



THE BELLOWS

[HTTPS://WWW.AGOHQ.ORG/CHAPTERS/GREATER-LANSING/](https://www.agohq.org/chapters/greater-lansing/)

DR. BARBARA HIRANPRADIST, EDITOR

MARCH/APRIL 2024

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*Peace is not the
absence of war. Like a
cathedral, peace must be
constructed patiently
and with unshakable
faith.*

St. Pope John Paul II

From the Dean . . .

Dear Members and Friends of the Greater Lansing AGO Chapter,

Michigan can't make up its mind if it is winter or if spring is coming. It seems we have 30s and clouds every day. We also are in the midst of planning for Lent and Holy Week as well as concert tours and Spring concerts. With so much to do, it can seem like a large load to undertake. Remember to work with diligence and the strength that God provides but also take time for others and yourself: to rest, to recreate and yes, to laugh. The following made me chuckle and I hope it makes you smile as well.

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. The organist for the congregation had just retired and a substitute had been hired until they could find a regular organist. This was the first Sunday that the substitute organist would be playing and the minister was a little worried how things would go as he wanted the service to be just right, especially when they were going to ask for the special donation.

Well, the substitute organist wanted to know what the hymns and liturgy would be for that Sunday. The minister gave them a copy of the service well ahead of Sunday. He told them that they would have to think of something to play after he made the announcement about the finances. The organist assured the minister that they would come up with a piece of music that would be just right for what was needed.

Sunday came and finally the time came in the service for the minister to make the announcement requesting additional congregation donations for the building repairs. He said, "Brothers and sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000.00 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100. or more, please stand up.

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star-Spangled Banner."

And that is how the substitute organist, playing on their first Sunday, became the regular organist.

This story is probably not true but there is certainly something that we can learn from it. Music is a powerful and moving force. What we do musically is very important. In our churches and schools, we all need others to make a project, a piece of music, a concert, a worship service etc. go well.

Many thanks to those who contributed articles and photos to this newsletter. We have many exciting events planned and I am grateful for the work that our Board members are doing for our AGO Chapter. My hope is that many of you will be able to attend upcoming events in April, May and June. One never knows when someone will have an encouraging word, a tried and true method, a piece of music or even a new idea we had not considered.

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

John Horak

Remaining Spring 2024 AGO Events

March – No Event

April – Saturday April 13th, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, Our Savior Lutheran Church: *Highlights of Master Thomas Dallam, Organ Builder* (see article in **Bellows**)

May – Monday May 13th, 6 pm (RSVP required): *MSU Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Creative Endeavors, Derrick Fox, joins our Guild members at Nixon McMillan's home for Dinner and Discussion*

JUNE – Either -

1. Saturday June 15th: *All day trip to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Instrument Museum*
2. *Guild Dinner* at a local restaurant. TBA

Chaplain's Meditation ...

From Christmas to Lent

(A Prelude to this article: While this chaplain's meditation was originally written for the January/February edition of *The Bellows*, and thus continues to take up the Christmas theme, I include it here not to be counter-seasonal, but as a way of highlighting how the Christian church year so beautifully and organically hangs together in the person and work of Jesus the Savior. Christmas and Epiphany were not so long ago (especially this year with an early Easter!) and these seasons ultimately point us forward the culmination of the church year and Christ's life at Lent/Easter: His death and Easter victory over death! (Particularly take note of stanza two of the hymn below, 'What Child Is This'.)

Who is this Child? This question was the theme of our senior pastor's sermon back on Christmas Day. And it really is a good question to ask ourselves at all times. For the answer makes all the difference. In contrast to our day and age where the concept of truth seems to subjectively fluctuate from one person to the next, the Babe of Bethlehem would one day speak these markedly concrete words: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Whether one takes it or leaves it, in this One, there is no wishy-washy shifting and wavering, but something solid and dependable. "What is truth?" Pontius Pilate would one day ask the Savior shortly before his crucifixion; but He'd already given the answer. The truth was standing there before Pilate: God in the flesh. And He is the God who came not in order to condemn the world, but that the world would be saved through Him. According to Scripture, this Savior - the way, the truth, and the life - is the very image of God's love for humanity. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

