

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



MAY 2020

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facebook

Please like the Omaha Chapter Facebook page. Information is posted regularly! Our page name is: Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

FROM THE DEAN

Many members of the American Guild of Organists have recently noticed significant changes in AGO communication systems, including improvement and changes in publications such as *The American Organist*. Topics of articles are consistently relevant to membership, including information which offers professional growth, references, referrals and information that is relevant and timely.

Another tool increasingly in use by AGO is the use of digital communication, especially appreciated by "Young Organist" members, national, regional and local officers, and most members. One example: a staff member from the New York AGO headquarters initiates ZOOM conferences with Regional deans on a monthly basis. These ZOOM sessions include question/answer time, common points of interest, and "how can we help one another opportunities?" Simply stated, ZOOM is one of many terrific communication resources available to everyone which the current generation, including "Young Organists" AGO membership, understands, utilizes, appreciates, and is yet available and adaptable to and for everyone.

In short, National AGO has developed digital programming which specifically focuses on "Young Organist" age membership. These programs include:

- Use of digital communications systems for publication, including *The American Organist*
- Specific articles, programs and publications prepared specifically for "Young Organists"
- All Internet communication tools and programs
- Provide scheduled programs focused on "Young Organists" at the chapter level, including ZOOM conferences with National, Regional and Local leadership; updates; problem-solving sessions
- Face Book programming sponsored and developed by local chapters

National AGO Headquarters has acknowledged—with interest-- the percentage of Omaha AGO membership listed as "Young Organist."

MISSION

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music,
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors,
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support,
- Nurture future generations of organists,
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

("Young Organist" membership includes those members who are 30 years of age and under.) The Omaha Chapter AGO membership includes 15 who are "Young Members." Of the 15 "Young Members" listed the membership booklet, 13 are listed as "Young Organists;" two opted not to include "Young Organist" with their listing). At the beginning of the 2019-2020 season, official membership of Omaha AGO was/is 78 members, 75 of which are voting members. With 15 of those members registered as "Young Organist," this means that 20% of Omaha AGO membership is "Young Organist!"

Some Statistics regarding Omaha AGO "Young Member" membership

- Age range: 14-30 years
- Holding AGO certification: SPC, three; CAGO, one
- One earned SPC as a 12 year-old; featured in July 2017 issue of The American Organist as the youngest member in AGO history to earn certification
- KVNO "Classical Kid of the Month" Radio station, UN-O: two
- Regional and National award "First Place Performance Award" National Federation of Music Clubs: one
- One is a full-time called "Director of Music/Organist" in an Omaha church
- One is an undergraduate organ major at the University of Kansas
- One "Young Organist" is an apprentice for the Bedient Pipe Organ company, Lincoln
- One is "Part-time" organist in Ames, Iowa; another is part-time organist in Des Moines
- Several are organ students of Omaha AGO members; some known to be traveling from as far away as Lincoln, Nebraska and Des Moines, Ames, Manning and Missouri Valley, Iowa for weekly lessons
- A sixteen year old organ student will join Omaha AGO this upcoming year

The chapter is encouraged to consider programming that includes presentations by "Young Organist" members, especially where the potential for leadership in professional level programming is present. Does the Omaha chapter include membership who is trained, experienced and visibly successful developing children's choir programs, including demonstrated skills developing summer Children's Music Camps for youngsters five-twelve year-olds? Answer: yes! Does the Omaha chapter membership include a young member (admittedly, in his "lower 30s) capable of developing an presenting a program on

POEA 2021

The Omaha Chapter submitted an application to host a Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced in the summer of 2021. Since the canceled Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced to be held in the summer of 2020 is being rescheduled in the summer of 2021, we have been asked to consider hosting POEA in the summer of 2022. The Executive Board will consider this request at its next meeting.

“how to” develop a parish-based music conservatory? Again, yes! Is there a “Young Organist” capable of offering a program on “How to Practice?” Answer: yes!

