Dear Colleagues,

We have made a concerted effort as your executive board to offer programs that are inclusive of the broader purposes of the guild. We are aware that not every member of our chapter is a professional organist and that we have a diversity of interests in the topics that fall under the umbrella of the AGO.

The recent hymn festivals and workshop with Bob Batstini included in last year’s programming were intentional in their focus on congregational song. Our October meeting this year is a continuation of that theme. We have the unique opportunity to utilize the expertise of some of our local colleagues as we mark the significant accomplishment of the Calvin Institute and GIA Publications in producing the bilingual hymnal “Santo, santo, santo: Cantos para el pueblo de Dios / Holy, Holy, Holy: Songs for the People of God.” No other chapter in the country has the benefit of hearing about this watershed accomplishment directly from the mouths of local colleagues who have been involved in the project since its inception.

The shadow side of an accomplishment that celebrates the singing tradition of one group within the broader church is that it “doesn’t apply to me.” In one sense this may be true: not every congregation will have use of a bilingual hymnal in this particular moment in history. However, as musicians we have a professional obligation to keep our finger on the pulse of congregational song beyond the boundaries of our own congregations. As the people of God, we need only be reminded of St. Paul’s own image of the church as a body with many parts. Workshops that focus on “the how” of a bilingual hymnal project and the sharing of the stories of those who shaped the repertoire are a safety net for all of us. They save us from becoming isolated and self-centered. They save us from becoming that Professor of Literature who hasn’t read a book in a while.

The first time I attended a service that was conducted solely in Spanish was in 1998. Interestingly, it was a Roman Catholic Mass being celebrated at Third Reformed Church in Holland after a fire destroyed Saint Francis de Sales Church. Since then I’ve had the opportunity to witness the devotion, spirit of hospitality, and genuine faith of many, many Latino congregations from the migrant camps to the historic churches of Oaxaca, Mexico. Don’t miss the opportunity to come and engage in this most relevant topic. You’ll end up leaving with plenty more than you bargained for.

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 307-7241.

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 is led by Bob Batastini, Emily Brink, Norma deWaal Malefty, Chan Jang, and Becky Snippe, and hosted by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. In this presentation, we will sing new songs and familiar songs, and we will listen to stories of communities, of songs, and of translations. These songs come from the forthcoming hymnal, Santo, santo, santo: Cantos para el pueblo de Dios / Holy, Holy, Holy: Songs for the People of God (GIA Publications, Inc., 2019).

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 616-307-7241.
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](http://www.dexterkennedy.com)

Dexter Kennedy is represented by Seven Eight Artists.

**Sunday, January 27, 2019**

6:00 p.m.

**LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church**

107 LaGrave Avenue S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**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

LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church
107 LaGrave Avenue S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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 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 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 Bowl6:30 p.m. Dinner6:30 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.
Central United Methodist Church Vesper Series and 
Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter of The American Guild of Organists present

Jillian Gardner, organist

October 14, 2018
3:00 pm
Central United Methodist Church
1011 Second Street
Freewill Offering to benefit the AGO Young Artist Series

Reception following in Parish Hall
Cantus

“These boys can rock, swing, groove, and boogie, as well as do their standard shift of classical and contemporary music. They can, in short, do pretty much anything.”

Minnesota Public Radio

Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.
Free admission

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
134 North Division Avenue
Grand Rapids, Michigan
www.stmarksgr.org
Hope Church

77 West 11th Street
Holland, MI 49423
Tuesday, October 16

7:30 p.m.

An Evening with Raymond Haan and his Music

Please join the Holland chapter and Grand Rapids composer Raymond Haan for an evening focused around his organ compositions. Area organists will play Ray's organ compositions and he will speak about the works, his style, and his musical journey. Of particular focus will be his 2005 collection published by Augsburg Fortress of funeral music, now sadly out of print. Ray will have copies of this lovely and effective collection to hand out to interested organists in attendance!

If you have a piece in your repertoire that you'd like to share with the group as part of this collegial evening, contact Rhonda Edgington (rhondabse@gmail.com or text 616.710.1688)
AUTUMN ORGAN CRAWL – SPARTA, MUSKEGON AND GRAND HAVEN

Saturday October 27th - 7:30 am to 9:30 pm

Travel will be either by a small motor coach or a rented van. This will be determined by the number of participants. Price range will be between $35. - $50. per person.

7:30 am  Depart from St. Thomas Aquinas parking lot – park in the back lot.
10 am   Depart for Muskegon
10:45 am Arrive at Christian Scientist Church – Aeolian Skinner, 21 ranks.  Caron Farmer, Convener
11:45 am Depart for lunch (12 – 1:15) at the Lake House Water Front Grille
1:30 pm  Arrive at Central United Methodist Church. Moller in sanctuary, Aeolian-Skinner in adjacent building. Ron VanderWest, Convener
2:30 pm  Depart for First Congregational Church. Kilgen organ in sanctuary, Wilhelm in Chapel.  Michael Match, Convener
3:45 pm  Depart for St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church – one of Muskegon’s most striking architectural wonders.
4:45 pm  Depart for First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven. Austin 4 manual organ. Maryanne Beery, Convener
6 pm    Depart for dinner at the Snug Harbor Restaurant, Grand Haven
6:15– 7:45 pm  Dinner
8 pm    Depart Grand Haven for Lansing
9:30 pm  Arrive in East Lansing