



The Executive Committee of  
Grand Rapids AGO  
2008-2009

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# THE CIPHER

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

June 2008

## From the Dean's Desk

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The official close of the 2007/08 season of The American Guild of Organists will be at the end of this month: another successful GRAGO year is ending. The Executive Committee was thrilled to see so many members at our Chapter Challenge Banquet at The Pen Club last month. And we were proud to be able to announce that evening that our chapter has won the Member Challenge Competition for the second year in a row.

This letter includes news about next season's programs. Although the excellence of our programs this season will be difficult to surpass, you will probably agree that the 2008/09 roster of events is extremely attractive.

Our opening meeting is a combined Guild Service at Dimnent Memorial Chapel on the campus of Hope College in Holland. Four West Michigan Chapters will participate: Kalamazoo, Holland, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids. The four deans will meet this summer to plan the event, which will showcase Huw Lewis as organist and a choir of AGO members and friends. Transportation will be provided for those who need it.

We will continue our Michigan Composer of the Year program. Richard Stewart will oversee a concert of his choral and instrumental music at Trinity Lutheran Church on November 17.

Our other guest stars for the coming season are: Dame Gillian Weir at Mayflower Church, who will lead a masterclass; Steven Lange, who will play Dupre's *Stations of the Cross* at St. Adalbert's Basilica; Masaaki Suzuki, director of the internationally famous Bach Collegium of Japan, who will play a recital for us as part of the Grand Rapids Bach Festival; and Martin Neary at Park Church, formerly Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey.

Our February 2009 meeting will be our participation in the biennial AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists. This will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, with Irene Beethe as host and organizer. Members who are teaching talented young persons should consider entering them in this competition. The winner competes for the final prize at the regional convention in Detroit in the following summer.

I will be sending this letter again next week to all our members along with forms for renewing your AGO membership for next year. When you receive it, please respond promptly, and also think of others who should be members along with you! Send your registration to our Registrar and Membership Coordinator, Bob Houskamp, 1858 Menominee, SE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49506. Your Chapter Directory for 2008/09 will be distributed at the September meeting.

See you in September.

Howard Slenk, Dean, GRAGO



## Placements

### Organist/Music Director

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church & School is seeking an Organist/Music Director. St. Stanislaus is a parish in the Diocese of Kalamazoo of about 250 families. The parish has a school whose enrollment is approximately 90 students, with strongly supportive parents and parishioners. Dorr is a growing rural community, located 25 minutes South of Grand Rapids and 30 minutes North of Kalamazoo. Dorr is also close by the resorts of Gun Lake, and only 35 minutes from Michigan's beautiful "West Coast" on Lake Michigan.

The position is 1/2 to 3/4 time, depending on the candidate's willingness and ability to assume certain responsibilities with the school's music program. Depending on the candidate's qualifications, it may be possible to combine this position with other responsibilities to create a fulltime position.

Candidates should submit resumé, cover letter, and any supporting materials to:

Fr. Rob Johansen

St. Stanislaus Catholic Church

1871 136th Ave.

Dorr, MI 49323

(269) 793-7268

Materials may be sent via email to him at

[frrob@earthlink.net](mailto:frrob@earthlink.net).

### Music Director

Settlement Lutheran Church in Montcalm County is seeking a part-time Director of Music to lead traditional and contemporary services. Settlement Lutheran Church is in Gowen, MI, about 8 miles north of Greenville.

Call: 616-984-5557.

email: [linda13680@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linda13680@sbcglobal.net)

for details. Or send resume to:

Organist Search Committee

Settlement Lutheran Church

Attn: Linda Hansen

P.O. Box 6

Gowen, Michigan 49326

## Executive Committee for 2008-2009

Congratulations to members who were elected at our April meeting. Officers are Howard Slenk, Dean, Jim Metzger, Sub-Dean, Irene Beethe, Secretary, and Errol Shewman, Treasurer. Members-at-large are Joel Gary, Helen Hawley, and Jonathan Tuuk. They will begin their terms this summer, building on the excellent work of this past year's committee, who have made excellent plans for next year.

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## Awards to be presented at AGO Convention in Minneapolis

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NEW YORK CITY — The **American Guild of Organists** (AGO) will bestow its two highest awards of national distinction at its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 25, during the AGO National Convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. AGO President Frederick Swann will preside over the award ceremonies.

The **AGO PRESIDENT'S AWARD** will be presented to **Mr. and Mrs. Wesley C. Dudley** of Williamsburg, Va. The prestigious award, created in 1988, is presented biennially to recognize outstanding contributions to the art of the organ in the United States. The 2008 President's Award will recognize the Dudleys' dedicated support of the AGO and generous patronage of the King of Instruments, particularly through *Pipedreams* broadcasts, bringing the voice of the organ into American homes from coast to coast and beyond. Past recipients of the President's Award include: Clementine Miller Tangeman, Alice Tully, Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Hulings, Amelia Lay Hodges, J. Michael Barone, Roberta Bitgood, FAGO, CHM, Edward A. Hansen, AAGO (posthumously awarded), Anthony Baglivi, Craig R. Whitney, and Pleasant T. Rowland.

