

APRIL 2016

www.agokalamazoo2014.org**BACH AROUND THE BLOCK**
29th Annual Collaboration

Monday 11 April at 7 p.m.
 Beginning at First United Methodist Kalamazoo
 Continuing to First Presbyterian
 Concluding at St. Luke's Episcopal

Once again it's time to crawl around Bronson Park visiting several Kalamazoo organs. Coordinated by Tom Fielding, this year's theme is "Pasta and Pipes: The Italian Influence in the Music of Bach." Six chapter members will perform including Bernie Foulk, Thomas Fielding, Karl Schrock, Mark Wells, Carrie Groenewold, and Stephen White.

Our Bach Around the Block collaboration with the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Society has been one of our most successful outreach programs attracting 200-300 people annually. The evening will conclude with a reception at St. Luke's.

*The actual printed program
 has been sent with this newsletter
 as a separate document.*

JUNE GATHERING PREVIEW
Trinity Episcopal Marshall

Do anticipate a Monday, June 6, dinner meeting, our installation of officers, and a program by the Choral Scholars of St. Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek.

6:00 p.m. Social Time
 6:30 Full Dinner
 7:30 St. Thomas Choral Scholars

June is a *wonderful* time to drive over to the handsome city of Marshall, to enjoy our final get-together of the season. This year, in addition to a fine dinner, our annual installation of officers will be beautified by the singing of the Choral Scholars of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Battle Creek, with our dean, Steve White conducting.

Trinity Church is a Victorian Gothic pearl, with fine acoustics, amazing stained glass windows, and the best organ ever made by the Möller Company (in Brooks's completely unbiased opinion). So, mark the date, load everyone into the ago-mobile and head east for a rare and memorable evening together.

OUR DEAN'S MESSAGE
from Dr. Stephen White

Now that Holy Week and Easter have passed I hope you will have an opportunity to rest a bit and reflect upon your work (and impact) on all of those who were in attendance at the various services. A colleague from Georgia gives the following "sermonette" (as she calls it) during the warm-up on Maundy Thursday – I think it is appropriate for us to be reminded of it:

There are those who walk through the doors of our church who carry burdens unknown to us. Sorrow, struggle, and suffering permeates our fragile existence, but so does joy. There is great opportunity for comfort, compassion and love. Through the beauty of prayerful, loving music, you may forever change the lives of those you don't know in a way you will never know.

Carla Gorham Strott – Director of Music,
 St. Edward's Episcopal, Lawrenceville, GA

As each of us continues to "recover" from our own stresses, exhaustion and expectations from Holy Week/Easter may we keep in mind that we also are a part of the group that is forever changed by those who join in our ministry; singers, clergy, page turners/stop pullers, etc. During this season of the Resurrection, let us give thanks for the gift of music, the positive, life-changing power it possesses, and for all who are moved to a closer relationship with the Risen Christ!

Opportunities abound for us to share the joy of music with the community and our colleagues – from the wonderfully successful Hymn Festival (many thanks to all involved for such wonderful planning and heartfelt performance) to the upcoming Bach Around the Block performances. We are truly blessed!

Remembering our March Hymn Festival

WHEN IN OUR MUSIC: Those who sing Pray twice

From Festival Coordinator Brooks Grantier

The Chapter has not held a public Hymn Festival in some years. From a poll of Executive Committee members at the close of last season, the two events which stood out as being of most interest were an anthem-reading session, and a Hymn Festival. Dean Steve White made an offhand suggestion of “When in our music...” as a theme, and the event evolved from that into a celebration of hymns and other music, all in celebration of music.

I entreated Carl Doubleday (organizer without peer) to help in designing the program and doing so many details of the planning. We were able to secure the incomparable services of John Ourensma to lead the hymn-singing, and of the West Michigan Brass Works (Steve Jones, director). Cindy Hunter, Stephen Zork, and James Kraus brought in their choirs to lead the hymns and sing anthems for us. Resident organists Elizabeth Bruce and Paul Flyger gave us organ and piano solos – by turns sumptuous, incisive, and swinging. And Karl Schrock brought polish to the singing of Joe Schreck and the expert and deeply-felt trumpet solo playing of Steve Jones.

Our program came to the attention of AGO National Headquarters, and President John Walker sent warm greetings. Likewise, our regional chair, Karl Bruhn would have been with us in person, had not family issues intervened.

