



# The Bombarde

The Official Newsletter of the Detroit Chapter, American Guild of Organists

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## The Dean's Column

Well, I suppose there is no doubt that winter has arrived now. Two weeks ago we were inflicted with sub zero temperatures. Then we got hit with an ice storm last week and once again-mid week here we are again. As I look out my office window, this morning I see the freezing rain and even hear it trying to pierce the window pane as it goes skipping by. A colleague just told me he had a solid sheet of ice ½ inch thick on his windshield. All I can say is "BRRRRRRR!" And be careful if you have to get out in it.

This really does a number on our ability to hold choir rehearsal during the week. We find ourselves picking up an anthem we know well and have a quick rehearsal on Sunday morning before worship. But it really puts a damper on our preparing Lenten and Easter music. Fortunately, Easter is much later this year.

At the end of the day - it's Michigan and we deal with the weather issues as best we can and go right on.

Despite the weather, our local chapter continues to provide some great programming for your enjoyment. Last Sunday afternoon, we had a beautiful program at Kirk In The Hills in which we showcased some of our up and coming talent among college level organ students. A really lovely program and some fine talent coming out of our local college organ departments.

This Saturday, we have another fine opportunity at the educational level. As you know AGO has several levels of certification within its educational programming. This Saturday, we will present a workshop on certification, including requirements, how to prepare, etc. If you have thought about seeking one of these certifications or have students you would like to encourage going for it, this is definitely a program for you. Details are in another area of this newsletter but hope to see many of you on Saturday morning at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Rochester Hills.

Once again this is a program that has been designed with you in mind, our chapter membership.

Soon, we will be following with our scholarship competition. Here is another area where you can present yourself for scholarship recognition as well as any of your students. Then we will showcase those scholarship winners along with some of our membership in recital in May.



## Dean's Column, Concluded

While on the subject of scholarship, I would like to additionally encourage you, if you have not already, to contribute to our scholarship fund so that we have the resources to award these scholarships each Spring. You may contribute anytime through the OnCard program at the national office or directly through our treasurer Rick Abdo.

Please join us Saturday and our other events for the Spring. You might have suggestions for programming for next year. Feel free to contact our Sub-Dean Andrew Herbruck with your ideas as next year's programming is already in the first stages of formulation.

Wishing you a warm and healthy winter as we strive to change the world one stop at a time.

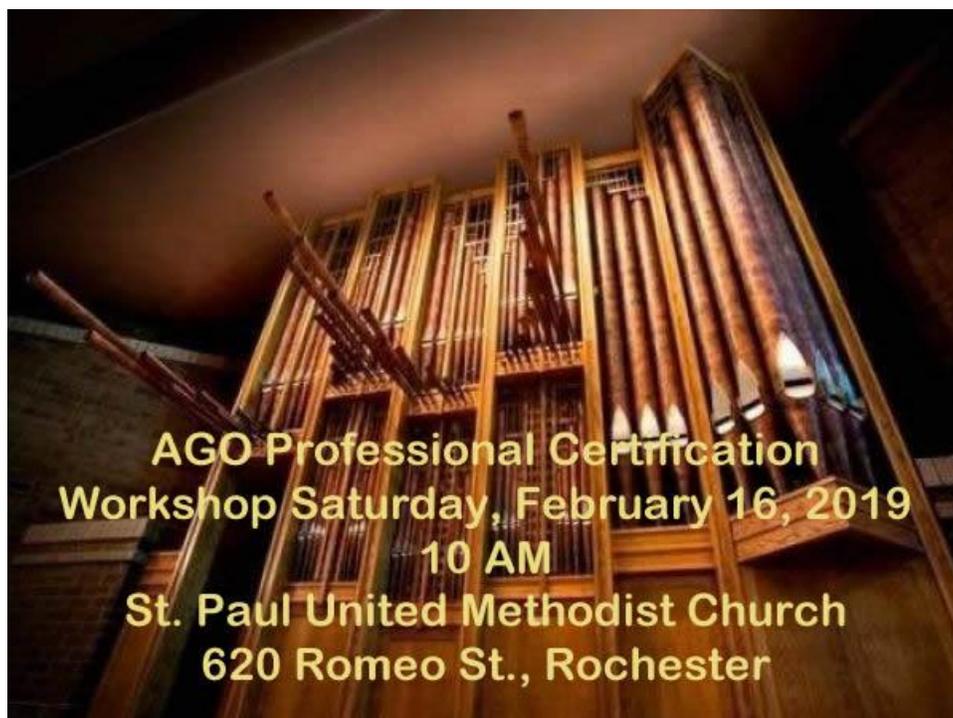
Regards,

George Jonte-Crane  
Chapter Dean

## Chapter News and Events

### Deadline for Scholarship Applications: February 14, 2019

Teachers, Students, Thursday (Feb. 14) is the deadline for Detroit Chapter Scholarship Audition Applications. [Here is a link to the guidelines and application.](#) Contact info is included.



