



The Executive Committee of
Grand Rapids AGO
2007-2008

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THE CIPHER

The Monthly Newsletter of the Grand Rapids Chapter
American Guild of Organists

October 2007

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It was a thrill to see so many of you at our opening meeting. What a wonderful evening of co-operation from so many people and what a celebration for such a large segment of our chapter. Deans of other chapters find it hard to believe that we have sixty percent attendance at our monthly meetings. Then, with the addition of our spouses and guests, it makes a festive evening indeed.

Our next meeting will be another celebration. October 2007 is the month that the Mother Superior of organ playing in our country, Marilyn Mason, is being feted at the University of Michigan.

On October 1, our day of publication, Dr. Mason is being honored in Ann Arbor for her sixty years of teaching organ at the university, where she is University Organist and Head of the Organ Department. For six decades, this remarkable woman has been concertizing, teaching, leading workshops and organ tours, adjudicating at competitions, and organizing conferences and seminars.



LEISA THOMPSON/ANN ARBOR NEWS

Her dedication to contemporary music is evidenced by the seventy-two works she has commissioned and premiered.

It is with the greatest pleasure that we present Marilyn Mason in a program at Park Church on Monday evening, October 15. "Marilyn Mason Remembers" is an opportunity for us to honor her, to listen to her talk about the highlights of her commissioning projects, as well as to hear her play some of them. Her appearance will be in exactly the same spot where she played her first organ recital in Grand Rapids, more than fifty years ago, shortly after joining the faculty of the University of Michigan.

Three of the members of our Executive Committee are former students of Dr. Mason's: Jim Metzler, Jonathan Tuuk, and myself. Jonathan is one of the organists who will perform tonight in a concert in Hill Auditorium honoring her. Other members of GRAGO have benefited as well from her teaching, coaching, and workshops. All of us will be full of stories about this amazing woman. Several surprises are planned as well. Our dinner and program at Park Church will be festive events that you will not want to miss.

Howard Slenk, Dean

MARILYN MASON REMEMBERS

Park Congregational Church
Used Music Sale at 6:00 (Choral and Organ)
Punch at 6:30
Dinner at 7:00
Program at 8:00

Reservations: Call 456-9232

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September Meeting Memories

Our September meeting was delightful. We owe our gratitude

1. to the Cornell family for opening their home to us, and for Joel Gary who described and played the Aeolian organ;
2. to those at the Masonic Temple who opened a building to us that almost all have never been in before; thanks also to Dennis Buteyn for describing and demonstrating the Möller there;
3. and to member Bill Tufts who also opened his home to us and allowed us to see and hear an amazingly large instrument built by Don Haan for that home, and to for Larry Visser for playing several large compositions on that amazing instrument for us.

So many people commented on the evening with the delicious dessert that we're including the recipe here so you can make it for your friends and tell them about this delightful evening (and invite them to our next meetings! Thanks to Marilyn Slenk for this recipe:

GRAGO GRAPES

Take one 8 oz. packet of Philadelphia Cream Cheese at room temperature.
 Mix well with 1/2 cup of white sugar and 1 tsp. of vanilla.
 Add one 8 oz. carton of sour cream.
 (Do not use reduced-fat cream or cheese!!)
 Add 4 lbs. of green and red seedless grapes.
 (washed, stemmed, and dried)
 Toss
 Refrigerate 4 to 6 hours or overnight.
 Sprinkle with Brickle Bits or Toffee Bits just before serving.
 Makes sixteen small servings.

Music Sale at October Meeting

6:00 p.m. at Park Church

Joni Wagenmaker, music and worship director at Calvin Christian Reformed Church in Muskegon, cleaned out her choral library and offered to donate several boxes of choir music, including multiple copies of anthems and cantatas. At our October meeting, it will be sold on a first-come-first serve basis, offering a good opportunity to purchase some music inexpensively and at the same time benefit our AGO chapter. Joni said some of the music is old but in good shape. There will also be organ music. Here is a sample out of many titles:

Arise, O Christians, A.P. Van Iderstine,	26 copies
Bless the Lord, O My Soul, Ippolitof-Ivanof,	48 copies
Gaudete, Robert J. Batastini,	26 copies
How Lovely Are the Messengers, Mendelssohn,	28 copies
Jesus, Our Lord, We Adore Thee, Will James,	20 copies
Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem, J.H. Maunder,	21 copies

Verlyn Schultz and Esther Korzilius will administer the sale.

