

The Bellows

Greater Lansing Chapter, AGO

9/1/2014

Volume 2014, Issue 1

FROM THE DEAN... for a decreased reaction to stressors

Our first Board meeting of the year, which occurred on August 22nd, more than met my expectations. In addition to perfect attendance, I observed a hardy camaraderie and a fresh look at what we hope to accomplish or do better in the year before us.

Three goals emerged at that meeting. The first one centered on Michigan AGO Chapter collaboration. We already share our newsletter with neighboring AGO Chapters and have witnessed the fruits of this outreach by their members' attendance at some of our events. Al Bolitho, Sub-Dean of the Southwest Michigan Chapter, after reading our program for the upcoming year, expressed an interest in our Toledo Organ Crawl and the R. Nathaniel Dett presentation.

It was also suggested that we might plan a dual-chapter event for the next season. At the close of our conversation I invited members from the Southwest Michigan Chapter to join us for our **Neurofeedback** presentation in September. This is a very good beginning!

A second goal, somewhat related to the first, is one we can work on individually as well as through our Chapter's Public Relations Committee. We need to make ourselves more visible to our own immediate community in order to increase our attendance at guest artists' recitals, our *Pops Concert* and the *Members' Recital*.

And for the third goal – just what is the best method of increasing our Guild membership? We all concurred that personal contact and conversation is the most effective.

Greater Lansing Chapter – American Guild of Organists

2014 – 2015 Board Members

Dean: Barbara Hiranpradist

Sub-Dean: Kathy Huebner

Secretary: Susanne Hoekzema

Treasurer: Tim Costigan

Members-at-Large:

Brian Fowler

Mary Black-Junttonen

Darlene Greenman-Ross

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Pomeroy

Education: Meredith Hines

Public Relations:

Stephanie Gewirtz

Hospitality: Caryn Welter

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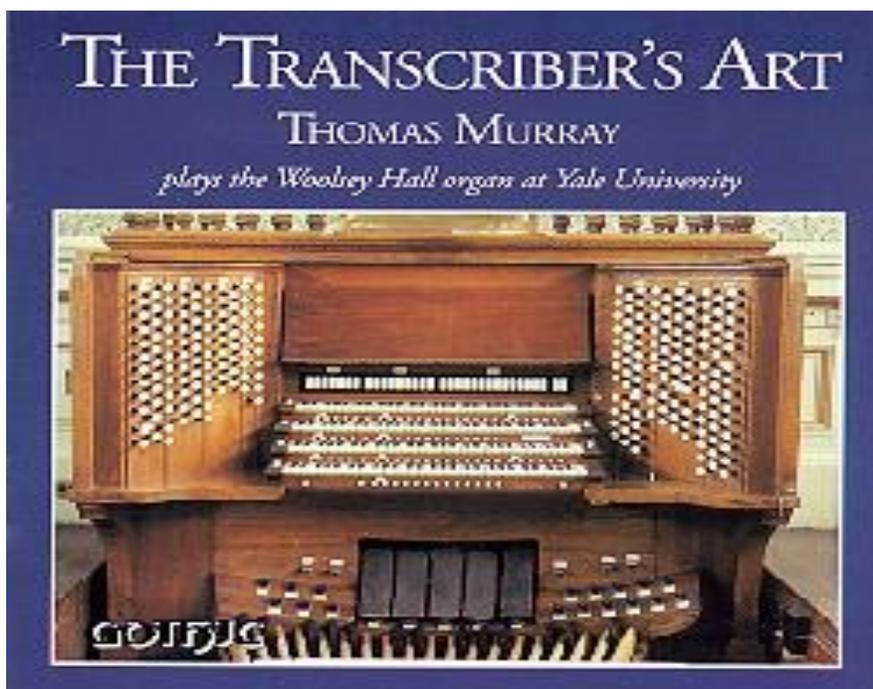
Please welcome Bob Higle, Pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, as our new Chaplain. We look forward to reading his monthly contribution to our newsletter.

