



THE BELLOWS

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“I have one life and one chance to make it count for something. I’m free to choose that something ... my faith demands that I do whatever I can, whenever I can, for as long as I can.”

President Jimmy Carter

From the Dean ...

Dear Members and Friends of the Greater Lansing AGO Chapter,

As you read this, I hope that you had a very Merry Christmas and I pray that the new year brings you many joys and blessings. I am always amazed at how on December 26 everything related to Christmas is suddenly gone and everything for the next Holiday appears on the shelves. However, if we know the true reason for the reason, we know that the birth of Christ is just the beginning as we head for Holy Week and especially Easter.

The new year gives us a chance to reflect on the past year and consider how we will look at the new year. Have you ever felt as if your planning and hard work on an event didn't get the results you wanted or you even wondered if it did any good at all? Sometimes we will never know the impact of a worship service, an organ piece, a choral anthem, a music lesson or yes, even an AGO chapter event.

I was recently given the opportunity to learn how much of an impact a single event can have on a person.

Last October, we had an organ walk that had us visiting three churches and organs in the Lansing downtown area. One of the youth attending was Levi, who is a piano/organ student of mine. As you can see from the pictures, Levi is heavily into the design and music of the organ.

I give Levi his organ lesson on Wednesdays after school. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to ask him some questions about his love for the organ and his future. His answers make me smile and tell me that the work our chapter is doing is having a positive effect on people of all ages. In May we will be having our organ scholarship auditions and I know that Levi will probably be the first one to sign up.

Tell me about your Lego creations:

I made a grand piano with a person playing it. The organ is in our church and on the console I felt like adding more manuals. (We have two and even I wish we had at least one more.)

What got you interested in the organ?

During one of my piano lessons I got the chance to play my pieces on the organ. My favorite event was the organ crawl where I got to play five pipe organs.

What do you like most about the organ?

Getting to see and hear new stops. (On every piece Levi plays, we talk about registration and different ways to play the piece such as one or two manuals, solo and accompaniment etc. He always asks where the rank of pipes is, how tall the pipes are etc.)

Would you like to be an organist in a church someday?

Yes I would (Levi's great uncle is an organist and his grandma is a retired teacher from our school. He also has several relatives who are pastors).

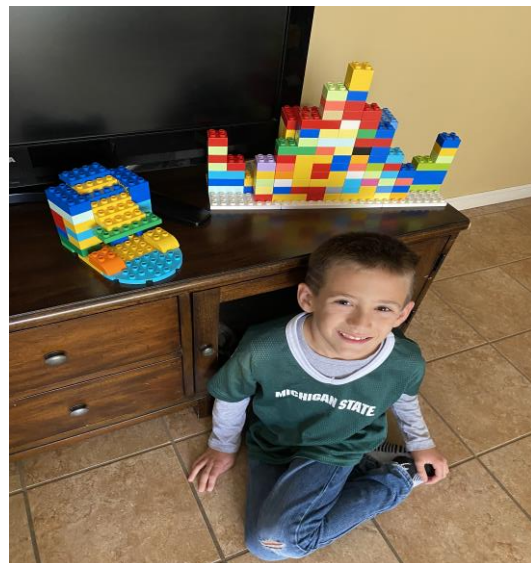
What other interests do you have?

Legos, of course. Tinkering on the piano. Math. My favorite hymn is Ode to Joy. (I received the following note from Levi's grandma which was attached with the photos of his Lego creations. Levi asked me to send you these pictures of the organ and Mr. Horak's Grand Piano he made with Legos. You may have created a monster! We listened to organ solos on Youtube during a recent dinner together).

Enjoy the gift of music and use it to help and serve others.

John Horak

Levi and His Legos



Chaplain's Meditation . . .

At the opening of family Christmas presents this year, my youngest son (age 5) was handed a nicely wrapped, rectangular/thin gift. "I hope it's not another book," he muttered right in front of his aunt and uncle who gave him the gift. . . which was, of course, a book (and a wonderful book for a kid his age, too!). Now, aside from needing to work on gift opening manners and being grateful even for gifts that aren't the newest and most exciting gadget, this little scenario provides a simple illustration about life: there are certainly disappointments to be had. Even some Christmas gifts just don't live up to our wants, needs, and desires, with the caveat that it's, of course, "the thought that counts."

But this is not true regarding God's gift of His Son. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us," St. John writes in the first chapter of his Gospel account, which was read in many Christian churches on Christmas Day. And this gift of the Holy Incarnation—of God choosing to dwell among us in the flesh for our salvation—is a gift that never fails or falls short. Now, if Christmas is about God giving us the gift of His Son in the flesh, the Epiphany—celebrated on January 6—is about the unwrapping of that gift—the light of the good news of a Savior which shines in this world's darkness. Epiphany—the season of light—is simply the unpacking of who Jesus is and what He has done through His life, His teaching and preaching, and the culminating event of His death and resurrection—the love of God for mankind. The "song of love incarnate," as it's put in a hymn (Lutheran Service Book 795).

