

# The Guilder

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBUS CHAPTER

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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AGO  
Discovers  
Columbus  
2007  
June 25-28



## DEAN'S CORNER

### *"Literate/Illiterate?"*

My work of accompanying the St. Joseph Cathedral Choir has made me acutely aware of some marvelous music originally written to be sung by young voices, e.g. Faure's *Messe basse* and Britten's *Missa Brevis*. Works such as these prove that it is possible to expect young people to fulfill a high musical and liturgical standard and to train them to do so. What disturbs me, though, is the current scarcity of children ages 7-11 who can, or at least want to, sing such music, and who have the musical literacy to do so!

It has become increasingly evident that music education in America's elementary and secondary schools has generally declined over the last thirty years or so. Despite the efforts of scores of dedicated school music teachers, music and arts education is routinely shortchanged in light of increased standardized testing and budget shortfalls. This, in turn, is impacting professional music training in colleges and universities. At least one of our country's premier music schools now requires all freshman piano and organ majors to take a "Basic Keyboard" course - many incoming keyboard majors do not know all of their scales and arpeggios!

Other examples abound; however, much ink, paper, mental energy, and computer memory have been spent documenting them. I will instead remind you that there are those in our midst who offer hope and inspiration in confronting this problem. Two of them, Sandra Mathias (director, Columbus Children's Choir) and Mark Hutsko (director, Columbus Youth Chorale) will present a workshop for us on "Choosing Quality Sacred Literature for Children's and Youth Choirs" at Worthington United Methodist on Monday, April 30 at 7:30 pm. If you have any interest whatsoever in helping to educate youth through music, then you should come to this workshop!

Finally, I must point out that it is again time for our annual chapter election, and that your participation is crucial for the continued vitality of our chapter beyond June's Region V Convention. When you receive in the mail a postcard with the ballot, just complete and send it to the indicated address.

Because of the convention, we will NOT have a chapter meeting in May. Therefore it is critical for you to mail your ballot before the deadline printed on it.

Before closing, let me also direct your attention to the items in this GUILDER about our upcoming Convention ("the grand party") and the Choral Festival at Worthington United Methodist on Sunday, April 29.

*Best wishes to each of you for Holy Week, Easter, and the Sundays afterward!*

*Looking forward to seeing you soon,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Robert Wisniewski'.

*Robert Wisniewski, AAGO, Dean, Columbus Chapter AGO*

# MEMBERSHIP NOTES FROM SALLY BESKE

NEW MEMBERS - Columbus Chapter AGO extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

**Jacob R. Vollmar** - 296 Church Street - Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 - jacobvollmar@aol.com

**Mary Jane Dean** - 1003 Lynwood Avenue - Circleville, OH 43113 - 740-477-3743

*Organist St. Peter's Lutheran in Lancaster. Mary Jane is also available to substitute for weddings.*

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS - Please make the following changes to your printed directory:

**Correct mailing address for Laurel Marazita** - 1266 Amol Lane - Columbus, Ohio - 43235-2103

## EVENTS OF INTEREST TO AGO MEMBERS

**John Kirk**, Capital University Senior Double Bass major and Organ minor, will present a Double Bass/Organ recital at Christ Lutheran Church, Sunday, April 15 at 3:00 pm.

**Joshua Brodbeck**, Capital University Freshman Organ Major and student of Todd Wilson, will present an organ recital in Mees Hall, Sunday, April 15 at 4:00 pm. This recital will include works of Handel, (with string ensemble), Bach, Vierne, Lanquetuit, Rutter, Conte and Sousa. Josh was the winner of the Capital Conservatory Freshman performance competition held on March 12.

**David Higgs**, Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 East Broad Street. One of America's leading concert organists, David Higgs is Chair of the Organ Department at the Eastman School of Music. He has inaugurated many important new instruments including St. Stephan's Cathedral, Vienna; the Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas; and the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City.

**Travis Powell**, All Members of Columbus Chapter are invited to hear organist Travis Powell on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 7:30pm in the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, 315 Clay Street, Carey, Ohio. (Take 23 north from Columbus). Mr. Powell received the Bachelor of Church Music degree from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and the Master of Sacred Music degree from Meadows School of the Arts and Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Powell was recently appointed Director of Music and Organist at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation. He has served churches in Virginia, New Jersey, and Texas. The recital program will include works by: Bach, Buxtehude, Marchand, Langlais, and Vierne. The Basilica organ was built by Reuter Organ Company in Kansas and installed in 1989.