As I write this brief meditation, we've now celebrated the great Feast of Christmas. But already (as hard as it is to believe) another New Year is at our doorstep. The Feast of the Epiphany is just around the corner. And, coming relatively early this year, Lent and Easter aren't too far away, as Ash Wednesday is February 14th! Although I personally prefer a bit more of a breather between Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter, the closer proximity between these seasons this year does help to make more vivid the reality of just who the child of Bethlehem is. It helps one to more easily observe the answer to the question, "Who is this Child?" A favorite seasonal hymn of many asks this question using just slightly different language: "What Child Is This?" And even from the time of Christmas, this hymn confidently answers its own question (at least in the original text (below)), as it beautifully connects the seasons of Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter, comforting singers and hearers with the truth of God's love all wrapped up in the life of the Word made flesh; to be born, to live, to bear the cross, to die, and to rise again. Herein is truth. Herein is love. "For me, for you." For all.

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;

Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!

A blessed Lent and Easter to you all! :-)
Rev. Lance Klamer+

Chapter Elections 2024 – Your Opportunity to Serve!

The GLC-AGO Chapter operating procedures indicate that the Chapter Board and officers are to be elected in March. Therefore, we are gathering names of individuals who are willing to run for positions in this year's election. Would you like to join the board? Are there tasks within the organization that you are interested in doing for the good of the whole? Would you like to avoid the phone call asking you to consider running? Then pre-empt our search and surprise us with a phone call or email to volunteer your candidacy!

Each officer (Dean, Sub-Dean if we have one, Secretary, and Treasurer) serves for one year at a time, but each is also elected to a three-year term on the board. Committee chairs and at-large members are elected for the three-year term as well.

This year, SIX board members (including Dean, Secretary and Treasurer) are completing their terms. Three board members will conclude their terms in 2025; one lonely board member will complete a term in 2026. While many of these individuals will likely run again, you can see that we must have additional nominees to take us into the future. The duties are not onerous. Board members help each other out. There is room for several additional people. Be one of them and help your AGO Chapter with your ideas and enthusiasm. Nominate yourself or a friend by contacting John Horak, Dean, or Mary Black-Junttonen, Secretary, or anyone whose name appears in the mast-head. The local Chapter will be all the better for your participation! Nominations should be received by Friday, March 8, 2024, so that the ballot can be distributed later that month. Results will be posted in the succeeding newsletter.

2024 HIGH SCHOOL ORGAN AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

First Place Award is **\$700**, Second Place is **\$250**.

Michigan Federation of Music Clubs offers an **Award in Organ** to High School Michigan Residents in 10th, 11th, or 12th Grade. The applicant or teacher must be a member of MFMC.

Applications and \$30 Registration fee must be submitted by **March 15, 2024**. The video due date is **March 30, 2024**. See MFMC Website for application form or contact Jackie Livesay jackielivesay@comcast.net.

The applicant will perform two selections for the adjudicator:

1. A composition by J.S. Bach.
2. A composition by another composer from a contrasting period.

Video Guidelines

1. *The original video recording must be done in one sitting, with the performer visible at all times. Memorization is not required, but highly recommended. If playing from memory, the literature must not be visible in the video.*
2. *Video recordings may be compiled using any video and audio recording device and may not be edited in any way.*
3. *The recording must be uploaded to YouTube as a video file.*
4. *The video link must then be sent to the chairman of the award along with a pdf of the music performed.*
5. *All video recordings must be sent to the Organ Chair by **March 30, 2024**.*

Jackie Livesay, MFMC Organ Award Chair

jackielivesay@comcast.net

“There is nothing so bad that it couldn't be worse.”

Irish Proverb

THE MICHIGAN FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS

2024 HIGH SCHOOL AWARD in ORGAN

FIRST PLACE \$700, SECOND PLACE \$250

Applicant's Name: _____

Home Address: _____ City and Zip: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Grade: ____ High School _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Home Telephone: (____) ____ - ____ Family E-mail: _____

Name of Private Teacher: _____ Teacher email: _____

Teacher Phone: _____ Teacher's MFMC Club Affiliation, if any: _____

Repertoire Selection (memorization is optional, but highly recommended):

Title: _____

Composer: Johann Sebastian Bach

Contrasting Selection:

Title: _____

Composer: _____

Application and registration fee must be submitted by **March 15, 2024**. Please mail this completed application and a check for \$30.00, payable to Michigan Federation of Music Clubs, to:

Jackie Livesay
ATTN: MFMC High School Organ Award
4897 Indian Creek Drive
Jackson, MI 49201

Video due date is **March 30, 2024**.

