



Weekly Update - Cleveland Chapter

American Guild of Organists

January 30, 2014

From the Dean



Fern Jennings

What are you reading on these house-bound winter days? Besides [*The Goldfinch*](#), a novel by Donna Tartt, a fictional story about a real painting of that name by Fabritius, and what happens to it and a young boy after they both are victims of an art museum bombing, I have two books about music to recommend to you. I first which I have finished is *Imperfect Harmony: Finding Happiness Singing with Others* by Stacy Horn. It is a memoir of singing with the Choral Society of Grace Church in New York City. Horn writes about her experience of singing as an amateur in the choir. Her descriptions of the dynamics of choirs are spot on. She writes about the history of choral singing in general and in America specifically. In chapters whose titles are specific choral pieces she writes about those works as well as about the workings of choral groups and her personal reflections and history with the music and the choir. It is a book to make you feel gratified being a part of the singing tradition as most of us are as directors, accompanists or singers. Read it. Recommend it to your choir.

The second book which I am still reading is [*Deep River: The Life and Music of Robert Shaw*](#). Because Stacy Horn quotes him so frequently I decided I should read this new biography by Keith C. Burris, Associate Editor of the Toledo Blade. Aside from his being a musical icon of choral music, I didn't really know very much about my illustrious predecessor. I first turned to the chapter on Shaw's tenure as Director of Music at First Unitarian Church, where I am currently the Director of Music. The biographer describes the time at the church as happy respite for Shaw in an otherwise painful chapter of his life. Shaw grew up as a Baptist minister's son, a role and religion from which he rebelled. He was drawn to the humanist teachings of Dr. Robert Killam, the minister of First Unitarian Church at the time. He was given the freedom to form the kind of music program he wanted at the Church. He had the opportunity to perform Chamber Music with select musicians. His religion was music, his congregation the choir, his text Bach, Brahms, Beethoven.

I discovered that Shaw did not have a music degree. That he was largely self taught or privately coached. He learned on the job with the Fred Waring Singers, his own choir The Robert Shaw Chorale, with Toscanini, with George Szell. Music was his life. The author does not gloss over his failures- as a husband and father to his first family, his drinking or philandering. What emerges is a picture of a real person, albeit with a level of talent, ambition and drive far above the average person. Shaw remade choral music in America. His legacy is the excellent teaching and breadth of fine choral singing found around the country in schools, churches, symphony halls.

Robert Shaw

When I am at the church these days I am thinking more and more of him walking the halls of my church. Chatting with Robert Killam in the Minister's Study, leaning over the railing of the balcony

where his choir and orchestra performed. Hopefully not too critical of my efforts with my choir (I understand he was a bit of a yeller in the early days). It is more than a little humbling but also inspiring to be in such a lineage.

Best to you,

Fern

UPCOMING CHAPTER PROGRAM

Professional Concerns Workshop with Lorain County Chapter AGO and our Regional Councilor Dr. David Lamb

Monday, February 10-7:00 - 9:00 pm

Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave. Cleveland

7:00 Social time to meet David Lamb

7:30 Update on National and Regional AGO activity updates by AGO Great Lakes Region Councilor, David Lamb followed by workshops. The first on minister/musician relationship will be led by Minister/musician team - Rev. Jimmy Madsen and Brian Wentzel, FAGO. They are from Lorain First Lutheran Church. Then there will be a workshop on Resume Writing presented by Timothy Robson, Case Western Reserve University Librarian.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, February 3, 2014, 7:30 pm, Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave.

PEDALS, PIPES AND PIZZA



Saturday, March 8, at Baldwin Wallace Chapel, Berea

What is Pedals, Pipes and Pizza? It is a National AGO program to introduce young piano students to the organ. Our chapter is co-sponsoring this event with the Conservatory Outreach program of Baldwin Wallace. The program will be Saturday, March 8, from 10 am to 2 pm in the Chapel at BW. It is geared toward Middle School and High School students, ages about 11 to 16, and is free - teachers and parents of the participants are also welcome. AGO is providing pizza and beverages for the for the participants. If you have piano students in your church or friends who teach piano we would be most appreciative if you could email to them the [flyer](#) announcing the event and [registration form](#), which can both be downloaded as PDF files at the bottom of the [chapter's home page](#).