The future of the Omaha AGO chapter is unusually strong with 20% of listed membership in the “Young Organist” category. Match this potential with the development of digital communications systems that are increasingly available and already in use by current chapter leadership—Omaha AGO has a terrific future! Let’s go for it!

Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, AGO

Dean

MAY CHAPTER MEETING

2019 - 2020
MAY

OMAHA CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Monday, May 18, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.
Season Finale Program
View on Facebook at

Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Installation of officers and board members and a brief organ recital



Officers and Board Members to be installed:

Dean - Jean Johnson

Sub-Dean - Stephen Bartelt

Secretary - Greg Johnson

Treasurer - David McCain

Member at Large - Sr Claudette Schiratti

Member at Large - Laura Rau

Member at large - Jeff Hoffman

ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

The federal government is offering programs to assist small businesses during this time of uncertainty related to the Corona Virus. Visit the Small Business Administration (SBA) to learn more about the Paycheck Protection Program and other assistance options.

Visit sba.gov

OPEN
POSITIONS
LISTED ON
OMAHA AGO
WEBSITE

Please visit the
Omaha AGO
website
[www.omahaago.org/
open-positions](http://www.omahaago.org/open-positions)
for details
regarding the
following open
positions in the
area.

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68127
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x.net](mailto:lynettejanssen@cox.net)

**St. Paul Lutheran
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Organist**
Treyvor, Iowa
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yer at (402) 800-
7531
or [cmeyerspl@gma
il.com](mailto:cmeyerspl@gmail.com)

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF
ANGLICAN MUSICIANS

April 21, 2020

Association of Anglican Musicians Addresses COVID-19 Concerns

The Board of the Association of Anglican Musicians issued the following statement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns expressed by its members:

The Board of the Association of Anglican Musicians strongly urges AAM members to follow all directives as set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for slowing the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing and self-quarantining are appropriate and will necessitate the alteration of plans for rehearsals, performances, and liturgies.

Our baptismal covenant in *The Book of Common Prayer* charges us to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself.” We are called to follow the example of Jesus in protecting the most vulnerable and those on the margins of our society. Our role in the Episcopal Church and our communities is to engage in practices that protect the health and well-being of all people.

As we seek to fulfill our ministries during this pandemic, we encourage clergy and lay leaders to create and implement policies that promote wellness and safety for all staff and volunteers.

Marty Wheeler Burnett, AAM President, noted that some members report being required to work in settings where CDC guidelines are not followed. “In response to recent advisories concerning airborne transmission of the virus, church musicians are particularly concerned with protecting the health of singers and instrumentalists, as well as all parishioners and staff with whom we work,” Burnett explained. “Live streaming, filming, or recording liturgies can create situations where maintaining appropriate physical or social distancing is challenging. Even when musicians are offered a choice, some have encountered subtle or, in a few cases, overt pressure to participate or risk being furloughed.”

“As dioceses and parishes begin to develop strategies and timetables for resuming public worship,” Burnett continued, “we ask that our leaders carefully consider the health and well-being of the entire community.”

The Association of Anglican Musicians is a nonprofit organization of musicians and clergy serving in the worshiping communities of the Episcopal Church. Members work in churches, seminaries, and church-related schools. For more information, visit www.anglicanmusicians.org

Marty Wheeler Burnett, D. Min.
President, Association of Anglican Musicians

NATIONAL PROGRAM CANCELLATIONS

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the following AGO national programs are being postponed or canceled in order to ensure the health and safety of all participants. Please check with your local chapter regarding local events.

