



# The American Guild of Organists

## Cleveland Chapter

### August 2009

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#### **FROM THE DEAN**

Since July 1 is the official date for AGO officers and Committee members to take office, let me say what a privilege it is to be your Dean for another year. I appreciate so much the support and encouragement you provided last year and the help you gave OUR Guild. I know this coming year will also be an exciting and productive year. I hope all of you will participate in some way, whether it be hosting, serving on a committee or attending the various programs.

Our officers for 2009-2010 include Robert Day, Sub-Dean, Leslie Bauer, Secretary, and David Powers, Treasurer. Executive Committee members are Jeanette Ostrander, Missy Koch and Ginny Roedig (terms expire 2010); Nicole Keller, John Seiz, Christopher Toth (Terms expire 2011); and Robert Moncrief, Peg Limkemann and Jonathan Moyer (Terms expire 2012).

Our Standing Chapter Committees include:

Registrar: Chris Toth

Historian/Archivist: James Buncher

AGO Exams: Fern Jennings

Professional Concerns: Robert Schneider

Competition: Robert Moncrief

Member Care: Michon Koch

Program: Robert Day, Ginny Roedig, Carmen Massaro, Horst Buchholz

Member Recruitment: Marlene Dirksen

Scholarship: Carol Neff

Newsletter: Linda Gardner, Evelyn Muranko,  
Juanita Schubert

Placement: Gerry Mass

Publicity: Don Jackson

Webmaster: Timothy Robson

Nominating: Chris Toth, John Seiz

Yearbook: Chris Toth, Don Jackson

In addition, we have two sub-Committees, one re-examining our Operating Procedures consisting of Peg Limkemann, James Riggs, Robert Day, Karen Holtkamp and Max Bunker. The other is a sub-committee of the Program committee who will explore having a possible fund-raising opportunities to provide money for a potential concert. This committee includes Don Jackson, Jeanette Ostrander, Robert Day, Nicole Keller, and Beth Lucas.

If I have forgotten to list someone who has offered to serve, please let me know. We owe a huge vote of thanks to all of these people who volunteer their time and skills to make YOUR organization thrive. Not all of the committees are complete (i.e. Nominating, TAO Reporter), so if you would like to participate in some way, please contact me.

I know most people have a little more time in the summer, so I am including in this Newsletter another copy of our AGO Chapter Survey. If you haven't already filled it out and sent it to me, please do so. I

will be summarizing results in the next Newsletter and would like to include YOUR suggestions and opinions.

I just returned from the AGO Regional Convention in Detroit—What a marvelous event—there were great workshop presenters, beautiful churches with interesting organs, excellent food, gorgeous river views from our hotel rooms, and wonderful recitalists and choirs that WOWed us with their playing and singing. Carol Neff's article, which is included in this newsletter goes into much greater detail, but it was an event which gave attendees a lot of inspiration, ideas and many fond memories. Also, enjoy some of the pictures taken by Ed Tornberg and Greg Polyak.

The Organ Historical Society Convention was also a big success and well attended. Many of us enjoyed the final concert given by Thomas Murray at Severance on July 10. John Seiz has written a brief review of the other venues visited and recitals given during this Convention.

Please mark the dates of September 11 and September 20 on your calendars. On Sept. 11 we are collaborating with the Schantz Organ Company and Fairmount Presbyterian Church to present a concert by Barbara Dennerlein, jazz organist from Germany. The September 20 date is our Annual picnic at Missy Koch/s lovely new home in Broadview Hts.

In the meantime, please enjoy the good weather and opportunities that only summers bring....

Musical Blessings,  
Marcia

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**Next Chapter Meeting:**

Friday, September 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.  
Barbara Dennerlein, Jazz Organist  
Fairmount Presbyterian Church  
2757 Fairmount Blvd.  
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118  
(216) 321-5800

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**Next Executive Committee Meeting:**

Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Marcia Snavely and Greg Polyak  
138 Southwyck Drive  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44033  
(440) 338-6606

**BARBARA DENNERLEIN, JAZZ ORGANIST  
AT FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

One of our first exciting events of the 2009-2010 programming season will be German jazz organist Barbara Dennerlein, performing on Friday, September 11, 2009 at Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. This concert is being sponsored by the Schantz Organ Company, with Fairmount Presbyterian as host. Our own Cleveland AGO Chapter who is collaborating, assisting with publicity, and will host a post-concert reception. While there is no admission charge, a free-will offering will be taken.

