



# Tracking the Action

The newsletter of the American Guild of Organists, Cleveland Chapter

September 2010

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## **FROM THE DEAN**

*During this next year I have invited several folks to write articles for our newsletter. This month's Dean's Column features an article by National Vice President, John Walker. John succeeded Frederick Swann as Director of Music and Organist at Riverside Church (1983- 1992). In 1992, he became Minister of Music and Organist at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA (1992–2005). Currently he serves Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, MD and serves as Professor of Organ Performance at the Peabody Institute. Previously, he was Adjunct Professor of Organ and Sacred Music at Duquesne University (1997 – 2006), Adjunct Professor of Music at Westminster College (1993 – 1998), and Chairman of the Organ Department at the Manhattan School of Music in New York City (1984 – 1992).*

My good friend and your Dean, Jim Riggs, has asked me to write a short article for publication in your chapter newsletter. Thirty-six years ago the Cleveland National Convention offered my first experience attending one of these biennial celebrations, and I still hold vivid memories of sounds and sights from that convention. I am delighted now to greet friends and colleagues in the Cleveland Chapter and to bring greetings from the National Council!

One role of the Vice President is to oversee the Guild's process of long-range planning. Last autumn the Task Force on Long-Range Planning distributed a nationwide survey to all members. We were delighted to receive more than 3,000 responses, including almost 1,200 additional comments and essays. These letters conveyed the ardent passion

and perceptive insight of Guild members throughout the nation. Our sincere gratitude to you for participating in that important survey! Members of the Task Force have recently completed analysis of all responses. Last July in Washington, DC, the Task Force delivered its documented study, including recommended actions for implementation, to the members of National Council. The results of this comprehensive report will inform and direct the focus of AGO activity during the coming months and years. I encourage you to read the full text of this extensive document online at the AGO website, [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)

One prominent and recurrent theme in the results of this survey deals with our need to nurture a more pervasive culture of hospitality throughout the A.G.O., particularly in respect to those who are employed in part-time positions and those who play digital instruments. Many respondents to the survey spoke eloquently about this topic. The two following excerpts provide a flavor of those comments:

*High quality music and programming drew me to the AGO. It took years to break through the social and clique barriers with members and leadership.*

*I feel that my local chapter is quite 'uppity', even though I have a degree in music; not many students are welcomed, nor are part-time musicians.*

Balancing these comments is this beautiful personal statement which recently appeared in the chapter newsletter of Rockford, IL, quoted here with permission of the author:

(cont'd on page 2):

## **FROM THE DEAN (cont'd):**

*I was born and raised in Calcutta, India, and raised in the Catholic faith. I was one of a large family of musicians. My grandfather was a music teacher and my Dad was, among other things, a church organist. Dad was my music teacher and, when my legs were long enough, he introduced me to the organ. I was intimidated by the instrument at first, but fell in love with it at the same time.*

*After many years of playing piano and organ (pipe and B3) on a part time, mostly volunteer and sometimes semi-professional basis, my friendship with Jean and Tim Anderson (no relation) inspired me to join the Rockford Chapter of AGO.*

*I can honestly tell you that I was warmly welcomed by one and all, and made new friends in the organization. I did not run into a single "snob" – honest! By attending meetings, concerts and events, I am falling in love again with the instrument. I am also practicing more regularly!*

*I continue to learn more about church music and organ with every interaction with AGO members and events, and I am delighted that all of you have extended me a sincere welcome. I look forward to a continuing musical experience and rewards with all of you in the AGO.*

*Thank You! Tony D'Souza*

What better testimony could one give to the benefit of chapter membership in the AGO? Is not this support and encouragement for all who share our love of the organ and its repertoire our central mission? I recall a time many years ago when I played every Sunday in two small churches, one with a Baldwin and the other with a Hammond B3. I was thrilled to become a member of the Youngstown Chapter of the AGO. Decades later I remain grateful to the members of that chapter for their encouragement and welcome. They helped to nurture me along a path which has led to encounters with some of the world's finest organs.

Whom might you invite today to be your guest at the next meeting of the Cleveland Chapter? Might you be willing to mentor that guest, introducing her/him to other colleagues throughout the first year of

membership? Might each person reading this article designate him/herself as official welcomer to Chapter meetings? Who might remember in gratitude thirty years from now, in 2040, that you offered the crucial encouragement which created or supported a career? How wide could we open the doors of the AGO? How might the AGO become a more effective presence throughout the ecclesiastical and arts communities of Cleveland? How much fun might it be to attend meetings of such a visionary and welcoming Chapter? Might such radical hospitality invigorate both the Cleveland Chapter and the entire American Guild of Organists?

