



Dayton Ohio Chapter The American Guild of Organists

www.agohq.org/chapters/dayton

JANUARY 2010

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If you change your address, telephone number, or e-mail address, please call or email **Ellen Bagley**, Membership Chair, (See phone & email above) to update our directory database and mailing list. Be sure to add your zip + 4 code. **Thank you.**

Items for *Trumpetings* should be sent to Aaron Sheaffer, editor (see phone & email above). Next deadline: Friday, February 5

Our February Meeting

● **Monday, February 15, 7:30 pm, “Music Plus One — Organ With Other Instruments”**. Shiloh Church (UCC), North Main Street at Philadelphia Drive, Dayton. **Aaron Sheaffer** is program chair.

Combining organ with another instrument enhances worship and does not need to be difficult. Many resources are available, easy to difficult, which don't take extensive rehearsal. Most congregations have instrumentalists (often staying quiet and hiding out in the congregation) with various skill levels; and young people play in school bands and orchestras but may be overlooked in our churches.

The February Dayton Chapter **Concert/Demonstration** including flute, violin, trumpet, handbells (both solo and group), piano, sax, drum, electronic keyboard will illustrate some of these. We hope to whet appetites for what can be done with even limited resources. Lists of some repertoire resources will be available, and you are invited to bring suggestions of your own. Invite others to this “Public Concert.” (Free, of course.)

Other Upcoming Area Concerts

● **Saturday, February 20, 7:00 pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton**. Concert by **The University of Michigan Men's Glee Club**, Dr. Paul Rardin, Director. Freewill offering.

● **Saturday, February 20, 8:00 pm, Soirées Musicales Piano Concert** with New Zealand pianist Justin Bird. Shiloh Church, N. Main Street at Philadelphia Drive. Ticketed.

● **Saturday, February 20** (Epiphany Lutheran Church) **and Sunday, February 21, 3 pm** (Shiloh Church), **Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra**. Beethoven's *Leonore Overture #3*, David Gillingham's *Concerto for Viola, Cello and Orchestra*, **Holly Attar** and **Amy Gillingham**, Annual Clark J. Haines Concerto Competition Winners; Schumann's *Symphony #4*. Ticketed.

Positions Available

from Sub-Dean Tom Pulsifer
serving also as Placement
Coordinator.
trpulsifer@aol.com 937- 376-3209

Position: **Church Organist, part-time**
Church: Sulphur Grove United
Methodist Church.
Address: 7505 Taylorsville Road,
Huber Heights 45424-6313.
Ch. Phone: 937-236-5970.
Organ: Allen Digital with card
extender.
Contact: Charles Garland, chairman,
Staff-Parish Relations
Committee, 937-667-2578
or garlanbcm@msn.com

Position: Church Organist.

Church: Triumphant Cross
Lutheran Church.
Address: 525 Broadway Street,
Trotwood 45426.
Pastor: Rev. Melvin Younger,
mygolf@earthlink.net
Ch. Phone: 937-837-6159.
Organ: Rodgers, 2-manual, full
pedal, about 15 years old.
Service: One at 10:30am.
Contact: Jerry Carnal 937-985-9508.
Position: Church Organist.
Church: Venice Presbyterian Church.
Address: 4244 Layhigh Road, Ross,
OH 45061 (SW of Hamilton).
Ch. Phone: 513-738-1317.
Organ: Rodgers 835B Classic (2001),
also Boston 6'4" Grand Piano.
Service: 10:30am Sunday.
Choirs: Chancel Choir (Children's
Choir and Bell Choir perform
occasionally during the year).
Rehearsals: 7:00pm Wednesday and
10:00am Sunday.
Contact: Richard (Worship Comm.
Chair) or Judy Bohne 513-
895-3079 or website
www.venicechurchcross.com

Last issue's Dean's
Letter by Kevin Rose,
a tribute to the late
Paul Manz, was
reproduced in the
AGO Akron Octave,
newsletter of the
Akron Chapter.

Letter From Our Dean, Kevin Rose—

Back in the 1980's, we would often schedule an AGO meeting in January, but that meeting might be something like an evening out to dinner. I recall visiting venues that featured a theater organ such as the former Springdale Music Palace or the Victory Theater (now Victoria Theatre). Many of you may recall Rieger's Barn in the Spring Valley area that also boasted a theater organ. Since we have not met in such a venue for a number of years, I'm writing about the experience of these meetings, especially for the benefit of our newer members.

The Springdale Music Palace had a theater organ installed and left many of the pipes and other components visible. One could see the tremulants vibrating (Tremolo is an effect of varying air pressure, and many baroque-era organs had such devices installed—you could select two levels of tremolo. Vibrato, rather than varying the volume (while maintaining the same pitch) is actually a variation of pitch.) While eating pizza, we watched the organist play various selections while the console rotated back-and-forth like an oscillating fan. I am not certain what happened to the Springdale Music Palace, but I recall an enjoyable evening had by all.

