

The Bombardier

Newsletter of the Detroit Chapter
American Guild of Organists

March 2021 Issue

The Dean's Column



Well, here we are and very near the middle of March and looking down at the end of the first quarter of 2021. It's hard to believe that on Saturday, March 13 – it will be a full year since Governor Whitmer issued her first stay at home order. It is so surreal that sometimes I think that we're all in a very bad dream and we are finally going to wake up out of the dream and this whole pandemic has been nothing more than that. But, the REAL reality is that it has been its own nightmare. And we still have people hospitalized. So not much has changed. The one big change is that we are starting to be able to be vaccinated. And, I am seeing notices from some of my colleagues that some churches are looking at in- person worship here again soon. A close friend in the Toledo area told me the other day that they are looking at being back in the sanctuary on Palm Sunday. That sounds like a lofty goal to me. But then, I received an e-mail from another colleague where I served an interim four or five years ago and was told that they are resuming in person worship this next Sunday. Meanwhile, for the large majority of us, we are still Zooming or recording or live streaming. It's tough doing a service with just the pastor, the lay leader, the tech personnel and myself. I, for one, really miss my choir. I have been able to utilize my bell choir since there is no singing involved.

I am sure, if you're like me, you feel like you're nothing but a Zoom product created out of a necessity in order to save lives.

But we endure and go on. I have received some really nice notices from sister chapters about the virtual programming they are doing, and we have some virtual events coming up very, very soon. One, is the virtual Happy Hour on Thursday, March 25 that you will read about in another section of this newsletter. This will be followed by some other events.

We are still sponsoring our scholarship program this year. Thanks to the generosity of you, our members, we have a nice fund in order to offer scholarships this year. The scholarship auditions will be held in June at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Rochester Hills under the direction of Jean Randall. That sanctuary is large enough if we are still observing social distancing compliance. Following those auditions, we will be planning, with hope, a recital featuring those winners and a few presentations offered by our membership. More information is available at our website and in another section of this newsletter.

No one will deny that, 2020 and moving into 2021, is a real era that will obviously be in the history books.

And our grandchildren and great grandchildren are the ones who will read about it and will be dumbstruck that such a thing happened in their grandparents' lives.

Meanwhile, we all continue in the mode in which we have become accustomed to this last year. My wish is that everyone continue to stay safe and well and I don't mind going on record to say I am a strong advocate of getting vaccinating as soon as you receive notice that you can make your appointment for it.

Sending good thoughts and wishes to all of you – and yes, Spring is almost here!

Regards,
George Jonte-Crane
Dean

Detroit Chapter News & Events



Zoom Happy Hour Thursday, March 25 5:00-6:00 pm

We've survived a year of trials, lockdowns, delayed plans and virtual everything! Catch up with your Detroit AGO colleagues and unwind with a drink before the craziness of Holy Week

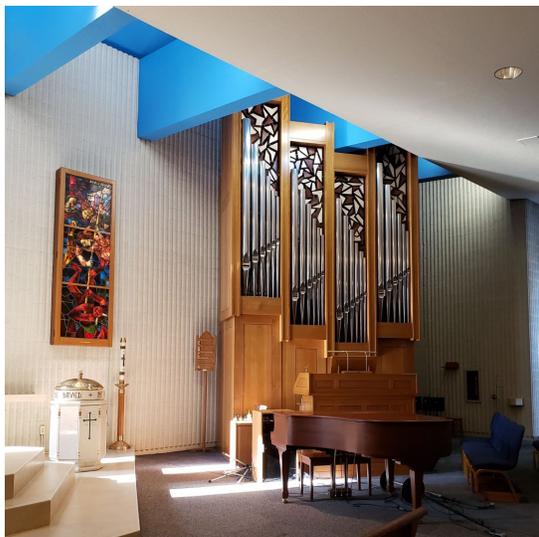
Topic: AGO Happy Hour
Time: Mar 25, 2021 05:00 PM
America/Detroit

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5526178313>

Meeting ID: 552 617 8313

Organ of the Month



**Our Lady of Refuge
Orchard Lake
Noack Opus 163, 2019**

Great

16 Bourdon *
8 Diapason
8 Chimney Flute
4 Octave
4 Conical Flute
2 Fifteenth
II Cornet *
III Mixture

Swell

8 Viola
8 Gedackt
4 Principal
4 Recorder *
2 2/3 Twelfth
2 Fifteenth
1 3/5 Seventeenth
1 1/3 Nineteenth *

Pedal

16 Subbass
8 Open Bass
16 Posaune *

Couplers

Swell to Great
Swell to Pedal
Great to Pedal
* Prepared stops

Member Spotlight: Edward Maki-Schramm



When did you start playing the organ?

