board of the Cleveland International Piano Competition. He is a dual member with the New York City American Guild of Organists.

Peg Limkemann is excited about the opportunity to serve again. Past experience includes several terms on the Executive Committee, chair of the exams committee as well as teacher and judge, co-chair of the program committee for the Region V 1989 convention, two years as Dean, service on the Finance Committee, the Centennial committee, the Professional Concerns Committee, judge for Regional Competitions, and attendee at many regional and national conventions. She chaired the Commissions Committee for the 2003 Regional Convention here in Cleveland. Peg is ready to put her experience to work once again for the Chapter she cares about.

Robert Moncrief has been Minister of Music at Fairmount Presbyterian Church, in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, since 2001. He is organist and director of three choirs and oversees the handbell choir program and an extensive concert series. A native of Hanover, Pennsylvania, he is a graduate of The College of William and Mary, where he studied with and assisted James Darling at Yale University, where he was a member of the first graduating class of the Institute of Sacred Music. His teachers were Robert Baker, Vernon deTar, and Gerre Hancock. For two years he was assistant organist of New York's First Presbyterian Church; from 1977 to 1994

he was Organist-Director of Music of the Presbyterian Church of Rye, New York; and from 1994 to 2001, he was Director of Music Ministries at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. Robert served as Dean of the Detroit Chapter and the Westchester (NY) Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and was Secretary of the New York City Chapter. He also served on the executive committee of the Cleveland Chapter Regional Convention in 2003 and has been coordinator of the Chapter Playing Competition. His major recital appearances have been at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York, at St. John's Episcopal Church and National City Christian Church in Washington, D.C., at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit, and at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Also an accomplished tenor, he was an apprentice artist with the Santa Fe Opera and has appeared with opera companies and in oratorio and concert performances throughout the Northeast. His debut as an artist at a Region I/Region II Convention of the AGO was as tenor soloist for worship and workshops.

Service to my local AGO Chapter has always been important to me, but years of serving as a chapter officer and board member for several chapters and Regional Councilor for professional Concerns had left me weary and hesitant to take a leadership role in the Cleveland Chapter since my arrival here in 2001. I am now "revitalized" and would be honored to serve on the Board of the Cleveland Chapter. As organists, we need a support system in which we can receive inspiration, mutual caring, shared knowledge, and comradery. The Cleveland Chapter is filled with talent and experience and the potential for lively activity and visibility. I would be happy to be a part of this vibrancy.

Jonathan William Moyer is the music director and organist of the Church of the Covenant and resides in Shaker Heights, Ohio, along with his wife and organist, Kaori Hongo, and son, Christopher. He has served as sub-dean for the Baltimore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and served on the

steering committee for the 2007 AGO Region III Convention in Baltimore. He is a doctoral candidate in organ at the Peabody Conservatory of Music (Baltimore), where he completed both a graduate performance diploma in organ and a master's degree in piano. He received a bachelor of music degree in piano from Bob Jones University (South Carolina). In September 2008, he received the second prize in the Sixth International Musashino Organ Competition in Tokyo, Japan, and in 2005 he was one of four finalists in the St. Albans International Organ Competition. He maintains an active recital career throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan.

John Seiz retired from the Ohio Bell Telephone Company with 31 years experience in Marketing and Communications. In addition to the AGO, John is a member of the Organ Historical Society and the American Theatre Organ Society. He has served the past 3 years as a member of the Executive Committee of the Cleveland Chapter of the AGO. John is a member of the Chancel Choir of Garfield Memorial United Methodist Church, and the Catch the Spirit Choir, Craig McGaughey Director. John is not an organist, but he can read music. "I have enjoyed working with the chapter officers and the other members of the Executive Committee, and I would like to continue".

ALLELUIA CORNER

When studying for my Commissioned Minister of Music Degree from the UCC in 1997, I was required to write an account of my musical, spiritual and physical life leading up to this decision. Hence a part of the following narrative; "My life's Pilgrimage and Call to Commissioned Ministry."

Music played a vital role in forming my religious beliefs. My earliest memory of church life was my mother practicing vocal choir music at home for services at First Methodist Church, downtown Cleveland. I also remember sitting with my Dad in church hearing the long sermons, scriptures and prayers. I especially recall his voice rumbling through the wooden pews, a powerful kind of music that remains with me yet. The vocal power of the congregation filling the room and reverberating through the pews as they sang and prayed was vital in my spiritual journey. In addition I remember attending the wonderful church dinners and rehearsals (no baby sitters in those days.) The vitality and warmth of church life was as normal a part of my life as attending school.

My parents were PKs, both of my Grandfathers being Methodist ministers-circuit riders in southern Ohio. So I grew up hearing the many stories of family-parish experiences. Their unending tales about the joys, trials and tribulations of *their* early years left me with realistic pictures of church life behind the pulpit. As a result my parents' firm belief in religion was as natural as breathing, realistic, never Pentecostal in nature, never threatening or guilt-ridden. My mother, especially, made every effort to make sure that my brother and I were not burdened with a kind of ecclesiastical guilt as was she, a gesture on her part for which I am eternally grateful.

