

The Prelude

April 2018

The American Guild of Organists, Toledo Chapter

Dean's Message

Greetings,

Happy Easter! I am writing this column on the day after Palm Sunday. Many of us will be glad that the busyness of Lent, Holy Week and Easter have passed by. But, hopefully that busy time also gave each of you some wonderful musical experiences that nurtured you and inspired others.

Our annual student recital at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in March was a success and well attended. Six students played a variety of selections. The students were: Jordan Brosten, Madeline Flores, Benjamin Garst, Kurt Muller, Skyelar Raiti and Enrico Tabernero. We heard some great displays of musicality and progress in their organ studies. Many thanks to each of them for sharing with us, and thanks to their teachers for their investment in the students. The teachers were: Pam Davis, Charlotte Mariasy, Joan McConnell and Mark Mathias. And, thank you to the church and Sister Ritamarie Miller for hosting the recital. (Looking to next year—It's not too early to begin thinking about our annual scholarship auditions in the early fall!)

Ghost Pipes, our April program, is an "organ crawl" to some area churches on Friday, April 13. It will feature pipe organs—some that have been neglected, forgotten or not used. Neil Kraft and Mark Muller will lead us. We will also enjoy lunch together. Check out the article in this newsletter for more information.

Our concluding program of the year will be a recital by Matt Bickett, the winner of the 2017 Great Lakes Regional AGO/Quimby RCYO (Regional Competitions for Young Artists). Matt is a student at Oberlin. The recital will be on Sunday, May 6 at 4:00 p.m. at Monroe Sreet United Methodist Church. His impressive program will feature works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Gigout, Florence Beatrice Price and Rheinberger. The program will conclude with Dupré's Symphonie-Passion. Our annual spring banquet will follow the recital at the church around 6 p.m. See the articles in this newsletter about Matt Bickett (our recitalist) and information about the banquet and making reservations.

A flyer advertising our recital on Sunday, May 6 is included in this newsletter. We need each of you to share it with others, post it in your church, library or other places. Please help us get the word out about this. A sample announcement is included in this newsletter—submit it to your church for their bulletin or newsletter.

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

April Program—Ghost Pipes Tour—April 13

What better way to celebrate Friday the 13th than to visit some old and ghostly pipe organs! Our plan is to visit some of metro Toledo's older pipe organs that may, or may not, still be in use. We will hear the background and history of each organ and attempt to coax a squeak or yelp out of them! We will stop mid-day for lunch and then move on to one or two more in the afternoon. We would recommend that you wear casual clothing, as we may not find a couple of these instruments in the most pristine of environments. There is no charge for this program other than your lunch.

Our time-table is not yet finalized since we are still making arrangements for access to some of these places. We will carpool from place to place, but we will let you know our meeting place and time as we finish the planning. You can probably assume a 9:00 a.m. start time, and we will continue to mid-afternoon. I'll be in touch!

-Neil Kraft

May Program—Spring Banquet—May 6

Our spring banquet will follow Matt Bickett's recital on Sunday, May 6 at Monroe Street United Methodist Church. It will begin at approximately 6 p.m. The menu for this catered dinner will be chicken breast, baked ham, Swedish meatballs, red-skin potatoes, green beans, salad and rolls. There will also be dessert and beverages.

The cost to each of you is \$15 per person. **You must RSVP to reserve a spot for you and any guests. The deadline for the RSVP is Friday, April 27.** Contact Mark Mathias to secure your reservation. (msmathias@yahoo.com; 419-475-8629, ext. 205). Payment can be made at the banquet.

May Recital Announcement

Organist Matt Bickett will present at recital on Sunday, May 6 at 4:00 p.m. at Monroe Street United Methodist Church in Toledo. The recital is sponsored by the Toledo Chapter of the AGO (American Guild of Organists) and the Monroe Street UMC's Concert Series. Matt, the winner of the 2017 Great Lakes Regional AGO/Quimby RCYO (Regional Competitions for Young Artists), is a student at Oberlin College and has been accepted into the conservatory's accelerated Master of Music in Historical Performance degree program.. His impressive program will feature works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Gigout, Florence Beatrice Price, Rheinberger, and will conclude with Dupré's *Symphonie-Passion*. A freewill offering will be collected.

Matt Bickett

Matt Bickett, from Portsmouth, Ohio, is a fourth-year student at Oberlin College and Conservatory, where he pursues a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance. While still a candidate for both degrees, he was accepted into Oberlin Conservatory's accelerated Master of Music in Historical Performance degree program. His work focuses on musicologically-informed approaches to historical styles of organ and harpsichord playing. He currently studies organ with Jonathan Moyer, harpsichord with Mark Edwards, composition with Elizabeth Ogonek, and conducting with Gregory Ristow, and has coached with Marie-Louise Langlais, George Ritchie, and Bruce Neswick.



