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2008-2009

American
Guild of
Organists



The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

May 2009

FROM THE DEAN

The Mozart Musical Masterpieces were Magnificent! The workshop and concert led by renowned conductor Robert Porco on March 22 was a huge success. This Newsletter contains a review of the concert by Ginny Roedig (this same review will be published in the TAO in the next month or two) and an editorial written by Mary Jane Skala (a participant who is Editor of the Sun Newspapers) which appeared in 22 editions of the Sun the Thursday after the concert. You can view pictures of the concert on our website www.agocleveland.org.

There were over 100 members of the community chorus and almost 400 people in the audience. The chorus had participants from more than 20 churches and the generous good-will offering will allow us to augment our scholarship funds to the tune of \$1500.

This event was a massive undertaking and two of the people working the hardest were Tim Robson, organist and Ginny Roedig, event chairperson. Other members of the Program committee who worked tirelessly included Robert Day, Michon Koch and Carmen Massaro. The Federated Church and staff were gracious hosts. Their involvement even included Hamilton Throckmorton, Sr. Minister, singing tenor and his 80 + year- old Mother from Bangor Maine, singing alto.

Judith Higbee, Joy McGuire and Ginny Roedig all held workshops in their churches to learn the music. Dr. William Foley led the dress rehearsal the day before. Don Jackson designed a marvelous poster and Jeanette Davis Ostrander helped accompany the

solo auditions.

The soloists—Marian Vogel, Sandra Ross, Timothy Culver and Nikola Budimir-- were the finest in northeast Ohio. Barry Stees, Cleveland Orchestra bassoonist, played the stunning bassoon solo, Andante from Mozart's Bassoon Concerto, as an offertory.

Robert Porco was a joy to work with. As Mary Jane Skala points out in her editorial- we all got to experience his musical genius, his passion and his fervent drive for excellence. I felt especially privileged to participate since one summer I wanted to try out for the Blossom Chorus which had advertised for tenors. I was informed by phone that the Chorus did not accept female tenors, and since even a G above middle C is a strain for my voice, that is the only part I can sing. So here at last I had my chance to sing under Mr. Porco!

So Thank You, Thank You, Thank You—to all who participated or attended. I think our AGO chapter can take great pride in the fact that over 500 people took advantage of the opportunity to make the Mozart Masterpiece Concert a worthwhile and unforgettable event.

NOW, you should have already received your AGO membership renewal forms. Please let me remind you to renew your membership before May 31 to be eligible for the free ticket to the Thomas Murray concert on July 10 at Severance Hall.

(continued on page 2)

FROM THE DEAN (cont'd)

Let me also thank those of you who voted in our annual elections. We extend our appreciation to the outgoing members of the Executive Committee—Alan Higbee, Elizabeth Lucas and John Seiz and our congratulations to the new members whose terms will expire in 2012. (Look for the election results in this Newsletter). We will be installing these officers at the Annual Meeting.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, it will be held at Fairmount Presbyterian Church on May 3 and will feature a concert at 3:00 p.m. by Steven Egler (organ) and Frances Shelly (flute). This is a marvelous opportunity to enjoy the company of your AGO co-members and their spouses and guests. There will also be excellent music, food and opportunity to network and share experiences. I look forward to seeing you there.

Musical Blessings,
Marcia

Next Executive Committee Meeting:

Monday, May 11, 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

FREE CHORAL MUSIC:

Choral music from the recently-closed Fairview Community Church in Fairview Park will be available free for AGO members at the Chapter Dinner and Meeting on Sunday, May 3, at Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights. We thank Dawn Reilly for saving this music and offering it to the Guild, as well as for her many years of devoted service as organist of Fairview Church.

ALLELUIA CORNER

The following statement is music to my eyes and, to my ears, a memorable song of common sense.

“You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred.

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away man’s initiative and independence.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.”