Setting Goals for This Year:

**Consider studying for a
Guild Certificate**

The next time you get your copy of *The American Organist*, don't just turn past the "AGO Resources" pages that are in every issue (pp. 6-7 in the September issue). Instead, take a look at the "Certification Study Materials" section. Could this be the year you study for one of the certification levels that will help you grow in skill, knowledge, and understanding of what it means to be a well-equipped organist for service. Questions? Check with one of the executive committee members. They'd be happy to help!

See the National AGO website at:
<http://www.agohq.org/education/indexpcertify.html>

Recent Appointments

Music Director—The Basilica of St. Adalbert. **Timothy Jansen.** Tim has just moved to Grand Rapids from St. Louis, MO.

Music Director—Central Reformed Church. **Brian Bartsch.** Brian is a native of Grand Rapids and most recently has served as Director of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Niles, MI.

Choir Director—Fountain Street Church. **Jennifer Austin.**

We welcome these folks to Grand Rapids and look forward to their participation in the musical life of our city.



Our Organ's Firm Foundation

to be sung to the tune *AURELIA*

Our organ's firm foundation are diapason's fat,
installed in nineteen-twenty, from that day on, they sat.
From Boston, Mass. we sought it, the object of our pride.
For fifteen grand we bought it when our old tracker died.

Elect from every family of pipes that give a toot,
its Great specifications: one reed, one string, one flute;
with leathered diapasons at sixteen, eight, and four,
and sub and super couplers—how could one ask for more?

Though with a scornful wonder we hear it sore oppressed,
by ciphers rent asunder, by wind trunk leaks distressed.
Yet singers still are listening; their cry goes up, "How long
before this hoot and hissing cease drowning out our song?"

Mid toil and tribulation and heated vestry wars,
we wait the ruination of it forevermore;
till with some chiffing glorious our longing ears are blessed,
and leathered pipes notorious shall be but scraps at rest.

Yet still we oil the swell shades each month with Three-in-One,
and grease the motor bearings, to quiet down its run.
Oh, miserable contraption! Lord, grant us funds that we
might junk it for a tracker with pressures less than three!

*Author unknown. The opinions expressed above
are not necessarily those of the Cipher or the GR
Chapter of the AGO!*

Positions Available

Temple United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Director of Music Ministry. Responsibilities include providing Sunday morning music, directing choir, and assisting the pastor with worship planning. Position can be split into two positions (Organist and Choir Director) for qualified individuals. Temple is an open and accepting inner-city church that offers creative worship to empower people to serve in mission. Send resume to **Temple United Methodist Church**, 2500 Jefferson, **Muskegon Heights** MI 49444 or contact Pastor Rob Cook at (231) 733-1065 for more information.

Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA) of Charlotte, MI, is looking for a Pianist / Organist. Our present organist is retiring August 26. The duties would include playing for the 9:30 service and the weekly Thursday choir rehearsal. The service is a blend of traditional and carefully selected contemporary Christian music. The instrument is a Rodgers and Fowler pipe hybrid. The sanctuary is new and very good acoustically. Pay will be commensurate with experience. If you presently play piano and would like to start to play the organ, a scholarship is available for lessons. If you have choir directing experience and would like to handle that responsibility, it is a possibility. Please contact Scott or Barbara Myckowiak at 517-541-0915 or via e-mail at bmyckowiak@ia4u.net.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids, seeks a committed, experienced, and enthusiastic MUSIC DIRECTOR-ORGANIST to join our ministry support team. The ideal candidate will bring a graduate degree in organ performance, choral conducting or sacred music; significant experience and a working familiarity with Episcopal liturgy. Church assets include a new JW Walker 4 manual organ; a 30 voice choir, choral scholars; and program resources. This is a half time position offering a salary range of \$36-40,000. Please send letter of interest & resume to: The Rev. Canon Robert Schiesler, 134 N Division Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or Roberts@stmarksepiscopalchurch.org

Advance Notice **Regional Convention 2009**

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Region V convention right here in Michigan, in the Detroit area. Dates are now set at June 28-July 1, 2009. Headquarters will be at the Renaissance Center.

