



*American Guild of*  
**ORGANISTS**  
*Dayton Chapter*

August 2026

**TRUMPETINGS**  
**Newsletter**

**Dean's Note: The One Constant is Change**

By Matt Dierking, Dean

**Thank You For Your Service, Karen!** It is with great regret that I report that Dean Karen Bocko resigned her position in early July 2026. Karen served the chapter for three very successful years first as Sub-Dean and then for a year as Dean. Karen was a tireless leader always looking for ways to make the Chapter better and more engaging for the members. Karen was especially passionate about the encouragement and education of young organists. Karen was an enthusiastic supporter of the Academy, student scholarships and the Pedal, Pipes & Pizza program. She had personally taken on many of the logistical responsibilities for the PPP. Karen was a pleasure to work with and will be greatly missed.

**So, The Only Constant is Change:** After Karen's resignation, the chapter leadership was forced to change. The Officer/Board successions and appointments are now complete. Per our Operating Procedures, Matt Dierking assumed the role of Dean upon Karen's departure from office. Matt will serve as Dean for the remainder of the 2 year period ending in May 2028. As the new Dean, Matt appointed Barbara Acker-Mills to serve as Sub-Dean for the same period, filling out the remainder of his term. Barbara is a perfect fit. She has previously been an officer in another chapter, has been active in our chapter and is already serving on the program committee this year.

Similarly, Nicholas Koch was appointed to serve in Barbara's place on the Board. As both an organist and a builder, Nicholas brings a unique and valuable perspective including knowledge of many of the area's organs. Nicholas has been active in the chapter and directly supported several of last year's programs.

A huge **Thank You** to both Barbara and Nicholas for agreeing to serve the chapter!. Hopefully they'll find their time on the board rewarding and enjoyable. Finally, **Thanks** to all of our currently serving officers and board members. I think we have a great group of leaders, and I'm looking forward to serving with all of them for the next couple of years! The current Officers, Board and Committee Chairs are:

**OFFICERS**

**Dean,** Dr. Matt Dierking

**Secretary,** Priscilla Acuff

**Sub-Dean,** Dr. Barbara Acker-Mills

**Treasurer,** Dr. Yun Kim

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Class of 2029**

Nicholas Koch (New)

John Richardson

**Class of 2028**

Joe Severyn

Judy Bede

**Class of 2027**

Madeleine Demetriades

Terry Donat

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Organ Academy Chair

Rachel Spry Lammi

Educational Concerns

Judy Bede

Placement Coordinator

Dr. Jimmy Leach

Membership Coordinator

Ellen Bagley

Webmaster

Dr. David Crean

Newsletter Editor

Dr. Matt Dierking

Scholarship Coordinator

Priscilla Acuff

Social Media Coordinator

Madeleine Demetriades

## Dayton Chapter Wins Gold!

The Dayton Chapter was one of six chapters across the AGO to earn a “Gold Medal” rating in the inaugural AGO Chapter Achievement Awards. The awards were designed to recognize excellence in **programming, education, membership, community outreach, and communications activities**. Entries were judged by a 10 person panel from across the AGO. The winners represented every AGO region, and ranged in size from 13 to more than 200 members. The results are shown in the table below.



| <b>AGO Chapter Achievement Award Recipients</b>                      |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                   |                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>GOLD</u></b>                                                   | <b><u>SILVER</u></b>                                                                                                                  | <b><u>BRONZE</u></b>                                                                              | <b><u>COMMENDATION</u></b>                                             |
| Dayton<br>European<br>Harrisburg<br>San Jose<br>Spokane<br>Worcester | Charlotte<br>Chippewa Valley<br>Detroit<br>Evansville<br>Fox Valley<br>Lancaster<br>New London<br>Salt Lake City<br>Southern Illinois | Atlanta<br>Denver Rocky<br>Mountain<br>Fort Lauderdale<br>Grand Strand<br>Rockford<br>Space Coast | Las Cruces<br>Lexington<br>Louisville<br>North Shore<br>Treasure Coast |

**This Award belongs to the Whole Chapter and would not be possible without the Chapter wide effort that made it possible. Thanks to the efforts of many, we truly had “excellence in programming, education, membership, community outreach, and communications”.**

**Programming:** Last year, the board put together a varied program which included recitals, educational workshops, and community outreach. We combined organ factory tours with new organ crawls, had workshops on improvisation, registration and organ history. We had a recital from national level organists like Jasson Stafford and former members like Dr. Devon Howard.

