

# The Bellows

Greater Lansing Chapter-AGO

6/1/2015

Suite 1, Opus 9

*Miscellanea: one-liners and short stories.*

*"...Pa-Dum-Pump!"*

## **These may be old, but they're still good:**

"When I grow up, I want to be a musician."

"Now, honey, you can't do both."

"What is the difference between a savings bond and a musician?"

"The savings bond matures and usually earns money."

"How do you get a lead guitarist in the band to stop playing?"

"You put sheet music in front of him."

"What do you call someone who hangs out with a group of musicians?"

"A drummer."

Sir Thomas Beecham to a musician during a rehearsal: "We cannot expect you to be with us all the time, but perhaps you could be good enough to keep in touch now and again."

*Greater Lansing Chapter  
– American Guild of  
Organists*

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**2014-2015 Board Members**

**Dean:** Barbara Hiranpradist

**Sub-Dean:** Mary Black-Juttonen

**Secretary:** Susanne Hoekzema

**Treasurer:** Tim Costigan

**Membership:** Ed Corey

**Members-at-Large:**

Brian Fowler

Mary Black-Junttonen

Darlene Greenman-Ross

**Newsletter Editor:**

Bill Pomeroy

**Education:** Meredith Hines

**Public Relations:**

**Hospitality:** Caryn Welter

## Somewhat more "organic" tales:

There are two kinds of organists who pay meticulous attention to "counting" ...beginners and professionals.

Thomas Attwood, organist of St. Paul's Cathedral early in the nineteenth-century, was once told by Canon Sydney Smith, "You organists are like overworked cab horses -- always looking for another stop!"

Mark Lee, as quoted in a British magazine, said while speaking at Bristol Cathedral: "Cathedral organists are the ones who don't actually play the organ; their assistants do the playing. I suppose you could say that by definition a cathedral organist is one who used to be good enough to be an assistant."

In the 1830's, at the inauguration of the gargantuan organ of the Birmingham Town Hall, the Lord Mayor famously introduced the concert to the assembled dignitaries by saying, "And now, the organ will play." Whereupon, of course, it did not. Eventually His Honor caught on and revised the introduction, "And now, the municipal organist will play the organ." And he DID!

Told by Barry Rose at the Music for the Church conference, April 2002, Saint Thomas Church NYC:

When he was the organist-choirmaster at Saint Paul's Cathedral, London, he was to meet Noel Mander to get a tour of Mander's shop. This is housed in what used to be the parochial school of Saint Peter's Church. Consequently, the building is now called Saint Peter's Organ Works. While driving to this meeting, Barry was having a little trouble finding the address, although he thought he was in the general neighborhood. So he rolled down the window and called to man standing at the side of the street, "Do you know St. Peter's Organ Works?" The bystander, doubtless rather puzzled at such a question, said, "So does mine!"

*"...Pa-Dum-Pump!"*

We are now receiving dues renewal emails from the AGO National Headquarters. ONCARD is user-friendly. You need your AGO number to login and then you need to update your personal information and then pay. Need help? Contact our new Membership Chair, Ed Corey. Do not despair – you can renew by mail if you are more comfortable with this option. July 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline.

Need a substitute for a week or two over the summer? Please contact Kristi for folks who are available. We currently have a number of retired organists who are willing to sub.

## YEAREND BANQUET AND PROGRAM AT PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:

A most festive time was had by all on this evening with a gathering time with refreshments and munchiettes in the “gathering” room. We had a lovely dinner in the dining room where long-time member Marv Lyons at age 91, announced his retirement from playing and was presented by the guild, a special made 3 - dimensional grand piano in solid milk chocolate.

Marv shared a few stories of “his time on the bench,” then presented his entire library of printed organ music and scores for us to parous and take for our very own. What a wonderful way to retire and share the vast knowledge and music one can acquire over the years, “if they’re not careful.”

A most heartfelt congratulations to you Marv on your retirement and future endeavors.

Thank you for the most gracious gift of the music. I know it will continue to give joy and pleasure to another generation of organists and listeners everywhere. Soli Deo Gloria!



