

Evansville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Newsletter: February 2016



February Meeting – Organ Concert by Kirk Rich, First Presbyterian, Evansville.
Sunday, February 21, 2016, 4:00 PM.

The chapter is delighted to welcome former Evansville resident and award-winning organist **Kirk M. Rich**. His program on C. B. Fisk Op. 98 is sure to be a thrilling and memorable event! Mark your calendars now, and don't forget to invite your friends and colleagues to attend. A reception sponsored by the chapter will follow the concert.



Kirk is a laureate of several organ competitions. In June 2014, he was a finalist in the AGO's National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Performance, performing at the National AGO Convention in Boston at Harvard University's Memorial Church. Kirk has been accepted as a semifinalist in the 2016 NYACOP, where he will compete in Dallas, Texas in June. Most recently, Kirk took first prize and prize for hymn playing excellence at the 44th Annual William C. Hall Pipe Organ Competition (graduate division) in San Antonio.

Kirk began organ study in Evansville, studying with Douglas Reed through high school. Kirk holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music where he studied organ with James David Christie and harpsichord with Webb Wiggins. He has played in masterclasses for Marie-Claire Alain, David Briggs, Francesco Cera, Hans-Ola Ericsson, and Olivier Latry, among many others. An interest in technique and ease in playing led to certification in the Lister-Sink Method of Well-Coordinated, Injury-Preventive Keyboard Technique at Salem College, where Kirk studied piano with Barbara Lister-Sink. He obtained the Master of Music degree from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, studying organ with Christopher Young, harpsichord with Elisabeth Wright, and improvisation with Bruce Neswick. Currently, Kirk is a doctoral student at the University of Houston Moores School of Music where he studies organ with Robert Bates, harpsichord with Matthew Dirst, and choral conducting with Betsy Cook Weber. He is the Organist and Associate for Music Ministries at Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston.

Second Call for Performers – March and April Chapter Meetings

On **Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 6 PM**, we will present our annual fund-raiser concert at **St. Mary Catholic Church, 613 Cherry Street, Evansville**. There are several changes from recent years. Instead of a "Bach-a-Thon" with contributions benefiting the Dufford Scholarship Fund, the Executive Committee has decided to have an "**Organ Plus**" **Members' Recital**. Instead of cash donations, audience members will be asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food to benefit the Food Pantry at St. Mary Church. There is still plenty of room on the program. St. Mary Church has a fine new Schleuter pipe organ, a grand piano, and excellent acoustics. More info about the organ: http://www.evansvilleago.org/organs/evv_st_marys.htm
To arrange practice time at the church, contact Jenny Gorman at 812-425-1577. Please contact **Helen Reed** at evansvillago@yahoo.com or hsr@evansville.net with your program details. If you need suggestions on what to play, feel free to email or call! Many of you will recall our Pipe Organ Spectacular concert a few years ago at the Methodist Temple, which featured several prize-

winning works commissioned by the AGO at the national level for organ and other instruments. Let's make this concert equally well-attended and a "spectacular" showcase for chapter members and friends!

On **Saturday, April 16, 2016**, our annual **Historic Organ Recital** will take place in Vincennes, IN. This year's program will be a progressive event. At 11 AM Eastern Time, we will hear and play the Taylor and Boody organ, Op. 4, at **First Christian Church**. This is a fairly new instrument inspired by historic instruments of North Germany. It is especially well-suited to music of Buxtehude and his contemporaries. Here is information about the organ: http://www.evansvilleago.org/organs/vinc_1st_christian.htm
After lunch, we will move to **St. James Episcopal Church**, which is home to a Steere & Turner organ from 1887. Details are here: http://www.evansvilleago.org/organs/vinc_st_james.htm It would be great to have your commitments to perform on one or both of these instruments as soon as possible, so the event can be publicized in Vincennes and throughout our region.

"February Flourish"

There is still time to register for the workshop sponsored by the Southern Indiana chapter of AGO, planned especially for part-time church musicians, on **Monday, February 15, 2016 at Trinity United Methodist in New Albany, IN**. The program runs from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM. The \$25 registration fee includes a catered lunch. A brochure and registration forms are available at www.siago.org.

Looking ahead –

Evansville AGO Annual Meeting, Election of Officers for 2016-17, and Festival Installation Service. Monday, May 9, Neu Chapel on the University of Evansville Campus, 1800 Lincoln Ave., Evansville. 7:30 PM.

AGO National Convention in Houston TX, June 19-23, 2016 – Registration now open at www.AGOHouston2016.com

AGO Pipe Organ Encounter-Advanced, Cincinnati, OH, July 10-15, 2016. More info at www.cincinnatiago.org

AGO Pipe Organ Encounter, Lexington, KY, July 17-22, 2016. More info at www.agolexington.org/poe2016

Instruments and positions available are listed on our website, www.evansvilleago.org

Coming Events

Saturday, February 27. Mendelssohn's Elijah. Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Victory Theater. 7 PM.

Sunday, April 3. Organ Recital by James Wells, Mount St. Joseph Ursuline Motherhouse, Maple Mount, KY. 2:30 PM.

To list your event in the next newsletter, send information to evansvilleago@yahoo.com or helen.s.reed@gmail.com

Soli Deo Gloria