

October 2017

# The Guilder

The Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.agocolumbus.org



*The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.*

## Fall Programs



### **Matthew Bickett, Organ Recital Sunday, October 8, 4:00 p.m.**

*Broad Street United Methodist Church  
501 E. Broad Street, Columbus 43215*

The winner of the Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists for the Great Lakes Region, Matthew Bickett, will play a recital.

### **Jeremy Bankson, Improvisation Workshop Saturday, October 14, 10:00 a.m.**

*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
5475 Brand Rd, Dublin 43017*

<http://www.princeofpeacedublin.org>

Please see the Dean's Message for more detail on both programs.

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### **Submissions for the next Guilders are due by October 5.**

The November issue will be published on October 15 and will include concert dates from October 16 to December 1.

Please send submissions to:

[guilder@agocolumbus.org](mailto:guilder@agocolumbus.org)

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### Class of 2019

Kathie Bracy  
 Jason Keefer  
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### Class of 2020

Jennifer Kristler  
 Tyler Robertson  
 Robert Wisniewski



Thomas Gerke

## The Dean's Comments

Anniversaries. When you receive this issue of the Guild I will have attended my high school 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion one week earlier, a two-day series of events recalling the past. The Columbus AGO Chapter is approaching its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and a great deal of planning has been happening to recall the past and celebrate the successes of the chapter and its members. If you have a special memory you would like to share, please let us know. An invitation is extended to you to play an important role.

Contributions to help fund the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary events are now being received. The best method to contribute is by sending a check to Al Adcock, 2480 Dunstan Dr., Columbus, OH 43235; or you can contribute by credit card by going to the AGO national website ([www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)) and logging on to ONCARD as if you were renewing your membership. Your support is greatly appreciated and contributions are tax deductible.

Speaking of membership, if you have not renewed your membership, please do so now. Please speak with others about joining. The benefits are many and significant.

We look forward to two Guild events in October. The winner of the 2017 Great Lakes Quimby Regional Contest of Young Organists, Matthew Bickett, will present a recital at the Broad Street UMC, Columbus, on Sunday, October 8 at 4:00. His recital will include works by Dietrich Buxtehude, J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Frank Bridge, and Marcel Dupré. Matthew is from the Portsmouth, Ohio, area and is a student of Jonathan Moyer at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. I hope there will be a good show of support for this upcoming talent.

On Saturday, October 14, at 10:00 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Dublin, Jeremy Bankson will present a workshop on the basics of improvisation. Jeremy states, "Improvisation is often thought of as some magical and mysterious activity that suddenly happens on the spot. This workshop will be a hands- and feet-on opportunity to explore how YOU can learn to improvise using the hymnal as a starting point. If you can play the soprano line of a hymn and the G major scale, you have all the tools needed to develop this skill which will enhance your service playing and never leave you stranded 'on the spot' without music to play. With a few simple techniques, you too can amaze and dazzle your friends with the art of improvisation!" I hope to see many of you there.

## Dean's Committees

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## AGO Mission Statement

**The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.**

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

One of the joys of life is the occurrence of something wonderful, yet unexpected. I would like to share one of my favorite memories. In June of 1974 while visiting a friend in Frankfurt, Germany, we noticed posters around town of an evensong organ recital at the Dreikoenigskirche (Three Kings Church) to be held that Sunday evening. A group of six of us arrived thirty minutes before the recital and paid the entrance fee. We were the last ones allowed to enter the church and a long line of people were turned away. The recital was all J.S. Bach, including the Toccata and Fugue in F Major. This recital was the farewell recital of organist Helmut Walcha, who was retiring from the position of organist at that church. Herr Walcha was internationally known as an expert interpreter of J.S. Bach organ music. He was legally blind since birth. I regret that it was years later that I better understood how significant that recital was. I wish for you unexpected wonderful occurrences.

