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Grand Rapids AGO
2016-2017**

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THE CIPHER

January 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I want to call your attention to the recital and masterclass with Peter Sykes and the Calvin Symposium that are coming up this month. Information on both of these events can be found in this edition of our newsletter. In addition to attending, I would encourage you to take an active role in helping to promote these important events. I was able to attend several events and the Calvin Symposium for the first time last year. I found them fulfilling in any number of ways. What a blessing that all of it happens right here in our own city.

See you on the 14th!

Peter Kurdziel, Dean



It is important that our members support the programs of the local chapter. Much thought and energy (as well as dollars) have gone into preparing programming for the year.

Please advertise these events to your churches and encourage folks to attend these concerts of noted nationally known artists.

January AGO Chapter Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church

1815 Hall Street S.E

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Recital featuring organist Peter Sykes.

Monday, January 15, 2018

6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Program

Grace Episcopal Church

1815 Hall Street S.E

Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Masterclass with organist Peter Sykes.



The cost for dinner is \$15 and to encourage attendance by younger members the board has underwritten the cost of meals for all AGO members and guests under the age of 30. The cost of these meals will come from a dedicated fund that has been recently established for this purpose.

The program portion of the meeting follows at 8:00 p.m. and all programs are open to the public. On occasion free-will offerings will be accepted at the conclusion of some evening programs.

Dinner reservations are requested by the Wednesday previous to the meeting and members will be called by the Executive Council. You may also make your reservation by emailing agodinner@grago.org or calling our Treasurer, Errol Shewman at 456-9232.

Peter Sykes Bio

Peter Sykes is one of the most distinguished and versatile keyboard artists performing today. His playing has variously been called “compelling and moving,” “magnificent and revelatory,” and “bold, imaginative, and amazingly accurate.” He has appeared in recital for the American Guild of Organists, the Southeastern Historical Keyboard Society, the Organ Historical Society, American Institute of Organbuilders, International Society of Organbuilders, at the Library of Congress, Boston Early Music Festival, Aston Magna Festival, New England Bach Festival, Portland Chamber Music Festival, New Hampshire Music Festival, and with Ensemble Project Ars Nova, The King’s Noyse, Musica Antiqua Köln, Blue Heron, and throughout the United States, including an appearance in Boston’s Jordan Hall as a featured soloist in the Bank of Boston Emerging Artists Celebrity Series. He is frequently heard on the nationally syndicated radio program “Pipedreams.” Appearances include an all-Bach inaugural recital on a new organ built by Fritz Noack for the Langholtskirkja in Reykjavik, Iceland, Bach’s Goldberg Variations for the Cambridge Society for Early Music and at Music Sources in Berkeley, CA, Manuel de Falla’s Harpsichord Concerto with the Chameleon Arts Ensemble, the Schumann Piano Quintet on original instruments with the Van Swieten Quartet, Samuel Barber’s organ concerto *Toccata Festiva* and a pedal piano recital of works of Schumann and Alkan at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. In March 2004 he was given the honor of performing the dedication recital on the newly restored 1800 Tannenberg two-manual organ in Old Salem, North Carolina, an event featured on the nationally broadcast television show *CBS Sunday Morning*. He was a member of the continuo team for the Boston Early Music Festival opera productions of Cavalli’s *Ercole Amante*, Lully’s *Thésée* and *Psyché* and Conradi’s *Ariadne*. He also appears regularly in concert and on recordings with Boston Baroque and Aston Magna. With Christa Rakich he created *Tuesdays With Sebastian*, an independent two-year benefit concert series in which he and Ms. Rakich performed the entire keyboard works of Johann Sebastian Bach for the organ and harpsichord in thirty-four recitals. He has premiered new works by Dan Locklair, James Woodman, and Joel Martinson, and has performed well over twenty-five dedication recitals for new or rebuilt organs. He also performs frequently on the clavichord and was one of two featured players on this instrument at the 2009 Boston Early Music Festival. In May 2011 he performed clavichord recitals for the British and Dutch Clavichord Societies in London and Amsterdam, at Fenton House in London and the Cobbe Collection at Hatchlands, and for the “Party in the City” night of concerts as part of the International Music Festival in Bath. In May and June 2014 he returned to Europe for concerts including Domaene Dahlem in Berlin and St. Remi Basilica in Reims.

