



The Executive Committee of
Grand Rapids AGO
2012-2013

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THE CIPHER

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

January 2013

From the Dean

Dear Members of the Grand Rapids Chapter of the AGO:

I hope you all had a successful and Merry Christmas as I did. I know all the Grand Rapids organ benches were well warmed this Christmas!

I wanted to take a moment at the end of 2012 and tell you of a wonderful gift made to the Grand Rapids Chapter this month. Richard Rotman, a longtime member of our chapter, has given the chapter an endowment, the proceeds of which are to be designated to underwrite awards for a Young Organists' Competition. The fund, which will be called the Annamae Rotman Young Artists Organ Competition Fund, was set in place after the Executive Committee of the Council met with Richard and members of the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

In the next month the entire Council will meet with staff of the foundation to make a final determination if the Grand Rapids Foundation or our Chapter will manage both the Annamae Rotman Fund as well as the present GRAGO Outreach Fund (profits from the 2005 Regional Convention that has been invested in the money market).

This current gift by Richard is a great investment in the future of Grand Rapids' organists. We all want to thank Richard for his generous gift in honor of his mother.

I was so excited by this gift that I couldn't wait until the January meeting to share the news with you. Perhaps by that time I will be able to give you the decision on our status with the Grand Rapids Community Foundation.

Please remember the next meeting on Sunday, January 20 at 3:00 at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Several of our members and their students will be playing on the Members Program. Members playing on this program will be Nicholas Palmer, Christopher Dekker, Kit Ying Law, Jonathan Tuuk, Gregory Crowell, as well as Rebecca Hoeksema, a student of Norma de Waal Malefyt at Calvin College, Mikela Bradley a high school student of Elizabeth Claar and Michael A. Adams, a student of Larry Biser at Aquinas College. Please plan to attend and pass the word along.

Happy New Year!

Larry Biser



January Meeting

This month is a special event for the Grand Rapids Chapter of AGO. We are presenting a program for the whole community at The Cathedral of St. Andrew, located at 301 Sheldon Blvd. S.E. On Sunday, January 20th at 3:00 p.m.

Members of our chapter as well as a number of students of members will be playing a wide variety of music. The performers include Gregory Crowell, Christopher Dekker, Kit Ying Law, Nicholas Palmer and Jonathan Tuuk. In addition Rebecca Hoeksema, a student of Norma de Waal Malefyt, Mikela Bradley a high school student of Elizabeth Claar and Michael A. Adams, a student of Larry Biser will also perform.

As this is a special concert we will not be having dinner this month so you will not be called for a reservation. Please copy the announcement in the next column and post it in your church bulletins and to anyone you can invite.

Download, print and post this poster [POSTER](#)

MUSIC AT MID-DAY

Park Congregational Church. 10 East Park Place. Concerts on Tuesdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. Cost: **FREE**. Lunch served from 11:15 am – 1:30 p.m. for \$5.00. Homemade Soup, Salad Bar, Bread, Beverage and Cookie.

Jan. 8th - Peter Kurdziel, organ
Jan. 15th - Fitah Rasendrasahasina, tenor
Jan. 22nd - Aquinas College Chamber Choir, Larry Biser, conductor; Mary Hurd & Todd Wilkie, pianists
Jan. 29th - Joel Gary, organ

Free Organ Concert

Sunday, January 20, 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, 301 Sheldon Blvd. S.E., Grand Rapids. Members and students of the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents a concert of varied music of interest to young and old alike. Come join us for a fun afternoon of music at the Cathedral. No admission charge.

GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER AGO TREASURER'S REPORT October 22 – November 19, 2012

	Revenues	Expenses	Balance
Beginning Checkbook Balance			\$6,872.21
REVENUES			
October Dinner	405.00		
Total Revenues	405.00		
EXPENSES			
Oct Dinner (Cutting In)		(450.00)	
Oct Punch Bowl (Lois Ripma)		(12.68)	
Oct Program Custodial Fee (East Congregational Ch)		(300.00)	
Oct Program/Dongho Lee (Karen McFarlane Artists)		(200.00)	
Young Artist Recital/Dongho Lee (Karen McFarlane Artists)		(1,800.00)	
Young Artist Recital & Oct Program Food Expenses (Larry Biser, Joel Gary)		(189.19)	
Pipelines Video (KVO Communications Inc.)		(1,113.00)	
Total Expenses		(4064.87)	
Ending Checkbook Balance			\$3,212.34