I started playing the organ when I was twelve years old. My family and I attended a Lutheran church and watching the organist in the rear balcony was a way to make the services endurable and entertaining. I was already taking piano lessons, so it was an easy leap.

Who was your first organ teacher?

My first organ teacher was Mrs. Sherman in Toledo, OH. Her only credential for me was that she lived around corner from us and had a three manual electronic organ in her home. I had the chance to reconnect with her at a University of Michigan Organ Conference when I was a student there. It was so nice to complete the circle, in a way.

When did you become a member of the AGO?

I became a member of the AGO when I was an undergrad student at the Cincinnati Conservatory. The school had its own student chapter. Since then, I have been a board member and dean of the Ann Arbor chapter, and now serve on the AGO National Board for Finance and Development.

What is your current church position?

I am currently the Organist/Choirmaster of Christ Church Detroit. I am also the Artistic Director/Conductor of the Community Chorus of Detroit and a Senior Major Gift Officer for the Detroit Institute of Arts.

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

I have attended many memorable organ concerts. It's hard to pick just one. One that comes to mind first is hearing the organ played at the Frauenkirche in Dresden, with all of its baroque splendor.

Favorite organ piece?

My favorite works are by the Romantic composers like Vierne, Widor, and 20th c. composer Durufle.

Favorite organ?

My favorite instrument is hard to pick since so many different instruments have something to teach us. Getting to present Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral with the Community Chorus of Detroit on tour with David Hufford at the Willis console will forever be a mountaintop experience for me.

Organ piece you eventually want to learn

I have always wanted to learn the Suite, Op. 5 by Durufle.

Interests outside of music

I love to travel and miss it greatly during this time of pandemic. I also like to spend time in my home with my husband on historic preservation and with our four dogs (a Black Lab, a Newfoundland, and two Great Danes).

Hope for the future of the AGO

My hope for members of the AGO is that they find meaning in their membership. The AGO doesn't exist for itself. It is not an elitist group. It is a group of members who bring and find support for their musical endeavors. The future of the AGO has a national enterprise is very bright and its financial future is sound. It struggles with how to be relevant but new initiatives are in the works and everyone's input is always welcome.

One of Our Own on Pipedreams

We are very pleased to announce that one of our members was featured on Pipedreams radio, this past month. Sarah Simko, a current board member, was the opener for the second hour of Pipedreams on January 4. The recording, taken from her newly released CD "Living Voices: Sacred Inspirations," features a composition by an Ann Arbor area composer, Pamela Ruitter-Feenstra. We could not be happier for Sarah! If you'd like to listen to the program, you can listen here:

[CLICK HERE FOR PIPEDREAMS LINK](#)



Todd Wilson Concert on Demand

Did you miss the Todd Wilson concert co-sponsored by our chapter? You can view it from the comfort of home!

[CLICK HERE FOR CONCERT LINK](#)

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 to Andrew Herbruck at andrew@fpcbirmingham.org for inclusion in the next issue of The Bombarde.

SACRED SPIRITUALS ON PALM SUNDAY.

Join the Detroit Song Collective on Palm Sunday, March 28, at 4:00pm at North Hills Christian Reformed Church (3150 N Adams Road, Troy, 48084) as they premiere Norah Duncan's new arrangements of spirituals for voice and piano (forthcoming from GIA). Participating are voice students from Wayne State University, Jonathan Lasch, Caitlin Lynch, Norah Duncan, Brandon Waddles, and Randall Engle.

The event is free and you can join via livestream through the church's website (www.northhillscrc.org) or in person (though limited to the first 50 attendees).

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, May 7 featuring Dexter Kennedy