Results of the membership survey also cover many other topics. Guild committees have already begun to work on several of the recommendations, and the National Council will initiate a thorough discussion of this document at its meeting in October. As the Cleveland Chapter conducts its visioning process, I invite you to study the national document online and consider ways in which it might be applicable locally.

I send my personal warm wishes and greetings to the new officers and to every member of the Cleveland Chapter. The National Council and I will be listening from afar to hear the good news of welcome invitation, chapter growth, and irrepressible vitality from Cleveland!

*John Walker*

### **2010 Convention Statistics**

50 states for the 50<sup>th</sup> National Convention

Number of foreign lands represented: 16

Total Registration for the convention: 2,121 (1,672 AGO members, 449 not-yet members)

Number of AGO Chapters represented: 259

Number of chapters with 20 or more registered: 18.

The Cleveland Chapter had 22 members present.

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### **Next Executive Committee Meeting:**

Monday, October 4, 2010, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Plymouth Church, UCC

2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights

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### **Next Chapter Meeting:**

Sunday, September 19, 2010, 4:00 PM

CHAPTER PICNIC

Missy and Fred Koch's home

8007 Majestic Oaks Trail

Broadview Heights, OH 4414

440.740.0737

## **AGO PICNIC 19 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Mark your calendars now for our annual Cleveland Chapter AGO picnic which will be held on Sunday, 19 September at 4:00 p.m. Once again Missy and Fred Koch have graciously invited us to their beautiful home. Their address is 8007 Majestic Oaks Trail, Broadview Heights. Spouses, partners, and friends interested in getting to know the Guild are all welcome.

Plan to bring a lawn chair, and a dish to share. As in past years we will observe the usual format:

**A-H: please bring a salad or side dish**

**I-O: please bring a dessert**

**P-Z: please bring an appetizer**

Even though we are in the middle of August, RSVPs are encouraged. You can contact Missy via E-mail: [MichonKoch@aol.com](mailto:MichonKoch@aol.com), or call her at: 440-740-0737. Deadline for reservations: Monday, 13 September 2010

### **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 1-76, you have gone too far!)

### **Directions from 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-Route 176, you have gone too far!)

We hope that all can attend. The annual picnic always offers a great opportunity to renew friendships, and greet newcomers.

## **ORGAN RECITAL AT CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART**

**Organ Recital, David Higgs, Cleveland Museum of Art, Friday, 1 October 2010 at 7:30 pm**

One of America's leading concert organists, David Higgs, will re-inaugurate the McMyler organ in Gartner Auditorium. This will be the first organ recital in more than five years.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this exciting event. Admission is free, but a ticket is required. For ticket reservations, contact the box office at the Museum of Art: 888-CMA-0033 or 216-421.7350.



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### **FROM ELEANORE ROBINSON:**

I want to thank the many members who sent me kind notes on my organ retirement. It was so kind of you. Even our Dean sent me one. Tell everyone I will see them at the picnic.

Eleanore Robinson

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### **CHAPTER CONCERNS:**

Prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Chris Toth, who underwent hip surgery on Thursday, August 12.

Condolences to the family of Bruce R. Giles, who passed away on July 24, 2010 following a two-month illness. Bruce was a long time member of the Cleveland Chapter AGO. He was the organist for 30 years at Pleasant Hills United Methodist Church. A Memorial Service was held on July 31, Bruce's birthday, at Pleasant Hills United Methodist Church.

**TOM TRENNEY RECITAL ON**  
**NEWLY RESTORED E.M.**  
**SKINNER ORGAN IN**  
**PAINESVILLE**

September 17, 2010, Friday evening at 7:30: Tom Trenney plays Bach, Franck, Vierne, Duruflé, Buck, Lemare, Shearing, plus an improvisation at the inaugural concert on the newly restored Skinner organ at St. James Episcopal Church, 131 North State St., Painesville, Ohio, 44077. The concert is free and open to the public, a gift to the community from THE PIPERS, which is the organ restoration committee of St. James parish. Reception follows.

