

THE CIPHER

January 2018

**The Executive Committee of
Grand Rapids AGO
2017-2018**

Officers

[Peter Kurdziel](#), *Dean*

[Emily Brink](#), *Secretary*

[Errol Shewman](#), *Treasurer*

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[Barbara Dulmage](#), 2017

[Rebecca Snippe](#), 2018

[Joel Gary](#), 2019

[Jonathan Tuuk](#), 2019

Members Ex-Officio

[Joel Gary](#), *Education Coordinator*

[Dennis Buteyn](#),
Webmaster, Cipher Editor

Dear Colleagues,

This month's meeting will be held in the new chapel at Aquinas College. It will feature a choral workshop with clinician Shirley Lemon conducting the Aquinas College Choir and Jonathan Tuuk at the brand new three manual organ. This medium size chapel is the perfect setting for a choral workshop. We'll enjoy a lovely acoustical space with seating close enough to hear the clinician interacting with the choir. The repertoire will be "Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether" by Harold Friedell, "And the Glory of the Lord" by G. F. Handel, "Do Not Be Afraid" by Philip Stopford, and "The Greater Gifts" by Paul French. You're probably familiar with all but the piece by Paul French. Paul is currently the conductor of the William Ferris Chorale and the Director of Music at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Chicago. "The Greater Gifts" is a newer work based on a familiar text from Paul's letter to the Corinthians. The organ accompaniment does not simply double the voice parts. It is colorful and descriptive. My choir sings this piece on the Feast of Pentecost.

This workshop was not planned to target only those of us who are involved in directing choirs. In fact, our executive board extended the invitation to the Aquinas Choir to be our host choir so that there wouldn't be pressure on any one person to establish a legitimate SATB force for the occasion. This workshop is for everyone. Choral directors, accompanists, singers, and all of have a love for the art of choral singing. Maybe the best way to market a workshop like this is to suggest that it is intended for anyone who's curious. Curious about how great choral music is constructed, curious about how beautiful choral singing happens, curious about how leaders interact with their ensembles, curious about how accompanists interact with leaders and with the singers. The list could go on and on.

For what it's worth, I have found that my own curiosity and desire for the beautiful are gifts - even divine gifts - that need to be cultivated. Yes...I sign checks, I photocopy music, I return phone calls, I send press releases to Blue Lake...I do all of that. But as I reflect on this past month, it's the live performances by Peter Sykes here in Grand Rapids and Jerome Lownethal in Holland that are most memorable.

An evening of choral music featuring music from Handel to the present with a new organ in a new sacred space and a choir loft of young and enthusiastic singers...maybe you *aren't* too busy to attend this workshop.

Peter Kurdziel, Dean



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 emailing 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

1700 Fulton Street S.E
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Choral Workshop featuring Shirley Lemon



Shirley Lemon retired from Grand Haven Area Public Schools in 2013 after a glorious thirty five year teaching career in choral music. During her tenure at GHAPS, her choirs earned superior ratings at all District and State Choral Festivals. The Grand Haven High School Choral Ensemble performed numerous times at the Michigan Music Conference and were chosen twenty-five times as one of the top ensembles in the state, enabling them to perform at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. The Chamber Choir was chosen three times as the Outstanding Choir in Michigan.

Ms. Lemon conducted the Michigan School Vocal Music Association's 7-8-9 Honors Choir in 1989, High School SSAA Honors Choir in 2003 and will conduct the high school SATB Honors Choir in 2015. She served MSMVA in every office including President and is currently the Advocacy Supervisor. She is secretary to ACDA-MI. Ms. Lemon has presented sessions at the MSMVA Summer Choral Directors Workshop, Michigan Music Conference, and ACDA Fall Conference.

Ms. Lemon was selected by the Grand Haven Community for the Excellence in Service Award in 1990 and her MSVMA colleagues honored her as Vocal Music Teacher of the Year in 1995. The Michigan Music Educators Association honored her in 2014 with the Award of Merit.

