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Grand Rapids AGO
2007-2008

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THE CIPHER

The Monthly Newsletter of the Grand Rapids Chapter
American Guild of Organists

January 2008

From the Dean

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to 2008, The International Year of the Organ. Your chapter is beginning this festive year with an outstanding pair of events.

On Sunday evening, January 27, the Calvin College Music Department, at our request, will present Joachim Segger and Marnie Giesbrecht in a concert of music for organ and piano, and organ, four hands. This husband and wife team, called Duo Majoya, will perform in the college chapel on the Dobson organ and the Baldwin grand piano. The event begins at eight o'clock, and is open free of charge to the general public.



On Monday evening for us, Joachim and Marnie will explain and demonstrate their craft. The pair has made their own arrangements, commissioned new works, and discovered new and unusual repertoire for organ and piano. They have made several marvelous CDs, and were presented to great acclaim at the 2004 National Convention of the AGO in Los Angeles.

For Monday night, they wrote, "We would like to talk about how to combine organ with piano, give ideas on techniques, give examples from hymns and arrangements, and we can also do some hands-on trying things out if there is interest."

Marnie Giesbrecht is Professor of Music at the University of Alberta, where she teaches Organ Performance and Organ Literature. She holds degrees from the University of Alberta, the Eastman School of Music, and the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. She has performed in major cities and universities in Canada, the United States, South Africa, and Europe.

Joachim Segger is Professor of Music at the King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, the University of Alberta, and the Mozarteum. He has been a church organist since the age of nine, and has given workshops on

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improvisation at national conventions in the US and Canada.

Please promote these two events in your church and to your students. Both are free and open to the public. Later this week you will receive an electronic flyer on Duo Majoya. Please print and post as many copies as you can, and forward it electronically to contacts of yours who enjoy organ and piano music. We will also include a sample announcement that can be placed in your church bulletin.

Our Monday evening our dinner will be at the Calvin Seminary building (not the college chapel) on the South-East corner of the campus at Burton and the East Beltline. Please park in the Seminary lot nearest the North entrance to the Seminary building. At six thirty, we will gather in the Study Area upstairs in the main building of the seminary. From there, it is a very short walk to the college chapel for the program. You will be called for your reservation. If you are not called by January 23, please phone in your reservation to Errol Shewman, 456-9232. See you soon,



Howard Slenk, Dean

Calling all AGO Members: Please send the following bulletin announcement to your church secretary. Personal requests always help! Do your part to get out a good crowd to the Sunday night concert.

Sample Bulletin Announcement

Everyone is invited to a concert of duets for organ and piano music and organ four hands by Duo Majoya, a husband and wife team from Edmonton, Alberta. Marnie Giesbrecht and Joachim Segger will present this concert at the Calvin College Chapel, Sunday night, January 27, at 8:00 p.m.. The concert is free and open to the public.

Events of Interest

Music at Mid-Day on Tuesdays from 12:15-12:45 pm, at **Park Church**, 10 East Park Place NE.

Jan. 15 – Mark Loring, organ

Jan. 22 – Jeff Dwarshuis, guitar

Jan. 29 – Larry Visser, organ

Worship services at the annual **Calvin Symposium on Worship** on the campus of Calvin College and open to the public without charge:

Thursday/Friday, January 24/25 (identical services): 7:30 pm in the College Chapel: John Ferguson, will be playing the organ and Tom Trenney will be conducting a choir, including a performance of Ferguson's Magnificat. (Tom Trenney will be our guest in February.)

7:30 pm in the Fine Arts Center: Marty Haugen will lead a service of evening prayer using mostly his music. Pre-service music will feature choirs and ensembles from different countries each night.

Sunday, January 27, 5:00 pm, at the Woodlawn Christian Reformed Church (meeting in the Calvin College Chapel), a hymn festival featuring the hymns of Rae E. Whitney, the service will also include jazz led by pianist Ed Doemland.

Sunday night, January 27, 8:00 pm, at the Calvin College Chapel, Duo Majoya in concert, with artists Marnie Giesbrecht and Joachim Segger.