Warm regards,

*Tom Gerke*

*Dean, Columbus Chapter AGO*

## Regional Convention Master Class Report #2

*Editor's Note: This is the second of what we hope will be three reports from the three members of the Columbus Chapter who played for master classes at our July 2017 Regional Convention. Taylor Hendershott, the author below, is beginning his third year of studies with Rebecca Abbott in the B.A. in Organ Performance at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. In addition, he began improvisation studies this summer with Richard Fitzgerald at St. Joseph Cathedral. Taylor had not studied the organ prior to college.*

Never before having been afforded the opportunity to attend an AGO convention, I can honestly say that I was not disappointed. Well-known musicians from across the Great Lakes regions, from accredited universities, and beyond, all converged in Youngstown, Ohio, for a week-long exhibition of organ music and other musical events featuring some very fine instruments. Among these instruments were examples of many styles of builds ranging from the powerful symphonic E.M. Skinner of the Stambaugh auditorium to the clean and refined timbres of the Schlicker found in St. John's Episcopal church.

Not only were the venues impressive and well-adorned, but also the people who attended. Steve Repasky of the Hupalo and Repasky organ builders found in San Leandro, California, was a great help to me, as I was dazed and slightly overwhelmed on how to navigate the events of the event. Automatically he extended a very gracious and guiding personality and offered to let me tag along with him as the convention unfolded. This act of kindness towards me from a member of the organ community conveyed to me the rich relationships to be found in the

world of pipe organ. Not only did this provide a glimpse into the AGO community, it also provided me a wealth of knowledge and conversations dealing with organ building, literature, and jargon that I had been previously oblivious to.

During the convention I had the privilege to be selected to perform in a master class. The master class was held at St. John's Episcopal Church on the previously mentioned Schlicker organ. I played in front of roughly 30 to 40 people for James David Christie of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. The music I had selected was Pachelbel's "Toccatina in e Minor", a little piece full of all the Baroque flourish one could hope for. During the master class I was given suggestions and critique from Dr. Christie that gave me not only a better understanding of the music in its context but also a first-hand application from a master organist. The end result of the master class was well worth the frustration and nervousness. Going in, I had felt confidence playing the piece because it was one of my more well-rehearsed pieces. However, through a trial by fire I not only managed to see errors that I had not realized myself, but polished and refined that which I thought could not get too much more improved. Overall, the convention was a success and helped to promote and distinguish the organ and its unique community and instrumental world.

## Important Notice: Change of Address

If you change your address, phone, or email, please contact the Columbus Chapter Registrar, Stan Osborn. It is especially important that you keep your email address up to date, since that is how we send most of our communication.

Stan Osborn  
316 Teryl Dr.  
Mount Vernon, OH 43050  
614-337-0434  
[stanosborn@earthlink.net](mailto:stanosborn@earthlink.net)

## "Singing the Faith" Conference

The 18th annual Good Shepherd Institute Conference will take place at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, November 5-7. The theme for 2017 is "Singing the Faith—Past, Present and Future." As the Church celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Good Shepherd Institute conference will take this opportunity to evaluate the past 500 years as we confess the faith in the present for the sake of the future. The conference will also serve as the kickoff for the seminary's second art exhibition, featuring artwork that depicts the theme of Sola, thus reflecting the themes of the Reformation. For more information visit: [www.ctsfw.edu/GSI](http://www.ctsfw.edu/GSI), email [GSI@ctsfw.edu](mailto:GSI@ctsfw.edu), or phone 260.452.2224.

## Announcement from Bunn-Minnick

After 48 years of building, restoring, enhancing, and tuning pipe organs in the eastern half of the United States, Bunn-Minnick Pipe Organs announces that it will close its doors at the end of December, 2017. We would like to thank each of our valued customers and friends for all of their support through the years. So many cherished relationships have been made, and we couldn't have done it without you. *Best wishes to everyone in the Columbus Chapter AGO and beyond!*

## Opportunity to Give

Please join us in donating to the fund supporting the events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Columbus Chapter of the AGO. Please send checks to Al Adcock, 2480 Dunstan Drive, Columbus, OH 43235. Note on the checks "100th Anniversary". This is a **once-in-a-century** opportunity.

