

OMAHA CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN  
GUILD OF  
ORGANISTS



# The Windchest

MAY 2018

Celebrating 100 Years!

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

Recital Dates

Special Events

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## From the Dean...

Summer is an ideal season for organists and choral directors to seek opportunities for professional growth and development. While we continue to prepare music for Sunday services and occasional special services including weddings, funerals and perhaps a service celebrating a land-mark historic congregational event, there is more time for study, reflection, and time otherwise not available for additional activities and exploration.

It is important for the well-being of the church musician to take advantage of time available for summer reflection. Attend the National AGO convention in Kansas City, adding some time to explore the Kansas City metropolitan area following the convention. Visit the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum or the Harry Truman Museum in near-by Independence. Or continue on a road trip to St. Louis, Missouri, visiting the famous arch, museums, and historic sites along the Mississippi River in that area.

Travel is an intriguing, instructive and productive way to experience growth. There are well-planned organ tours to Europe, some offering opportunities for participants to play some of the famous historic organs across Europe, well-planned and implemented with highly qualified tour guides.

Attend an Organ Historic Society convention with friends. Or check on the final recitals presented by young organists attending a Pipe Organ Encounter, or attend theatre productions offered by summer theatre camps in Colorado, Oregon, or Omaha.

Take time to read a good book, one that has good reviews, or is one you have wanted to read for some time. Plan a picnic or outdoor dinner party for family and friends. Invite friends to attend a summer concert or theater event, especially an out-door event where you take lawn chairs and/or blankets for seating! Travel into the countryside, enjoying a sunset and the quiet atmosphere in the countryside. (It isn't windy all the time--even in Nebraska!).

Volunteer to develop and perform a music program in a Long-term Care Center. Most care-centers have accessible pianos, and residents are absolutely overwhelmed with joy when a music program is offered, especially when children participate.

Summer is also a good time to sight-read new music, or music that has been filed until time is available to sight read it. Host a sight-reading party. Invite each guest to bring music to sight-reading, swapping music so everyone is reading music that is totally unfamiliar to everyone. In addition to sight-reading opportunities, these parties offer possibilities for a music exchange as well. Serve summer season refreshments, include a door-prize or two, and have a good time!

Offer to give six or eight organ lessons to a budding organist!

Read the book of Psalms. The Psalms are not only the best literature available to us, they are filled with Divine guidance, offering opportunities for spiritual, intellectual and personal growth. Reading the Psalms leads to meaningful meditation and prayer. Moreover, the Psalms are filled with beauty, not only poetically, but in imagery and aesthetic balance as well.

Try something new to you. Have you ever wanted to paint a landscape? or a water color? Make a quilt? Raise a vegetable or flower garden? Volunteered at the zoo? Offer a ride to your neighbor down the street who is handicapped? Canned a bushel of peaches? Taken a walk in the country at 3:00 a.m.? Try something new! It's refreshing!

Best wishes for a summer filled with refreshment, renewal, personal and professional growth.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

Peace and good will. Psalm 96:1,2.



Dr. Christensen, AAGO

# A Celebration of PSALMS

## "Celebration of

## Psalms"

In case you missed the Hymn Festival - it was a great success! Nine organists led us through a variety of hymns. Added trumpets, trombone, flute, oboe and handbells, as well as a 60 voice choir helped the audience sing in new ways, some old favorites and some new hymns.

The Omaha chapter had a \$1,000 challenge gift to match with this festival. We are not quite there yet, and **I knew you would want to help** make sure these funds were available to the chapter to provide educational opportunities for organists. Please send your checks to Gina Simpson, 5633 South 118 Plaza, Omaha 68137. If we all chip in we can do this.

Thanks to Jerry Brabec, Ann Spangler, Jodi Korth, and Laura Rau for their help organizing and carrying out the festival. Also to Gerald Oehring, Julie Sandene, Michael McCabe, Marty Wheeler Burnett, Jeremy Owens, Tim Schreiber, Marie Rubis Bauer, J Gordon Christensen and Joan Ebersold for their performances.  
Jean Johnson, Chair



*Left: participating organs*

*Below: choir members*





Omaha AGO  
Website

Kansas City  
2018

American  
Guild  
of  
Organists  
National  
Convention



## TIP OF THE MONTH

Here's a tip that every organist and organ student knows works well for development and maintenance of keyboard technique: practice Hanon exercises and scales on a daily basis.

