

A Letter From the Dean

Greetings, fellow AGO Members, and welcome back to another school/program year in Holland!

I've heard everyone saying that this summer "went so quickly", and that reminds me of the long, lazy summers of my childhood, where it seemed there was lots of time to read books, play outside and relax. Alas, I haven't had a summer like that in a long time! Maybe those of you who are retired have started once again to enjoy such summers? Let me know what it feels like.

It's the start of another fall, and your AGO board has another great (if I say so myself) line up of local and regional professionals to share their expertise, as well as concerts and music sharing, and time to learn from one another. Do you know how long I've been dean of the Holland AGO? If my resume can be trusted, it says since 2013! That's 6 years of Rhonda-ness, and I got to thinking last night during some sleepless moments that maybe it's time to pass on the mantle. It's not that I couldn't continue to be dean for another 6 years, (thought I'm not sure if I want to!) but maybe someone else would like to give it a shot, and more importantly, could bring new ideas and perspectives to this position.

Could we all make this a project this AGO program year – to consider who else might like the opportunity to head up our humble chapter. I'm not threatening to leave if no one else appears, but I do want to make it clear that I did not crown myself Lifetime Monarch of the Holland AGO (because that thought would keep me up nights...) In a small chapter, ideally, the dean's position rotates between members, coming back around eventually, but hopefully not until each person has had a chance to recover and forget if they vowed never to say yes again!

What's Coming Up This Year?

So, moving on – I love that our board has decided that some programs we've held in previous years have been so effective and appreciated that we want to continue them as a kind of yearly series. We're doing three such events this year.

- Local Composers Forum – following the success last year of inviting Raymond Haan, this year, we're excited that Larry Visser from LaGrave Street CRC in GR will be with us to discuss his works. So start polishing off your favorite Larry Visser tunes!

- Clergy-Musician Forum – following two years of success hearing from local pastor-musician teams, this year we're looking forward to hearing from Rick Van Oss and Dan Gillett at First Reformed in Holland.

- Repertoire Sharing Forum: Advent/Christmas – following many years of having sessions playing favorite repertoire for each other around specific topics or seasons, we're going back to Advent and Christmas this year, because the season just keeps coming back each year too!

This will be our September program, and we'll hold it at Hope Church, partly in hopes that a few Hope College students will join us that day. There are quite a few new faces in the organ department this fall, and we're excited to welcome those folks to our chapter. If you can ever offer a ride to a college student to one of our programs, let me know.

First Event of the AGO 2019-2020 Program Year!

Repertoire Sharing: Advent and Christmas PLUS special guest Bob Houskamp (founder Organ Summer Event) - Monday, Sept 23 at 7pm at Hope Church, 77 W 11th Street

Bring your favorite repertoire to play for others. Rhonda will help you pull stops if you need it. In addition, your AGO Board has invited Bob Houskamp to speak with us briefly about a ground-breaking and very innovative program he has dreamed up, created, funded, and run himself, Summer Organ event, in Grand Rapids. It introduces the organ to high school students by setting them up with a local teacher, and gifting them three free lessons on three consecutive weeks with that teacher. At the end, all play a small recital at a local church in Grand Rapids for family and friends. Some students continue on to regular lessons, all have become deeper lovers of the organ! Our board agrees that Bob has created a wonderful model which we would like to emulate here in Holland next summer. Stay tuned for details.

2019-2020 Holland AGO Program Schedule

Mon, Sept 23 7pm – Repertoire Sharing: Advent/ Christmas plus Special guest Bob Houskamp at Hope Church – Bring a favorite to play

Fri, Oct 18 7pm – Music of Japan for Organ, Marimba, and Taiko Drummers at Dimnent Chapel, Hope College, cosponsored by the Asian Studies department, Music department, and Holland AGO.

If you have never heard Taiko drums, you are in for a real treat. (try Googling it). This multi-disciplinary concert will combine evocative sounds and three exciting BIG instruments!

Sat morning in Nov (date TBD) – Organ Tour in Grand Rapids

Play and hear some iconic instruments in Grand Rapids together, including LaGrave CRC, and St. Marks Episcopal (where some of Greg Crowell's harpsichords and other early keyboard instruments will be available)

No meeting in December

Mon, Jan 6 – Epiphany Party! - Linda Fulton's house (Linda makes the BEST treats ever!)

Tues, Feb 11 – Clergy-Musician Forum at First Reformed with Rick VanOss and Dan Gillett

Mon, March 23 – Local Composer Forum with Larry Visser at Second Reformed in Zeeland

Tues, April 21 – The Aging Voice with Linda Dykstra at Hope College

May TBD – Handbells with Larry and Carla Sue at Third Reformed

June – End of year Potluck

Other Local Organ Concerts

Hope College – Donia Memorial Organ Recital, Jack Miller Center – Mon, Sept 16, 7:30pm
Internationally renowned Diane Meredith Belcher, Dartmouth College

Third Reformed Church - Rietberg Organ Recital – Sun, Oct 27, 3pm

Grace Episcopal Church Joy Huttar Memorial Organ Recital – Sun, Nov 3 – Thomas Gouwens (former dean of Holland AGO, currently at Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago)

Chapter Officers for 2019-2020

Dean - Rhonda Edgington

Sub-Dean – Linda Fulton

Board Members – Roberta Kraft, Rick Van Oss

Ex Official:

Treasurer - Gordon Bruns

Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website – hollandareaago.org

2019-2020 Calendar		
Mon Sep 23, 7:00 p.m.	Repertoirre Sharing: Advent/Christmas, plus special guest, Bob Houskamp	Hope Church, Holland
Fri Oct 18, 7:00 p.m.	Music of Japan for Organ, Marimba, and Taiko Drummers	Dimnent Chapel, Hope College
Sat Nov (date TBA)	Organ Tour in Grand Rapids	Car-pool location TBA
Mon Jan 6, TBD	Epiphany Party	Linda Fulton's house
Tue Feb 11, 7:00 p.m.	Musician-Clergy Relations: Rick Van Oss and Dan Gillett	First Reformed Church, Holland
Mon Mar 23, 7:00 p.m.	Local Composer Forum with Larry Visser	Second Reformed Church, Zeeland
Tue Apr 21, 7:00 p.m.	The Aging Voice with Linda Dykstra	Hope College
May TBA	Handbells: Larry and Carla Sue	Third Reformed Church, Holland
Jun TBA	Annual Picnic	TBA