His solo recordings include J.S. Bach’s complete Leipzig Chorales recorded on the Noack organ of the Langholtskirkja in Reykjavik, *From The Heartland – Two Nordlie Organs* in South Dakota, *Harpsichord Music of Couperin and Rameau*, *A Nantucket Organ Tour*, *MAXimum Reger: Favorite Organ Works*, and *Modern Organ Music*, a disc of music by Hindemith, Heiller, Pinkham, Woodman, and Icelandic composers on the Noack organ in the Neskirkja in Reykjavik. His bestselling recording of his organ transcription of Holst’s orchestral suite *The Planets* was named Best of 1996 by Audio Re-

view, a *Super CD* by Absolute Sound in 1999, and garnered accolades in every review. He appears on the Cambridge Bach Ensemble recording *The Muses of Zion*, performing organ works of Tunder and Buxtehude on the Fisk meantone organ of Wellesley College, the Music from Aston Magna recording of the oratorio *The Triumph of Time and Truth*, in which he performs the first known organ concerto movement of Handel, a recording of the organ concerto *Cymbale* of Julian Wachner, and the Grammy-nominated Boston Baroque recordings of Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *B-Minor Mass*, and Monteverdi's *Vespers*. His most recent solo recordings include the dedication recital on the Tannenberg organ in Old Salem, available on the Raven label, an all-Bach recording on an original Schiedmayer clavichord, also on the Raven label, and the complete Bach harpsichord partitas, available on the Centaur label. Soon to appear will be Book I of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* and the complete Bach sonatas for violin and obbligato harpsichord with Daniel Stepner.

He holds degrees from the New England Conservatory, where he studied with Gabriel Chodos, Blanche Winogron, Mireille Lagacé, Robert Schuneman, and Yuko Hayashi, and Concordia University in Montreal, where he studied with Bernard Lagacé. In 1978 he was winner of the Chadwick Medal from the New England Conservatory for outstanding undergraduate achievement; in the same year, he was a winner of the school's annual concerto competition, playing the Harpsichord Concerto of Frank Martin. In 1983 he was the winner of the Boston Chapter American Guild of Organists Young Artists Competition; in 1986, winner of the Second International Harpsichord Competition sponsored by the Southeastern Historical Keyboard Society. He was the 1993 laureate of the Erwin Bodky Award for excellence in early music performance. In May 2005 he received the Outstanding Alumni award from the New England Conservatory for career achievement since graduation. In May 2011 he was honored by the St. Botolph Club Foundation with its Distinguished Artist Award, a major gift awarded annually to an artist who has demonstrated outstanding talent and an exceptional diversity of accomplishment; previous recipients include painter Edward Hopper, poets Elizabeth Bishop and Stanley Kunitz, sculptor Alexander Calder, and writers George V. Higgins, Annie Dillard, and Sissela Bok. The award letter characterized him as "one of the major musical intellects and imaginations of our time."

In demand as a teacher and mentor of aspiring professional performers, he is Associate Professor of Music and Chair of the Historical Performance Department at Boston University. In the spring of 2014 he was invited to join the faculty of the Historical Performance Department at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City as its principal instructor of harpsichord. Since 1985 he has served as Director of Music at First Church in Cambridge, Congregational. He is Chair of the Organ Library Committee of the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and has been adjudicator for competitions sponsored by the American Guild of Organists, the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and the Bach International Harpsichord Festival in Montreal as well as the Broadwood Harpsichord Competition in London and the Miami International Organ Competition. A member of the board of the Cambridge Society for Early Music, he is a founding board member and current president of the Boston Clavichord Society.

Calvin Symposium on Worship



Here's a heads up and an invitation to the Calvin Symposium on Worship scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, January 25-27 at Calvin College. This annual Symposium welcomes c. 1500 people from 20+ countries, with some 90 presenters. GR hotels are happy, but we get to commute. All details can be found at <http://worship.calvin.edu/symposium/>. Register with discounts if you register 3 or more from your church. Take an early look to see the wide range of topics, seminars, workshops and services. Here is some information to whet your appetite:

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

Thursday Seminars: 14 two-hour AM seminars and just as many new ones in the PM For examples:

Seminar 9: Singing the Story: Bilingual Songs from Palm Sunday to Pentecost Seminar 12: Mental Health and the Practice of Christian Public Worship: An Exploratory Conversation, involving our own Becky Snippe, and Martin Tel with the Princeton Seminary Choir.

Seminar 14: Creative Leadership of Congregational Song: Tips for Organists, led by Jan Kraybill.

Friday/Saturday hour-long workshops, about 40 on Friday, most repeated on Saturday.

A few names:

Bob Batastini will lead a choral reading session on Saturday and also is planning evening prayer with musicians from the GR Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians

Norma deWaal Malefyt will lead a session

Michael Joncas is an internationally recognized priest, liturgical composer, author, and professor. (Seminar 6 and 29, plus workshop A11 on worship renewal since Vatican II

Jan Kraybill, recently appointed executive director of The Hymn Society, is organ conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, and organist-in-residence at the international headquarters of the Community of Christ in Independence, Missouri.