Ms. Lemon has served on the faculty at Hope College, Western Michigan University and Grand Valley State University. She is currently directing the GVSU Singers. Ms. Lemon

serves as a mentor for many teachers and is in constant demand as a clinician throughout the state. She and her husband Thom have a lovely and talented daughter Myrtle who is attending St. Olaf College as a choral music education major. This month's meeting will be held in the new chapel at Aquinas College. It will feature a choral workshop with clinician Shirley Lemon conducting the Aquinas College Choir and Jonathan Tuuk at the brand new three manual organ. This medium size chapel is the perfect setting for a choral workshop. We'll enjoy a lovely acoustical space with seating close enough to hear the clinician interacting with the choir. The repertoire will be "Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether" by Harold Friedell, "And the Glory of the Lord" by G. F. Handel, "Do Not Be Afraid" by Philip Stopford, and "The Greater Gifts" by Paul French.

MAP OF AQUINAS COLLEGE

AQUINAS COLLEGE

Restricted (Special Permit Only)

- 3 - Upper St. Joseph Hall Lot
- 9 - Academic Building Front Lot
- 10 - Wege Lot
- 11 - Gatehouse Lot
- 12 - West Albertus Lot
- 15 - Brink Hall Lot
- 16 - Carriage House Lot
- 17 - Regina Hall Lot
- 19 - Holmdene Lot
- 20 - Hruby Hall Lot - West
- 28 - Donnelly Conference Center Lot
- 31 - Flannery Hall Lot

Restricted to Residents Only

- 2 - Lower St. Joseph Hall Lot (Gold Permit)
- 20 - Hruby Hall Lot - East (Red Permit)
- 21 - Willowbrook Hall Lot (Orange Permit)
- 22 - Hawkins Hall Lot (Pink Permit)
- 23 - Browne Center Lot (Brown Permit)
- 29 - Meijer Hall Lot (Yellow Permit)
- 33 - Knappe Hall Lot (Silver Permit)
- 34 - Dominican Hall Lot (Blue Permit)
- 37 - Sullivan Hall Lot (Red Permit)
- 44 - St. Rose Hall Lot (Green Permit)

Commuter Parking
No Parking 2 a.m. - 6 a.m.

- *1 - Fulton Lot (Athletic Event Parking)
- *4 - Mayfield Lot
- 5 - Bukowski Lot
- 13 - East Albertus Lot
- 14 - Plymouth Lot (noon to midnight)
- *27 - Woodward Lot (Athletic Event Parking)

*Guest Parking with Permit

All vehicles that park on the Aquinas College campus, including visitors and guests, must have a valid permit. Please contact Campus Safety at (616) 632-2462 to inquire about obtaining a parking permit.

Accessible Entrances

Campus Safety
Off Campus: (616) 632-2462
On Campus Emergency: Ext. 3333
aquinas.edu/campus_safety

Aquinas College Campus
1700 Fulton St. E
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1801
(616) 632-8900 • aquinas.edu

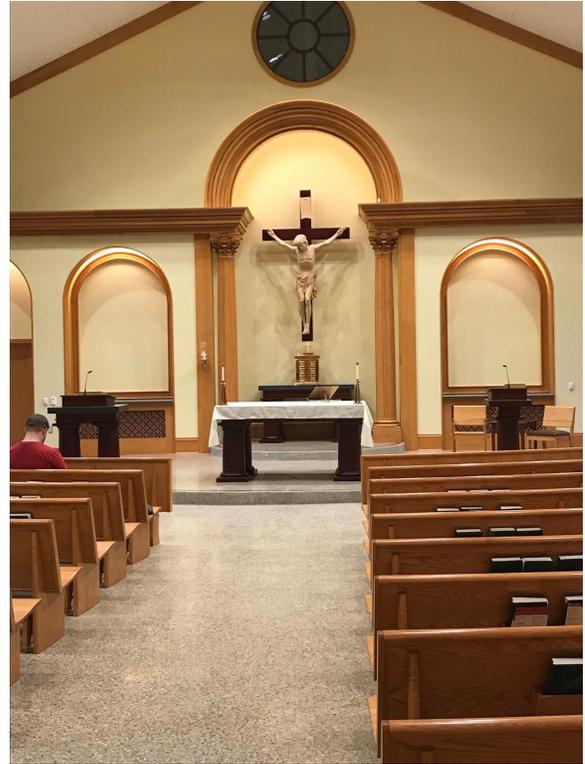
Punch Bowl and Dinner will be held at the Wege Center.

