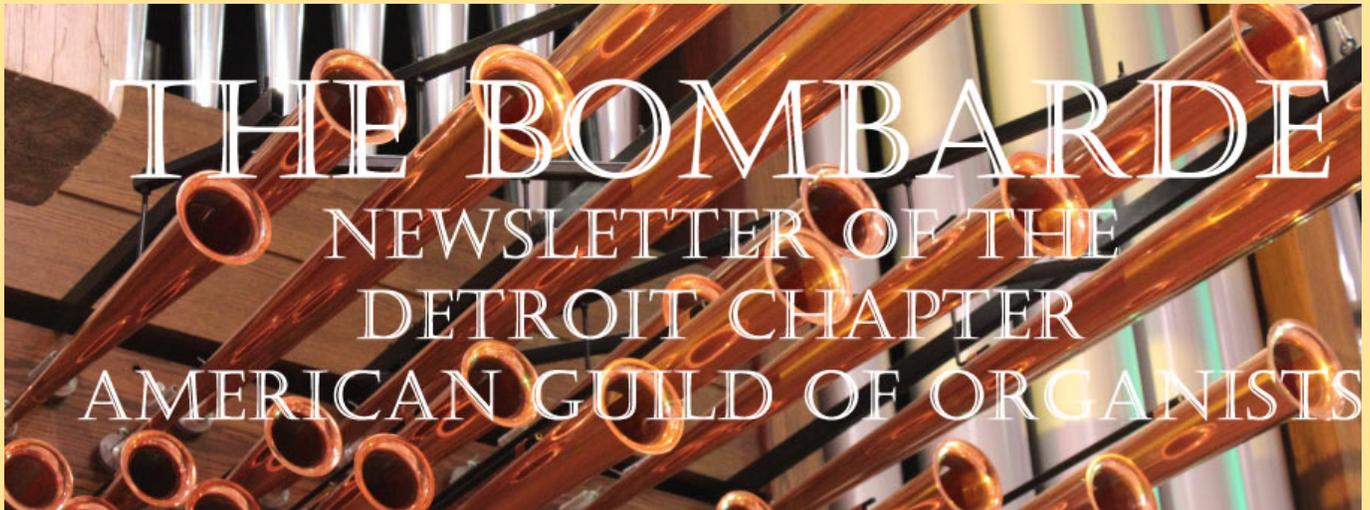


MAY, 2020 BOMBARDE ISSUE



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The Dean's Column



Well, it seems that the greeting is always the same boring thing these days. I am hoping this finds everyone safe and well. But that's what the "norm" is these days. Now we are talking about returning to the "norm" and wondering if it will truly be the "norm" or a new "norm". This has certainly been a frustrating time for all of us as we have had to adjust to gloves and masks and virtual worship services, etc.

There was a glimmer of hope yesterday as we are continuing to deal with take out or curbside delivery or Deal Dash, Uber Eats, Grub Hub or some other delivery service for meals, wondering if it is okay to go to the grocery store and the pharmacy, wondering when we will be able to get a haircut or manicure and pedicure, possible massage and/or being able to return to the gym to work out.

Dean's Column, Continued

Questions that we never dreamed we would be asking in this day and age. Governor Whitmer announced that she is opening up Traverse City and the UP shops, restaurants and bars on specified seating and limited hours bases.

Makes me ask yet another question— as timely as that announcement is with Memorial Day this weekend, will we see I-75 headed north a parking lot with bumper to bumper traffic all headed to where life seems to be resuming again? I, for one, will be staying right here continuing to do what I have been doing for the last near two months. The governor did say in her press conference yesterday that she hopes to be able to announce the easing of some restrictions for the lower part of the state soon.

The big question: How are you coping with the COVID-19 pandemic? For those of us who are church musicians, it has forced us to step totally out of our comfort zone and get creative along with our pastoral colleagues so that we might bring some semblance of a worship service to our congregations on Sunday morning. I would love to hear the various ways in which you have accomplished this-Zoom? U-Tube? Specially recorded and broadcast from your church website or Facebook page? It would be very interesting I think to put together a video documentary on how we did this-might be something to consider.