Martin Tel will be directing the Princeton Theological Seminary Choir as well as speaking on the psalms; he co-edited [*Psalms for All Seasons: A Complete Psalter for Worship*](#) (Faith Alive Resources, 2011).

Often sessions max out and are closed, so don't wait too long, and invite your pastors, choir directors, children's leaders, worship leaders, and others to come with you! You'll be surprised at the wide range of issues addressed, including justice issues, and for the first time, mental health issues and worship.

Chaplain Herman Keizer



Chaplain (Col) Herman Keizer, Jr. age 79, of Grand Rapids, received orders to report to his final duty station, Heaven, on Friday, December 22, 2017. He was preceded in death by his sister Ann (Ron) Hoekstra. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ardis; his sons Bryan Keizer of Las Vegas, NV, and Randall Keizer of Washington DC; brothers and sisters, Robert (Carolyn) Keizer, Beverly (John) Folkerts, Phyllis (Robert) Veldman, Dennis (Loretta) Keizer, Cindy (C.J.) Veldman; and many nieces and nephews. Herm was born in Chicago, IL (1938), and in 1968 was both ordained as a minister in the Christian Reformed Church and commissioned as a Chaplain in the U.S Army. His assignments and accomplishments includ-

ed serving as Chaplain of the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii and NATO Chaplain based in Stuttgart, Germany as well as ministering in Vietnam with the First and Fourth Infantry Divisions where he was wounded twice. He was retired in 1998 when he reached mandatory retirement but was immediately recalled by the Secretary of the Army. His final assignment was Advisor to the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom at the State Department where he served until his retirement in 2002. Herm was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Legions of Merit, 6 Bronze Stars (1 with Valor), the Purple Heart, and the Soldiers Medal. He was also the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from both Calvin College and Calvin Seminary. In 2010 the Association of Professional Chaplains awarded him their Distinguished Service Award, the first Military Chaplain Endorser to receive the award. Herm also worked on numerous projects and Boards: Heartside Ministries, GRACE, Restorative Justice Healing of Children of Conflict, Micah Center and co-founded the Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School (TCU) in 2012, dedicated to educating and researching moral injury and recovery for military veterans. Herm also enjoyed cooking, gardening, reading, and singing. Funeral services will be held **6:30 pm Friday, January 5, 2018 at LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church** (107 LaGrave Ave., GR), with Rev. Ruth Boven and Dr. Neil Plantinga officiating. The family will greet friends and relatives at the Zaagman Memorial Chapel, 2800 Burton St. SE, on Thursday, January 4 from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 pm. Interment Arlington National Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Herm's memory may be made to the Herman Keizer, Sr. Scholarship Fund, C/O Calvin Theological Seminary, 3233 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, the Herman and Ardis Keizer Jr. Scholarship Fund C/O Calvin College, 3201 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546, or to the Chaplaincy Care Ministry Chaplain Development Fund, 1700 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, 49508.

We extend our sympathy to Herm's Wife, Ardis and their family.

Monthly programs for 2017 – 2018

Here is the lineup of AGO meetings for this season, 2017-2018. Our meetings take place at various venues throughout the area and are typically the third Monday evening of the month although there are certainly exceptions. We generally begin with a punch bowl and social time at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

The cost for dinner is \$15 and to encourage attendance by younger members the board has underwritten the cost of meals for all AGO members and guests under the age of 30. The cost of these meals will come from a dedicated fund that has been recently established for this purpose.

The program portion of the meeting follows at 8:00 p.m. and all programs are open to the public. On occasion free-will offerings will be accepted at the conclusion of some evening programs. Dinner reservations are requested by the Wednesday previous to the meeting and members will be called by the Executive Council. You may also make your reservation by email-ing agodinner@grago.org or calling our Treasurer, Errol Shewman at 456-9232.

Monday, February 19, 2018

6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Program

Aquinas College Chapel
1700 Fulton Street S.E
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Choral Workshop: Dr. Nina Nash-Robertson



Monday, March 19, 2018

6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Program

Calvin College Chapel
835 Knollcrest Circle
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Church Music Today:

A conversation with James and Marilyn Biery, composers



Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition

Monday, April 16, 2018

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Competition

First (Park) Congregational Church

10 East Park Place N.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

For more information:

<https://grago.org/index.php/competitions/>



Monday, May 21, 2018

6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Program

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church

171 West 13th Street

Holland, MI 49423

Hymn Festival with Bob Batastini

