

# The Prelude ~ September 2018

The American Guild of Organists, Toledo Chapter

## A message from our dean...

Do you remember when you first fell in love with the organ? I do. I grew up playing piano and wanting absolutely nothing to do with the organ. My mother played for church occasionally, and I loved many of the hymns we sang. But I didn't really ever hear "good" organ music, and I wanted absolutely nothing to do with playing pedals! It may not have helped that our church had what was probably a very old Conn Electric Organ (I think). I even remember tuning in once to "Pipe Dreams" with my oldest son in the back seat of the car when he was very young and he said, "The organ? That's the instrument of death!" He apparently only associated the instrument with funerals for some reason. So I went on, loving music, including Classical, Jazz, Pop/Rock, etc. but with no real introduction to what the organ was all about. I even sang in our small church choir after high school as I studied piano at the University of Toledo and our choir director gave me her copy of Flor Peeters' "Little Organ Book." I put it aside without any thought of ever using it. That was in 1985.

Fast forward to 2010 in my first fill-in church job, which I insisted would be on the piano, and after two weeks, the Pastor came to me and told me the congregation really wanted the organ. I agreed to give the Clavinova with its organ setting a try. After two weeks of that, I was ready to try a real organ, which just happened to be a 1964 Conn Electric. And I got out the Flor Peeters book. It didn't take me long, even on that organ, to fall in love!

We all start somewhere and the next two months will feature events that celebrate those beginnings of falling in love with our instrument, whether it's a small, old electric, a newer digital instrument or a full pipe organ. On Sunday, September 2, we will feature an exciting, rising young star Mitchell Miller at 4:00 p.m. in concert at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Bowling Green. Mitchell received his bachelor's in organ at Oberlin and is currently studying in Germany at the Hochschule fur Musik und darstellende Kunst Stuttgart, pursuing his Master of Music. Mitchell is a member of the AGO Young Organists Board and was the winner of the 2017 Cleveland AGO Quimby Competition for Young Organists. A potluck for AGO members will follow the recital.

Our annual Scholarship Auditions will take place at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, October 21 at Hope Lutheran Church Toledo, coordinated by our Education Chair Denise Mathias. If you have students or know any piano students who you think would be interested in learning about the organ, this is a great way to expose them to the instrument they may fall in love with. First time students are able to audition on the piano. Details are in this newsletter.

We have a second event for the month of October, a concert by Aaron David Miller on Sunday, October 7 at Monroe Street United Methodist Church as part of their annual concert series, organized by Denise Mathias. Aaron is a well known performer and composer with local roots. We have enjoyed him in recent years in live, silent film accompaniments at Community Church of Christ in Whitehouse. Aaron is a fantastic player and a prolific composer as well.

I challenge you to reach out to a young student or two and bring them to one or more of these events. Let them be inspired by Mitchell and Aaron and encourage them to pursue that inspiration with lessons, aided perhaps by scholarship money and a caring teacher. And if perhaps your love of the organ has lost some of its magic, you might be inspired too!

*-Dennis Johns, 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**

<b>Dennis Johns, Dean</b>	419-344-6905 dennisjohns@att.net
<b>David Saunders, Sub-Dean</b>	734-558-6146 deasaun@msn.com
<b>Melissa Davis, Secretary</b>	419-455-4408 fgkmusicstudio@gmail.com
<b>Pam Stover, Treasurer</b>	618-525-9709 pamela.stover@utoledo.edu
<b>Joan McConnell, Membership Chair</b>	419-455-4666

**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 Davis, Secretary.

**WEBSITE**

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

**Scholarship Auditions** are coming, and if you have an interested student, now is the time to prepare! A deadline is always a great motivator for practice; plus, the auditions are a great performance opportunity for students. If you are entering a student, please read all the information carefully. I am always glad to answer any questions about the application, repertoire and the audition process. Feel free to give me a call or send me an email.

*Denise Mathias, Education Chair*

419-473-1167, ext. 230

[dmathias@monroestumc.com](mailto:dmathias@monroestumc.com)



**September Recital Announcement (for bulletins, newsletters, etc.)**

Mitchell Miller, winner of the 2017 Cleveland AGO Quimby Competition for Young Organists and graduate student at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst Stuttgart in Germany, will be presenting an organ recital on Sunday, September 2, 4:00 p.m. at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Bowling Green. The recital is sponsored by the Toledo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is free and open to the public.

