

A Letter from the Dean

DEAR AGO FRIENDS!!!!

January is but a memory, but included in this newsletter is a list and summary of the music that members played or suggested at the January 23, **Grab it & Go**, members recital. We had a casual evening of playing for each other at Pillar Church and then discussed music that is particularly appealing when practice time is sparse. I hope you find the list helpful and it will inspire you to dig out some old favorites, or purchase a new collection. If you missed this event and have suggestions you would like to share, please email them to newsletter editor Paul Dalman, for publication in the March newsletter.

Now, on to February!! I am really excited about our February meeting, because it will be presented by one of Holland's newest residents, organist, **Rhonda Edgington**. Rhonda will present: ***What I Learned During My Fulbright Year in Germany***. She has stories, pictures and thoughts to share about the instruments, personalities and experiences that shaped her and helped develop her musicianship while living and studying in Germany. She will use the Walker organ in the studio for musical demonstrations. Read her bio, or visit her website to learn why I am so excited to have her share her experiences with us. <http://www.arielartists.com/artists/rhonda-sider-edgington/>

Meet on **Monday, February 20 at 7:30 p.m** in the organ studio in Nykerk Music Hall *Please note that this is a change from our original calendar*). We will gather for **dinner prior to the meeting at 84 East at 5:45**. RSVP to Jane...405-8163, or bosko@hope.edu by 12:30 pm on the 20th.

Join us on February 20, and bring a friend.
I look forward to seeing you.

Jane

RHONDA'S BIO

Rhonda Sider Edgington is an eclectic musician, with strengths and interests lying in several diverse areas. Through her years spent in Bremen, Germany, she has acquired an extensive repertoire. In 2007, she was chosen to play in the Oude Kerk in Amsterdam as a finalist in the International Sweelinck Competition, playing a recital of music composed between 1560 and 1660. In 2009, she played a concert in Bremen's St. Petri Cathedral with organ music of the 20th and 21st-century, composed by students and faculty at Bremen's University for the Arts (including a piece for all three organs in the nave), as well as standard modern repertoire by Cage, Ligeti, Kagel, and Messiaen.

Before arriving in Bremen with a Fulbright scholarship in 2004 to study with Prof. Harald Vogel, Rhonda was organist at the First United Church of Oak Park (IL). The 88-rank Casavant there, especially well-suited to French repertoire of the 19th and 20th centuries, inspired her to focus those years on composers from Franck through Messiaen and record a CD of these works. (After hearing Rhonda play Dupre, one Parisian organist remarked "You don't sound like a student of Harald Vogel's!")

As organ recitalist, Rhonda has played concerts in northern Europe, on instruments such as the famous Arp Schnitger organs in Norden, Steinkirchen, Neuenfelde, and Weener, the Jugend Ahrend organ in Bremen's St. Martini Church, and a mean-tone instrument with sub-semitones by Van der Putten in Bremen-Walle. Monthly recitals at the St. Martini Church featured students of Harald Vogel playing the complete works of Bach and Buxtehude, and Rhonda played a major role in this project. She also organised a series of student concerts on the one-manual Gottfried Silbermann organ in the West Crypt of the Bremen's Cathedral.

Rhonda has played recitals throughout the US's East Coast and Midwest, including venues such as Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Buffalo, and Fourth Presbyterian and Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. A friend of many varied styles and repertoire, she has played in three national conventions of the Organ Historical Society, and a regional convention of the American Guild of Organists.

An avid chamber musician, Rhonda has appeared in concerts playing piano, harpsichord, and organ in combinations ranging from piano trios and Lieder accompaniments; to organ and brass, strings, or winds; and also as an early music continuo player with soloists and ensembles.

Rhonda has worked as a church musician since her student days, and has held jobs in Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, and Episcopalian churches in the states, as well as working as a church musician in Germany. As organ teacher, Rhonda was Assistant Professor at Concordia University, River Forrest (IL), and Interim Professor of Organ at Houghton College (NY).

Her studies in Germany have been with Harald Vogel, Hans-Ola Ericson, Edoardo Bellotti, and Hans Davidsson, and in the US with Larry Smith, Marilyn Keiser, John Chappell Stowe, Edward Zimmerman, and her father. She has a Master's Degree in Organ from Indiana University, a Bachelor's Degree in Piano from Wheaton College (IL), and a Diploma in Organ Performance from the Hochschule für Künste/ University of the Arts in Bremen, Germany, where she was awarded the highest possible grade for her graduation recitals.

She lived for seven years in Bremen, Germany with her husband, Mark, and (more recently) children Isaac and Esther. Now, the family lives in Holland, Michigan, where Rhonda is the organist at Hope Church. She is represented by Ariel Artists (see www.arielartists.com).

"GRAB IT & GO" Music Suggestions from our January meeting

Thanks to the following organists who performed and/or suggested the repertoire listed below: Marie Blauwkamp, Jane Bosko, Elizabeth Claar, Julia Collingsworth, Rhonda Edgington, John Eisenhauer, Jim Folkert, Judy Koeman, Jean Pierson, Mike VanDoornik and Rick VanOss. We also thank Dave Roossien for arranging for us to meet at Pillar Church.