Advance Notice

Pipe Organ Encounter at Hope College, July 6-11, 2008

Congratulations to the Holland AGO Chapter, who will host the AGO Region V Pipe Organ Encounter (POE), July 6-11, 2008, at Hope College! Our thanks go especially to Elizabeth Claar, member of our chapter as well as Dean of the Holland Chapter, for spearheading this effort. POE events are for youth who are 13-18 years of age. Please consider young people you know who would benefit from POE and contact our Executive Committee with their names. For more information on this program, see www.agohq.org/education/indexoutreach.html.

GRAGO to host its first Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Our chapter will present a national program devised to introduce young people to the organ, called Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza. Several of our members and two college organ students will speak and play for interested attending high school students. The students will hear explanations and demonstrations, see the inside of a small organ, and have a chance to play a piano piece on a three-manual Dobson instrument. The principal purpose of the day is to help students learn about the pipe organ and how it functions.



The Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza event will be held at the Calvin College Chapel on Saturday morning, February 16, and will last from 10:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. If you have piano or organ students whom you feel would be interested in attending this introduction to the organ, please send their names, addresses, and telephone numbers to Cynthia Bristol

cbristol@grcc.edu (7268 Forsythia Ave., SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49506), and we will contact the students and their parents. There will be an enrollment fee of fifteen dollars to cover the cost of the supplies and the lunch. Please contact Cynthia by January 25; the deadline for registration and payment will be February 8.

The following guild members are involved in the presentation of this event: Irene Beethe, Cynthia Bristol, Norma deWaal Malefyt, Timothy Quist, Howard Slenk and Joel Vander Zee. We are hoping to have from twelve to sixteen participants, with as many GRAGO members present to interact with the students and answer questions. Please consider attending this event. Parents of the participants are also welcome.

Welcome to New Members

We've now reached 100! A warm welcome to:

95. Daniel Herman
96. Timothy Quist
97. Timothy Jansen
98. John Hemily
99. Don Haan
100. Bill Swem

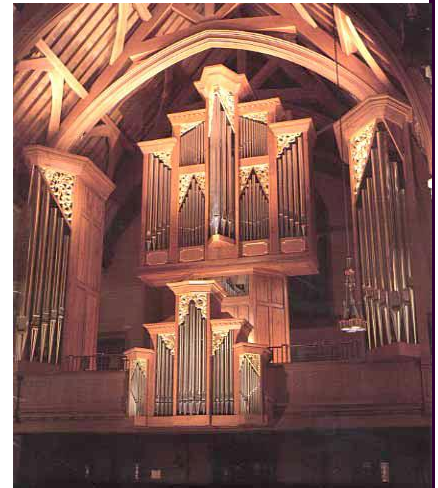
Let's keep going! Who could you invite to our January meeting?

Position Available

Fremont, Michigan. St. John's Episcopal Church is seeking an organist as their current organist is retiring at the end of this month. There is one service at 9:30 am on Sunday. Please contact their rector, The Rev. Duncan Johnston at 231-924-7120 or by email at djepisc@sbcglobal.net.