THE PIPERS of St. James parish along with Bunn=Minnick Organ Company of Columbus are pleased to announce the successful completion of the restoration of Ernest M. Skinner's Opus 608, a three manual, 32 rank instrument installed in 1926 and dedicated on January 6, 1927. The organ served the parish continuously for 83 years, though incidents of water and plaster damage, and age ultimately compromised its beauty and effectiveness. Planning and fund-raising began over 15 years ago, with the physical removal beginning on June 1, 2009. After a full year of restorative work and complete set up in the Bunn=Minnick factory, the reinstallation began on June 7, 2010, and was completed by the last week in July. The organ is now complete with the addition of a vintage Skinner harp/celesta and a Skinner 25 note chime unit with Deagan class A chimes, both rescued from other Skinner organs and discovered in the Bunn=Minnick inventory. These stops had originally been prepared for but never installed. The organ also has full MIDI capabilities. It is important to note that the physical layout and the tonal scheme have not been altered. This remains a 1926 E. M. Skinner!

Three young men spent their teen years learning to play this organ and went on to Church music careers: the late David Smith, longtime Ft. Lauderdale area organist: Craig Smith (no relation to David), recently retired from the Groton School in Massachusetts; and most recently Tom Trenney, well known to Cleveland AGO members. Other Cleveland Chapter members past and present who have played this organ for services or concerts include: Paul Allen Beymer, Edwin Arthur Kraft,

Bryan Mitnaul, Tim Robson, David Gooding, Daniel Hathaway, and Todd Wilson. Other luminaries who have played this organ include: David Craighead, Sidney Nicholson, Gerre Hancock, Bruce Neswick, David Hill, Martin How, George Guest, and Philip Moore. I apologize for any omissions.

I hope you take advantage of the opportunity to see and hear this vintage instrument at the upcoming concert by Tom Trenney on September 17. I would also like to invite chapter members to an open console event, date and time yet to be determined, hopefully in October.

Sincerely,

William Benner

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**FROM JUANITA SCHUBERT:**

Dear Family & Friends,

We have moved !! A new journey has begun for us as of July 01, 2010. Actual moving date was July 24, 8 a.m. (sigh!) 2010. Here is the information (hopefully) you need for your files:

(So much for thinking I was so smart in giving you the address in our '09 Christmas card. Didn't know about P.O.#)

CELL PHONE, EMAILS ALL REMAIN THE SAME. LAND PHONE IS DIFFERENT!

Land Phone 330-852-2298

Cell phone (Juanita) 330-618-6815

Cell phone (Dick) 330-410-9921

E-mail (Juanita) [Key2x12@aol.com](mailto:Key2x12@aol.com)

E-mail (Dick) [rfschubert@aol.com](mailto:rfschubert@aol.com)

NEW ADDRESS

RICHARD & JUANITA SCHUBERT

P.O. Box 209

401 Pond Drive

Walnut Creek, OH 44687

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OLD ADDRESS

RICHARD & JUANITA SCHUBERT

1329 Mattingly Road

Hinckley, OH 44233

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Please make all necessary corrections or additions in your files.

## **HYMN FESTIVAL AT OBERLIN** **ON OCTOBER 10, 2010**

It is time again to extend an invitation to the choirs, music directors and congregations in northern Ohio to our fifth biennial hymn festival in Finney Chapel on the Oberlin College campus. The festival is planned for 10/10/10 and is directed by Nolan Williams, Jr., editor of The African American Heritage Hymnal (GIA, 2001). There will be a choral music workshop with Nolan on Friday, October 8. This year we all have much to learn about African American worship music – performance, styles, accompaniment – from Nolan. The festival is October 10; but it is important that a choir director registers now to receive a free gift copy of The African American Heritage Hymnal and to insure that his/her church is included in the printed program. For more information please contact me or the Director of The Oberlin College Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, The Rev. Greg McGonigle [greg.mcgonigle@oberlin.edu](mailto:greg.mcgonigle@oberlin.edu). Thank you for any attention you can give this matter,

Mary Louise VanDyke

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## **AFRICAN AMERICAN** **HERITAGE HYMNAL**

**It is not too late to return your registration in order to receive your free copy of the African American Heritage Hymnal.** Our intent is to get a copy of that hymnal into each director's library. The hope is that each choir will have run through the festival hymns once or twice before they encounter them at the festival. If you'd like to order more copies please do so by contacting GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 So. Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638. The hymns in the festival are 184, 263, 127, 418, 413, 667, 581, 466, 203, 377, 258, 268, 158. You may want to bring the hymnal with you to have Nolan autograph it; but all the hymns will be printed in the program as in previous festivals. The registration deadline was too early for many of you who won't meet your choirs until September; so we've **extended the time for you to respond** to September. If you've heard others concerned about the deadline, please pass along this information. I'm looking forward to seeing you in October.

