Dear CCAGO Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and got some rest and relaxation! The Lexington Region V Convention was excellent and I was glad to see so many of our chapter and ExCo members there! More about the convention elsewhere in Vox Organa.

As we begin the fall, we welcome newly elected members-at-large and officers to the chapter Executive Committee. Brenda Portman, Collin Richardson, and Shiloh Roby were elected to the class of 2014; Mitchell Miller, student member, was elected to the class of 2013; and Dale Harris was elected Registrar.

In addition, two appointments were made to serve the chapter and the Executive Committee: Bryan Mock is now in charge of Professional Concerns; and Alexander Watson serves as the recruitment and membership coordinator.

I am grateful to the new members of the Executive Committee and to those who have agreed to serve in other support capacities. The entire chapter will appreciate the energy, creativity, and commitment that these people bring to chapter affairs.

As a chapter, we look forward to an interesting and exciting year. We will kick our year off on September 18th with a recital by Bryan Mock at St. Boniface Church, Northside (4PM), followed by a chapter dinner (6PM). (See details in the article about this event on pg. 2.) On September 25, we will hold a reception for new, returning, and potential members. In addition to the second year of our recital series co-sponsored with Christ Church Cathedral, in January we will co-sponsor a recital by Michael Unger with Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church. In November, we will hold our annual student scholarship competition.

In March, we will organize a new event to introduce children to the organ. Also in March, we will also hold an event aimed at pianists who have found themselves in the position of having become organists, but without a lot of training. This event will provide a variety of opportunities to learn about finger technique, introductory pedal technique, problems of registration (whether for digital or traditional instrument), and the quest for appropriate literature, including music for manuals alone, introductory music for manuals and pedals, and intermediate literature. There will even be a table of music contributed by chapter members that can be purchased for very little cost. Perhaps most important of all, the chapter will begin a mentorship program at this event so that inexperienced, beginning, or even intermediate organists can request a member of the chapter to whom they can turn for advice and consultation.

We will also be planning this year for a local broadcast of Pipedreams with Michael Barone that has tentatively been scheduled for the fall of 2012.

I hope that each member of the chapter will make a commitment to participate in as many chapter events as possible this year, beginning with our kick-off recital by Bryan Mock on September 18th at St. Boniface, Northside, followed by dinner. I look forward to seeing each of you there and getting to know you if I have not had the opportunity to meet you before. I am always eager to hear your suggestions and comments and urge you to contact me or any member of the Executive Committee.

Best wishes for a great year!

ROBERT BENSON, DEAN—CINCINNATI CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
As a means of encouraging organists and lovers of the pipe organ to become members of the chapter and to feel welcomed when they join, the chapter will host a reception for members who have just joined the chapter this summer or who have re-joined after a hiatus, and for musicians and music lovers who are interested in joining the chapter but don’t really know any members. The reception will take place on September 25, 4-6 PM, at the home of Alexander Watson and Dale Harris.

The Executive Committee believes that this is one of many ways that we can reach out to the large community of musicians as well as organ enthusiasts in the Greater Cincinnati area to increase our chapter membership.

We ask that you nominate potential members and send their names and contact information to Alexander Watson, our new membership and recruitment coordinator. He will send an invitation to your nominee(s) and, if you have nominated this person, you will be invited also! Alexander Watson’s contact information is: 1406 E. McMillan, #21, Cincinnati, OH 45206; 513.739.5522; or backtalk@alexanderthegreatwatson.com.

The Region V Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, was a wonderful event. It was great to see so many members of the chapter and the Executive Committee participating. I believe that everyone who attended found the convention to be exceptionally well organized, with exciting recitals, provocative seminars, and lots of valuable personal interactions with members of other chapters from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, and Michigan as well as from chapters outside Region V.