Our thanks go to our host churches, First Presbyterian, Kalamazoo, and First Congregational, St. Joseph, for providing space, choirs, instruments, and abundant talent. Elizabeth and Cindy report that the choir singers at First Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo were still humming the tunes and admiring John Ourensma’s superb and varied playing, days after the event. **Soli Deo Gloria!**

From Festival Organist John Ourensma

Carl asked me to offer a few reflections on the recent hymn festival sponsored by our chapter and for which I was asked to be principal organist.

First of all, I was very honored when invited to be organist for our chapter hymn festival – our roster has

many fine players whom I would happily have enjoyed hearing lead us in an event like this. So I had to think about it for some time before agreeing. Many of us know about that extra little tension we feel when playing for a competent group of colleagues!

At the time of my accepting the invitation, I did not realize fully the scope of the challenge involved in leading the singing of eight hymns from two very, very different instruments in two very different venues and settings! First, to avoid confusion I made up two “play books” with dedicated registrations and console logistics for each of the two churches.

Secondly, three of the hymns were to be presented with big settings for brass and organ, but the other five hymns also had strong themes of praise. So the festival could have just been eight loud hymns – loud, louder and loudest! That was actually the main challenge – how to bring a wide variety of sounds, volume, and tempi to the five hymns on which only the organ would be accompanying. Thankfully, a few ideas emerged after spending time with the hymns, particularly several that actually lent themselves to more quiet and reflective treatment. Finally, it was rather unnerving to try to register creatively in volume and color, but not actually have any idea as to how large the assembly would be. Thankfully Karl Schrock dropped in one morning at First Presbyterian to listen to what I was doing and shared with me what some of his standard volume levels were on the organ when he was organist there. Paul Flyger was equally helpful in demonstrating the instrument at First Congregational. In the end it all seemed to go well, and was rather thrilling to hear the strong singing from the choir and assembly. It was incredibly inspiring to work with the amazing brass quintet on the big hymn settings.

But perhaps the most moving moment of the entire festival was when I was not actually “on duty” and could fully enjoy other musicians holding forth, particularly the magnificent collaboration of Steve Jones and Karl Schrock on American Cortège by Sean McCarthy. With most of us busy on Sunday mornings at our own churches, it was a treat to hear Elizabeth Bruce and Paul Flyger play some fabulous solo works on the program. My sincere thanks to the staff of the host churches, particularly Elizabeth and Paul, for their gracious hospitality.

INTRODUCING TWO NEW MEMBERS

Both are WMU Students

Daniel Tucker, is honored and excited to begin his lifelong journey with the King of Instruments! Daniel is a sophomore at Western Michigan University double majoring in choral music education and comparative religion. A native of Stow, OH, he graduated from Walsh Jesuit High School, where he developed a passion for sacred music. Daniel currently studies piano with Dr. Silvia Roederer, organ with Dr. Karl Schrock, voice with Valerie Martinez, and choral conducting with Dr. Kimberly Dunn Adams. He is a proud member of Western Michigan's University Chorale. Daniel loves puns and feels blessed to be welcomed into the "ranks" of the Southwest Michigan chapter of the American Guild of Organists!

For your directory:

Daniel Tucker
4611 Muirwood Pl
Stow OH 44224
330 607-9495
daniel.l.tucker@wmich.edu

Graeme Shields is also a student at WMU currently pursuing a MM in composition. Born in Canada, He actually spent most of his time in Minnesota where he served as an organist and accompanist for a Lutheran church in the middle of the state. He is relatively new to the organ, having only played for four years now, but the world of music, especially composition and piano, has always been a central part of his life. He considers himself a composer first and performer second and truly enjoys writing for the king of instruments. His hope is to help make the organ appear more accessible in regards to composers who are unaware of its versatility or intimidated by its abilities. He looks forward to becoming familiar with the organ tradition associated with Kalamazoo and the surrounding area and all those who stimulate and keep it alive. He is presently serving as Music Director and Organist at St. Barnabas Episcopal Portage.

For your directory:

Graeme Shields
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218 360-0998
shields.graeme@gmail.com

With the addition of Daniel and Graeme, our chapter now has 89 members. This includes 27 regular, 30 special, 10 student, 1 partner, 2 dual, and 19 chapter friends. Unofficially, this is our chapter's largest membership this century.

MIXTURES

Irene Golike has a new address: 29172 60th Ave, Lawton MI 49065.

Linda Richter is willing to be contacted as a substitute organist/pianist: bach2bop@yahoo.com or 310 600-8631. She has subbed at area churches and she accompanies the KVCC Community Choir.

Our **annual election of officers** is scheduled to take place during the month of May. Ballots will be mailed to your directory address.

As best as your editor knows, the process of **renewing your membership** is now on a rotating schedule based on when you last renewed your membership. Please watch your email – or regular mail if that is your indicated preference – for that information from the National AGO.

