



The Executive Committee of  
Grand Rapids AGO  
2006-2007

#### Officers

Howard Slenk, *Dean*  
([HowardS@stmarksepisopalchurch.org](mailto:HowardS@stmarksepisopalchurch.org))

Lois Ripma, *Secretary*  
([lripma@netpenny.net](mailto:lripma@netpenny.net))

Errol Shewman, *Treasurer*  
([EShewman@hotmail.com](mailto:EShewman@hotmail.com))

#### Council Members at Large

Chris Dekker, 2007  
([christopher.dekker@hope.edu](mailto:christopher.dekker@hope.edu))

Criss De Vries, 2007  
([cdevries@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cdevries@sbcglobal.net))

Ronald Krebs, 2008  
([rkrebs@centralreformedchurch.org](mailto:rkrebs@centralreformedchurch.org))

Elaine Witt, 2008  
([elwitt94@earthlink.net](mailto:elwitt94@earthlink.net))

Dennis Buteyn, 2009, *Webmaster*  
([dibuteyn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dibuteyn@sbcglobal.net))

Cynthia Bristol, 2009  
([cbristol@grcc.edu](mailto:cbristol@grcc.edu))

#### Members Ex-Officio

Nancy Berger, *Pipelines Coordinator*  
([sailsing@netpenny.net](mailto:sailsing@netpenny.net))

Emily Brink, *Cipher Editor*  
([embrink@calvin.edu](mailto:embrink@calvin.edu))

William DeVries, *Chaplain*  
([billdv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billdv@sbcglobal.net))

Robert Houskamp,  
*Membership Coordinator*  
([bobjoan6387@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobjoan6387@sbcglobal.net))

Verlyn Schultz *Photographer*  
([vjsgm@aol.com](mailto:vjsgm@aol.com))

# THE CIPHER

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

November 2006

## From the Dean

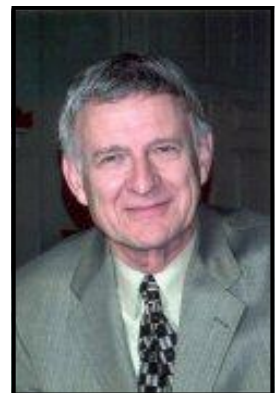
During its program planning last year, the Executive Committee of our chapter decided to initiate a Michigan Composer of the Year series by devoting one program per year to a composer of church music from our state. The first choice was Raymond Haan, a lifelong resident of Grand Rapids who has been composing music for church choirs, organists, and handbell choirs for most of his life. His music is performed widely in this country and also throughout the world.

Since 1960 Raymond Haan has served as organist and choir director at Cutlerville East Christian Reformed Church (That's 46 years!). He received musical training from Joseph L. Sullivan, organist at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Grand Rapids, and he is a graduate of Calvin College and the University of Michigan. Ray has published more than 500 compositions with twenty-four American firms. Though most of his music is for organ, choir, or handbells, he has also published solo music for trumpet, flute, viola, cello, and piano. As a member of ASCAP he has received twenty-six consecutive annual composer's awards. He lives in Cutlerville with his wife, Claretta, and has four married children and thirteen grandchildren.

On Monday evening, November 20, in Ray's home church (501 Sixty-Eighth St. S.E., Cutlerville, MI), our chapter will honor the accomplishments of our city's most widely-known composer. Three members of our chapter, Jill Betten, Larry Visser, and Norma de Waal Malefyt, will play several hymn-based organ compositions, some of them featuring other instruments. A twenty-voiced choir composed of choir members from several churches will perform five of his anthems. The Calvin College Bell Choir will play two of his bell compositions and accompany the choir on two anthems.

This is an evening of celebration and honor; spread the word and come with friends.

Howard Slenk, Dean



Howard Slenk

## November Meeting

### Michigan Composer of the Year: Raymond H. Haan

Place: Cutlerville East Christian Reformed Church  
501 68<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Cutlerville, Michigan

Date: Monday, November 20, 2006

Time: 6:30 Punch, 7:00 Dinner, 8:00 Program. As usual, call in dinner reservations to Errol Shewman (456-9232) by Wednesday.



**Raymond H. Haan**  
Composer of the Year

Assignment: invite others to join us for the program, or even for the whole evening. It should be a festive event! One way is to place an announcement in your church bulletin or school or business newsletter. Here is a sample announcement:

#### An Evening Honoring Ray Haan

#### Michigan Composer of the Year

Everyone is invited to an evening of church organ, choral, and handbell music composed by Ray Haan, who is being honored as "Michigan Composer of the Year" on Monday, November 20, at 8:00, at the Cutlerville East CRC, 501 68<sup>th</sup> St. SE. Several organists, a 20-voiced choir from different churches, and the Calvin College Bell Choir will participate. Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

## Upcoming Meetings for 2007

(For pictures and comments on our September and October meetings, see <http://www.grago.org/chapter/programs.shtml>)

- |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday, January 15</b>         | Workshop on Articulation at the organ with Janette Fishell at First United Methodist Church (Mark Loring, host)                                                       |
| <b>Monday, February 19</b>        | David Cherwien at LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church (Larry Visser, host)                                                                                       |
| <b>Monday, March 19</b><br>[NEW!] | AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists at Park Congregational Church (Jim Metzler, host)                                                                 |
| <b>Monday, April 16</b>           | Paul Jacobs at Trinity Lutheran Church, in a joint concert with the St. Cecilia Bach Chorale (co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Bach Festival) (Elizabeth Claar, host) |

## 2007 AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists

The Grand Rapids Chapter is pleased to offer the AGO/Quimby organ playing competition for young organists. The competition is made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, president of Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc. The purpose of the competition is to encourage younger organists to pursue excellence, to gain performance experience, and to receive recognition for their efforts.