Toccata in Seven, John Rutter-- **A Second Easy Album for Organ, Oxford University Press**

Be Thou My Vision, Gordon Young - **Eight Organ Voluntaries**, Presser

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Robert Hobby, **Augsburg Organ Library** (many think these books are well worth the investment \$40. each)

Of the Father's Love Begotten, Wilbur Held, **Six Carol Settings**, Concordia

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime, Dale Wood, **Wood Works II**

Partita on Fairest Lord Jesus, James Woodman, **Six Little Partitas, Thorpe- Theodore Presser**

Chorale Prelude on Rendez a Dieu, Bernard W. Sanders (also a nice organ and oboe piece: *Ornament of Grace*)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Al Fedak, **A Collection of Hymns**, Belwin Mills
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, Michael Burkhardt, **Hymn Improvisations Set 2**, MorningStar
We Shall Overcome, Alec Wyton, **A Little Christian Year**
St. Columbia, Alec Wyton, **Preludes for Saints and Sinners**

The Liturgical Church - Preludes/Fugues, Versets.... A.P.F.Boely, Kalmus
O Worship the King, Ray Haan, Broadman Press
Pipings, ed. Dorothy Wells, Lorenz Publishing
Pull Out all the Stops Vol. III, compiled by Dorothy Wells, Lorenz Publishing
Treasury of Festive Organ Music, compiled by Gilbert Martin, Sacred Music Press
Wood Works for Organ, 3 volumes, Dale Wood
Hymns of Grateful Praise, Alice Jordan, Broadman Press
All Hymns Bright and Beautiful, Eugene McCluskey, Lorenz Publishing
5 Lenten Improvisations, Six General Hymn Improvisations, Set 2 and 3, Michael Burkhardt, Morningstar
Preludes and Postludes Vol I, Augsburg, **7 Settings of American Folk Hymns, A Suite of Passion Settings**, Wilbur Held, Concordia
Six Chorale Preludes Set I, Healy Willan, Concordia
Choralsvorspiele für Dorfgorganisten, Max Drischner, C.L.Schuiltheiss-Musikveritag-Tulbingen
Old English Organ Music for Manuals, ed. Trevor, Bks, 1,3,4 Oxford U Press, Bks.
Three Hymns of Praise, Robert Hobby
Concordia Hymn Prelude Series
Praise to the Lord the Almighty, J Wayne Kerr, Harold Flammer
All Things Bright and Beautiful, Jericho, Praise to the Lord the Almighty, Larry Visser, Wayne Leupold
John Ness Beck (vocal pieces transcribed for organ), arr Janet Linker, Beckenhorst
Today's Hymns, arr. John Carter, Hope Publishing
Triumphs of His Grace, Lana Kelley
Solid Rock, Lana Kelley
Hallelujah What a Savior, Kenneth Varnar (ask Elizabeth Claar)
Praise to the Lord the Almighty, Pierce Dickens, Lillenas
5 Spirituals for Organ , Calvin Taylor, self published (ask Elizabeth Claar)

MARCH IS ON ITS WAY

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHAPTER'S COMMUNITY CONCERT
SOUNDS OF THE SEASON: Lent and Easter MARCH 18, 2012, Harderwyk CRC 4:00 p.m. Last year several members presented a very successful public Lenten Recital at First Reformed Church. We had a large audience of receptive listeners and great music. We want to continue the tradition this year by blending music for Lent and Easter. Planning needs to begin for the event. Please consider playing this year and let Rick VanOss or Jane know what you would like to perform or how you would like to be involved. We will need to limit the program to 1 hour. Specs for the organ at Harderwyk may be found by following this link and practice time is easily arranged.

<http://database.organsociety.org/SingleOrganDetails.php?OrganID=47419>

SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

AGO NASHVILLE CONVENTION - EARLY REGISTRATION INFO

February 14, 2012, is the deadline for early registration to the 2012 AGO Nashville Convention. The week-long program is truly exceptional, and the whole conference is going to be magnificent.

If you are planning to go, register online now.

Here's the link to the home page of the Nashville Convention's Web site: <http://www.ago2012.org/>

Online registration form: <http://www.ago2012.org/registration/convention-registration-online.html>

Regular members along with their partners or spouses who register early will **save \$60** compared to the regular registration fee. Senior members (age 65 and over) will **save \$75** by registering early.

