



Lorain County Chapter American Guild of Organists

www.lcago.org

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Spring LCAGO Programs

January 24, 3:00 p.m.

Brian Wentzel, Organ Recital
Fairchild Chapel, Oberlin College

LCAGO Dean Brian Wentzel will play a recital on John Brombaugh's meantone Renaissance-style organ. The program will consist of Hugo Distler's complete *Thirty Pieces for Small Organ* interspersed with five Fantasias of Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck. The recital is free. Afterwards, LCAGO members and friends will gather for dinner at a local restaurant.

April 3, 3:00 p.m.

Post-Easter R&R for Organists
Lorain Lighthouse UMC (tentative location)

Relax with your colleagues while we watch a video about the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia on the big screen and enjoy some refreshments and convivial companionship.

May 15, 2:30 p.m.

Leek Organ shop tour and Annual Meeting

We will tour the new location of Leek Pipe Organ Co. in Berea. This even will also include an informal discussion with company owner James Leek and LCAGO member Randy Wagner about organ building and restoration as well as our annual chapter meeting.



From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

I always like to visit organs when I'm traveling. Perhaps some of you do also. This weekend I'm in New York singing with Apollo's Fire, and while here I'm going to visit a Fritts organ at Holy Trinity Lutheran in the city. I'm sure it will be a high point of my trip. Besides enjoying trying out new instruments in new cities, it's also a pleasure to meet other organists, usually AGO members. I've never experienced anything but welcome, even when I have not had prior connections. This is one more reason I am thankful for this guild we are all a part of!

Best wishes,

Brian

Chapter News

Nominations

In accordance with our new Operating Procedures, a Nominating Committee will be submitting a slate of candidates for our next election in May 2016. This committee will be convened by Ira Cooper. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Committee or participating in the nominating process, please let Ira know. Nominations are due by March 1. In any case, if Ira calls you and asks if you are willing to serve, please consider seriously this way of serving the AGO!

Member News

Because the AGO no longer has a fixed membership year, we will often have membership changes throughout the year.

Please welcome our newest member, David Kazimir. He is Curator of Organs at Oberlin, and graciously led our October tour there (see report below). His contact information is:

David Kazimir
185 Elm St.
Oberlin, OH 44074

david.kazimir@oberlin.edu
(978) 290-0565

Also, Heather Kirkconnell has moved to Boston and has transferred her membership to that chapter. We wish her all the best!

The Organs of Oberlin

The members and friends of the Lorain County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists had a rare and delightful opportunity on Saturday, October 17, 2015, to see, hear, and do organ crawls at four of the 29 organs that belong to Oberlin College. Our host for the afternoon was David Kazimir, Curator of Organs at Oberlin, who explained and demonstrated features of four of the organs. Brief recitals were played on each of the four instruments by our Dean, Brian Wentzel.

The first organ visited was the Brombaugh, ¼ comma mean tone organ in Fairchild Chapel. Among its interesting features are short octaves and split sharps and flats. Brian demonstrated the organ with the performance of compositions by Sweelinck.

The Silberman replica organ by Bozeman-Gibson, owned by Oberlin College, at Peace Community Church in Oberlin was our second stop. The somewhat interesting, but difficult, history of the organ included being installed at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, then through floods and changes of ownership being removed from Stony Brook, stored in a barn in Oberlin, then moved to Rochester, New York, and again back to Oberlin where it found a home through the College at the Peace Community Church. We enjoyed Brian's playing of music by J.S. Bach on this instrument.

The third instrument on our tour was the Flentrop, 17th and 18th centuries North European Style organ in Warner Concert Hall. This elegant organ is the principal "workhorse" organ for student lessons and performances at the college. Buxtehude and Mendelssohn were the featured composers for Brian's performance on the Flentrop.

The last instrument visited was the Fisk organ of the 19th Century French Romantic Style in Finney Chapel. The organ, which replaced a large Skinner, was influenced by the organs of Cavaillé-Coll. Works by Franck and Vierne, played by Brian, concluded our afternoon of interesting and stimulating exposure to the beauties of the Organs of Oberlin.

Report submitted by Robert Ebert

AGO Mission Statement

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.

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