Abraham Lincoln

This declaration by President Lincoln rings as true today as in centuries ago when humans first lived on earth. When penned by Lincoln, he had evidently experienced depressing times in his own life and thereby chose to abide by the sacred rules of endurance and integrity. Such clear-sighted wisdom is still a part of this legacy and test of mankind’s integrity that applies to all groups and governments living on this precarious, precious, spinning sphere. Interestingly it also fits well within the realms of our creative, far reaching work as God’s messengers of truth and faith.

May such clear thinking, character, patience and experience from Lincoln’s pen be music to your ears, and continue to challenge us during this promising, blessed, blooming, bounteous summer.

Gratian M. Nugent

Reflections with Mary Jane Skala



MARY JANE SKALA

Lessons from a Cleveland musical genius

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Imagine Eric Wedge agreeing to coach your son's Little League Team for a day.

That's what it was like for me when Robert Porco, director of choruses for the Cleveland Orchestra, led 130 amateur singers, including me, in Mozart's "Coronation Mass" on Sunday.

I was humbled at Porco's accepting this invitation from the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists to coach us amateurs for a day. By the time it concluded, I was drunk on the wine of his knowledge, his passion and his fervent drive for excellence. If only we could infuse our lives with his gusto.

He stepped to the podium at the Chagrin Falls church for a four-hour rehearsal Sunday afternoon, but we didn't sing at first. We wiggled, twisted, rolled our shoulders, dangled our fingertips at our toes and groaned to release stress. The body is our instrument, he said. It must be loose and stress-free.

"Your chest is like a barrel. Fill it with air," he instructed. "Think of your mouth as a cathedral! The sound should soar high, up to the dome.

"Singing is north and south, not east and west. Drop your jaw. Aw. Say it: Aw. And get rid of that flat Ohio O!"

He joked about hearing "Kentucky Latin" when he directed the May Festival Chorus in Cincinnati before coming to Cleveland.

We knew our music because our respective choirs had rehearsed it since January, but the notes are just the clay, Porco said. Now we must make Mozart come alive.

For four hours, we stopped and started, stopped and started as Porco dissected every measure of music like a biologist in a lab. Excellence hides in the details, he said.

He told us how George Szell, the late legendary conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra, walked among the musicians as they practiced Beethoven, listening to how each one was playing staccato 16th-notes. Detail, he said.

Equally crucial, he said, is joy. "Sing! Sing with joy! Why else are you here?"

"If you sing without gusto, why should people come?" he asked after one limp go-around. "Exaggerate! Concerts are theater!"

"Attack! Don't wait for your neighbor -- sing!" He prefers loud gaffes to timid whimpers.

Then, "Sing the words! If words aren't important, we'll just let the orchestra play."

He talked about the genius of Mozart, a touring pianist at age 6 and who wrote 600 compositions in his brief 35 years. Think about Mozart's words, he said, and how Mozart put ancient text to music.

"I believe in one God!" Porco declared, translating Mozart's Latin into English. "He wrote all four parts in one unified key to make that statement: I believe in one God! Sing it like that!"

"Average isn't good enough. You want it to be your best," he urged before we broke for supper.

In a society littered with over-produced pop musicians, where Anderson Cooper passes for a journalist, where every kid gets a trophy to Scotch-Guard his self-esteem, Porco and his push for nothing but our best was exhilarating. Our culture is starved for what he has to say.

The church was full that evening when Porco raised his baton. We were weeks away from the excellence he championed, but we sang hard anyway -- then suddenly, it was over. All that work, and it was over. The next morning, though, I was still sparkling. Porco was right. Singing, especially with him, was pure joy. mjskala@sunnews.com or (216) 986-5470.

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AGO CHORAL FESTIVAL **MARCH 22ND**

Cleveland, OH, March 22nd, the Cleveland chapter of AGO had the great privilege to prepare and perform Mozart's *Coronation Mass* under the direction of Robert Porco, Director of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus. All chorus members of AGO-affiliated churches were invited to attend. A number of choirs prepared the works as a group: the church choirs of Church of the Savior, Cleveland Heights, director Judith Higbee, Federated Church of Chagrin Falls, director Dr. William Foley, Brecksville United Methodist Church, director Joy Fenton, and First Presbyterian Church of Willoughby, director Ginny Roedig. For those individuals who wished to participate but did not belong to one of these choirs, the directors of the above choirs offered retreat-style workshops to assist in preparation for the festival. Well over 100 singers participated.

