



Lorain County Chapter American Guild of Organists

www.lcago.org

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The Organs of Oberlin

**LCAGO Program
October 17, 1:00 pm**

David Kazimir, newly appointed Curator of Organs at Oberlin College, has graciously agreed to host the LCAGO for a tour of the major pipe organs on the campus of Oberlin College. The schedule is as follows:

- 12:45 pm: Arrive at Fairchild Chapel (across from the North end of Tappan Square in Oberlin)
- 1:00 pm: Brombaugh, ¼ comma mean tone organ in Fairchild Chapel
- 2:00 pm: Flentrop, 17th-18th Century North European Style organ in Warner Concert Hall
- 3:00 pm: Fisk, 19th Century French Romantic Style organ in Finney Chapel
- 4:00 pm: Silberman copy organ at Peace Community Church in Oberlin

Weather permitting, the general plan is to park in the vicinity of Fairchild Chapel and then to walk around Tappan Square to the other venues.

This event is an opportunity to experience some very significant organs with personal explanations and descriptions by the curator. We look forward to seeing many of our Lorain County AGO members at the Oberlin tour. **Also, this is a wonderful opportunity to invite other organists who you may know and friends of the organ to an AGO meeting.**

Following the tour, those who may be interested will gather at a local restaurant (to be determined later) for dinner. We do need a count of how many are planning on attending. **Please let Bob Ebert know by Monday, October 12, if you and guests are planning to come to this event.** Also, let Bob know if you are interested in gathering at a restaurant (following the organ tour. His email address is rebert@bw.edu and his phone number is 440-353-3362.

See you in Oberlin!!



From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Some of you know that I worked for 5 years or so as a librarian. I love books—almost as much as music! Last week I renewed my Oberlin College library card. Did you know that anyone who lives in Lorain County can get a card for the college libraries? It costs a few dollars, but you have access to all the holdings of all the libraries, including the conservatory library, with its very large collection of organ music and organ books. It's a wonderful way to continue your organ-related learning!

I was browsing through the organ books when I was there, and ended up coming home with four books: a scholarly book on Scheidemann's keyboard music; and small book about the Disney Hall organ with lots of pictures; an English translation of Gustav Fock's book about organ building in Hamburg before Schnitger; and a collection of essays written in memory of Russell Saunders. Oberlin is a wonderful resource right in our backyard—I encourage you all to get there as often as you can!

Best wishes,

Brian

Chapter News

Upcoming Programs

See page one for our exciting first event at Oberlin College on October 17. Details for our other programs are still being planned, but are expected to include a theater organ program at the Lorain Palace Theater; a visit to the new Leek Organ shop in Berea; and our annual meeting in May, with the Wanamaker organ video.

Directory to be Published Soon

A chapter directory will be published soon. If any of your information has changed, please either [contact the Dean](#), or update your information via ONCARD by the end of September.

Upcoming Concerts

Don't forget to check the [LCAGO website](#) regularly for upcoming organ-related concerts and events. The website is updated weekly and shows events for the coming month. Here are a few concerts that might be of special interest to LCAGO members.

Philippe Lefebvre

Wednesday, September 16, 8:00

Finney Chapel, Oberlin

Lefebvre is one of the three organists of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. He will play Franck, Tournemire, Dupré, and an improvisation at this free concert. James David Christie says, "Mr. Lefebvre is an extraordinary organist and one of the greatest improvisers in the world—do not miss this concert!"

LCAGO Dean Brian Wentzel is playing two recitals in the next month. The first is on **Sunday, September 20, 2:00** at Divinity Lutheran, Parma Heights. This is a benefit concert and catered dinner, with proceeds benefiting the First Lutheran rebuilding project. Tickets are \$10 for the concert and \$25 for the dinner. Call (440) 845-2060 for tickets. The second is **Wednesday, October 14, 12:15** at Trinity Lutheran in Ohio City. Brian will be playing the first of a projected 6 recitals over the next few years, featuring the entirety of Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier on the mighty Beckerath.

Paul Fritts & Company to Build New First Lutheran Organ

Final contractual details are being completed for a new Paul Fritts organ for First Lutheran Church, Lorain. This organ will succeed the historic John Brombaugh organ that was lost in the 2014 church fire. The organ is projected to be installed in fall 2018, about a year after the church is projected to be finished.

It will be a two manual and pedal tracker instrument, with 36 stops and 49 ranks. Preliminary specifications include:

- Great: complete 8' plenum; 16', 8', 8', 4' flutes; two 8' reeds
- Swell: contrasting 8' plenum; complete flute cornet; Violdagambe and celeste; 16', 8', 8' reeds
- Pedal: 8' plenum; 16' 8', 2' flutes; 16, 8', 4' reeds.

