

November 2014

The Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents...

# THE CIPHER

## LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2015

(Guest Editorial by Emily R. Brink)

Mark Your Calendars  
for the  
November Program  
on  
Friday, November 28  
(see page 3)

This editorial comes as a heads-up and an invitation to events in January and February. As you may already have in your calendar, Dr. Eileen Guenther, immediate past president (for three terms) of the AGO, will speak at our AGO Chapter on Monday night, Feb. 2. She'll be in Grand Rapids because of her participation the previous week at the annual Worship Symposium of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. If you'd like to hear her play, consider registering for Symposium. All details can be found at <http://worship.calvin.edu/symposium/>. Here is information to whet your appetite:

The Symposium on Worship regularly draws around 1600 people from 20+ countries and widely ranging worship traditions, with more than 70 presenters and 80 sessions on every aspect of worship, including preaching, music, dance, and the visual arts. GR hotels are happy, but you would get to commute.

Dates are Thursday-Saturday, January 29-31, 2015 at Calvin College and Seminary. Registration is possible by the day, and costs vary if you come with three or more from your church or institution; costs are very low if you come with a school-age piano or organ student.

Worship begins and ends each day (8:30am and 7:00pm), and several additional vesper services are held from 4:15-5:00pm at several venues on campus. All worship services are free and open to the public.

Eileen Guenther will be involved in the following sessions and worship services:

\*Organist for the worship Service on Thursday, 8:30am, repeated at 7:00pm. in the college chapel.

\*Leading Vespers: "Singing the Story: Hymns for Holy Week" Thursday, repeated Friday, in the college chapel.

\*Workshop A1: "The Treasure of African American Worship Traditions: Insights and Wisdom for Churches in Every Cultural Context" (a conversation with several other distinguished presenters, Friday only).

*(continued on page 2)*



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\*Workshop B3: “Worship and Discipleship: Unresolved Questions in Contemporary Ministry” (again, a conversation with several other distinguished leaders, Saturday only).

\*Workshop C17: “The Power of Spirituals” (Dr. Guenther has a forthcoming book on spirituals.).

Here are a few other workshops that might be of interest to organists and choir directors:

\*Thursday Seminar 3: Seven Streams of 21st Century Congregational Song: Skills for Leading the People's Song in a Musically Multilingual World (10:15am-3:30pm), with Lead Presenter C. Michael Hawn, plus James Abbington, William Heard, Jorge Lockward, Emmett Price and the Hampton Church Academy alumni, Martin Tel, and the Princeton Seminary Choir

\*Using Hymnary.org's FlexScores to Include Instruments in Worship (Thursday, 6:00-6:50pm)  
Harry Plantinga and Greg Scheer, Many church music directors don't always have the time or skill to arrange and transpose music for them. Hymnary.org's new FlexScore feature allows directors to quickly and cheaply print off music for instruments in different keys.

\*B5: Seven Streams: Negotiating the Widening River of Congregational Song (Friday, repeated Saturday) Emily Brink. We'll explore both Glory to God (Presbyterian) and Lift Up Your Hearts (Reformed), both published in 2013, for how they included many newer streams of congregational song that have joined the traditional hymn.

\*B23: "Psalms for All Seasons" as a Resource for Choirs (Friday only)  
Martin Tel, from Princeton Seminary, and chief editor of this new psalm collection..

\*C15: Accompanying in the Gospel Style with Organ and Piano (Friday only)  
Michael Gittens, an accompanist, arranger, and musical director on several gospel recordings. He is director of music at Kaighn Avenue Baptist Church, Camden, NJ.

There is much more! Enjoy exploring the riches on the website, and I hope to see many of you at Symposium.

Emily R. Brink  
Secretary of the AGO Grand Rapids Chapter  
Staff Member at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

## GRAGO PRESENTS A RISING STAR



### Nicholas Quardokus – Our Young Organist for 2014

In Concert on Friday, November 28

Mayflower Congregational Church

7:30 p.m.

Nicholas Quardokus is currently an undergraduate student at The Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, studying organ with Janette Fishell. He also serves as Assistant Organist at Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis. He is a recipient of the most prestigious undergraduate music scholarship at Indiana University, the Barbara and David Jacobs Scholarship. Before attending the Jacobs School, he studied organ in his native Michigan with Mark Steffens and Philip Peter, and piano with Lydie Regazzi. Nicholas has garnered top prizes in competitions around the country, most recently winning the first-prize and the hymn prize at the Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition in Wethersfield, Connecticut.

In 2013 Nicholas took first-prize in the final round of the AGO's Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists in Region V, held in Kalamazoo. Solo performances have included recitals throughout the Midwest, as well as at Central Synagogue, New York City, the AGO Region V Convention in 2013, and a "Rising Star" recital at the AGO National Convention in Boston this summer.

Members of our chapter who were present at the Quimby Competition in Kalamazoo were deeply impressed with Nicholas's accurate and sensitive performance. Especially memorable was the expressive way he played Joseph Jongen's *Priere*. Because this piece and two others of Jongen's *Quatre Pieces* are within the technical grasp of high school and college organ students, we have asked Nicholas to include all four in his program.

**BE SURE TO INVITE FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND HIGH SCHOOL  
OR COLLEGE ORGANISTS  
TO HEAR THIS OUTSTANDING YOUNG ARTIST**

### PLEASE NOTE:

The Jongen workshop scheduled for Saturday morning,  
November 29, has been cancelled.

## GRAND RAPIDS ORGAN & HOME LOOKING FOR LOVING OWNERS

Dear friends and officers of the Grand Rapids AGO Chapter,

This came across my Facebook feed last night and I was alerted to it by several friends, wondering if there might be something we could do to save this organ, worth a substantial amount, according to the video, from being sold with the house for \$129,000.

