

The Prelude



MARCH 2012

NOTES FROM THE OVAL OPHICLEIDE

As we begin the contemplative season of Lent, our introspective thoughts may turn to questions such as: What is life? or Why are we here? (I will leave those questions for those much wiser than me.) As organists serving our various religious institutions, the question of Why? is certainly one that we should consider. Why do we do this thing called "playing the organ?"

AGO President Eileen Guenther writes in the March, 2012, *TAO* regarding this subject and her comments are noteworthy. She states *"It's probably not the large salary, or the very prestigious instrument that we get to play...it's because we can make a difference!"* The majestic sound of the organ being played by a talented musician inspires vast congregations to raise their collective voices in inspirational songs of praise. That single item will most certainly make a dramatic difference in the worship experience for our congregations.

Many other more subtle acts can also make a difference to those in our midst. Gently encouraging a shy choir member to take a solo in an anthem might just give them the confidence they were seeking. Suggesting that a young piano student perform one of their recital pieces as "special music" during the worship service is another great self-esteem builder. Offering to serve our chapter as a Chapter officer or Executive Committee member will definitely make a difference. (If invited to serve, please consider it carefully.)

Sunday March 18th is another opportunity for us all to make a difference. The Toledo AGO Chapter's Student Recital is being held at St. Joseph Church in Sylvania beginning at 3:00 p.m. Hope to see you there! The Family Organ Pops Concert held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Bowling Green) on Sunday, February 26th was another spectacular event. The near capacity audience was thrilled to hear very creative registrations and clever musical arrangements by Kevin McGill, played by Kevin McGill, Pam Davis, Joan McConnell, and Melissa Flowers. This event has become very popular and will probably be offered on an annual basis. Thanks so very much to all who participated in this unique and innovative program.

Look for simple ways to make a difference in your world. You might again be asking, "Why?"...but this time, "Why didn't I think of that before?"

Soli deo Gloria!

Terry Brassell
Toledo AGO Chapter Dean



FROM THE SUB-DEAN

What fun we had at the Family 'Pops' Concert! Thanks to all of you who came out to hear that. Your kind comments and emails have been much appreciated. We had a lot of fun rehearsing that program, and the enthusiastic reception of our efforts by a smiling audience made it even more rewarding.

What's ahead for our chapter? **Pam Davis** has been putting together the March event, our annual **Student Recital on Sunday, March 18, 3:00 pm at St. Joseph Catholic Church**, 5373 Main St., Sylvania. Students of all ages are preparing to play: **Denielle Buenger, Alana Henkel, Melissa Flowers, Dennis Johns, Grant Wohl, and 5th grader Jordan Brosten**. Please make every effort to attend this program. It is important that we encourage, support, and celebrate the work of **OUR next generation!**

In April we will have a workshop, which we have been calling **Note on Pipes**. **James Leek** of Leek Pipe Organ Company will be our presenter on topics ranging from the recent restoration of the organ at Holy Angels Church in Sandusky to maintenance issues in a tracker instrument. He will even demonstrate the tuning and cleaning of a reed pipe!

This event will be at **First Presbyterian Church** of Bowling Green, 126 S. Church St. Bowling Green, OH 43402, on **Monday, April 23 at 7:00 pm**. We thank BG Presbyterian in advance for allowing us to meet there, and James Leek for his presentation!

Election news: Randy Currie and Martha Esbin are working on **nominations for the coming year**. They plan to present the slate of officers and board members to the Executive Committee in March for an April ballot. If all goes well, that will be accomplished in the next issue of *The Prelude*.

Evaluation and plans for the future. At the end of this program year, it will be time for the Executive Committee to plan the next cycle of events. As I've begun thinking about this, it seems to me that nothing could be more helpful than to hear from you, the membership. Would you take a moment, during March and April, to reflect on the events you attended and to offer some evaluative comments? The questions in my mind are:

Was this event meaningful to me personally and/or useful to my work as a musician?

Did the event provide fellowship and the opportunity to grow friendships within the group?

Was it an event to which I could invite potential new members?

Are there events that bear repeating? Are there events we should never do again?

What ideas do you have for events, whether something brand new or something that hasn't been done in awhile? Is there a workshop YOU could lead, or a concert you would like to organize? Is there a guest artist you would like us to consider sponsoring, or perhaps co-sponsoring with your church?

I have heard from a few of you already, which has given me the idea to solicit input from all. I sincerely hope you will get in touch with me, by email or by phone or in person. I'm starting a file of all the comments received so far, and I will do my best not to let anything slip through the cracks, but to bring it all to the planning table.

As of today, I'm tempted to say 'Happy Spring,' but 11 Marches in NW Ohio have taught me not to be so optimistic. Whatever the weather brings, I hope this Lenten season is meaningful for you and yours.

I look forward to seeing you at our spring events!



Joan McConnell
Toledo Chapter AGO Sub-Dean



NEXT DOOR TO THE NORTH

On Friday, March 16, 2012, at 6:30 p.m., organist **Scott F. Foppiano** will return for a very special presentation of the 1925 epic silent film, "Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ," starring Ramon Navarro. This event will be held at **Angelica Lutheran Church, 8400 Park Ave., Allen Park, MI, 48101**. The church is easily accessed from surrounding areas, being located five minutes from either I-94 (exit 204) or I-75 (exit 37 or 41).

This monumental film was important in establishing the then-newly-formed MGM organization as a major motion picture studio, and was the most expensive silent film ever produced. Mr. Foppiano will expertly improvise a live "sound track" for the silent film in the manner of theatre organists of the 1920s, utilizing the entire range of tone colors and effects possible with the pipe organ's resources.

Mr. Foppiano is well-known to many in the Detroit area, having served area parishes for a number of years. He maintains a busy schedule of concert appearances as one of America's premiere theatre organists, and has several compact disc recordings to his credit. In 2007, the American Theatre Organ Society named Mr. Foppiano as "Organist of the Year," further acknowledging his considerable talent and many contributions to the theatre organ and its art. In addition, Mr. Foppiano is a classically-trained organist who has appeared in many prominent venues, and is responsible for a liturgical and choral music program at his parish in Kansas City, MO.

The pipe organ of Angelica Lutheran Church was originally built in 1952 by Casavant Frères of Canada as a 15-rank instrument. Beginning in 1997, the organ received a multi-year renovation and expansion by the Renaissance Pipe Organ Company of Ann Arbor, updating and completing the instrument according to a new specification. It now comprises 32 ranks and 2,014 individual pipes.

Please be sure to join us for this very special presentation, and invite your family and friends. A freewill offering will be accepted to defray expenses and benefit the church's music program.

David V. Hufford
Co-Owner, Renaissance Pipe Organ Co., Inc.
2520 Kimberly Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6449

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership is open to all interested in the organ. To become a member of the Toledo Chapter, contact Anne Doerfler.

NEWSLETTER & E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have articles, news, concerts, or vacant positions, please submit them to: Kathy Rupp at krupp@wcnnet.org AND Jack Gerding at: jackgerding@aol.com

WEBSITE

www.toledoago.org

*The purpose of the
American Guild of Organists
is to promote the organ
in its historic evolving roles,
to encourage excellence
in the performance of organ
and choral music,
and to provide a forum
for mutual support, inspiration,
education, and certificating
of Guild members.*

Random Pipings

CHURCH MUSICIAN NEEDED: Skills needed include playing the piano and a 46-rank Aeolian pipe organ in a blended worship style. Must be able to read both music and chord charts. Current duties include playing Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 am, rehearsal two Thursday evenings per month, and playing for 7 special worship services throughout the year. Send resume to Lori Reid, lori.augsburg@sbcglobal.net or Augsburg Lutheran Church, 1342 W Sylvania Ave, Toledo, OH, 43612.

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND LITURGIST Little Flower of Jesus Catholic Church, 5522 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH 43615 Phone: 419.537.6655. Little Flower of Jesus Catholic Parish, a vibrant diocesan parish, is seeking a full-time Music Director/Liturgist. This position offers an opportunity to work with people of all ages in a variety of music and liturgical ministries such as liturgical planning, musical direction of adult and children's choirs and contemporary music group, and a variety of duties in collaboration with and as a member of the parish staff. Please send letter of interest, resume and 3 professional references to Fr. Joseph Steinbauer at the above address.

ORGANIST: Zion Lutheran Church in Gibsonburg, Ohio, is searching for an organist to play their three-manual Allen digital and Estonia Grand piano. The position includes the 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning service and some mid-week services throughout the liturgical year as well as major festivals. Accompanying the adult choir at rehearsal on Wednesdays is also part of the position. Compensation is negotiable. For more information please contact Pastor Blair Miller at 419-307-3521 or blairmiller72@gmail.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHANN!! To honor this Baroque composer's 327th birthday, the organ studio of Prof. James Kibbie, from the University of Michigan will present an all-Bach program, entitled, "Happy Birthday Johann" on **Sunday, March 11th at 4:00 p.m.** The program will feature all Bach selections, played on the German-crafted von Beckerath tracker organ at **St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Tecumseh** which was built specifically for that space in 1963. Prof. James Kibbie and organ students, Andrew Lang, Richard Newman, and Stephanie Yu will be performing. This is the second organ concert held at St. Peter's in Tecumseh to showcase this beautiful instrument. The church is located at **313 N. Evans St. in Tecumseh**. The concert is free, but there will be a free-will offering taken at the door, and a reception following the concert. For further information, contact the Rev. Deacon Richard Boulter at 734-276-3945.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Toledo Chapter AGO
Anne Doerfler
4112 Talwood Lane
Toledo OH 43606



THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

University of Pittsburgh Men's Glee Club In Concert



Date: Monday, March 5

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Monroe St. U. M. Church

3613 Monroe Street

Music of Thomas Tallis, Mozart,
Appalachian folk tunes, the Beatles,
and others

www.pittmensgleeclub.org

Free and open to the public
Free-will offering taken

For more info: 419-473-1167



BRUCE NESWICK

~ in concert ~

former organist/choirmaster of Washington National Cathedral
hear masterful improvisation on submitted themes
and glorious organ music by American composers
on a historic Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ



Friday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.
Pease Auditorium
Eastern Michigan University

~ Free admission ~

*in conjunction with the EMU Improvisation Symposium;
master class at Pease on Saturday, March 10, 10am*

**"Bruce Neswick was nothing short of marvelous.
His recital was flawless."
(Jason Abel, Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, Alabama, presenter)**

**"Bruce Neswick's talented performance rewards listeners.
...Neswick played strongly, securely and sensitively...
The craftsmanship was expert, and there was no lack of flair."
(The Kansas City Star)**

for more info, visit www.AnnArborAGO.org or
www.emich.edu/music, or email info@AnnArborAGO.org