



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

November 2007

## Details for November 12 Meeting

***Note Date is one week earlier than usual***

Date and Time: **Monday, 12 November, 2007**

Dinner at 6:00, and the Program at 7:00 p.m.

If you are not called by an Executive Committee member, please call in dinner reservations to Errol Shewman (456-9232) by Wednesday, Nov. 7. **Please note that the dinner is at six p.m., and the concert at seven. This is to accommodate the almost one hundred children participating in the program, who need to attend school the following morning.**

Place: St. Jude Roman Catholic Church  
1120 Four Mile, NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525-2653

Performers will include the  
St. Jude Adult Choir, MaryAlice Clor-Miller, Director  
Grand Rapids Musicians League Choirs - Heidi Vonk, Director  
Stephanie Pestana and Elizabeth Yanoschik, pianists  
David Michael Klemmer, Jr., accompanist

Also note: there will be an offering taken for Habitat for Humanity.

For any questions, please contact David Michael Klemmer, Jr., Director of Music, (616) 363-6885, Ext. 111, [dmklemmerjr@triton.net](mailto:dmklemmerjr@triton.net)

Please invite others to join you for this festive evening—especially children's choir directors. Consider placing an announcement in your church bulletin or school or business newsletter. Here is a sample announcement:

### An Evening Honoring Dolores Hruby

#### Michigan Composer of the Year

Everyone is invited to an evening of choral music for adult and children's choirs composed by Dolores Hruby, who is being honored as "Michigan Composer of the Year" on Monday, November 12, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude Catholic Church, 1120 Four Mile NE, Grand Rapids. Several choirs are involved, including almost 100 children. Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists ([www.grago.org](http://www.grago.org))

## From our Dean

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

During its program planning two years ago, the Executive Committee of our chapter decided to initiate a Michigan Composer of the Year series by devoting one program per year to a composer of church music from our state. Our first choice was Raymond Haan. The concert of his music last November in Ray's own church was well-executed, well-received, and well-attended.



This month we will honor Dolores Hruby, a former member of our chapter, and a prolific composer of sacred music for children's choirs and other ensembles. Dolores has worked as a choral clinician from coast to coast, and her works have been published by ten publishers. In 1983, she received the **ALLELUIA AWARD** from the Diocese of Grand Rapids for her outstanding work in church music. Her articles appeared regularly in music journals, particularly in the *Choristers Guild Letters*, and in *Pastoral Music*. In July of 1984, Dolores was honored with "Spotlight on a Michigan Composer" at the Michigan State University church music workshop in East Lansing.

Dolores Hruby received her Bachelor of Music degree from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, where she studied composition under Leo Sowerby. She later received her Master of Music degree from Michigan State University. From 1969 to 2004, she worked tirelessly at St. Jude Roman Catholic Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan as Director of Music, where she oversaw all aspects of the parish liturgical music program, including directorship of several youth choirs and the adult choir.

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This is an evening of celebration and honor; spread the word and come with friends.

Howard Slenk, Dean

## Report on October Meeting

Two weeks after the celebration in Ann Arbor honoring Marilyn Mason's sixty years of teaching at the University of Michigan, the Grand Rapids Chapter honored



Dr. Mason at a dinner attended by sixty members. Eight of the members present were former students of hers, each of whom was given a package of bulbs of the tulip named "Marilyn." At the subsequent workshop entitled "Marilyn Mason Remembers," Dr. Mason discussed her long history of commissioning organ works, many of them from American composers. She played pieces by Edward Haines, Alice Jordan, Jean Langlais, et. al. An audience of more than seventy-five people was present, a record attendance at an organ workshop sponsored by our chapter.

## Recent Appointment



Gregory Crowell has accepted the position of organist/choirmaster at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids. Greg will be leaving Trinity United Methodist Church, where he has served as Director of Music Ministries since 1995. He continues his positions as University Organist and member of the music history

faculty at Grand Valley State University, and Director of Publications for the Organ Historical Society.

## New Members

Welcome to the following new or returning members. Please add this list to your 2007-2008 Directory. We're always ready to add new members! For additional information on these members, write to

[agocipher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agocipher@sbcglobal.net)

Ardis Keizer  
Kent and Janet Hill  
Larry Biser  
Kathryn Church  
Samantha Wilson  
Daniel E Herman  
Tim Quist  
Timothy J Jansen

## Events of Interest

**Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m. at Dimnent Chapel, Hope College, Holland, Michigan.** Dr. Huw Lewis will perform the world premiere of *Concerto for Organ and Orchestra* by Benjamin Boyle, with the Hope College Orchestra under the direction of Richard Piippo. This concert is the last in a series of rededication events celebrating the restoration of the Dimnent Chapel 1929 Skinner Organ. The event is free and open to the public.

**Sunday, Nov. 4, 4:00 p.m. Park Congregational Church, Organ Recital by Jean-Baptiste Robin,** Organist of Poitiers Cathedral and Professor of Organ at the Regional Conservatory in Versailles, France. Music of Bach, Vierne, Robin, Marchand and Durufle. The church is located at 10 East Park Place NE, and the event is free.

