

The Prelude

April 2021

Happy Easter

From Denise Mathias, Education Chair

**Scholarship Student Recital 2021**

After consultation with the performers it has been decided that the Scholarship Student Recital will be presented virtually this year. It will be posted on the Toledo AGO YouTube channel on June 13. A list of performers and repertoire will be announced in the May Newsletter.



Several former students of Dr. Vernon Wolcott shared their memories of him as a teacher and friend.

[Vernon Wolcott Obituary](#)

Dr. Wolcott was truly an exceptional teacher, musician, and mentor. I am deeply appreciative of the years I spent studying with him at BGSU. He was so generous with his time and expertise. I am very thankful for all the playing and learning opportunities he passed my way, and the continuing lessons even after leaving BG. My condolences to his family. He is missed.

*Roberta (Bobbie) Mong Lange, BGSU class of 1985*

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Dr. Wolcott was the best influence in my organ playing and career. His gentle approach, dry wit, humor and guidance always made me feel very comfortable with him which enabled me to grow. We didn't realize why at the time but all the literature that we were to play at our senior recital had to have been played from memory at one time. Later on I realized why. To this day I can still play all of that literature. When I told him of this he said that I should come in and talk to his current students about it.

Having him as a teacher also included the history of organ music and organ building and construction. I remember him taking us to the practice instruments to teach us tuning. Also during this time was when the Leek organ for First Presbyterian was being built. He took us on a memorable day trip to Oberlin to see its progress and tour the organs at Oberlin College.

Dr. Wolcott was known for his alternate accompaniment of hymns, and when I substituted for him over a summer I also accompanied the hymns as he did and taught.

After the first service I was asked not to do that. Some would like to hear the hymns straightforward as written for a change! May his memory and influence continue on in all he knew and touched.

*Terry Jankowski, CAGO, 1984 graduate of BGSU.*

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I used to practice for at least the hour before my 8:30 lesson each week. I enjoyed the quiet of the building and practicing right before always enabled me to have a better lesson. Dr. Wolcott was always insistent that I memorize my assigned repertoire, and I remember one morning attempting the Bach Prelude and Fugue in D Major from memory the first time towards the end of my practice session.

Usually about ten minutes before my lesson, I would hear Dr. Wolcott come down the stairs to his office, open the door between his office and the studio, and respectfully wait until I finished whatever piece I was playing at the moment until he approached to start my lesson. As I began the piece (with what I thought was with time to spare before my lesson), I heard him come downstairs, open his office door, and place his artist portfolio and his coat at his desk as he always did. Then there was another rumbling in the hallway as he talked to another professor for a few minutes about their weekend plans. That stopped abruptly as his desk phone rang and he took a phone call.

But, like clockwork, as I neared the end of the piece, he concluded his call and I heard his quiet footsteps approaching (in time to the music, of course). He stood behind me as I finished the pedal solo at the end, and grabbed the closed book that was next to me on the bench. He then thumbed through the entire piece and showed me each and every mistake I had made in the 15 or so minutes prior and told me WHY I made them. He was listening to every note I was playing as he walked down the stairs, put his things down, talked about his weekend in the hallway outside the studio, and took a phone call. While he was involved in other activities, not only did he hear my mistakes (and there were several as this was my first attempt at playing this lengthy work entirely from memory) but he heard the context around my mistakes and knew what fingering I missed or what foot misalignment in the pedal caused the mistake and how to fix it. That was the day that I had first hand confirmation that not only could Dr. Wolcott play every piece he ever assigned a student to learn (and as time went by, finding out he could play EVERY piece period!), but he had the ability to do other things while listening and analyzing his students' progress. As hard as I tried, I was never able to "sneak one by" on Dr. Wolcott. His insistence on not only fixing mistakes, but understanding why you made them has helped me tremendously in my musical life and beyond.