AGO National Convention

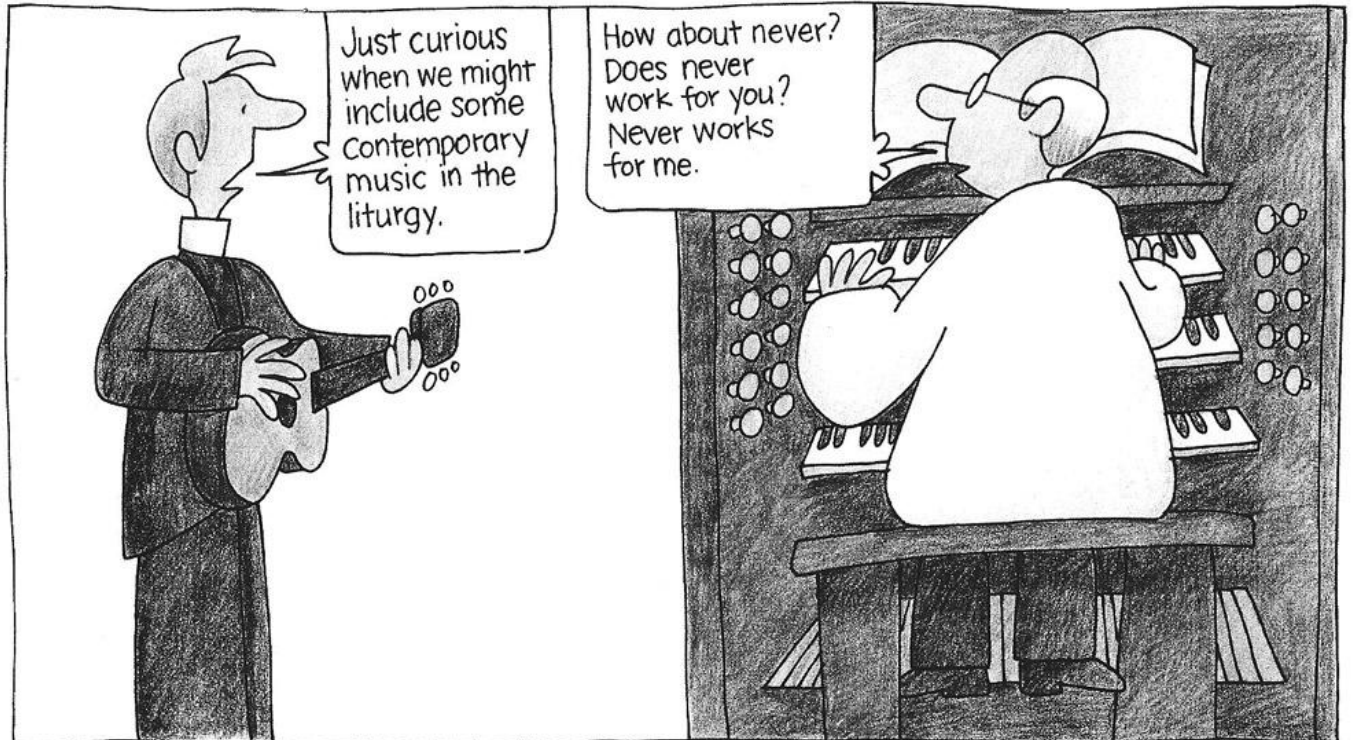
The Twin Cities Chapter of The American Guild of Organists (TCAGO) welcomes you to the 2008 AGO National Convention in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. This promises to be a very fine convention with a great lineup of organs and performers.



House of Hope Presbyterian Church

You have until **January 31** to register at reduced prices. Much more information is available on the convention website at <http://www.ago2008.org/>

You may register online at <http://www.ago2008.org/HTML/Registration/register.html>



www.cpg.org/cartoons/

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Upcoming AGO Programs

February 18, 2008

Tom Trenney from Birmingham, Michigan will present a workshop on improvisation at Immanuel Lutheran Church. (He is also appearing this month at the Calvin Symposium on Worship at the Calvin Chapel.)

There will not be a meeting in March as Easter is March 23 and most of us will be sufficiently occupied.

April 21, 2008

John Weaver will present a workshop for the guild on Monday evening. On Sunday the 20th, Dr. Weaver will be presented in concert by Mayflower Congregational Church.

May 19, 2008

We will close out the year with a gala banquet at the Peninsular Club in downtown Grand Rapids. More details will follow soon.

An Offer of Free Music

My name is Robert Farrell and I am creating a list of organists who would like to receive one of my Preludes each month as a PDF file. I do this absolutely free of charge. My reward is having my music played in a sacred setting. If you want to become a member of my "Prelude of the Month" program, just send me an email at farrell39@comcast.net and I will reply with a prelude around the 1st of each month. You can learn more about me by visiting my web site at www.rfarrell.net/free

More Free Music

Many of you may be aware of the Choral Public Domain Library at www.cpd.org. It is a valuable repository of thousands of public domain choral works available for free downloading and usage. Included are many classics of the choral repertoire.