

A Letter From the Dean

Dear Members,

It's past time that I sent this out and let you know what's in store for the program year, but I'm just a little behind on it all this year it seems. However, our board has met, and we have some great ideas in store for you all, we just need to nail down specifics.

There are many exciting organ-related events coming up this fall, including the dedication of the new organ at Grace Episcopal here in Holland, and events in conjunction with the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation taking place here in Holland. Our friend Bob Batastini is very involved in the committee that has planned these, so they are sure to be good! The Rietberg recital at Third Reformed will be played by Kevin Vaughn, an organist from Indiana, who I am excited to hear, who recently received his DMA from Notre Dame. And of course, our opening event is a Choral Evensong in Grand Rapids, with other area AGO chapters, which looks to be a wonderful service.

Coming up, you can expect to hear more about these chapter events –

- a session with Tony Monaco (Hope College), on the history of the Hammond organ, and an explanation of what exactly to do with those draw-knobs
- a session on the AGO Service Playing Exam with Huw Lewis who will lead us through the various skills and repertoire needed to pass the exam – useful not only for those who might be considering finally taking an exam (like me!), but because these are generally useful areas in which we can all stand to improve
- a session on Clergy-Musician relations (hopefully the beginning of a longer-running series) with local musician-clergy pairs who have noteworthy relationships. The first session will feature Steve Jenkins and Jen Adams from Grace Episcopal
- a session on Wedding Repertoire ideas – bring your favorites to play for one another, and we can all gather some new good ideas
- we'll try once again to have a holiday gathering in mid-January (weather permitting), and the Krafts have agreed to host our end of year spring potluck at their house
- of course, we'll look forward to hearing about the recitalists who will be featured this year at Hope College on both the Skinner in Dimnent chapel, and the new Casavant in the Jack Miller Center
- and if there's time and energy, there's always a members recital

Additionally, if you have not remembered, it may be time to renew your membership dues. As an embarrassing disclaimer, I didn't get around to this until I had gotten numerous emails, a paper letter, and a personal email from someone at national HQ, stating, "It is customary for chapter deans to have a current AGO membership. Can I help you with anything?" Whoops! So don't be like me, get your membership renewed in a timely manner.

Looking forward to seeing some of you soon at some of our local events. If you have something coming up, please let Paul or I know, and we'll be happy to get the word out. Maybe I'll even get around to updating the website this year! :)

Best wishes for a good fall,
Rhonda

Our Opening AGO Event is Coming up on Sunday! - A Note From Peter Kurdziel About the Evening:

Next Sunday, September 24th, we will gather with three other AGO chapters for a choral evensong at the Basilica of Saint Adalbert. The choir of St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit under the direction of Huw Lewis will sing for the service and our national AGO Chaplain, Don Saliers, will be the guest homilist. The West Michigan BrassWorks will also assist in the hymns and play an extended prelude. Following the service, we'll gather in the lower level of the basilica for our opening of the year banquet.

Huw Lewis is well known to all of us and needs no introduction. Although Don Saliers has a long and distinguished career, many of us know him primarily as the national AGO chaplain. If you haven't already, I would invite you to read his most recent column in the TAO entitled, "Secrets of Happiness." I firmly believe his insights on music and spirituality are just what the doctor ordered. I am so grateful it worked out with Don's busy schedule to be a part of this event.

The opening banquet will be \$15 per member and free for students under 30. Although the dinner is intended for our membership, I would encourage you to invite choir members and friends to the choral evensong. It's free and open to the public. Your executive board has worked hard to make the vision of a grand opening event a reality. We have one of the finest choirs in the state, a gifted homilist, and a fine meal. The last thing we need is YOU. We need an excellent turn out of our own members to offer a warm welcome to our colleagues from Holland, Muskegon-Lakeshore, and the Southwest Chapters.

A festive opening year banquet will follow. The cost of the banquet is \$15 per person and is waived for members under the age of 30. Dinner reservations should be made by Wednesday, September 20 prior to the meeting. You can make this reservation by emailing agodinner@grago.org or [616-456-9232](tel:616-456-9232).

Dates- (Those with a * are official chapter events)

Friday, September 22, 7:30pm – Trinity Lutheran Grand Rapids – Rhonda Edgington, with Julie Sooy flute and Greg Bassett french horn. (This is a repeat of the concert I played this summer at the AGO Regional in Youngstown, by special request of Larry Biser, in commemoration of the anniversary of the Letourneau organ at Trinity.)

