

A Letter From the Dean

Hello members and happy March!

Did you learn this phrase in school, March goes in like a lion and out like a lamb? Well, some years I guess it's reversed, but I'm planning on the lamb showing up sometime in the next few weeks, after this kind of March madness (so to say)!

We had a great time last month, both at Huw's very informative session on the AGO exams (Jane, have you been practicing your transpositions since then...?) and then with Tony, at his session on the Hammond. Who would have guessed I'd be up there, playing Al Fedak on the Hammond, pulling out those drawknobs like a pro? :)

I'm looking forward to hearing from Aaron Tan this weekend, about his journey to combine his love of music as well as interest in science, into a dual career. If you have young students, please encourage them to attend - this could be applicable to many young folks interested in music, who are trying to also balance other interests and gifts! He's titled it "Serving Two Masters: Thoughts on being a dual-career musician". I'm planning on bringing some snacks (both healthy and unhealthy) and warm drinks, and we'll meet at 9:30 am in the organ studio at Hope College.

Aaron Tan will be playing the Donia recital on Tuesday night at Hope College, March 13 at 7:30pm. Note – this will be in DIMNENT CHAPEL – come hear the mighty Skinner! Here are a few sentences from his bio to interest you.

In 2004, under the auspices of the Barwell Scholarship (awarded to pianists interested in learning the organ), he began organ studies with John Tuttle while concurrently entering as a freshman in Engineering Science at the University of Toronto... Aaron moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan in 2007 to pursue a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan. During his time in Ann Arbor, he had the opportunity to study the organ with Marilyn Mason, University Organist. He graduated in 2012, and began work as a postdoctoral researcher in the University of Michigan's Laboratory for Complex Materials and Thin Films Research... Aaron recently completed a four-year position as Organ Scholar at St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit, Michigan, working with Huw Lewis. He was soon afterwards appointed Artist in Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit, and currently serves as Assistant Organist at Christ Church Cranbrook.

Please join us for this interesting event!

Upcoming events-

Also this weekend, the Hope College Jazz Organ summit will be taking place. AGO members can enjoy the special offer that if you register for the regular clinic ticket price, they will throw in the VIP pass (free food and schmoozing with the musicians!) When you come to pick up your passes, mention this to the box office, and they will give you your special VIP pass. Also, if you have high school students interested, Brian Coyle can get them free tickets for the Friday or Saturday night concerts. Email him with any names - coyle (at) [hope.edu](mailto:coyle@hope.edu)

April's AGO chapter event will be the first in what I hope to be a series of sessions featuring exemplary local musician-clergy pairs. After the successful organ project at Grace Episcopal, I don't think there is any question that Steve Jenkins and Jen Adams work well together! I'm looking forward to hearing from them, some clues to their great working relationship, and some pitfalls to avoid, as we all seek to navigate the sometimes complex territory where music, church, and our jobs intersect. This will happen Monday, April 23 at 7pm at Grace Episcopal.

Also, please note the monthly concerts as part of the Grace Notes series. On Sunday, March 18 at 1pm, everyone's favorite former Holland resident turned Grand Rapids Basilica organist Peter Kurdziel will be playing at 1pm. Steve's bringing take-out sandwiches for all church organists who have to come right from their services to make it in time, right Steve? ;) (OK, maybe not.)

Our end of year potluck will be Friday, June 1 at the Kraft home. Details to follow.

Other events coming up include a hymn sing at St. Francis, with the GR AGO, as well as the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, lead by Bob Batastini, and with area organists involved. The date is Monday, May 21. We'll be singing hymns that musicians love, but sometimes can't convince our congregations to sing!

Also, I'll be playing my second Tulip Time concert on Sunday, May 6 at 7pm at Hope Church. Music of Dutch organ composers, from Sweelinck to Bert Matter and Ad Wammes. This is a ticketed event.

If I've forgotten anything, please let me know.

Hope to see you sometime this weekend!

Rhonda

Chapter Officers for 2017-2018

Dean - Rhonda Edgington

Sub-Dean - Julia Colingsworth

Secretary - Judy Koeman

Treasurer - Gordon Bruns

Board Members - Roberta Kraft, Jim Folkert

Hope College Student Board Member - Jonathan Bading

Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website - hollandareaago.org

2017-2018 Calendar

Sat, Mar 10, 9:30 a.m.	Aaron Tan talks about his organ/science career	Hope College Organ Studio
Tue, Mar 13, 7:30 p.m.	Donia Recital – Aaron Tan	Hope College Dimnent Chapel
Mon, Apr 23, 7:00 p.m.	Clergy-Musician Relations - Rev. Jen Adams and Steve Jenkins from Grace Episcopal	Grace Episcopal Church, Holland
Fri, Jun 1	Spring Potluck	Home of George and Roberta Kraft
June - Date TBD	Trip to Greg Crowell's home in Grand Rapids to hear and play his musical instument collection (Harpsichords, clavichords, etc.)	