



Dayton Ohio Chapter The American Guild of Organists

www.agodayton.org

May 2015



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"New" Dean's Letter

By Matt Dierking

As I complete my tenure as Sub-Dean and begin as Dean, I want to take a moment to take a look at the chapter and consider some of the possibilities for my term. There are several observations as well as some opportunities that I would like to share.



First, I'd like to give a hearty "Thank You" to Tom Aldridge for his service as Dean over last two years. Chapter Dean is both challenging and demanding and Tom did a great job. I'd also like to thank all the officers, board members and committee chairs who have served and are continuing to serve. As I said at the officer installations, I view all positions in the AGO as service positions. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated members who provide service both to the AGO as well as the community. Now, back to the observations and opportunities.

The first observation concerns the engagement of current members. There appears to be a core group of members that come to most programs and a less active group of members that come only to an occasional program of interest. Our primary opportunity here is to provide programs that would be of greater interest to the majority the membership as well as to potential new members. The board needs your help here. Send your suggestions for the programs you'd most like to see to myself or Jerry Taylor, and we will try to work them in. I will also propose some changes on how we implement programs to help increase involvement, and perhaps some additional ad hoc activities to foster greater esprit de corps within the chapter.

Second, our membership consists of a small fraction of the organists and churches within the Miami Valley. Our opportunity here is to find better ways to reach area organists and let them know of the benefits of membership in the AGO. Over the last few years we have added a website and Facebook page to the Trumpetings newsletter, but there is more we could do. We should consider ways to make direct contact with organists/churches, develop a chapter brochure that can be distributed at events or emailed and indirect contacts such as AGO Chapter recognition at member concerts & recitals.

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Terry Donat

If you change your address, telephone number, or e-mail address, please call or email **Ellen Bagley**, Membership Chair, (See phone & email above) to update our directory database and mailing list. Be sure to add your zip + 4 code.



If you have an announcement for an upcoming program or event, send it to Matt Dierking at matt.dierking@agodayton.org and we will add it to the next Trumpetings, the Dayton Chapter website and Facebook page.

Third, thanks to the leadership of Wilma Meckstroth, and now Rachel Lammi, we have good participation in the Dayton Organ Academy. Rachel will be proposing some changes this year to enhance the Academy including recruiting and nurturing some younger organists. In addition, I would recommend that we survey our membership on their educational interests ranging from programs/workshops to certification. We could then target some of our programs towards education. With enough interest, we could even offer group preparation for the SPC much like an SAT study course with mock certification evaluations.

Finally, the chapter has some very good community service efforts. Placement Chair, Terry Donat, has been very successful helping churches fill vacancies. We have also been able to provide substitute organists for many local churches – sometimes on very short notice. Here I would propose adding an online substitute list to the website that area churches could use to contact substitute organists directly. In addition, I also suggest the Chapter consider identifying one significant community project to work on as a group. One possibility would be to work with the Dayton Art Institute on restoration of their organ, but I'm sure there are many more options. More to come on this after the board has a chance to discuss it.

Now, A bit about me. Unlike many in the AGO, my formal training is in physics and Electrical Engineering, but I have had a lifelong love for the organ and its literature. For me, the pipe organ is the perfect mix of music, art and science – it just doesn't get any better than that! I grew up with an organ in the house and began playing as a substitute for services in our Lutheran church a year or so before my confirmation. Since then I have served as organist, or long term substitute, at several area churches. Most recently I played about 10 years at Clifton Presbyterian on a small circa 1917, Estey pipe organ. Lynn and I have been lucky enough to travel a bit and have made a special effort to attend services or concerts around the U.S. as well at St Paul's, St Giles', St Sulpice, Notre Dame, St Sernin, Saint-Nazaire/Saint-Celse at Carcassonne and others. I guess adding great, gothic architecture and 1000 years of history does make the organ even better!



Since joining the AGO, I have met a whole group of really great people, participated in workshops with some of the best musicians in the country, gone to a wide variety of concerts and have been given the chance to play many of the best organs in the area. I look forward to serving as Dean for the next two years. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, suggestions or just want to find a way to become more involved.

Working With a Volunteer Church Choir presented by Basil Fett

Basil Fett leveraged his formal musical training, long tenure as a Wayne High School music educator and vast experience directing choirs to prove you can teach old AGO dogs new tricks - and make them like it! “Working with a Volunteer Church Choir” was held at Sulphur Grove Church on Taylorsville Road in Huber Heights. Basil began the evening with a short discussion on the basics of singing and directing, but quickly broke the chapter into SATB sections and began work on the two pieces we would do that night.