Our Grand Rapids Chapter has added a March 19, 2007 event to our schedule to listen to what we hope will be several area participants in this national competition. Here are the details:

- Entrants must be under 23 years of age as of August 1, 2007.
- Competitors must compete only in the AGO region of their school or home. Membership in the AGO is not required.
- The Grand Rapids Chapter Competition will be held at Park Congregational Church, 10 East Park Place NE in downtown Grand Rapids on Monday evening, March 19, 2007.
- Official registration form and rules were published in the April 2006 issue of *The American Organist* (p. 108). They may also be downloaded at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org) under the Competitions section. There is a \$25 registration fee, and competitor's application must be postmarked no later than January 16, 2007.
- The winner from our chapter will then perform at the Regional Competition in Columbus, Ohio next summer.
- The winner of the Region V competition will be invited to perform, along with the winners of the other regional competitions, at the National Convention in Minneapolis in 2008.
- To register, or for additional information, please contact Jim Metzler, Organist & Director of Music, Park Congregational Church, 10 East Park Place NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Tel: 616.459.3203, ext. 29. email: [jmetzler@parkchurchgr.org](mailto:jmetzler@parkchurchgr.org)
- Please start thinking now about how to encourage young organists in our area to register! Our chapter will pay for the registration fee of all those who enter with a recommendation from their organ teacher, and will also pay \$500 to the winner of our local competition.

### Other Events of Interest for November

**Sunday, Nov. 5 at 4pm, Second Congregational UCC** celebrates the 7th birthday of their Reuter organ with a recital by Music Director **Joel VanderZee**. The program will include Bach's Toccata, Adagio and Fugue, Franck's Chorale in B minor, and the "Final" from Vierne's Organ Symphony No. 1. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Music Projects Fund.

**Sunday, Nov. 5 at 4 p.m., Janet Hill** in recital at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Kalamazoo, including Preston *Alleluias*, Franck *Cantabile*, Burkhardt *Balboa Suite*, and the Adagio and finale from Vierne's *First Organ Symphony*. Free.

**Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 p.m., Music of William Grant Still**, eminent African-American composer, at a free concert at East Congregational Church, including *And They Lynched Him on a Tree*, *Wailing Woman* for chorus and woodwinds, Sonata for Piano and Oboe, and two organ compositions. Performed by the Chancel Choir and soloists, Westwinds, and Larry G. Biser, Conductor and Organist.

**"City and Jungle Baroque, Sunday, November 19, 3 p.m., Cathedral of St. Andrew, Grand Rapids Cantata Choir, with orchestra and soloists, conducted by Suzanne Tiemstra.** Music from London, England: Handel's "O Praise the Lord with One Consent" (Chandos Anthem #9); Venice, Italy: Antonio Vivaldi's "Magnificat," and from Jesuit missions in Bolivia by indigenous composers and priest Domenico Zipoli.

Tickets: Adult \$15, Seniors (65) \$13, Students \$12, Family \$30. For more information, see [www.grcantatachoir.org](http://www.grcantatachoir.org) or call the Choir Office at 616-575-SING.

**Sing...of Christmas, Sat. Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m., Sun. Nov. 26, 3 p.m. The Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids, Larry Biser, Conductor, Jonathan Tuuk, Organist at the Basilica of St. Adalbert** (Corner of Fourth and Davis)

A pre-advent start to your Christmas season, with carols sung by the choir and also with audience participation. General Admission \$18.00; Seniors \$15.00, Students \$5.00; or present this *CIPHER* article at the door for special AGO special prices of \$15 (General Admission) or \$10 (for Seniors).

## Position Available

Faith Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids is searching for a talented and flexible individual to serve as organist. The position requires playing at two Sunday morning worship services and accompanying the sanctuary choir in rehearsal and worship. The organist must work effectively with the Director of Music. This part-time position also requires a flexible schedule for playing at weddings and funerals. We offer competitive salary and benefits. Please send a resume to Claudia Zimmerman, Organist Search Committee Chair, c/o Faith Lutheran Church, 2740 Fuller Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49505 and/or call 616-696-2878.

## Musical Definitions

- . Obligato - being forced to practice
- . Lento - the days leading up to Easto
- . Piu Animato - clean out the cat's litter box
- . Con Spirito - drunk again
- . Colla Voce - this shirt is so tight I can't sing
- . Improvisation - what you do when the music falls down
- . Prelude - warm-up before the clever stuff
- . Chords - things organists play with one finger
- . Discords - thing that organists play with two fingers
- . Suspended Chords - useful for lynching the vocalist
- . Time Signatures - things for drummers to ignore
- . Melody - an ancient, new almost extinct art in songwriting
- . Klavierstück - A term used by German furniture movers attempting to get a piano through a narrow doorway.
- . Music Stand - An intricate device used to hold music. Comes in two sizes- too high or too low - always broken.
- . Tonic - A medicinal drink consumed in great quantity before a performance, and in greater quantity afterwards.
- . Dominant - What parents must be if they expect their children to practice.
- . Soto Voce - singing while drunk
- . Agogic - playing high enough on an oboe to make the eyes bulge.
- . Prima Volta - jump start with a battery
- . Refrain - proper technique for playing bagpipes
- . Smorzando - with melted chocolate and marshmallow

## THE CIPHER

Dennis L. Buteyn  
2257 Edington Dr. S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508



Check out our website at [www.grago.org](http://www.grago.org)