The program consisted of Pipe Organ Builder Brian Fowler who gave a very detailed report of the progress with the organ and future plans. It was refreshing to hear how important the organ still is to this congregation. The rebuild has gone well and will continue. After the presentation, Brian led tours of the organ and chambers to all in attendance. The console was open at this point to any eager musicians and they made good use of this time. As impressive as this instrument is, it was delightful to find the organ can still “whisper!” Soo nice to meet an instrument that can still do that... So delicate! Thank you Brian for helping to keep a vital organ alive and well in the Lansing area.

## GROWING THE CHAPTER

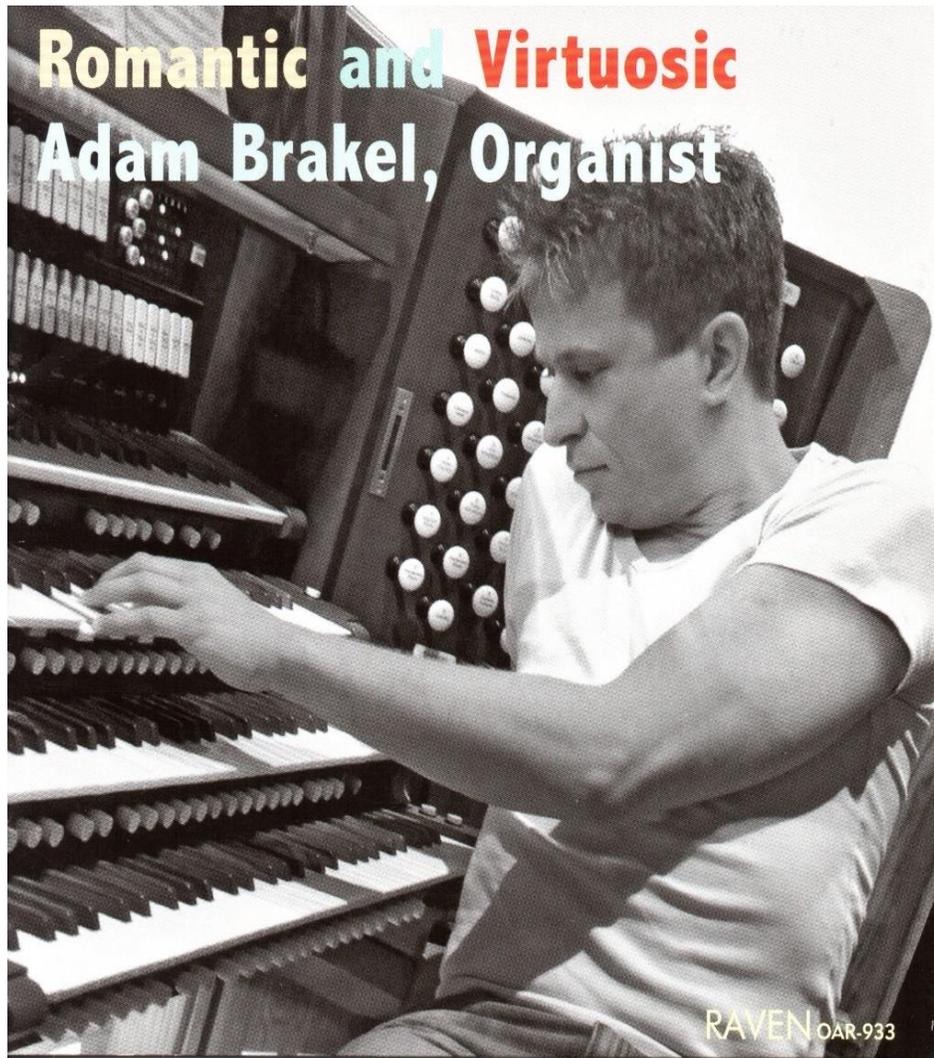
The national organization has encouraged all chapters that in addition to promoting the organ, we also should consider as part of our promotion the growth of our organization. National has suggested that each chapter might consider a ten percent increase as a goal. Our current paid membership is 47, thus we should set a goal of an additional 5 members. The Greater Lansing Chapter has been twice the current size and with all of us promoting the benefits of chapter membership to others we know to be interested in the organ, we should be able to achieve or exceed this modest goal. Most of our memberships are up for renewal at the end of June so this would be an ideal time encourage others to join our Guild.

