American Guild of Organists Milwaukee Chapter presents

Mystique of Messiaen
Experience It!

Jon Gillock
Master Interpreter
In Concert

Sunday, April 15, 2018
3:00 PM
Church of the Gesu
Marquette University
1145 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

"What distinguishes Gillock’s performance is the feeling that he has lived with and thought about this music for a very long time. Not only is the playing impeccable, virtuosic, precise, and thoroughly attuned to the composer’s aesthetic, but there is an overall warmth, expressiveness, and confident musicality. This is something so often missing in performances of this complex music — it can sound like an exercise in getting all the notes right, counting the Hindu rhythms correctly, and pulling the correct stops.”

American Record Guide, Delcamp, January/February 2018, p. 124
Upcoming AGO programs

Sunday, April 15, 2018
1:30–5:00 PM
3:00 PM – Recital with Jon Gillock
110th Anniversary of Messiaen’s Birth Event
Church of the Gesu
1145 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Sunday, May 6, 2018
2 PM – Annual Meeting
3 PM – Member’s Recital
Saint Joseph Hall/Saint Joseph Convent Chapel
1501 South Layton Boulevard
Milwaukee, WI 53215

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JULY 2, 2018 – JULY 6, 2018

PipeNotes is Published Monthly submit information to the editor via email at,

pneditor@agomilwaukee.org.
The Deadline is the 20th of the preceding month.

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April 2018 Dean’s Column

FROM THE KEYBOARD of Sheri Maslakowski

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad! The familiar 118th psalm of Easter and Easter II has come to fruition. He is risen, Alleluia! We momentarily remove the organ shoes, enjoy the Easter brunch and plunge into family gatherings longing for an afternoon snooze. Pleasurable memories of anthems and acclamations celebrated each step of the Lord’s Lenten journey through Easter and a temporary wince... for only God is perfect. Rest for a day or two and plunge into weddings, sacrament celebrations of communion and confirmation, graduation, ordination, funerals — world without end. Amen! Alleluia! Noone can say that music is not a moving experience literally and figuratively.

I continue to enjoy my studies at UW-Madison. Given several research topics, I chose Organ Compositions by Consecrated Religious/Priests. I would be happy to share my findings if you’re interested. Email me at: seasons@theheart@wi.rr.com. If you know of monks, priests, sisters, brothers, deacons or priests who wrote organ music I will gratefully add them to my database. I visited the archives at St. Norbert’s Abbey (De Pere) last week to dig through material on Fathers Lambert Adrian Dobbelsteen and Matthias Joseph Vanden Elen, active in the first half of the 19th century. Numerous volumes were published in Milwaukee by M. L. Nemmers. As you can imagine the music is practical, intended for use in service rather than concert.

With the approval of the AGO Board, our Treasurer—Steve Jensen and Registrar—David Beyer, we have decided to shift membership applications/dues payments to the AGO National ONCARD system. Registration for local events and contributions will continue through our local web-site. National will send notices based on your own renewal date. When you visit the Milwaukee web-site you will see a link that takes you to National’s renewal form. Snail-mail renewal can be sent to National. Steve will forward applications and checks to National that come to him in the transition period. A detailed mailing will be sent to you along with the ballots for our annual local election.

Some wonderful geek material for those who wish to read:
Our major event for this season begins on Sunday—April 15th with a panel discussion at 1:30pm in the Haggerty Art Museum on the Marquette University campus. Panel member—Stephen Schloesser is a Loyola professor and author of the Messiaen volume Visions of Amen (C. 2014 by Wm. B. Erdmann Publishing Co.). The most often played organ piece of Messiaen is Le banquet céleste. Check YouTube for recordings of this work. Schloesser says that this composition was Messiaen’s first piece for organ written in 1928 a year after his mother’s death (poet Cécile Sauvage Messiaen). He began organ study with Tournemire a short time before this and was familiar with Tournemire’s third L’Orgue Mystique composition for Pentecost [no. 25] (“Visions of Amen” p. 137) completed on January 9, 1928. Tournemire and Messiaen used the same unusual pedal registration, 4’ and 1’.

Messiaen represents himself as a “mystical composer” (ibid, p. 144f). You can hear this mystical quality in the ethereal sounds of the Le banquet céleste. He learned the practice of improvisation on the liturgical/scriptural texts of the day from Tournemire. Le banquet céleste is said to musically comment on the “appointed text from St. John’s Gospel: demeure (“abide” or “remain”)” (Ibid, p. 137). Duration of time and eternity are important concepts in much of Messiaen’s work: now—we partake of the communion banquet and forever—the celestial or heavenly banquet in the after-life.