Early Registration

To be eligible for these prices, please register now through February 14, 2012

Member (AGO, RCCO, ACDA) \$350

Member Partner/Spouse \$350

Senior (65 and above) \$300

Senior (65 and above) Member Partner/Spouse \$300

Student (full-time high school or higher education, age 30 or below) \$200

Regular Registration

Anytime after February 14, 2012

Regular \$410

Partner Member/Spouse \$410

Senior (65 and above) \$375

Senior (65 and above) Partner Member/Spouse \$375

Student (full-time high school or higher education, age 30 or below) \$200

Non-member (Fee includes 1 yr. independent membership and 12 issues of TAO magazine) \$510

OHS Convention in Chicago July 8-13

July may seem like a long way off, but it's not too far off to plan for a week exploring the world of unique, eclectic, and historically significant organs in the Chicago metro area with the Organ Historical Society. What a week! What a convention! Join us in Chicago to hear:

- Ken Cowan on a beautifully restored four manual E. M. Skinner
- Jonathan Ryan on a powerful and recent Fisk
- Nathan Laube at the grand Rockefeller Memorial Chapel
- Wolfgang RübSam on the 117-rank Flentrop tracker at the Cathedral of the Holy Name
- Jonathan Ortloff playing the largest Theatre organ in the world at the famous Sanfilippo "Place de la Musique" estate

- Erik William Suter on the Schlicker presided over for years by Paul Manz
- the talented young David Rhodes at the Tivoli theatre accompanying a Charlie Chaplin silent movie filmed in Chicago in 1915
- also featuring Chicago's own David Schrader and William Aylesworth, Stephen Buzard, John Sherer, Stephen Schnurr, Elizabeth Naegele, Cathryn Wilkinson, Derek Nickels, **Rhonda Sider Edgington**, James Russell Brown, Ricardo Ramirez, David Jonies, Mark Sudeith, Jay Peterson, Adam Gruber and Dennis Northway, among others.

This will be exciting! The hotel rate at Chicago's O'Hare Marriott is just \$130 per night, even if you have three other roommates! Registration with early bird discounts opens soon! For more details, visit <http://www.organsociety.org/2012/index.html> or call 804-353-9226.

From the convention web site you can link to the photo gallery or the audio clips for a taste of what's to come. Chicago has a long tradition of hosting organists, including AGO 2006. There's even more to enjoy in 2012!

Join us in **THE CITY OF BIG SOUNDS!**

Chapter News in TAO!!!

Wanted: a member(s) to take photos, write news briefs, and send them to TAO. Email Jane if interested. bosko@hope.edu.

Discovery Corner

Have you discovered a great new organ book, piece, composer, choral anthem, organ with instruments etc? **SHARE** your discovery with others in our new column, **Discovery Corner**. Send your information to newsletter editor Paul Dalman at hollandago@charter.net by the first of each month.

Other Area Events:

Friday, 10 February 2012, 7.00pm, St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 West Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI, 49007, Thomas Fielding, DMus., organist. 2002 III/42 Nichols & Simpson Organ. Works of Harris, Bach, Schumann, Karg-Elert, Fielding, Franck and Jongen. Free-will offering to benefit the Cathedral Selner Music Fund.

“ORGAN RECITAL – In Memoriam”

Sunday, February 12, 3:00 PM, First Congregational Church, 1201 Jefferson St., Muskegon, MI. The Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present an organ recital “ In Memoriam”, in honor of Dorothy Sheets.

This recital will honor the life of Dorothy Sheets, who has contributed greatly to the music community for many years. On the concert will be performed music written by Dorothy Sheets. Also on the program will be the Motet and Schema Choirs of First Congregational Church. They will be performing works by Dorothy Sheets and “How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place” by Brahms. Many area organists will be performing organ solos by the masters.

Mrs. Sheets taught at Muskegon Community College for 15 years. Prior to that, she was minister of music at Samuel Lutheran Church, and from 1978-1988 was the organist at Bethany Christian Reformed Church in Muskegon. Mrs. Sheets was a member of the First Congregational Church UCC in Muskegon, the Greater Muskegon Woman's Club, Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel, the Muskegon Lakeshore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and former board member of the Community Concert Association. Since her retirement, Mrs. Sheets devoted time to composing music for use in the church. She has published pieces for organ and her hymn-tunes appear in several hymnals.

A free-will offering will be taken and a reception will follow the program. For more information please contact Peter Kurdziel, Dean 616.458.3065 Ext. 43.

2011-2012 Calendar		
Mon Feb 20 (Note Date Change)	Rhonda Edgington: What I Learned During my Fulbright Year in Germany	Hope College Nykerk Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Tue Mar 13	Dongho Lee recital	Dimnent Chapel, 7:30 p.m.
Sun Mar 18	Public Organ Recital featuring Music of the Season (Lent and Easter)	Harderwyk CRC, 4:00 p.m.
Apr TBA	Organs of the Netherlands: Recap by Hope students of the May 2011 trip to the Netherlands	TBA
Mon May 7	Pillar Church Tulip Time Recital - David Schout	Pillar Church, 7:30 p.m.
May 9-12	Tulip Time Recitals	Dimnent Chapel, 10:00-2:00
May	Members Dinner	TBA

Website Addresses

Holland - hollandareaago.org

Muskegon Lakeshore- www.mlago.org

Southwest Michigan - www.agohq.org/chapters/southwestmichigan
www.agokalamazoo.org

Grand Rapids- www.grago.org

National Headquarters - info@agohq.org and www.agohq.org