

# The Guilder

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AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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AGO  
Columbus



## DEAN'S CORNER

Since the time I was a beginner organist, I have read in the national magazine, *The American Organist*, and have seen on the national AGO website information about the importance of a church or synagogue musician having a contract with the employing organization. Our colleagues also talk about this at national and regional conventions. I recall a national salary survey that provided some statistics on the use of contracts. But, I can't recall hearing how contracts are used or not used at a local level.

While I have heard plenty of anecdotes from my fellow organists about the ups and downs of their job experiences, the subject of contracts seldom comes up in casual conversations. I wonder why that is. I wonder if organists are using contracts, not using them, and what their general experience has been: good, bad, or indifferent. I wonder if there are perceptions about whether contracts are useful more for full-time or part-time positions. I don't even have the foggiest idea about how many in our chapter have contracts. Wouldn't it be interesting to send out a mini-survey on this topic to our members?

My personal experience with organist-church contracts spans 5 different church jobs in 3 different regions of the country. For now, I choose to not be a working church musician, so am now reminiscing about previous positions. All of the positions were part-time. Some included choir direction. For me, there was a strong correlation between job satisfaction and the care and attention given by church employers to my contract—not only at initial hire, but also continued feedback during my stay. Clergy and church leaders who paid the most attention to my contract seemed to care the most about my professional contribution and about me as a person who deserved to be treated well. This kind of positive behavior is really a virtuous circle, since a church organist with a “spring in his/her step” can better serve their audiences with inspiring music. Contracts help set expectations about so many important issues. As a part-time employee with a non-related full-time career, contracts were critical to my situation for setting boundaries and managing job scope-creep. I was also able to tailor contracts to my individual needs.

Fellow AGO members have been helpful mentors to me with regards to contracts and church employment. Every two years, we elect an AGO region five professional concerns officer, who is happy to provide information and help. If you have questions or concerns, I hope you will find your AGO network useful. If you will soon be having an annual discussion about your contract, you can cheerfully say to yourself: “For once, this meeting IS all about ME!”

Best wishes for a joyful Christmas season and a peaceful New Year.

*With kind regards,*

*Laura J. Silva*

*Laura Silva, CAGO*

*Dean, Columbus Chapter AGO*

# AGO JANUARY MEETING

## *An Authentic Approach to Teaching Choirs & Congregations to Sing African American Spirituals*

An Authentic Approach to Teaching Choirs & Congregations to Sing African American Spirituals by The Reverend Edward Thomas Payne, former Metropolitan Opera Singer, Associate Professor of Voice and Opera at Ohio University, and Director of Choral Activities at Fisk University. Fisk University is where the African American Spiritual was first documented on manuscript in the late 19th century. This practical workshop will include demonstrations as well as invite everyone to participate in singing Spirituals. The jubilee event will take place Sunday, January 25th, at 4 PM at the welcoming Saint Philip's Episcopal Church, 166 Woodland Avenue, Columbus (614) 253-2771.

## EVENTS OF INTEREST

### **TODD WILSON - Sunday, January 11, 2009 - 3:00 p.m. - St. Joseph Cathedral**

Todd Wilson, Ohio native, Cleveland Orchestra Organist and Professor of Organ at Indiana University. Mr. Wilson will play a varied program that will demonstrate the Fritts organ's color and beauty. St. Joseph Cathedral is located at 212 East Broad Street, Columbus. The telephone to the church is (614) 241-2526.

### **EARLY MUSIC CONCERT - Sunday, January 25, 2009 - 4:00 p.m. - First Congregational Church**

A concert of early music will honor the memory of Ben Bechtel, a First Church member and master harpsichord builder. It will feature Ben's final and magnificent harpsichord. First Congregational Church is located at 444 East Broad Street, Columbus. The telephone to the church is (614) 228-1741.

### **SOME ENCHANTED EVENING - Sunday, January 25, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.**

#### **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

An evening of Opera and Broadway Favorites. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is located at 5475 Brand Road, Dublin, Ohio. The telephone to the church is (614) 766-6377.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Interim Lead Musician** - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - To provide interim music leadership weekly and seasonal worship events at least through May 2009 at which point we plan to have permanent music staff in place following a comprehensive search process which will begin this fall. If so interested, the interim lead musician would be welcome to apply for a permanent position at that time. Interested persons may send resumes to: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, c/o Personnel Chair, 2001 Northwest Blvd, Columbus, Ohio 43212, email@holylutheran.info.

**Organist Wanted** - The Bellefontaine First United Methodist Church seeks a talented Organist for a part-time employment opportunity. The ideal candidate will provide music for Sunday morning worship services, weekly choir rehearsals, and several additional services throughout the church year. Accommodation may be made if a qualified candidate is not available for weekly choir rehearsals. Opportunities for additional income may be available for special services and events held at the church. Interested candidates should send a resume to the Bellefontaine First United Methodist Church, 201 N. Main Street, Bellefontaine, OH, 43311, Attn. SPPR. For questions or clarifications, feel free to contact the church via the secretary, Terra Haisley, 937-592-9651; office@bellefontainefumc.org

**Interim Vocal Music Director** - This is an interim position that will end May 25, 2009. If so interested, the interim director is welcome to apply for the permanent position beginning in the Fall of 2009. For additional information please contact Pastor Donald Allman, St. John's Lutheran Church, 3220 Columbus Street, Grove City, Ohio 43123 (614) 875-2314.

# DIRECTORY UPDATES

## **Dr. Thomas Veregge**

3440 Olentangy River Road, Apartment 3E - Columbus, OH 43202 - H: (614) 447-2121 - Email: veregge.1@osu.edu

Organist, Highlands Presbyterian Church - Available to substitute for weddings

## **Christopher Warner**

Christopher has been appointed Organist and Music Director at Broad Street Christian Church.

## **Robert Hendrickson**

New address - 352 Sycamore Woods Lane - Gahanna, OH 43230

## **Stanley W. Osborn**

New address - 352 Sycamore Woods Lane - Gahanna, OH 43230-5603

## **Debbie Brown**

5219 Victoria Street - Groveport, OH 43125 - H: 614-403-7212 - browndeb37@yahoo.com. Available to substitute Sunday AM and PM, as well as for weddings and funerals. Familiar with Catholic, Episcopal, and Lutheran liturgies

## **Frank Behne III**

161 Curl Drive - Apartment 514 - Columbus, OH 43210 - H: 440.361.1551 - franksbehne3@gmail.com

Full-time student at OSU.

## UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SPONSORS NORTH GERMAN ORGAN STUDY TOUR

From July 28-August 10, 2009, the University of Kansas will sponsor KU European Organ Study Tour IV: North Germany, under the direction of professor Michael Bauer. This tour will include a significant number of the major Schnitger organs, as well as renaissance instruments, important 17th century organs by Scherer and Stellwagen, romantic organs by Ladegast and Sauer, and contemporary instruments by Ahrend and Metzler. We will also tour the Ahrend shop and have free time in Hamburg and Lübeck. For further information see [www2.ku.edu/~organ](http://www2.ku.edu/~organ), write [mbauer@ku.edu](mailto:mbauer@ku.edu), or call 785-864-9744.



*Happy Holidays*  
*from*  
*Columbus AGO*

# January Meeting Columbus Chapter AGO

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*An Authentic Approach to Teaching Choirs &  
Congregations to Sing African American Spirituals*

**Sunday, January 25th - 4:00 p.m.**

Saint Philip's Episcopal Church  
166 Woodland Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio  
Telephone: (614) 253-2771

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year of the  
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2008-2009

American  
Guild of  
Organists



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*American Guild of Organists*

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