

A Letter From the Dean

Dear members,

For those of you who attended our October event, it was a great evening, with a rather impressive-sized crowd, and a fascinating chance to hear a European choir sing some great music. If you were one of the unlucky who showed up at 7:15 or later, expecting a 7:30 concert, you have me to blame, and I sincerely apologize! I winced every time someone walked in the door after 7, and could hardly enjoy the concert for my guilty conscience.

On another note, we were chatting with a friend afterwards, who was raving about the concert, and he wanted to make sure he put something in the offering basket, so impressed was he with the group. He threw in a bill, and Phil (music director at St. Francis) gave him an especially warm thank you. I wondered why, until our friend informed us, looking a bit dazed. He had taken a \$20 bill out of his pocket before the concert, and made sure to bring along \$10 for the offering. However, after throwing it in the basket, he realized that somehow, he'd actually thrown in a \$100 bill!! He assured us that, however surprising this turn of events was, he could handle it, and was glad to support such an event. I'm not sure, though, if you can achieve similar results by distracting concert-attenders at your next recital when the plates are passed!

Well, I hope you are looking forward to our next event, hosting U of M organ prof Kola Owolabi at Third Reformed, presenting on Hidden Gems: Preludes and Postludes you may not know. This will happen on Monday, Nov 9 at 7:30 (really!). Try to come also on Sunday afternoon, to Third Reformed, to hear Kola perform the annual Rietberg recital at 3pm. (See below for Kola's biography – he is a fine player.) And if you are willing and able to help the chapter support such ventures in the present and future, talk with Gordon about making a small donation to help subsidize this program. A number of fellow members have already pledged their support.

Unfortunately, our hoped for December event on the Casavant will have to be rescheduled, due to issues in the new hall, but I will let you know as soon as we have more details.

Hope to see you soon at Third!

Rhonda

Here's something worth checking out...

There is yet another way to experience great organ music online. The Organ Media Foundation has rolled out its third Internet streaming audio station, The Organ Experience. This station broadcasts classical organ music 24 hours a day via its website at www.organexperience.com. A built-in web player automatically handles connecting listeners to the stream, and complete information about each work being played is displayed on the site.

This station is automated, and generates its own creative playlists. The music is grouped into 30-minute, 1 hour, or 2 hour blocks. The music of each block is chosen based on a specific theme. To give you an idea, a few randomly chosen themes one might hear are:

- German Music on French Organs
- Music from Canada
- Baroque Music
- American Music on Aeolian-Skinner Organs
- Organs by Casavant
- French Music on North American Organs
- Music of Dieterich Buxtehude
- Romantic French Music on Cavaillé-Coll organs
- Recordings from the Pro Organo Label

Some themes are broad, others very specific, there are currently more than 80 different themes up for selection. The information about each block of music can be found on the website, as well as a listing of upcoming blocks.

For each work, the listener is presented with the work title, the composer and dates with a link to the composer's biography, the performer with a link to his or her biography, the length of the work, the organ being played and a link to its specification, the album title and artwork, label and catalog, and links to purchase the album online either as a CD or as MP3 if available. In addition, there are frequently links to purchase the sheet music of the work, and often a link to a free PDF score if the work is public domain.

All of the music heard is from the ever growing broadcast library of the Organ Media Foundation, which currently holds just shy of 20,000 tracks from more than 1500 albums. The Organ Media Foundation is a listener-supported non-profit 501(c)3 organization. All of its broadcasts are free to hear, and are commercial-free.

This newest station joins the Organ Media Foundation's other two outlets, Organlive.com and PositivelyBaroque.com. All of these stations have their own web players, but are also available on internet radio devices, AppleTV, Roku, Iphone, Ipad, and Android devices. For more information about the Foundation and it's projects, visit organmedia.org, and to tune in to The Organ Experience, visit organexperience.org.

November Events at Third Reformed Church

November will be a musical month at Third Reformed Church, Holland. On Sunday, November 1 at 6 pm the choir will present Bob Chilcott's Requiem with chamber orchestra and soloists Linda Dykstra, Soprano and Ken Prewitt, Tenor. The concert is being performed in memory of the choir members who have died in the last 20 years.