Alongside his work at Oberlin College and Conservatory, Matt serves as Assistant Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Episcopal Church, Oberlin, where he plays for liturgies and assists in directing the semi-professional choir. In 2017, Matt established the Oberlin Cantata Project, a period orchestra and choir specializing in 17th- and 18th-century concerted vocal music. Recent performances have taken the ensemble to Cleveland venues where Matt led the group in performances of sacred cantatas by D. Buxtehude and J. S. Bach. As organist, he has performed at notable venues such as St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, Washington; Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon; St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown, Ohio; and in Cleveland, Ohio at Church of the Covenant and Trinity Lutheran Church. Recently, Matt was awarded the Presser Fellowship from the Presser Foundation and took first prize in the Great Lakes Regional AGO Quimby Organ Competition.

AGO TOLEDO MEMBERS' DIRECTORY FOR 2017-18

Greetings! As I have been working to recruit a slate of leaders for the coming year, a few directory corrections have come my way. I'll give those here and remind you (as always) to contact me when you find errors or need to make a change.

Dennis Blubaugh is no longer with Musical Resources. His new email address is:

dnblubaugh@mac.com

Tom Curry has a new church position. His entry should now read:

Tom Curry 503-380-6803

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church tomcurry1@hotmail.com

Rochester Hills MI 48309

Available to substitute weekdays

We welcome back to the Toledo chapter:

The Rev. James M. Bischoff BA, MDiv 734-915-2353

7478 Wembley Ct. jim.m.bischoff@icloud.com

Temperance MI 48182

Eric Dickey has reinstated his membership with our chapter; welcome back, Eric!

Eric R. Dickey 419-931-4026

245 Cherry St. music@commofchrist.org

Perrysburg OH 43551

Music Director, Community of Christ Lutheran Church, Whitehouse OH

I will be sending the corrected Membership List to our web master later this month. I am happy to receive corrections whenever you send them, and thanks!

Joan McConnell, Membership Chair

jmconne@heidelberg.edu

419-455-4666

Respighi's Church Windows

Rosary Cathedral

May 3, 2018
Concert Time: 7:00 pm

Giordano Bellincampi, conductor
James Kibbie, organist

Cocker - Tuba Tune
Tournemire - From Cinq improvisations
Sowande - Prayer (Oba a ba ke)
Widor - From Symphonie No. 6, Op. 42, No. 2
Respighi - Vetrate di Chiesa (Church Windows)

Experience the glorious splendor of Rosary Cathedral's Spanish-inspired architecture, its brilliant mosaic art, and the Skinner organ - one of Toledo's crown musical jewels - with Respighi's evocative work *Church Windows*.

Tickets are \$25.00, but there is a possibility of a group discount if at least 10 people are interested. Contact Paul Monachino at pmonachino@toledodiocese.org if you are interested in a group discount!

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Pellegrino Music Center will be sponsoring a concert by world-renowned organist Diane Bish at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Youngstown, Ohio. This concert is a dedication of their newly installed 80 stop Q390DK Allen organ. This concert is free and open to the public.

**Diane Bish, Organist**  
**Sunday, May 6th, 2018**  
**4:00 PM**  
**St. Dominic Catholic Church**  
**77 E. Lucius Ave.**  
**Youngstown, OH 44507**

**Two choirs to perform at Collingwood Presbyterian Church****Chiaroscuro Community Men's Chorus**, Susan Matych-Hager,*Founder and Artistic Director***and****Carillon Women's Chorale**, Karen Nevins, *Founder and Artistic Director***Saturday, April 28, 2018****7:30 pm****Collingwood Presbyterian Church****2108 Collingwood Blvd.****Toledo, Ohio****Free, guarded parking in the lot on Floyd Street adjacent to the church**

The concert will feature both Chiaroscuro Men's Chorus and Carillon Women's Choir combining to present "Frostiana: Seven Country Songs" composed by Randall Thompson (1899-1984) using the poetry of Robert Frost (1874-1963). The work was commissioned in 1958 for the celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Amherst, Massachusetts. The work premiered on October 18, 1959 sung by the Bicentennial Chorus, bringing together all elements of the community. Thompson used the idea of men's and women's choirs coming together in a single performance as the basis for his composition. The combination of Robert Frost's heartfelt poetry and Thompson's beautiful melodies are so effective that this beautiful, thoughtful and witty music has become one of America's most loved Choral works.

**About the Choirs and their Directors**

The mission of the **Chiaroscuro Community Men's Chorus** is to sing meaningful men's choral music that engages minds and touches hearts of the listeners. The men in the chorus are professional and amateur musicians from a diversity of professions, representing a wide range of ages. We have the distinction of being the only community men's chorus in Lenawee County, Michigan.