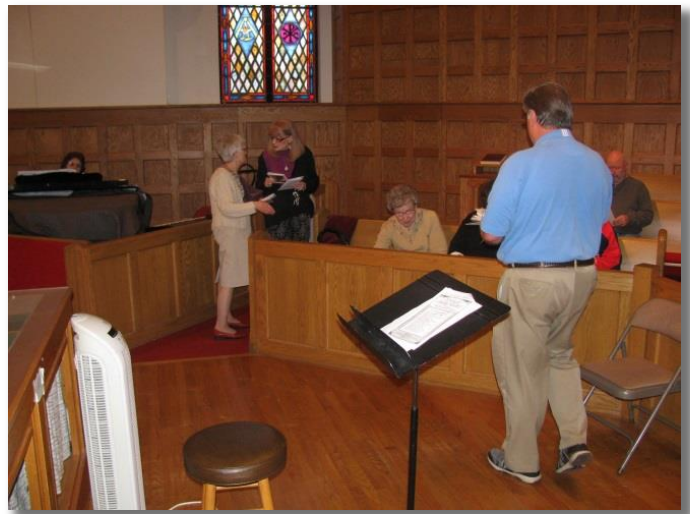
Basil runs a fast paced rehearsal interspersing instruction, practice, correction and fun so seamlessly that practice time goes by in a flash. He demonstrated so many valuable tips and techniques that it was hard to capture them all, but here are a few of the highlights.



- The most important part of hitting the right note is “Thinking the Notes” before you sing them. As an exercise to “hear” the pitch and rhythms, sing a well known piece. As the director puts his hand up sing out loud and to yourself when his hand is down. Think the notes so you are on pitch and on time.
- Try breaking the choir into quartets rather than sections to get them to listen to each other and blend.
- Sing “Taller” to get the right sound. An unexpectedly effective exercise was to replace each lyric syllable with “Wa-wa”. This allowed you to focus on the music and forced you to sing “taller”. This was quickly inserted throughout the practice whenever the desired sound faded and immediately returned the desired sound.
- You’ve got to make corrections. You can’t just repeat passages and expect better results. Quick, accurate descriptions of the needed improvements should be given each time. You may have to find multiple ways to say the same thing to get the result that is needed.
- It doesn’t have to take a long time. Assessment, correction and re-attack can be just a few seconds. Sing a few bars, stop, offer the correction and right back to the music. If it is fixed continue, if not, stop-rinse-and repeat.
- Make it fun!! To keep people engaged and effective in practice, they have got to enjoy it. Mixing a bit of fun with work will keep your amateur choir focused and ready to give their best



Chapter members in need of direction.



Basil gets the Altos & Tenors in Order



Enjoying some well-deserved snacks after practice

Thanks again to Basil Fett for sharing his wealth of choir experience, Trudy Faber for accompanying him and Sulphur Grove UMC for hosting us.



Joint Meeting with the Cincinnati AGO Emery Carillon Tour and Concert

On June 7, AGO Dayton Chapter members are invited to join the Cincinnati Chapter for a fun picnic and bell concert at the Mary M. Emery Memorial Carillon in Mariemont OH, carilloneurs Richard Gegner and Richard Watson will perform. Tours of the tower will be available from 6:00 to 6:30. Starting at 6:30 p.m. a free box lunch

from Panera with beverage will be served to AGO members and one guest in the new shelter area., The box lunches are provided through the kindness of our two carilloneurs. See RESERVATIONS below. The carillon concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. (open to the public). You may want to bring folding chairs for the music program. Bathroom facilities are available on site.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE for the box lunch (member and one guest only). We need the exact name of each member or guest who would like a box lunch, and their choice of a sandwich selection (see choices below), so we can write these names on the correct box lunch. **The DEADLINE for submitting this information is May 31, and it should be emailed or phoned directly to Cincinnati Chapter member Paul Welch: pwwelch59@gmail.com, or (513)232-3942.** Food reservations cannot be accepted after that date, but please feel free to come even if you're not taking part in the meal.

FOOD CHOICES: Please indicate choice A, B, or C.

(Each sandwich comes with chips, fruit cup, cookie and beverage.)

Choice A -- Roasted turkey sandwich with bacon, lettuce, sliced tomato and avocado.

Choice B -- Ham and Swiss cheese sandwich.

Choice C -- Half garden salad and half ham & Swiss cheese sandwich.