Being an accomplished jazz artist, Barbara Dennerlein's program will be far from the usual "organ recital." As the organ community world-wide strives to maintain and increase "The King of Instrument's" love and exposure, Victor Schantz reminds us that "we are [still] in the 'year of the organ,' [and] we are trying to create a new audience and show that the pipe organ is versatile."

Born in Munich in 1964, Barbara was fascinated early on with the sound of the Hammond organ. A home organ for the family was purchased by her father as a Christmas present when she was 11, and Barbara, according to her website bio, "never took her hands off the instrument again." She later discovered the legendary Hammond "B3," long since out of production, and it became her "staple" performing instrument as her career developed. Since the 1980s, critics' acclaims have followed, both in German jazz circles and those in America as well.

In the early 90s, Barbara began an intensive period with the pipe organ, upon hearing her first pipe organ concert in 1994. In another quote from her website bio, she began "proving that the ponderous and sluggish instrument could really swing." Since then, she has thrilled audiences on both sides of the Atlantic.

More information can be found by reading her extensive, yet fascinating bio on her website: [www.barbaradennerlein.com](http://www.barbaradennerlein.com).

This is certainly a program that all Chapter members should strive not only to attend, but to bring friends, jazz buffs, and those for whom "an organ recital is the 'last' place they'd picture themselves, especially on a Friday night." It promises to be extraordinary!

## AGO PICNIC SEPTEMBER 20

While most of you will be reading this in early August, don't forget to save September 20, at 4:00 pm, for our annual Cleveland Chapter welcome picnic. This year our hosts will be Fred and Missy Koch (pronounced "Cook") who are at 8007 Majestic Oaks Trail in Broadview Heights (directions appear below). Spouses, partners, and friends interested in getting to know the Guild are all welcome.

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

A-H – please bring a dessert

I-O – please bring an appetizer

P-Z – please bring a salad or side dish

A "light program," which is always on tap, is still in the works at press time, but will be announced in the September newsletter. Stay tuned!

Even this early, Missy has said that RSVPs are welcome. You can email her at: [MichonKoch@aol.com](mailto:MichonKoch@aol.com), or call her at (440) 740-0737.

### **Directions from West, North, or East:**

Get to I-77 south via I-480, I-90, etc.

I-77 south to Wallings Road (3<sup>rd</sup> exit after I-480)

Exit at Wallings, turn right at top of ramp (going west on Wallings)

Majestic Oaks Trail is the third street on the right. Go to 8007.

(If you get to Broadview Road-Route 176, you've gone too far.)

### **Directions from the South/Akron area:**

I-77 north to Wallings Road (next exit above Route 82)

Exit at Wallings, turn left at top of ramp (going west on Wallings)

Majestic Oaks Trail is the third street on the right. Go to 8007.

(If you get to Broadview Road-Route 176, you've gone too far.)

We hope that all of you can attend. Our annual picnic always offers a great opportunity to renew friendships, greet newcomers, and provides a great start to our "new year."

## ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONVENTION

The Organ Historical Society concluded their annual convention here in Cleveland on Friday, July 10th, after a week of wonderful organ recitals at various venues in Cleveland and the surrounding area including Toledo. We visited 28 churches or other places that have pipe organs of historic value. The programs started at the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and ended at Severance Hall with a stunning performance by Thomas Murray. Some of the other artists we heard were Horst Buchholz, Peter Richard Conte, Todd Wilson, Joan Lippincott, Ken Cowan, Bruce Stevens, Rhonda Sider Edgington, Anne Wilson, Diane Meredith Belcher, Justin Hartz, Jonathan Moyer, and many others.

What a thrill to hear 500 plus voices sing a hymn at each church. Of special note was the concert at St. Procop R.C. Church which, as you may know, is closing. This may have been the last time that the organ was heard.

Wonderful organs, great artists, and a good time was had by all.

John Seiz

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### DETROIT REGION V AGO CONVENTION

The Detroit Chapter hosted the Region V AGO Convention in June. We had a wonderful four days of concerts, worship, workshops, exhibits and fellowship!

We traveled by bus to about a dozen churches within an hour's drive of downtown and to the University of Michigan School of Music in Ann Arbor. They were all beautiful! We had a banquet one evening in the Kirk-in-the Hills Presbyterian Church in Bloomfield, Michigan. It was modeled after an English Chapel and was exquisite! And it was the fanciest church meal we'd ever had! White linen service with harp music—pretty nice!

The opening worship service was held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul with a Festival Choir, Brass, and Percussion conducted by Jerry Blackstone

with Jerry David Tarrant, Organist. The music was lovely and the message was given by the Detroit AGO's Chaplain. He reminded us that our work is a sacred calling and to give our best each and every time we play; and to take time to rest!