Questions? please contact Barbara MacGregor, macmus@roadrunner.com or Nicole Keller, organ Instructor at BW, at nkeller@bw.edu or by phone at 216-310-1694.

With appreciation,

PPP committee: James Buncher, Sue Huszai, Annie Kaschube, James Leek, Brian Wentzel; Nicole Keller and Barbara MacGregor, co-chairs

MEMBER NEWS

Claire Capri Kaschube was born on Jan. 25 @ 4:12 PM weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces. We are both doing well and will be heading home shortly. Her mom is member **Annie Kaschube**. Congratulations!

Tim Robson played a recital at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Chestertown, Maryland on January 17. He began his program with music for Epiphany by Tournemire, Distler, Buxtehude and Bach. He also play works by William Grant Still, Phillip Glass and Eugene Hancock. The instrument is a 2-manual Harrison & Harrison instrument from the mid-1990s

SILENT AUCTION AT 2014 AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION IN BOSTON

The AGO National Council will sponsor a Silent Auction at the AGO National Convention in Boston in June 2014. The proceeds will benefit the Annual Fund, which covers the expenses of educational programs, Pipe Organ Encounters, professional certification programs, competitions, conventions, January Jubilees, and other costs of running the organization. The auction will be run online so that all AGO members and friends may participate, and not just those attending the national convention.

A number of members of the Council have already given items and services for the Silent Auction. These include two round-trip coach fares to Europe, two expensive bottles of wine, workshops, and CD recordings. We would like to invite Chapters to promote the auction, including donation of items that might be interest to the AGO membership. This might include time share vacations, new scores and books, complimentary registration to a regional convention, a recital or workshop.

Donors will need to establish a reasonable value for each item and a recommended starting bid. For tangible items (books, CDs, artwork, rental equivalency of a time share week, concert tickets), the value should be tax deductible, but check with your tax professional. Unfortunately, services (lessons, a recital or workshop) are not tax deductible. The AGO will set a minimum starting bid where none is advised by the donor.

What to do with the donated items? Wait until you hear who the winning bidder was, and then mail/ship the item to the winning bidder. Shipping expense is to be covered by the donor. Items for which there is no bid will be kept by the donors.

We would like to have a complete list of auction items, and a photograph of each item, by 1 May 2014 in order to prepare the auction. The online auction will begin 1 June 2014 and end on 30 June 2014.

Send your list of donation items, photos of them, and stated values with minimum bids for each item, to:

F. Anthony Thurman
Director of Development and Communications
American Guild of Organists
fathurman@agohq.org
212-870-2311, ext. 4308

BACK YARD JUNCOS

You might enjoy reading Lisa Rainsong's blog about juncos. She includes recordings of their songs and a link to a video about these little birds. Here is her post:

Greetings, all,

Dark-eyed Juncos seemed to me to be the perfect bird to write about during this latest "Arctic blast." Although I very much enjoy seeing and hearing them when they return in the fall and when the males all start singing in the spring, I delight in all their other calls, conversations, and outright threats to

those who get in their feeding space under the feeders in the winter. Hearing their territorial songs in NE Ohio's hemlock ravines in the late spring/early summer is another great joy of mine.

At least part of our Cleveland Heights back yard flock of 21 individuals roosts under our back porch steps. They come shooting out from under there when I walk down the steps on my way to the garage in the morning!

<http://listeninginnature.blogspot.com/2014/01/snowbirds.html>

Lisa

TODAY IN CLASSICAL MUSIC HISTORY

On this date in 1891 Max Drischner, German composer, organist, and harpsichordist was born.

In 1924, Drischner was named Kantor and organist of St. Nicholas Church in Brieg. In 1927, Drischner took his first voyage to Norway, a trip that would prove to have a deep impact on his life; he would eventually make at least five more trips, during which he made contact and forged friendships with many local Norwegian composers and organists. These trips and relationships were reflected in his compositions, which includes a Norwegian folk song suite, a set of variations of Norwegian folk songs, and his "Nordic Toccata and Fugue in g minor". Here is Diane Bish playing his "O Run Ye Shepherds to the Manger."