Video Guidelines

1. *The original video recording must be done in one sitting, with the performer visible at all times. If memorization is used, the literature must not be visible in the video.*
2. *Video recordings may be compiled using any video and audio recording device and may not be edited in any way.*
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*All video recordings must be sent to the chairman by **March 30, 2024**.*

Greater Lansing Chapter AGO Website

We now have an opportunity to improve our communication with Guild members and the public. For the last few years, our Chapter has had a Website in which we posted our calendar of events and programs. We will be making some changes in the near future, to hopefully enhance our image and to provide more useful and timely information.

Ideally, we would like a better opportunity to post not only our calendar of events, but also to include newsletters, photos and stories of concerts and workshops which were not so easy to do in the past.

Some chapters have given up traditional Websites and instead use social media. We are exploring options and are seeking ideas and comments from members. For any members who have a background or interest in helping guide this development, please contact Robert Miller

(Miller48823@att.net)

Dallam's Travels
With an
Organ to the Grand Signieur

*A brefe Relation of my Travell from the Royall Cittie of London towardes
The Striattes of Mariemediteranum , and what hapened by waye.*

The ship wherin I was to make my voyage to Constantinople, lyinge at Graves ende, I Departed from Londone in a pare of ores, with my chiste and suche provition as I had provided for that purpose, the nynthe of februarie 1598 (1599) being Frydaye ,

Comminge to Graves ende, I wente aborde our shipp. Called the Heckter, and thare placed my chiste , my bedinge, and a pare of virginals, which the martchantes did alow me to carrie, for my exercise by the waye. Other comoditis I carried none , savinge one grose of tin spounes, the which coste me nyne shillings; and thirtie pounds of tin in bares, which coste me 18s. The shipe beinge verrie

The year was 1599, Sultan Mahomed III was the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire (Turkey). The eldest son of his father's 103 children, he put 19 of his brothers to death to ensure that he would maintain his position as Sultan.

In the State Papers of England dated January 31, 1599, this entry was made: "A great and curious present is going to the Grand Turk, which will scandalize other nations, especially the Germans." That present? An organ. An organ crafted by Thomas Dallam, and in choosing Dallam as the bearer of this present, Queen Elizabeth evidently selected, as subsequent events showed, the most skilled man in his craft that she could."

Thomas Dallam and his son constructed some of the principal organs of the 17th century: King's College in Cambridge; Worcester Cathedral; Durham Cathedral; Jesus College, Cambridge; New College, Oxford; St. George's Chapel.

Why did Queen Elizabeth present such a gift to the Sultan? Queen Elizabeth was a Protestant and the Muslim Ottoman Empire and Protestant England banded together to fight their common enemy, Catholic Europe, headed by Philip II of Spain, Elizabeth's brother-in-law .

But first, Thomas Dallam left England in February 1599 for Constantinople where he would present his hand-crafted organ directly to the Sultan. His diary of his travel, of his reassembling his organ for the Sultan, and of his return to England during the period of the Spanish Armada is preserved in [Works Issued by the Hakluyt Society: Early Voyages and Travels in the Levant, Part I: The Dairy of Master Thomas Dallam 1599-1600.](#)

Upon returning to England, Dallam married, bore sons who continued the tradition of organ building in both England and France. Come and hear of Thomas Dallam's organ and his travels, how the religious wars of England took his son to France, and about how the period of cathedral-building kept the Dallam family in business for many years. Ultimately, two of Dallam's ancestors travelled by ship to settle the colony of Maryland in the 1700's. I am directly descended from Thomas Dallam. At the presentation a selection from a CD of the works of Henry Purcell on a Dallam organ will be played, and the story of his life told by a descendent who has spent years assembling the genealogy and history.

(Quotes taken from Early voyages and Travels in the Levant; New York: Burt Franklin Publisher, 1893)

Elizabeth Dallam Ayoub

A Request from the Lansing Matinee Musicale

Dear Board Members of the Greater Lansing Chapter - American Guild of Organists,

You may remember Carol Broughton, an organist in the Lansing area who passed away on April 22, 2020. Her sister, Bonnie Broughton, approached me after Carol's passing and generously offered to establish THE CAROL BROUGHTON ORGAN AWARD, a scholarship program to be administered by the Lansing Matinee Musicale for the benefit of area organ students. LMM would like to work with the AGO to publicize the award and help stimulate interest in organ playing among young people. We are hoping to create a greater interest in organs due to the many unique features they possess and their importance in music for our churches and communities.