*Dan Boyle*

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I will always remember Dr. Wolcott with fondness and great appreciation. His excellence at the keyboard, with everything memorized, and me getting off the bench so he could demonstrate the way it was meant to be played. How many times I would try to chat my way through a lesson because I wasn't prepared - he didn't fall for it. Such a patient man. So brilliant, yet kind. I am grateful Dr. Wolcott was my professor at BGSU.

*Sally Drennan Mossing*

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I will always remember Dr. Wolcott for his quiet kind nature, wickedly dry sense of humor, and his ability to play any organ piece without thinking twice. As a teacher he always wanted his students to perform on a wide variety of instruments, to be comfortable at any console in a wide variety of spaces and acoustics. But the greatest lesson I learned from him is that there is an art to being a church musician. He taught me to breathe with the congregation, to value and support the text, and to put just as

much time into preparing the liturgy as the prelude or postlude. He's left a lasting legacy in his former students, and I know we all cherish our memories of him.

*Pam Davis, Class of '87/'00*

### **Substitute Organist**

Kathy Mumy is available as a substitute organist.

[kmumy1959@gmail.com](mailto:kmumy1959@gmail.com)

(419) 410-2298

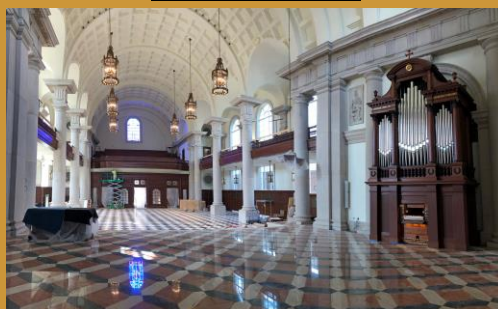
### **Employment Opportunities**

**Eastminster United Presbyterian Church** is seeking a musician to play organ and/or piano during Sunday worship service. There is currently one 10am service on Sunday mornings with no choir at this time. Musician will collaborate with pastor on hymn selection. Each service includes 2-3 hymns, prelude, postlude, offertory, and Gloria Patri. Compensation is \$150 per Sunday. Instrument is a Baldwin A225. Contact Elder Carole Burnworth [cburnworth@twc.com](mailto:cburnworth@twc.com) if interested.

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**First Presbyterian Church** of Perrysburg is seeking a part-time Music Director to provide appropriate music for worship services and work with our church choir. The desired candidate is dedicated and passionate about music with an interest in theology and religion. Previous experience in a church setting is an asset. If you feel called to part-time ministry through music (approximately 6-8 hours per week, Sunday mornings required), please submit your resume to [presby.pborg@bex.net](mailto:presby.pborg@bex.net). A complete copy of the Job Description is available on our [church website](#) and/or at our church office located at 200 E. Second Street, Perrysburg, Ohio.

### **Concert Calendar**



#### **Dedication Concert**

**Christ Chapel**

**Hillsdale College**

Paul Fritts, Opus 44 (2020)

**Thursday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Nathan Laube, organist**

The event will be free and open to the public, but *ticket reservation is required*. Please email [boxoffice@hillsdale.edu](mailto:boxoffice@hillsdale.edu) or call 517-607-2848 to reserve tickets.

[Organ Specification](#)

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**Dedication Recital**

**St. Joseph Catholic Church**  
**36 Melmore St.**  
**Tiffin, OH**  
**Sunday, April 18**  
**4:00 PM**



This organ began as a 14 rank Wicks organ in 1937. In 2020 it was completely rebuilt and enlarged to 35 ranks by the Schantz Organ Company utilizing all of the existing pipework on new wind chests within twin cases incorporating the original wooden facade.

*Performers: John Whitlow, organist of St. Joseph Church; Stephen Smith, Curtis King and Paul Monachino*

[Organ Specification and photos](#)

Back issues of **The American Organist** magazine from about the 1990s are available for free. Contact [Mark Muller](#)

Items for the Newsletter are due on the 25th of the preceding month. Send items to [toledoago419@gmail.com](mailto:toledoago419@gmail.com)

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[Toledo Chapter AGO website](#)

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