

The Bombard

Newsletter of the Detroit Chapter
American Guild of Organists

November 2020 Issue

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The Dean's Column



Greetings to everyone! Well, here we are in the ninth month of the pandemic with seemingly no end in sight. And to top it off, we are in the middle of an election that also, seemingly, has no end. Frustrating as they are, both of these will pass.

Meanwhile, what are we doing as organists to keep our skill set in check? It is a wonderful time for practicing. I know that one of my biggest complaints throughout a year is that there is no time to practice. Of course, to be able to do this, unless, of course, you have an organ in your home, means one must have access to the church sanctuary. For many, that is easier said than done. The church buildings are closed and no entry is allowed.

I would suggest that we use this time in other ways as an educational tool. Perhaps, this is a good time to go through the volumes of music we have acquired over the years and see where duplicates are and consolidate or condense our libraries.

Virtual concerts are the norm right now and there are still some great work being done, much of which comprises our programming this year for the Detroit chapter. I know the last thing we want to do sometimes is yet another Zoom meeting, a virtual webinar, etc. But check the local programming elsewhere in this newsletter and use the time to participate in the programs with the technology resources we have.

In addition, the AGO national office is offering various programs. Below I have copied, once again those ideals from the AGO Mission statement regarding your AGO membership.

As a member of the American Guild of Organists you can

(Continued)

- **connect** with other organists
- **enhance** your skills as an organist and choral conductor
- **celebrate** the organ in historic and evolving contexts
- **discover** news of the organ and choral world online and in *The American Organist*
- **nurture** new organists of all ages
- **share** knowledge and expertise
- **enjoy** camaraderie at chapter events and conventions
- **find** inspiration and challenge
- **receive** encouragement from colleagues
- **experience** great organs and organists
- **access** career opportunities and job listings
- **earn** professional credentials through AGO certification

The American Organist magazine has some excellent articles and invitations to webinars and other educational programs that are well worth a look-see. Of course, to receive the magazine either digitally or in print, one must be a member in good standing. Which brings the question: **Have you renewed your membership for this next year yet?** Please go online and do that if you have not already done so. And consider donating to one or all of four specific funds our chapter has in place. This can be done as part of your membership renewal – it does not require a separate transaction. And the money gets funneled to our local chapter. At any given time during the year, you can donate to these funds through the local chapter as well.

As we continue to be a virtual organization and a virtual society, remember that your chapter is alive and well and we are here for you. We still welcome your suggestions, especially in this time when creativity is certainly necessary. And our virtual world though seemingly without end is only temporary.

As we approach Thanksgiving and many of us prepare for a virtual Thanksgiving Eve service, my wish for you is to stay safe and well.

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

Detroit Chapter News & Events



Dr. Stephen Price Lecture
Monday, November 16, 7:00 pm.
Dr. Stephen Price, Organ professor at Ball State will lead a Zoom lecture/discussion entitled:
A Discussion for New Organ Teachers: Where to Start and How to Proceed.
Zoom link will be sent out nearer the date.

Organ of the Month



IHM Motherhouse Chapel

**Casavant Frères Ltd.
Opus 1642, 1940
3 Manual, 62 ranks**

[CLICK HERE FOR STOPLIST](#)

Member Spotlight: Stephen Warner



When did you start playing the organ?

I started officially taking lessons at 12, but I started piano at age 6 with the intention of playing the organ.

Who was your first organ teacher?

Paul Rajala in Traverse City. We started with him because he taught both organ and piano. I think he studied at Northern Michigan in Marquette and ran a pretty busy piano studio as well as teaching band and working as a church musician. He was really good for me because he was not afraid to help me with popular and ragtime music as well as the traditional repertoire. He was also good at helping me make music more than worrying about technique all the time.

When did you become a member of the AGO?

I was a member of the Cherry Capitol Chapter as a teenager. I joined Detroit sometime around 2000 or 2001.

Current church position

I play and direct at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church

Most memorable organ concert (either that you played or attended)?

Influential might be the dedication concert of a little Zimmer Organ in Burdickville, MI that I heard Michelle Johns play when I was 4 or 5 years old. My uncle joined her on flute for a few pieces including "Stars and Stripes". I also remember watching Charles Miller play his senior recital at Interlochen when I was about 10. I was pretty dazzled by Bach's Toccata in F. In parallel with those, I heard Gary Reseigh on the Wurlitzer at the "Roaring Twenties" when I was 5 and Hector Olivera at Interlochen on his DX-7 when I was 10.