- The May 8 **AGO Gala** honoring Karen McFarlane has been postponed until 2021.
- The deadline for the administration of the **Service Playing Certificate** (SPC) has been extended to May 16. The 2020 **FAGO, AAGO, and ChM** exams have been canceled. Candidates registered for the exams will receive a full refund of any fees paid.
- The May 17 premier performance of the winning piece in the **Pogorzelski-Yankee Annual Competition** has been postponed indefinitely.
- The 2020 **NYACOP** has been canceled. The **NCOI** will be rescheduled in 2021.
- The **AGO National Convention** in Atlanta has been canceled. If you have questions please call 404-981-7210. The AGO National Council and convention steering committee are considering alternatives including the possibility of a virtual convention or organ festival. Plans are being developed for a virtual Annual Business Meeting.
- All 2020 **Pipe Organ Encounters** have been canceled. Many will be rescheduled in 2021. Updates will be posted online.

INSTRUMENT NEEDED FOR A STUDENT

A student of an Omaha Chapter member would benefit greatly having a practice instrument at home. A good, used, Rodgers, Allen, or comparable instrument would be greatly appreciated to assist in this student's formation.

Please contact Dr. Marie Rubis Baur at mrpomaha@aol.com or 402-598-2575

SING YOUR FAITH REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT

Having had such a deep and meaningful experience last summer, we have been looking so forward to this season's Sing Your Faith...Refresh Your Spirit choral and spiritual retreat at First-Plymouth when we would gather again for reflection, renewal, and refreshment. However, it has become clear that the best way for us to support and encourage one another at this time is to stay home and safe and to take away any unnecessary anxieties about traveling and congregating until there is some collective confidence that we are beyond this pandemic crisis.

We will be postponing this event until July 23-25, 2021-- next summer. Our clinicians, Mel Bringle, Shawn Kirchner, Ariel Merivil, and I will just have more time to look forward to being with you all! Just think how much we will need a gathering like this by then...!



VAN DAALEN PIPE ORGAN FOR SALE

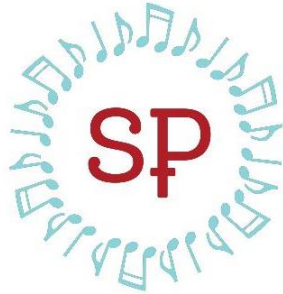
Angel Share, Inc., the non-profit corporation that owns the Dana College campus, buildings, and contents, desires to sell the Van Daalen pipe organ. The organ is listed here: <https://pipeorgandatabase.org/OrganDetails.php?OrganID=4536>

The instrument is still in the chapel and has been recently played by Mark Miller of the Bedient Organ Company in Lincoln. It is in good shape and reasonably well in tune after sitting dormant for 10 years. Anyone interested may contact Bill Hall at (402) 575-8220 (cell) or bill.hall@christlutheranblair.org.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

All public worship in the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska has been suspended through May 10, 2020, including the Compline liturgies. A recorded Compline liturgy may be found at <http://trinityepiscopal.org/compline>. Information on live stream worship at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral may be found here: <http://trinityepiscopal.org/health>.

ST. PAUL'S MUSIC CONSERVATORY



St. Paul's Music Conservatory

Where Music Serves



Teaching:

SPMC has 12 faculty members who teach in professional studios within St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Reaching:

SPMC teaches many students through the church and community that may not otherwise have an opportunity to take music lessons.



Serving:

SPMC deploys students into churches and institutions throughout the community in order to encourage youth toward service and to show mercy and kindness to others.



St. Paul's Music Conservatory is located at 239 Frank Street in Council Bluffs. SPMC serves students in Eastern Nebraska and Southwest Iowa with professional studio lessons in the areas of Voice, Piano, Guitar, Organ, Strings, Winds and Brass. Our faculty is eager to serve the unique needs and interests of their students. For more information call:

712-322-8832 or email pastorfrank239@gmail.com

www.stpaulsmusicconservatory.org

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claireason@gmail.com
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Answering Machine:
(Home) 402-652-3366

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Gregory A. Johnson,
Manager
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Omaha, Ne. 68132
Ofc: 402-593-9400
Cell: 402-7191923
Ofc: 1-800-642-1271
Fax: 402-593-1104
Email:
gj1814@earthlink.com
keyboardkastle.com
www.allenorgan.com

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