DIRECTIONS: The Carillon is in Dogwood Park, at 3725 Pleasant Street, Mariemont OH, 45227, on the east side of Cincinnati. Take I-75 south, exit to I-275 East. From I-275, exit right on to I-71 south. Take Exit 9, Red Bank Road, and continue straight ahead through several traffic lights. Pass a Walmart on your left. About a half-mile or so after that, turn left on ramp for US-50-EAST. Merge onto US 50 East (Columbia Parkway/Wooster Pike). Drive through business area and into Village of Mariemont (road has a median). Very soon, turn right on Pleasant Street (for Dogwood Park). The park and carillon are on your right. Mostly street parking, plus a small pull-in parking area.

About the Carillon... This is a full concert instrument of 49 bells, the original 23 bells of larger size dating from 1929 and the other 26 dating from 1969. The bells compose a true carillon that is completely touch responsive (like organ tracker action); no electrical assistance of any kind is used during regular concerts. In 2008 the carillon was renovated with a new playing keyboard, new sealed ball bearing playing action and new cast iron ball clappers.

Hope to See You There!

What Programs Do You Like Best?

The Dayton board will be developing the 2015-2016 program over the next few months and we need your help. Take a minute to think about what programs you like best, what programs would be best to reach organists not in the AGO and what programs might reach the community at large. Even in Dayton, members of the AGO are a small fraction of the organists within the community. Hopefully, we use our programs to help change that!

Please email Matt Dierking (matt.dierking@agodayton.org) or Jerry Taylor (casavant@aol.com) with your ideas and suggestions.

Don't Forget – It's Time to Renew Your AGO Membership!

ONCARD has now been set up for the Chapter. Look for a final email from Membership Chair, Ellen Bagley, for instructions on registering. Send her an email or give her a call if you need help.

Ellen Bagley, 937-426-2172, ebagley@daytonperformingarts.org

2015 Dayton Organ Academy Recital & A Celebration of the Service of Wilma Meckstroth



On May 3rd, we held the Academy Recital and celebrated the outstanding leadership that Wilma Meckstroth provided the Dayton Organ Academy for over three decades. Her hard work and leadership helped coordinate teachers, high school organ students and teaching standards creating many fine organists over those years. Wilma also served as Chapter Dean from 1981-1983. Dean Tom Aldridge and Rachel Spry Lammi presented Wilma with a certificate commemorating her service.

Rachel, a past Dayton Organ Academy student, has taken over as chair of this wonderful outreach from our chapter.

We heard three students perform at the recital including Savannah Okin (student of Effie Sue Kemerly), Sam Bennett (student of Rachel Spry Lammi), and Angelique Jacqueline Gabrielle (Sophomore Organ Major at Wittenberg University, student of Dr. David Crean). They played on the three manual Austin, which had a new Zimmer console installed last year. Installation of Our newly elected officers was followed by a light reception.



Left to right, Rose and Rachel Spry Lammi, Sam Bennett, Dr. David Crean, Anelique Gabrielle, Savannah Okin and Effie Sue Kemerly



Savannah playing the Christ Episcopal 1967 Tellers/2003 Muller organ

**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
Recital and Gala Benefit Reception
Cherry Rhodes and Ladd Thomas**