Drischner: Noel "O Run Ye Shepherds to The Manger"

Concerts and Events of Interest

Remember to send us your concert listings for our Google calendar and weekly updates. Send them to newsletter@agocleveland.org. Some of our concert listings have been gleaned from ClevelandClassical. For a complete list of concerts plus previews, reviews and more from Cleveland's classical music scene click the link www.clevelandclassical.com.

Trinity Brownbag Concert: Trinity Chamber Orchestra, Todd Wilson, conducting, Wed. Feb.5,

12:10 pm. With Jake Swanson and Sarah Marchitelli, saxophone duo. Program includes a world premiere. Lunches welcome, \$5 lunch available. Trinity Cathedral, 2230 Euclid Ave., Cleveland. Freewill offering.

Florence Mustric, organ & David Betts, trombone. Wed. Feb. 5, 12:15 pm. "Trombone Troubadour". Beckerath organ. Trinity Lutheran Church, W. 30th & Lorain, Cleveland. Freewill offering.

Cleveland Orchestra Chorus Benefit Concert, Sun. Feb. 9, 7:00 pm. With the Cleveland Orchestra Chamber Chorus, duo-pianists Joela Jones and Alicja Basinska, Peter Otto, Takako Masame & Miho Hashizume, violins, Lynne Ramsey, viola, Richard Weiss & Ralph Curry, cellos, Maximilian Dimoff, bass, Trina Struble, harp, Daniel McKelway, clarinet, Barrick Stees, Jonathan Sherwin & Phillip Austin, bassoons, Hans Clebsch, horn, Michael Sachs & Michael Miller, trumpets, Massimo La Rosa, trombone, Yasuhito Sugiyama, tuba, Joela Jones, accordion & Carolyn Warner (piano). Valentine's Day selections: dances by Dvorak, Borodin & Piazzolla, arias by Rossini, Dvorak & Mozart, romances by Clara Schumann & Brahms's Liebeslieder Waltzes (selections). Proceeds benefit the Chorus Fund. Silent auction at 6:00 pm. Severance Hall, 11001 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland. Tickets available online.

Singing Men of Ohio, Sun. Feb. 16, 4:00 pm, Fairlawn Lutheran Church, 3415 West Market Akron.

James O'Donnell, Organ. Sun. Feb. 16, 4:00 pm. O'Donnell its Organist and Master of Chorister of Westminster Abbey. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1361 W. Market St. Akron.

Third Rail Wind Trio. Sun. Feb. 16, 4:00 p.m. Brecksville UCC, 23 Public Square, Brecksville. The Oberlin Conservatory of Music ensemble will perform works by Mozart, Simon and Villa-Lobos. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the program.

The Jazz Choir from the Highland High School of Medina County, directed by Chris Ilg. Tuesday, Feb. 18, 12 noon. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 317 East Liberty Street, Medina. Bring your own lunch or purchase a brown bag for \$5.00 by calling the church office at 330-725-4131 at least 24 hours before the concert. Donations are gladly accepted.

"GOD'S RESPLENDENT WORK BEGUN", A Hymn Festival. Sun. Feb. 23, 3:00 pm. First Lutheran Church, 603 Washington Ave., Lorain. This hymn festival will explore the theme of light in hymns, readings, and anthems. Hymns old and new, familiar and obscure, will guide us along the path. There will also be organ and choir music, and all the hymns will be sung in interesting arrangements, many of them by Director of Music Brian Wentzel, who will also direct the First Choir and play the organ and piano.

Quick Links

[Web Site](#)

[Job Openings/Substitutes](#)

[Join AGO](#)



A Note About Job Postings

Gerry Mass, our Cleveland Chapter Placement Officer collects and updates job openings in the area. Although they are not listed in the weekly updates, there is a link in the "Quick Links" section every week that will take you to the updated list on the chapter website. Questions or need help finding a position? Email: placement@agocleveland.org

About These Updates

Each week on Thursday, we publish this email newsletter to help you stay informed about activities and programs of the Cleveland AGO Chapter. Questions or comments? Please let us know:

admin@agocleveland.org.

Have a news item for a future issue? Send to:

newsletter@agocleveland.org

The deadline each week is Tuesday at 5 PM for Thursday publication.

Contact Us

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About Us

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.