Organists, often short on practice time, can maintain technique efficiently by practicing Hanon and scales at least 15 minutes daily. For example, using a piano, select the first exercise in the Hanon book. Play the first exercise in each key: C-Major; C#; D; D#; E; F; F#; G; G#; A; A#; B; C, two octaves apart, listening carefully for even, steady intonation and tempo. If time permits, move ahead to the next exercise, repeat.

Follow the Hanon exercise by playing the major scale in each key, three octaves, both ascending and descending.

Even if there is little or no time to practice repertoire on a daily basis, it is amazing how well 15 minutes of Hanon and scales maintain technique.



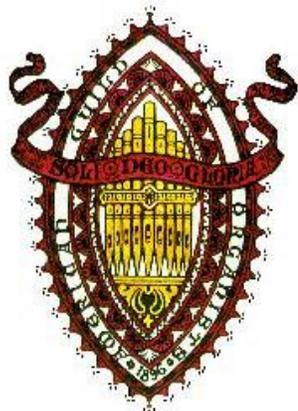
The next national American Guild of Organists convention of the American Guild of Organists will take place in July of 2018 in Kansas City. Look for information about artists in the August issue of *The American Organist* which should arrive around July 1. One of the best features of the convention is a second discount for early joiners. There has always been an Early Bird discount but now there is also a SuperSaver with a good discount. Here are the details:

Regular: \$495 Early Bird; \$435  
Seniors: \$450 Early Bird: \$395  
Students \$250 any time.

There will also be a Kansas City barbeque on July 4. Most national conventions have a banquet and you pay for it. In Houston, the banquet was \$60. In Kansas City the barbeque is included with your registration!

It's going to be a great convention. The steering committee is working very hard and it should be great! Hope to see you there!

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



'Tis the season for membership renewals, especially for members who have held AGO membership before the digital registration program was implemented. While several improvements have been made to ONCARD registration procedures, challenges continue to emerge.

For the upcoming registration year, National has provided some changes, simplifying the procedure for both new and renewal membership enrollment. Step-by-step directions are offered at each phase of registration, options are more clearly stated. Moreover, the applicant is reminded of items overlooked, missed or incomplete, before the application is forwarded to National AGO headquarters.

Questions? Members are encouraged to communicate with the national office regarding registration needs by calling (212) 870-2310; email: [info@agohq.org](mailto:info@agohq.org); or by contacting your local chapter leadership.

Registration challenges? Contact National, Gina Simpson or Dr. Christensen for direction and help!

And be persistent! Your membership is important not only to the chapter, but for opportunity for you own professional growth and development as well.



Lincoln Early Music Consort

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR JUNE 23 CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP

Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont will host a one-day workshop for church musicians on Saturday, June 23. Clinicians include Brett Epperson, Artistic Director & Conductor of Lincoln Lutheran Choir and Director of Vocal Music at Lincoln East High School; Lara West, DMA, Music Review Editor of *CrossAccent* and Organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mission, KS; and Amber Wilson, Worship Leader at Lifegate Church and Midland University Dance Arts Company Manager, who works with liturgical dance and praise worship. (Full bios of presenters can be accessed at the ALCM link below.)

This is one of several events sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians in the coming year. It is designed to be of practical value for all church musicians regardless of denomination, but presenters will make a point of addressing the needs of choir directors, organists, pianists, and other leaders in small congregations.

Schedule and registration information are posted on the ALCM website: <https://alcm.org/event/fremont-ne/>

If you have questions about registration you may contact Claire Bushong at [Claire.bushong14@gmail.com](mailto:Claire.bushong14@gmail.com).



*Pedaling  
Around  
Omaha*



AGO Board  
Members

Committee Chairs



## Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

**Save the date: June 22-23, 2018!**

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians will be offering mini-conferences in multiple locations during 2018 in lieu of the larger regional conferences. One of these events will be held at Sinai Lutheran Church, 950 East 8th Street in Fremont, NE on June 22-23. The conference features Brett Epperson as choral clinician, an organ reading session by Lara West, and other topics that will be of special interest to musicians in parishes with limited resources. The conference is open to all interested musicians regardless of denominational affiliation. More information will be available soon!

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### Positions Available

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral is seeking a tenor section leader and substitute singers for the Compline Schola in all voice parts for the 2018-19 program year (September through May). Professional singing experience, strong sightreading ability, and leadership within the section and the choir as a whole are required. Competitive compensation. To apply, please email Dr. Marty Wheeler Burnett, Canon Precentor, at [mburnett@trinityepiscopal.org](mailto:mburnett@trinityepiscopal.org); attach your resume and a list of three professional music references. The cathedral is located at 113 N 18th Street, Omaha, Nebraska. Applications will be considered in the order received, and positions will be filled in May.