**Ed Corey**, membership chairman



*CD Review:*

This month's offering is for our snow-birds. *THE ROMANTIC AND VIRTUOSIC*



features Adam Brakel on the 4 manual, 109 ranks of Austin Organs opus 2777 installed in 2000 in the Episcopal Church of Bathesda-by-the-Sea, Palm Beach, Florida. The massive Austin has a great acoustical setting in the large gothic style building as can be seen from the photo. Brakel received his masters degree and Graduate Performance Certificate from Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore. he also enrolled at

Julliard where he received numerous awards. His selections and technique show the wide tonal resources of this large instrument beginning with the first which makes one stand and take notice, Dudley Bucks Concert Variations on the Star-Spangled Banner. Brakels virtuosic rendering of this demanding and powerful work is nicely contrasted with the romantic Adagio from Sonata in E Minor by Herbert Boswell Nanney. For those lucky enough to be in the Florida area, a visit to the church should be a must-see. For those of us confined to a Michigan winter the disc is available at [WWW.RAVENCD.COM](http://WWW.RAVENCD.COM) as OAR-933.

Ed Corey

## GLC-AGO SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The GLC-AGO Board voted to award the Aspiring Organist scholarship this year in the amount of \$400 to Ben Foster from Grand Ledge. Ben could have played his audition selections on the piano, however he chose to play them on the organ and did a fine job! His hymn selection was “In Thee is Gladness” and his Bach selection was Prelude No. 6 from the Eight Little Preludes and Fugues. Ben said he particularly likes playing Bach!

Ben has studied piano for two years and this is his first year playing the trombone. He sings with Emanuel First Lutheran Church’s Junior Choir in Lansing where he has

been a choir member since first grade. Ben has sung in the MSU Community Music School Choir for two years, and soon will finish his third year in the Children and Youth Choirs. He informed me that he recently sang a solo with one of the choirs. Ben enjoys strong family support from his parents, brother and sister, maternal and Paternal grandparents who all came to hear his audition. In addition to the scholarship award, Ben will receive one year of GLC-AGO membership dues, the TAO magazine, and the privilege of networking and mentoring with Lansing’s great AGO members! Ben and his family were invited to attend the banquet on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

As Chairman of the Education Committee, I’d like to thank Barbara Hiranpradist and Darlene Greenman-Ross for serving as adjudicators for the scholarship audition, and Suzanne Hoeksema for helping Ben with his organ registrations. Submitted by **Meredith Hines** Education Chair

## St. Paul’s Episcopal Church offers the half-time position of Minister of Music

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St. Paul’s Episcopal Church is seeking a new Minister of Music. The position description follows below. If you are interested in this position or know of a qualified candidate, please have this individual send the following materials to The Rev. Karen C. Lewis at [rector@stpaulslansing.org](mailto:rector@stpaulslansing.org) or 218 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, MI, 48933.

The materials to be included when applying for the position are:

1. Resume
2. References including one from an instructor whom the candidate studied with
3. A recording of an organ recital on one of the following mediums:  
CD/DVD/Flashdrive/MP3
4. College transcript
5. Contact Information

The selection committee will begin reviewing the materials on June 15, 2015.

Please submit your materials prior to that date. Thank you.

**POSITION SUMMARY:** The Minister of Music (organist/choirmaster) will join the staff team of a vibrant, inclusive program-sized parish, supportive of choral music. This person will be responsible for four choirs: a volunteer adult choir, a high school choir and two children's choirs; and provide music in support of Sunday and special liturgies. This position serves an integral part in the rector's and the parish's vision of ministry, to include maintaining our strong Anglican musical tradition while recognizing the opportunity to introduce & utilize less traditional musical offerings. The Minister of Music will be under the direct supervision of the clergyperson-in-charge.