As a youth I questioned the importance of Christ -- and often felt his faith requirements difficult to follow. As a teenager I perceived the many stories, such as the Virgin birth and unexplained miracles, as contrived and controlling, becoming a barrier to my faith. The Bible seemed to stress that one should rely on a God that deliberately ignored His own natural laws of nature as Biblical

persuasions of Christianity. It was many years that I finally sensed the purpose and inner meaning behind those relentless words, ... "take up your cross" ...etc.

In contemporary terms, the most meaningful 'scriptural' picture for me occurred during a TV special on violence in America, where a young girl was crying when trying to describe her horror at certain events -- "We need to have Christ here.." . and strangely I knew exactly what she meant. We continue to need miracles of spiritual depth, forgiveness, acceptance, accountability and love. Through study my passion for church music and the sharing of its message is truly a vocation.

Being on staff in a church may not be the best way to climb the corporate ladder of success and financial security, but it is the environment in which I am comfortable in carrying out my mission. To work in such a setting is exhausting work, and subject to extraordinary difficulties that can unravel the most dedicated musician, Christian and otherwise.

Yet because of all these things I feel spiritually enriched, empowered and challenged. My call to this Ministry is inspired by the realization that these years of study have formed a bedrock of life-experiences, growth in faith, and sharing the lives of wonderful friends, students and colleagues. The power of the Word coupled with music is the creative, powerful force binding us together. My work is to help others to experience that inner power, as my parents did for me long ago. (I passed. Sermon anyone?)

Gratian M. Nugent

2009 AGO/QUIMBY REGIONAL COMPETITIONS FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

The Cleveland Chapter competition in the 2009 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists was held at Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights on Saturday, March 7. The first-place prize of \$600 went to Shawn Dawson, a student of Nicole Keller at Baldwin-Wallace College, and the second-place prize of \$400 went to Alexander Whitaker, a student of Jack Mitchener at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Also participating was Casey Palmer, a student of Paul Weber at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

The winner, Shawn Dawson, will participate in the regional competition held in Detroit in late June. He is a junior at Baldwin-Wallace and a member of the Cleveland and Mansfield AGO chapters. He is currently organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Olmsted Falls. The second-place winner, Alexander Whitaker, is a sophomore at Oberlin Conservatory, having received his high school diploma from the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he also studied with Jack Mitchener.

The purpose of these competitions is to encourage younger organists to pursue excellence, to gain performance experience, and to receive recognition for their achievements. These competitions begin at the chapter level and conclude at the nine regional conventions. The winner of each regional convention competition will be invited to perform at the 2010 national convention in Washington DC.

Special thanks go to our judges: Anne Wilson of Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, Barbara MacGregor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron, and David Kienzle of Christ Presbyterian Church in Canton.

Robert Moncrief, coordinator

WINNER OF CLEVELAND COMPETITION

Shawn Dawson is a junior at Baldwin Wallace College Conservatory of Music studying Organ Performance. He has previously studied piano and organ with Jane Brown, and he is currently studying organ with Nicole Keller. A member of the Cleveland and Mansfield chapters of the AGO, Shawn has been an organ substitute and has held organist positions at Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches in the greater Cleveland and Mansfield areas. He is currently the organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Olmsted Falls. In addition to his piano and organ study, Shawn has been studying conducting with Maestro Dwight Oltman. This includes Bach works including the St. Matthew Passion through the works of contemporary composer Chen Yi.



CLEVELAND COMPETITION **SECOND PLACE WINNER**

Alexander Whitaker is from Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He began his musical training at the age of seven by studying piano. He is currently a sophomore organ student of Jack Mitchener at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Alexander received his high school diploma from the North Carolina School of the Arts as an organ student of Jack Mitchener.



PLEASE NOTE: Please send all job postings to: **Gerry Mass**, (440)884-4904, **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: North Olmsted United Methodist Church, 4600 Dover Center Rd., North Olmsted, OH 44070. (440) 779-6634. One Sunday service at 10:30 (9:00 during the summer). No choir rehearsal. Ten-twelve extra miscellaneous services throughout the year. Salary: \$9,000. (negotiable). Interested persons should send a resume to the Church address above or via e-mail: office@noumc.org (or call the Church office for further information at the phone number listed above).

MARILYN KEISER RECITAL **IN ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Greetings from Erie, PA!

The Erie AGO and the Episcopal Cathedral of St Paul are co-sponsoring Marilyn Keiser in recital on Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 PM.

I look forward to seeing you at the Cathedral on May 17!

Sincerely,
Sharon Downey
Organist-Choirmaster
The Cathedral of St Paul
Erie, PA
(814) 452-3779

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.

April 1 & 8: **Florence Mustric** presents “**Menu of favorites.**” Each week the audience will select the day’s program from a menu of favorites played in the past year, including music by J.S. Bach and Vivaldi.