Program will be at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel.

You may download a pdf of the Aquinas College map here: [MAP](#)



Wege Center



Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel

Thank You from Ardis Keizer

Dear Friends:

It is with deep gratitude my family and I thank you for the beautiful flowers you sent in memory of Herm as well as the many cards with heartfelt sentiments of care and concern. Thanks also for the many, many prayers you sent up on our behalf. The love you have shown us together with those prayers have sustained us. We would not have been able to carry on without them. We covet your continued prayers in the months ahead to help us begin to fill the void Herm's death leaves in our lives.



Herm always look forward to those monthly Monday AGO meetings. He learned many things about music and he appreciated very much the music that was presented by our members as well as guests. Even though he never really learned to read music, Herm had been a boy soprano and sang for a time in the Calvin Capella under the direction of Seymour Swets. He also had the opportunity to participate in some amateur music productions during our time in Germany.

Herm loved meeting with you and our guests at our Monday meals and sharing and praying at those meals.

Thank you again for your concern and support.

Ardis Keizer

2018 Programs for Grand Rapids AGO

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**



Monday, April 16, 2018

6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Annamae Rotman
Young Organist 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

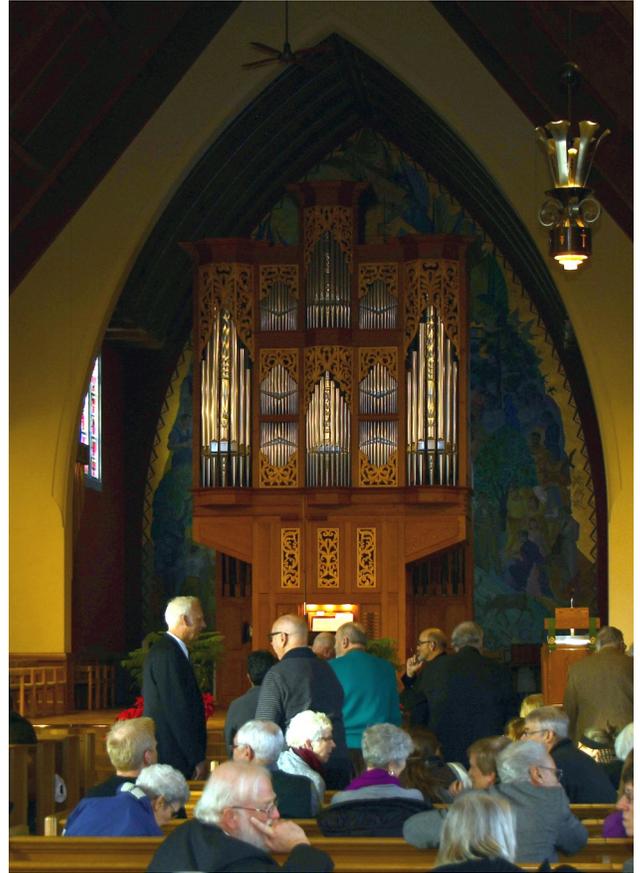


Recap of January Concert and Masterclass with Peter Sykes

On Sunday afternoon, January 14, we were treated to a varied and well played recital by Peter Sykes on Grace Church's Noack's 1981, Op. 94 56 rank instrument. Works of Buxtehude, Woodman, Gade, Scheidt, Chaumont, and Bach showed the versatility of tone this instrument offers. While Sykes is well known as an interpreter of early music, this program demonstrated that he is equally at home with modern and romantic music, as well. The program was beautifully rendered and his stunning technique was always evident. The program was open to the public, free of charge, and a good turnout on a very chilly afternoon in Michigan resulted.