For the board at AGO— we will have our meeting this month by Zoom. Hopefully, the technical glitches Zoom was having this past Sunday will have been ironed out and we will be able to have our meeting as planned. And life goes on as we prepare for our upcoming elections. Information about those who are running for the board this year is in the Chapter News section of this newsletter. There are four candidates running for three open positions on the Executive Board— Members at Large. Those elected will join the others already serving out their terms and your officers are returning for another year. There is an unexpired term on the Member-at-Large roster which will be filled by appointment from yours truly as allowed by the by-laws.

It is my sincere hope that we are able to return to our organ benches and sanctuaries before the summer is out. Meanwhile I will book end this article with saying once again: I am hoping that everyone is staying safe and well.

Kindest regards,
George Jonte-Crane
Dean

Detroit Chapter News

2020 Candidates for the AGO Chapter Board (Members at Large)

This year there are four candidates for three positions on our Chapter Board. Their biographical information is given below. Ballots will be sent out later via email and USPS.

Dr. Joann Vollendorf Clark

Dr. Joanne Vollendorf Clark is Minister of Organ at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Detroit Michigan where she accompanies 4 choirs and directs the High School Youth Choir. Dr. Clark studied at University of Michigan with Dr. Robert Glasgow, and at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. She has worked for the Presbyterian, Lutheran, Episcopal and Baptist faiths, and taught at Wayne State University, U of D Mercy College; and Marygrove College where she was Chair of the Music Department for 6 years. In the past she has been Dean of AGO Detroit and Ann Arbor Chapters and State Chair of Sacred Music for the American Choral Directors. She has been heard in concert in Texas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Michigan, California, Wisconsin, Austria, Czech Republic, Spain, England and Toronto, Canada.



Nathan Costa

Nathan Costa currently serves as Assistant Director Music and Liturgist at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Prior to moving to Michigan in 2018, he worked in liturgy and music in Roman Catholic and Episcopal parishes in San Diego, Delaware, and Maryland, and at St. Andrew's School, an Episcopal boarding school in Middletown, Delaware, where for 17 years he served in teaching and administrative capacities, including as organist / choirmaster, teacher of Latin and Greek, and academic dean. During that time, Nathan has served the AGO, in San Diego as an at-large member of the board and on the planning committee for the 2017 Pipe Organ Encounter, and on the program committee in Delaware. Nathan received a B.A. in Classics from Yale University and M.A. in Liturgical Music (Organ) and in Theology (Liturgy) from St. John's University School of Theology in Collegeville, Minnesota.



Johnny Kash

Johnny Kash attended Wayne State University in Detroit, studying organ with Ray Ferguson and Gale Kramer. He earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance in 2000 and a Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance in 2005. Johnny has served as the Director of Music & Worship for Ss. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church on Detroit's west-side since 1999.



Johnny Kash, Continued

In addition to overseeing the Music Ministry at Ss. Peter and Paul, he also coordinates their yearly concert series, which he founded, that showcases local, national, and international musicians. Johnny gives concerts periodically throughout the Detroit area, the United States, and Europe, having performed in Poland, Sweden, and Denmark. Johnny recently completed a four year term as charter member of the Archbishop's Academy of Sacred Music, a group that serves as a body furthering the musical vision of Archbishop Allen Vigneron and the Archdiocese of Detroit. Johnny serves as Artist in Residence for Viscount Organs of Michigan, a company that represents Viscount Organs International, the largest builder of digital organs in the world. Johnny resides in Northville with his wife, Gabriela, and their two sons, Sebastian and Dominic. More information can be found at www.johnnykash.net

Sarah Simko

Sarah Simko is a Doctoral student in Organ Performance at the University of Michigan. Ms. Simko studies with Professor James Kibbie. She is the Adjunct Faculty Instructor at Madonna University. Ms. Simko serves the Cathedral Church of St. Paul as Interim Associate Organist. She is the recipient of a Graduate Award from the Presser Foundation, to be used to create a comprehensive set of recordings of organ music by living American female composers. The goal of this project is to expand the accessibility of a rich, and overlooked, body of repertoire. A series of three CDs, titled "Living Voices," will be released in 2020. Ms. Simko has given recitals at such notable venues as Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Methuen, Massachusetts; St. Paul's Cathedral (Anglican), London, Ontario, Canada; Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, Detroit; the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal), Detroit; Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor; among others.