Please plan the remainder of your afternoon —3pm on April 15th—to hear Jon Gillock play Messiaen at the Church of the Gesu on 12th & Wisconsin Avenue.

Two requests if you please....
• We’re looking for someone with a bit of computer savvy to enter concert events on our web-site calendar. Larry Wheelock will train said volunteer to make these entries. When you know how to do this, the work can take about 4 hours a week in the active concert season.
• It’s time to amend our Operating Procedures so that they are in line with the changes in policies of the National AGO. If you could be persuaded to write the needed amendments for presentation to the AGO Board for approval please let me know and I will send a copy of the Procedures to you.

Save time for the Annual Meeting—2pm on Sunday, May 13th at St. Joseph Center (1501 S. Layton Boulevard / 27th & Greenfield). The Members’ Recital begins at 3pm. Ballots will arrive in your mailbox shortly if your dues are paid up. Mail them or bring them with you to the Annual Meeting. Your votes count! Something out of the ordinary... Audrey Rhinehart and John Schubring will run as Co-Sub-Deans. Can you imagine that much talent in one Chapter Office? Wow!!!

Looking forward to seeing you at Gillock/Messiaen and the Annual Meeting.

Sheri
April 2018

11 (Wed) 12:15 UWM Undergraduate Horn Quartet
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

13 (Fri) 1 – 4 Masterclass with Jon Gillock
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

15 (Sun) 1:30 – 2:30 Conversation
With Stephen Schloesser, Luke Togni
And Christopher Berry
Haggerty Museum of Art
13th and Clybourn Streets
Milwaukee, WI

15 (Sun) 3:00 Jon Gillock, Organ
Mystique of Messiaen
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

15 (Sun) 3:00 Balint Karosi, Organ
Zion Lutheran Church
709 N. Sixth St
Wausau, WI

18 (Wed) 12:15 Jackson Borges, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

22 (Sun) 3:00 This Joyful Eastertide
John Behnke, Organ
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
1046 N. Ninth St
Milwaukee, WI

22 (Sun) 4:00 Dr. Simone Gheller, Organ
St. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church
2427 S. 15th St
Milwaukee, WI

25 (Wed) 12:15 Alan Hommerding, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

27 (Fri) 8:00 Grand Music for a Grand Space
When in our Music God is Glorified
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

29 (Sun) 2:30 Sweet Lovers love the Spring
The Milwaukee Chamber Choir
Cathedral Church of All Saints
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, WI

29 (Sun) 3:00 Gloria! A Celebration Of Sacred Music
Milwaukee Area Messiah Community Chorus
And Orchestra
Crossroads Presbyterian Church
2041 W. Chapel Hill Rd
Mequon, WI

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Nominees for the Class of 2020

William Lieven - Mr. Lieven is in his 33rd year of Music Ministry for Catholic Parishes. He has served as Director of Liturgical Music at Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa, WI. Mr. Lieven holds a B.A. degree in Secondary Choral Music Education from Carthage College, Kenosha, WI and a M.M. Degree in Organ Performance from UW – Madison. Under his direction the St. Eugene Adult and Bell Choirs have toured Italy, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Ireland. Mr. Lieven is a frequent lecturer in the Sustaining the Mission program offered through the St. Clare Center for Lay Ministry at Cardinal Stritch University. He has served on the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Liturgical Board, the Executive Board for the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the board of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Musicians Association and is currently a member of the Master Singers of Milwaukee.

Tyler J. Pimm is an organist, pianist, and composer based in Madison, WI. Tyler has worked as a church musician for several years, currently serving St. Peter & St. Martin of Tours Catholic Parishes (Ashton, WI, and Martinsville, WI, respectively) as Organist and Director of Music Ministries. He was recently granted a Master of Music in composition from the Northern Illinois University where he served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the theory and aural skills area. Tyler also holds a Bachelor of Music in composition from the University of Minnesota Duluth. He studied organ with James Russell Brown and Justin Rubin and composition with David Maki, Brian Penkrot, Robert Fleisher, and Justin Rubin. Tyler is a founding member of the composer-organist duo Vital Organ Project. He also teaches organ at Beloit College.