## Voices from the Past

The Historical Sub-Committee of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee—Tom Gerke, Carol Hofer, Ron Kenreich, Jan Linker, Nancy Rennecker, and Larry Rhoades—has pored over documents from the Columbus Chapter’s early history, including a book of handwritten minutes that begins in 1916 and ends in 1932. Over this next year, in preparation for our chapter’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, they would like to share snippets of our past.

**Programs of Note in the 1990s.** The editor of *The Guildler* during this time was William Clausen, now deceased.

*February meeting*  
Lecture-Demonstration  
with Wilma Jensen

Monday, February 14, 8 p.m.  
Broad Street Presbyterian Church  
760 East Broad Street

Wilma Jensen is very skilled at bringing out musicality in organists. A member of our chapter heard Ms. Jensen do a similar program in Dayton last year and he is very excited about what she has to offer us. Beginning organists as well as experienced ones should find this a winning evening. See you there!

Stan Osborn

**FROM THE DEAN:**

As I look out my office window and see another snow, I'm reminded of the wonderful Samuel Longfellow poem:

*'Tis winter now; the fallen snow  
Has left the heaven's all coldly clear;  
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,  
And all the earth lies dead and drear.  
And yet God's love is not withdrawn.*



February, 1994: Wilma Jensen presented a lecture-demonstration on “Bringing out Musicality in Organists” at Broad Street Presbyterian Church.

**THE GUILDER**  
NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBUS CHAPTER, AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
September 1995

*Repertoire for Small Organ*  
with Marilyn Keiser

Monday, September 11, 8 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
41 West College Ave., Westerville

Our first program for the AGO Centennial 1995-96 season will be presented by one of America's outstanding artists, Marilyn Keiser. Professor of Music at Indiana University, Keiser has earned a reputation as a virtuoso performer and consummate musician. In the words of a recent Dallas press notice, "She represents to the organ world what the late Jacqueline Onassis did to America: the epitome of taste, dignity and elegance." In addition, she is warm, energetic and engaging.

Professor Keiser will present a lecture and demonstration of music for the smaller organ which will represent the best the literature has to offer. She is blessed with large instruments that we can benefit as much as possible from. Even if you are not



September, 1995: Marilyn Keiser, Indiana University, presented “Repertoire for Small Organs” at First Presbyterian Church, Westerville.

**THE GUILDER**  
NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBUS CHAPTER, AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
November 1995

*The Music of Leo Sowerby*  
with Dr. David Mulbury

Professor of Organ at the College  
Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati

Monday, November 13, 8 p.m.  
Broad Street Presbyterian Church  
760 E. Broad Street

David Mulbury will perform a program featuring the music of American composer Leo Sowerby beginning with a brief lecture “Life and Work of Leo Sowerby (1895-1968).” After being named winner in the national Young Artist's Competition of the American Guild of Organists in 1960, he spent two years in Germany as a Fulbright Scholar. He has been at the Cincinnati Conservatory since 1968. We are delighted to welcome him back to Columbus. Although Mulbury (D.M.A., F.A.G.O.) is noted as a Bach specialist, he has recorded the *Symphony in G major* of Sowerby among other contemporary works.

The organ recital (listed below) will include two psalm settings for harpsichord and organ.



November, 1995: Dr. David Mulberry of the Cincinnati Conservatory presented “The Music of Leo Sowerby” at Broad Street Presbyterian Church.

## A Visit to the Organ Stop Pizza

By Anthony Fabro

Many restaurants have a theme, whether it be a cultural theme such as Asian or Italian, or a concept such as fast casual or fine dining. At the Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona, the theme is pipe organ, with a side of pizza! My wife and I were able to weave a visit to the Organ Stop Pizza restaurant as part of a trip to the Phoenix area this past summer, and it was worth it.

