

The Prelude ~ December 2018

The American Guild of Organists, Toledo Chapter

A message from our dean...

Christmas is coming! I don't have to tell you all that this is probably the busiest month of the year for those of us who have church positions, not to mention for everyone with family gatherings, concerts, etc. It is very easy to have the month go by in a blur of business and forget why we are celebrating in the first place and why we do what we do. For many, this is a very happy time of year. For others, it can be a very difficult time for a variety of circumstances. For most, it's probably some mix of both. I think that those of us who share music through our vocations as organists, teachers and friends can play a great part in touching the lives of all at this time especially.

One of the prayers that really struck me a while back happens during the communion prayer at my church. It says, "giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you." To me that was very powerful because, I don't know about you, but I often struggle with feelings of self-worth. I have often felt, "I'm not good enough to...", "I don't play well enough", "I don't have enough experience", etc. But somehow, despite my inadequacies, God has decided I am worthy to provide music for the people in my parish. You have decided that I should be the dean of the chapter. (I hope you still feel that way by the time I'm done.) For some reason, God gave me at least enough talent for music that I am now in a position to share it with others. We don't often realize, while we question our abilities, who is being touched and whose holiday is being made more meaningful by the music that we bring into their lives. We may just be trying to get through the service, and for someone else, we chose just the song they needed at that moment. What a blessing to get to be able to do that!

My Christmas wish for all of you is that you will take a moment during all of the business to reflect on what a great presence and ministry you give to the people you serve. Remember that when you're tired or frustrated. And please, consider sharing your music with your fellow AGO members as well. You may consider yourself a very accomplished player, an intermediate player or even a beginner, but you are good enough to share that with us. If you haven't played for your colleagues in a while, consider contacting Charlotte Mariasy about playing something in our January 12th Night Event. I think you will find an encouraging audience with your AGO friends no matter how worthy you may feel. We want to hear you!

-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

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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

UPDATE...

Due to health reasons, Pam Stover has stepped down as our Toledo Chapter Treasurer. Pam Davis, our past Treasurer, has graciously volunteered to step into the Treasurer role for the remainder of the year. Thanks, Pam Davis!

JANUARY CHAPTER EVENT

“Here we come a-wassailing among the leaves so green,
Here we come a-wand'ring so fair to be seen.
Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail, too,
And God bless you, and send you a Happy New Year,
And God send you a Happy New Year.”



The Toledo chapter of the AGO is proud to announce its “12th Night Celebration” on January 11, 2019 at St. Rose Catholic Church in Perrysburg, Ohio. The party begins at 7:00 p.m. with members sharing their favorite Advent, Christmas and Epiphany music on the two-manual tracker organ at St. Rose Church. Other highlights of the night include a white elephant exchange. Please wrap your treasure in gold paper. Don’t purchase anything....just re-gift or bring a “treasure” you know someone would like!

Traditional 12th night food and drink will be provided including wassail punch and a king cake.

This is a night you won’t want to miss! Please contact Charlotte Mariasy at mariasy@saintrosoline.org if you would like to play a piece for the group.

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

CHANGED EVENT:

Organ Recital—Tom Curry and Neil Kraft

Sunday, November 11, 3:00 p.m.
IHM Motherhouse Chapel
610 W. Elm Ave. in Monroe, MI
Patriotic and four-hand organ music

12th Night Celebration

Friday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.
St. Rose Catholic Church, Perrysburg
Members' organ recital of favorite Advent
and Christmas pieces

All-Bach Concert

CHANGED DATE: Sunday, February 17, 2:00 p.m.
St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church
A concert featuring Bach's great organ works
and cantatas

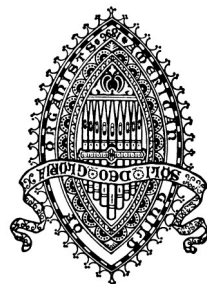
Annual Student Recital

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

April Event—TBA

Toledo AGO Spring Banquet

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



Toledo Chapter AGO