



Lorain County Chapter American Guild of Organists

www.lcago.org

Newsletter for September 2011

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**William Porter—Recital at First Lutheran, Lorain
September 25, 3:00 p.m.**

World-renowned organist coming to Lorain!

William Porter is Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and also teaches in the organ department at McGill University in Montreal. He holds degrees from Oberlin College, where he also taught organ and harpsichord from 1974 to 1986, and from Yale University, where he was director of music at Yale Divinity School from 1971 to 1973.

Widely known as a performer and teacher in the United States and in Europe, he has also achieved international recognition for his skill in improvisation in a wide variety of styles, ancient and modern. He has performed at major international festivals and academies, including the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists, and has recorded on historic instruments, old and new.

Mr. Porter will be performing on John Brombaugh's Opus 4 at First Lutheran Church, 603 Washington Ave., Lorain, OH. This instrument, finished in 1970, is Brombaugh's first large instrument, and was a ground-breaking instrument for its re-employment of historic building principles such as flexible wind supply, hammered pipe metal, and unequal temperament. In 2011, Opus 4 received a Historic Organ Citation from the Organ Historical Society, recognizing it as "an instrument of exceptional historic merit." A plaque acknowledging the citation will be formally presented at the concert.

The Lorain County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is proud to be a co-sponsor of the recital. Mr. Porter has graciously agreed to have lunch with AGO members before the concert. We will meet at Jackalope in Lorain at 12:30. **Please RSVP to the Dean by September 18 if you would like to attend the lunch.**





From the Dean

Hello! My name is Brian Wentzel, and I am your new Dean. Since this is my first Dean's column, I thought I'd start by introducing myself.

I grew up in Northwest Ohio. My dad is an organist and church choir director, so I grew up in a musical household, and spent a lot of time at church! I did my undergraduate study at Northwestern University, where I received a BMus in organ performance (studying with Douglas Cleveland) as well as a BA in mathematics. I then went on to receive my MSM from Luther Seminary (Paul Westermeyer, John Ferguson).

I have been Director of Music at First Lutheran Church in Lorain since 2006. I direct the adult and handbell choirs and play for two services. I also do other things around the church, such as plan worship, teach Sunday School, and maintain the website.

I am married to Carey, who has a degree in vocal performance and teaches piano and voice from our home. We have two young daughters, Danka and Adele.

I am excited to serve as your Dean. Please feel free to contact me any time with questions, concerns, or new ideas!

Chapter News

Newsletter to be delivered electronically

Surprise! You've got an email from LCAGO! Everyone should have gotten this issue by email and by postal mail, but in order to save money and to provide a more interactive experience, our chapter newsletter will be delivered over **email only** starting with the next issue. **If you have an email address and did not receive this issue via email, please contact the Dean.** Those for whom we do not have an email address on file will continue to receive a paper copy in the mail.

Besides saving the chapter postage and printing costs (which were over \$300 last year), sending the newsletter electronically will allow it to include links to websites with further information. Anytime you see a brown, underlined link in this newsletter, you can click on it to follow the link. Newsletters will also be posted on the chapter website with a one-month delay.

[Chapter News continued on page 4](#)

Oberlin Events

Sept. 10, 2:00 p.m., Kulas Hall
Musician as Athlete: Injury Prevention for Elite Musicians

Come explore injury prevention with physical therapist, John Myers, a performing arts specialist who works with musicians and their unique problems.

Sept. 11, 8:00 p.m., Finney Chapel
Artist Recital Series: Itzhak Perlman, violin

The first Artist Recital Series performance for the 2011-12 season with Itzhak Perlman, violin and Rohan de Silva, piano.

Sept. 20, 8:00 p.m., Peace Church
Recital: Dr. Angela Kraft Cross
Oberlin graduate Dr. Angela Kraft Cross plays a recital on the new Bozeman-Gibson Silbermann style organ.

Sept. 23, midnight, Finney Chapel
Friday Night Organ Pump
Come enjoy one of Oberlin's greatest traditions—the Friday Night Organ Pump. Listen to Conservatory organ majors performing on the awe-inspiring Finney Chapel organ.

October 1, 1-5:30
Jenah Alain Festival
This mini festival will include two lectures by Alain's niece, Aurélie Decourt. After the two lectures, there will be a 4:00 concert in Finney Chapel of Alain's music, featuring works for organ as well as piano, voice, and chamber music.

Other Area Events

Sept. 18, 3 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran, Cleveland
Florence Mustric—Music Marathon
This will be the last opportunity for some months to hear the famous Beckwith organ before work on the console commences.

Pipedreams Programs

Pipedreams is broadcast weekly on WCLV, 104.9, on Sunday evenings at 10:00 p.m. You can also listen online at any time at pipedreams.publicradio.org.

September 4—Sönic Böhm
A survey of music by the Lüneburg master Georg Böhm[1661-1733], whose exemplary shock-waves inspired, among others, the young Johann Sebastian Bach.

September 11—September Canticles
Music of lament, reflection and healing in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

September 18—The Wanamaker Organ at 100
A centenary tribute to the world's largest functioning musical instrument, a magnificent landmark at Macy's downtown department store in Philadelphia.

September 25—More from the BBC Proms
Soloists Thierry Escaich, David Goode and Thomas Trotter preside over England's grandest concert organ in performances from London's Royal Albert Hall.

Chapter News (continued)

New chapter website—www.lcago.org

Our chapter now has a website: www.lcago.org. Having a website will give our chapter better visibility in the community, allow us to communicate better, and aid in recruiting efforts. The website includes pages for programs and events, membership, the newsletter, contact information, and links to other organizations. Please [visit the site](#) and [tell us what you think!](#)

Along with the new site, the chapter now has an email address: info@lcago.org. At this point, any email sent to this address will go to the Dean.

Time to renew your membership!

Some of you have yet to renew your membership. Now is the time to do it! If you've lost your form, you can [get one on the website](#).

Notes from June picnic and meeting

Those of you who were at the June picnic at the Sechkars' know that we had delicious food (thanks Mikki!) and a good time together. For those of you who weren't there, here are a few highlights from the meeting.

- Officers for 2011-2012 were elected:
Brian Wentzel, Dean;
Marty Bruner and Janet Campbell-Kuhl, Co Sub-Deans
Carol Sharrock, Treasurer
Robert Ebert, Secretary
- We spent much time discussing programs for the coming year. We decided that we didn't need to have events every month. The results of our discussion are below.
- We decided that the chapter ought to have a website.

Programs for the year

William Porter, Organ Recital

September 25, 3:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
603 Washington Ave., Lorain

Hymn Playing Workshop

Nicole Keller, leader
Date, time, and location tba
(October or November)

“Marty” Gras

February 19, 4:00 p.m.
Marty Bruner's house
222 Colgate Ave., Elyria

Oberlin Recital and Dinner

April 2012

End-of-the-Year Picnic

June 2012
Joe Sechkar's house
2704 Forest Lane, Lorain

AGO Mission Statement

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is:

- to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles;
- to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; and
- to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.



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Please email any newsletter information to the Dean by the 20th of the month.