There were very fine recitalists and choral organizations who performed at venues in Lexington, Berea, and Danville; and, there were seminars about such topics as building chapter membership, conducting children’s choirs, and publishing music. These events led to the sharing of ideas, the comparing of experiences—both fulfilling and bewildering—and the development of relationships with other musicians at all levels. Almost all the recitalists interacted with the participants (as opposed to hobnobbing only with other artists) and making themselves available for questions and discussion about anything from Baroque ornamentation to emerging literature for organ and choir.

One of the recitalists at the convention was Yun Kyong Kim, a member of the Dayton Chapter (and a former Dean there), who is a nationally and internationally known recitalist, competition winner, and currently organist and choirmaster at Christ Church in Dayton. She brought the convention to a wild standing ovation with the opening piece in her recital on the Steiner Organ at the Union Church in Berea: “Live Wire” by Iain Farrington, a young British composer, who works in the jazz style. We are very happy that Yun Kim will be one of the organists featured in our chapter recital series at Christ Church Cathedral this year.

While the Regional Convention does not always fall on a date that is convenient and may be expensive for some members, it cannot be denied that attending a Regional Convention is one of the greatest benefits of membership in AGO. If you have never attended one, promise yourself that you will attend one in the future. It is probably the best way to get to know musicians who have the same kind of background, training, experience, and ambitions that you have! That can be very reinforcing and invigorating for all of us!
WE ARE ON FACEBOOK!!

If you are already on Facebook, look up the Cincinnati AGO site and see what you find. Many of the e-mail announcements that come to the chapter get posted on our FB home page and news page. There are also comments from members and friends of the chapters and additional information about chapter events and events of interest to chapter members. Since the Facebook page can be updated at any time, it tends to have greater currency in some ways that our newsletter Vox Organa that appears monthly. Go to the Cincinnati Chapter FB site and click “Like.”

CHAPTER RECEIVES GRANT

Thanks to the efforts of Executive Committee member Isaiah Hyman, the Cincinnati Chapter received a donation from the Wodecroft Foundation in the amount of $1000. The money will be used for a new program this year that will introduce the pipe organ to children 5 to 11 years old.

If The Organmaster Fits, Wear It!
Ten Things Your Substitute Wants You To Know

10. CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS. Keyboards free of sticky grime are a Good Thing. Warm water and a soft towel are usually enough to get the job done.

9. BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN CURSE THE DARKNESS. If natural light in your sanctuary is dim, directions to light switches for the area around the organ, the pedal board and music rack are appreciated.

8. A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING, AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE. There’s no time like today to declutter the console of all that seldom-played music, along with the bulletin from Palm Sunday 2004, unsharpened pencils, and sticky notes that don’t stick anymore.

7. KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, at least where the locations of hidden blower switches and unusual combination action mechanisms are concerned. An experienced sub will probably figure it out, but instructions save time and effort. Also helpful: a list of any mechanical quirks or malfunctions.

6. COMMON SENSE ISN’T SO COMMON. Take a moment to carefully review the order of worship so you can alert the sub to such things as musical responses which are so familiar as to have become perfunctory—as well as unwritten customs that everyone in the church except the sub knows about.

   ...TO BE CONTINUED
—submission by Chapter Member, Emily Adams

It’s The “Principal” Of The Thing!

FIND THOSE STOP NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRINCIPAL FAMILY.

M T G
T C H
Q E P
O V D
O T C
P T B

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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.

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. The guild serves approximately 20,000 members in 330 chapters throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia; founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, the guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music.

- We pledge to advance the cause of organ and choral music, to increase their contributions to aesthetic and religious experiences, and to promote their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment.
- We pledge to provide members with opportunities to meet for discussion of professional topics, and to pursue such other activities as contribute to the fulfillment of the purposes of the guild.
- We pledge to improve the proficiency of organists and choral conductors.
- We pledge to evaluate, by examination, attainments in organ playing, choral techniques, conducting, and the theory and general knowledge of music, and to grant certificates to those who pass such examinations at specified levels of attainment.

CINCINNATI CHAPTER AGO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010-2011

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