A special concert was given by the Classical Bells Handbell Ensemble with organists Leslie Wills, David Enos, and pianist James Gabriel. They presented a variety of lovely handbell music.

One thing we were reminded of was that it's important to have someone listen to the final rehearsal of organ and handbells, or organ and choirs, to make sure the balance is just right. In a couple of the concerts we heard, the balance was way off and a few adjustments would have made the final presentation so much better.

The Detroit area is home to a large number of Carillon towers. Concerts on SEVEN carillons were heard during the week, either before or after the organ concerts....very beautiful! We learned that the property values are higher in neighborhoods where you can hear the bells.

Tom Trenney's concert at First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham was truly inspiring and spectacular! Tom began with an organ duet, "Paeon" by Stephen Paulus as he shared the bench with Andrew Kotylo. Just stunning! Tom conducts a semi-professional choir that sang for us—Tom conducted and Andrew accompanied on the organ....just beautiful! And Tom also did an improvisation on the congregational hymn "When the Morning Stars Together"—also amazing! I felt like I was at the edge of the Pearly Gates by the end of the concert! And I'm so excited for Tom's great successes and achievements! Tom and I took the CAGO exam the same year—he was 15 and I was in my 30's and he could play better than most anyone in our classes at only 15 years old!

Another favorite concert was given by Frederick Hohman, who is famous for playing transcriptions, and as a producer of radio and television music broadcasts. He played with confidence and joy and was very entertaining!

The closing concert was presented by the always fabulous Todd Wilson at the Old St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in downtown Detroit. What a beautiful sanctuary—marble, statues, stained glass, etc. Todd's concert began with Bach's "Passacaglia in C minor"—very stunning! He continued with "Variants" by Paul Cooper, and finished with Widor's "Symphonie Romane." Todd is a superb performer!

Enthusiastic standing ovations were received by Tom Trenney, Todd Wilson and Fred Hohman. Wow!

The exhibit area included displays by Clevelanders Cliff Hill and Gerry Mass. Of course I bought too much music, and I'm eager to learn it.

Cleveland AGO members attending included Hildred and Ed Tornberg, Carmen Massaro, Ruth Brintnall, Missy and Fred Koch, Marcia Snively and Greg Polyak, Jerry Mason and Elizabeth Mason, Jim Hennes, Gerry Mass, Cliff Hill, Todd Wilson and Tom Trenney.

The convention was based at the Detroit Renaissance Center Marriott—a lovely hotel, but very confusing to move around in. We enjoyed two delicious group meals there—a luncheon, and the closing banquet with speaker John Guinn who was a music critic for the Detroit Free Press for 20 years and also an organist and organ professor. He was very entertaining with his stories of various artists and events over the years.

Next year the National AGO convention will be in Washington, D.C., beginning on July 4. And then in 2011, Nashville will host the Region V convention. Both of these cities are easy to drive to.....please consider attending!

Carol Neff, CAGO

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**CONGRATULATIONS:** Music composed by H. Leslie Adams was performed by the R. Nathaniel Dett Choir of the Cleveland School of the Arts, on Saturday, May 23, in Waetjen Auditorium of Cleveland State University. Mr. Adams is profiled at [AfriClassical.com](http://AfriClassical.com).

## ALLELUIA CORNER

“...The sea is his and he made it; and his hands prepared the dry land. O come, let us worship and fall down, and kneel before the Lord, our Maker.” (Venite)

It's nice to know that the human body, which we often take for granted, is constructed by an amazing Creator. This well known fact has existed over the centuries, hence our weekly worship honoring this miracle worker. For when diving into an article about the human brain, my brain 'lit up in fireworks.'

For example, I learned that there are ten billion neurons in the human brain that are always active, and can control thought processes as well as physical and creative activities. This mind-blowing fact alone is one of nature's most important biological inventions given to mankind as a gift, hoping it will be well used by people of earth. Also included in our brain is a storehouse of brain tissue that evaluates incoming information; this stimulates creating, through our imagination, the solving of problems while designing, building, making and playing instruments, plus speaking, writing, singing as well as creating music. Even at that we hardly use the potential of brain material available to us.

In addition, we also have the cerebrum (of 10 billion nerve cells or neurons) covering the rest of the brain like a blanket. This cerebrum is in two halves – which connects by a modern day telephone system of nerves that enables these halves to communicate with each other via the 'corpus callosum.' Each half has its own chores, the left side handling language, speech, writing, reading and mathematics. The right corpus callosum is 'getting to know you' with visual information like facial features, and gets "A's" in evaluating, recognizing, and using those complex musical tones with which we work. (Ah! Messiaen! There you are.) Now take especially good care of that right side of your heavily endowed head.

