

FEBRUARY 2014

GUEST ORGANIST LYNNE DAVIS*Co-sponsored By Our Chapter*

Sunday, February 9, at 4 p.m.
 First Congregational Battle Creek
 145 Capital Ave NE 49017

Our February chapter event is being presented in collaboration with the Sunday Afternoon Live series at First Congregational Battle Creek. Our host will be Al Bolitho.

A native of Michigan, leading international concert organist Lynne Davis graduated with honors in organ performance from the University of Michigan where she studied with Robert Clark. Shortly after, she moved to France to study with Marie-Claire Alain and also studied with Jean Langlais, Maurice and Marie-Madeleine Duruflé, and Edouard Souberbielle, as well as other great European master organists.

Ms. Davis' career was launched by taking First Prize at the prestigious St. Albans International Organ Competition in England. Since then, her activities have included being a featured performer at two American Guild of Organist national conventions, a member of international organ competition juries, giving concerts, master classes and lectures about French organ literature and its history. She holds the "Certificat d'Aptitude de Professeur d'Orgue" delivered by the Republic of France, and in 2012 was awarded the distinction of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture and Communication

In the fall of 2006, she was appointed Associate Professor of Organ, holding the Ann & Dennis Ross Endowed Faculty of Distinction chair at the Wichita State University School of Music in Kansas.

Her February 9 program includes Grand Dialogue in C Major (Marchand), Theme and Variations on "Est-ce Mars?" (Sweelinck), Variations on *La Marseillaise* (Balbastre), Passacaglia in C minor BWV 582 (Bach), Choral II in B minor (Franck), Sonata in E flat minor (Horatio Parker), Intermezzo (Alain), and Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain (Duruflé).



Special Guest Lynne Davis

MARCH GATHERING TEASER*By Brooks Grantier*

Important Note: This event is **not open to the public**. It is limited to chapter members and spouses/partners.

Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. on Monday, March 3. We're going to get "up close and personal" with the large and magnificent E.M. Skinner organ at W.K. Kellogg Auditorium in Battle Creek. This organ was Mr. Skinner's last instrument for Æolian-Skinner, and it remains the final, unaltered sample of his most advanced ideas in tonal and mechanical design. At 4 manuals and 73 ranks of pipes, the organ speaks commandingly into the Art Deco auditorium. There are well-developed diapason choruses, handsome reeds, a powerful solo tuba, and a full quartet of solo strings plus the many softer sounds which Mr. Skinner had developed over his long career.

Organ technicians Jim Lauck and Trevor Dodd will be on hand to guide you through the organ. You will be

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MARCH TEASER *continued from page one*

able to explore the “innards” of this instrument and there will also be open-console time for you to experience playing it. If you do wish to explore the organ chambers, wear shoes fit for a bit of climbing, and avoid bulky sweaters which can get caught on delicate wiring. If you want to play the organ, please bring whatever scores you wish, and plan to limit yourself to 5 minutes or so, so that everyone can have a chance to play. If you just want to hear the organ, take a seat and enjoy the ride.

While a **private event**, we do plan to invite those who contributed to last summer’s fund drive for the restoration of the combination action to join us. But please, **limit your attendance to yourself, and your spouse/partner**. The Battle Creek Public Schools has been most generous in granting us admission to the auditorium and the organ (and organ chambers) by very special non-public arrangement.

What an opportunity! Do plan on being present to celebrate one of the great instruments in our area, indeed in the country; one which our chapter and our recent convention has now helped to preserve!

DEANLY PARAGRAPHS *from Dr. Mark Wells*

We have enjoyed two delightful chapter events since our last newsletter. Many felt our annual Christmas members recital offered the most interesting variety of pieces in recent years. The James Lauck instrument at Prince of Peace Portage served us well, and we would like to appreciate these members who shared music with us: Tom Fielding, Ellen Tipton, Carl Doubleday and Joann Cotant (piano/organ duet), Richard Stultz, Kay Ensfield, and our gracious hosts Janet and Kent Hill (organ duo). The program ended in grand fashion with the AGO Aces Piano Quartet; yes that would be eight hands on one keyboard! Brooks Grantier, Steve Flick, Barbara Hong, and yours truly presented Leroy Anderson’s popular “A Christmas Festival” with appropriate holiday brilliance.

Our January event was also a special treat. Hosted by Nate Mattson at Immanuel Lutheran Kalamazoo, we used the church’s vintage Kilgen tracker instrument (which has received good attention from James Lauck over the years) to enjoy music for manuals only. Presenters included Nate Mattson, Carl Doubleday, Bill Musselman, Roxanne Nieboer, and Esther Korzilius. [We welcome Esther to our chapter! She recently transferred from Grand Rapids.] Two more chapter members, Tom Fielding and Barbara Hong,

brought a variety of pieces which they presented both verbally and via brief excerpts. The gallery choir loft was filled with around 20 of our faithful members on a very crisp evening.

