

MARCH 2015

**COMPOSITIONS BY CHAPTER MEMBERS***With Ars Voce as our Special Guests*

Monday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m.  
 First United Methodist Kalamazoo  
 212 S Park St 49007 (use Academy Street entrance)

Join us to enjoy music composed by both current and former chapter members as performed by members and guests. The guests will include soprano Katelin Spencer and the choral ensemble *Ars Voce* directed by Mark Wells. The composers include Tom Fielding, Brooks Grantier, Carl Doubleday, Clarence Small, Calvert Shenk, Albert Bolitho, and James Konkel. The late Cal Shenk is a former chapter dean. Jim Konkel, a former chapter treasurer/registrar, is now a member of the Central Florida Chapter. He will arrive for a Michigan visit on March 16, but does not know one of his works is being performed. ☺

Performing chapter members include Tom Fielding, Brooks Grantier, Carl Doubleday, Clarence Small, and Mark Wells, as well as Steve White who will play Jim Konkel's work. ***The actual printed program is being sent as a separate document along with this newsletter.*** There will be a time of fellowship and refreshment following the program. NOTE: Nearly 30% of Joann Cotant's organ and piano music was adopted at our February meeting! The remaining music will once more be available during this event's afterglow.

We would like to thank our colleagues at First United Methodist for hosting this program: Organist Bernie Foulk and Minister of Music Jacqueline Stilger.

**BACH AROUND THE BLOCK XXVIII***Monday 20 April beginning at 7 p.m.*

Titled "The Name B-A-C-H," this will be our chapter's 28th annual collaboration with the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Society. It will feature organists Nicholas Quardokus and Al Bolitho at First Congregational; Brooks Grantier and Carrie Grunewold at First United Methodist; Thomas Fielding and Francis Zajac at St. Augustine, where there will be a concluding reception. Our April *ORGANizer* will include complete program information. We want to thank Tom Fielding who is coordinating this year's event.

**DEANLY PARAGRAPHS***from Dr. Mark Wells*

Sadly, we have lost another chapter member. Phyllis Bokhart passed away on Monday, March 2. She was 85. Her visitation (10 a.m.) and funeral (11 a.m.) are at the Farley Estes funeral home in Battle Creek on Saturday, March 7. I will make sure flowers from our chapter are sent. As you may recall, chapter member Joann Cotant passed away in October. She had already paid her chapter dues, so our executive committee voted to send these funds to the music ministry of Milwood United Methodist Church in her memory. We recently received a thank you note from the church.

Our February 16 gathering at the new Zhang Collections Center at WMU was memorable in many ways. Once more, I would like to thank both our presenter, Dr. Mary L. Black, and our gracious WMU hostess, Dr. Sharon Carlson, for everything we experienced that evening. Now, one month later to the day, we look forward to our next special event as described in the paragraphs on the left side of this page. ***Please join us!***

Finally, do remember our 2015 Great Lakes Regional Convention being held in Indianapolis in July!



## CONFESSIONS AND APOLOGIES

*from Carl Doubleday*

As your newsletter and yearbook editor, I cannot tell you how disheartening it has been to not provide our chapter with a 2014-15 yearbook. For several months last winter and spring, we did our very best to help our members with the new national ONCARD membership renewal system. Yet by September fewer than 50% of our members (40 out of 85) had renewed. Thankfully, that number was up to 60 by November. Nonetheless, some of you who have been members for years still had not renewed. There were other membership status circumstances which clouded the information available to me; e.g. I was lost without the data on those renewal forms which had served us so well over the years.

In the meantime, as September became November, I felt in good conscience I could not solicit our advertisers for a publication which might be almost six months into the new year before it was circulated. Furthermore, many of our advertisers were arts entities whose leaders knew me well in my former School of Music role at Western Michigan University. Many of them are no longer employed by those entities, so I would be approaching their replacements not only late in the game but also as a total stranger. Finally, **the wonderful program year** created by Al Bolitho has remained a work in progress because of when he graciously agreed to serve as our 2014-15 program chair. Several times I tried to get serious re: doing something about all this. Each time I could not decide how to proceed.

### **What I now plan to do:**

I have decided to build a new yearbook/directory in August/September and call it a directory for **2014-16** representing both the 66th and 67th years of our chapter. It will include minimal or no advertising depending on what I can do, or – better yet – what a new advertising solicitor is able to do (hint, hint).

### **What YOU can do to help:**

Above all, please renew your membership this spring if you would like to continue your affiliation with the AGO. That said, I promise that those who did renew this year (2014-15) will be included in the 2014-16 directory even if they do not renew for 2015-16. I do hope the current and new executive committees will support these decisions on my part. Thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding. We'll get through this!

### ***More Change Pain***

My email provider no longer allows me to use a single group list the size of our membership. I have had to break us down into seven lists, so everything I send to you now has to be processed seven times. Even though I use a checklist as I work through the ritual, every now and then a group receives the same thing twice. I guess that's better than not at all. Sigh. Once more, please bear with me!

## NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

**Carrie Groenwold** was introduced in our September newsletter. She is the new Minister of Music at St. Luke's Episcopal Kalamazoo.  
[music@stlukeskalamazoo.org](mailto:music@stlukeskalamazoo.org) 785 766-4543

**Daniel Flanagan** joined our chapter in the fall. A WMU business major from Vicksburg, he has been struck by the "pipe organ enthusiast" bug and is in the process of building a fascinating little two-octave demo instrument which can be boxed up, taken somewhere, and put back together. He studies organ with Tom Fielding.  
[dan.j.flanagan@gmail.com](mailto:dan.j.flanagan@gmail.com)

**Carl Witt** is a former chapter member who recently renewed his affiliation. A composer/pianist whose first music degree was from WMU, Carl continued at the Eastman School of Music where he earned its top composition prize. He has poured his love of music and the arts into chamber music, opera and music theater, contemporary art music, dance, and as both a solo performing artist and collaborating pianist. He serves as organist at Three Rivers Presbyterian.  
[carl@carlwitt.com](mailto:carl@carlwitt.com) 269 381-0796

**Thomas Britton** is our newest member. He has lived in the area (Three Rivers/Constantine/Kalamazoo) all of his life. His music background is classical piano; he also studied organ with Ovid Young (of Nielsen and Young) at Olivet Nazarene University. He has been a church organist/pianist for over 40 years including 22 years as organist for Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Constantine. He and his partner, Keith Geiman, now tour widely as a Trumpet/Piano/Organ Duo.  
[phdthom@msn.com](mailto:phdthom@msn.com) 269 816-2588

## POSITION POSTINGS

**Chancel Choir Director needed** at Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo. The selected candidate will replace Fred Sang who is retiring on May 17 after eleven years at Milwood. Letter of interest and resume should be sent to Choir Director Search Committee, Milwood United Methodist Church, 3919 Portage St, Kalamazoo 49001. Application deadline is March 20. A complete job description is available from Kim at [milwoodumchurch@gmail.com](mailto:milwoodumchurch@gmail.com) or 269 381-6720. *First listing.*

**Organist needed** at Fairplain Presbyterian Benton Harbor (210 W Napier Ave 49022; 269 925-0041). Worship services include organ music for preludes, hymns, choral accompaniments, and postludes. Choir meets September through early June. Funeral and wedding availability is desired. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest and resume to [fairplainpc@gmail.com](mailto:fairplainpc@gmail.com). *Position still open.*

## **ORGANizer CALENDAR**

Please send entries to [cdayday@chartermi.net](mailto:cdayday@chartermi.net) as early as you wish. They will be entered in a master calendar and shared in each issue as space permits.

**Kalamazoo Ringers** on Sunday, March 8, at 4 p.m. in First Congregational Battle Creek (145 Capital Ave NE 49017). Under the direction of Janet Van Valey, the Ringers will present the concluding concert on this season's Sunday Afternoon Live series. Free will offering.

---

### **Lenten Organ Recitals**

First United Methodist Kalamazoo  
Thursdays @ 12 Noon

March 12 – Bernie Foulk, Organist, First United Methodist Kalamazoo.

March 19 – David Heinze, Organ Scholar at Trinity United Methodist Grand Rapids.

March 26 – Thomas Fielding, Director of Liturgy and Music, St. Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo

---

**Wilma Jensen Organ Recital** on Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m. in First United Methodist Birmingham (1589 W Maple Rd 49009). Presented by the Detroit AGO Chapter.

**Brandon Ridenour and Useful Chamber** on Sunday, March 15, at 3 p.m. in First Baptist Kalamazoo (315 W Michigan Ave 49007). Presented by the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music. Tickets \$12, \$10 (senior), \$5 (student).

**Early Music Michigan Lamentations** on Saturday, March 21, at 8 p.m. in First Congregational Kalamazoo (345 W Michigan Ave 49007). Under the direction of Eric Strand, the program will focus on meditative music for Holy Week for singers, soloists, and baroque instrument ensemble. Tickets available at the door (\$15, students \$5).

**Hector Olivera in Concert** on Sunday, March 22, at 4:30 p.m. in Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Detroit (8625 E Jefferson Ave 48214). Presented by the Detroit AGO Chapter, he will be playing the historic 1925 Skinner. Free will offering.

**Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys** Lenten Meditations on Friday/Saturday, March 27/28, at 7 p.m. in Saint Andrew's Cathedral Grand Rapids (301 Sheldon Blvd SE 49503) with Scott Bosscher conducting. Free will offering.

**Tournemire's *The Seven Last Words of Christ*** on Palm Sunday, March 29, at 5 p.m. in St Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave 49007). The program will conclude the 2014-15 Sacred Music at the Cathedral series. Free will offering.

**Chamber Music Series** on Friday, March 27, at 8 p.m. in the Ladies' Library Kalamazoo (333 S Park St 49007). Trio by Glinka (clarinet, cello, piano), quintet by Mozart (piano and winds), wind quintet by Paul Taffanel. \$10 suggested donation.

**Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet** on Sunday, May 3, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage Rd 49001). A continuation of the 2015 Milwood Series of fine arts events. Free will offering.

**Stephen White Organ Recital** on Sunday, May 3, at 4:30 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St 49017). Followed by Choral Evensong at 5 p.m. sung by the St. Thomas Choir. Free will offering.

**Chamber Music Series** on Wednesday, May 20, at 8 p.m. in the Ladies' Library Kalamazoo (333 S Park St 49007). Serenades by Czerny (clarinet, horn, cello, piano) and Dvořak (winds, cello, bass). \$10 suggested donation.

**Brahms' *A German Requiem*** on Saturday, May 30, at 8 p.m. in Chenery Auditorium Kalamazoo (714 S Westnedge 49007). Presented by the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Society and featuring the Bach Festival Chorus, the Kalamazoo Philharmonia, baritone Anthony Clark Evans, and soprano Rhea Olivaccé. Tickets via [www.kalamazoobachfestival.org](http://www.kalamazoobachfestival.org) or 269 337-7407.

**Choral Evensong** on Sunday, June 7, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St 49017). Sung by the Schola Cantorum. Free will offering.