I have spoken with John Walker, AGO President, James Thomashower, Executive Director of the AGO and Mary Stutz, Secretary of the AGO National Council and Councillor for Communications, to see what avenues we might explore in order to avoid having this instrument end up on a junk heap.

Having lived in Grand Rapids and gone to Calvin College, I thought immediately of your Chapter, and wondered if you were aware of this. We're also contacting the OHS and the Organ Clearing House.

It may very well be that you know about this already and have taken some action. If not, please let us know if there's anything the GR chapter might be able to do. The National Council of the AGO would love to see this go to a church or school who could benefit from it.

We have received word from the National Office that "Our records indicate that the former owner of the home, the late Bill Tufts, was a Special member of the Grand Rapids Chapter from 2007-2009."

<http://www.wzzm13.com/story/news/local/grand-rapids-west/2014/10/29/grand-rapids-home-for-sale-has-hidden-2300-piece-pipe-organ/18138339/>

Thank you for checking this out and seeing if there's any interest in your chapter for helping rescue this organ.

All best wishes from me and from the National Council.

Michael Velting, D.M.A.  
Canon for Music  
Christ Church Cathedral

Councillor for Conventions  
The American Guild of Organists





# American Guild of Organists

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND THE AMERICAN ORGANIST MAGAZINE

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October 20, 2014

Dear Colleague,

The 2016 AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation is now in progress:

<http://www.agohq.org/performance-competitions/ncoi/>.

The competition calls for a semi-final round to be held in conjunction with the 2015 AGO Southeast Regional Convention in Charlotte, N.C.; the final round will be held in conjunction with the 2016 AGO National Convention in Houston.

The rules for the 2016 competition have evolved from past competition cycles. These new procedures encourage a performer's improvisational exploration in different techniques, while also allowing time for acquiring fluency in techniques and styles. We are excited by the new rules and requirements and hope that, if desired, they could be integrated with the course work and development of young organists—either in school or those actively engaged in organ study.

Please share this e-mail with your colleagues and students. The deadline to apply is December 1, 2014; the preliminary recorded round recordings are to be produced in January 2015. For further information, please call 212-870-2310 or e-mail [info@agohq.org](mailto:info@agohq.org).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christian Lane".

Christian Lane  
Vice President/Councillor for Competitions and New Music  
American Guild of Organists

<http://cathedralmusic.weebly.com/cathedral-concerts.html>

CATHEDRAL CONCERTS



## AUTUMN CONCERT

October 30—7:00pm Service in the Cathedral  
Choirs of Catholic Central High School  
Dennis Rybicki, conductor  
Admission is free, donations are accepted at the door.

## REQUIEM—JOHN RUTTER

November 1—7:00pm Service in the Cathedral  
Diocesan Choir  
Dennis Rybicki, conductor  
Our annual All Souls Day sacred concert  
Admission is free, donations are accepted at the door.



## MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE

November 7 and 8—7:00pm Performances in the Cathedral  
Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys  
Dr. Martin Neary, guest conductor  
The GRCMB marks the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy.  
Admission is free, donations accepted during the concert.

## SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

November 28—7:30PM and November 30—3PM  
Chamber Choir of Grand Rapids  
New Horizons Ensemble  
Mark Webb, director  
A beautiful 30-year tradition of welcoming the season  
Tickets: \$20/\$15/\$10



## LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 13, 19—7PM  
December 14—3PM  
Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys  
Scott Bosscher, director  
Traditional Anglican-style lessons and carols  
explore the mysteries of the season in scripture and music.  
Admission is free, donations accepted during the concert.

## MAJESTIC BRASS CHRISTMAS

December 23—7PM  
Grand Rapids Majestic Brass  
Erich Peterson, artistic director  
The last "don't miss" concert of the season,  
a celebration of Christmas joy in carols and other festive music  
Admission is free, donations accepted at the door.



UPCOMING CONCERTS in 2015  
March 20/21—8PM—Bach *Mass in B minor*  
Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra and Chorus; David Lockington, conductor  
March 27/28—7PM—Meditations on the Passion of Christ  
Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys; Scott Bosscher, conductor  
May 3—3PM—Spring Concert  
Calvin Alumni Choir; Pearl Shangkuan, conductor  
May 16—7PM—Puccini *Suor Angelica*  
West Michigan Opera Project; Henry Duitman, conductor  
May 29/30—7PM—Spring Concert  
Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys; Scott Bosscher, director



CATHEDRAL  
OF SAINT ANDREW

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The Executive Committee of the  
Grand Rapids AGO  
2014–2015

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*The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members. Members of the American Guild of Organists are bound by the Code of Ethics and guided by the Code of Standards.*

## ADVERTISING IN THE CIPHER

If you would like to advertise an event in the CIPHER, please send it Michael Adams (madams@jp2cedarsprings.org). The CIPHER is published monthly around the beginning of the month. If you have photos you would like to include please send them as well as they would be most appreciated.

*Thank you!*

## UPCOMING GRAGO PROGRAMS

Wednesday, November 5, 2014—Pipelines

*Each November, fourth-graders from a different quadrant of our greater Grand Rapids area are invited to this entertaining and informative presentation by many fine area organists performing on the five-manual, 81-rank, organ at Central Reformed Church. This program is underwritten by the Anne Heyboer Vander Heide Fund of the Grand Rapids Foundation.*

Friday, November 28, 2014—Young Artist Concert

*Nicholas Quardokus, the winner of the 2013 Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists for Region V of the AGO will present this program.*

There is no meeting in December so as to allow time for members to celebrate the holiday season with their family and friends.

*Look for more exciting programs in the GRAGO Chapter Directory!*