Mark September 15th on your calendar as a “don’t miss it” event! Gretchen Morse, an oboist with the Lansing Symphony, will do a presentation on the modality of **Neurofeedback** for musicians. This is a “hands-on” session in which a few folks will get to experience the technique first-hand. In general, **Neurofeedback** helps to quiet and re-balance the brain and nervous system for more optimal function and for a decreased reaction to stressors.

The goal is to obtain a state of “relaxed focus.” By taking a “brain map”, a recording of all the different electrical activity throughout the brain, imbalances can be identified and the information used to help a person better balance their brainwaves in further sessions. Gretchen will also teach us breathing exercises that can be done to settle the nervous system. Join us for lots of fun and interesting exploration.

Barbara Hiranpradist

CD review ?#?!+%



“Technical difficulties lead to no cd review this month”

Our Great Geeks are on this to rectify the wind flow?!

...truly a wonderful organ to play...

A NOTE FROM "PB" OUR CHAPTER CHAPLIN:

Pastor Bob Higle
Plymouth Congregational Christian Church

I am what some would say a "church musician" but my instrument is not the organ although I do use my own pipes. I come to celebrate and worship inspired by the breadth and depth of 'church music.' There are many composers, lyricists, and authors that have inspired my own sense of musicianship. One such person is Fanny J. Crosby. She was probably the most prolific hymnist in history. Though blinded by an incompetent doctor at six weeks of age, her blindness did not prevent her from writing over 8,000 hymns. One such hymn is I AM THINE, O LORD.

We are reminded in the way she lived her own life that each new day provides an opportunity for a fresh renewal of our dedication to the Lord. Even the most devout and strongest followers of our Risen Lord can be drawn away by the pressures of daily living. There is much that can entice us to the subtle temptations that constitute the "pride of life" (1 John 2:16).

Scripture makes is clear and warns us: "So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12) (this could be why organist do their best work on the bench helping to lead the congregational hymn). God's place in our lives must be first and foremost, our friends and family second, and ourselves third (we teach our children that we live 'me third' instead of 'me too.'). God should have the top priority of our daily concerns. Anything that displaces God takes far off 'the way.' We must each day say, "I am Thine, O Lord."

Fanny Crosby wrote this hymn while visiting the home of the composer of the music, William H. Doane, in Cincinnati. The family's conversation that night centered around the blessedness of enjoying the nearness of God. Suddenly in a moment of inspiration, Fanny started giving the words of the hymn-line by line, verse by verse, and then the chorus. Soon after Doane supplied the music, Doane and Crosby partnered together providing us with their wonderful library of 8,000 Fanny Crosby hymns was born.

Since that day in 1875, these moving lines have ministered to and challenged countless numbers of God's people to keep their lives dedicated to their Lord:

I am Thine, O Lord-I have heard Thy voice, and it told Thy love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to Thee.



Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, by the pow'r of grace divine; let my soul look up with a steadfast hope and my will be lost in Thine.

O the pure delight of a single hour that before Thy throne I spend, when I kneel in pray'r and with Thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend.

There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea; there are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with Thee.

Chorus: Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where Thou hast died; draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to Thy precious, bleeding side.

If you are interested in some scripture to partner along with the text above, please consider the following: Psalm 16:11; 73:28; Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 7:22-24; Hebrews 12:28. Let us begin this new time together, with all of its unknown pressures and temptations, but let this musical prayer be upon our lips-

Pastor Bob

(you can find PB on Facebook and Twitter. You may subscribe to his daily reflection by sending him an email to rahigle@ameritech.net <<mailto:rahigle@ameritech.net>> indicating such).

Pastor Bob Higle
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1892 Johnson & Son organ at Cass Community United Methodist Church, Detroit, MI

Greater Lansing Chapter ~ American Guild of Organists

2014 – 2015

Event Calendar

Monday September 15th, 6:30 p.m. St. Thomas Aquinas Church, East Lansing
Neurofeedback Presentation – Gretchen Morse Pot Luck Dinner (B. Hiranpradist -
convener)

Saturday October 25th, 7:15 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. Leaving from St. Thomas Aquinas parking lot, East
Lansing.