**Mitchell Miller Biography**

A native of Cincinnati, OH, Mitchell Miller is currently a student at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst Stuttgart, pursuing a Master of Music in the studio of Prof. Dr. Ludger Lohmann. Before coming to Germany, Mitchell graduated from Oberlin College and Conservatory with a Bachelor's of Music in Organ Performance and a Bachelor's of Arts in German. He studied organ with James David Christie, harpsichord and continuo with Webb Wiggins and Mark Edwards, and piano with Jonathan Moyer. Additionally, Mitchell studied clavichord with David Breitman in the spring of 2015, and with Oberlin's Distinguished Visiting Professor of Organ, Marie-Louise Langlais, in the fall of 2012. Most recently, Mitchell was awarded the prestigious William J. Fulbright Research Grant in order to study German Romantic-era organs and organ music as a student in Prof. Lohmann's studio. Previously he has garnered such honors as receiving first prize in the 2017 Tuesday Musical Scholarship Competition and the 2017 Cleveland Chapter Quimby Competition for Young Organists, being one of only five undergraduate organ majors from the US to be selected for the final round of the 2015 Taylor Organ Competition, and being selected as a finalist in the 2014 Arthur Poister Competition in Organ Performance. In addition to competitions, Mitchell is a frequent participant in master classes, having participated in classes with such esteemed teachers as Olivier Latry, John Grew, Harald Vogel, Nathan Laube, Michael Unger, and Renee Ann Louprette, among others. An active recitalist, Mitchell has performed at notable venues including Church of the Covenant (Cleveland, OH), Church of the Advent (Boston, MA), Calvary Episcopal Church (Cincinnati, OH), St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption (Covington, KY), First Congregational Church (Columbus, OH), The Brick Church (New York City, NY), and Musée des Augustins (Toulouse, France). In addition to repertoire, Mitchell greatly enjoys liturgical music and playing continuo. He was the Oberlin Sacred Music Intern at the Brick Church in New York City in 2016, participated in the 2015 Bach Aria Project in Boston, MA, as a continuo player, and was a student intern at the Church of the Covenant, Cleveland, OH, in 2013, where he worked with Jonathan Moyer.

**Inviting all Toledo AGO members....**

There will be a potluck for all Toledo AGO members following Mitchell Miller's recital on Sunday, September 2. Please plan to stay after the recital for fellowship, and bring a side dish or dessert to share!

The **Association of Lutheran Church Musicians** (ALCM), with the collaboration of with the Northwest Ohio Synod, is presenting a day-long workshop at Zoar Lutheran Church in Perrysburg on Saturday, September 29th. If you are interested in expanding your musical and leadership skills in band-led worship, or if you are looking to broaden your musical palette with contemporary and world music styles, this workshop is for you!

Mark Glaeser, music director of Christ Lutheran Churches in Charlotte, NC, leads a vibrant multi-campus ministry with a diverse program of over 25 choirs and ensembles, including choral (children, youth, teens and adults), hand bells and choir chimes, various instrumental ensembles (brass, strings, winds and recorders), as well as contemporary music ensembles. He brings his wide-ranging experience to Northwest Ohio, and we look forward to welcoming him! Thanks for reading. Registration details can be found in the link below.

<https://alcm.org/event/perrysburg-oh/>

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#### **“Tea & Pipes” Organ Recital at Historic Saint Matthew’s & Saint Joseph’s Episcopal Church**

On Sunday, September 23, 2018, St. Matthew’s & St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church will present an organ recital to benefit the restoration of it’s Four Manual 1927 E.M. Skinner pipe organ, Opus 623-A. “Tea & Pipes” will include an informal reception at 1:30 p.m., with the concert at 3:00 p.m., featuring former Music Directors Dr. Timothy Huth and Dan Dillingham, with special guest Dr. Marie Mehler on trumpet. Timothy Huth hails from Fostoria, Ohio, where he grew up playing organ at St Wendelin's Church in grade and high school. After studying philosophy at St. Meinrad College Seminary, he received his Master's and Doctorate in Organ Performance at the University of Michigan. He is a former Dean of Ann Arbor American Guild of Organists, served as Minister of Music and Organist of St Matthew's and St Joseph's from 1997-2002 and is currently Organist at the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor. Timothy has enjoyed playing recitals in France, Spain, Germany, Poland, Mexico, the US and Canada and maintains an active recital schedule. He is also a licensed massage therapist. Daniel Dillingham is Minister of Music at Central United Methodist Church of Detroit. He started his musical training at age 15 and at the age of 17 held his first organist position. Daniel holds degrees in Pipe Organ from Eastern Michigan University - Bachelor of Science and Masters of Arts. While at EMU he was awarded the Grace Sponberg Award for an outstanding scholar majoring in pipe organ. His organ teachers were Dr. Mary Ida Yost, Dr. Michele Johns and Dr. Marilyn Mason. A native of Michigan, he has held church positions in Dearborn, Royal Oak, Detroit and Grosse Pointe Woods. Saint Matthew’s & Saint Joseph’s Episcopal Church is located at 8850 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202. For more information, please call (313) 871-4750 or visit: [www.smsjdetroit.org](http://www.smsjdetroit.org)

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**Young Voices of Greater Toledo** announces their eighth season. This group for treble singers (ages 8 - 8th grade) sang in an opera last year at the University of Toledo. Costs are extremely reasonable, scholarships are generous and the instructors are experienced music educators. Please encourage children you know to "Come Sing With Us"! Contact information is on the flyer included in this issue.

