

## **A Letter From the Dean**

Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to all who participated in our September presentation by composer Bernard Wayne Sanders, assisted by Rhonda Edgington, and to Hope Church for hosting us. The program and blueberry donuts were enjoyed by all, I believe.

Following the meeting, your board outlined the plans for the year. Input by some of our members guided us in determining the topics to be covered. We are excited about the year ahead, and hope you will want to be with us at every event.

The date for our October meeting had to be re-scheduled twice, so the third choice is coming up in a week. We will meet at First Reformed in Holland on Monday, October 10. Details follow.

On Saturday morning, the deans and representatives of all nine AGO chapters in Michigan had an annual meeting on zoom. This latest way of doing things surely saves on transportation, and I think we accomplished as much as an in-person meeting. I was happy to report that we had a successful year in '21-'22 with good attendance at all our meetings. The free membership for young organists resulted in quite a boost in membership in Michigan. Each chapter is encouraged to give another free year to all those who joined this year. Our chapter is ahead of the game, because we have been paying for memberships for students for quite some time.

There was a strong recommendation that each chapter should have not just a membership chairperson, but a membership committee. I have spoken to two people so far about this, and would welcome any volunteers. This committee would help by calling members monthly and recruiting new persons to join us. Also this committee could maintain contact with members who for one reason or another are unable to attend our meetings or members who have dropped off our list. I believe we have something to offer, not just in the way of inspiring and informative programs, but in mutual support. If you could join in this effort, please contact me by email, [juliamusicmaker@aol.com](mailto:juliamusicmaker@aol.com), or by cell , 269-225-7418.

Sunday afternoon was a beautiful trumpet and organ recital at Second Reformed in Zeeland. Our member Stephen Jenkins, was one of the composers featured. His setting of three spirituals was very impressive, and was masterfully performed by the Great Lakes Duo, Brian Reichenbach and Rhonda Edgington. The program closed with the stunning Fanfare for the Nations by Brenda Portman, who was featured in our November program last year.

Blessings to all,

Julia Colingsworth

Holland AGO Dean

## **Next Holland Chapter Meeting - A Review of Funeral Music**

On Monday October 10 at 6:00 p.m. we will meet at the First Reformed Church, 630 State St., for a potluck followed by a review of Funeral Music. Bring a dish to pass and one/two pieces that you like playing for funeral services. Plan to introduce and perhaps play. Also bring ideas to share.

Our host will be Rick Van Oss. Call him at 616-212-7272 if you are planning to play. Rick can set up practice times if you would like.

## **Saint Adalbert Inaugural Organ Event**

Basilica of Saint Adalbert organist Peter Kurdziel will highlight the grandeur and color of the newly restored organ with organ music by Bach (including “the Phantom of the Opera”) and Widor. He will also play variations on a Polish Hymn that is attributed to Saint Adalbert. The recital will be Tuesday October 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Adalbert, 654 Davis Avenue, N.W., Grand Rapids.

## **Bethany Dame Organ Recital October 9**

Holland chapter member Bethany Dame will present a recital at 3:00 p.m. Sunday October 9 at Central United Methodist Church, 1011 Second Street in Muskegon. This is part of the church's Vesper Series and is jointly sponsored by the Lakeshore-Muskegon chapter of the AGO as part of their Young Artist Series.

## **Upcoming Events at Grace Episcopal Church in Holland**

### **from Stephen Rumler**

On October 9 at 3:00 PM, we will host a choral concert featuring *Choral Connection*, which is a new professional choral ensemble based in Grand Rapids under the direction of Dr. Mark Webb. This ensemble consists of highly skilled singers, many of whom are veteran or retired singers from Grand Rapids Chamber Choir. The West Ottawa High School Vocalaires and Grace Episcopal Church Chamber Choir will also sing on the program. This is a free event with an opportunity to donate in a free will offering. The program – Hope, Healing and Renewal – will include works by Dan Forrest, Elaine Hagenberg, Stephen Paulus, Jake Runestad, and others.

On November 6 at 3:00 PM, we will host the Joy Huttar Memorial Organ Recital with Concert Artist Dr. David Hurd, Director of Music at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Manhattan.

Soli Deo Gloria!

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## **Grand Rapids Chapter AGOYO Recital at Westminster Presbyterian Church**

Six young organists (including current Holland Chapter member Alex Cross and former members John Deppe and Alexis VanZalen) will perform in recital on October 17 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The performers represent a diverse group of musicians studying and working in various denominations throughout West Michigan.

Organists Vincent Andrews, Alex Cross, John Deppe, Matthew Jakubisin, Jim Renfer, and Alexis VanZalen will offer a varied program of music on Westminster's 1937 Aeolian Skinner organ. Come celebrate the dedication of local young organists and enjoy their music in a historic downtown church.

The program begins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday October 17, 2022. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 47 Jefferson Ave SE in Grand Rapids. The parking lot and main entrance are off Jefferson Avenue, across from State Street.

### **Bernie Sanders Program - Report by Karen Howells**

The Holland Chapter of the AGO met at Hope Church on Saturday September 17 to meet and listen to music composed by Bernie Sanders. (No, not that Bernie Sanders.) It was a very interesting and enjoyable time.

Bernie Sanders has recently retired from being an organist and composer living in Germany and is a member of the AGO Chapter of Europe.