**Education:** The chapter had multiple education programs including the Dayton Organ Academy led by Rachel Spry-Lammi, scholarships and workshops. The efforts of our four Academy Teachers Terry Donat, Daniel Neal, and Alan Kimbrough and their students culminated with the student recital. We awarded a scholarship to former Academy student Ellie Sauser who is a double major in music (organ) and biomedical sciences at Andrews University. We had two complimentary registration workshops led by Rachel Lammi and Dr. David Crean. Finally, Madeleine Demetriades maintained the chapters extensive music used by both members and students alike.

**Outreach:** We had multiple community outreach programs including regular bi-monthly programs at the Dayton Art Institute, the Annual Halloween Spooktacular at the DAI played by Priscilla Acuff, Matt Dierking, Yun Kim, Lynn Mishler. This year a second Spooktacular performance requested by Bexley UMC was held in Columbus including their organist.

**Membership:** The chapter has continued its efforts to retain current members and engage with prospective members. Leading this was our Chapter Membership Chair, Ellen Bagley, who updates the chapter directory, contacts each member and each advertiser to update their contact information, makes sure they have been receiving the communications and encourage their membership renewals. We use name tags at every event to let

prospective members know who we are, and we make a special effort to make the visitors feel welcome, engaged in the programs. The chapter utilizes commercial signage both inside the events and outside the venues to help advertise both the events and the chapter. Finally, each chapter program is paired with a social event such as a lunch, dinner or reception that are open to both members and visitors. This gives chapter members time to connect socially and for potential members to get to know the chapter and its members.

**Communications:** Our chapter uses multiple methods to communicate with members and the public. David Crean manages our website, Madeleine Demetriades maintains the Chapter Facebook page, each year we develop and distribute a brochure with our contact information and programs and Matt Dierking creates our newsletter. We also advertised and participated in multiple interviews on Discover Classical Public Radio -WDPR such as ArtsFocus and Culture Couch.

**Participation:** One of the most important elements underlying each of the above elements was chapter participation. Thanks to all of you, we had great participation across all of our events. I think the board has another great program planned for 2026-2027, so hopefully we can make Gold again.

**Thanks again to everyone for their efforts! It was truly a Chapter-wide effort that made us a Gold Medal Chapter!!**

### 2026-2027 Dayton Chapter Programs

The board and program committee have done a great job putting together this year's slate of programs (see the list below). We will have educational workshops, recitals, an organ crawl, community outreach programs and the Pedal, Pipes and Pizza for kids. Like last year, we'll have a social get together at a local restaurant after most programs. Hopefully, there should be something for everyone, and we hope to see you all at this year's programs.

**Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 4:00PM**

**Chapter Potluck Dinner & Electronic Music Displays/Resources Program**

**Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church**

**Address: 2300 S Smithville Rd, Dayton, OH 45420**

If you ever wanted to give electronic displays a try – Now's your chance! Come join us for chapter's start-of-season potluck dinner followed by a presentation by Madeleine Demetriades and Joe Severyn on Electronic Displays and Resources. They will present multiple displays and software packages to acquire, annotate, store and use electronic music in programs and services. You can even try their devices on the bench. Main dishes and drinks provided by the chapter. Members should bring a side dish or dessert.

**Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10:00AM**

**Richard Elliot Workshop: “Secrets of Organ Playing Success”**

**and**

**Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM**

**Westminster Recital – Richard Elliot (Matt)**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

**125 N Wilkinson St, Dayton, OH**

**On Saturday**, Dr. Richard Elliott, Principal Organist of the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, will present his highly regarded workshop titled "Secrets for Organ Playing Success". His masterclass series and lectures focus on foundational skills and musicianship including Posture & Balance, Pedal Technique, Score Preparation, Piston Memory Use, and Stage Presence.

**On Sunday**, Dr. Elliott will perform in concert. Dr. Elliot blends classical training with influences from rock and gospel to provide a varied and interesting program often including virtuosic pedal technique and dynamic improvisations.

**Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 2:00PM**

**Bonus Program: Halloween Spooktacular**

Dayton Art Institute, Rose Auditorium

456 Belmonte Park N, Dayton, OH

Ghoulish chapter organists will play silent-movie-style to a crazy array of short spooky films. This “Bonus” program will again feature animated shorts from Ringling College and will be fun for poltergeists of all ages!

**Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM**

**Lister-Sink Method Hands-On Workshop by Barbara Acker-Mills**

**St Mark’s Episcopal Church**

**456 Woodman Dr, Dayton, OH**

Do you experience discomfort or pain at the keyboard, aching forearms and neck, or other tension which limits your musical control and practice time? This hands-on workshop will introduce the Lister-Sink Method principles of natural alignment, balanced weight transfer through the arm, and use of rotation and lateral motion. Participants will engage in activities designed to develop body awareness and will learn the basics of biomechanics at the keyboard. The workshop also will demonstrate how these movement principles apply to everyday tasks such as computer work, fitness activities, even gardening, housework, and other repetitive activities. Participants will leave with a practical routine designed to reduce or prevent tension at the keyboard as well as in a broad array of everyday activities.

Dr. Barbara Lister-Sink is an internationally recognized expert in injury preventative keyboard technique. Workshop presenter Dr. Barbara Acker-Mills earned both a BM in piano performance and a certificate in injury preventative keyboard technique with Dr. Lister-Sink. Dr. Acker-Mills also brings her background in human factors and ergonomics to keyboard technique.

**Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2027 at 2:00PM**

**Classic Cartoons & Music at the DAI**

**Dayton Art Institute**

**456 Belmonte Park N, Dayton, OH**

Classical music is at the heart of many of the great old cartoons and animated movies. Several organists from the Dayton Chapter will play the DAI Skinner to accompany films ranging from Bugs Bunny's "Rabbit of Seville" to excerpts of "Fantasia". This informal, family friendly event will have music and cartoons for kids of all ages.

**Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2027 at 10:00AM**

**Pedals, Pipes and Pizza**

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**

**4865 Wilmington Pike, Dayton, OH 45440**

Priscilla Acuff will once again lead the Dayton Chapter's Pedals, Pipes and Pizza organ event for kids. This fun-filled morning will include an introduction to the organ, its history, mechanics and different sounds of the organ with Dr. Yun Kim. Nicholas Koch, of Koch Organ Company, will lead a tour of the organ's pipework. Finally, Priscilla Acuff will guide each participant as they play the big organ, so bring some music you've been working on. We'll round out the morning with pizza and dessert after the program.

**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2027 at 2:00PM**

**Dayton Organ Crawl**

**Multiple Area Churches starting at**

**Christ Episcopal Church,**

**20 W First St, Dayton, OH**

Dayton is lucky to have a variety of very interesting pipe organs. For our 2027 Organ Crawl, we will get the chance to hear and play three instruments in the Dayton metro area. We'll begin at Christ Episcopal Church, OH (Yun Kim's church) with the recently rebuilt Teller organ. It includes ranks from the Moller that preceded it along with new and revoiced reeds. The tonal finishing tried to bring out the beauty of Teller's original tonal vision. We'll visit two other nearby organs to be announced later this year. Bring your shoes and music and be ready to give these instruments a try.

**Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2027 at 4:00PM**

**Spring Members Concert**

**First Lutheran Church**

**30 S Wittenberg Ave, Springfield, OH**

First Lutheran will host a Member's Concert where members will play a variety of classical to modern pieces, including pieces prepared for Easter, on First Lutheran's beautiful II/25 Holtkamp Organ. Come celebrate the talents of the Dayton Chapter and the local community musicians.

