



Lorain County Chapter American Guild of Organists

www.lcago.org

Newsletter for November 2011

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Hymn Playing Workshop November 20, 4:30 First Church, Oberlin

Our LCAGO event for November is a hymn playing workshop by Nicole Keller on November 20th, at 4:30pm at First Church in Oberlin. Come to this workshop to learn more about the art of hymn playing, and to have your own hymn playing refreshed. Ms. Keller would like to have some people play hymns for her comments; please [contact the dean](#) if you are interested in playing.

Nicole Keller is in demand as a solo and chamber music recitalist and clinician in the United States. She performs regularly as a solo and collaborative artist on the organ, piano and harpsichord. She serves as Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church Episcopal in Hudson, Ohio where she oversees a vibrant music ministry dedicated to highest standards of excellence in music for worship. Ms. Keller received the Performer's Certificate and the Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York under the tutelage of David Higgs. She is on the faculty of Cleveland State University, Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music, and is the continuist for the Baldwin-Wallace College Bach Festival Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Keller recently won the National University of Kazakhstan Special Prize at the 7th Mikael Tariverdiev organ competition in Russia.





From the Dean

Have you ever had someone come up to you after a service and say, “your prelude/postlude/voluntary sounded just like the *Phantom of the Opera!*”? That has happened to me many times, and it usually makes me wonder if that persons knows of a different *Phantom* than I do.

Somehow our instrument has gained the reputation of being a little bit spooky. Many chapters play this up, and hold Halloween “spooktaculars” with costumed organists playing Toccatas by Bach and Boëllmann. Perhaps it is the loudness of the organ, or perhaps it its power, or perhaps even its antiquity, but one way or another, these kind of events do work in a way that a flute ensemble

“spooktacular” wouldn’t.

I wonder if it isn’t also an indication of the deep way that organ music can connect with people. In the same way that Halloween reflects a fascination (albeit usually trivialized and secularized) with spirituality, the afterlife, and the supernatural, so organ music’s “spooky” reputation reflects its ability to touch those spiritual aspects of our being in a more direct way than some other instruments. Yes, I have been transported by beautifully played piano music, but sometimes it takes merely a simple hymn harmonization played on an 8’ principal to do the same at the organ. Or maybe its just that Stravinsky was right after all, and the organ is indeed “a monster that doesn’t breathe”!

Happy Halloween!

Brian

Chapter News

Executive Committee Meeting

The executive committee (Brian Wentzel, Dean; Marty Bruner, Co Sub-Dean; Janet Campbell-Kuhl, Co Sub-Dean; Carol Sharrock, Treasurer; Robert Ebert, Secretary) held a meeting on October 22. The committee had a very productive meeting and is excited about the future of the chapter. Some of the items discussed included:

- **This year’s programs**

The hymn playing workshop (see [page 1](#)) is coming soon, and should be a wonderful time of learning and refreshment. Since most of us work on Sunday mornings, it’s hard to find a chance to listen to and learn from other people’s hymn playing. This will

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Oberlin Events

November 6, 8:00, Warner
College Choir and Treble Ensemble
Jason Harris conducts. Treble Ensemble: works by MacIntyre Rautavaara, Holst, Tchaikovsky, Giordano, and Bizet. College Choir: works by Lauridsen, Averitt, Brahms, Wolf, Parker, Paulus, and Hairston.

November 8, 8:00, Warner
Robin Jenkins, Organ Recital
Conservatory Junior plays Bach and Brahms.

November 11, midnight, Finney
Friday Night Organ Pump
Come enjoy one of Oberlin's greatest traditions—the Friday Night Organ Pump. Listen to Conservatory organ majors performing on the awe-inspiring Finney Chapel organ.

November 16, 12:15, Bibbins 224
Elgar in Oberlin: A Meeting of Worlds
Lecture by Steven Plank, organist and Professor and Chair of the Division of Musicology at Oberlin.

November 18, 12:00, Bibbins 223
William Bolcom, lecture
Musical America's 2007 Composer of the Year and composer of the well-known Gospel Preludes for organ gives a free lecture. His opera "A Wedding" will be performed this weekend.

November 18, 6:30, Warner
Loletta (Ming Chu) Pak, Organ Recital
Conservatory Junior plays Buxtehude, Bach, and Rheinberger.

Other Area Events

November 19, 10:00
Community Christian Church, Canton
Choral Reading Session
Joint Akron / Canton AGO event. Submit the title/composer/publisher info for one or two of your heaviest-hitting anthems and we'll read through them, followed by lunch at the Main Street Grille.

November 27, 4:30
Ridgewood UMC, Parma
Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols
Ira Cooper, director and organist

Job Opening

Choral Director Needed for Avon Lake Women's Chorus
Rehearsals are held on Mondays, 9:30-11:30, September through May. Performances will be scheduled in December, April, and May. Stipend provided. Please call Fran at 440-934-3442 or Carol at 440-258-8635.

Chapter News (continued)

be a great opportunity to do that. Nicole Keller will be our helpful guide for this afternoon workshop.

The "Marty" Gras chapter social event will still be held on February 19, but due to space limitations it will not be held at Marty Bruner's house as originally planned. A better location will be decided on shortly.

By the consensus of the leadership of LCAGO and Oberlin organ department, the annual Oberlin student recital and dinner has run its course. Instead, we are working on new creative ways to involve students in our chapter and our chapter with the conservatory. For instance, the decision to have the hymn playing workshop at First Church will allow the students to more easily participate. There will still be a chapter event at Oberlin in the spring; stay tuned for the details.

- **Next year's programs**

The executive committee did some brainstorming of ideas for future programs. Here are some of the ideas we came up with: co-sponsor (with Oberlin and/or other local AGO chapters) a major recitalist; take an organ crawl to the Skinner organ at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo; tour Leek Pipe Organ Company in Oberlin; have a choral music workshop or sharing session; have a workshop on handbell choirs; hold a clergy/musician dinner. Do any of these appeal to you? What else would you like to see our chapter do in the future?

- **Membership**

The committee spent some time discussing ways to retain and recruit members. If you know of someone who you think would benefit from membership, [let us know](#), and we will contact them.

- **Bylaws**

Many AGO chapters have bylaws, but our chapter does not. The committee is moving forward towards writing some bylaws for our chapter, in order to increase stability and organization in the chapter. Bob Ebert is heading up this project, which will be months in the making.

- **Scholarship Fund**

Finally, the committee discussed our Zachary Gott Music Scholarship Fund. This fund currently has over \$750 in it, and the committee is working on guidelines for distributing and adding to this fund. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome!

Directories

Watch your mail for the LCAGO directory, which should be ready within a few weeks.

Lorain County in *The American Organist*

Lorain County organists were well represented in the October issue of TAO. No less than 4 of the winners of the 2011 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists were Oberlin students (see pages 64-67). **Nick Capozzoli** won second place in Region III, **Wesley Hall** won second place in Region IV, **Katelyn Emerson** won first place in our region, Region V, and **Alcee Chriss III** was second place in Region VII. Also, **Brian Wentzel** was recognized for earning the FAGO certificate (see pages 22-23). Congratulations to all!

AGO Mission Statement

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is:

- to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles;
- to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; and
- to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.

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Please email any newsletter information to the Dean by the 20th of the month.