



THE CIPHER

January 2019

**The Executive Committee of
Grand Rapids AGO
2018-2019**

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

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

Dear Colleagues,

As you may have already seen in *The American Organist*, the 2019 Great Lakes Regional Convention that we are hosting is open for registration. Check it out for yourself at www.grago2019.org. I cannot adequately express my thanks to the steering committee members who worked behind the scenes to make this a reality. We are now at a point where we will begin recruiting volunteers for the daily operation of the convention. If you're interested in volunteering, please email info@grago2019.org and let us know. At this point, we are looking specifically for ushers for each of the concert venues and hospitality personnel for the registration booth for Sunday afternoon's opening registration. We also have additional personnel needs for the daily registration which will take place each morning of the convention. Please let us know if you're willing to help.

I have fielded any number of inquiries about convention fees and whether or not convention volunteers will receive a complimentary registration. Unfortunately, the answer is no. I feel the easiest way to explain this is by comparing it to church membership. As a member of a church, we are asked to contribute time, talent, and treasure. We aren't exempt from tithing because we volunteer as an usher or sing in the choir. The same is true with the convention. We are asking for your participation as a volunteer in addition to your registration fee.

The convention is a huge undertaking in time, talent, and treasure. If we all contribute what we're able to contribute in each of these areas, we will be more than successful. It has always been done in the past and I know this convention will be no exception. I am proud to be part of what I know is going to be a valuable contribution to the artistic life of our city and region as well as a great opportunity for musicians young and old to gather for great music and camaraderie.

See you at LaGrave at the end of the month!

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.

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 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 Klanderma 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.

**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 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

Westminster Presbyterian Church

47 Jefferson Ave. S.E.

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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.



Feeding the Soul of the City
2018-2019

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1006 Third Street
Muskegon, MI 49440

All performances are held Tuesdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

February 26, 2019

Clifford Jazz Quartet

March 26, 2019

Campbell's Clarinet Collage
(GVSU clarinet students under the direction of
Dr. Arthur Campbell)

April 23, 2019

Reeths-Puffer Madrigal Singers
(student vocal ensemble)

May 28, 2019

GVSU Steel Drum Band

June 11, 2019

Max and Ruth Bloomquist
folk and bluegrass music

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THE MICHIGAN FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS
announces auditions for the

HIGH SCHOOL AWARD in ORGAN

MICHIGAN
FEDERATION
of
MUSIC CLUBS



Date: Saturday, March 2, 2018

Place: TBD

Awards: First place: \$500

Note: Awards are given at the discretion of the adjudication panel.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- be enrolled in grades 10-12
- be actively studying organ
- be residents of the state of Michigan
- applicant or teacher **must** be a member of the MFMC

Previous winners of the MFMC Organ Award may not apply.

Audition Requirements:

Applicants will:

- perform two selections:
 1. a composition by J.S. Bach (This includes the 8 Little Preludes & Fugues)
 2. a composition in a contrasting style
- perform from original scores, unless performing from memory
- provide one copy of each selection for the adjudicator.

Deadline: February 8, 2019

Please send application and fee \$20.00 to:

Jackie Livesay
4897 Indian Creek Drive
Jackson, MI 49201

THE MICHIGAN FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS**HIGH SCHOOL AWARD in ORGAN**

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: MI Zip: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Telephone: (____) ____ - ____

E-mail: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Teacher: _____

Teacher Contact: _____

Repertoire Selections:

Title: _____

Composer: Johann Sebastian Bach

Contrasting Selection:

Title: _____

Composer: _____

Please note the following reminders:

performance must be from original scores

a copy of both selections must be provided to the adjudicator

total performance time is 20 minutes; portions of repertoire may be played at the discretion of the adjudicator(s)

The deadline for applications is Feb. 8. Please mail this completed application and a check for \$20.00, payable to Michigan Federation of Music Clubs, to:

Jackie Livesay

4897 Indian Creek Drive

Jackson, MI 49201

517-581-0559 jackielivesay@comcast.net