



## The Prelude

February 2020



Since my last letter, we have had two wonderful events. In January, we welcomed four very talented composers from our own area (including two of our chapter members), as they presented a variety of their works. Sally Mossing shared some of her wonderful piano compositions, as published in “Christ, Be Our Light”. These were based on a variety of resources including chants, favorite old tunes, and original compositions. Doug McConnell, husband of former Dean Joan McConnell, shared several of his organ pieces, played by Joan. Luke Rosen has many published compositions available for choir and we heard several that are already out as well as previews of some that are coming soon. His works are very accessible, as are the choral works of Randy Currie, another former chapter Dean. Randy has works published for choir and organ. I would encourage you to check out the music from these wonderful living composers who are from right in our area!

Last week, Dennis Blubaugh, Tom Curry and Chris Nejvara organized and put on a wonderful Hymn Sing, presented in an Epiphany Lessons & Carols format. A good sized choir led an equally enthusiastic audience in the singing. While the organ at Collingwood Presbyterian is in great need of work, Dennis made it sound wonderful in a glorious space. Hopefully funding can be secured to save this fine instrument.

With next month’s program, we complete a sort of time exposure to our local organ world, we visited the past with great hymns of the faith at the Hymn Sing, we experienced the present with composers who continue to create beautiful music for our repertoire, and next month we continue to build for the future with our Scholarship winners presenting a concert at St. Lucas Lutheran Church on March 22 at 3:00. Hope to see you there!

Dennis Johns  
Chapter Dean

**The composer's forum on January 10** was attended by several dozen Chapter members and friends. Sally Mossing shared her published and unpublished sacred piano works, explaining her inspiration and motivation for composing. Her collection "Christ Be Our Light" is published by Augsburg-Fortress Publishing. Doug McConnell shared a number of his sacred works via performances by Carol Dusdieker, soprano and Joan McConnell, organ. He also provided some background about how these selections came about. A complete list of his works can be found at [drdougmusic.com](http://drdougmusic.com). Luke Rosen shared his journey from young musician in Cincinnati to his current work as a high school music educator and parish musician, shedding light on how his professional activities have shaped his compositional output. Randy Currie rounded out the program by playing a hymn tune setting on the organ and then with all singing his "Glory to God" that was written for the text from the Roman Missal (2010). He also had several of his published compositions available for viewing.

The **Epiphany Hymn Sing** on February 2 attracted 72 enthusiastic singers, including 24 in the choir. A new hymn was composed for the occasion by Randy Currie, "Arise, Your light Has Come." Organist Dennis Blubaugh offered "Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany" by Maurice Durufle and "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star by Egil Hovland. The Worship Leader was AGO Chapter member Rev. Dr. Matt Meinke and the choir was led by Tom Curry. Chris Nejvara prepared the service. Our gratitude to Collingwood Presbyterian Church for hosting this event in their beautiful sanctuary.

**Sunday, March 22 - 3:00 PM**

**Scholarship Winner's/Student Recital**

**St. Lucas Lutheran Church, 745 Walbridge Ave., Toledo**

Scholarship winners Ben Garst, Felicity Goebel-Komala and Chris Nevarja will perform along with other area organ students. A freewill offering will be received for the Toledo Chapter Scholarship Fund. Plan to attend and support our student organists.

## Spring Banquet and Recital

Friday, May 1

First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Broadway, Maumee

Dinner at the church, 6:00 PM

Concert at 7:30 PM Stephen Smith, organist

### CONCERT CALENDAR

Jillian Gardner

Friday, February 21 - 7:30 PM

Zoar Lutheran Church

314 East Indiana Ave, Perrysburg

[Click here for Flyer.](#)

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Thomas Curry, organist

Sunday, February 16 - 4:00 PM

Grace Lutheran Church

705 State St., Fremont

*Our African-American Heritage*

A program of music by African-American composers

A freewill offering to support the music program at Grace Lutheran

[Click here for FLYER](#)

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Graeme Shields, organist

*Drones, Weights, & Ashley's Date*

Saturday, March 28 - 7:30 PM

First Congregational Church

608 E. Williams St., Ann Arbor, MI

Celebrating the 90th birthday of composer Robert Ashley

More information [HERE](#)

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Nathan Laube, organist

Dedicatory Recital for the Paul Fritts organ

Thursday, April 16, 2020, 7:30 PM

Christ Chapel, Hillsdale College (MI)

Free admission but ticket reservation required  
contact the Box Office at (517) 607-2848  
or [boxoffice@hillsdale.edu](mailto:boxoffice@hillsdale.edu)

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Richard Hills, organist  
Sunday, May 17 - 3:00 PM  
Organ Re-dedication  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
209 Southwest St., Bellevue

[Click here for FLYER](#)

The chapter website offers a wealth of information to members - job listings, events, & concerts throughout the region. You might also share the website with "organ enthusiasts" that you know. A great way to develop a thriving community of everyone who shares an interest in the organ.

[www.toledoago.org](http://www.toledoago.org)

## Toledo Chapter AGO website

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