LMM would like to organize a tour of the wonderful instruments in churches found in the downtown Lansing area. Our organ crawl would take place this Fall and would be open to interested students, parents and teachers. It would also serve as a special meeting for LMM's Performing Arts Students (PAS), in order to expose young musicians studying other instruments to the glory of the organ. LMM would be delighted if AGO's organists and students would join us.

Please let us know if you would like to work with LMM - we are open to any ideas you may have and would welcome the opportunity to talk with you.

Thank you for promoting organ music in our community.

Sincerely,

Joan Wierzba, PAS Administrator and Tracey Sonneborn, LMM President



Twelfth Night celebration in January at St. Thomas Aquinas! A night filled with fun, food and fantastic Renaissance choral and instrumental music. Meredith Hines was the winner of our King Cake prize (hidden in the cake).

Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, Collegiate choir on Tour 2024, with a concert stop at First Emanuel Lutheran Church in Lansing on May 4th.

Ben Foster – choir member, organist, and member of the GLC – AGO (also a previous scholarship winner).

Photos by B. Hiranpradist



Conrad Louis Donakowski

MARCH 13, 1936 – FEBRUARY 11, 2024



Conrad L. Donakowski, age 87, died on February 11, 2024 at his home in Okemos, Michigan.

Born on March 13, 1936 in Detroit, Michigan to Louis John and Magdalene Margaret (Kotwicki) Donakowski. Conrad married Judith Wharton Brunschwyler on July 1, 1961.

Conrad obtained a Ph.D. with distinction in Modern Cultural History from Columbia University (1969), and both an M.A. in American History (1959) and a B.A. (magna cum laude) in Classical Languages and History (1958) from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated first in his class from the Palestrina Institute of Music in Detroit (Diploma, 1954).

Conrad was employed by Michigan State University from 1966 until 2001 serving as professor in the Department of Humanities, coordinator of Humanities Programs in James Madison College, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, and Professor of Musicology in the College of Music.

Positions as music director, choir director, and organist included Our Lady of Victory African-American Community (Detroit), St. Hugo of the Hills (Bloomfield Hills), St. Thomas More (Troy), St. Thomas Aquinas (E. Lansing, 1974-2009), St. Mary Queen of Angels (Swartz Creek), and St. Therese Parish (Lansing). The St. Thomas Aquinas choir toured Italy, Germany, Austria and Canada, released 2 CD's, and was judged the best parish choir at the NPM National Invitational Choral Festival (1993).

Other awards, distinctions and memberships include guest professorships at Universität Regensburg (German Languages and Literature) and at Mundelein Seminary (Mundelein), member AGO (American Guild of

Organists, Dean of Lansing Chapter 1996), Alpha Sigma Nu, Tau Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Beta Delta, Phi Beta Kappa, and The Knights of Columbus. The Michigan Federation of Music Clubs Musical Family of the Year Award (1981) to the Conrad Donakowski Family was recognized by a concurrent resolution by the State of Michigan Legislature.

His publications include *A Muse for the Masses: Ritual and Music in an Age of Democratic Revolution* (University of Chicago Press: 1977), and *The Age of Revolution in The History of Christian Worship* (Oxford University Press: 2006). He lectured in France, China, India, United States, and Canada. Conrad and Judith joined MSU colleague Jeremy Mattson to present many concerts of Victorian Parlor music in the U.S. and England.

Conrad is survived by his wife Judith, daughter Monica Rose (AJ) Duffy III, son Carl Philip Donakowski (Lisa Tubach), grandchildren A. Joseph IV (Lani) Duffy and Connor (Jocelyn) Duffy, great-grandchildren Jude Celina and Lucas Joseph Duffy. Conrad is also survived by his sister Lorraine McDonnell and nephews Michael (Tracy) McDonnell, Brian (Cecelia) McDonnell, and Sean (Laura) McDonnell.

The funeral will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas in E. Lansing Michigan on Saturday 2/24/2024, viewing at 10am and Holy Mass of Christian Burial at 11am. Conrad will be buried at Holy Rosary Church in Cedar, Michigan on Monday 2/26/2024.

+++ *Requiescat in Pace* +++