Two Organ Master Classes

The Southwest Michigan area is fortunate in having *two* organ master classes presented four weeks apart this fall by guest recitalists from outside the area. Both events are open to the public free of charge. For maximum benefit and interest of both players and listeners, the sponsoring organizations have collaborated to arrange there to be no duplication of venue, performers, or repertoire between the two events. At both churches, on-street parking is free on Saturdays.

(1) Saturday 13 October 2007, 8:30–10:30 am
Master class with **Felix Hell**

First Baptist Church, Kalamazoo (315 W. Michigan Ave.) Sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Chapter of AGO

Performers and repertoire:

Barbara Hong – Bach, Trio Sonata #1 in E-flat, BWV 525 (all, but perhaps concentrating on first one or two movements and touching briefly on the others)

Glenn Getty – Franck, B-minor Choral (all, but perhaps concentrating more on one half or the other)

Chris Dekker – Vierne, Allegro (first movement) from Symphony II

Alayna Young – Bach, Toccata and Fugue in F major, BWV 540 (especially the toccata, and at least the beginning of the fugue)

(2) Saturday 10 November 2007, 9–11 am
Master class with **David Schrader**

First United Methodist Church, Kalamazoo (212 S. Park St.) Sponsored by the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music

Performers and repertoire:

Stan Pelkey – Mendelssohn, Sonata #3 in A

Joel VanderZee – Buxtehude, Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne in C, BuxWV 137; and a work by Bach

Bernie Foulk – Bach, Prelude and Fugue in B minor, BWV 544

James Naumann – chorales to be selected

For more information, contact Karl Schrock at karl.schrock@wmich.edu or 269-349-8559.

Events of Interest

Monday, October 1, 8:00 p.m. Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor. Concert honoring Marilyn Mason with performances by six former students. In conjunction with the U of M 47th Conference on Organ Music. For more info see: http://www.music.umich.edu/performances_events/organconference/index.htm

Tuesdays at 12:15 at Park Congregational Church. Music at Mid-Day continues with half hour recitals each Tuesday:

October 2 – Michael Stefanek, organ

October 9 – Chris Roe, piano

October 16 – John Hamersma, organ

October 23 – Matthew Elzinga, trumpet

October 30 – Joy Schroeder, organ

Lunch is also available from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (Soup, Salad, and Dessert for \$3).

October 5, Friday, 7 pm Social hour, 8 pm Concert
St. Robert of Newminster Catholic Church, 6477 Ada Dr. S.E., Ada. **Newminster Art Series Gala.** *Unforgettable Broadway* with Diane Penning-Koperski, soprano and Paul Bisaccia, piano. Black tie optional. Tickets at \$75 available by calling 676-9111.

Wednesday, October 10, 7:00 p.m. Beckwith Hills Christian Reformed Church, 2100 Chelsea Road NE., Grand Rapids. *Archiglas* (translation = outstanding voice) will present a concert of Russian sacred and folk music. This quintet of professional singers performs mostly unaccompanied. A free will offering will be received. See www.archiglas.com for details of the group.

Sunday, October 14, 6:00 p.m. Pillar Church, Holland, MI. The Holland Area Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be presenting a Hymn Festival on the theme "Songs of the Liturgical Year. The festival will include a mass choir comprised of choirs from Third Reformed Church, Fourteenth Street Christian Reformed Church and Pillar Christian Reformed Church. In addition to choral anthems and congregation singing the festival will also feature organ, brass and timpani plus and outstanding soprano soloist. Free will offering. Pillar Church is located at the corner of 9th Street and College Avenue in downtown Holland. Lots of free parking.

Sunday, October 28, 6:00 p.m. LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church. The 22nd Annual Reformation Day Festival of Hymns will combine brass, organ, bagpipe, handbells, and adult and children's choirs in a service centered around the theme of the 150th anniversary of the Christian Reformed Church: "Grace: Remembering, Rejoicing, Rededicating."