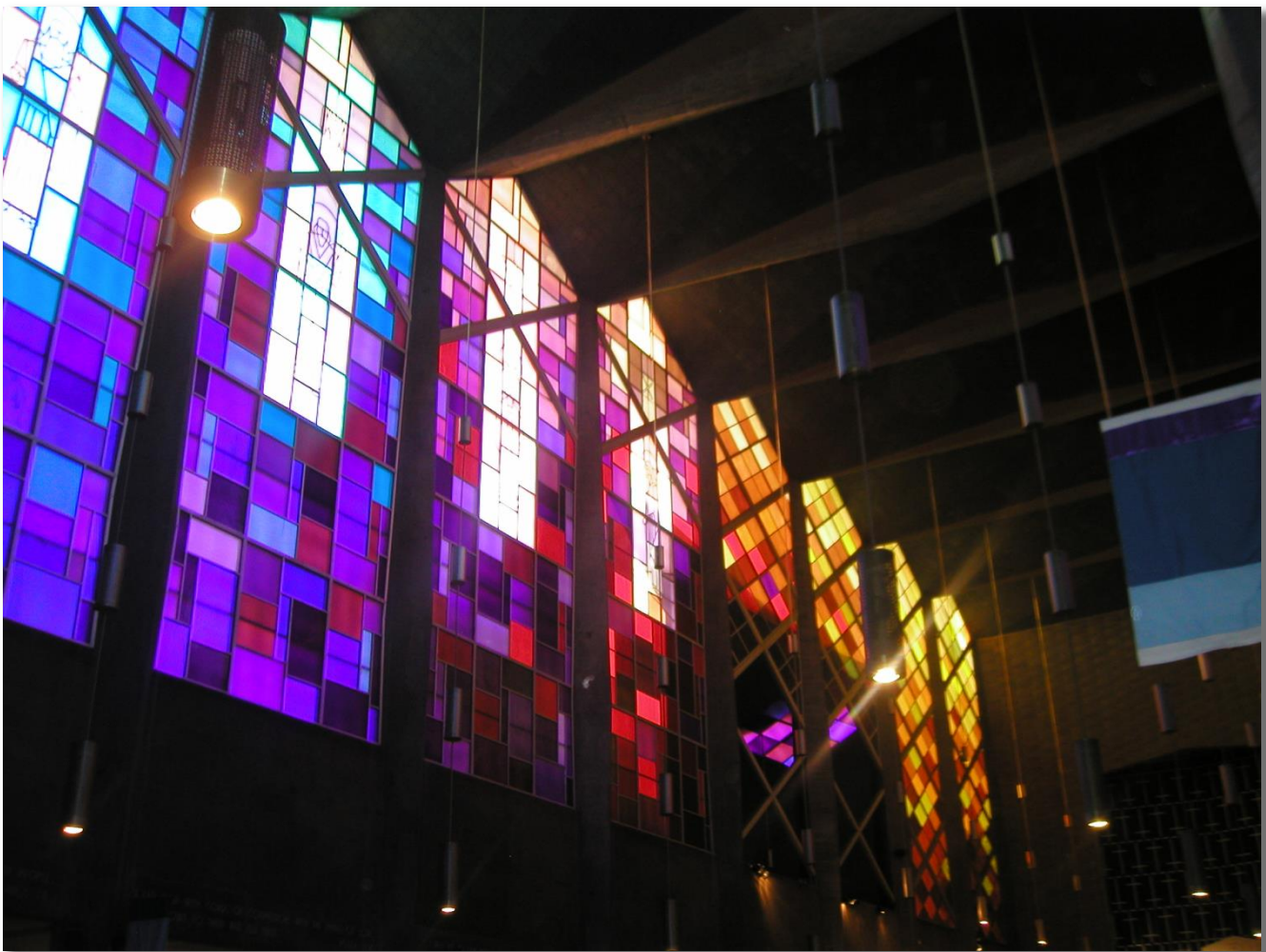
April 17, 2015

First United Methodist Church. Glendale California

Submitted by Jim Owen

Sonata in F Minor, Mendelssohn - Ladd Thomas
Pictures at an Exhibition, Moussorgsky - Cherry Rhodes
The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Dukas - Rhodes & Thomas

Cherry Rhodes is adjunct professor of organ at the University of Southern California, where she has taught for 40 years. Ladd Thomas has been on the USC faculty for 48 years. He has served the First United Methodist Church of Glendale for 55 years. Both artists have recorded and concertized extensively.



Nave, First United Methodist Church



Schantz Opus 488, III/84



Cherry Rhodes, Ladd Thomas, John Walker, AGO President

REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND THE 2015 REGIONAL CONVENTION

American Guild of Organists 2015 Great Lakes Region Convention
July 12 - 15, 2015 · Indianapolis, Indiana



The Indianapolis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is proud to host the AGO 2015 Great Lakes Convention. We have planned a fantastic regional convention that you won't want to miss.

Mark your calendars for July 12-15, 2015 and RACE TO INDY for Friends, Music and Inspiration. With twelve world-class organists performing on worldclass organs of different styles, twelve workshop opportunities and a keynote address at the convention's opening convocation by the Reverend Canon Victoria Sirota of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, NYC; it is a regional convention you won't want to miss.

The regional convention will be headquartered in the luxurious Hilton Indianapolis Hotel & Suites in beautiful downtown Indianapolis, offering reasonable rates, spacious accommodations, impeccable service, and located minutes away from major attractions in the city. Convention attendees can enjoy dining at the two restaurants within the hotel, 120 West Bar and Grill and McCormick & Schmick's, or enjoy a wide selection of restaurants to fit any taste and budget all within a few blocks of the hotel.

It is the mission of the Convention Steering Committee and the Indianapolis Chapter, AGO to host a regional convention that is fulfilling, inspirational, educational and provides convention attendees fellowship and networking opportunities. We hope you will join us July 12-15, 2015.

Visit our website at www.ago-racetoindy-2015.org.

**Todd A. Saul
Convention Coordinator
Convention Steering Committee, Chair**



Dayton Chapter

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