#### **PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The Minister of Music has responsibility, under the direction of the clergyperson-in-charge, for the quality, substance and appropriateness of the music at all services at which organ/choral music is scheduled. This includes all regular Sunday worship services and other special worship services including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, confirmations and any other major events such as ordinations and celebrations and other occasions as requested by the clergyperson-in-charge.
2. Provides music for the rites of the church, including weddings and funerals. Reviews and recommends to the clergyperson-in-charge requests for special music at these services.
3. Plays the organ and directs the choir at the Sunday morning service.
4. Develops the strength of the choirs, their musical ability and sense of community and mission through weekly choir rehearsals; encouraging

- fellowship opportunities; developing understanding of music's role within the liturgy.
5. Coordinate children and youth choir rehearsals and schedule with volunteer leaders.
  6. Coordinates overall music schedule within the liturgical year in consultation with the clergy person-in-charge.
  7. Responsible for hiring professional musicians, as appropriate and within the parameters of the parish music budget, for liturgical festivals and special services. Responsible for identifying, encouraging and utilizing musical talent within the parish. Responsible for securing substitute musicians during the absence of the Minister of Music.
  8. Selects all organ, choral, hymns and appropriate service music for all choral/organ services, with approval from the clergy person-in-charge. Procures all music and music supplies within the approved budget for the year.
  9. Prepares an annual budget for submission to the Vestry to reflect the total music program. Identifies all items of expenditure including printed music and supplies, musical instrument maintenance, vestments, training, substitute organist and guest musician expenses. Recommends expenditures from the following restricted funds; the Music Program Fund and the Music Discretionary Fund.
  10. Arrange for the organ and pianos to be tuned and maintained in a state of readiness for all regular services, rehearsals and special services.
  11. In consultation with the clergy person-in-charge, participates in further training/seminars to improve skills relating to this music program. Participation in continuing education programs designed for the Episcopal Church musicians is encouraged.
  12. All requests to play the organ, both from within and outside the parish, will require prior approval of the Minister of Music, or in the event of his/her absence, the clergy person-in-charge.
  13. Participates in staff meetings, liturgy planning meetings and other meetings as directed by the clergy person-in-charge. Fulfill all necessary Diocesan required training. Write articles for the parish newsletter and Annual Report as requested.

14. With the assistance of volunteers and limited secretarial support, the Minister of Music will manage and oversee the music library; purchase and maintain choir vestments; maintain neat and attractive choir practice room

15. Participates in annual performance review.

### **REQUIRED SKILLS**

- Spiritual leader to choir members (all ages), creating an environment where musical training & preparation become a part of maintaining & further building a solid foundation of faith for participants.
- Understanding of sacred music and its use within the liturgy and worship
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work and interact well with children, youth, staff, parents, volunteers, parishioners.
- Self-starter with strong commitment to excellence.
- Team-player with a “can do” yet flexible attitude
- Excellent organizational and administrative skills; attention to detail.
- Bachelor’s degree minimum
- Experience in choral directing

### **TIMES OF WORK AND LEAVE**

- Time of work: total of 999 hours a year including 42 Sundays; weekly hours flexible dependent upon schedule of church activities
- Choirs sing from Sunday following Labor Day through Trinity Sunday.
- Funerals/weddings – has right of first refusal. If not available, assists in finding alternates.
- Occasional special services

### **COMPENSATION**

- Salary: \$25,000 annually
- Two weeks of paid vacation; summer hours to be determined

### **REFERENCES REQUIRED**

Contact: The Rev. Karen C. Lewis; St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

[rector@stpaulslansing.org](mailto:rector@stpaulslansing.org)

*He has a profound respect for old age.*

*Especially when it's bottled.*

*- Gene Fowler*

*Old age is like a plane flying through a storm.  
Once you're aboard, there's nothing you can do.*

*- Golda Meir*

**Deadline for the GLAC-AGO newsletters is the last Wednesday of each month**

Mr. Bill editor: [mr\\_bill41@charter.net](mailto:mr_bill41@charter.net)

