

The Bellows

Greater Lansing Chapter - AGO

January/February 2017

From the Dean

Barbara Hiranpradist

In my journey of studies towards my goal of becoming a Spiritual Director, I have become acquainted with a plethora of saints, social activists, and philosophers with their offerings of pity prayers, protests and prose. I would like to offer to you in this New Year a beautiful prayer written by an ancient Irish monk and explorer – Saint Brendan (484 – 577 A.D.) His voyages to North America are thought to, but not proven at this point, predate those of the Vikings and Columbus.

Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You.
Christ of the mysteries, I trust You to be stronger than each storm
within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know that my times, even now, are in
Your hand.
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven, and somehow, make my
obedience count for You.

John Horak's Hymn Festival in November was a heart-warming event. It was well-attended, exhibited a creative variety of musical offerings and gave us an opportunity to meet a very congenial organist and composer, Dr. John Behnke. For a more detailed account of the festival, please look for my article in the March 2017 copy of TAO.

I hope you are all "reserved" for the January 15th Winter Brunch at the Café 109 in Williamston. The camaraderie certainly warms up a chilly January afternoon, and we are all stress-free for the moment!

Looking ahead, our Pops Concert is back and will be our special event in February. It would be nice for all of us attending to bring a guest or two.

As the Board plans our program for the next year, we are looking for a guest artist recital. Our ideas include performers from Michigan and perhaps a "rising star" competition winner. If you have someone you have heard or would like to have here in Lansing, please email me soon, and I will present it to the Board.

I emailed to all of you information on the January 28th Jubilee that will occur in La Grange, Illinois. This event is being sponsored by the Fox Valley Chapter of the AGO where our Great Lakes convener, Karl Bruhn, resides. My daughter lives close by so it will be easy for me to attend, but my foremost reason for attending is to experience the variety of the 10-event, day-long program. As I perused the brochure, I can see already that it is similar to our former January Winter

Chapter Events

January 15, 1 - 3 p.m.

Winter Brunch
Tavern 109, Williamston
Convener – Darlene Greenman Ross

February 19, 3 p.m.

Pops Concert
First United Methodist Church, Lansing
Convener – Susanne Hoekzema

March TBA

Organ Tour with SW Michigan Chapter,
Towns of Olivet and Charlotte
Convener – Brian Fowler

May TBA, 6 p.m.

Banquet and Installation of Officers
Mason First Presbyterian Church, Mason
Convener – Darlene Greenman-Ross

Workshop that was held for years at Ascension Lutheran Church (thank you Darlene and Brian). I have very fond memories of this workshop (especially the -0 temperatures) and wonder if our chapter might be able to resurrect the event – maybe limiting it to one day and still incorporating a choral component. Please let me know your opinions on this matter.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Brian Fowler as he undergoes his health marathon. He has been a stalwart member of Chapter and we would like to see him flourish in his accomplishments for a long time to come!

Greater Lansing Chapter American Guild of Organists



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Thank You

Dear AGO Colleagues:

I want thank all of you for your concern and prayers. The flowers were gorgeous and graced my dining room table for the past three weeks.

I have begun chemo therapy; which is challenging, but pleasantly not as bad as some have reported, so for that I am thankful.

This will be a challenging part of my life for the next several months. I can still work but not as many hours or days. I just have to adjust my schedule according to how I feel.

Again; I really appreciate your thoughts and prayers. They will be a big part of my recovery.

Blessings for the new year!

Brian Fowler

Epiphany Lessons and Carols

St. Mary Cathedral will present Epiphany Lessons and Carols on Sunday, January 8 at 7 p.m.

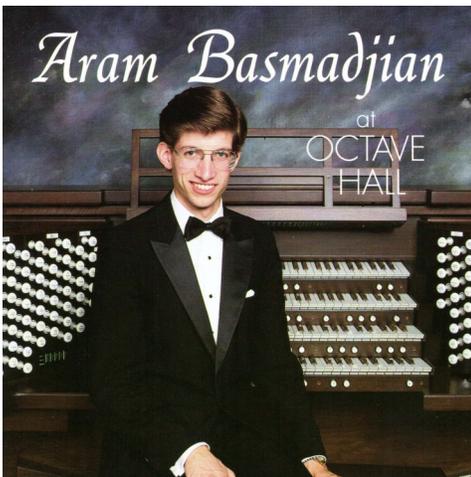
Set in the style of services popularized by King's College, Cambridge, there will be several choral works performed by the St. Mary Cathedral Choir, readings, and the opportunity for the assembly to sing carols accompanied by the Cathedral's Casavant organ.

St. Mary Cathedral is located at 219 Seymour Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.



CD Review

Ed Corey



For those of us fortunate enough to hear the artistry of Aram Basmadjian at Plymouth Congregational Church, here is another chance to hear him on a CD.

Aram Basmadjian at Octave Hall is him playing a large four manual Allen at their headquarters. He has included a wide variety

of selections demonstrating the variety of tonal capabilities of the Allen plus his amazing technique and interpretation of the works. He has included Handel, Bach, Vierne, Gigout, Bingham, Sullivan and concludes with the stirring Prelude and Fugue in G minor by Dupré.

I am a devoted fan of the pipe organ but as Aram Basmadjian so ably demonstrates on this recording, the Allen need not take a "back-seat" to anyone. I can highly recommend this disc to anyone. I found the disc on Amazon.

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