## **2018-2019 Toledo AGO Chapter Events**

### **Organ Recital – Mitchell Miller**

Sunday, September 2, 4:00 p.m.  
St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Bowling Green  
Potluck for AGO members following recital

### **Organ Recital –Aaron David Miller**

Sunday, October 7, 4:00 p.m.  
Monroe Street United Methodist Church

### **Annual Scholarship Auditions**

Sunday, October 21, 2:00 p.m.  
Hope Lutheran Church, Toledo

### **Progressive Dinner**

Friday, November 9, Time TBA  
Sylvania area churches

### **12<sup>th</sup> Night Celebration**

Friday, January 12, Time TBA  
St. Rose Catholic Church, Perrysburg  
Members' organ recital of favorite Advent  
and Christmas pieces

### **All-Bach Concert**

Sunday, February 24, 2:00 p.m.  
Hope Lutheran Church, Toledo  
A concert featuring Bach's great organ works  
and cantatas

### **Annual Student Recital**

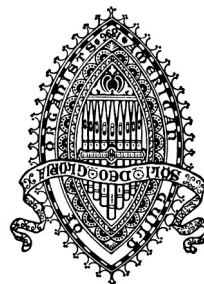
Sunday, March 10, 2:00 p.m.  
Hope Lutheran Church, Toledo

### **Professional Concerns Workshop Day**

Saturday, April 27, Time TBA  
University of Toledo  
A series of workshops dealing with professional  
concerns including current copyright issues, tax  
concerns and labor/contract issues

### **Toledo AGO Spring Banquet**

Friday, May 17, Time TBA  
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Maumee



Toledo Chapter AGO



# Organ Recital

## *Mitchell Miller*

Winner of the 2017 Cleveland AGO Quimby Competition for Young Organists



*Sunday, September 2, 4:00 p.m.*

*St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Bowling Green*

Sponsored by  
The Toledo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Freewill offering



# YOUNG VOICES OF GREATER TOLEDO FALL ENROLLMENT



**Come to one of our fall enrollment sessions!**



Parents, get the information you need.

Kids, sing a little for us, and try out the handchimes.

Call for information, or email. We'll be glad to answer your questions!!

## Children's Chorus

**Singing!**

**Handchimes!**

**Central location!**

**Fun and friendship!**

**Kids age 8 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Reasonable tuition  
and generous  
scholarships**



## MONROE ST. UMC

3613 Monroe St.,  
Toledo

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

[youngvoicestoledo@yahoo.com](mailto:youngvoicestoledo@yahoo.com)

419-473-1167, ext. 230

**Tues., Sept. 4,  
6:00 p.m.**

**Tues., Sept. 11,  
6:00 p.m.**

# ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS

For students in grades 7–12

and

Adult students not currently enrolled in a collegiate organ program

SPONSORED BY

THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS: TOLEDO CHAPTER

**Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018, 3:00 pm**

**Hope Lutheran Church**

**2201 Secor Road**

**Toledo, OH 43606**

## **General scholarship amounts to be given up to \$500.**

All awards are given at the discretion of the judges. Anyone who has received a large scholarship (\$350 and above) two years in a row will be limited to a \$100 award.

**The \$500 Mary Anderson Award is given to the top High School qualifier**

**and can only be received once by an individual.**

Scholarship monies are to be used for organ lessons from a member of the Toledo AGO and will be made payable to the student's instructor. Students who have previously been awarded a scholarship should have completed all previous year scholarship lessons before applying.

## **Applicant Requirements:**

Each applicant will prepare two contrasting pieces (limited to 10 minutes total) and a hymn of their choice.

They will also be asked to sight-read a hymn.

Students auditioning for the first time may play their audition on the piano.

Up to one hour of practice time will be scheduled for each student. *Please call the church to arrange this time and speak with Ms. Bailey (419-536-8383). She will schedule your rehearsal.*

Each applicant must complete and submit the attached form and a letter of recommendation from their private instructor, pastor or church musician.

*The application and letter of referral must be mailed (or emailed) by October 12 to:*

Denise Mathias

AGO Scholarship Auditions

3930 Grandview Ct.

Toledo, OH 43614

419-473-1167, ext. 230

[dmathias@monroestumc.com](mailto:dmathias@monroestumc.com)

**Scholarship winners will perform in the Toledo AGO Scholarship Winners Recital**

**Sunday, March 10, 2019, 3:00 pm**

**Hope Lutheran Church, 2201 Secor Road, Toledo**



**Toledo Chapter AGO**  
**2018 Scholarship Audition Application**

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

Two contrasting pieces to be performed (limited to 10 minutes):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hymn to be performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your music background and your future musical interests.

This application and a letter of recommendation must be mailed (or emailed) by *Oct. 12, 2018* to:

Denise Mathias  
AGO Scholarship Auditions  
3930 Grandview Ct.  
Toledo, OH 43614  
419-473-1167, ext. 230  
dmathias@monroestumc.com