

The Bellows

Greater Lansing Chapter - AGO

November/December 2016

From the Dean

Barbara Hiranpradist

I am a part of all that I have met; yet all experience is an arch thro' gleams that untraveled world whose margins fades, forever and forever where I move. – Lord Tennyson from Ulysses

Our 2016-2017 program started off with a great lecture and dinner convened by Caryn Welter. Along with members of the Central United Methodist Church, we had a nice turn-out where we heard Ten De-stressors for Busy Professionals by local rheumatologist Dr. Carol Beals. The evening concluded with the installation of officers.

On October 22, Meredith Hines, our Education Chair, convened the Pipes, Pedals and Pizza event held at CUMC along with Darlene Greenman-Ross on the organ and WKAR radio personality Jody Knoll as the narrator to A Young Person's Guide to the Pipe Organ. In addition to the video Pulling Out all of the Stops, Guild organ builder Brian Fowler and two of his assistants, Operations Manager Scott Lumbert, and his 14 year-old apprentice son, Alex, explained the history of the organ and the mechanics of sound production. Following the demonstration, a tour of the organ chambers was held. After a pizza luncheon, the attendees were treated to a mini-recital by our three organ scholars: Timothy Bohan, Benjamin Foster and Timothy Nechuta. We were all thrilled at the progress exemplified by the boys.

On Sunday November 20, 4-6 p.m., John Horak is convening a John Behnke Hymn Festival at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing. A hymn premier by Mr. Behnke will be presented in honor of John's parents.

Due to a myriad of events that our Guild members are involved during the month of December, we will not be having a formal event. I will post, at the beginning of December, all of the wonderful programs available to you for a blessed Christmas Season. Please send your concert information to me by the last week of November if you would like to have it forwarded to our Guild.

Chapter Events

November 20, 4-6 p.m.

Hymn Festival with John Behnke
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing
Convener – John Horak

January 15, 1 - 3 p.m.

Winter Brunch
Tavern 109 109, 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

Please mark Sunday January 15, 1-3 p.m., Tavern 109, Grand River, Williamston, as the location for our Annual Winter Brunch, convened by Darlene Greenman-Ross. The event is always relaxing and cheerful.

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Greater Lansing Chapter American Guild of Organists



PO Box 23155
Lansing, MI 48909
Website: glc-ago.org

From the Chaplain

Pastor Bob Higl

In Psalm 98 verse 4, we read the psalmist's words as they command all the Earth to "make a joyful noise to the LORD." I prefer the underlying Hebrew text as we read "Shout out praise and rejoice all the earth to Yahweh, be cheerful, sing for joy, and sing praises."

I wonder if we have lost sight of the meaning of those words in either the English or the translation from Hebrew calling us to "make a joyful noise" or "be cheerful, sing for joy, and sing praises (to Yahweh)." As church musicians we have the terrific responsibility to create the bedrock of "perfected" foundation for our congregation's sound to be real, genuine, and meaningful. But how many of us work too hard for such a perfection instead of finding a balance between study, practice, and rehearsing ignoring the mystery of the Divine entering into our music.

As we come to the end of this Season of Ordinary Time and begin a time of Advent, I pray for each of your congregations, your church choirs, and you as musical leaders that "in our music God is Glorified" and all peoples can experience the wonder and presence of the Mystery through the 'joyful noise' we gather, assemble, and proclaim.

In Christ's name – Amen.

RCYO Chapter Competition

The Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will host a chapter competition for the 2017 AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists. This competition, held in odd-numbered years, is sponsored by the seven regions of the AGO.

The first round of competition takes place at the chapter level. The Grand Rapids Chapter competition will take place Monday, April 24, 2017, at 1 p.m.

Eligibility and other details may be obtained from the American Guild of Organists website www.agohq.org/performance-competitions/rcyo/ or from the September 2016 issue of *The American Organist*.

First prize is \$1,000 and second prize is \$500. The application deadline is January 15, 2017.

Please contact Bruce Klanderma, SP, CAGO at bklanderma@aol.com with questions.

Dean's Letter – Continued from page 1

Our thanks to Rick Swanson for again assembling an attractive Roster. Some folks are concerned that their personal information was not printed correctly. The Membership Chair, Ed Corey, receives Guild member information from National Headquarters each year. You, with the emphasis on YOU, are required to supply any updates or corrections to your profile either through ONCARD or in writing if you do not use the computer for your communication. Next year, please take the time to update your personal information so that you are accurately represented in the Roster.

On September 19, Conrad Donakowski and I traveled to Grand Rapids on a spectacular fall day to attend the Annual Michigan Deans' Meeting at St. Adalbert's Basilica with convener Karl Bruhn from Fox Valley Illinois. I would like to share the following concerns with you regarding the National AGO. According to the Federal Trade Commission it was determined to amend the following:

- The AGO must modify a specific ethics provision (more on this later).
- The AGO must discontinue publishing salary guidelines.
- The AGO must discontinue publishing model contract provisions.

Former AGO president John Walker stated in the October TAO all chapters must "follow the rules rigorously."

Other developments to report are the following:

- AGO membership is on the decline although a healthy online young-adult organist chapter is established.
- We need programs that can represent the organ in venues outside of the church setting that will appeal to a wider variety of our listening audience.

Charles W. Ore: An American Original

Steven Egler, Professor of Organ at Central Michigan University is pleased to announce that he has contributed a chapter, "Improvisation, Composition, and Charles," to the new book *Charles W. Ore: An American Original*, which celebrates the master improviser, composer, church musician, and teacher.

The book is available from [Concordia Publishing House](#).

This is the seventh in a series of monographs—*Shaping American Lutheran Church Music*—published by the Center for Church Music, Concordia University-Chicago, River Forest, IL, highlighting people, movements, and events that have helped shape the course of church music among Lutherans in North America.

Dr. Egler studied improvisation with Dr. Ore during a sabbatical leave from CMU in 1995 and recently interviewed him for the December issue of *The Diapason* upon the occasion of his 80th birthday. This is the fifth in a series of Egler's interviews of prominent American organists and composers.

Epiphany Lessons and Carols

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

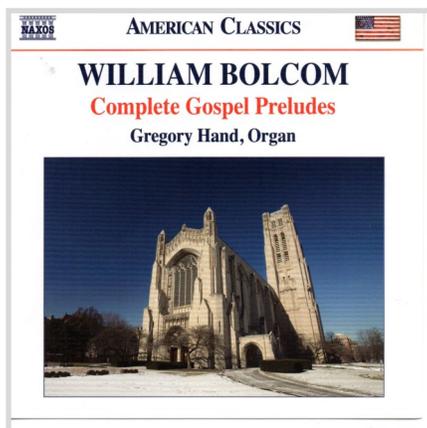
Set in the style of services popularized by King's College, Cambridge, there will be several choral works performed by the St. Mary Cathedral Choir, readings, and the opportunity for the assembly to sing carols accompanied by the Cathedral's Casavant organ.

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



CD Review

Ed Corey



William Bolcom: Complete Gospel Preludes is performed by Gregory Hand on the wonderful E.M. Skinner at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, University of Chicago.

In 1979 the Dallas Chapter – AGO commissioned William Bolcom to compose some new organ music. He composed three

gospel preludes, based on familiar hymn tunes. They were so popular three more books were commissioned.

Bolcom taught composition at the University of Michigan for 35 years. Interestingly, Gregory Hand was awarded his doctorate from the University of Michigan where he studied with James Kibbie. While *Gospel Preludes* may not be to everyone's taste, Bolcom is a major figure in American music, and so I have presented them for your consideration. I found the CD on Amazon.

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