As we entered the restaurant, we immediately heard the melodious sounds of the large four-manual, 82-rank Wurlitzer pipe organ filling the space. Billed as the “world’s largest Wurlitzer pipe organ”, the instrument was originally a three-manual, 15-rank instrument installed in 1927 in the Denver Theatre. It has gradually been added to over the years and now boasts over 6,000 pipes. Many hands have been involved in the evolution of this instrument, including those of Ohio Theatre Resident Organist Clark Wilson, who continues to visit the site a few times a year. Clark also regularly played at the Organ Stop Pizza several years ago.

Most of the pipes and mechanics of the instrument are visible to the patrons. The pipes are either exposed in the main dining room, or sit behind Plexiglas expression shutters, a very clever solution (don’t forget to walk outside to see the 32’ Diaphone pipes behind glass in the front of the building). Even the air reservoirs, tremulants, and duct work are visible, thanks to several windows exposing the chambers. Hanging from the ceiling and on the walls in the front part of the main dining room are several percussion instruments, and on the back wall are Trumpet En Chamade and 32’ Contra Tibia ranks, both of which make it clear to the listener that they are being played!

The ornate black console with gold trim, which has a whopping 422 stops, sits on a rotating hydraulic elevator. The organist definitely needs to get used to being moved side to side, as well as up and down! The organist also has access to switches which control the special effects such as the lighting around the windows, and the dancing cats (you’ll have to see them for yourself!).

After ordering our food, my wife and I sat front and center in the second level of the dining room. Our organist for the evening was Charlie Balough, one of four staff organists at the Organ Stop Pizza. Most of what he played was songs suggested by the restaurant patrons. A kiosk in the front of the dining room contained sheets of paper for patrons to list up to three song suggestions. Gradually, Charlie worked his way through the request lists, giving each song a brief introduction. After about 40 minutes, Charlie and the console twisted their way into the pit to take a well-deserved 15-minute break.

Wurlitzer instruments, like instruments of many organ builders, have a distinct sound unique to the builder. In my opinion, everything tends to have a lighter texture than Robert Morton theater organs, which are brighter. This instrument has the Wurlitzer sound, but less so due to its enormous size and the relatively small space. And while it is a theater organ at heart, it was able to demonstrate that it could hold its own with classical pieces as well.

My wife and I sat for well over an hour, just taking in the room, the instrument, and the patrons. The seating on the main level is mostly “picnic”-style with rows of tables and benches, perfect for family-style dining or large groups. Tables and chairs were set up around the perimeter of the downstairs, as well as around the upper level where we sat. While most patrons chatted during the performance, they also seemed to enjoy the music and would clap after every song.

If you go to the Organ Stop Pizza, bring cash, as credit and debit cards are not accepted (an ATM is in the lobby). In addition to pizza, the menu includes pastas, sandwiches, a salad bar, and dessert. We ordered a gluten-free pepperoni and green pepper pizza, and were pleasantly surprised by the taste and consistency of the crust (many gluten-free crusts leave much to be desired, but this one was very good). The sauce and toppings were also excellent, making for a very tasty pizza at a reasonable price, especially since we were getting an organ concert as our dinner entertainment!

If your travels take you to the Valley of the Sun, be sure to carve out time in your itinerary to visit the Organ Stop Pizza restaurant. Additional information can be found on their web page at <https://www.organstoppizza.com/>.

View of the Organ Stop Pizza main dining room from the upper level with the lights illuminating the chambers. Note the percussion and other instruments along the front wall



View from the floor. This gives a better look at some of the wind reservoirs below the pipes, as well as additional percussion in the second level.



Organist Charlie Balough, with song suggestions lined up on the console music stand and in his right hand, addresses the restaurant patrons.



## Concerts and Other Events

The Columbus Chapter's on-line calendar may be found [here](#).