The late **Henry Garcia** (he pronounced it "Garsha") was both a classical and theater organist. I first saw him perform at the Victory Theater and noted the different techniques he used. First, he played the pedals exclusively with his left foot so he could have his right foot available to constantly regulate the swell shades. That night we were treated to a silent movie with Henry playing a wonderful accompaniment to that movie.

During my time in Santa Barbara, we went to hear the Symphony, and **Emma Lou Diemer** was featured as the organist for the Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony. It was then that I noted that while one could adapt the theater organ to play classic organ repertoire, the voicing was characteristically differently. The 16' and 32' stops, for example, were bolder than what would normally be selected for such a work. Another aspect of theater organ design is that much unification and duplexing of pipes is utilized along with higher pressures for most pipes than for a church organ. In the theater, a 30 rank pipe organ would be considered a monster while an organ of over 100 ranks (such as at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton) would be unheard of. By the way, Dr. Diemer is also an excellent improvisationalist. The last time I was at her house in the early 1990's, she had a Macintosh computer set up with an electronic keyboard and a sequencer that she could take with her to record her keyboard inputs from the 4 manual Casavant organ at First Presbyterian Church.

For more information on theater organs, go to www.atos.org – the web site for the American Theater Organ Society. As a final note, I knew a lady born in 1913 who would tell me stories about going to silent movies as a child—how nice it is to know that this has not become a lost art!

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Kevin Rose, Dean

Postlude Pandemonium and How We Dealt With It

by **Tom Pulsifer**, Sub-Dean and Placement Coordinator

My church had a twice-a-year annoying problem. Well, it annoyed me (organist) as well as guest musicians, our Pastor and also many devout members. It would happen without fail during the organ postlude every Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday.

You see, we have well-intentioned church members who purchase poinsettias or lilies so our Altar Guild can decorate the chancel area for these services. Of course, the effect is beautiful and none of these services go by without someone taking a photo of the floral beauty.

The problem came when “some” of those who donated flowers would noisily storm the chancel and altar as soon as I sounded the first notes of my postlude — to lay fast claim and grab the “best” plants to take home with them. I called it Postlude Pandemonium! You had to witness it to believe it! And it never helped that a senior member of Altar Guild was up there directing this debacle in a loud, cackling voice!

Well, THIS Christmas Eve of 2009,

Pastor and I decided to end the service differently. After a touching vocal solo and the singing of “Silent Night” in candle-light, brief sounding of chimes, and the restoration of limited sanctuary lighting — there was no postlude. The congregation was asked politely, and reminded via the printed service bulletin, to depart in silence. Most did so.

There were numerous retrievals of poinsettias, but it was done fairly orderly and quietly and without the vociferous direction from the cackling lady! Pastor did greet everyone at the rear doorway, and greetings among congregants was at least muted. The tone of the ending of our service celebrating the birth of the Holy Child indicated “Don’t wake the baby”. And this seemed to work quite well.

The lesson here is — work together for change. Church musicians, ministers and worship leaders can cooperate in planning. It is possible to help make a difference and try to correct irreverent behavior so that a totally meaningful worship experience for all is enhanced.

Future Dayton Chapter Programs

● **Monday, March 1, 2010, 7:00 pm, “Get with the Program! Musicians in Today’s Church”** featuring Chapter member **Prof. Trudy Faber** of Wittenberg University. Sulphur Grove United Methodist Church, 7505 Taylorsville Road, Huber Heights. Open to all interested persons.

Prof. Faber offers practical ideas, including organ selections, from a recent conference she attended at Yale. She brings a fresh perspective to this topic. Discussion. Q & A. Reception following.

We also understand that Trudy Faber, for many years a loyal member of Dayton Chapter AGO, will retire from Wittenberg at the end of this academic year. This program will thus be a special time to benefit from her expertise and greet her afterwards. **Sub-dean Tom Pulsifer** (MSM, Wittenberg / Hamma, 1967) will host. **Directions:** Sulphur Grove UMC is a short distance eastward off Brandt Pike, SR 201, and just south of I-70. Plenty of parking. The church is handicap-accessible.

● **Saturday, April 17, Organ Crawl in Richmond, Indiana**, followed by Dinner. Full details in future **Trumpetings**.

● **Sunday, May 16, 4 pm, Organ Academy Student Recital and Installation of Dayton AGO officers for 2010-2011**. Kettering Adventist Church, 3939 Stonebridge Rd.