The 'brain' who discovered and wrote about all this heady stuff is Dr. Roger Sperry who won the 1981 Nobel Prize in medicine and physiology, and who also discovered that each person has two distinct personalities, one in each hemisphere. (That could cause a real headache.) However he also found that the left hemisphere is dominant and usually wins, so

now you know why you can have mixed feelings. It is also clear that today people still do their majority of live action in the sub-cortex which controls primitive functions – pleasure, appetites and pain and maybe a healthy tantrum. So to be called hard-headed is really a healthy thing. When people call you that, just smile and thank them for mentioning a miracle so awesome that there are no words to explain it.

Also it is good to know that the brain is several million times more complex than the best earth computer (so Dell, etc. get busy.) Our five senses including visual, sound, smells, touching (hot and cold), pain, etc. have electrical impulses transmitted to an appropriate part of the brain which never sleeps! even if we do. In fact the brain really gets 'to it' when we fall asleep, helping to solve problems while promoting ideas that offer solutions or another way to look at situations confronting us. Brainwise, these ideas, words and numbers are vital to our creating and playing music. Learning languages also enables us to tell whether an idea is good or bad and how to rework the alphabet laden letters and notes of thoughts and music through an endless, growing, memorized library. Our muscular skills are developed early in childhood along with the ability to discriminate sounds, time and language, enabling us to read books and musical scores early in our youth and continue late in life. And all of this richness of cerebrums and nerve-cells is created from dust and to dust returns.

This is why our songs of praise are a mind-full-beautiful offering, wherein we acknowledge the miracle of life, of firing neurons, of creations so beyond measure that we stand spellbound in wonder. Forever we shall know to sing with joy and power, to play our preludes in ringing thanksgivings and postludes in gratitude for that Power in heaven that dreamed, built and created this life, this gift of billions of neurons that gives us power to grow and create.

Gratian M. Nugent

## **CHAPTER CONCERNS:**

### **From Juanita Schubert:**

"Grateful thanks to our loving friends in Cleveland A.G.O. who sent cards, calls, and prayers our way during Dick's recent surgery experience. He is doing WELL and we are so thankful for all of you who showed your deep concern."

We are delighted to hear that our new Registrar, Chris Toth, is recuperating nicely from hip replacement surgery in early June.

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## **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.

***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: \$1,000. per month. For further information, please call Pastor Bruce McLaurin at (216) 401-2179 or Deacon Walter Berman at (440) 476-0705

***ORGANIST:*** St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 23114 West Rd., Olmsted Falls, Ohio. One Sunday service. Thursday evening choir rehearsal. Other seasonal worship services. Charles Ruggles organ as well as other keyboards and Orff instruments. Salary: \$5,200.-5,700. annually. Interested persons should send a resume to Don Berkey, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 23114 West Rd., Olmsted Falls, OH 44138 or by e-mail to: [andrewsecy@aol.com](mailto:andrewsecy@aol.com)

***ORGANIST:*** Old Stone Presbyterian Church, 91 Public Square, Cleveland, OH 44113. Part-time, fifteen-twenty hours a week of performance and administrative duties. Masters Degree in organ performance preferred. One Sunday service; choir rehearsal every other Thursday evening. Other services on special occasions. Holtkamp Organ. Four weeks vacation per year. Annual salary: \$20,000. Interested persons should send a resume and a performance CD to Robert Baggs, Director of Music, at the Church address listed above.

***CHOIR DIRECTOR:*** Solon Community Church, 33955 Sherbrook Dr., Solon, OH 44139, (440) 248-4148. Director for Adult Chancel Choir. September through June (40 weeks per year). Sunday service at 10 a.m.; one weeknight evening rehearsal per week. Three-four special services per year. Regular staff meetings. Salary: \$5,000. per year. Interested persons should send a resume to the Church address above or e-mail a resume to: [scc4180@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scc4180@sbcglobal.net) , or call the Church phone number listed above for more information.

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**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](mailto:newsletter@agocleveland.org)

**CONCERTS:** For complete listings, see our website: . All concerts are free unless otherwise noted. [www.agocleveland.org](http://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.