Savings Account (10/31/12): \$3,225.31
Young Artist's Recital Fund (10/31/12): \$100.00
Endowment Fund (11/16/12): \$42,306.46

Dear GR AGO Board,

Words cannot express my thanks for the scholarship, which I received for covering a portion of the cost of my tuition at Interlochen Arts Academy. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me as an organist, and your generosity has helped make it possible. I am experiencing a world-class artistic and academic education just a short two-hour drive from our fine city. I think it is very fitting that the organ culture in Grand Rapids is a fine example to the organ students at Interlochen.



Forgive me in sending this letter so late, but I thought it would be appropriate to supplement my thanks with an update on how I am doing at Interlochen so that you would be able to see that your scholarship indeed has been put to good, educational use. I currently have four artistic and three academic classes. I am taking Music Theory III, Aural Skills, Academy Choir, and Organ Majors Class. In addition to these daily classes I have my weekly private organ lesson with Mr. Thomas Bara (formerly Assistant Organist at St. Thomas Church in New York City) and private piano lesson with Mr. Evan Kory (currently a doctoral student at the Manhattan School of Music). My academic classes consist of British Literature, International Relations and Advanced Placement Statistics. Of course I have allotted hours of the day when I can practise both organ and piano.

This place is so alive with the sounds and energy of all art forms, the very air here is electric with creativity and passion. I have made friends from Peru, South Korea, Mexico, China, and Macedonia as well as from other states. I hope you will have a chance to visit and hear the wonderful musicians here. I feel very much at home and am having a blast. Thank you for being so encouraging and supportive. Without this organisation I would not be where I am today. This is a very appropriate way to end my high school career surrounded by those who are just as equally passionate as I am, thank you for helping make this possible for me.

With Deep Appreciation,

David Heinze

Our Dean, Larry Biser, has completed work on a book about his teacher, Joan Lippincott. This book will be unveiled at the Organ Historical Society Convention in Vermont this summer. Congratulations, Larry!



JOAN LIPPINCOTT

The Gift of Music

Christmas of 1935 gave the world a musical gift that keeps on giving! Joan Hult Lippincott, that Christmas baby, grew into a multifaceted musician, a master teacher, a skilled administrator, and a remarkable recitalist, who, although blessed with many abilities, has never grown weary of learning and expanding the scope of her talents.

At the age of 31, she was named head of the organ department at Westminster Choir College, at the time the largest organ department in the world. After teaching hundreds of students and playing nearly 600 recitals around the world, this amazing woman is still searching for new truths, setting new goals, and sharing her enthusiasm for the King of Instruments.

The Gift of Music details Lippincott's life, career, and influence. In addition to a biography by compiler and editor Larry Biser, thirteen former students, as well as eleven friends and colleagues, have contributed essays. The book is profusely illustrated with photos and examples of her programs and recitals. A comprehensive list of her recitals to date, a complete discography, as well as organ stoplists important to Dr. Lippincott are included.

Contributors to this volume include former students: Larry Biser, James Hejduk, Tim Zimmerman, Clarence Cloak, Roger Lakins, Harold Pysner, Timothy Hall, Daniel Beckwith, Jack Mohlenhoff, Brad Hughly, Scott Dettra, Lynn Edwards Butler, and Marty Waters. Colleagues who are represented include: Craig Cramer, George Dickey, Lee Ridgway, Mark Brombaugh, Joseph Flummerfelt, Karen McFarlane Holtkamp, Robin Leaver, Penna Rose, Sue Anne Steffey Morrow, Robert Carwithen, and Barbara Owen, with a forward by Quentin Faulkner.

“The organ world will never be quite the same again...”

December 2012

Gillian Weir played her final public recital to a capacity audience in Westminster Cathedral on December 5th, bowing out to tumultuous applause and a prolonged standing ovation. In *The Sunday Telegraph* the following week, the famous critic John Allison wrote: *Weir has played her last in public, and the organ world will never be quite the same again.* You may read the whole article at gillianweir.com.