At the Monday evening members' meeting, Sykes worked with Bethany Dame, a high school junior, on Buxtehude's Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne, BuxWV 137. The masterclass was very informative on methods of articulation and ways to practice that would achieve those results. His ideas on shaping a phrase and directions were specific and offered specific ways to attain the result. The student, who was well prepared and able to mimic Sykes' ideas, had amazing abilities. The suggestions for practice and musical playing provided significant ideas for the GRAGO members to add to their repertoire of practice habits.

Larry Biser



Bethany Dame

Another review of the Peter Sykes Concert

Richard Hoogterp, Dean of the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter of the AGO wrote this account of the January 14th recital by Peter Sykes which appeared in their newsletter. It is printed here with permission.

My wife, Eileen, and I were able to attend a recital on January 14 by organist Peter Sykes, under the auspices of the Grand Rapids AGO Chapter. With your indulgence, I will comment on my experience on the occasion.

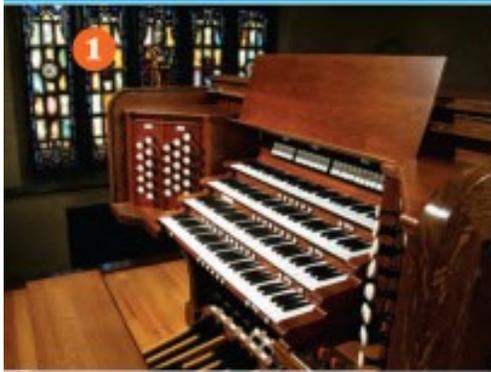
Peter Sykes has a fine career as an educator and organist, and his playing was splendid. It was of interest to me that, of all the fine organs in Grand Rapids, Mr. Sykes chose (I assume it was his choice) to perform at Grace Episcopal Church. The church is home to a three-manual Noack mechanical-action organ. The instrument, which is visually resplendent, is free-standing, with historic (not equal) temperament, virtually no registration aids, and a straight and flat pedal-board. The auxiliary casework at the back supports the pipework of the 16' Trombone, the 16' Principal, and the 32' Sub-bass, all of wood. This is a very distinctive instrument, designed to be particularly suitable for the performance of music composed during a specific period.



So, we heard music of Buxtehude, Scheidt, and Bach but also others, including a 20th Century partita. To my ears, the program was interesting and engrossing. But, I am biased. I really enjoy hearing certain organs, and I like to see and experience the work of particular organ-builders. I am very fond of the Bach Fantasia and Fugue in C Minor, which was performed magnificently. I spoke with others who had a much different reaction to the instrument and the program. But, a divergence of opinion does not detract from the glory of the organ, an instrument which appears in a myriad of forms and even genre. Its music is represented by compositions from many ages and nationalities. At the Sykes recital, no French organ music was heard, which is unusual in itself. The program was mostly “of a piece,” if you will, but I was satisfied with that.

The organbuilder Gerhard Brunzema stated, regarding the attempt to design organs that would play all literature with validity, “All art is a preference for something.” Fritz Noack chose to provide an organ for Grace Episcopal Church which has a decidedly “North German” accent. Mr. Sykes fashioned his fine program accordingly, and I very much enjoyed hearing it.

ORGAN STUDY AT Hope College



Principal Performance Instruments

- 1 4 manual, 48 rank E.M. Skinner, 1929
- 2 3 manual, 34 stop J.W. Walker, 2000
- 3 4 manual, 54 rank Casavant, 2016

Program highlights

- Subsidized biennial study trips to England, France, Germany, and the Netherlands
- Great solo and accompanying opportunities (with choirs, orchestras, etc.)
- Extensive experiential training in different worship traditions
- Very generous scholarships

Hope's Keyboard Area:

hope.edu/academics/music/areas-study/keyboard.html

Audition information:

hope.edu/academics/music/auditions/index.html

Dr. Huw Lewis, Professor of Organ:
lewis@hope.edu