Joel Schwartz is organist at St. Marcus Church in Milwaukee, WI. He has served the congregation for 6 years and is leading the organ committee’s efforts to rebuild the organ. He has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a minor in Church Music from Wisconsin Lutheran College. He studied organ with Craig Hirschmann. For his day job, he is a Buyer for Quad/Graphics in Sussex. He resides in Menomonee Falls with his wife and son.

Composer Karel Suchy integrates musical composition and performance with photography, video and engineering design. He collaborates with other artists and their work, including poetry and prose – both spoken and sung, visual art, music improvisation, dance and drama. Music and structural/architectural engineering are encompassed in his career. He employs the creative process equally in engineering design and the arts.

Karel was born in Czechoslovakia, where he studied piano, organ, and composition, and earned his M.S. in engineering. He led and composed for avant-garde ensembles and performed in major live venues, radio, television, and studio recordings.

Suchy performed electronic and computer-aided classical music at ISU and U of I Champaign. Recent commissions include Sound Poem, inspired by Nosferatu for the Choral Arts Society, and “Transfigurations” for midi activated organ. His Blues and Rock Liturgies were introduced in area churches. He is founder/director of Voices and Verses, and has facilitated many collaborative, multimedia performances. The most recent include his inter-disciplinary compositions Opera Noir: The Tickler Murders, The Dream of the Rood, Music of the Mind, Elegy, REFORMATION(s), and Errors and Errors. Active in sacred music for over 30 years, Karel is currently accompanist in Trinity Lutheran Church, South Milwaukee, WI.

Engineering accomplishments include a Daily Reporter Top Projects award for Alternative Learning Center, West Allis, a solar/ wind/ hydro/ biogas power plant in Tanzania, pier structures for Discovery World, Milwaukee, and the Anheuser-Busch Western Malt Facility, featured in National Geographic’s “Ultimate Factories.”
Roger Meyer has served as an organist and music director at a number of churches in the Milwaukee area. During all of this time, he has been an active member of the Milwaukee chapter and currently holds the Colleague certification. He received his musical training at St. Paul's High School and College in Concordia, Mo. He is looking forward to attending the AGO national convention in Kansas City this summer. He currently works as an organist at Church of Peace UCC in Fond du Lac and St. John Lutheran Church in Plymouth.

Mike Keegan is the Founder, Executive, Musical, and Artistic Director of Eastwinds Chamber Ensemble. As a hornist, Mike is an Artist-In-Residence at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Milwaukee, a frequent recitalist and soloist promoting new music for horn, solo and chamber, performs with Eastwinds Chamber Ensemble, St. Mark's Brass, Prata Duo, as an active studio musician, and has performed with the Milwaukee Choiristers, and Ozaukee Chorus, and other area bands and orchestras with solo appearances including the Philharmonia Orchestra of Racine and International Horn Competition of America. Mike is a member of Delta Omicron, MacDowell Club of Milwaukee, International Horn Society, and the American Guild of Organists, Milwaukee Chapter. As an organist, Mike plays occasionally at Summerfield United Methodist Church in Milwaukee and different congregations in the Milwaukee area. As an organ performer, Mike has performed for the Concert Series at St. Casimir and Concerts on Cramer at St. Peter and Paul Parish, Milwaukee, and presents occasional solo concerts at different churches in the Milwaukee area. As a composer, Mike self-publishes his own compositions, arrangements, and transcriptions of other composer's works through Eastwinds Music, his own music publishing business, and is also published by Imagine Music. In addition to his musical activities, Mike also belongs to the National Stuttering Association.

Dean Rosko is the organist at the Church of the Gesu. He plays weekend Masses, plus holy days, weddings and funerals. He also manages our monthly Pipe Organ Concert Series. When he's not on the bench at Gesu, he plays the organ at Miller Park for the Milwaukee Brewers, fills in at Organ Piper Pizza, is the Vice-President of the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society (DTOS), and is on the board of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO).

Fr. Tom Lijewski is currently the chapter chaplin, was ordained in 1970, and is now retired from parish ministry, having most recently served parished in Port Washington and Saukville. He started piano lessons at the age of eight and organ lessons at age twelve. He completed his music studies at Alverno College with Sr. Mary Hueller in 1983. He did the final organ recital for the Organ Historical Society in 1990 at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Kenosha on their Skinner Organ.

Executive Board

(running unopposed, write ins are accepted)

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