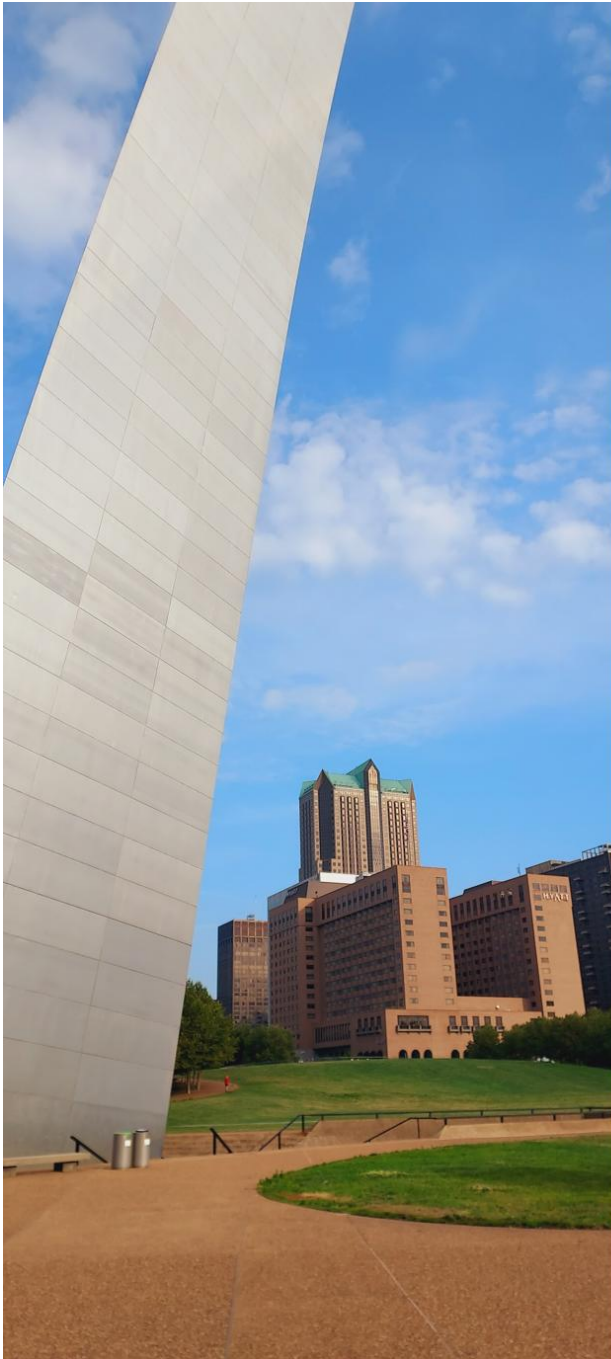
**Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2027 at 4:00PM**  
**Dayton Organ Academy Student Recital**  
**Fairmont Presbyterian Church**  
**3705 Far Hills Ave, Kettering, OH**

The annual Student Recital celebrates the accomplishments of the young organists in the Dayton Organ Academy as well as the efforts and dedication of their instructors. Come help us support these aspiring young musicians as they show off the work they have done over the last year. The new Chapter Officers will also be installed. A reception will immediately follow the program.



## AGO National Convention

Sub-Dean Matt Dierking and Lynn Mishler attended the AGO National Convention July 6<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The convention as held at the Hyatt Regency at the St. Louis at The Arch. Like the other conventions we've attended, in the mornings the St. Louis convention had over thirty workshops ranging from the History of the 1904 World's Fair Organ to Structures in Bach's music to AGO Chapter Leadership 101. In the afternoons and evenings there were a wide variety of recitals and concerts ranging from a small 'Taizé' service with three soloists to massive recitals in a Basilica. Most importantly, the conventions allow you to reconnect with colleagues and friends and make new connections from chapters across the country. The next several pages show some pictures from the conventions.