Sunday, September 24, 3pm – Grace Notes – Grace Episcopal – Steve Jenkins and friends – Improvisation on the Pasi organ. Grace Music Director, Steve Jenkins, will be joined by Jordan VanHemert and Bill Bier on saxophone and Margaret Hawley-Lowry on violin. VanHemert is finishing his doctorate at the University of Illinois. Appropriately enough, the topic of his dissertation is teaching improvisation to students in grades 6-12. Bill Bier is director of instrumental music at East Grand Rapids Public Schools and has a distinguished performing career in Western Michigan. Margaret Hawley-Lowry is a sophomore at Grand Valley University. In addition, listeners will be given the opportunity to do some improvising themselves as well as join in singing a few hymns.

* Sunday, September 24 – 5pm – St. Adalbert GR, Choral Evensong with brass and organ, followed by dinner with other local AGO chapters (\$15, register by Wednesday). The meeting will start with a service of Choral Evensong and installation of officers presided by the Rev. Dr. Don Saliers, the chaplain of the

American Guild of Organists. The choir of St. John's Episcopal Church, Detroit, under the direction of Huw Lewis with the West Michigan Brassworks will lead the evensong.

Sunday, October 1, 7pm – Hope College, Jack Miller Center – Reformation Hymn festival – Peter Kurdziel and Bob Batastini.

* Wednesday, October 18, 7pm – Dedication of Grace Episcopal Holland Pasi organ (Steve Jenkins, Craig Cramer, Huw Lewis, Rhonda Edgington performing).

Sunday, October 29, 5pm – Community wide worship service (Reformation 500), Christ Memorial – John Witvliet preaching, with brass, choir, and organ.

Sunday, November 12 – 4pm – Rietberg Recital, Third Reformed – Kevin Vaughn (DMA from Notre Dame, Organ prof at Goshen College)

Music Resource Library

Please print and save the notice on the back page announcing the availability of a new library for organ and church music materials. Thanks to Rick VanOs!

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		
Sun, Sep 24, 3:00 p.m.	Steve Jenkins and Friends on the Martin Pasi organ	Grace Episcopal Church, Holland
Sun, Sep 24, 5:00 p.m.	Choral Evensong and Installation of West Michigan AGO Chapter Officers	Basilica of St. Adalbert, Grand Rapids
Sun, Oct 1, 7:00 p.m.	Reformation Hymn Festival - Peter Kurdziel and Robert Batastini	Jack Miller Center, Hope College, Holland
Wed, Oct 18, 7:00 p.m.	Dedication of the Martin Pasi organ	Grace Episcopal Church, Holland
Sun, Oct 29, 5:00 p.m.	Community-Wide Worship Service Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation	Christ Memorial Reformed Church, Holland
Sun, Nov 12, 4:00 p.m.	Annual Rietberg Recital - Kevin Vaughn	Third Reformed Church, Holland

MUSIC RESOURCE LIBRARY

First Reformed Church
630 State Street
Holland, Michigan 49423
Phone: (616) 392-8085

<http://firstreformedmusiclibrary.weebly.com/>

We are excited to announce the opening of a new Music Resource Library for area organists, directors of music, and students. It is located on the lower level of First Reformed Church at 630 State Street in Holland (Room L13) off the hall at the foot of the stairs. The library is open to the public during regular church hours (weekdays from 8:30 - 4:30) and whenever else the church is open. You are free to borrow any items from the library for as long as you would like. We just ask that you would write down your name, the date, and the item(s) you borrowed. When you return the item(s) just cross off that line.

The library includes the following items:

- Over 200 titles of organ music (see titles/composers at the Web-site above)
- Books about the organ (including brochures of individual organs and improvisation guides)
- About 100 different hymnals and hymnal supplements (including children's hymnals and old Dutch Psalters)
- Books of hymn stories and histories
- Biographies of composers
- Music dictionaries
- Music history books
- Back issues of *The American Organist* magazine
- Back issues of *The Diapason* magazine
- Older copies of *Reformed Worship* magazines
- Worship planning materials
- Books on sacred symbolism
- Single copies of choral music pieces
- Various editions of Handel's Messiah (including the G. Schirmer organ score)
- Organ scores for the Brahms, the Fauré, and the Durufle Requiems
- Books of musical scores and songs
- Many LP's (vinyl) of classical and church (organ/choir) music

We are hoping that this will be a useful addition to the community, and that you will stop by whenever you can and see what is available.

We would love to keep building the library up with more musical materials (including more organ pieces, CD's, DVD's and possibly musical instruments). If you would like to donate any items to the library, we would be happy to accept them. You may drop them off in the church office or leave them in the music library.

If you have any questions, please call Rick Van Oss at (616) 212-7272 or e-mail: rvanoss@hotmail.com