Greater Toledo Area Organ Crawl (B. Hiranpradist - convener)

Sunday November 2nd, 3 p.m. Okemos Presbyterian Church
Pops Concert (B. Weidenaar – convener)

Friday December 5th, 7 p.m. Home of Bob Miller - 2247 Burcham Drive, East Lansing
Holiday Party

Sunday January 18th, 1 – 3 p.m. Tavern 109 - Williamston
Winter Brunch (D. Greenman-Ross – convener)

Sunday February 8th, 3 p.m. Emanuel Lutheran Church, Lansing
E. Nathaniel Dett: The Michigan Connection (Mary Black-Junttonen – presenter)

Sunday March 8th, 3 p.m. St. Paul Episcopal Church, Lansing
Members' Recital (S. Hoekzema – convener)

Sunday April 19th, 3:30 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, Lansing
Lynne Davis in Concert (C. Welter – convener, M. Crouch – reception)

Monday May 18th, 6 p.m. Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing
Banquet and Installation of Officers (D. Greenman – Ross – convener)



Autumn Pops Concert Sunday, Nov. 2, @3:00 P.M.

I am pleased to announce that our chapter is going to sponsor our eighth Autumn Pops Concert on Sunday, Nov. 2nd, 3:00 P.M. at the Presbyterian Church of Okemos, (the same location as the previous seven concerts).

As in prior years, this program will feature several very talented, local musicians who are willing to volunteer their time. Included this year will be some “old” and some “new” performers. Featured will be a blend of classical, jazz and pop styles of music on a variety of instruments including piano, organ (and piano/organ duet), flute, oboe, clarinet, cello, bassoon, French horn, drums, cymbals, and voice.

A reception of delicious cookies, plus cider and coffee will follow the program. The concert is free but a free-will offering will be collected to benefit the guild’s scholarship and education fund.

The acoustics in this sanctuary are excellent, and there is plenty of free parking in the church’s parking lot.

Please put this date on your calendar now, so you won’t miss this delightful afternoon of “easy listening” music!

Elsbeth Weidenaar, chairperson

Greater Toledo Area Organ Crawl

Saturday October 25th, 7:15 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

\$36. Motor coach Fee

Leaving from St. Thomas Aquinas Church

Lunch and dinner at historic locations

Family and friends welcome !

Registration Deadline – September 20th

Make checks out to: GLC – AGO

Send in to: Barbara Hiranpradist

667 Stoddard Avenue

East Lansing, MI 48823

Questions? 517-337-2197

Autumn Pops Concert

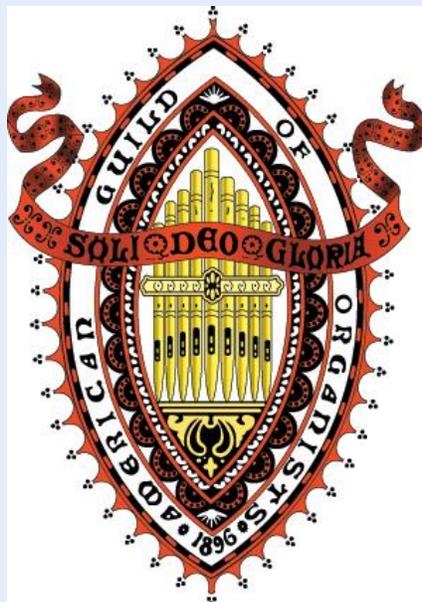
Sunday, Nov. 2, @3:00 P.M.

Presbyterian Church of Okemos,

Okemos and Bennett Roads.

Deadline for the GLAGO newsletter is the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Contributions may be sent to: Mr. Bill - mr_bill41@charter.net



September CD review

The 166 stop, Newberry Organ in Woolsey Hall at Yale University is a 1928 masterpiece of Ernest M. Skinner. Played here by university organist, Thomas Murray, this is an instrument that should be on everyone's "bucket-list" for a live visit. The organ has been expertly preserved maintaining Skinner's 1928 specifications. In this recording the very versatile Thomas Murray demonstrates the wide range of symphonic voices for which Skinner is so famous. THE TRANSCRIBER'S ART as the title indicates is a collection of transcriptions from the works of Sibelius, Rachmaninoff, Liszt, Kreisler and others.

The cd is available from Gothic Records at www.gothic-catalog.com
as G49054