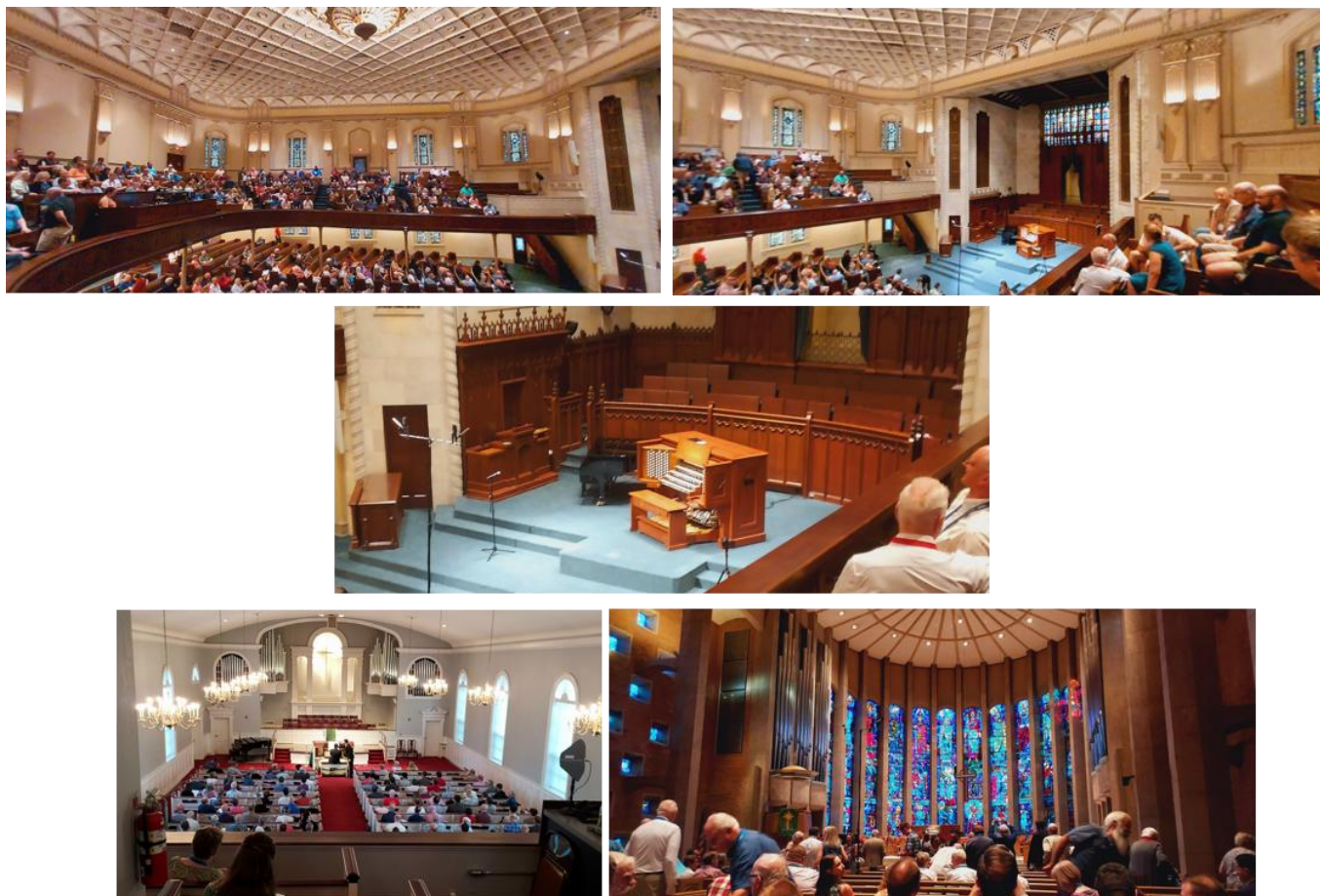


The convention's opening dinner and recitals were held at Principia College on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. This beautiful campus is about an hour from the conference hotel. It hosted a St. Louis BBQ dinner which gave us the first chance to meet with folks from other chapters. A baroque concert was held in the college chapel followed by a 4<sup>th</sup> of July focused concert including the organ and the Air Force band.





In the afternoon and evenings, concerts and recitals were held in a variety of churches and concert halls across the St. Louis metro area with a wide range of music and performers.