**Choral Festival Concert** on Sunday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. Worthington United Methodist Church, 600 High Street, Worthington. The highlight of the evening will be a performance of John Rutter's, Mass of the Children. The work made its debut at Carnegie Hall in February, 2003. It was Rutter's first major work in thirteen years. Rutter's, Mass of the Children is a beautiful work written for four part mixed choir, three part children's choir, organ and orchestra. Performers include: Con Brio Children's Choir, Emily Gill, Director; The Columbus Children's Chorus, Sandra Mathias, Director; The Columbus Youth Chorale, Mark Hutsko, Director; along with our WUMC Chancel Choir, Eric Kauffman, Director; and WUMC Children's Choir, Gretchen Wessel, Director, The Upper Arlington High School Orchestra, John Deliman, Director, and Dr. Linda Nolan on the organ. This wonderful community outreach is made possible by a generous grant from The Barbara & Bill Bonner Family Foundation of the Columbus Jewish Foundation.

**Three Choirs Festival**, Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral, 212 East Broad Street. Choirs from Broad Street Presbyterian Church, First Congregational Church and St. Joseph Cathedral.

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Glen Echo Presbyterian** - Organist and choir accompanist for Clintonville area church. Proficiency with both organ and piano expected. From September through June, position requires playing for one Sunday worship service and a Wednesday evening choir rehearsal each week. During July and August, when the choir is on the break, only the Sunday worship service is required. In holiday seasons, there are additional paid services. If interested in this permanent position, please contact the church at (614)262-4866, or send an email to tays58@yahoo.com or lelandw@msn.com.

**St. Anne's Church** - Organist for small Grove City conservative Episcopal congregation of the Anglican Province of Christ the King. One Sunday Service at 10:30 AM which uses 1928 Episcopal Book of Common Prayer and 1940 Episcopal Hymnal. The organ is a Lowery electronic organ. The organist provides service music and accompaniment for the liturgy and hymns. There is not a choir or any additional rehearsal obligations. Salary is \$75 - \$100 per service. For additional information or to inquire about this position please contact Steve Jones at (614)875-1401 or steve-jones@ohio.net.

**Columbia Heights United Methodist Church** - Organist for congregation on the west side of Columbus. Responsibilities include playing for one Sunday service at 10:00 AM and two choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings: Youth choir from 6-7 and Chancel Choir from 7-8:30. Annual Salary \$6,000. For additional information please contact Amy Brown, Director of music, at (614) 878-4530 (church) or amybrown@columbus.rr.com.

**Highlands Presbyterian Church** - Organist for Worthington congregation at 6909 Smoky Row Road, Worthington, OH 43235. Position open as early as Easter Sunday, 2007. Basic requirements are choir rehearsal Thursdays and one service on Sundays. The organ is a Rodgers hybrid, a well maintained two manual pipe/electronic combination. Although we are a smaller church, our vibrant music program is classically based with some contemporary interjections, exceptional choirs, and a number of instrumentalists in the congregation. Qualified students may be considered. Contact Jim Rennie, Music Committee Chair at 889-1773, jrrennie@sbcglobal.net.

**Church of the Redeemer United Methodist** - Organist/Pianist for a congregation on the east side of Columbus with 2 Sunday services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM that reflect a wide variety of musical styles. Applicants for this position are expected to be proficient in both piano and organ. Keyboard/contemporary musical experience is also desirable. Responsibilities include providing service music and accompaniment for all worship services, serving as accompanist for the Senior Choir which rehearses Wednesdays at 7pm, and working with the pastor, music director, and worship planning team to plan and lead services. Salary is negotiable and reviewed annually. Interested applicants should contact Mr. Bill Pollard at (614)937-3268 or williammpollard@aol.com for more information.

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church** - Interim Organist for downtown Columbus congregation at 404 South Third Street for a three month period from May through July 2007 while our organist is fulfilling a professional engagement. Responsibilities would be to play for the Thursday evening choir rehearsal from 7:30-9:00 p.m. through May 31, provide service music for one weekly Saturday evening service at 5:00 p.m. and service music for one Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Christopher Dent, Director of Music for more information at 614-224-6818 or music@oldtrinity.com.

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**ORGAN FOR SALE** - Saville Sovereign electronic organ is for sale from All Saints Ev. Lutheran Church, Worthington, Ohio. The organ was built in 1975 and has full pedal board built to AGO specs. The organ has two keyboards, 30 independent tone generators and speakers, 34 speaking stops tabs, and a transposer knob. The organ has been well maintained. Asking price is \$2000, or best offer. Contact Tom Gerke, 614-476-0022 or tagerke@yahoo.com.

## ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOLD 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS/CENTRAL INDIANA REGION

Mark your calendars now for the 2007 National Convention of the Organ Historical Society, to be held in the Indianapolis and Central Indiana region, July 11-17! The Convention will be headquartered at the Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel and Suites, Interstate 465 and Keystone Avenue. Affordable room rates are available at \$103.00 per night/\$143.00 for suites, and parking is plentiful and free!

Indianapolis is conveniently served by Interstate highways for those who wish to drive: I-65 from Chicago, North, and Louisville, South; I-74 from Peoria, Bloomington, Champaign/Urbana, and Danville, Illinois, West, and Cincinnati, East; I-70 from Saint Louis, West and Columbus, Ohio, East; and I-69 from Fort Wayne and Lansing, Michigan, North. The Indianapolis International Airport is conveniently served by many airlines.

Thirty organs will be heard, dating from the 1840's to the most recent years, and ranging in size from one to five manuals. Included will be instruments by builders such as: Skinner, Aeolian-Skinner, Kimball, Holtkamp, Ruggles, Möller, Goulding & Wood, Hook & Hastings, Felgemaker, Barton, Wicks, and Kilgen.

The list of exciting performers includes Ken Cowan, Thomas Murray, Marilyn Keiser, Christopher Young, Carol Williams, Carla Edwards, and Robert Hobby. Events include a hymn sing as well as several lectures. Exhibits will feature numerous items from the OHS catalogue, so that you can see items up close that can be purchased onsite or online.

Please visit the Convention website: <http://www.organsociety.org/2007/>. At this time, you can download an article from the OHS journal, *The Tracker*, with descriptive information for each day's events as well as a "slide show" of photographs of the organs. A link is provided for further information about the convention hotel, including online reservations. The convention website will be continually updated to include more schedule, performer, and instrument information, as well as online convention registration.

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Photograph by William T. Van Pelt (below)



**Indianapolis, North United Methodist: 1931 Kimball, with gallery addition 1965 by E. H. Holloway (Indianapolis, IN), rebuilt and modified in 2003 by Reynolds Associates, 4-77**

## AGO Grievance

As of January 30, Thomas Veregee was relieved of his position as organist of Trinity Episcopal Church, Capitol Square. Mr. Veregee has filed an AGO Grievance Procedure complaint against the church for wrongful termination of employment. The Guild is investigating the matter according to the AGO's Procedures for Dealing with Complaints about Termination. No determination has been made at this time.

Although Guild members may provide substitute or interim services, no Member may seek or accept regular or permanent employment with Trinity Church while these Procedures are pending. See the AGO's Web Site for the current status of this case.

*AGO Grievance Procedures, 2006 update, pp. 2-3*

## THE YOUNG ORGANISTS SYMPOSIUM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Our regional convention will be the first such convention to include an event meant to introduce young people to the pipe organ. Our *Young Organists Symposium* is designed for young people between 10 and 14, though we would not turn away those a couple years younger or older. A pre-convention event, it will take place on Monday, June 25, from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm at Asbury United Methodist Church in Delaware. The cost is \$35, including lunch, before June 10. After that, the fee is \$50. You can read more about it and download a detailed agenda and registration form for the day if you visit our convention website at [agocolumbus.org](http://agocolumbus.org).

Jan Linker, Jane McFadden, and Sally Casto are planning the day which will include basic introductory information about how pipe organs work, how they are different from pianos, and how to play some very simple pieces on the organ. There are also opportunities to visit some very historic organs in nearby churches, to try playing handbells, and to try the art of painted decoration on organ pipes. Each student will take home a folder with music which they will be able to study at the organ. The event concludes with a hymn festival incorporating music studied throughout the day.

*We need your help in two ways:*

1. We would like to have several young people demonstrating their organ playing skills. If you have some young organ students who would be willing to play at this event, please let Sally Casto know ([scasto@mtso.edu](mailto:scasto@mtso.edu)).
2. We need you to help us publicize this day with churches, piano teachers, and public school music teachers. Perhaps your church would pay the registration fee for children from your congregation. Can you facilitate this? Do you know of other contacts we should make?

This symposium is a way for you to make a difference with the shortage of organists. We must find ways to help our young people discover the joy of playing the organ. Please help this event be a success by helping young people find out about the symposium. If you can provide the registration fee for someone from your church, that is a wonderful way to share your joy, skill, and love of making music on the King of Instruments.

*Thank you, in advance, for helping us provide this very special introduction to the organ.*

by Sally Casto

# AGO April Meeting

*Monday, April 30, 2007 - 7:30 p.m.*

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## “Choosing Quality Sacred Literature for Children’s and Youth Choirs”

Worthington United Methodist

600 High Street - Worthington, Ohio

*If you have any interest whatsoever in helping to educate youth through music, then you should come to this workshop!*

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