



# The Guilder

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Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter - American Guild of Organists



*James Yeager*

## DEAN'S CORNER

### WHAT IS THE IDEAL ORGAN ?

Last month I ended saying "Think of your most respected organ teacher, your ideal mentor whom you give utmost respect. If such a person challenged your opinion of the ideal instrument, how would you react? Would you remain adamant in your opinion or would you pause and reflect enough to reconsider?"

I have several fine people in mind as my most respected teachers and I would guess that their answer to the question would agree on a primary consideration: in what environment will it reside? Environment has several parameters: architectural/acoustical, worship/liturgical, academic/pedagogical, and financial/fiscal. Organs live in their spaces like no other instruments because of their size and complexity. Organs in history have been as much architectural as musical. Their casework and facade make them often the most visually striking element in a given building. And the organ's voice permeates even the largest space in a way unlike anything save the full congregation's voice.

But is there some ideal in our organ art that remains constant across all the environmental parameters above? Yes! I believe our organ teachers would agree on the following list of ideals every instrument should embody:

- Variety of tone color and intensity
- Dependable and responsive action that responds well to touch
- Fundamental beauty, in each pipe and in each stop
- Functional arrangement of keyboards, pedals, and stops
- A cohesive tonal architecture that builds on the beauty of the stops when combined
- Decorative and structural visual elements equal in beauty to the tonal elements
- Evidence of the highest craftsmanship in all the materials in the pipes, mechanism, casework, and console

When all the ideals are present in a given instrument (and that is no small task) there is what one organist describes as a big "wow" factor. It begins when the first stop is drawn and the timbre of each pipe engages the ear with delight, such delight that invites lengthy communion with the one stop, then the next, and so on. Even before playing such an ideal instrument, upon entering the space and viewing it first, there should be something of awe. And upon close inspection one marvels at the detail of beauty in all elements. And to touch such an instrument is also something of delight. The ideal instrument brings to the organist a totality of all higher senses, touch, sight, and hearing.

The environment of worship (church, synagogue) or teaching (school or college) shapes the myriad decisions as to specific stops and the general number of ranks. No organ can accommodate all of organ literature perfectly (considering that its music spans over 1000 years and a dozen national schools of composition). But in the end, the ideal instrument provides the organist with a medium for the central repertoire indigenous to our art from Bach and his predecessors to Mendelssohn, Franck and their successors.

While there is no specific ideal organ unique to organ art, there are many exemplary instruments that approach the ideal. A number of these instruments are (or soon will be) close at hand to organists far and wide. Great instruments dot the landscape in America since Colonial times to the present. And the future is bright with the promise of more to come!

It is up to each of us only to take the time to visit and play these instruments. As plans unfold for our upcoming regional convention, consider the many instruments new and old that approach the ideal as AGO DISCOVERS COLUMBUS 2007!

*Farewell to all, it's been fun being Dean.*

*See you soon, and often!*

*James A. Yeager*

# The Votes Have Been Counted

Here are the results from the recent election. We welcome our new Officers and members of the Executive Committee.

## Officers

Dean . . . . . Robert Wisniewski, AAGO  
Sub-Dean . . . . . Laura Silva, CAGO  
Secretary . . . . . Julia Richardson Parker, CAGO  
Treasurer . . . . . Albert Adcock  
Chaplain . . . . . The Rev. Cynthia Adcock  
Auditors . . . . . Leo Klise, Clark Becker

## Executive Committee

Linda Nolan, William Miller, Ch. M., Anne Saylor

*We thank these persons for their  
dedication to Columbus Chapter AGO*

## FROM YOUR GUILDER EDITOR

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members of Columbus Chapter AGO who have been so complimentary of the "way" I design and print *The Guilder*.

As you may or may not know, all printed items for the Chapter that I produce are at cost. My company does not make any profit from the Chapter. I consider this a gift to a very worthwhile cause.

With that said, this will be my last issue I compose and I respectfully request that each of you understand that I just need a break from preparing *The Guilder*.

I thank you for your support over the years. Please contact Bob Wisniewski if you would like to volunteer to help with the production of *The Guilder*.

*Peace to each of you, Tim Wilson*

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ORGANIST - Central Christian Church located at 587 Mt. Vernon Road, Newark, Ohio 43055 is seeking an organist. Three manual Allen, two Sunday services plus choir rehearsal. Competitive salary in a loving church. Call (740) 366-4961.

COORDINATOR OF LITURGICAL MUSIC - Church of the Ascension located at 276 South Main Street, Johnstown, Ohio 43031, (740) 967-7871. Small parish (360 families) needs vibrant, creative individual with love for Catholic liturgy. New church building project underway. Three masses each weekend. 12-15 hrs. per week. Contact jlindsay@core.com or call Joe Lindsay at 332-2508.

ORGANIST - St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is looking for a candidate to fill the position of parish organist. Responsibilities include two weekend masses, various Holy Days, and a season of three concerts. We have a turn of the century mechanical action organ (recently renovated), excellent choirs, instrumental ensembles, and high standards in liturgical music. The candidate must be familiar with liturgical worship, and preferably the liturgy of the Roman Rite. Salary commensurate with experience. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to: Phil Adams, Director of Music Ministry, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 386 Buttles Ave., Columbus, OH 43215

ASSISTANT ORGANIST - All Saints Lutheran Church, Worthington, is seeking an assistant organist whose primary responsibility would be to play for one service per Sunday morning, September through May. Traditional Lutheran liturgy is used. Salary is negotiable. Contact Thomas Gerke at (614) 476-0022.

TWO PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR/WORSHIP LEADERS - One position is for a traditional service and the other for a contemporary service. For more information, contact Karl Road Baptist, 5750 Karl Rd., Columbus, 43229, Dr. Larry Christopherson, Chairman of Search Committee at church or at chrissl@ameritech.net or call at (614) 563-1238.

HANDBELL DIRECTOR - Emmanuel Lutheran located at 1500 S 3rd, needs a new Handbell director, beginning in September. Contact Don Ball at 237-4089. Salary open.

# Have a GREAT Summer!