Saturday, March 21st, a preparatory dress rehearsal was held at Federated Church in Chagrin Falls, venue for the concert. Sunday, March 22nd, 2-6p.m., Mr. Porco directed an intense preparation of the works involved. Dinner was offered at 6, the concert began at 7:30. The all-Mozart performance included the following choral works: *Laudate Dominum* from the *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, the motet *Ave Verum Corpus*, and concluded with the *Coronation Mass*. Mr. Barrick Stees of the Cleveland Orchestra contributed the second movement of Mozart's Bassoon Concerto in B-flat Major as the Offertory.

Mr. Porco's rehearsal began with a number of physical exercises not seemingly related to the human voice. However, as Mr. Porco explained, we don't sing just with our vocal chords, but with the entire body. During the extensive preparation, much attention was paid to production of the correct type of sound, consistent vowels and diction. Mr. Porco interjected explanations of the background of the pieces as well as proper performance practice. His work reflected a great deal of precision as well as sensitivity to the interpretation of the music.

This concert festival was an outstanding opportunity to "encourage excellence in the performance of ... choral music" as written in the mission statement of the AGO. It offered members the rare opportunity to work under the direction of one of the nation's outstanding choral directors and become acquainted with a work outside of the repertoire of most church choirs. Mr. Porco is not only director of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, but was Chairman of the Choral Department of Indiana University Scholl of Music for 18 years and has appeared with numerous orchestras internationally.

In addition to Mr. Porco, the enormous success of this concert was also due to the contributions of the many talented persons who were also involved. At the organ console was AGO member Tim Robson, organist for Euclid Avenue Congregational Church, assisted during the rehearsals by Marcia Snavelly, organist for Federated Church. The four excellent soloists were Marian Vogel, Soprano, Sandra Ross, Alto, Timothy Culver, Tenor, and Nikola Budimir, Bass-Baritone.

Mr. Porco and the chorus received a standing ovation from the audience in the filled sanctuary. Choir members were extremely enthusiastic to have had the opportunity to participate in this event and praised Mr. Porco both as an outstanding educator and musician. What a wonderful way to contribute to excellence in music!

Ginny Roedig

PICTURES FROM THE CHORAL FESTIVAL



JUBILATION FESTIVAL 2009

Many of our AGO member churches are involved in this festival. Congratulations to the six choirs that are finalists in this Choral Festival.

They are (in no order):

Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church (Eric Charnofsky, Director)

The First Church in Oberlin United Church of Christ (Bill Davis, Director)

Avon Lake United Church of Christ Chancel Choir (Mary Fancher, and Fritz Schaufele, Directors)

Westlake United Methodist Church (Andy Call, Director)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Canton (Robert Sullivan, Director)

St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral Choir (Anna Keller, Director)

WCLV and co-sponsor, The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, are presenting the second annual regional church choir festival culminating in the final rounds at The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on May 7 and 8, 2009, with live broadcasts before an audience on WCLV at 8:00 PM each evening. The host for the broadcasts will again be Lloyd Newell, the radio voice of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

The goal of this Festival is excellence in choral singing and diversity in styles. The repertoire will include not only western classical music but also the tradition of gospel and other genres. Choirs will be judged on their technical ability, their musicality and their work as an ensemble.

First prize is a cash prize of \$1,000 and the 2009 *Jubilation* trophy. The five runners-up will win \$500 and receive 2009 *Jubilation* plaques.

The distinguished judges for the final rounds are:

Dr. Betsy Burleigh, Professor; Coordinator of Choral and Vocal Studies; Director, University Chorale and University Chorus, Assistant Director Choruses, Cleveland Orchestra Chorus.

