



The Bellows

Greater Lansing Chapter - AGO

March/April 2016

From the Dean

Barbara Hiranpradist

The Lord measures out perfection neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them. – St. John of the Cross

You may not agree, but I think that snow is beautiful and maybe God has not forgotten to give us a winter after all! Tim and Ed are progressing at their infirmities, but as we all know there is a lengthy recuperation period – so let us keep them in our prayers.

I am happy to report that we have acquired a new member this month – Chrisann Lowe. I have contacted her about submitting a bio for our next newsletter.

The early-bird deadline for the 2016 AGO National Convention was March 14. The convention is scheduled for July 19– 23. Please consider attending this wonderful event and use it as an excuse to see the marvelous city of Houston!

Our Member's Recital is drawing near and it will be nice to experience a new venue – Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansing (G.M. Buck pipe organ). If you are performing, please contact Susanne Hoekzema with your selection information and to arrange for practice times.

On a sadder note, the Board was informed that Plymouth Congregational Church is leaving its current location. They plan to sell the building and relocate. For further information, please contact Brian Fowler.

Our Guild would like to continue its scholarship fundraising Pops Concert on a bi-yearly basis. We would like to schedule one for next fall but are in need of a convener/chairperson. If you are interested, please contact me soon.

Our Creative Hymn Playing Workshop was February 29 at Our Savior Lutheran Church with presenter Guild member Jeffrey Walker.

*Lent, and the lengthening of days,
singing for the beauty of the Earth.
Of pruning our nature to serve each other well,
Easter will be our joy to tell!*

Members' Recital, April 24

Susanne Hoekzema

The annual Members' Recital needs "all hands on deck." Even if you aren't presenting a musical offering, success depends on you and everyone else working together. This will be our one opportunity of the 2015-2016 season to seek support from the Greater Lansing Community for our Chapter education/scholarship endeavors.

You are needed to assist in *publicizing* this program by using the upcoming publicity flyers and bulletin announcements, posting information on social media sites, and inviting guests! Information will be sent to all members for posting about 3 weeks prior to the recital.

It goes without saying, but I will still say it, your *attendance* in support of fellow Chapter organists is also needed. Bring along a guest or two, as you are able!

This year our recital will feature music heard throughout the church year, including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Trinity and Ordinary time. As always, there will be an afterglow reception following the program. An event not to be missed!

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church,
501 W. Saginaw, Lansing

When: Sunday April 24, 2016 at 3 p.m.

Featured Performers: Darlene Greenman Ross, Stephanie Gewirtz, Meredith Hines, Barbara Hiranpradist, John Horak, Susanne Hoekzema, Hae Won Jang, Ben Foster, Mary Black-Junttonen, and Timothy Nechuta.

Trinity Lutheran Church is handicap accessible from the West parking area. A free will offering for the benefit of chapter education and programming will be collected.

Banquet and Retirement Celebration, May 23

Tim Costigan

Please plan to attend our May Banquet on Monday, May 23 at 6pm at St. Gerard Catholic Church, Lansing. The evening will include dinner and a short program celebrating the retirement of Cecelia Costigan.

Dinner will be \$10 per person. A short program will follow. Please RSVP to Tim Costigan at tim.costigan186@gmail.com by May 13.



Student Rates for Houston AGO Convention

This summer's Houston AGO Convention has deeply discounted student registration rates (\$250), deeply discounted student transportation rates of \$89, and now the possibility of a student housing scholarship as well. The registration rates are valid through May 14. The deadline to apply for the student housing scholarship is March 15.

AGO National will host a reception for organists under 30 years of age on the first night of the convention, immediately following the convocation.

See AGOHouston2016.com for details.



On the Web – Comes Autumn Time (Part 2 of 2)

Scott Smith

–Read Part 1 in the [January/February issue](#) of *The Bellows*. –

Yours truly managed to wrangle a private tour of the organ at St. John’s Cathedral while in Denver on a playing gig some years back. Norman Lane, curator of the organ proved to be the consummate host and was a font of information about the instrument, whose care he had overseen for over a quarter century at that point. The local installer, Fred Munier convinced Kimball that he could cram in over ninety ranks where they said only seventy could go, and furthermore, conned them into sending it a boxcar at a time, overnight from Chicago.

The organ’s stoplist is available online at: <http://www.sjcathedral.org/Music/ConcertsEvents/Organs.aspx>

On paper, on this recording and in person, the Kimball is a successful and timeless example of a conventional church instrument combined with a symphonic instrument, with only one minor change since installation (i.e. the ability to separately draw the 1-3/5’ Tierce in the Great Full Mixture). While Aeolian-Skinner was quickly moving away from the symphonic style of tone, Kimball retained its tonal philosophy developed over the years, and allowed itself to change more slowly. Having said that, their uber-talented chief voicer, George Michel was responsible for developing the first modern-day, all-tin chorus since the days of the Silbermanns; well ahead of the competition. By the way, the dedication concert was given on May 18, 1938, by the University of Michigan’s own Palmer Christian (another Michigan connection).

Kimball stopped making pipe organs in 1942, on the orders of the War Production Office. When the war ended, Kimball, being a business first, saw their new electronic organ as the direction to take that part of the company. In addition, the four years of the war only emphasized the fact that the younger employees were not staying with the company long enough to replace the group that was retiring. For a few years, parts already built up could be purchased by outsiders, but in 1955, in anticipation of the move to new quarters, all of the remaining pipe organ records, pipes and parts were piled up in the middle of the factory grounds and burned. The Cook County Jail is now on that property.

