

**Evansville Chapter of the American
Guild of Organists March 2015
Newsletter**



February Meeting: Visit to Temple Adath B'nai Israel

About a dozen intrepid folks braved the weather to hear Rabbi Gary Mazo speak about the history of Judaism in America, the background of the Evansville congregation, and the role of music in Jewish worship. Many thanks to Rabbi Mazo for his carefully planned and thought-provoking presentation.



March Event: Bach-a-Thon, Sunday, March 1, 3 PM to 6 PM, Neu Chapel, University of Evansville



Come and support your AGO colleagues, UE faculty and students, and members of the community as we honor the timeless music of Johann Sebastian Bach. In addition to lots of organ music, there will be performances on violin, cello, piano, harp, and French horn! Admission is free, but there will be an opportunity to donate to the Dufford Scholarship Fund of the Evansville AGO. There will also be an opportunity to purchase the second annual Bach-a-Thon commemorative T-shirt for just \$20.

**April Event: Douglas Reed and American Brass Quintet,
Friday, April 10, 2015, 7:00 PM**

(See next page)

**Bolcom Commission Countdown:
Learning William Bolcom's new *Fantasia* for organ and brass quintet**

The premiere concert on Friday, April 10, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church, 609 SE Second St. in Evansville, beginning at 7 PM CDT, will feature chapter member and honoree Douglas Reed and the American Brass Quintet. The centerpiece of the concert will be *Fantasia da chiesa* by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer William Bolcom. Here are a few words from Doug about the process of learning this brand-new piece and preparing to play it for the first time.

Learning a new piece, particularly a work never performed or recorded before, can be a daunting challenge and an exciting adventure. Wrapping one's mind, fingers, and feet around a brand new work calls for a similar approach to what most players do with any technically challenging piece. Much slow practice with the metronome and meticulous editing of the music with fingering and pedaling gets the notes and basic rhythms in place, but this is only the beginning! Then comes the exciting process of discovering the larger gestures, the flow of the phrases and harmonic progressions. Musical light bulbs come on as the tempo increases. What were once technical challenges yield with discovering the shape of larger gestures and the rhythm of entire phrases. Finally, the architecture of the entire work becomes clear.

It is a privilege to be involved in the first performance of this major new work commissioned by the Evansville AGO chapter. The project has attracted the support of other AGO chapters and individuals across the country and beyond. While I am deeply honored by this celebration of my work in Evansville, I am even more deeply pleased that this project fulfills goals of the American Guild of Organists, as it demonstrates unmistakably the ongoing viability of the organ in today's larger musical world.

May Event: Annual Meeting, Service of Installation of Officers for 2015-16

Monday, May 4, Emanuel Lutheran Church, 308 First Avenue, Evansville, 7:30 PM.

Dinner beforehand at Turoni's, 408 N. Main Street, 6 PM. Please make your reservation by calling Carol Grimm at 812-471-2743 or emailing her at carol6870@att.net.

Community Events (free admission unless otherwise indicated)

Sunday, March 8, 7:00 PM CDT Austin Peay State University Choir concert

First Presbyterian Church, 609 SE Second St., Evansville

Saturday, March 14, 1:30 PM James Wells, organ recital

Holy Name of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, Henderson KY

Tuesday, March 17, 7:30 PM Helen Reed, organ and harpsichord recital

Wheeler Concert Hall, University of Evansville

Saturday, April 18, 7:00 PM *Saul*, Oratorio by G. F. Handel, Evansville Bach Singers & Orchestra
Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 5501 Washington, Evansville, \$10

Sunday, April 19, 3:00 PM Evansville Philharmonic Chorus concert

North High School Performing Arts Center, 15331 US 41 North, \$15

Sunday, April 26, 4:00 PM Choir School of First Presbyterian Church, spring concert

First Presbyterian Church, 609 SE Second St., Evansville

Soli Deo Gloria