



# Dayton Ohio Chapter The American Guild of Organists



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December 2019

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Organists are always extremely busy at this time of year preparing music, rehearsing choirs and playing extra services and programs. Christmas is a wonderful time of celebration with some of the most beautiful music of the entire year. There are a variety of festivities, both large and small, that we hope to enjoy, but we must often balance them with our engagements and commitments. **I hope you can all make some time for yourselves to enjoy the music we cherish, the friends and family who support us throughout the year and remember the real reasons we celebrate Christmas!**

-- Cheers, Matt

**Our Next Program is**  
**“Spicing up Service Playing by John Neely”**  
**Sunday, January 26th, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.**

Our next program is the workshop **“Spicing up Service Playing”** by **John Neely** on Sunday, January 26th, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 125 N Wilkinson St, Dayton, OH. Based on his broad experiences, John will cover topics like performing piano accompaniments on the organ, spicing up hymn playing and directing from the console. We will go to dinner at a local restaurant after the program

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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.

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**EXTRA! EXTRA!**  
**COMING NEXT ISSUE!**

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

Also, you are more than welcome to write articles to appear in Trumpetings. Send your articles and pictures to Matt and he'll make sure they get in. The articles can be on a wide variety of topics that would be of interest to the chapter.

**John's Bio:** The American choral conductor and organist, John Neely, grew up in Western Pennsylvania and has been active in the Presbyterian Church all his life. He holds degrees from Duquesne University, Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister.



John Neely has taught in the music departments of at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, and at Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio. In 1981 he moved to Dayton, Ohio and became Associate Minister for Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Dayton. A superb organist and choral director, under his leadership Westminster Church has an active music program for all ages with five singing choirs and three handbell choirs. Westminster offers musical programs that nourish the entire region.

John Neely is one of the most renowned musicians in the Greater Dayton region. He has been Music Director of the Bach Society of Dayton since its inception in 2002. His engaging personality, abundant musical skills, and ability to nurture musicians of varied ages make him the ideal musical leader of the Bach Society of Dayton.

John has been Dean of the Canton and Dayton Chapters of the American Guild of Organists and was National President of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. He is active in the Dayton and surrounding areas as an organ recitalist, choral clinician, and is Music Director of the Bach Society of Dayton. He got married in 2002 with Ruth. They are parents of two grown sons and four grandchildren, Micah, Zeke, Kennedy, and Miles.

**“Mindful and Physical Aspects of Organ Practicing”  
by Dr. Michael Unger was a great program!**

Dr. Unger gave an outstanding workshop on “mindful” organ practice. He started off with several quotes on practice. My favorite was by Paul Check who wrote, “Repetition is the mother of skill, so long as there’s skill in the repetition.” How many times have we practiced a difficult section by repeating or just playing through. You’ve got to do the extra work to improve. He based the next part of his presentation on the “Inner Game of Tennis”, by Timothy Gallway.

According to Michael, Gallway had four steps of learning including:

*Step 1: Observe the existing behavior nonjudgmentally.*

*Step 2: Visualize the desired outcome*

*Step 3: Let it happen – Trust yourself*

*Step 4: Nonjudgmental, calm observation of the result*

*And then repeat as needed*

Paraphrasing the steps, constructively figure out what is going wrong, find the best method to improve, implement the improvement and trust yourself to implement them, and finally, reassess to see if you need to make additional changes.

Nonjudgmental, constructive reflection was a foundation for much of what he recommended. He finished up the evening with practical examples trying to implement the various techniques as members played. Michael was very personable and gave an enjoyable, informative very useful presentation. A few photos of the workshop follow.





## Visit the Dayton AGO Music Library at Westminster

The Dayton Chapter has a growing music “library” that is currently housed at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The library is primarily composed of organ literature, but has piano works, choral music and method books as well. The music is arranged by composer for much of the work but also has groups organized by holiday, collections, anthology, wedding music, sheet music and lots of monthly’s like the Organ Portfolio. The library is open to everyone. Just stop in and peruse the music. Take what you would like to use and leave a donation. We highly encourage teachers (and students) to use the library. There is a lot of the standard literature for study spanning all levels of difficulty.

To access the library, visit Westminster on a weekday. Enter through the Office door on the east side of the church and let the administrator know you would like to go up and review music in the AGO library. It is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in room 301.



## 2019-2020 Programs Dayton Chapter of the AGO

**Sunday, February 9th, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.**

### **Paul Bysanthe Jr Recital.**

**Location: Kettering Seventh Day Adventist Church  
3939 Stonebridge Rd, Dayton, OH**

The KETSDA sponsored recital by Paul Byssainthe, Jr. of SLIGO Seventh Day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, MD will serve as our February program. Paul is an accomplished organist, conductor, and composer and this should be a wonderful concert. We will go to dinner at a local restaurant after the program. Host Rachel Lammi