**Sunday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Andrew, 267 Sheldon Blvd. Grand Rapids Cantata Choir** presents Libby Larsen's *Missa Gaia*. With Catholic Central High School Chorale, Dennis Rybicki, director. The Choirs, and soprano soloist Diane Penning-Koperski, will be accompanied by a professional instrumental ensemble of strings, oboe, percussion, and 2 pianists. Ticket prices: \$15 Adult, \$13 Senior (65+), \$12 Student, \$30 Family. For more information phone 575-SING or visit [www.grcantatachoir.org](http://www.grcantatachoir.org).

**Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m. at Seventh Reformed Church, Yoon Jung Yang** will give an organ recital on their two-manual 21-rank Schantz organ. This is her third recital in the West Michigan area since moving here in 2006 while her husband attends Calvin Seminary. Seventh Reformed Church is located at 950 Leonard NW. The event is free and open to the public.

### **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. For more information, contact Karl Schrock at [karl.schrock@wmich.edu](mailto:karl.schrock@wmich.edu) or 269-349-8559.

**Monday, November 19, 7:30 p.m., "Worship Planning and Playing," by Rev. Randall Engle, Third Reformed Church, Holland, Michigan.** Join members of the Holland AGO Chapter for this session. Rev. Engle is an ordained pastor of North Hills Christian Reformed Church, Troy, Michigan, and author of *Serving in Your Church's Ministry* (Zondervan, 2002). He is also an accomplished organist, and has been known to both preach and play the organ in the same service!

**Saturday, November 24, 7:30 pm, Sunday Nov. 25, 3:00 pm. Basilica of St. Adalbert, Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids.** Join the Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids one more time for a wonderful Christmas Concert. Call the Arts Council of Grand Rapids for Tickets at 459-2787. Ticket prices are Adults: \$18; Seniors \$15; Students: \$5. Click here for more details: <http://www.grago.org/chapter/Cipher/CCGR2007.pdf>

**Music at Mid-Day** on Tuesdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m., at Park Church, 10 East Park Place NE.

- Nov. 6: Grand Rapids Community College Pianists
- Nov. 13: Joel Vanderzee, Organist
- Nov. 20: Grandville Middle School 7th Grade Jazz Band
- Nov. 27 - Chris Dekker, Organist



**LET THE GUILD PAY YOUR EXPENSES TO  
THE 2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION  
IN THE TWIN CITIES OF MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL  
A \$1,400 DOLLAR VALUE**

The National Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support invites you to take the 2007-2008 Member Challenge! This flyer will provide everything you need to know to take part in the Challenge - an integral part of the 2007-2008 AGO National Membership Campaign: Each One—Reach One!

**THE CHALLENGE FOR 2007-2008**

2007-2008 is the third and final year of the Each One-Reach One campaign with the Member Challenge being the primary focus. This challenge promises fun, larger membership numbers, national recognition, and the opportunity to win a valuable prize - national headquarters will pay your major expenses while you enjoy the 2008 National convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Expenses include convention registration, the bus transportation package, and five nights in the convention hotel.

Start recruiting new and former members\* today. When you have new recruits to report do the following:  
REGISTER THEM ONLINE AT: <http://www.agohq.org/eachone-reachone/forms/recruit.html>

**OR**

PRINT THE FOLLOWING FORM AT: <http://www.agohq.org/eachone-reachone/forms/RecruiterForm.pdf>

ADDITIONAL MEMBER CHALLENGE INFORMATION:

<http://www.agohq.org/eachone-reachone/forms/MemberChallengeFlyer.pdf>

**MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE GUIDELINES**

1. Recruiters must obtain at least five new or former members\* to be eligible for an award.  
*\*Former members are those who were previously members of the Guild. Renewing members from the 2006-07 membership year do not count as former members. There is one exception to this rule: Chapter friends from the 2006-07 membership year who choose to change their membership to a voting membership can be counted as recruits.*
2. New members recruited must be full voting members (regular, special, student, or partner), and may become members of any chapter, or independent members. Chapter friends are not voting members of the Guild.
3. Dual members and POE students, who receive free membership, may not be counted as recruited members.
4. Registrars and Treasurers are not eligible to participate in the member challenge. Membership Coordinators are eligible unless they are also serving as Registrars or Treasurers.
5. Names and contact information must be submitted to AGO National Headquarters on an Official Entry Form (see below), and entries must be received by April 15th, 2008.

**SUGGESTION:** We are always looking for new members in the Guild. We are also looking to retain our past members as well. Talk with your Chapter Registrar / Membership Coordinator / Treasurer about past AGO members who have not renewed.

**Up to five winners will be selected and notified in May of 2008 and will be recognized at the National Convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul June 22-26, 2008. Winners will be determined by the National Membership Committee based on the information received at AGO National Headquarters. All names reported on Official Entry Forms will be verified by the AGO National Membership Department records. Recruits will be counted only if names are reported by AGO Chapters on an official 2007-08 Dues Report or submitted to National Headquarters as Independent Members.**