The **AGO EDWARD A. HANSEN LEADERSHIP AWARD** will be presented to **Marianne Webb** of Carbonale, Ill. Created by the AGO National Council in 1999 to honor the memory of the Guild's distinguished past president, Edward A. Hansen, AAGO, the prestigious award is presented biennially to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the AGO. The 2008 Edward A. Hansen Award will be presented in recognition of Miss Webb's stellar career as a concert artist and distinguished teacher, and in gratitude for her lifetime of leadership, devoted service, and extraordinary generosity to the AGO. Previous award recipients include: Karen McFarlane Holtkamp, Ruth M. Caswell, Joyce S. Hesketh, Betty Jean Bartholomew, and D. DeWitt Wasson, CHM.

## Events of Interest

### **Pillar Church Summer Recital Schedule**

Pillar Church, downtown Holland.

Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.:

June 4	Carrie Groenewold
June 11	Joan Ringerwole
June 18	Yoon Jung Yang
June 25	Peter Kurdziel
July 2	Marie Blaukamp
July 9	Chris Dekker
July 16	David Schout
July 23	Sean Daenzer
July 30	Joel VanderZee
August 6	Joy Schroeder
August 13	Brenda Portman
August 20	Huw Lewis
August 27	Janae Bosko

### **June 16-20, GR Symphony's first annual youth choral camp at Westminster Presbyterian Church**

(47 Jefferson Ave. SE). The Grand Rapids Symphony will hold its first annual youth choral camp for children ages 8 to high school; they will be singing under the direction of Pearl Shangkuan, Sean Ivory and Jackie Schoon. The camp will run from 9:00 to 3:00 and will include daily interest sessions and appearances by guest artists. Consider children in your own congregation who might be interested and encourage them to attend. For more information, contact the Grand Rapids Symphony office, 616/454-9451 ext. 128.

**June 16-20, Kid's Choir Camp, at Seventh Reformed Church** (950 Leonard St. NW). The choir camp is for children who have just completed grades 1-6, and runs from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon daily, ending with a Festival of Praise on Friday at 7:30. Limited to 120; registration deadline of June 13. For more information, call 616-459-4451.

### **June 22-26, AGO National Convention in Minneapolis/St. Paul.**

Inaugurating the International Year of the Organ and Featuring Premier Performances of New Organ and Choral Music. More than 2,000 are expected to attend with more than 1,500 already registered. While convention registration is open to all, AGO members receive a discounted registration rate. Convention headquarters will be the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel. Complete details, including convention and hotel reg-

istration, are available online at <[www.ago2008.org](http://www.ago2008.org)>.

### **July 6-11, Organ Recitals during the Holland Pipe Organ Encounter at Hope College.**

Sunday, 7/6--Huw Lewis, Organ Studio (not open to the public)

Monday, 7/7, 7:30 pm--Hope College Alumni, Dimment Chapel

Tuesday, 7/8, 7:30 pm--POE Faculty, Dimment Chapel

Thursday, 7/10, 7:30 pm--POE Faculty, Third Reformed Church, 111 W 13th St., Holland

Friday, 7/11--Student Recital (in the morning--time TBA)

All recitals are free and open to the public and will take place at Hope College, except as noted.

The POE faculty are Paul Barte, Gregory Crowell, Steven Egler, Donna Gatz, James Kibbie, Peter Kurdziel, Ann Labounsky, Huw Lewis, Marilyn Ossentjuk, Cherry Rhodes, Joan Ringerwole, Karl Schrock, and Linda Strouf.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Claar: 616-392-7172, [claare@hope.edu](mailto:claare@hope.edu)

**September 21-24, Church Music Symposium** at Camp Arcadia (located in Northwest Michigan on the shores of Lake Michigan). Lead interactively by three major thinkers about worship—pastor and liturgical scholar Robert Rimbo, composer and musicologist Carl Schalk, and poet and hymn writer Herbert Brokering—sessions will move from the setting, mission, ritual and community incorporated into worship, to the specifics of effective congregational song. For more information, visit [www.camp-arcadia.com](http://www.camp-arcadia.com) and click on the vacation page, then click on "Church Music Symposium" on the left hand side.

**October 19, 2008. The International Year of the Organ.** At the last meeting of our Executive Committee, they decided to participate, along with other AGO chapters throughout the country, in a celebration of The International Year of the Organ, that will include a grand spectacular event on October 19, 2008. We hope to pull out all the stops on this date (to coin a phrase). Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm has already signed a proclamation in tribute to the AGO as it celebrates "July 2008 through July 2009 as the International Year of the Organ. Stay tuned for more details, but put this date on your calendars now!