Favorite organ piece?

"Go Down Moses" by Fela Sowande

Favorite organ?

I have three: Joseph Gabler Organ at Weingarten Abbey, Cavaille-Coll at St. Sernin, and E.M. Skinner at JAPC!

Organ piece you eventually want to learn?

I am currently working on Franck's Choral in b, I would also like to play the Ruebke 94th Psalm.

Interests outside of music

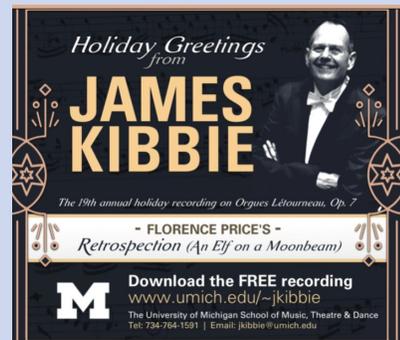
I enjoy hiking a lot. I also am a bit of an aerospace buff: I enjoy browsing old flight manuals and blueprints of WWII and Cold War era aircraft.

Hope for the future of the AGO

I hope it can convey, and continue to help its members convey, to the rest of the world the breadth and majesty of our instrument and its music. The only key to "relevance" for our instrument is in its ability to be used to share or convey the full depth of human experience.

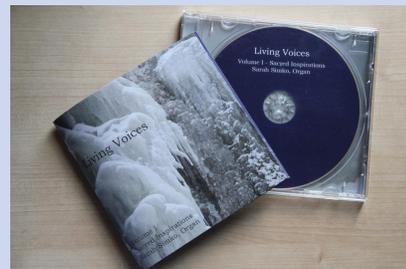
Holiday Recording from James Kibbie

James Kibbie continues his annual holiday tradition of offering free downloads of a recording on his house organ, a 7-stop Létourneau tracker, as an "audio holiday card." This year's recording, the 19th in the series, is Florence Price's "Retrospection (An Elf on a Moonbeam)," available in MP3 format at: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jkibbie/james-kibbies-annual-audio.html>



New CD from Sarah Simko

Sarah Simko, with a grant from the Theodore Presser Foundation, has released her first CD recording. Living Voices: Sacred Inspirations, is the first volume in a series of three, dedicated to recording solo organ works by living women American composers. A track list, and links to the composers' websites, and purchasing information, can be found on her website: www.sarahsimko.com



The List: A Calendar of Local Musical Events

Do you have news that you'd like to share with the Chapter? Please send your information by no later than the 15th of the month to Andrew Herbruck at andrew@fpcbirmingham.org for inclusion in the next issue of The Bombarde.

November Sunday Evenings at Kirk in the Hills

This is a series of safe, distanced organ and instrument programs each Sunday evening in November. The programs are one half hour in length. All events are in the Sanctuary of Kirk in the Hills, 1340 West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, 48302. **Attendees must preregister at: www.kirkinthehills.org** No admission charge; safe distancing and masks required. Preceding each program there will be a fifteen-minute carillon recital by Kirk carillonneur Dennis Curry, and following each program there will be a twenty minute Evening Prayer service. All events will also be live streamed via the Kirk website.

- Sunday, November 15, 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. —Patti Masri-Fletcher, principal harp of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and Glenn Miller, organ. Program includes Marcel Grandjany's Aria in Classic Style.
- Sunday, November 22, 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.—David Ammer, principal trumpet of the Michigan Opera Theatre, and Glenn Miller, organ
- Sunday, November 29, 7:00 to 7:30 p.m.—Glenn Miller, organ, performing works by Dupre, Vierne, Alain, and Franck

Christ Church, Grosse Pointe Virtual Organ Concert Series

All concerts will be livestreamed through the website and Facebook page of Christ Church Grosse Pointe. All concerts take place at 7:30

Friday, November 13 featuring Scott Hanoian

Friday, February 19 featuring Scott Hanoian

Friday, March 5 featuring James Kibbie

Friday, May 7 featuring Dexter Kennedy

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