**Carillon Women's Chorale** was founded in 2001 the group focuses on music composed for women and often by women composers. Carillon members come from all walks of life and all professions to include some professional singers/music teachers. For their expressive singing and mature tone, Carillon was one of seven Michigan choirs selected by blind audition to perform in the 2015 American Choral Directors Michigan State Conference.

The concert is free and open to the public.

**For information contact:**

**Dennis Blubaugh at [dnblubaugh@mac.com](mailto:dnblubaugh@mac.com)**



**TOLEDO CHAPTER OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

'Tis the season to say thank you to our departing officers and committee members and to elect the next "class." Please join me in showing appreciation to these outgoing officers:

Mark Mathias, dean  
Dennis Johns, sub dean  
Melissa Flowers, secretary  
Pam Davis, treasurer

As you can see on the ballot, Dennis will move into the dean's chair, and Melissa will continue as secretary. We thank all of these individuals for their service!

The Executive Committee members serve three-year terms. Those going off the committee are Marilyn Blackney and Craig Whitaker. We thank them for their leadership and participation these past three years!

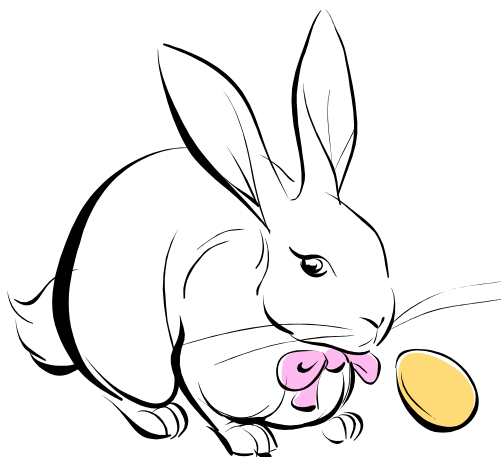
The on-going members of the committee are:

"Class" of 2019: Charles Brown, Denise Mathias, John Roberts

"Class" of 2020: Peggy Dorr, David Saunders, Josh Wang

These are the folks who will plan our next season of events. If you have ideas or suggestions for the coming year's calendar, please get in touch with any of them!

*Joan McConnell, Membership Chair*



# AGO Toledo Chapter

Official Ballot for Officers and Executive Committee  
Spring 2018

## Officers (2-year term)

Dean: Dennis Johns \_\_\_\_\_

Sub Dean: David Saunders \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: Melissa Flowers \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: Pam Stover \_\_\_\_\_

## Executive Committee, class of 2020-21 (3-year term)

[VOTE FOR THREE]

Dennis Blubaugh \_\_\_\_\_

Tom Curry \_\_\_\_\_

Charlotte Mariasy \_\_\_\_\_

Chris Nevjara \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note: Soon-to-be former Dean Mark Mathias will remain on the  
Executive Committee for a year, *ex officio*. Thanks, Mark!)

*Return ballot by April 25<sup>th</sup> to  
Melissa Flowers, chapter secretary  
1320 W. Sandusky St., Apt. K-7, Findlay, OH 45840  
or send e-mail to: melissaflowers4@gmail.com*



Organist

# Matt Bickett

*in recital*



*Winner of the 2017 Great Lakes Regional AGO Quimby Organ Competition*

*Playing works by J. S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Gigout, Price, Rheinberger, and Dupré*

**Sunday, May 6, 4:00 p.m.**

**Monroe Street United Methodist Church**

*Sponsored by*

*The Toledo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists*

*Monroe Street United Methodist Church Concert Series*

*Freewill offering*



# FROSTIANA

*Seven Country Songs*

## CHIAROSCURO

COMMUNITY MEN'S CHORUS

Susan Matych-Hager, Conductor

## CARILLON

WOMEN'S CHORALE

Karen Nevins, Conductor

## SATURDAY

APRIL 28, 2018

7:30 pm

COLLINGWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2108 Collingwood Blvd | Toledo, OH

FREEWILL OFFERING ACCEPTED

## SUNDAY

May 6, 2018

3:00 pm

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY MOTHERHOUSE CHAPEL

610 West Elm Avenue | Monroe, MI

ADMISSION CHARGED



## *Toledo Chapter AGO Events 2017 - 2018*

Fri., April 13

Ghost Pipes

TBA

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

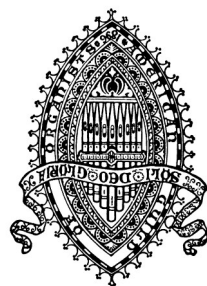
Sun., May 6, 4 p.m.

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