Are Your Dues Coming Due?

The majority of members annual dues will come due in the next 2 months. Emails will be going out but paper notices will not since the staff at National HQ are all working from home until at least June 13. A video with instructions on how to renew through [ONCARD](#) can be found [here](#). The National staff say that if there is a problem with renewal using ONCARD, members are welcome to call 212-870-2311 and follow the prompts for a staff member to take your credit card information. If you prefer to pay by check and mail it to National, your check may not be cashed until July, and the record that you've paid will not be posted until then. AGO HQ has extended a member's expiration date with a three month grace period, however, when a membership becomes inactive, it will result in suspended delivery of TAO because that is the way their computer is set up. Please help National and your Chapter by renewing



on time.

AGO National News

Cancellations and Reschedulings:

- 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.



Using ONCARD for Renewals and Impexium Software Update

By the order of Governor Andrew Cuomo, the AGO office in Manhattan has been closed since mid-March. AGO staff are now working from home and as I write this newsletter, we are uncertain when we will be able to return to our office. Mail is being held, therefore, if a check for membership renewal is sent to our office, we will not be able to process it in a timely manner. We have extended a member's expiration date with a three month grace period, however, when a membership becomes inactive, it will result in suspended delivery of TAO. During this time, we urge you to encourage your members to renew their membership by credit card, utilizing

ONCARD. A video with instructions on how to renew through ONCARD can be found [here](#). Please let everyone know that if they are not comfortable using ONCARD through our website, our member services team is here to help! Please call 212-870-2311 and follow the voicemail prompts. We are most happy to help in processing anyone's membership renewal by credit card!

The AGO has decided not to move forward in migrating our database to Impexium software. We do not feel that Impexium will adequately serve our large chapter structure, and most importantly, serve your chapter's needs. I look forward to keeping you updated, as we continue to research other membership software that will provide the capabilities needed to service 287 chapters and their members and leaders.

Resources for Our Members in a Time of Crisis

In last month's Bombarde issue, we published a list of resources from the AGO National HQ for our members who are experiencing hardships as a result of the shelter-in-place order (Church closings, etc.) Here is a [link to that document](#) for your continued use.

CDC Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith

In April 2020, the CDC created interim guidelines for, among other things, faith-based organizations with suggestions on how to re-introduce public worship events. [Here is a link](#) to the salient points from the Document, section entitled *Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith*:

How to Livestream a Worship Service

The following is excerpted from a May 6 article on the PIPEORG-L Listserv by Daryel Nance.

Please ... USE THE FOLLOWING DATA TOTALLY AT YOUR OWN DISCRETION.

Please find someone local to you, who has audio/video electronics experience, or

- 1.) you can acquire a collection of expensive items that will not talk to each other adequately to render high quality sound or video, or
- 2.) you can damage the equipment you are working with.

Bandwidth: YouTube and Facebook

YouTube will allow 1920 x 1080p (that's High Def video with a good sounding audio)

Facebook will allow x720p (because lesser bandwidth is available)

YouTube: can be the better deal for higher quality live streaming

If you create a YouTube page (for free) with your login name, (or you can do it for your church name as well), then this YouTube page is where you send your parishioners/church members to view a live stream that remains viewable for about 25 days—which you can also download.

If you marshal the resources of 1,000 church members as "subscribers" to subscribe to your YouTube page called a "channel", then you can use mobile devices to live stream to YouTube. You can use mobile devices to post to Facebook, but their max bandwidth is less than YouTube.

