



## The Prelude

December 2019



Alright, I admit it. I have an addiction. Bach! When I was just a piano player, I liked Bach somewhat but his music was not something that I was really drawn to very much. It was nice, it was something I thought I should play, but it was Brahms' piano music that I was really in love with. A lot of Bach just didn't seem to make much sense to me on the piano. Then when I began playing the organ, for some reason, his music really started to resonate with me. The long, suspended notes; the places where voices crossed over and, on the piano, seemed to get in each other's way; the melodies that seemed to get lost because they were under so much "stuff" just seemed to suddenly make so much sense now. Now, I have a really hard problem to not practice some Bach every time I have a chance to sit at the organ or not be working on my next Bach piece. I know I have to learn other composer's and expand my repertoire, but I really came to the organ not having any familiarity with the organ repertoire. But I knew of Bach.

Of course attending concerts has exposed me to more of the literature, and conferences, magazines, radio programs, etc. have given me other ideas but most of that music is from the relatively distant past. I've heard some new music and even played some if it has been easy to get, but I haven't really looked into what is NEW. It is easy to fall into the "trap" of always going to the same tried and true repertoire, and even to find some less popular gems from the same tried and true composers but it can be difficult to step out of that comfort zone, or even to know where to begin to find the new stuff. All of the old music has been, so to speak, sifted through the filter of time and we have a good idea about what is still worthy and what we should have discarded. New music still has to go through that filter. And we are in a sense part of that filter.

Our January event will give us the opportunity to get out of our comfort zone and delve into some new stuff. We have four talented composers, right from our own area, alive and well and composing some really good music. Sally Mossing, Luke Rosen, Doug McConnell, and Randy Currie will be presenting some of their music that will be of special interest to us as organists, pianists, and choir directors. We would love to see you on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Toledo. After presenting their music, we will have a light reception during which you can talk to them about their compositions or just get to know them a bit more. Hope to see you there!

Special thanks to Denise Mathias for organizing our November Event at the Dominican Motherhouse in Adrian and to all of the performers. What a beautiful facility! It was a great experience to hear two organs in two different spaces.

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas.

Dennis Johns, Dean

## January Program

**Composer's Forum** featuring  
Randy Currie, Doug McConnell, Sally Mossing, and Luke Rosen

**Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church**  
**6149 Hill Ave, Toledo, OH**

Reception to follow the presentation.

*(Executive Board meeting preceding the meeting at the church - 5:30 PM)*

## Concert Calendar

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### **Advent Gladness and Christmas Tidings**

**Friday, December 13 - 7:30 PM**

Zoar Lutheran Church, 314 Indiana Ave. Perrysburg

### **Christmas Carol Sing**

**Sunday, Sunday, December 15 - 3:00 PM**

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral  
2535 Collingwood Blvd.

Check out the AGO Chapter Website - [EVENTS](#)

## **November Concert a Success!**

The November meeting of the Toledo Chapter of the AGO took place at the campus of the Adrian Dominican Sisters, in Adrian, Michigan. Denise Mathias was host, and several members performed in a concert program featuring the two campus organs. Both organs are by Holtkamp, but the larger organ incorporates all the pipework of the former Skinner organ.

The concert began in St. Catherine Chapel, on the smaller organ. This chapel is more accessible to the Sisters. There was a good audience who showed their appreciation and many in the audience came to the second half of the program, which was in Holy Rosary Chapel. This organ is much larger, and in addition to the Skinner pipework has

a trumpet and principal added by Holtkamp.

Performers were Dennis Johns, Pam Davis, Paul Monachino, Joan McConnell, Mark Mathias, Terry Jankowski, and Denise Mathias. Many thanks to our members who braved the long drive and confusing setting to come out to this concert! There were also many members of the Adrian community in the audience, especially at the second half of the program. Sr. Patty Harvat extended her sincere thanks at the conclusion of the concert, and invited us to come and perform again!



## Job Openings

**St. John's Episcopal Church** in Bowling Green, Ohio, is seeking an organist to play weekly at its Sunday morning service at 10:00 a.m. (2015 Beckerath). Call (419) 353-0881. Office hours are 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays but all messages will answered.

**First Christian Church**, Wauseon, OH is seeking both an *Organist* and *Director of Music*. (separate positions). (419) 335-4557 or [wauseonfcc@gmail.com](mailto:wauseonfcc@gmail.com)

Pastor Michael Doerr.

**St. John Lutheran Church**, Oak Harbor, Ohio is currently seeking an individual or individuals for the following positions:  
Organist/pianist; Choir Accompanist; Children's choir director; Handbell Choir director; Brass Choir Director - 4 manual Schantz pipe organ, Yamaha grand piano, and 5 octaves of handbells.

Contact Karen Abbott ([krnsabbott@gmail.com](mailto:krnsabbott@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## ORGANS FOR SALE

**RODGERS DM250** - 2 manuals with pipe ranks and complete set of speakers for a church setting.

Contact William Mack at (269) 832-2594 (Battle Creek, MI).



**THOMAS Trianon**                      **606F**                      **Theater**                      **Organ**  
3 manuals (2 short compass) and 25 note pedal board. (Tiffin) Contact  
Suzanne Smith (419) 447-0468

Submissions for the Newsletter

[toledoago419@gmail.com](mailto:toledoago419@gmail.com)

by the 25th of the month.

## Toledo Chapter AGO website

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