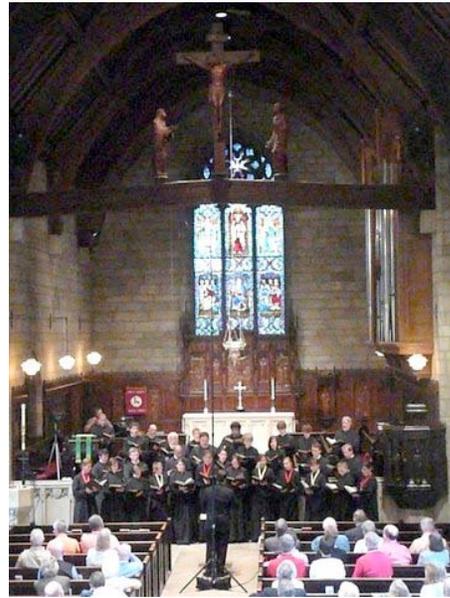
**August 5 & 12:** Organist **Florence Mustric** is joined by violinist **Brittany Kubiak** for "Bach on a grand scale." The program features the Ciaconna from Partita 2 in D minor for solo violin and the Passacaglia (and fugue) in C minor.

**August 19 & 26:** Organist **Robert Myers** presents "B's of the Baroque," music by Nicolaus Bruhns, Georg Boehm, Dietrich Buxtehude, and J.S. Bach.

## PHOTOS FROM DETROIT



Todd Wilson and Tom Trenney at First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Michigan



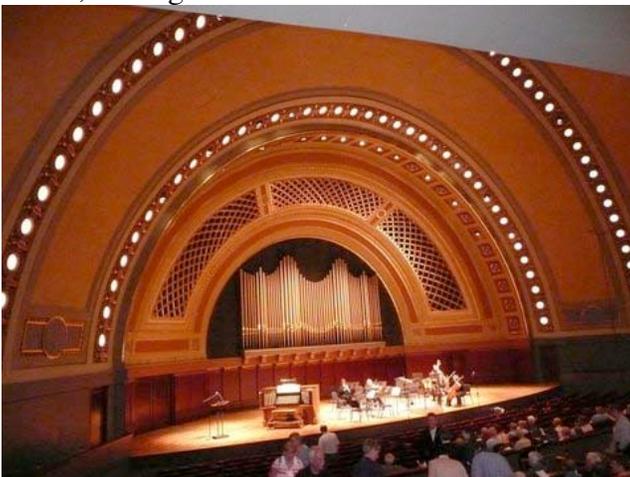
Choir of Men and Girls of Christ Church of Grosse Pointe.



From left: Carmen Massaro, Ed and Hildred Tornberg, Ruth Brintnall, Carol Neff, Missy Koch, and Marcia Snavely. Dinner at Red Hawk Inn - Ann Arbor, Michigan



Early Music ensemble "Anaphantasia" at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.



Onstage at Hill Auditorium, The University of Michigan



Carmen Massaro at Kirk-in-the-Hills Presbyterian Church in Bloomfields Hills, Michigan.



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## Cleveland Chapter

### August 2009

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#### QUICKGUIDE: CLEVELAND CHAPTER AGO 2009-2010

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

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

**Secretary:** Leslie Bauer (440)871-5265 **Fax:** (440)871-4481, e-mail: [lgbauer144@gmail.com](mailto:lgbauer144@gmail.com)

**Registrar:** Chris Toth (216)406-0228, e-mail: [cjtonline@hotmail.com](mailto:cjtonline@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

**Website:** Timothy Robson (216) 744-0595, [www.agocleveland.org](http://www.agocleveland.org)

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**AGO Cleveland Chapter**  
**138 Southwyck Dr.**  
**Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022**  
**440.338.6606**

**AGO SURVEY 2009** (If you need additional space, please continue on back)

**PROGRAMS**

What programs sponsored by our AGO chapter have you attended in the past two years? (Please check)

- Opening Picnic
- Workshops
- Choral concerts by Outside Groups
- Hymn Festival
- Choral Festival (Robert Porco or festival by our choral groups)
- Annual Meeting
- Organ Spectacular Sunday

Why did you attend?

Why didn't you attend the others?

What kind of programs would you like the AGO to have?

How can we increase participation and attendance at our events?

**INVOLVEMENT**

We have many different opportunities to become involved in AGO activities, but it is difficult to know all our members' skills and interests.

Would you like to become more involved in chapter activities? (Yes or no)

If yes, what are your interests:

- Task force on Operating Procedures (By Laws)
- Nominations
- Program Planning
- Publicity
- Writing for Newsletter
- Member Recruitment
- Other

Do you have special skills—i.e. computer, marketing, clerical, etc. that you would like to offer?

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to Marcia Snavely, 138 Southwyck Dr., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022 , fax to 440 338-6603 or email to [marciasnavely1@aol.com](mailto:marciasnavely1@aol.com)