How to Livestream a Worship Service, Continued

Real Mics into an iPad:

You need real microphones to properly record a pipe organ (see RODE, AKG, AudioTechnica, and many more). PreSonus AudioBox iTwo builds an audio interface to connect powered condenser mics into an iPad with usable results through the Lightning port. Rhode has a mic that plugs into the iPad's Lightning port ... but its only sufficient for speech at a close range and not the warmth needed to pleasingly reproduce believable organ sound.

An electronic organ needs to be recorded possibly with a direct connection (i.e. headphone output fed into audio line or mic input on the device your putting sound into). Your sound will sound like what you hear with high quality headphones. If you want "room effect", then record the electronic organ in an acoustical space (church) with high quality condenser mics (these are the ones that require a 24 or 48 volt power source - called phantom powering). The PreSonus Audio Box iTwo will get this mic feed into a lightning plug input of a current iPad.

Conceivably the PreSonus AudioBox iTwo will allow you to take a headphone output from the organ that may be fed into the input/s ... do NOT have the phantom turned on - on the PreSonus AudioBox iTwo. You will have to connect /build a cable that connects the 2 channels of headphone output (typically a 3 conductor 1/4 inch plug) into a Y output of two single channel 1/4 inch plugs. When you plug the audio connection into it headphone jack of the organ ...

Warning: DO NOT have the Phantom Powering ON ... or you will feed a +24 or +48 volt DC power back into the headphone output - possibly damaging the organ headphone output. NOTE: I have not tried this with the PreSonus AudioBox iTwo to determine if the impedance/and signal levels match up for clean high quality sound.

PLEASE BEFORE YOU DO ANY OF THIS ... find someone local to you, who has audio/video electronics experience, or you can acquire a collection of expensive items that will not talk to each other adequately to render hi quality sound or video, or you can damage the equipment you are working with.

This is only scratching the surface. The iPad is an amazing device but was not designed to do a high quality video audio live-stream that approaches commercial broadcast quality.

Back at home in Houston:

I'm responsible for daily live streamed broadcast of church services from St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Houston Texas. I'm listing out what we use and you can google the items i mention to become familiar with what is required to support live stream. We started this on only the 5th Sunday of Lent ... this year, because of COVID-19. And expect "church" to continue to be affected by the pandemic for some time to come. Admittedly we already did have some of the basic hardware.

What we use in semi commercial set up:

We use two Canon XA45 Video Cameras connected to Inogeni video capture cards (SDI to USB3) that turn each camera Audio/Video signal (3G SDI/or it could have been HDMI) into an HP Laptop (AMD A10 processor or an Intel i7 processor).

How to Livestream a Worship Service, Continued

The open source software on the computer (FREE) is called OBS (Open Broadcasting Software). We take a house audio system feed (XLR monaural) into one of the cameras. In addition to all of the individual voice mics ministers, singers, etc. ... we mic the organ specifically with one RODE NT4 X/Y stereo condenser mic which becomes monaural in the broadcast (organ is a 54 rank Rieger 1974, rebuilt by Visser Pipe Organs 2017).

How to do the same thing relatively on a "shoestring":

You can use far less expensive Video cameras, with HDMI output, if they have mic inputs on the camera, to receive higher quality audio than the mic in the camera ... i.e. a house mix of sound from the church sound system. You will need a video capture card to take the HDMI video (containing the audio) coming out of the camera and turn it into something that can be put into the USB port on your computer. OBS (Open Broadcaster Software - FREE) will identify the video/audio source plugged into the USB port of your computer (IOGENI HDMI to USB - there is a usb 2.0 and USB 3.0 versions - the IOGENI cards come in different configurations). Configuration isn't simple but there are several videos on YouTube (Church ministry based) to get you there.

AGAIN - I ABSOLVE MYSELF of any and all responsibility for any loss or damage to you or your equipment. Proceed entirely on your own discretion. But with caution, and homework, it is definitely doable. YouTube has the free videos - go forth an explore.