Dear Colleagues,

It’s been a great summer! I am happy to report that the 2019 Great Lakes Regional Convention is coming along well. Our contracts are signed, our facilities are booked, and we’re soliciting underwriters.

Four things you should know:

#1. The convention is June 30, 2019-July 3, 2019 here in Grand Rapids with the Amway Grand Plaza as the host hotel.

#2. The convention has an all-inclusive registration fee. No extras for transportation or the banquet.

#3. The entire convention is taking a day trip to Holland...it’s not an add on.

#4. We have full ride scholarships (including hotel) for students available.

You may access the convention website here: https://grago2019.org/

In addition to the convention, we have a fine season planned that begins with David Jonies from Chicago playing at the Basilica of St. Adalbert.

As the convention moves from the conference table to reality, I hope you will recommit to making AGO a priority. It’s an exciting time to be a part of this chapter!

Peter Kurdziel, Dean
Monthly programs for 2018 – 2019

Here is the lineup of AGO meetings for this season, 2018-2019. 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 prior 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, September 24, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Basilica of St. Adalbert
654 Davis Ave. N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

David Jonies, Organ
An organ recital by David Jonies who is currently associate director of music and organist at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, a position to which he was appointed in 2006. At Holy Name, Jonies plays the Cathedral’s 4-manual Flentrop organ, one of the largest tracker-action instruments in the country, both in liturgy and concert, and also directs the renowned Holy Name Cathedral Summer Organ Series.

A native of Germany, he received his first musical training as a chorister and organ scholar at Metten Abbey in Bavaria. Subsequently, Jonies was admitted to the Hochschule für Musik Würzburg, where he studied with Gerhard Weinberger (organ) and Günther Kaunzinger (improvisation) and graduated with terminal degrees in organ and church music.

As an organist, he has been invited to perform in such distinguished venues as Westminster Abbey, the cathedrals in Mainz, Trier and Bamberg in Germany, Seattle, Hartford, Helena in the U. S. the
London Handel Festival, the Bach Festival of Pusan (South Korea), the Pine Mountain Music Festival in Northern Michigan, Spoleto Festival in Charleston, and at the world’s largest organ in Passau Cathedral. Jonies was a featured recitalist for National Conventions of the Organ Historical Society and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. This past fall, he made his debut in France with a recital at Notre Dame in Paris. Upcoming engagements include the closing recital for the Diapason’s Conference on Skinner organs in April, and a recital for the 2017 AGO Regional Convention in Youngstown, Ohio.

**Monday, October 15, 2018**
6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Program
**Calvin College Chapel**
1845 Knollcrest Circle S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

**New Hymnal Presentation**
A presentation of the new bilingual hymnal, *Santo, Santo, Santo*, hosted by Becky Snippe of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. This hymnal is being published by G.I.A. Music Publishing.

**Wednesday, November 7, 2018**
9:30 a.m.
**Central Reformed Church**
10 College Avenue N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Pipelines – A Program for Fourth Grade Students**
Each year the Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists invites fourth grade students from the area to an hour long presentation of the pipe organ. This program was begun in 1995 and has grown to be a very popular feature among fourth grade teachers and students. In recent years there have been approximately 700 students at these programs. You may read more about *Pipelines* here: [PIPELINES](#)
Sunday, November 18, 2018  
3:00 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
2700 Fulton Street East  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  

Organ recital featuring concert organist Dexter Kennedy  
As the winner of the Grand Prix d’Interprétation at the 24th Concours International d’Orgue de Chartres, Dexter Kennedy has established himself internationally as “one of the greatest organists of our times” (Iceland Monitor). Praised for his “prodigious technique and grand style musicality” in The American Organist, Dexter Kennedy currently serves on the music faculty of the College of Wooster (Ohio) as Instructor of Organ and Harpsichord. During the Fall 2017 semester, Kennedy served as Visiting Assistant Professor of Organ at Oberlin College Conservatory. Kennedy is an active recitalist throughout both North America and Europe, having performed in great cathedrals, churches, and concert halls including: Notre-Dame de Paris; Berliner Dom; St. Bavokerk, Haarlem; Slovak Philharmonic Hall, Bratislava; Chartres Cathedral; Grossmünster, Zürich; Chichester Cathedral; Hallgrimskirkja, Reykjavik; Basilica of St. Nazaire, Carcassone; Narbonne Cathedral; Auditorio Manuel de Falla, Granada; San Luigi Dei Francesi, Rome; St. Willibrordus Basilika, Echternach, Luxembourg; and Bergen Cathedral. His performances have been heard at the St. Albans International Organ Festival, the 51st Bratislava Music Festival, the Bergen International Organ Festival, the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians, the Bach en Bogotá Festival, and two regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists. He is a frequent collaborator with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and will perform Strauss’s Also Sprach Zarathustra with the orchestra at Carnegie Hall in March of 2019. Recent and upcoming concert highlights include, the Eccles Organ Festival (Salt Lake City); Laon Cathedral; the Festival d’orgue de Roquevaire; the Arizona Bach Festival, as well as recitals for the Kansas City, Southern Nevada, Atlanta and Charleston Chapters of the American Guild of Organists. Dexter Kennedy holds the Artist Diploma from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he was a pupil of James David Christie, and a Master of Music Degree from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music. Other teachers include Martin Jean, Olivier Latry, and Jeffrey Brillhart (improvisation). He is currently Assistant Organist at Christ Church Grosse Pointe (MI). In his spare time, he enjoys golfing and vigorously rooting for the professional sports teams in his native Detroit. More information about Kennedy and his schedule can be found at his website, www.dexterkennedy.com  