**March 2020 - March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.**

### **Organ Crawl South**

**Locations: Watch the website/Trumpetings for Schedules, Maps and Transportation Details**

Join us for an Organ Crawl focused on American organs circa 1900. The crawl includes a 1908 Barkhoff sanctuary organ and a Brombaugh organ in the assembly room of St. John's UCC in Germantown; (2) an old Kilgen in St. John's Middletown plus a 1901 Austin in a nearby sister parish; and (3) a 1890 Frank Roosevelt Organ at Covenant Presbyterian in Springboro. Bring some music and your organ shoes so you can give these wonderful organs a try. **We'll finish up with dinner at Doubleday's Tavern just two minutes from the last organ!**

**Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.**

### **Clark Wilson Silent Film Accompaniment at Victoria Theater.**

**Location: Victoria Theater  
138 N Main St, Dayton, OH**

The Chapter is Sponsoring Clark Wilson, an Ohio native and resident organist at the famed Ohio Theatre in Columbus, to play at the Victoria. This should be a fantastic event. Clark has played extensive silent movie accompaniment, including the Chautauqua Institution in New York, the Packard Foundation's Stanford Theatre, UCLA, and the Fox Theatre for the Atlanta premier of the restored "Metropolis." and plays a silent picture annually on the organ series at L.A.'s new Walt Disney Concert Hall. This event will be open to the public (tickets available), and the chapter will get a tour of the organ prior to the program. **We'll meet for dinner prior to the program.**

**Sunday, May 3rd, 2020 at 4pm**

### **Academy Recital & Installation of Chapter Officers**

**Location: Kettering Seventh Day Adventist Church  
3939 Stonebridge Rd, Dayton, OH**

Help us celebrate the accomplishments of the young organists of the Organ Academy as well as recognize the efforts and dedication of the Academy instructors. The Installations of Chapter Officers will also be held. A reception will follow the program. **Host: Rachel Lammi**

## Upcoming Area Events

**Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 7:30 PM**

### **Sweet Sounds of the Holidays**

- **Bach Society of Dayton**

**Kettering Adventist Church  
3939 Stonebridge Road Kettering, OH**

Celebrate the season with our annual concert and sing-along filled with transcendent bells ringing, joyous children singing, and the sweet guitar of Jim McCutcheon.

Kettering Children's Choir Chorale — Bruce Swank director

Kettering Advent Ringers — Joan Ulloth Dorgan director

Bach Society Chorus — John Neely music director | R. Alan Kimbrough accompanist



**Friday, December 13 at 12:00 Noon**

### **NOONDAY CAROL SING**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church  
125 N. Wilkinson St, Dayton, OH**

Handbell Music Westminster Ringers

Carol singing by all and choral music by the Xenia High School choir, Travis Matson, Director

Lunch follows



**Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 p.m.**

### **HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Dayton Philharmonic Chamber Chorus and Orchestra

Neal Gittleman, Music Director, Hank Dahlman, Chorus Director

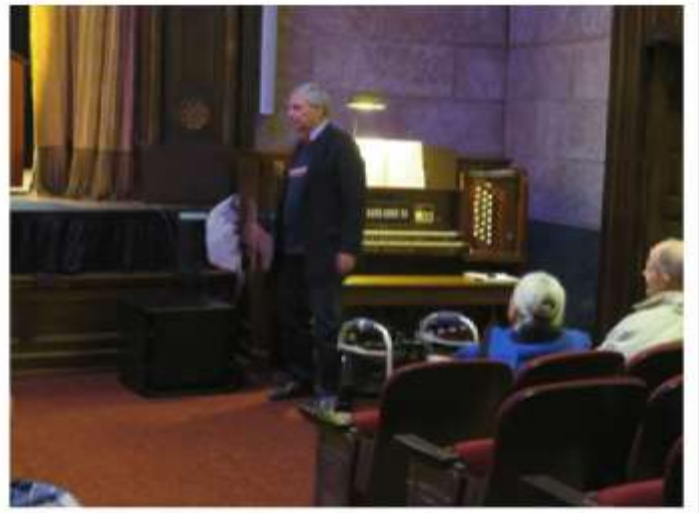
For tickets call Ticket Center Stage (937) 228-3630

**Every Thursday Afternoon in December plus the Saturdays of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>:  
Christmas Music on the Dayton Art Institute's 1929 Skinner Organ, 1:00-2:00 pm**

The 1929 Skinner organ is restored and ready to go. Matt Dierking is coordinating volunteer organists to play informal programs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month. These are very informal where museum patrons come in and out and are encouraged to talk to the organists. Matt has been playing regularly. Terry Fryman, Carolyn Ripp, Mary Ellen Clinard, Terry Donat, Grant Wareham, Rachel Lammi, Alan Kimbrough and Jimmy Leach have all played. If you would like to play, contact Matt Dierking: [matt.dierking@agodayton.org](mailto:matt.dierking@agodayton.org) or cell: 937-505-7290.

**Thanks to Jimmy Leach and Alan Kimbrough... the latest AGO Members to volunteer to play at the Dayton Art Institute. It was a wonderful and varied program spanning multiple centuries. Jimmy and Alan were right at home engaging with the audience young and old. It could have been better, but Jimmy only brought seven trumpets? Actually, it was wonderful to hear the different horns for each piece! What warm and talented musicians.**









**Dayton Chapter**

American Guild of Organists  
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