## Chapter News & Events, Continued

### Scholarship Competition

Monday, March 18, 2019, 6 pm

First United Methodist Church

[320 W. Seventh St.](#), Royal Oak

This annual event relies on contributions from members and friends. Please consider giving to this worthy fund!



### Creative Hymn Playing with Michael Burkhardt

Saturday, March 23, 10 am

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham

[1669 W. Maple Rd.](#), Birmingham

Spice up your hymn playing with tips from hymn-playing expert and composer, Michael Burkhardt

### Member & Scholarship Recital

Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7 pm

Hartford Memorial Baptist Church

[18700 James Couzens Freeway](#), Detroit

Hear your fellow guild members and recent scholarship winners in recital on the 90-rank Petty Madden organ.



## Regional News & Events

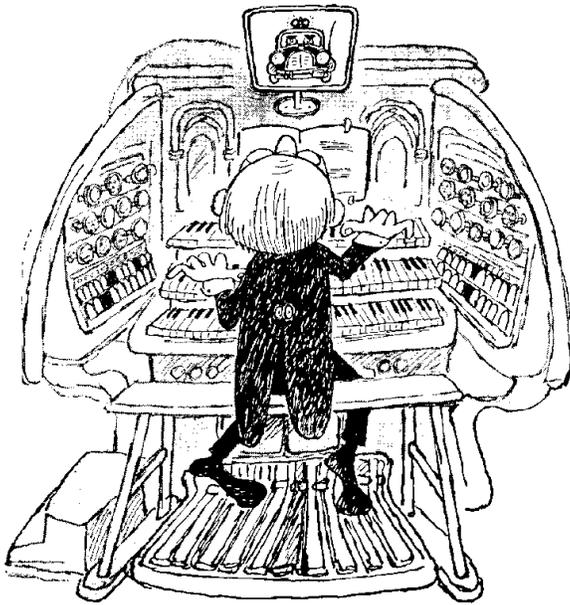
### AGO Regional to be held in Grand Rapids from June 20–July 3, 2019

The Grand Rapids Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We're proud to be the hosts of the 2019 Great Lakes Regional Convention which will be held here in our city from June 30, 2019 – July 3, 2019. A great line-up of top-shelf artists and venues is scheduled. For details and (pre-)Registration, go to the [Regional website](#).



## Mischievous Organists

(Courtesy of Pete Townsend, reprinted from The Telegraph)



They are the stalwart pillars of the community whose week-in, week-out dedication has kept the country's choral traditions alive for generations.

A survey of churchgoers found that at least half have noticed their organist straying from the path of musical orthodoxy

But, if new research is to be believed, behind the quiet exterior the humble church organist is not someone to be crossed. While charged with providing spiritually uplifting music to worshippers, it seems many also seize the opportunity to extract subtle revenge on clerics who have displeased them or simply play pranks on congregations.

A survey of churchgoers found that at least half have noticed their organist straying from the path of musical orthodoxy at some point – slipping snippets of heavy metal classics, advertising jingles and even nursery rhymes into hymns and anthems.

In some cases it can be a means of waging musical war with clerics while in others it is simply an effort by bored organists to make the choir laugh.

Christian Research, a polling and research group asked its 2,000 strong “Resonate” panel of churchgoers for their views on church music and organists.

## Mischievous Organists, Continued

Of those who responded, half said they had noticed an organist slipping unexpected tunes into services. Among examples cited was that of the organist in Scotland who had fallen out with some of the elders in the Kirk but got his own back by inserting a thinly disguised rendition of “Send in the Clowns” as they processed in for a Sunday service.

Elsewhere, a vicar sacked an organist after he played “Roll out the Barrel” at the funeral of a man known to have been fond of a drink.

In one decidedly high church congregation, an organist punctured the mood of reverence as an elaborately dressed clergyman processed back after the gospel reading – by playing the theme tune to *The Simpsons*. Another congregation found themselves passing around the collection plate to the strains of “Money, Money, Money” by Abba.

The survey uncovered examples of Eucharist celebrations livened up with renditions of Bon Jovi’s “Livin’ on a Prayer”; the theme tunes from *The Magic Roundabout*, *Blackadder* and *Harry Potter* and even “I’ve Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts”.

Sung Evensong –widely regarded as the jewel in the crown of English choral music–has been spiced up such unexpected offerings as “I’m a Barbie Girl” and “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles”

One organist who responded confessed to playing hits by Oasis, Billy Bragg and even Kylie Minogue in services but added: “Nobody notices –I do it all the time.”

But when an organist played a slowed-down version of *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* from *Mary Poppins*, even the most tone deaf members of the congregation eventually recognized, sending them into gales of laughter.

An older bridegroom took it in good humour when the organist played “No one loves a fairy when she’s 40” at his wedding” while candidates at a confirmation service were left perplexed to hear the strains of “I’m a Little Teapot” from the organ loft.

Stephen Goddard, of Christian Research, said: “It’s an oft-repeated adage in church circles–‘What’s the difference between an organist and a terrorist? -you can negotiate with a terrorist’.

“Hidden from view, your local church organist may appear unassuming and self-deprecating, but like any true artist, he or she can be eccentric, mischievous and very opinionated.

## Mischievous Organists, Concluded

“Mess with him at your peril—he will pull out all the stops to get his own back.”

## Member News & Events (The List)

**Sunday, February 17, 2019, 2 pm**  
**Music of the French Baroque**  
**Old St. Mary’s Catholic Church**  
**(Greektown) [646 Monroe St.](#) Detroit, MI**



Brian White, Tenor; Debra Lonergan, Viola da Gamba; Frederick Mooney, Organ; Bob Barnhart, Harpsichord.  
Free will offering.

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**Sunday, February 17, 2019, 1:30 pm:**  
**Detroit Children’s Choir**  
**Fort Street Presbyterian Church—in the Great Hall**  
**[631 W. Fort St.](#), Detroit, MI 48226**

Join us for 11 AM worship, then stay for a luncheon at 12:30 followed by a delightful concert by the Detroit Children's Choir, directed by Eric Taylor. The Detroit Children's Choir is committed to developing young leaders who will bring about positive change in our city. Visit [fortstreet.org/music-at-fort-street/childrens-choir](http://fortstreet.org/music-at-fort-street/childrens-choir) to make a reservation for lunch. Concert is free; donations accepted.

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## Member News & Events (The List) Continued

**Sunday, March 3, 2019, 4 pm**

**Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church**

**[24110 Cherry Hill St.](#) Dearborn, MI**

Internationally acclaimed pianist Ling-Ju Lai returns!

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**Sunday, March 17, 2019, 2 pm**

**The Sacred Cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach & Georg Philipp Telemann**

**Old St. Mary's Catholic Church**

**(Greektown) [646 Monroe St.](#) Detroit, MI**

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**Sunday, March 24, 2019, 4 pm**

**Cathedral Cultural Series: Music for Trombone and Organ**

**Blessed Sacrament Cathedral**

**[9844 Woodward Ave.](#), Detroit, MI**

DSO trombonist David Binder and cathedral organist Joe Balistreri perform a whirlwind recital of original works and transcriptions for trombone and organ. Free will offering.

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**Sunday, March 31, 2019, 3 pm**

**The Peace and Hope of Bach**

**Grosse Pointe Memorial Church**

**[16 Lake Shore Dr.](#), Grosse Pointe Farms, MI**

The message of peace and hope in the cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach is as relevant today as it was when these masterpieces were first sung nearly 300 years ago. The program includes Cantata 12, "Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen," and Cantata 106, "Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit" ("God's Time Is Best").

## Member News & Events (The List) Continued

Sunday, March 31, 2019, 4 pm

Cathedral Cultural Series: Lenten Vespers

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

[9844 Woodward Ave](#), Detroit, MI

Join the Archdiocesan Chorus for evening prayer on Laetare Sunday, the halfway point through Lent when the Church loosens the rigidness of her liturgical fasting. Experience beautiful Lenten music, psalmody, hymns, and readings with a dose of joy! Free will offering.

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**Do you have news that you'd like to share with the Chapter? Please send your news no later than the 15th of the month to Gerald Furi at [detroitago@gmail.com](mailto:detroitago@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next issue of The Bombarde.**