The temperament will most likely be Kellner-Bach. The key action will most likely be suspended mechanical action with an attached keydesk; the stop action will be a dual system that can be operated either entirely mechanically or with a combination action.

Robert Lothrop
December 12 , 1925 - August 18, 2015

Richard Pierce Lothrop, former LCAGO member and a lifelong resident of Oberlin, Ohio died peacefully at Welcome Nursing Home on August 18, 2015 under the gentle care of hospice and the nursing home staff. His age was 89 years, 8 months and 5 days.

He was born on December 12, 1925 in Washington, D.C. the son of Alfred Pierce Lothrop and Florence Augusta Osborne. Shortly thereafter the Lothrop family moved to Oberlin where his parents had met as Oberlin College students and, where his father, Dr. A. P. Lothrop became a professor of chemistry. Richard always considered Oberlin his “hometown.”

A 1944 graduate of Oberlin High School, Richard served in the U.S. Naval Reserve at the end of World War II. Following this term of service with the Navy, Richard attended Wooster College as a history major where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949. For a time he served as an Admissions counselor first at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Ill and then Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin. After seeking further education Richard received a Master of Education degree from the University of Illinois in 1954. He then served as an admissions counselor with the Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. After serving in the capacity of teacher, dean of men and director of admissions, Richard returned to school once more and earned a Masters Degree in Library Science from Case Western Reserve University in 1967. He was hired by Lake Ridge Academy in North Ridgeville, Ohio in 1968 as the school librarian and served in this capacity until he retired in 1988.

Ever the consummate civic minded citizen, Richard was elected to the Oberlin City Council where he served terms from 1974-83, 1986-1991, and 1994-99. He served as the chair of council in 1978-79, 1986-1987 and served as vice chair several times. He was acting city manager from November 1978 to July 1979. As a child and teenager he was an active member at Oberlin’s First Church (Congregational–now United Church of Christ) however, during this time he also sang as a boy soprano in the Christ Episcopal Church men and boy’s. He became a member of Christ Church in 1961 through the rite of confirmation. During his fifty plus years at Christ Church he served in two significant long term roles: clerk of the vestry and “historiographer.”

In the early 1960s Richard re-purchased his family home on Elm Street and lived there until 2013 when the infirmities of age necessitated that he could not live alone. During his lifetime he never lost his love of learning and enjoyed traveling and music especially the Bach festivals at Baldwin Wallace College in addition to Oberlin Conservatory offerings such as the Baroque Performance Institute.

He belonged to several to several civic, educational and academic organizations including the Oberlin Spectrum Club, the American Guild of Organists and Beta Phi Mu, International Library Science Honor Society. During his senior years, Richard was awarded many accolades celebrating his contributions and life interests. But the honor which really surprised and pleased Richard the most was being named “Oberlinian of the year” for 1996. The article lauding his selection sums up the spirit of his life best by reflecting: “If we had to pick an ambassador to talk about Oberlin to any group, we would surely pick Dick Lothrop.” He loved to tell stories. He had stories to tell. Richard leaves to cherish his memory a host of acquaintances, friends and colleagues.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Episcopal Church 162 South Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio or the charity of one’s choice.

Job Openings

Wellington United Methodist Church—Organist

The Wellington United Methodist Church is seeking a new organist. The position would require one service on Sunday mornings, a Wednesday night rehearsal with the choir and any special services throughout the year such as Christmas Eve, a Christmas concert and Holy Week services. The church is located next to the Town Hall in downtown Wellington, Ohio. The organ is a double manual, full pedal Allen organ. The choir is directed by Jarith Geen and sings a variety of music from Handel and Hayden to Beck, Moses Hogan and Parker/Shaw. Please call the church office at 440-647-3263 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. if you are interested.

Seville Presbyterian Church—Organist/Choir Director

Seville Presbyterian Church, 101 Center Street, Seville, Ohio, is searching for a part time organist/piano accompanist and choir director for traditional worship service and weekly chancel choir rehearsal for smaller congregation in south-central Medina County. The century-old two manual Moeller pipe organ is well maintained, and the piano is a Steinway upright. The chancel choir consists of 12 members at present. There also will be opportunities for the organist to accompany the church's three-octave bell choir. A music degree is not mandatory. Starting annual salary is commensurate with experience and budgetary considerations. Weddings, funerals and other special events are available with honoraria. Please submit resume and cover letter via email to the Reverend Marc vanBulck, at email address marcel.van.bulck@gmail.com.

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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