Dr. Joseph Martin, Famed Choral Director and Clinician, Director of Sacred Publications, Shawnee Press

Dr. Craig Jessop, Head of Music Department, Utah State University and Former Director, Mormon Tabernacle Choir

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

RENEW your AGO membership before the May 31 deadline and you will receive a free ticket to the July 10 organ concert co-sponsored by the AGO and the Organ Historical Society (OHS) at Severance Hall.

Thomas Murray's program is as follows:

Tocatta in F major (BWV 540)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sonata I (1937)

Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

Mäßig schnell

Sehr langsam

Phantasie, frei

Ruhig bewegt

Regina Pacis, from Symphony I on Gregorian Themes (1932)

Guy Weitz (1883-1970)

Mouvement

Jean Berveiller (1904-1976)

Symphony in D minor (1886-88)

César Franck (1822-1890), transcribed by Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

Lento - Allegro non troppo

Allegretto

Allegro non troppo

Additional tickets are exclusively available at the Cleveland Orchestra's web site: www.clevelandorch.com and the Severance Hall box office: Phone (800) 686-1141

This is the final concert of the OHS convention which will be held in Cleveland July 5-10. Those registering using the entire convention rate or the individual Friday day rate will have a ticket automatically included (hence the ticket they receive as an AGO member may be an extra one should they choose to attend part or all of the convention)

OHS registration is available online at: www.organsociety.org/2009

A hardcopy of the convention brochure will be mailed via first-class mail to all AGO members.

Joe McCabe

CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS

Here are the results for the AGO Chapter

Elections:

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

Executive Committee for Terms Expiring 2012

Peg Linkemann
Robert Moncrief
Jonathan Moyer

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).

MUSIC DIRECTOR: First Baptist Church, 835 Trebisky Rd., South Euclid, Ohio 44143. We are seeking a faith-filled person who will help re-build our music program. The Music Director should also have keyboard skills sufficient to accompany congregational singing and to accompany the choir (after the choir has been re-organized). Two Sunday services at 11:00 a.m. and 6 p.m. Choir rehearsal Sunday at 5 p.m. Four weeks paid vacation per year. Salary: \$2,000. per month. For further information, please call Pastor Bruce McLaurin at (216) 401-2179 or Deacon Walter Berman at (440) 476-0705

ORGANIST: Fields United Methodist Church, 34077 Lorain Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039. 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sunday services. Choir rehearsal Wednesday from 7:30-9 p.m. Weddings and funerals extra. Rodgers Organ. Salary: (approximate) \$10,000. annual. Interested persons should send resume and references *to* the Church address above, Attention: SPPRC Chairperson.

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.

May 6 & 13: **Florence Mustric** performs "Court and countryside," music by Haydn, LeBegue, Kerll, and others.

May 20 & 27: **Robert Myers** presents "Mostly by way of old England," music by early composers of England, Italy, and Germany.

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.

May 6: Daisuke Yamamoto, violin; Nathan Carterette, piano

May 20: Graham Schultz, organ

Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.: St. Sebastian Church, 476 Mull Ave., Akron, Ohio 44320, 330-836-2233. Musical Arts Series of St. Sebastian is presenting "**Bless Ye the Lord!**" concert by the **Salem Youth Chorus** and **Canton Children's Chorus** on Sat., May 2 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Sebastian. The program will feature plain chant and works by Byrd, Parry, Taverner, Biebl and Carter. The groups are directed by Jon Simsic the winner of the 2008 Royal School of Church music Choral Composition Competition.

Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 p.m.: Brecksville United Church of Christ, 23 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141, 440-526-4364 (church phone). The **Ohio Boychoir**, under the direction of **D. David Kienzle**, in a free concert with the theme, "**Sing the Earth Green!**"

Sunday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.: Magnificat Performing Arts Center, 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, OH. **The West Shore Chorale** presents *A Feast of Song*. Selections include "Food, Glorious Food" from *Oliver!*, "The Drinking Song" from *The Student Prince*, J.S. Bach's "Coffee Cantata," Rutter's "Banquet Fugue," Carey's "Play With Your Food," and many others. John Drotleff, Conductor. Accompanist, Maria Voljin. Reception will follow. Magnificat Performing Arts Center, 20770 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River. Tickets \$15, Students Free. Call 216-373-7773. Tickets are also available online at www.westshorechorale.org. Parking is free and handicap accessible.

Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8 at 8:00 p.m.: The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 1007 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, OH, 44114, (216)-521-2776. **Jubilation Festival.**

Sunday, May 10 at 10:00 a.m.: The Church of the Covenant, 11205 Euclid Avenue. Cleveland, OH. Music for Choir, Organ, Harp and Violin. Music by Faure, Honegger and Vaughan Williams.

Sunday, May 10 at 11:00 a.m.: Mayfield United Methodist Church, 7747 Mayfield Road, Chesterland, OH 44026 Annual Mother's Day Concert featuring the great hymns of the church. Please come and bring a friend! Carol Neff, Organist and Choir Director. 440-729-4006

Sunday, May 10 at 5:00 p.m.: Westminster Church, 1250 W. Exchange St., Akron. **Opera/Broadway Gala, James Mismas and Friends Grand Finale.**

Sunday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.: Rocky River Presbyterian Church, 21750 Detroit Road, Rocky River, 440-356-8989. **Bowling Green State University Collegiate Chorale Concert.**

Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 p.m.: Episcopal Cathedral of St Paul, 133 West 6th Street, Erie, PA. **Marilyn Keiser** in recital .

Sunday, May 17 at 4:30 p.m.: Saint Columbkille Catholic Church, 6740 Broadview Road, Parma, OH. (216)-524-1987. **Aram Basmadjian** in concert, featuring the church's new **Allen Quantum, Q465C** four-manual organ.

Tuesday, May 19 at 12:10 p.m.: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 318 East Liberty Street, Medina. (330)-725-4131. **The Leek Organ Company** of Oberlin, Ohio.

COUNTDOWN TO THE REGION V CONVENTION

The biennial convention of Region V of the American Guild of Organists will take place on Sunday, June 28 through Wednesday, July 1, all over the metropolitan Detroit area, and headquartered at the renowned Renaissance Center Marriott.

This is a great opportunity for organists, music directors, choir members and enthusiasts alike to share a unique professional and social experience and get inspired all over again! You will hear some great artists, such as Lynne Davis, Janette Fishell, Fred Hohman, Martin Jean, and Todd Wilson, playing great music on a variety of fine instruments--mechanical, symphonic, classic. But the convention will feature useful workshops on music for the church, choir rehearsal techniques, new music for the organ, and other professional topics that we can all use. There will also be concerts for choir, handbells, carillon, brass band and an early music group.

Registration rates are reasonable for a convention of this length and scope: \$375 (regular), \$325 (special: i.e., spouse/partner or senior), \$250 (student). After June 1, registration is \$450 (regular), \$375 (special). This includes most meals, even a closing banquet at the Renaissance Center on Wednesday evening. A bus transportation package is available for \$90 for the entire convention. There is also a single day rate of \$190 and a single day transportation rate of \$30. For hotel information, please contact the Detroit Renaissance Center Marriott at 313-568-8000, asking for the AGO rate (\$129 + tax).

Please visit www.detroitago.org to register or see the complete schedule of events, or, If you prefer, fill out and mail the form below.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Registration: (Circle one)

Regular \$375 Regular late (after June 1) \$450

Special \$325 Special late (after June 1) \$375

Student \$250

Single Day \$190 Specify day _____

Transportation: (Circle one)

Full convention \$90

Single Day \$30

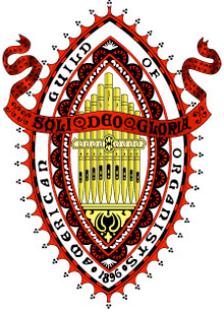
Please detach and mail with payment to

Elgin Clingaman (e-mail: eclingaman@aol.com)

2520 Kimberly Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6449





The American Guild of Organists

Cleveland Chapter

May 2009

QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2008-2009

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

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

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

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