On Sunday, November 8 at 3 pm we will welcome Kola Owolabi to play the annual Rietberg Organ Recital. Dr. Owolabi is a Professor of Music in Organ at the University of Michigan. His varied program includes works by Boyvin, Bach, Phillips and Hampton. See the next page for details.

On Saturday, November 21 at 3 pm, Andrew Le, pianist, will present the Etudes of Debussy in a benefit concert for the Syrian refugees. Come and enjoy the music and bring a friend or two.

Kola Owolabi Bibliography

A native of Toronto, Canada, Owolabi was appointed as associate professor of organ at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in September 2014. There he teaches courses in organ, improvisation and church music. From 2007-13, Owolabi taught at Syracuse University and served as university organist. He also held positions as sub dean and dean of the Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Owolabi holds degrees in organ performance and choral conducting from McGill University, Montreal, Yale University, and Eastman School of Music. His former teachers have included Bruce Wheatcroft, John Grew, Martin Jean, Thomas Murray, Hans Davidsson, and William Porter.

In 2002, Owolabi was awarded second prize and audience prize at the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance. He is a published composer and has received commissions from the Royal Canadian College of Organists and the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto. His solo organ composition *Dance* was selected for the Royal Canadian College of Organists National Competition in August 2013, where all of the finalists performed this composition. Owolabi was a featured performer at the American Guild of Organists National Convention in Boston in June 2014, performing three recitals at Methuen Memorial Music Hall. He also performed a concert for the Organ Historical Society Convention in Syracuse in August 2014. Owolabi performs regularly as organist and harpsichordist with the GRAMMY[®]-nominated vocal ensemble Seraphic Fire and Firebird Chamber Orchestra, based in Miami, FL.

Organ Recital Third Reformed Church, Holland, MI Sunday November 8, 3pm

Program

Suite du troisième ton (Second Livre D'Orgue, 1700)	Jacques Boyvin (1655-1706)
Prelude	
Fugue	
Dessus de cornet séparé ou de petite tierce	
Basse de cromhorne	
Concert de flutes, ou fond' Orgue	
Grand Dialogue a 4 choeurs	
Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr, BWV 676 (Clavierübung III, 1739)	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Toccatà and Fugue in D minor, BWV 538	Johann Sebastian Bach

Intermission

Fantasia on Sine Nomine (2008)	Craig Phillips (b. 1961)
Three Pieces (1980)	Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)
Prayer and Alleluias	
In Paradisum	
Pageant	

Advent Organ Recital - First Reformed Church, Holland

The annual First Church Advent Organ Recital will be held on Sunday, November 29 at 3:00 P.M. as part of the *Free@3* concert series. This is the 30th year that organist Richard Van Oss has presented an Advent recital at First Reformed Church at 630 State Street in Holland. The program will feature some favorite organ pieces from the past 30 years of Advent organ recitals and some brand new pieces as well. Invite your family and friends to come and enjoy this special hour of music celebrating the beginning of the Advent/Christmas season. Refreshments will follow the recital.

Chapter Officers for 2015-2016

Dean - Rhonda Edgington
 Sub-Dean - Julia Collingsworth
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2015-2016 Calendar		
Sun Nov 8, 3:00 p.m.	Annual Rietberg Recital - Kola Owalabi	Third Reformed Church
Mon Nov 9, 7:30 p.m.	Preludes and Postludes: Some Hidden Gems - Kola Owalabi	Third Reformed Church
Sun Nov 29, 3:00 p.m.	Annual Advent Organ Recital - Richard Van Oss	First Reformed Church, 630 State St., Holland
Sun Dec 13, 3:00 p.m.	Annual Chancel and Bell Choir Christmas Concert	First Reformed Church, 630 State St., Holland
Mon Jan 11, 6:00 p.m.	Annual Chapter Winter Potluck and Party	Pillar Church Community Room (on 14th St.)
Tue Feb 9	Official Inauguration of the new Casavant and Steinway - Huw Lewis and Andrew Le	Hope College Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts
Tue Mar 1	Organ Recital - David Baskeyfield	Hope College Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts
Tue Mar 15, 7:30 p.m.	Posture at the Organ - Micah Vanderhill	14th St. CRC
Tue April 5	Organ Recital - Clive Driskill-Smith	Hope College Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts
Tue Apr 19	Kingston Harpsichord Recital - Greg Crowell	Hope College Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts

