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## April, 2020 Issue— The Dean's Column



It has been an interesting if not tense and frustrating two-month journey and the journey is far from over. None of us was prepared to cancel a recital, an organ crawl and our traditional end of the year event - the recital that features our scholarship winners and several of our members. None of us was prepared for live-streaming or recording our church services with no congregation. Our congregations grab their cups of coffee and gather on the living room sofa in their jammies to attend church. We have become part of virtual reality. Some of us have had to do virtual weddings, virtual funeral and memorial services, virtual baptisms and have even participated in virtual communion.

Our "stay at home" order by the governor has been extended to mid-May and plans are afoot for return to normal. The big question is will it be a return to normal or will it be a "new normal". The expectation is that it will never be the same. Will our recitals have to be in huge venues so that the attendees will continue social distance and occupy their own pew? When will our organ techs be able to return to our church buildings to do the much needed maintenance on the organ or, in my case, begin the three to five year plan for restoration that was outlined many months ago? Will masks and gloves be part of our wardrobe forever? I fully expect one of our avant garde fashion designers to come up with some kitschy outfit that includes the mask and gloves - just any day now- LOL! All of these unanswered questions continue to loom over us as we strive to stay safe and healthy. The upshot of the COVID-19 outbreak is all of us have been touched in one way or another by its devastating truth - while we thank God for the blessings of health, we have family members and friends who the virus has touched in a sad or tragic way by contraction and death.

## **Dean's Column, Continued**

**We are angry with our government, our medical advisors to that same government and generally frustrated and bored—not seeing family and friends. My own in-laws are ensconced in an assisted living facility down in Ypsilanti, have to have their meals brought to them by the staff and we have not been able to visit them for over two months.**

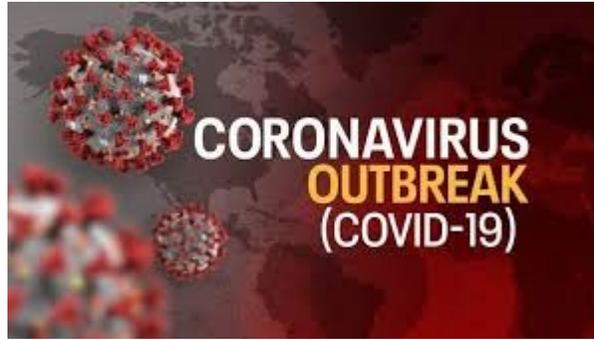
**Back home, in your chapter of AGO, we are trying to function as "normal" as possible. The good news is that we will be having an election in the coming weeks. I am happy to report that we the officers, including, yours truly, have agreed to stay on in their respective positions for another year. So, your officers will be: George Jonte-Crane, Dean; Andrew Herbruck, Sub-Dean; David Stewart, Secretary; Rick Abood, Treasurer and Pete Townsend, Registrar. Those running for the Executive Committee, Members at Large are: Joanne Vollendorf Clark, Sarah Simko, Nathan Costa and Johnny Kash. From this group you will select three people to serve for a three-year term ending in 2023. We will, at the same time bid a bittersweet yet fond farewell to Glenn Burdette, Richard Helderop, Jean Randall and Carolyn Thibideau. Their outstanding service to the board and your chapter cannot be measured in value. Ballots will be going out soon and in a special Bombarde edition we will introduce you to the candidates with short bios and pics.**

**News will be forthcoming about the scholarship/membership recital. It will happen but is currently on hold till we know what the final decision of the governor and the CDC will be. Hopefully, we will be able to schedule it sometime in the summer or early fall. Please stay tuned for that information.**

**As we struggle to return or adapt to the "new normal", whatever that may be, on behalf of the board, it is my sincere prayer and wish that you all stay safe and well and I look forward to seeing all of you in the very near future as we continue to change the world, one stop at a time.**

**Kindest regards,  
George Jonte-Crane  
Dean**

## Chapter News & Events



**All previously-scheduled Chapter Events, up to and including the May 11 Members' / Scholarship Recital at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, have been canceled. It is possible that some may be rescheduled, depending upon the Public Health situation and any emergency orders in effect. At present the Order has been extended through May 15, 2020. A special issue of The Bombarde will be sent out to notify the membership in advance of any rescheduled event.**

## National News—Cancellations & Postponements



- April 30 is the last day to cast your vote in the AGO National and Regional Elections. [Click here](#) to vote online.
- The May 8 AGO Gala honoring Karen McFarlane has been postponed until 2021.
- The deadline for the administration of the Service Playing Certificate (SPC) has been extended to May 16. The 2020 FAGO, AAGO, and ChM exams have been canceled. Candidates registered for the exams will receive a full refund of any fees paid. [Click here](#) to read a letter from the National Committee on Professional Certification or E-mail for more information.
- The May 17 premier performance of the winning piece in the Pogorzelski-Yankee Annual Competition has been postponed indefinitely.
- The 2020 NYACOP has been canceled. The NCOI will be rescheduled in 2021.
- The AGO National Convention in Atlanta has been canceled. If you have questions, please call 404-981-7210. The AGO National Council and convention steering committee are considering alternatives including the possibility of a virtual convention or organ festival. Plans are being developed for a virtual Annual Business Meeting.
- All 2020 Pipe Organ Encounters have been canceled. Many will be rescheduled in 2021. Updates will be [posted online](#). [E-mail](#) for more information

## Crisis Resources for Chapter Members

Elizabeth George, the AGO National Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development, offers a timely quote from a member blog for this exceedingly difficult time:

“Stay in touch & embrace improvisation. We may be keeping a safe physical distance (please!), but we need each other, perhaps more than ever. Membership organizations have a special role to play in helping make sure their members and customers have the support, resources, and advocacy that will help them weather these trying times. Actively listening, anticipating the needs of members and customers, and being flexible are key. Look, none of us have done this before. We are bringing our whole selves to work as never before—our worries and fears, but also our ideas, strengths, creativity, compassion, and oh, yeah—our kids and pets! Improvisation can feel weird but remember it’s how we get jazz. When we improvise together, beautiful things can happen!”

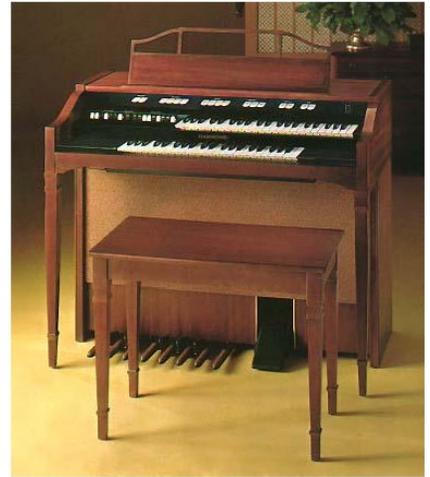
### Resources for Our Members in a Time of Crisis

- [AGO List of Resources](#) for Responding to Covid-19
- [Q&A with an Employment Attorney](#) about being an out-of-work musician.
- Understand how you are being paid and what type of an employee you are: [Article on Employment as Organist/Church Musician](#)
- Need to file for or learn more about unemployment benefits? Check out this Dept. of Labor [Fact Sheet](#) on Unemployment Insurance Provisions in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
- Check out the Unemployment Benefits Finder for [Michigan benefits](#) from the same Dept. of Labor site. Be sure that the posted information reflects the latest legislation passed.
- The Dept. of Labor has a [special page of resources](#) to help workers and employers respond to impacts of the Coronavirus on their employment.
- The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship maintains [Resources for Churches Adapting to Social Isolation](#) that includes ideas for church musicians.
- The State of Michigan has a page of [Resources and Assistance](#) for Covid-19.
- How to file for [Michigan Unemployment Assistance](#)

## For Sale

**Hammond Model L-112: This Traditional Hammond Organ Sound organ comes complete with Hammond's famous Tone Bar system, upper and lower manual pre-sets, reverb, percussion, volume soft quality compensation tab for apartment practice as well as vibrato with chorus for special cathedral effects. Includes matching bench (with music storage area). Cabinetry and bench in very good condition. Picture shown is stock photo.**

**This was our family organ and now we must find a new home for it. It works fine and may need some adjustments. It also comes with a florescent music rack "underlight" that the music rests on against the wood fold-up music support. It also has a new heavy-duty power cord. For questions, email the seller (below). This item is for buyer pick up only. (West side of Toledo, OH) \$ 400 obo**



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