And so, as we begin this time of Epiphany, of unwrapping and revealing of just what (who!) this gift of a Savior is and what it (He!) means for us, the church focuses on the account of the arrival of the Magi from the east who, following the star, came to worship Jesus bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (see Matthew chapter 2). In this event, we see early on in the life of Jesus that the salvation that He brings is not just for a select few. It's not for any one particular tribe or nation. But for all people; for the world. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. . . The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (excerpts from John 1). The light of the Word made flesh indeed shines in this world's darkness. In Him God's glory is revealed. It's revealed and shines in the darkness of this life's many

uncertainties: violence, threats of war, financial insecurities, ill health, damaging weather, broken relationships, addictions, worries, and all causes of sadness. In this world, which is full of darkness in so many ways on account of sin, this light shines. THE Light shines. "And the darkness has not overcome it." For God's gift of the baby in Bethlehem's manger came to give light to this world and to our lives in the sure and certain hope of salvation. And as this precious gift is revealed, there's nothing lacking. There's no disappointment. There's none to be left wanting more. For this is the gift of God's love for sinners—for you, for me, for all. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16-17). What a joy and privilege we have as musicians to be a part of such a glorious "unwrapping" this Epiphany season as this good news is carried by the music of the church into the hearts and lives of all who hear. It's not simply "another book" gift. But the most marvelous gift ever to be given and ever to be received!

PAX,

Rev. Lance Klamer+

AGO Winter and Spring Events 2025

January Brunch

*Sunday January 12th, 1 p.m. (email John for reservations – cost is \$10. per person)
MSU Brody Hall, across from the Kellogg Center on Harrison Road*

February Open Bench at the Grand Ledge Opera House, led by Scott Smith

Sunday February 2nd or 23rd, 3 p.m.

March Members' Recital in Celebration of Chapter Members Who Have Passed

Sunday March 9th, 3 p.m.

Our Savior Lutheran, St. Joe Highway, Lansing

April Visit to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Instrument Museum

TBA?

May Visit to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Instrument Museum

TBA?

Organ Scholarship Auditions

Monday May 12th, 7 p.m.

Ascension Lutheran, East Lansing

June End-Of-Year Dinner and Program

Monday June 9th, 6 p.m.

Central United Methodist, Lansing

An Interview with Organist Hae Won Jang ... The Resurrection of Organ Study and Performance at MSU

Barbara Hiranpradist

“Build it and they will come”. Well, it takes a little more work than that, but it will happen if you persist and believe in spreading the beauty of the pipe organ repertoire. After our dedicatory concert, the Lansing AGO’s Chapter Members’ Recital, and the publicity provided by the MSU School of Music, our community is taking notice of the new kid on the block after a very long hiatus of organ performance at the college.

Hae Won Jang, an organist and Assistant Music Director of the Music Ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in East Lansing, shares with us her contributions and responsibilities to the current organ offerings at Michigan State University.

In what year was the Red Cedar Organ dedicated at MSU?

A dedication recital was held on April 10, 2022, performed by Isabelle Demers.

What company designed the organ and what are its specifications ?

Létourneau, op. 134, 36 rank- 2 manual.

Who were the installers?

I don’t have specific names, but I heard both Létourneau and local builders were involved in the installation.

How did the School of Music decide that it was necessary to provide professional organ instruction?

As far as I know, the school of music installed a new organ at the Alumni Chapel, and decided to offer organ classes to piano majors to broaden their experience and skills. Additionally, the school of music provides harpsichord classes as part of its curriculum.

How does an MSU music or non-music student qualify for organ lessons?

Organ lessons were designed for the graduate music major, particularly those in the keyboard area, but the school also allows lessons for music minor students as well. Typically, students need to consult with their academic advisor or me to determine their eligibility for organ lessons.

How many lessons can an MSU student take - is there a limit?

MSU students typically use their elective credits for organ lessons, which is usually 2 credits (2 semesters). However, there is no set limit, so some students are currently taking lessons for more than 2 semesters.

If a music student decides that he/she would like to pursue the organ as a major, is there a set curriculum approved for the classes necessary to become an organ major?

Currently, MSU does not offer a program for an organ major. However, I aim to provide students with more than just repertoire. I also teach them hymn playing, the fundamentals of the organ and history. Additionally, I assist them in preparing to apply for organ major programs at other institutions when needed.

Do organ lessons basically function as an elective for MSU students?

Yes

Are you employed full-time in the School of Music or are you an adjunct professor?

I am employed as an instructor of organ in the School of Music

If the School of Music does not offer a major in organ, has there been a discussion on when this might happen?

I don't think it will happen in near future.

How many students do you currently teach?

Last semester I taught 12 students.

Do you offer Masterclasses and Recitals for your students?

MSU plans to host a Guest Organ Artist series regularly- once each semester. I do not offer Masterclasses at this time but I give my students the opportunity to perform recitals in different venues.

How many hours a week do you teach at the School of Music?

It depends on the number of students.

Are there other organ instructors teaching organ to students?

There are no other organ instructors teaching students at MSU.

Does the School of Music require that you be enrolled as a piano student in order to qualify for organ lessons? If not, what type of exam qualifies you to take organ lessons? What does the student need to play as an audition?

There is not a formal audition process, but students usually consult with me or their adviser to enroll in the class. A basic proficiency in piano is highly recommended.

Do you teach other types of music classes to those who study organ - like Sacred Music Techniques, Repertoire, etc.

I only teach organ lessons. Most students begin organ lessons as beginners, although they typically have advanced piano skills. My teaching focuses on developing techniques specific to the organ, including keyboard touch and pedal technique. I introduce them to contrasting styles, such as Baroque and Romantic repertoire, and provide opportunities for them to perform in recitals. Additionally, I cover basic hymn playing, which is included in their curriculum over two or more semesters.