Mary Louise VanDyke

**PLEASE NOTE:** Please send all job postings to: **Gerry Mass**, 440.884.4904, **e-mail:** [gerry@gerardskeyboards.com](mailto:gerry@gerardskeyboards.com).

***ORGANIST/PIANIST:*** Lakemore United Methodist Church, Akron, OH. Organist/pianist needed to accompany our choir and praise team. Rehearsal Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00. Salary: (approx.) \$8,500 per year. Interested persons should contact the church at (330) 733-6531 or via e-mail at [lakemoreumc@att.net](mailto:lakemoreumc@att.net) for further information.

***DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:*** Brooklyn Trinity United Church of Christ, 8720 Memphis Ave., Brooklyn, OH 44144. One Sunday service at 10:30 a.m., preceded by choir rehearsal at 9:30 a.m.; special services (as needed) throughout the liturgical year. Meet with Pastor to co-ordinate and plan worship services. Salary: \$6,000-7,000. per year. Interested persons should send a resume and cover letter to Pastor Sue Tamilio at the church address listed above or via e-mail to [sue.tamilio@gmail.com](mailto:sue.tamilio@gmail.com)

***ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR:*** Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 2592 West 14 St., Cleveland, OH 44113. One Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. and special services (as needed) throughout the year. Accompany and direct the adult choir (Wednesday evening rehearsals). Meet weekly with Pastor to plan worship and co-ordinate with Bell Choir Director, Brass Choir Director, and Christian Education Committee. Four weeks paid vacation per year. Farrand-Votey Organ. Salary: \$16,700. per year. Interested persons should send a resume to Pastor John Tamilio at the church office address listed above or via e-mail to [JohnT@pilgrimalive.org](mailto:JohnT@pilgrimalive.org)

***PIANIST/ORGANIST:*** United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls, 20 South Franklin St., Chagrin Fall, OH 44022. Two Sunday services at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (10 a.m. during summertime). Thursday evening choir rehearsal (Labor Day through Memorial Day). Extra compensation for weddings and funerals. Salary: (approx.) \$10,000. per year. Interested persons should contact David Gilson, Music Director, via e-mail at [David.Gilson@case.edu](mailto:David.Gilson@case.edu) or via phone at 216.397.0785.

**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: [www.agocleveland.org](http://www.agocleveland.org). All concerts are free unless otherwise noted.

**Wednesdays:** Music Near the Market at **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**, 2031 West 30th St., Cleveland. CONTACT: Florence Mustric: 216.321.1393. Featuring the world-famous von Beckerath organ. **FREE** concerts **AT NOON** on Wednesdays.

**September 1 & 8:** Organist **Florence Mustric** presents **Temporarily Organized**, music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Samuel Barber, Sofia Gubaidulina, and Arvo Pärt. Each week's music will vary.

**September 15 & 22:** Organist **Robert Myers** presents **More Early Baroque**, music by Frescobaldi, Scheidemann, and Pachelbel.

**September 29:** Organist **Patrick Parker**, a student at Cleveland Institute of Music, will perform.

**Friday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m.:** St. James Episcopal Church, 131 North State St., Painesville, Ohio, 44077. Tom Trenney plays Bach, Franck, Vierne, Duruflé, Buck, Lemare, Shearing, plus an improvisation at the inaugural concert on the newly restored Skinner organ.

**Friday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m.:** Cleveland Museum of Art. One of America's leading concert organists, David Higgs, will re-inaugurate the McMyler organ in Gartner Auditorium. This will be the first organ recital in more than five years. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this exciting event. Admission is free, but a ticket is required. For ticket reservations, contact the box office at the Museum of Art: 888-CMA-0033 or 216-421.7350.

**Monday, October 4 at 7:30 p.m.:** Plymouth Church, 2860 Coventry Road, Shaker Heights. Masterclass with Oliver Latry. The organ students of Todd Wilson will perform and the masterclass is open to all AGO members. This event is sponsored by CIM.



# The American Guild of Organists

## Cleveland Chapter

### September

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

**Dean:** James P. Riggs, 216.921.3510 x34, [jriggs@plymouthchurchucc.org](mailto:jriggs@plymouthchurchucc.org)

**Sub-Dean:** Cliff Hill, 1.800.819.8772, [cliff@cliffhillmusic.com](mailto:cliff@cliffhillmusic.com)

**Secretary:** Jonathan Ross, [organistjohn@gmail.com](mailto:organistjohn@gmail.com)

**Registrar:** Chris Toth, 216.4060.0228, 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)

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#### **AGO Cleveland Chapter**

ATT. James P. Riggs

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