### **Joshua Brodbeck, Organist**

**Sunday, September 17, 4:00 p.m.**

*Mulberry Street UMC*

*205 N. Mulberry St., Mount Vernon 43050*

Joshua Brodbeck is a young concert organist who is in demand as a performer and hymnfest leader. At the age of nine, Mr. Brodbeck performed his first concert in the United States. He made his international debut at age 12 playing for an organ dedication in Slovenia, Europe. Throughout his brief career, Mr. Brodbeck is known, and is commended for his varied programs that please audiences everywhere. In recent years, including 2017, Brodbeck has also been directing the Delaware, Ohio, Community Chorus; working as music director for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Upper Arlington; and did concerts in Switzerland, Germany, and the Czech Republic. A freewill offering will be taken.

### **Jonathan Ryan, Organist**

**Sunday, September 24, 3:00 p.m.**

*Saint Joseph Cathedral*

*212 E. Broad Street, Columbus 43215*

Jonathan Ryan is a multi-prize winning organist. Lauded for his strong communicative skills in a variety of styles, exceptional use of the instrument's capabilities, and bold programming, he has emerged as one of North America's premier young concert artists. With a repertoire spanning the 16th- to 21st-centuries, he has performed at celebrated venues, festivals, and conventions throughout the North America and Europe. Mr. Ryan will present the complete Clavier-Übung III of Johann Sebastian Bach.

### **UCelli, the Columbus Cello Quartet (Family Concert)**

**Sunday, September 24, 3:00 p.m.**

*St. John's Episcopal Church*

*700 High Street, Worthington 43085*

[www.stjohnsworthington.org/music-series](http://www.stjohnsworthington.org/music-series)

You and the children in your life are invited to explore the sounds and centuries of European music with the most melodious, awesome instrument in the world! UCelli is a quartet of virtuoso cellists that has appeared to enthusiastic sold-out audiences around Columbus. UCelli members Pei-An Chao, Mary Davis, Cora Kuyvenhoven, and Wendy Morton are also members of the Columbus Symphony and ProMusica Chamber Orchestras. Each of these four artists is a cello soloist and chamber musician in her own right, bringing a strong musical philosophy and relationship to cello repertoire and pedagogy. The individual artistry and the combined chemistry of these four cellists results in an exciting, unique, and vibrant concert experience. This concert is especially designed for families with children; nursery care will be available, if needed, for our littlest concertgoers. There is no charge for admission to the concert.

### **First Thursday Noontime Recital Series**

**Thursday, October 5, 12:15 to 12:45 pm**

*Asbury United Methodist Church*

*55 W. Lincoln Avenue, Delaware 43015*

Mr. Robert Wisniewski is welcomed as soloist for the opening recital of the 10th season of this popular community recital series. Mr. Wisniewski is recently retired from serving as organist at St. Joseph Cathedral. As always, tables will be set and beverages provided for those who would like to enjoy lunch during the recital. There is no admission charge. Asbury is handicap accessible from its rear parking lot entrance.

Please follow [this link](#) to listen to Pipedreams from American Public



**Jim McLaughlin, Organ Recital  
Sunday, October 8, 3:00 p.m.**

*Central Trinity UMC  
62 South Street, Zanesville 43701  
[www.centraltrinityumc.com](http://www.centraltrinityumc.com)*

Mr. McLaughlin is Artist-in-Residence at Central Trinity Church. This is the 21st annual recital since the rebuilding of the E.M. Skinner by Peoples-Herzog Organ Co.

**Matthew Bickett  
Sunday, October 8, 4:00 p.m.**

*Broad Street United Methodist Church  
501 E. Broad Street, Columbus 43215*

Matt Bickett, from Portsmouth, Ohio, is a fourth year student at Oberlin College and Conservatory, where he pursues a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance. Matt has recently been accepted into Oberlin Conservatory's accelerated Master's of Music in Historical Performance program, where he will continue his studies in harpsichord and organ. He studies organ with Jonathan Moyer, harpsichord with Mark Edwards, composition with Elizabeth Ogonek, and choral conducting with Gregory Ristow. Alongside his work at Oberlin, Matt serves as Director of Music at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Amherst, Ohio, where he plays organ for services and directs the choir and handbell choir. Representing the Columbus Chapter of the AGO, Matt won first prize in the 2017 Great Lakes Regional Competition for Young Organists.

