

SEPTEMBER 2016

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Guild Year Begins with a Dinner and Guest Artist Concert

WELCOME BACK CHRISTIAN BISCHOF *Solo Recital in Kalamazoo*

Friday 30 September
St. Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave)

5:00 p.m. Gathering Time
5:30 Full Dinner (by Maggie's Catering)
7:00 Christian Bischof Recital

Some of us thought Christian Bischof's recital during our 2013 GREAT LAKES * SWELL ORGANS regional was one of the highlights of the convention. Now, in collaboration with St. Augustine's Sacred Music at the Cathedral Series, we are delighted to give you yet another opportunity to enjoy his artistry. His program will feature works by Kerll (1627-1693), Muffat (1653-1704), Bach, Mendelssohn, Reger, Vierne, and Widor.

We will begin gathering at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral's Fr. **Crowley Center** North Meeting Room. A catered dinner (\$20) will be served promptly at 5:30, and the recital will begin at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral Church proper. Catered by Maggie's, the menu includes a spring salad (mixed greens, strawberries, sunflower seeds, raspberry vinaigrette), chicken piccata, stuffed shells and manicotti (vegetarian), wild rice, green beans almandine (nuts), dinner rolls, assorted tray of desserts, iced tea and lemonade.

Please make your reservations with Carl Doubleday at cdayday@chartermi.net or 269 345-7336. Be sure to leave your name and number of reservations. Also, let Carl know if you do want the vegetarian option.

URGENT

**Dinner Reservations
need to be made by 5 p.m.
on Friday, September 23.**

\$20 payable when you arrive.



Christian Bischof

The **Crowley Center** is the east most building on the Cathedral campus and is clearly labeled with its name. Guests should use the long ramp that feeds directly from the front parking lot. Once inside the double doors, proceed straight down the hallway all the way to its end and then turn right. The north meeting room is accessible from the first door on your left.

To learn more about our guest artist, continue reading on the next page.

INTRODUCING CHRISTIAN BISCHOF

Our September 30 Guest Artist

Christian Bischof is one of the young rising stars of organ and church music in Europe today. He was born in 1982 and grew up in Bamberg, Germany. Bischof received his earliest musical training at the music school of the Regensburg Cathedral Choir. After graduating from that school he studied church music and organ at the State University for Music in Würzburg and at the Conservatory of Piteå in Sweden. As a scholarship recipient from the Academic Endowment of the German Bishops' Conference, he completed his studies in 2011 and took the esteemed Artist Diploma in Organ Performance. Among his most influential teachers are Christoph Bossert (organ), Hans-Ola Ericsson (organ), Zsolt Gárdonyi (organ, music theory), Jörg Straube (choral conducting), and Markus Bellheim (piano).

After several years of church music activities in Bamberg, Landshut and at St. Augustine Church Würzburg, Christian Bischof worked at the Basilica of the Benedictine Abbey Scheyern through 2012. In 2013 he became organist and choir director at the large parish church of St. Margaret in Munich. He brought to life several concert series as artistic director ("Organ Summer in Gartenstadt" in Bamberg and the "Summer Concerts at Scheyern Abbey"). In 2011 he contributed significantly to the renovation and tonal enrichment of the great organ in St. Augustine Church Würzburg.

In his prolific concert activity Christian Bischof focuses on early music as well as the repertoire of the German Romantic era – most particularly that of Max Reger – and also the works of Olivier Messiaen. His performances as a soloist and together with famous instrumentalists, ensembles, and choirs have given him the chance to play many very famous organs throughout Germany and beyond. His first concert tour to America was in 2013, when he performed at the regional AGO convention in Kalamazoo and elsewhere and was artist in residence at Western Michigan University. Since 2014 Christian Bischof has been a Certified Organ Expert (Association of Organ Experts of Germany) and since 2016 a member of the American Guild of Organists (Southwest Michigan Chapter).

After performing in Kalamazoo on September 30, Christian is scheduled to play a different program at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor on Tuesday, October 4, at 8 p.m. Sponsored by the University of Michigan's 56th Conference on Organ Music, that event is also open to the public free of charge.