Let me close with a belated Happy New Year to each of my colleagues as January passes into history. That month has never been one of my favorites and this year’s seems to have been very long! I am sure we will endure even more of our famous (or infamous) Michigan winter weather before spring finally does arrive. In the meantime, do take advantage of hearing Lynne Davis on Sunday, February 2, and remember to put Monday, March 3, on your calendars for our special “private” gathering at Kellogg Auditorium.

REMAINING CHAPTER EVENTS *In Our Current Season*

February 9 (Sunday)
5 p.m. Organist Lynne Davis
(see page one)

March 3 (Monday)
7 p.m. W.K. Kellogg Skinner Celebration
“For members only”
(see Teaser article in this issue)

April 7 (Monday)
7 p.m. Panel with Organ Builders/Organists
(The) Spring Has Sprung:
Instrument Maintenance in a Pinch
Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo

May 19 (Monday)
7 p.m. Bach Around the Block XXVII
(in collaboration with Kalamazoo Bach Festival)
Downtown Kalamazoo Churches

June 2 (Monday)
6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Officer Installation Service
Chapel Hill United Methodist Portage

NEW SUBSTITUTE AVAILABLE *Retirement Announced*

Al Bolitho has recently retired from his Director of Music position at First Congregational Battle Creek. He plans to continue administering the church’s Sunday Afternoon Live concert series and is willing to be contacted as a substitute organist.

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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.

Vocal Jazz from WMU on Sunday, February 9, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage St 49001). The 2014 Milwood Series will celebrate the church's ongoing relationship with the Western Michigan University School of Music. This first event features Gold Company and the Gold Company Band under the direction of Greg Jasperse with guest vocalist/composer/pianist Peter Eldridge, head of the jazz voice faculty at the Manhattan School of Music. Free will offering.

Lynne Davis Organ Recital on Sunday, February 9, at 4 p.m. in First Congregational Battle Creek (145 Capital Ave NE 49017). Part of the church's Sunday Afternoon Live series, the recital is presented in collaboration with our chapter. See page one of this issue for more details. Free.

Early Music Michigan on Saturday, February 15, at 8 p.m. in St Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave 49007). Part of the Sacred Music at the Cathedral series, the concert will present Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostris* under the direction of Eric Strand. Suggested donation \$15 (\$5 for students).

Stephen White Organ Recital on Sunday, February 16, at 5 p.m. in St Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St 49017). The program will include works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Kenneth Leighton, William Mathias, Joseph Rheinberger, and Herbert Sumsion. Free will offering.

Yuki and Tomoko Mack Duo-pianists Recital on Sunday, February 23, at 4 p.m. in First Congregational Battle Creek (145 Capital Ave NE 49017). Known for their exquisite musicianship and dynamic technique, the Mack Sisters are returning to Sunday Afternoon Live after being enthusiastically received during the 2011 season. Free.

Majestic Brass of Grand Rapids on Sunday, February 23, at 4 p.m. in Central Reformed Grand Rapids (10 College Ave NE 49503). The eight-member brass ensemble will continue the church's Barker Series. Free.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, March 2, at 5 p.m. in St Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St 49017). Sung by the St Thomas Choral Scholars. Free will offering.

Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet on Sunday, March 9, at 4 p.m. in First Congregational Battle Creek (145 Capital Ave NE 49017). The program will conclude the church's 2014 Sunday Afternoon Live series. Each of the quartet's members is an impressive award-winning musician on his own, and together, the ensemble is show stopping. The program will include a variety of transcriptions of masterworks, Latin music, and original compositions. Free.

Lenten Meditations with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys and Andrew Nethsingha on Friday/Saturday, March 28/29, at 7 p.m. in the Cathedral of St Andrew Grand Rapids (301 Sheldon Blvd SE 49503). Free will offering.

University Chorale Concert on Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage St 49001). Under the direction of Dr. Kimberly Dunn Adams, Western Michigan University's premier choral ensemble will preview its spring concert tour program. Free will offering.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, April 6, at 5 p.m. in St Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St 49017). Sung by the St Thomas Schola Cantorum: Introit by John Blow, responses by Graham Keitch (world premiere), canticles from Short Service in a Neo-Tudor Style by Eoghan Desmond (American premiere). Free will offering.

Sacred Music at the Cathedral on Palm Sunday, April 13, at 5 p.m. in St Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave 49007). Program includes Bach's *Widerstehe doch der Sünde* and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with strings and organ. Soloists will be soprano Corlyn Longer-Schreck, alto Sara Miller-Schulte, and counter-tenor Mark Wells. \$10 donation suggested.