



Lorain County Chapter American Guild of Organists

www.lcago.org

Newsletter for September 2012

Vol. 58, No. 1

New AGO Mission Statement

The AGO approved a new mission statement at the national convention in Nashville this July. The new mission statement begins with a succinct, memorable statement that focuses on how the AGO makes a difference in the world. It is followed by a list of goals that help define how the mission will be accomplished.

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

“The new mission focuses on more than just serving the needs of dues-paying members,” declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “This is a mission that gives the work of the Guild meaning in the context of our society.”

The Guild’s prior mission statement was developed early in 1998. Over the last three years, the AGO National Council and various task forces have reviewed AGO members’ responses to a long-range planning questionnaire to determine what is most important to members and consider afresh what the Guild should plan to achieve organizationally.

“Enriching lives” is a lofty goal: may we all strive towards it!



From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings! I hope you all have had a more relaxing summer than I've had. With conferences, recitals, and extra services, not to mention weddings, vacations, and doctor's appointments, I feel like I've hardly had a break! But it is still good to be getting back into the "normal" fall swing of things. I look forward to the return of choir rehearsals, a fuller sanctuary, and more concerts to go to. As we celebrate labor in all its forms this weekend, may your labor be fruitful in "enriching lives through organ and choral music."

Brian

Chapter News

Time to renew your membership

If you haven't done so already, it's time to renew your AGO membership! Now is the time to do it! If you've lost your form, you can [get one on the website](#).

Report of Annual Meeting

The annual LCAGO members' meeting and picnic was held at the residence of Joe and Mikki Sechkar on June 10, 2012. A small group of members gathered for great food (courtesy of Mikki), lively conversation, and a brief business meeting. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting:

- Dean Brian Wentzel gave a report for the 2011-2012 year. He drew attention to the five programs LCAGO held last year. A new LCAGO website was created last fall, and has seen over 700 visitors in that time. Many mailings, including the newsletter, are now being sent electronically, saving postage costs for the chapter. Future plans include continuing work on creating operating procedures for the chapter and building partnerships with other organizations such as Oberlin Conservatory and AGO Cleveland.
- Officers from 2011-2012 were reelected for 2012-2013. The complete slate is listed on page 5.
- We discussed chapter programs for the coming year, and have tentatively planned the following:

[Chapter News continued on page 4](#)

Oberlin Events

**September 12, 8:00, Warner
Seraphic Fire Chamber Choir**

Seraphic Fire is a national "All Star" ensemble of professional singers chosen for their exceptional talent. Seraphic Fire has garnered critical acclaim both locally and nationally, and in December 2011 was nominated for two GRAMMY awards. Free concert.

**September 21, 11:00 pm, Finney
Friday Night Organ Pump**

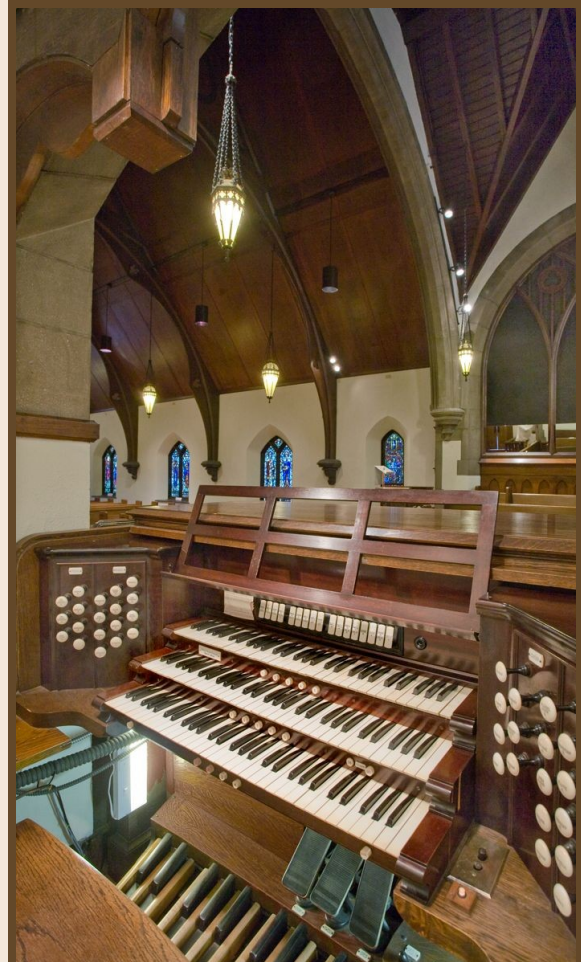
Free performance by conservatory organ majors..

Other Area Events

September 21, 7:00, Ridgewood UMC, Parma

The Innovators

The Innovators, a Zimbabwean *a capella* gospel group, will kick off the Ridgewood United Methodist Church 2012-2013 Music Series with this free concert. Having been to United Methodist Church General Conference in Tampa, they are now on tour and coming to East Ohio. While in America the group performed at church annual conferences, shelters for the homeless, boys' and girls' fellowship centers. The college age four-member male group, which was formed in 2007, has recorded three albums in the space of two years. A free will offering will be received in support of the group so they can spread God's love by sharing their music and faith as they tour throughout the US.



**Skinner Organ Co., Opus 398,
1922**

St. Andrew's Church, Episcopal
Elyria, Ohio

Chapter News (continued)

- ◇ **November 11, 4 pm—Hymn Festival with John Ferguson**
We are jointly sponsoring this program along with AGO Cleveland and Messiah Lutheran Church, Fairview Park, where the hymn festival will be held. “Jointly sponsoring” means that we will contribute some money to help pay for the event, but we also need to send some volunteers to help with ushering and other small tasks. You are also invited to sing in the festival choir and/or have lunch with John. There will be one rehearsal on Saturday the 10th from 10-noon, and lunch with John (for AGO members only) will be at 12:30. Please contact the Dean if you are willing to volunteer or if you would like to sing.
- ◇ **December—Boar’s Head festival**
In December we will attend the Boar’s Head festival at DeLuca’s Place in the Park, with music provided by the Elyria High School choir.
- ◇ **April 20—Tour of Leek Pipe Organ Company**
LCAGO chapter member and president of the company James Leek will give us a tour of the Leek shop, and give us insight into how pipe organs are built and repaired.
- ◇ **May—Organ Recital**
Plans are still in development for a recital by a prominent organist.
- ◇ **June—Annual Picnic**
Our annual picnic and members’ meeting! Date, location, and time yet to be determined.

Special thanks go to new LCAGO member Jim Akoury, who served as secretary for this meeting, and to Joe and Mikki for hosting.

Directory Advertising

This year we will be accepting advertisements in our yearly directory. Would you like to advertise a concert at your church? Would you like people to know about your music teaching business? Do you know of a person or company who would like to reach LCAGO members? If so, contact the Dean.

AGO National News

Lots of news has come from the AGO national office this summer, following the national convention in Nashville. News includes new elected officers, awards, and contest winners. These announcements have all appeared in *The American Organist*, but if you missed them you can read about them at www.agohq.org/bulletin/index.html.

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