**Paul Gerhardt Hymn Festival  
Sunday, October 8, 4:00 p.m.**

*Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
35 E. Stanton Ave., Columbus 43214  
[www.trinityashland.org](http://www.trinityashland.org)*

"Evening and Morning: A Hymn Festival" celebrates the 410th Birthday of German hymn author Paul Gerhardt. Dr. Timothy E. Guenther, organist, and the choir of Gethsemane Lutheran will present a program of hymnody by one of the greatest German hymn authors. Gerhardt lived a century after Martin Luther, and was responsible for personalizing the poetry of German hymnody. Many of his texts are still actively sung today, with 9 being found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the current hymnal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Jim McLaughlin, Organ Recital  
Sunday, October 15, 3:00 p.m.**

*St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
234 N. High Street, Hillsboro 45133  
<http://www.masmhillsboro.weebly.com>*

Mr. McLaughlin is Artist-in-Residence at Zanesville Central Trinity UMC. This is his fifth appearance on the Music at St. Mary's Concert Series.

**Nicole Simental, Organist**

**Sunday, October 15, 3:00 p.m.**

*St. Joseph Cathedral*

212 E. Broad Street, Columbus 43215

[www.Cathedralmusic.org](http://www.Cathedralmusic.org)

Recently appointed Principal Organist and Assistant Director of Music of St. Joseph Cathedral, Nicole Simental makes her debut performance on the Cathedral's concert series. Winner of the Fourth International Goedicke Organ Competition at the Moscow Conservatory in Moscow, Russia, and co-winner at the First Sursa American Organ Competition at Ball State University, Miss Simental began her duties at the Cathedral last June.

**Bach Vespers**

**Sunday, October 22, 4:00 p.m.**

*Trinity Lutheran Church*

508 Center Street, Ashland 44805

[www.trinityashland.org](http://www.trinityashland.org)

Choral and instrumental musicians from Trinity Lutheran Church and the Ashland University Music Department present a worship service patterned after the order and flow of a Lutheran service from Bach's day. Featured music includes Bach's *Cantata #35 for Reformation: |God, Our Lord, Is Sun and Shield|* and the *Second Brandenburg Concerto in F Major*. Dr. Rowland Blackley of Ashland University will direct the choir and orchestra, and Dr. Timothy Guenther of Ashland University and Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Columbus, will preside at the organ. Pastor Eric Riesen of Trinity, Ashland will preach. Ron Marenchin serves as the Coordinator of Music Ministries at Trinity. The service is open to the public. A freewill offering will be received. A reception will follow. Staffed child care for children ages four and under will be available. The church building is handicap accessible.

**First Thursday Noontime Recital Series**

**Thursday, November 2, 12:15 to 12:45 pm.**

*Asbury United Methodist Church*

55 W. Lincoln Avenue, Delaware 43015

Dr. Joseph Musser, Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Delaware, will be our soloist. As always, tables will be set and beverages provided for those who wish to enjoy lunch during the recital. Asbury is handicap accessible from its rear parking lot entrance. There is no admission charge.

**Choral Evensong: Haydn's "Mass in d minor (Nelson)"**

**Friday, November 3, 7:30 Prelude; 8:00 pm Choral Evensong**

*Gloria Dei Worship Center, Trinity Lutheran Seminary*

2199 E. Main Street, Columbus 43209

[www.TLSohio.edu](http://www.TLSohio.edu)

Trinity Seminary Choir, Soloists, Chamber Orchestra; Carol Ann Bradley, Organist; May Schwarz, Director. Freewill offering.