MESSAGE FROM OUR DEAN

from Stephen White, PhD

As I sit here listening to the recordings made during our recent choral residencies at Canterbury and Lincoln Cathedrals, I am reminded how special it is to do the work we are called to do. While I may not have had the benefit of much rest and relaxation over the course of this past summer, I find myself energized by the collaborative efforts of the people with whom I share music ministry in my little corner of this world; St. Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek. I hope that you are also able to be energized in doing what God has called you to do through sacred music. What a rare privilege it is to be called to this ministry.

The plans for this year are taking shape and I do hope that each of you will make the time to fully participate in this, YOUR chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Through the numerous opportunities for fellowship, great performances, and continuing education, we are strengthened and, I believe, able to more fully live out our calling.

Please note carefully the announcement of upcoming AGO events especially our first chapter dinner and performance by Christian Bischof on September 30. While the dinner is by reservation, I would encourage you to invite your pastor and/or a member of your choir/congregation to be your guest – treat them to dinner and then enjoy the performance of a great artist. You will also want to invite your entire congregation to come hear the performance by Mr. Bischof. I can't think of a better way to showcase who we are as an organization. I look forward to seeing each of you soon.

Soli Deo Gloria!

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

In October and December

Jonathan Ryan Organ Recital

We are collaborating with the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music to present organist Jonathan Ryan at 8 p.m. in First Baptist Kalamazoo on Monday, October 31; Halloween night! More information will follow in our October issue.

Annual Members Christmas Concert

We will return to First Congregational Kalamazoo for this public recital on Tuesday, December 6, at 7 p.m. In addition to joyous music of the season, we will help celebrate the church's *newly moveable* organ console! Reveling at the Musselman home will follow.

SUMMARY OF CHAPTER FINANCES

from Treasurer Nate Mattson

We started last year on July 1, 2015, with \$31,900. The year's cash outflow exceeded income by \$6,200. This was largely due to three items:

- * The outstanding Hymn Festival we presented in two cities (Kalamazoo and St. Joseph) in March.
- * A contribution we made to our own Katy Loew Scholarship Fund. This included funds designated for that purpose when the Twin Cities (Benton Harbor / St. Joseph) Organ Concert Series ceased operations.
- * Maintenance on the W. K. Kellogg Organ. This was paid for from remaining funds we had solicited to prepare the Kellogg Organ for its part in the Regional Convention we hosted in 2013.

We ended the year on June 30, 2016, with a total of \$25,700. Some of this has been earmarked by the board for the newly-established David Sly Scholarship Fund, and a small part remains in the W.K. Kellogg Organ Maintenance Fund.

In addition to the financial items above, our Katy Loew Fund awarded three scholarships last year. As a reminder: The Katy Loew Fund is separate from our SW MI AGO treasury and is held and maintained by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. In summary, we are in great financial shape!

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Process For Who Will Be Included

Because our membership dues are paid directly to the National AGO at varying times in the calendar year, we needed to decide "who" will be included in each year's directory. Over the summer, this plan was determined by registrar Carrie Groenewold, editor Carl Doubleday, and dean Steve White.

If you are a member-in-good standing on October 1, you will be included in the new directory.

If you need to renew your membership between now and October 1, we will do our best to let you know. This effort will be a combination of emails and phone calls. If you do NOT hear from us at all between now and October 1, you have the right to assume that all is well and that you will be included.

This plan was announced to all chapter members on or soon after August 24 via email and US Mail.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIONS

from Secretary Kay Ensfield

Our Executive Committee's quarterly meeting was held on August 2. Elizabeth Bruce was welcomed as our sub-dean. She will be overseeing the completion of our programming for 2016-17 which was the main topic of this meeting.

Our first event will be a Christian Bischof recital and a dinner beforehand on Friday, September 30. Cost for the dinner will be \$20. Carl Doubleday has agreed to receive reservations which will be requested by September 23. A freewill offering will be received at the end of the concert.

The second event will be a collaboration with the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music. Jonathan Ryan will be presenting concerts on Monday, October 31. At 6 p.m. he will host a family friendly event to introduce the organ. Families are encouraged to come in costume and admission is free. He will present a more formal public recital at 8 p.m. Finally, he may do a masterclass on Tuesday, November 1. Details for the class are being handled by Karl Schrock TBA at a later date. EDITOR'S NOTE: Chapter members will be admitted to the 8 p.m. concert free of charge, but their guests will need to purchase tickets.