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### CURRENT AGO BOARD MEMBERS 2017-2018

Dean: J Gordon Christensen, AAGO  
Sub-Dean: Marie Rubis Bauer  
Secretary: Gregory Johnson  
Treasurer: Gina Simpson  
Immediate Past Dean: David Schack  
Members - at - Large:  
Claire Eason: 2015/16 -2017/18  
Jean Johnson: 2016/17 - 2018/19  
Sonja Lundgren: 2017/18 2019/20



### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education (AGO Certification)	Sally Hodges
Chapter Historian	Claire Eason
Organ Historian	David McCain
Membership	Julie Sandene
Membership Directory	Gina Simpson
Professional Concerns	Jerry Brabec
Programming (2017-2018)	Marie Rubis Bauer
Publicity	J Gordon Christensen
Referrals	Julie Sandene
Webmaster	Mayumi Naramura
<i>Windchest</i> Editor	Claire Eason
<i>Windchest</i> Publisher	Rosemary Paul

## Vote Today for the AGO Leaders of Tomorrow

The governance of the AGO is vested in our National Council, a small cohort of volunteer Guild members elected by their peers. The Council consists of eight voting members including four officers (president, vice president/councillor for competitions and new music, secretary/councillor for communications, and treasurer/councillor for finance and development), three councillors with portfolio (education, membership, and conventions), and the chair of the Board of Regional Councillors (ex officio). With the exception of the chair of the BRC, all of the national councillors are elected by a vote of the general membership. The executive director of the AGO also serves on the National Council, ex officio, with voice but no vote.

Leadership of the Guild's seven regions is the responsibility of the seven members of the Board of Regional Councillors. The voting members of each region elect their regional councillor.

All councillors serve two-year terms. Each councillor may serve up to five consecutive terms but can hold the same position for no more than three consecutive terms.

The candidates who have been nominated to the National Council represent a diverse and experienced group. Fourteen candidates (ten men and four women) are running for the seven National Council positions that will be elected by the membership. (The chair of the Board of Regional Councillors is chosen by a vote of the BRC.) These 14 candidates hail from 11 different states. Four are from upstate New York. Seven of these candidates have earned Guild certification: one SPC, two CAGO, two AAGO, one AAGO, ChM, and one FAGO. All of the incumbent members of the National Council are eligible to serve for the 2018–20 term, and all have been renominated. In addition to the seven incumbent national councillors, three other nominees have served on Council in past years.

The 14 candidates running for the seven regional councillor positions include eight men and six women. They represent 13 states as both candidates for the North Central Region are from Iowa. Five of the candidates have earned Guild certification—two CAGO, two AAGO, and one FAGO.

Among the current members of the Board of Regional Councillors, all eligible incumbents have been renominated to serve another term. They represent four of the AGO's seven regions. We extend our sincere thanks to the three retiring regional councillors. Each has served the Guild and their region with distinction for three two-year terms: Cheryl Duerr (Northeast, who additionally completed E Lary Grossman's partial term on the National Council); Glenn Rodgers (Mid-Atlantic); and Marilyn Schempp (North Central).

The men and women you elect in April will establish and uphold the governance policies of the Guild. They will also make important decisions about the AGO's future, establishing long-term goals, quantifiable objectives, strategies, tactics, and implementation plans to grow the Guild and ensure the longterm vitality of our organization. Please read the biographical sketches and statements of the candidates published in the April issue of TAO beginning on page 9. All successful candidates will be installed at the Annual Meeting in Kansas City on July 4 and serve for two years thereafter.

In keeping with our custom, the quickest and easiest way to vote will be by electronic ballot. If we have your email address on file, you will receive an email that will give you access to a special website established by Intelliscan, our election management firm, at which you will be able to cast your ballot. The ballot is available at the following election website: <https://secure.intelliscaninc.net/ago/2018>. You may also vote using the ballot bound into the April 2018 issue of TAO.

The six volunteer members of the National Nominating Committee and 35 volunteer members of the seven Regional Nominating Committees have invested countless hours interviewing and selecting 28 candidates who are eminently qualified to serve the Guild in a leadership capacity for the next two years. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Nominating Committee members for their conscientious and productive efforts and to all of the nominees for answering the call to serve as leaders of the American Guild of Organists.

The biennial election of National Council members and Regional Councillors takes place in April of even-numbered years, so the time to choose the future leaders of the Guild is now upon us. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you to participate in the AGO's election process.

Every vote counts. Please vote.

James Thomashower  
Executive Director