Some interesting information we learned from Bernie included:

- \*There are no electronic organs approved in Germany.
  - \*There is a high standard for organ builders in Europe with an organ building degree offered.
  - \*Organs built after WWII often used inferior material because that was what was available.
  - \*The Catholic Church of Germany has only one hymnal.
  - \*Hymnals for the Protestant and Catholic Churches attach an ecumenical symbol to songs sung by all congregations.
  - \*There is a "Church Tax" collected by the German tax system if one identifies as Catholic on the tax form. It is determined by one's income level, and amounts to about 7% and the State then gives the money to the church.
  - \*Paying the Church Tax then entitles one to certain services – weddings, baptisms, funerals.
  - \*There are three levels of church musicians:
    - Level A - those who have a Masters degree
    - Level B - those with a Bachelors degree
    - Level C includes part time musicians
- Each parish might have one full time musician (Levels A or B) with several part timers playing in the individual churches.

After talking with Bernie and asking him questions, Rhonda Edgington played several examples of Bernie's compositions. A recital of Mr. Sanders' music was then given on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **Notre Dame Graduate School Application Information - from Kola Owolabi**

We are now accepting applications to our graduate program in sacred music for the 2023-24 academic year. Students in this program pursue a two-year master's degree in Sacred Music (concentrations in organ performance, choral conducting and voice) or a three-year Doctor of Musical Arts (concentrations in organ performance or choral conducting). Students also work closely with faculty in musicology, liturgical studies and theology. Our programs are broadly ecumenical, while giving specific attention to Roman Catholic traditions and practice.

We are extremely excited about what is going on here. The MSM students in organ performance play two recitals and the DMA students play three, one of which is a lecture recital. The studio meets weekly for an organ performance class, and the students have many opportunities to perform on campus. Students also take a four-semester sequence in creative hymn playing and organ improvisation.

All students receive full-tuition scholarships, health insurance, and an assistantship that supplies a generous stipend. Typically, an MSM organ student on an assistantship works in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on campus, while DMA organ students are placed off campus in local churches. Our [Fritts organ and Reyes Organ Hall](#) are stunning. In addition, the [Fritts organ in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart](#) was dedicated in January 2017. With the opening of our music building, [O'Neill Hall](#), our practice organs have increased to six, and in total we now have [fifteen organs on campus](#). If you know of anyone who might be interested in applying, I am happy to hear from you. Alternatively, feel free to give the prospective student my email address and/or phone number. Our application deadline is December 15, 2022. Many thanks for your help, and all the best,

[Kola Owolabi](#)

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## **Georgia State University Organ Studies**

Application season is nearly here, and I am hoping that you all will share this information about our thriving organ program at Georgia State University in Atlanta with anyone seeking to apply for an undergraduate or graduate program in organ and any teachers in your chapter!

Undergraduate students are eligible for [full tuition scholarships](#), and graduate & certificate students receive [full tuition waivers and generous stipends](#) through our graduate assistantship program in collaboration with major Atlanta churches.

Since the program reopened in 2019, students have hailed from the US, Korea, Russia and the Bahamas. One of my grad students was a semi-finalist in the most recent NYACOP competition at the Seattle convention.

Students have access to and performance opportunities on the many outstanding and diverse instruments in the city of Atlanta.

Classes in service playing/improvisation and choral conducting are part of both the undergrad & graduate curricula, more information is available at <https://music.gsu.edu/organ-performance-2/>

Teachers, high school and college students are welcome to reach out to me with any questions they may have at [jkorndoerfer@gsu.edu](mailto:jkorndoerfer@gsu.edu) or 770-284-1119.

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| 2022-2023 Calendar         |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Mon Oct 10,<br>6:00 p.m.   | Music for Funerals (with potluck preceeding)                                | First Reformed Church,<br>Holland           |
| Mon Nov 14,<br>7:30 p.m.   | Music for organ with other instruments                                      | Location T.B.A.                             |
| Fri, Nov 18,<br>6:00 p.m.  | Alex Cross' Senior Recital  | Hope College Jack H. Miller<br>Concert Hall |
| Sun Nov 27,<br>3:00 p.m.   | Rick Van Oss' Annual Advent Concert, with<br>Handbells                      | First Reformed Church,<br>Holland           |
| Mon Jan 9,<br>6:00 p.m.    | Annual Epiphany party   | Location TBA                                |
| Late Feb 27,               | Hoping to schedule a master class with French<br>organist M. Frederic Blanc | Location, date, and time<br>T.B.A.          |
| Mon Mar 13,<br>7:30 p.m.   | Another Holland church organ crawl  | Starting church TBA                         |
| Sun April<br>16, 5:00 p.m. | Community Hymn Sing   | Location T.B.A.                             |
| Mon May<br>22, 7:30 p.m.   | Members' Recital  | Grace Episcopal Church,<br>Holland          |
| Mon Jun 19,<br>6:00 p.m.   | Annual potluck picnic   | Location T.B.A.                             |

## **Chapter Officers for 2021-2022**

Dean – Julia Colingsworth

Sub-Dean – Aaron Goodyke

Secretary - Karen Howells

Treasurer - Gordon Bruns

Board Member - Rick Van Oss

Student Board Member - Alex Cross

Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website – [hollandareaago.org](http://hollandareaago.org)