

The Prelude

February 2018

The American Guild of Organists, Toledo Chapter

Dean's Message

Greetings,

Recently I played a setting of a well-known and well-loved hymn tune during the offering. It was Arabesque on "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by John Barr. As I played, I realized that some of my choir members were humming along. The tune had obviously struck a chord with them (no pun intended). They seemed to get stronger as the setting progressed through two repetitions of the refrain. Obviously, that powerful hymn had resonated with them. I was glad to know that the piece had reminded them of God's faithfulness and care for us. This is an obvious example of the power hymns and music can carry. However, there are many other times our music touches, comforts and blesses people and we may never know about it. We should never discount these possibilities; therefore, we should always offer up our music with ample preparation and in the best manner we can.

Our January program at St. Rose Catholic Church in Perrysburg was a great evening with about 18 in attendance! The program was open to all but was focused on sharing information and resources for less experienced organists. We had a few guests, including a couple of our scholarship winners. David Saunders ably spoke about the basics of organ registration, and he demonstrated examples. Neil Kraft, Sally Mossing, Joan McConnell, Paul Monachino and Ed Duling each briefly shared three easier pieces from various seasons of the liturgical year. A handout listing the pieces, information about registration and resources was distributed. We ended the evening with a wine and cheese reception and a time of fellowship. Thank you to each of the presenters, Dennis Johns for organizing the program and Charlotte Mariasy for hosting us.

Our student recital is coming up next month. It's at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Toledo on Sunday, March 11th at 3 p.m. Plan now to attend and support these students in their organ studies!

Our February program is a Super Organ Recital on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. (Superbowl Sunday). Our performers will perform a variety of literature. A freewill offering and a reception will also be part of the event. The recital, which will be about an hour, will conclude in plenty of time for people to still take part in Superbowl Festivities. Invite others to join you for this Super Recital!

I encourage you to start thinking about attending a continuing education event/conference this year. Some possibilities are: the February Flourish (sponsored by the Columbus chapter) in Upper Arlington on Saturday, Feb. 24, the National AGO convention in Kansas City (July 2 - 6), the Jacobs School of Music Sacred Music Intensive Course at Indiana University (June 4 - 8).

Soli Deo Gloria!

—Mark Mathias, Dean



*The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians
who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.*

Toledo AGO Contact Info

Mark Mathias, Dean	419-708-6953 msmathias@yahoo.com
Dennis Johns, Sub-Dean	419-344-6905 dennis.johns@stjosephmaumee.org
Melissa Flowers, Secretary	419-455-4408 melissaflowers4@gmail.com
Pam Davis, Treasurer	419-346-0279 pameladavis965@gmail.com
Joan McConnell, Membership Chair	419-455-4666 jmconne@heidelberg.edu

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all who are interested in the organ. To become a member of the Toledo Chapter, contact Joan McConnell, Membership Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

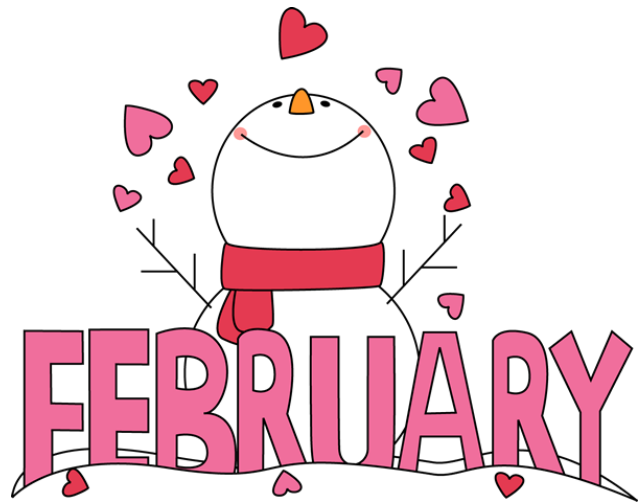
To submit articles, news, concerts or vacant positions, contact Melissa Flowers, Secretary.

WEBSITE

www.toledoago.org

February Program—Super Organ Recital

On February 4 at 3 p.m., (please note the time change) we are sponsoring a Super Organ Recital at Zoar Lutheran Church. Chapter members will play solo selections on the 3-manual, sixty-plus stop Rodgers/Ruffati (digital hybrid) organ. Performers include George Blackney, Dennis Blubaugh, Dennis Johns, Denise Mathias, Omaldo Perez, David Saunders and Mark Mathias. They will play a variety of solo organ works. A freewill offering will be collected, and a reception will follow the recital.

**February Flourish**

To begin the year-long celebration of its 100th anniversary, the Columbus, Ohio chapter of the American Guild of Organists invites you to February Flourish! This is a day-long series of workshops that offers students, part-time organists and pianists who have been drafted to serve as organists an opportunity to meet others in similar situations, enhance their existing skill set and become acquainted with new resources that are available to help part-time musicians.

February Flourish will take place on Saturday, February 24, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2070 Ridgecliff Road, Upper Arlington (Columbus), Ohio, 43221. For more information and to register for this event, visit www.agocolumbus.org and click on "programs."

Photos wanted!

If you have any photos from our various AGO events this year, please send them to our secretary, Melissa Flowers at melissaflowers4@gmail.com. Melissa would love to include your photos in the *Prelude*!

Toledo Chapter AGO Events 2017 - 2018

Sun., Feb. 4, 3 p.m. (note time change)

Member's Recital

Zoar Lutheran, Perrysburg

Members of our chapter will present an organ recital at Zoar Lutheran Church.

Sun., March 11, 3 p.m.

Annual Student Recital

Our Lady of Lourdes, Toledo

Our student scholarship winners and other organ students of our chapter members will perform on the church's 2-maual, 20-rank Schantz pipe organ.

Fri., April 13

Ghost Pipes

TBA

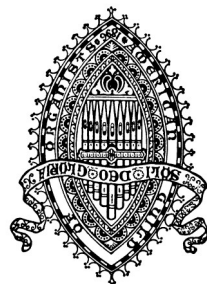
Neil Kraft and Mark Muller will lead us in an organ crawl at area churches. More details TBA.

Sun., May 6, 4 p.m.

Recital: Matt Bickett

Monroe St. UM, Toledo

Our closing program of the year will feature Matt Bickett in recital. Matt is the 2017 winner of our region's AGO/Quimby RCYO (Regional Competitions for Young Artists). He gave a superb performance at the Winner's Recital in Youngstown in July.



Toledo Chapter AGO