Dexter Kennedy is represented by Seven Eight Artists.
Sunday, January 27, 2019
4:00 p.m.
Mayflower Congregational Church
2345 Robinson Road S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Hymn Festival directed by John Ferguson
It is difficult to think of a hymn festival without associating the name of John Ferguson with the experience. Each year he is invited to design and lead such events in churches across the country and the world, as well as at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the American Choral Directors Association. Although himself a Lutheran, his festivals are ecumenical celebrations drawing upon the greatest treasures of Christian song from many centuries, traditions, and styles. John Ferguson is now emeritus professor of organ and church music at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.
All are invited to join in what promises to be a special experience of wonderful hymn singing.

Monday, January 28, 2019
6:30 p.m.  Punch Bowl
7:00 p.m.  Dinner
8:00 p.m.  Program
Mayflower Congregational Church
2345 Robinson Road S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Hymn Workshop featuring John Ferguson
John Ferguson, better known to his students and colleagues as “Ferg,” is an acclaimed organist, choral conductor, composer and teacher, recognized nationally for his talents as an improviser and leader of congregational song. Before his career at St. Olaf College, Ferguson obtained degrees from Oberlin College, Kent State University and the Eastman School of Music; held a faculty position at Kent State; and served as music director and organist at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. When he stepped onto campus at St. Olaf in 1983, Ferguson brought with him an enthusiasm for church music that has made a lasting impact on the students, faculty, and the greater community.
While at St. Olaf College, Ferguson was Professor of Organ and Church Music, conducted the St. Olaf Cantorei, and served as Cantor to the Student Congregation. During his tenure, the organ department at St. Olaf College defied national trends by growing in enrollment and quality. Ferguson’s work at St. Olaf College was the inspiration and catalyst for a career in composing and
The Cipher

arranging. He has more than 100 titles in print, including many based upon existing hymn texts and tunes as well as newly commissioned texts. Along with colleague Anton Armstrong, Ferguson re-envisioned the St. Olaf Choral Series for Augsburg Fortress and worked to make it relevant to a wide variety of 21st-century choirs. Outside of the St. Olaf community he has designed and presented hymn festivals for national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). He also presented such events abroad in Seoul, South Korea and in Europe at the National Cathedral of Norway. Although he is a Lutheran, his festivals are ecumenical experiences drawing upon the greatest treasures of Christian song from many centuries, traditions and styles.

Other career highlights include his composition of *Who Is This* for choir and viola, which won the 2005 Raabe Prize for excellence in sacred composition; his 2012 honoring with the F. Melius Christiansen Lifetime Achievement Award from the ACDA of Minnesota; and his 2013 Faithful Servant Award from the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, recognizing his “extraordinary contributions to the worship life of the church.”

Although Ferguson officially retired in 2012, he continues to serve as Musical Advisor for *Sing For Joy*, providing guidance regarding musical selections and new recordings, and serving as ambassador of the program to audiences and congregations nationwide.

**Monday, February 18, 2019**

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

**Second Congregational Church, U.C.C.**
525 Cheshire Dive N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

**Recital by previous winners of the Annamae Rotman Young Organists Competition.**

Previous winners of the the Annamae Rotman Young Organists Competition, Owen Tellinghuisen, Chan Gyu Jang, and Jonathan Bading will play. The Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition was founded in 2013 by Dr. Richard Rotman in honor of his mother and is an annual competition. We thank him for his generous support of young organists.

We will also recognize the work of Bruce Klanderman and Joan Ringerwole for coordinating the organ competitions for the Grand Rapids Chapter of AGO for the past number of years. Both the Rotman and Quimby Competitions will take place in Grand Rapids on April 8 this year. Our new competition coordinator will be Becky Snippe beginning in 2019.
Monday April 8, 2019
1:00 p.m. Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists
6:00 p.m. Punch Bowl 6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition

Calvin Christian Reformed Church
700 Ethel Street S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**Young Organist Competitions**
The AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists is a national competition for organist born after July 2, 1997. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.

The Annamae Rotman Young Organist Competition was founded and underwritten by Dr. Richard Rotman in honor of his mother, Annamae Rotman. A competitor must be under 24 years of age as of August 1 of the competition year and be a resident of Kent County, MI or any county adjacent to Kent County and/or a resident student attending a junior high school, senior high school, college, or university in Kent County or any county adjacent to Kent County.

Monday, April 22, 2019
6:30 p.m. Punch Bowl
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Program

**Venue to be announced**

**The Organ Used With Orchestra**
Brazilian-born Marcelo Lehninger is in his third year as Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony. He previously served as Music Director of the New West Symphony in Los Angeles, for which the League of American Orchestras awarded him the Helen H. Thompson Award for Emerging Music Directors. Marcelo was appointed Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra by James Levine, and, after a very successful two year tenure that included stepping in for Maestro Levine on short notice in Boston and on tour at Carnegie Hall, was later promoted to Associate Conductor.