In recent years, this instrument was given a \$1.6 million restoration by the Spencer Organ Company of Waltham, Massachusetts, and rededicated in 2011. The console, by the way, was restored by Richard Houghton (Milan) and refinished by Littlefield & Sons (Ann Arbor), giving even more Michigan involvement.

A quietly credited individual large responsible for the sonic success of this recording is John Eargle, who was somehow able to capture the best of some of the most “unrecordable” organs during his time.

Sadly, we’re unable to see David Britton perform Comes Autumn Time, as the cut is taken directly from the CD. If you’d like to see this piece played well on an equally fine instrument, go to this web address to see a recent upload of Bryan Dunnewald, performing on the new Skinner/Kegg instrument in the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, in Bryn Ath, Pennsylvania. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UbtigOCvA1M>

CD Review

Ed Corey

This month we look at the *Works of Franz Liszt* performed by Ken Cowan on the very large Quimby Pipe Organ, Opus 60 at First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi. In Mr. Cowan’s words, “Liszt’s organ works, demanding as they are of a powerful instrument with a rich orchestral palette, are extraordinarily well-served by the Quimby pipe organ.” After listening to this CD, I could not agree more. Ken Cowan includes a wide sampling of Liszt’s organ works from the very lyrical *Liebestraum* to the powerful and dramatic *Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H* and concluding with the *Fantasia und Fugue uber den Choral “Ad nos, ad salutarem undam”*, a work which Camille Saint-Saens proclaimed “the most extraordinary composition in the literature of the organ.” The disc is JAV186.





Conn Organ Parts

These pipes may be of interest to someone interested in some home or studio décor. The golden pipes measure 42 in wide by 33 in tall at the highest. Depth 8.25 in. They were connected to the sound system for the old organ and are still in storage at Ascension Lutheran Church. If you are interested, contact Pastor David Winningham at dcwinningham@hotmail.com.

Scholarships

Meredith Hines

The Greater Lansing Chapter offers scholarships in two categories to encourage area musicians to initiate or continue study of the organ in the context of sacred music. Successful applicants must study with a current member of the Guild.

Applicants for either award must submit:

- A *letter of recommendation* from a current or recent music instructor, minister or priest.
- A *letter of intent* from the applicant, describing his/her intent in organ lessons.
- An *application form* accompanied by a check for \$15.00 made payable to GLC-AGO.

Applicants agree to perform selections, to a limit of fifteen minutes, before a panel of adjudicators on Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Auditions will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 West Ottawa St., Lansing, 48933. Memorization is not required. Bring **one original piece of music and two copies of the music** for the adjudicators. Applications must be received by Friday, April 29, 2016. Partial applications cannot be considered.

Applicants will choose one of the following two categories:

1. ASPIRING ORGANIST GRANT

Pianists or organists of any age (with fewer than two years of organ lessons) are eligible. Previous grantees may not reapply. There will be one scholarship awarded in the amount of \$400 in this category.

Musical selections may be played on the piano or organ.

- A hymn of the applicant's choice (two verses)
- One of the *Two or Three Part Inventions* by Johann Sebastian Bach (on piano), or a prelude from the *Eight "Little" Preludes and Fugues* (on organ)

2. ORGANISTS AWARD

Organists of any age (with fewer than three years of organ lessons) are eligible.

The Chapter will award one scholarship in the amount of \$400 in this category. Previous recipients of this award are ineligible. (However, previous recipients of the *Aspiring Organist Grant* may apply.)

Musical Selections to be played on the organ.

- A hymn of the applicant's choice (with pedal)
- A composition for manuals and pedal by Johann Sebastian Bach (For example, a piece drawn for *Das Orgelbuechlein* or the *Eight "Little" Preludes and Fugues*)
- A composition in contrasting character from a later historical period

Greater Lansing Chapter – American Guild of Organists Scholarship Application

Name:	Date:
Address:	
Telephone:	E-mail:
Years of study completed: Piano: _____ Organ: _____	
Name, address and phone number of music instructor or pastor submitting <i>letter of recommendation</i> :	
<p>This application is for: Aspiring Organist Award</p> <p>1. Hymn of Your Choice (2 Verses) Title: _____</p> <p>2. One of the <i>Two or Three Part Inventions</i> by Johann Sebastian Bach (on Piano), or A prelude from the <i>Eight "Little" Preludes and Fugues</i> (on Organ) Title: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Compositions to be performed – Limit length to fifteen minutes total! Please bring one original and two copies of your music.</i></p>	
<p>This application is for: Organist Award</p> <p>1. Hymn of Your Choice (2 verses with pedal) Title: _____</p> <p>2. A composition for manuals and pedal by Johann Sebastian Bach (For example, a piece drawn for <i>Das Orgelbuechlein</i> or the <i>Eight "Little" Preludes and Fugues</i>) Title: _____</p> <p>3. A composition in contrasting character from a later historical period. Title: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Compositions to be performed – Limit length to fifteen minutes total! Please bring one original and two copies of your music.</i></p>	
<p>All Applicants: Please enclose a <i>letter of intent</i> which should include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your musical background? • Number of years of piano, organ or other instruments? • Involvement in church, school or community musical activities? • Why are you applying for this scholarship? • What are your intentions for further study or work in church music? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will you need assistance in locating a teacher? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 	

Deadline for return of applications: April 29, 2016

Return application and supporting letters to:

Ms. Meredith Hines
6531 Brook Trail
Lansing, Michigan 48917