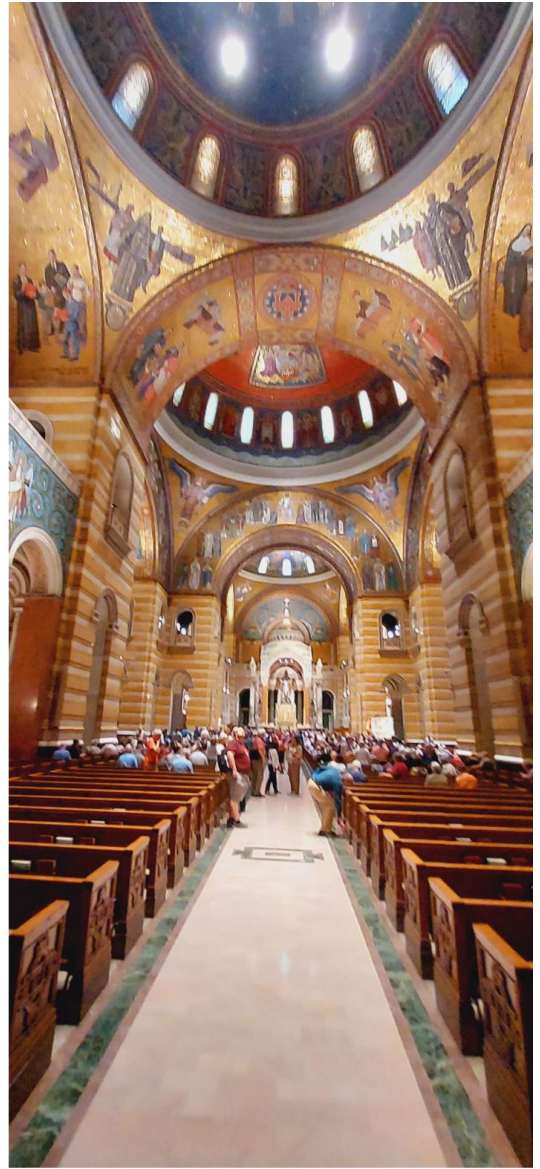


We took an afternoon to visit the 80 acre St. Louis Botanical Gardens. The gardens were a short ten minute car ride from the conference center and included formal French, Italian and English gardens as well as tropical and desert habitats.





One of the major recitals was held in Basilica of St. Louis. The cathedral was designated a basilica by Pope John Paul II in 1997 and has the most extensive mosaics in the US. Virtually every visible surface is a mosaic scene. The original 1915 Kilgen organ has been expanded over the years to the current 118 ranks and 7,621 pipes. Music director Benton Blasingame played a varied program in the massive space.





One of the best parts of a conventions is the connections between musicians. The conventions provide plenty of time to connect through time off, at venues and through group dinners/lunches. The top picture shows organists we have known for a decade that are from across the country including Minnesota, Florida, Wisconsin and California as well as new friends we met at this convention. Most of this group we originally met on a French organ tour, but we get together every couple of years – including Michael Barone and Lise from Pipe Dreams.



If you haven't been to a convention yet, we highly recommend you try it in the future. The venues, workshops, music, connections with musicians and new friendships make it an experience you don't want to miss!

## **Newsletter & Facebook Announcements**

### **Newsletter Inputs**

Chapter members are encouraged to submit items and articles for the newsletter. They can be anything that would be of interest to the chapter members including such diverse topics as organ techniques, organs or programs you visited, chapter history, etc.. The deadline for sending information and photos for newsletter is the 20th of the month and should be submitted to [matt.dierking@gmail.com](mailto:matt.dierking@gmail.com).

### **Program/Event Announcements for the Newsletter:**

Chapter members are encouraged to submit announcements for local programs for the newsletter that would be of interest to the chapter including concerts, recitals, dedications, choral events, etc.. The announcements should include a title, date/time, location, a short description (a couple of sentences is fine), point of contact and a photo if possible. The deadline for submitting announcements is the 20th of the month prior to event date or two weeks prior to the event date – whichever is earliest.



### **Facebook Announcements**

Chapter members may submit event/program announcements to the Chapter Facebook page. They can be anything that would be of interest to the chapter members including concerts, recitals, dedications, choral events, etc.. The Facebook page turnaround is faster than the newsletter and can also reach people outside of the chapter. Announcements should be submitted to our Facebook page editor, Madeleine Demetriades ([madeleinedemetriades@gmail.com](mailto:madeleinedemetriades@gmail.com)), one to two weeks before the event. Madeleine will make the final decision on what to post on the page.

## **Area Events**

Please feel free to submit write ups for non-chapter events that may be of interest to chapter members that you would like to appear in the Newsletter or Facebook page.



## Want to Play the Dayton Art Institute's 1929 Skinner?



The Dayton Art Institute's 1929 Skinner organ is a wonderful, historic instrument in a beautiful Italian renaissance styled auditorium. As a community outreach, Matt Dierking plays regular programs on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month. The programs are designed to be informal, fun and a hopefully a little educational. Museum patrons are encouraged to engage with the organist and ask questions about the organ, its history and/or the music. These discussions can be the best part of a program! One of the great things is that you can pretty much play whatever you like. Playing a wide variety of music is best since this is often the first time many of the museum patrons have heard a real pipe organ. A single program could include everything from a 1500's fugue all the way to a Walt Disney movie theme. You can also play music from the holidays or events in that month such as Christmas, Black History Month, Fourth of July, Oktoberfest, etc.. These programs can be a lot of fun to play and are a great way to introduce people to the pipe organ. **If you would like to get more information about playing a program on the Skinner, please contact Matt Dierking: [matt.dierking@gmail.com](mailto:matt.dierking@gmail.com) or cell: 937-505-7290.**