OH RANCID FLAPS OF ANCIENT SUEDE

Ode to my organ shoes

Oh rancid flaps of ancient suede
With grooved soles and heels arrayed,
'Tis time to pen a eulogy
About your organ shoe-logy.

You've heeled and toed your fetid way
Through every piece I've dared to play,
With never a grumble, moan or whine
About a tricky fugal line.

Through hymns galore my feet have ploughed –
The bass part ringing clear and loud;
And with malodorous precision,
You have controlled my Swell division.

With registration too your part
You've played; and what a subtle art
It is, to cause the feet to jive
Between the pisions, one to five.

Attuned to Widor, used to Bach –
Through every age you've made your mark;
Chorale by Franck or one of Handel's –
You are no ordinary sandals.

You've been an aromatic play-link
Between the hands and feet in Sweelinck.
And though your age could well be Tudor
You've never shirked at Buxtehude.

You've danced through Brahms,
you've flown through Liszt,

Of Mendelssohn you've got the gist:
And though you're old and worn and smelly –
You've Sorted out Lefébure-Wély.

Complete these praises now I must
To my old shoes, so rank, so just;
You have your eyes, your tongue, your sole, my dears
It grieves me that you have no ears.

David Setchell (b. 1960)

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**.*

Choral Evensong on Sunday, April 3, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Sung by the Saint Thomas Choral Scholars. Good will offering.

Chamber Music at the Ladies' Library on Friday, April 8, at 8 p.m. in the Ladies' Library Kalamazoo (333 S Park St). Featuring Ensemble Des Amis Trio and Arcadia Woodwind Quintet, the program will include works by Brahms (trio for clarinet, cello, and piano) and Ludwig Thuille (woodwind quintet and piano). The pianist is BARBARA HONG. Call (269) 344-3710 for ticket information.

Mozart Requiem (Mass in D minor) on Saturday, April 9, at 8 p.m. in Chenery Auditorium Kalamazoo (715 S Westnedge Ave). Performed by the Bach Festival Chorus and Orchestra with soloists, James Turner conducting. Tickets at 269 337-7407 or www.KalamazooBachFestival.org.

Community Festival of the Arts on Sunday, April 10, at 4 p.m. in Prince of Peace Lutheran Portage (1747 Milham Ave). Brothers Johan and Obe VanderTol will present an interactive art and piano recital. Sacred and spiritual artist, Johan, will respond to Obe's musical artistry. Freewill offering.

Anglican Choral Evensong on Sunday, April 10, at 4 p.m. in Holy Trinity Parish Hillsdale (263 Spring St). Music of Howells, Oldroyd and others. Performed by the Parish Choir and music students of Hillsdale College. Accompanied by organist STEVEN FLICK. Reception to follow. Free.

Community Festival of the Arts on Sunday, April 17, at 4 p.m. in Prince of Peace Lutheran Portage (1747 Milham Ave). Folk singer, Joel Mabus, joins students from the WMU History Department in a presentation of early Michigan folk music and readings from early Michigan diaries. Freewill offering.

Community Festival of the Arts on Sunday, April 24, at 4 p.m. in Prince of Peace Lutheran Portage (1747 Milham Ave). Hammer dulcimer virtuoso and composer, Malcolm Dalglish, joins guest conductor, Dr. Kim Adams of WMU, percussionist Carolyn Koebel, and the choirs of Prince of Peace and Chapel Hill United Methodist in a performance of Dalglish's song cycle, Hymnody of Earth. Freewill offering.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, May 1, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Sung by the Gentlemen of the Saint Thomas Choir. Good will offering.

Chicago Solisti on Sunday, May 15, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage St). This string chamber orchestra featuring the next generation of Chicago artist-performers is under the direction of concertmaster Kyle Dickson. The concert is part of the 2016 Milwood Series of fine arts events. Good will offering.

Pentecost Concert & Hymn Festival on Sunday, May 15, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Presented by the St. Thomas Choir. Good will offering.

Chamber Music at the Ladies' Library on Friday, May 20, at 8 p.m. in the Ladies' Library Kalamazoo (333 S Park St). Two works are offered: Beethoven's Octet for Winds, Op. 103, and Gounod's Petite Symphonie. Call (269) 344-3710 for ticket information.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, June 5, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Sung by the combined choirs of St. Thomas (Battle Creek) and St. Luke's (Kalamazoo). Good will offering.

Pipe Organ Encounter for ages 13-18 from July 17-22 in Lexington, Kentucky. For more information: www.agolexington.org/poe2016.php.