The annual Christmas member's recital will be at First Congregational Kalamazoo on Tuesday, December 6, at 7 p.m. with a party afterwards at the Musselman home. Please note that this is happening on Tuesday of that week, not Monday.

More progress was made on the guidelines for the new David Sly Memorial Scholarship. Application deadlines will be February 1 and August 1. November 1 and May 1 will be the deadlines for the Kathryn Loew Scholarship applications.

Other administrative business was also completed.

URGENT

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on Friday, September 23.**

with Carl Doubleday at
cdayday@chartermi.net
or 269 345-7336

Leave your name, number of reservations,
and if you plan on the vegetarian option.

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

Over the Summer

Heidi Ordaz has joined us as a student member. She relocated here from Georgia to pursue a master's degree in church music at Andrews University. She had been associate organist at Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah. She is now the director of music for Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Sodus. Her email address is heidiodaz@gmail.com.

Garrett Collins has transferred to our chapter from San Francisco. Originally from Vicksburg, he studied with Alexander Boggs Ryan at WMU, did some private study in Paris while living in Europe in the mid 70s, and eventually worked with Richard Purvis in San Francisco where he moved in 1981. He is returning to our area to help care for his parents. His email address is collinsgarrett7@gmail.com.

AN ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

Help Us Cover Our Directory Costs

Registrar Carrie Groenewold has offered to help us get display ads for our yearbook/directory. If you, your church, or an affiliated organization you know would like to place a display ad in our new directory, the prices are \$35 (one-third page), \$50 (half page), or \$100 (full page). Carrie would love to hear from you via music@stlukeskalamazoo.org or 785 766-4543. Thank you, Carrie!

MIXTURES

Kathryn Loew Scholarship Applications

Applications postmarked by November 1 are now being accepted for this quarter. Contact Dr. Steve White for an application and further information. He can be reached at steve@stthomasbc.org or 269 965-2244 ext 15.

W. K. Kellogg Organ on WMUK

During a recent Battle Creek Symphony performance of the Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony, the venerable E. M. Skinner caught the attention of WMUK's Cara Lieurance such that she arranged an on-site interview with Brooks Grantier. This collaboration created a five-minute piece which was aired in August. If you are interested in hearing it you may click on this link: <http://wmuk.org/post/world-class-pipe-organ-hidden-battle-creek>. The link includes some visual slides, the audio clip, and a text transcript. Brooks quips that "they did a fine job of summarizing the organ and editing out a few wrong notes in my playing."

Performing on Our Christmas Program

Several members are already scheduled to play on our annual Christmas Recital which is open to the public. As mentioned earlier, it's set for Tuesday, December 6, at 7 p.m. in First Congregational Kalamazoo. If you would like to offer up an Advent/Christmas/Epiphany work, please contact our subdean, Elizabeth Bruce, at ekent1231@gmail.com.

ORGANizer CALENDAR

Please send entries to cdayday@chartermi.net as early as you wish. They will be entered in a master calendar and shared in each issue as space permits. Chapter member names are noted in SMALL CAPS.

Psalms, Hymns, and Spirituals on Sunday, September 25, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage Rd). This Milwood Series program of sacred solos, duets, and trios will be sung by three professors of voice at Western Michigan University: Drs. Ken Prewitt, Karen Kness, and Rhea Olivacce. The collaborating pianist is Gunta Laukmane. A performance of "The Trumpet Shall Sound" will include trumpet professor Scott Thornburg. Freewill offering.

Organist CHRISTIAN BISCHOF on Friday, September 30, at 7 p.m. in St. Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave). See more details on this Sacred Music at the Cathedral series event on page one of this issue. Freewill offering.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, October 2, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Sung by the St. Thomas Choir directed by STEVE WHITE. Freewill offering.

Organist Leon Couch III on Sunday, October 16, at 4 p.m. in Peace Lutheran Saint Joseph (3590 Lincoln Ave). Dr. Couch is a faculty member at Birmingham-Southern University in Alabama. Free.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, November 6, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Sung by the St. Thomas Choir directed by STEVE WHITE. Freewill offering.

Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 4, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Sung by the St. Thomas Choir directed by STEVE WHITE. Freewill offering.

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