April 15: **Ian Tomesch**, a young artist from Oberlin Conservatory of Music, will perform music by Nikolaus Bruhns, César Franck, and J.S. Bach.

April 22: **Glenn Hunter** a young artist from Oberlin Conservatory of Music, will perform music by J.S. Bach and others.

April 29: **The St. Ignatius High School Chorus**, conducted by Jason Falkofsky, returns for its annual spring concert at Trinity.

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

Midday Musical Mosaic Concerts at 12:15 p.m.

April 1: **Andrew Sords**, violin; **Nathan Carterette**, piano

April 15 - Alexander Whitaker, organ

Tuesday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.: The Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. 216-421-0482. **Chamber Music and Dramatic Readings.** Music by Britten, Durufle, Barber, Mahler and Messiaen.

Tuesday, April 21 at 12:10 p.m.: St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 318 East Liberty Street, Medina. 330.725.4131. The **Highland Chamber Ensemble** playing the music of Antonin Dvorak.

Wednesday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m.: Cathedral of St John, 1007 Superior Ave, (downtown Cleveland). **Kent State University Chorale, Scott MacPherson**, conductor. **Kent State University Men’s Chorus & Women’s Chorus, Kerry Glann**, conductor. Works by: Palestrina, Biebl, Thompson, and more. **FREE** concert; Free secure parking: Cathedral Garage on Rockwell Ave at E 9th. gheislman@dioceseofcleveland.org; 216-771-6666.

Saturday, April 25 at 8:00 p.m.: First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, 3630 Fairmount Blvd., Shaker Heights. 216-932-7480. **Juke Box Saturday Night.** First Baptist musicians present an evening of song to benefit the Music and Fine Arts Ministry.

Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m.: Church of the Savior, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Hts. 216-321-8880. **Robert Day**, organ. A concert of selected favorites. Reception following.

Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m.: Church of the Ascension, 13216 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood. 216-521-8727. **Linda L. Gardner**, organ. Music by Bach, Paulus, Clerambault, Haydn, Young and Liszt. Free-will offering. Parking available. Reception following the concert.



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

April 2009

QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2008-2009

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

Sub-Dean: Robert Day, (216)295-2235, e-mail: jickbob@aol.com

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

Treasurer: David Powers, (440)888-8757, e-mail: dpowers8835@sbcglobal.net

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

Website: www.agocleveland.org

AGO Cleveland Chapter
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440.338.6606

CANTON ORGAN CRAWL

The Canton Chapter AGO has planned an “Organ Crawl” on Saturday May 2nd as=2 0part of our programming for the year. We actually had the date planned for April 25th, but due to several conflicts we had to change it to May 2nd. The “Organ Crawl” will take place in three churches in Akron. On behalf of the Canton Chapter, I’d like to invite any interested members from your groups to attend this function. Listed below are some of the details and a sign up sheet for a car-pooling we’re forming from this area. The lunch provided will cost \$10 (the Canton Chapter members will not have to pay for lunch). At this point in time, I’m waiting for specific directions from our member that is organizing the event, and can forward those directions when available. Please feel free to publish the information in your newsletters. If you have any other questions at this point in time, please feel free to contact me. Thank you very much!

Kevin Kutz
Canton Chapter Dean

Schedule: Saturday May 2, 2009

8:30 - 9:45am - First United Methodist Church (UMC) on Mill Street. Our host will be Akron chapter member Rex Roseman since the organist from that church and Dean of the Akron chapter Dawn Filler will be in Columbus at a dean's meeting.

10:00 - 11:15am - Trinity Lutheran Church which is within a few blocks of First UMC. Our hosts there will be Barbara McGregor and Jim Storry.

11:30 - 12:45pm - Trinity United Church of Christ (TUCC), just a quick jaunt up to North Hill. Our host there will be Jack Vogelgesang.

1:00 - ??? Lunch of soup, salad and sandwich will be served to all AGO members and friends at TUCC. Following lunch, you may still have more time at the console at TUCC.

So bring your music, shoes, glasses, etc., for a morning and early afternoon of fellowship and education!

ORGAN CRAWL” SIGNUP FORM FOR MAY 2, 2009

Name_____

Phone Number_____

I will join the caravan at the Gabriel Brother's parking lot _____yes

I will find my own way to the churches in Akron _____yes

I would like to ride with someone from the Gabriel Brother's lot _____yes

I would be able to give someone a ride from the Gabriel Brother's lot _____yes

I am a member of the Canton Chapter AGO and will attend the lunch at TUCC
_____yes

Number of additional lunches needed for nonmembers at \$10 each_____
(Please enclose a check for the lunches made out to the Canton AGO Chapter)

Return this form (and check if applicable) to Kevin Kutz, 4970 Blakemore Trail NW, Canton, OH 44718 by Saturday, April 25th. Contact Kevin at 330/494-1299 if any questions (or cell phone 330/354-9488).