Payment for Organist Substitutes

by Ellen Bagley, Membership Chair

The question of payment for substituting for regular organists has been asked off and on in my years of doing this work exclusively. Perhaps my experience as a substitute organist at many other Miami Valley churches may help. In most cases the resident organist who is a member of the AGO as well asks me at the time they call and employ me how much my fee is. My fee is in line with what most substitute organists are currently being paid in the Midwest. Our website *www.agohq.org* does have a fee structure for both regular organists/choirmasters, but naturally it varies depending on the cost of living and size of church, so places like New York City and Los Angeles and other big cities raise the salary of the employee accordingly. Around here, usually a substitute gets between \$60-\$150 for a service and between \$25 and \$75 for a rehearsal on a separate day.

The amount of preparation usually is at least 3 hours preparing for a 1 to 1-1/4 hour service. I usually confer with the regular organist about the service, what is going to be played that day for liturgy as well as hymns and any special music – soloists, baptisms, extra hymn for special moment, etc. After selecting prelude, offertory, postlude, etc, I arrange a time to get a key and/or get in to the church, and practice to acquaint myself with the organ and go through the bulletin, marking all places where my music services will be required.

Also my personal philosophy in my church music is that I want my playing to not get in the way of worship, not ‘jar’ the listener so that he/she notices the mechanics of the service. The organist sub should enhance and serve the order of worship and the church’s staff including minister and choir director’s plan for the message for that day, meeting for a brief moment with the pastor/celebrant either on another day or just before the service helps to answer remaining worship questions.

Perhaps it goes without saying that the resident organist is encouraged to have a contract in place so that all points including pay, practice, weddings, funerals, meetings, vacations, fees for AGO membership (a quick plug!) including fees

for substitutes, etc, can be laid out clearly. That will eliminate any misunderstanding and that the church and organist can live with the standard they’ve agreed upon.

In spite of that contract, however, sometimes the fees for substitutes vary whether because of expertise, time the substitute expects to give to the ‘job’ at the time and whether other items factor in. I don’t think most of us musicians are in the habit of gouging the church, but just expect to get paid fairly for some of the time we put in. Rehearsal fees vary as well; if a substitute is expected to play for the whole rehearsal, that person must learn all the music to be practiced that night. Or if they are expected to rehearse the one piece for Sunday, not as much time is required. Sometimes that fee can be negotiated at the time of the call. Transportation/mileage for the sub might be factored in as well. The resident organist or whoever is to authorize should put in a request for a check with the treasurer for the amount, to be paid at time of service.

Available: New pair of women’s black leather organ shoes for sale, size 8½ medium. Asking \$30 for them, originally \$65, Contact either by email, *bryant_j@att.net*, or home phone 937-415-3636.

Membership Update

Ellen Bagley, Membership Chair

Please note a different address for **Chris Baird**, organist at First Baptist Church, Middletown, 2476 Featherston Ct, Miamisburg OH 45342. Phone: 937-439-2752. The information in the directory is incorrect!

I am excited to introduce a few new members you may not have met.

Add the following new members to your yearbook listing behind present members.

Jerry Taylor's student **Grant Wareham** is a multi-talented youngster who is a member of the Dayton Philharmonic Junior String Orchestra, playing the violin. He is home schooled, grade 8, and is eager to substitute for simple church services:

- **Grant Wareham** 937-439-9240
2540 Rose Ridge Ct, Centerville OH 45459
Email: mwkw@sbcglobal.net.

We welcome new member **Dr. (PhD) Matthew Dierking** who joined our group just after the September meeting, and has been coming faithfully to every meeting since. Matt is a

laser radar researcher at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and also teaches/advises engineering and electro-optic graduate students at the University of Dayton.

In the past Matt has served as organist at several Dayton area churches, and is currently the organist for the Clifton United Presbyterian Church (www.cliftonupc.org). The organ at Clifton is a small but beautiful Estey Pipe Organ, circa 1917.

He is fortunate to have quite a stable of talent in the church. "I'm privileged to lead a small volunteer worship orchestra at Clifton consisting of church members ranging in age from 14 to 65," Matt states. "The six or seven regular musicians play violin, trumpet, saxophone and French horn and are joined on special occasions by other members adding clarinet, flute, pedal harp, tenor saxophone and classical guitar. I enjoy arranging much of the organ/instrumental music for both regular services and special occasions."

- **Matthew Dierking** 937-767-1753
8406 Springfield-Jamestown Rd
Springfield OH 45502.
Email: matt.dierking@cliftonupc.org

Writers Invited

Do you have fun, instructive or even opinionated ideas or articles about the organ world that you would like to share with the rest of us? Submit them to **Trumpetings** for possible inclusion in a future issue. Let us enjoy your talent.

Email to asheaffer@woh.rr.com, Trumpetings Editor