



Lorain County Chapter American Guild of Organists

www.lcago.org

Newsletter for April 2013

Vol. 58, No. 8

Leek Organ Co. Tour

April 20, 10:00 am

Our next LCAGO event is a tour of the [Leek Organ Company's](#) shop, located at 14477 State Route 58 in Oberlin. We will tour their [workshop](#) and learn more about the inner workings of pipe organs.

Leek Pipe Organ Company is a three generation firm serving churches in Ohio and elsewhere. The firm's family history also includes serving churches in the Netherlands. The training and background of the staff is informed by the skill and expertise of international organ builders.

The firm specializes in restoration and service of historic pipe organs, and also offer a broad range of services that can effectively modernize older instruments using current industry standard pipe organ technology. We strike a fine balance integrating technology to improve the reliability and functionality and maintaining the historical/structural integrity of the instruments.





From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Easter!

I hope you all had wonderful holidays, filled with good music, meaningful services, and the satisfaction of a job well done. Now I hope you all have a chance to rest a bit and enjoy the spring that finally seems to be coming!

It seems like it's been a while since we've been together (our last LCAGO event was in November). I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our spring events: the tour of Leek Organ Co. on April 20, and John Sherer's recital at First Lutheran on May 5.

Brian

Chapter News

Upcoming LCAGO events

April 20: Tour of Leek Pipe Organ Company

LCAGO chapter member and president of the company James Leek will give us a tour of the Leek shop, and give us insight into how pipe organs are built and repaired. The tour starts at 10:00 am. Those who wish will eat lunch together afterwards.

May 5: John Sherer, Organ Recital

This recital will be at First Lutheran Church, Lorain, at 3:00. Dr. John W. W. Sherer is Organist and Director of Music at Fourth Presbyterian Church, downtown Chicago, named by USA Today as one of top ten places in America to be "enthralled by heavenly music." This concert is co-sponsored by [FIRST•music](#).

Oberlin Events

April 5, 6:30, Kohl Building
Western Brass Quintet

Guest recital by “one of the most distinguished brass chamber music ensembles active in the United States today.”

April 13, 4:00, Warner
Stanislav Ioudenitch, Piano Recital

Guest recital. Music of Mozart, Liszt, Ravel, Schubert, and Stravinsky.

April 19, 8:00, Finney
College Choir and Treble Ensemble
Jason Harris conducts.

April 19, midnight, Finney
Friday Night Organ Pump
Organ students play on the mighty Fisk.

April 23, 8:00, Fairchild and Finney
Justin Murphy-Mancini, Organ Recital
Oberlin Student plays early music at Fairchild Chapel and Messiaen at Finney Chapel.

April 26, 8:00, Fairchild
Collegium Musicum
Steven Plank, Director. This concert by Oberlin’s a-cappella early music choir will be repeated on the 27th. Arrive early if you want a good seat.

April 28, 4:00, Finney
Apollo’s Fire
Cleveland’s Baroque Orchestra, Jeannette Sorrell, Director. Artist Recital Series. \$42.

May 1, 8:00, Finney
Sang-gil Travis Gu, Organ Recital
Artist Diploma student performs Romantic and 20th-century organ works.

Other Area Events

April 19, 7:30, Fairmount Presbyterian, Cleveland Heights
Christopher Houlihan, Organ Recital

Hear one of our most exciting young American organists in concert on the 100-rank Schantz. AGO Cleveland program.

April 19, 8:00, Trinity Lutheran, Akron

An Evening with Charlie Chaplin
Dorothy Papadakos is a member of the seven-time Grammy Award winning Paul Winter Consort. She will play organ for a variety of silent films starring Charlie Chaplin. Akron AGO program.

April 20, 10:00, Trinity Lutheran, Akron

Workshop with Dorothy Papadakos
Dorothy Papadakos gives a Saturday-morning workshop. Akron AGO program.

Job Opening

First Lutheran Church, Strongsville. Dynamic Lutheran Church in southwest Cleveland suburb is seeking gifted individual to direct and coordinate our evolving music program. Our program includes both traditional and contemporary elements of worship. 30 hours/week. For more detailed information, visit www.firstchurchalive.org.



Marie-Claire Alain
Aug. 10, 1926—Feb. 26, 2013

Marie-Claire Alain, a master French organist and teacher with admirers and distinguished former students around the world, died on Tuesday in a retirement home in Le Pecq, outside Paris. She was 86.

Her death was announced by the parish church of Saint-Germain-en-Laye, where she was organist for 40 years.

Ms. Alain's interpretations of Bach, François Couperin and Dieterich Buxtehude, precise yet engaging and colorful, were widely considered authoritative. Her 300 recordings include three separate ones on organs of different periods of the complete organ works of J. S. Bach.

She also recorded albums of Romantic composers like Mendelssohn, Liszt, César Franck and Louis Vierne, and she was devoted to the organ works of her oldest brother, Jehan Alain, a composer who was killed in action in the German invasion of France in 1940.

She taught at the conservatory of Rueil-Malmaison and later at the Paris Conservatory, where she had studied after World War II with Marcel Dupré and Maurice Duruflé, and later Gaston Litaize.

Among her hundreds of other students are names like Guy Bovet, Wolfgang Rübsam, James David Christie, James Higdon, George C. Baker and Dame Gillian Weir. The list is a "who's who of the present-day organ world," as Michael Barone, host of American Public Media's "Pipedreams" radio program, put it in a tribute.

Ms. Alain was born in Saint-Germain-en-Laye on Aug. 10, 1926, the youngest child in a family of musicians. She began assisting her father, Albert, at the console at the church of Saint-Germain at age 11 in 1937 and succeeded him there after he died in 1971.

Her professional career began in 1950 and ended in 2010 after she fell into decline following the death the previous year of her son, Benoît.

Her husband, Jacques Gommier, whom she married in 1950, died in 1992. Survivors include their daughter, Aurélie Gommier-Decourt, and six grandchildren.

Last year, the French government decorated Ms. Alain as a grand officer in the Legion of Honor.

Obituary from the *New York Times*

AGO Mission Statement

**The mission of the American Guild of Organists is
to enrich lives through organ and choral music.**

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

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