



AGO Toledo

bridging our musical past and future...



The Prelude

September

2020



Greetings to you from the Toledo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Elections for the chapter took place and the following were elected to office. Tom Curry, dean; Charlotte Mariasy, sub-dean; Paul Monachino, secretary; Matt Meinke, treasurer; and Kathryn Mumy and Jane Weber; board members.

It has been an interesting summer and here we are at the beginning of autumn. The board met via zoom and wrestled with what the fall program might look like. I think they have done a great job of coming up with some alternatives which I am sure you will want to look at elsewhere in this newsletter. National headquarters has also posted a number of helpful resources on their website which are worth looking at as well.

As we venture forth together this fall, I send my best wishes to you for your music making, in whatever form it may be.

Tom Curry
Chapter Dean

Chapter Programs for Fall, 2020

The Toledo Chapter Officers and Board members met via ZOOM on August 10. A portion of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of programming during the current COVID-19 pandemic. It was decided that in person meetings should not be held until at least until early next year. The Chapter will make an effort to keep connected with members through the newsletter and online programs.

The first effort will be a virtual organ crawl that will feature several members demonstrating the organs they play each week. It is hoped that

this will be ready by October and will be available on our newly created Toledo Chapter YouTube channel. It is possible that our scholarship students who did not have an opportunity to perform last March may be included in this program.

Instead of in person meetings designed to educate and develop skills we encourage members to access the numerous educational videos available on the AGO National website. (*See the message from Denise Mathias below for links*). There are interesting videos on all aspects of organ playing, from beginner to advanced, as well as several extensive masterclass videos by such teachers as Catherine Crozier, Marie-Claire Alain, Frederick Swann, Gerre Hancock and others. A few videos will be suggested each month in the newsletter.

The Chapter leadership hopes that circumstances will permit us to gather together later this season. But until then, we hope that you will take advantage of the many online resources available locally and nationally.

Membership Directory, 2020-2021

As the new program year rolls around, it's time to update our membership directory. Please take a look at the directory and let me know what I need to change.

Many of you have the printed booklet from last fall, which you can look at. Remember that the most recent version of the directory is on our website, password protected for members only. If you are a member of the chapter and do not have the password to access the directory, you may send me an email requesting it.

I will work on updates in August, with the goal of printing in September.

Thanks, everyone, for your help in keeping us connected!

Joan McConnell, membership chair

jmcconne@heidelberg.edu

419-455-4666

From Denise Mathias, Education Chair

All things in our lives are currently being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many private teachers have changed their teaching to a virtual format and are no longer offering in-person lessons. During the last AGO

Board meeting, via ZOOM, we discussed how this might affect our scholarship auditions this year. Should we have auditions? Should they be virtual, rather than in-person? Are organ teachers in our chapter currently teaching lessons, either virtually or in-person? Studying the organ presents the challenge of finding somewhere to practice, since many students do not have an organ at home. Neither do many teachers! So, what parameters have been set by local churches for their organists who are teachers?

To help us make the best decisions regarding scholarships this year, we need to hear from our membership. Are you teaching lessons? Virtually, or in person? Do your students have a good place to practice? Would a virtual audition be a possibility for a student of yours? i.e., do you have the technology to make a video recording of your student?

If you are an organ teacher, *please let me know how you are doing*, and your answers to the questions above. You can email me at dsnivermathias@yahoo.com, or even give me a call at 330-432-8528. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

If you have any extra time, don't hesitate to check out the educational offerings on the [National AGO website](#). There are numerous [webinars](#) and pre-recorded [educational videos](#) waiting to be streamed to your computer. You might find something super beneficial to your own musical growth.

AGO ORGAN FEST 2020: A "Virtual" Success!

submitted by Paul Monachino

Did you attend the AGO OrganFest this past July? It was an easy journey from the kitchen with a cold beverage to the couch in front of the TV! While the AGO Atlanta Chapter was unable to host an in person National Convention this year, Michael Velting and his committee provided a phenomenal week of concerts and educational videos. The concerts by some of our top performers were played on prestigious organs anywhere from New York City to Atlanta to Paris, France and places in between. While there is nothing like attending a performance in person, the audio-video production was excellent. It was also great to see the performers up close – better than front row seats.

Each night's program was between 45-60 minutes and included several performances as well as some brief updates about Guild activities from National Council members. Chelsea Chen led interesting interviews with the composer whose works were performed that evening.

In addition to the featured events each evening, additional

performances by the Rising Stars from the 2019 Quimby regional competitions can be viewed. And there is a lengthy list of educational “Pipe Talk” videos on many subjects (think Convention ‘Breakout’ sessions. Most are brief, 10-15 minutes).

During this summer of COVID that is devoid of much that we enjoy, the OrganFest 2020 provided a welcome respite. **HERE IS THE BEST NEWS** – if you missed this in July it is still available through the AGO website! [ORGANFEST 2020](https://agoorganfest2020.org). I plan to watch some of the performances and Pipe Talks that I haven’t yet viewed.

I was able to watch from my TV with sound through the stereo, but a computer with some good speakers or a tablet with headphones or earbuds would work well. So get a beverage, sit in a comfortable chair and check out AGO OrganFest 2020.



CLICK ON THE IMAGE ABOVE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dear U of M Organ Conference Colleagues and Friends,

We are excited to send word to you about the University of Michigan’s 60th Annual Organ Conference, **which will be in an online format this year, and we invite you to mark the dates of October 5-10, 2020 in your calendar.** How can we as organists, harpsichordists, carillonists and sacred musicians use our art to come together, to build community, and to support, comfort and heal? As you will see in the schedule below, we’ve created a series of live-streamed lectures and pre-recorded performances that address these critically important issues. You will be able to access them easily through the Organ Conference website during the conference week and also later through the university archives. **All events may be viewed free of charge and registration is not required.**

It is our hope that this online conference will be enticing, stimulating, and edifying. **Please join us throughout the week of October 5-10.**

All best wishes!

The University of Michigan Organ Department Faculty & Staff

Ohio Guidelines for Concerts

Governor DeWine has established guidelines for indoor and outdoor entertainment (concert) venues. Attendance at indoor venues is limited to 15% of fixed seating capacity or 300, whichever is less. Social distancing and masks are required. Click here to view the [ORDER](#) and here to view the [GUIDELINES](#). While concerts in churches are not specifically mentioned, these guidelines would be useful in developing strategies for this purpose.

Items for the Newsletter are due on the 25th of the preceding month. Send items to toledoago419@gmail.com

Toledo Chapter AGO website

Copyright © 2020 Toledo Chapter AGO, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Toledo Chapter AGO
2535 Collingwood Blvd
Toledo, OH 43610-1432

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

