

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



MARCH 2021

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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

Something caught my eye as I looked through my NET schedule booklet. On March 21 at 7:00 p.m. there is a program called "Queen Elizabeth I's Battle for Church Music". Host Lucy Worsley explores how Queen Elizabeth I and her siblings changed the religious structure of England forever - with music. That sounds like our history - how we got to where we are. How organs and choirs and instruments came to worship. We have the feeling that our worship traditions (pre-Pandemic) are like they always were supposed to be, forgetting that throughout history there were many who have brought about changes to the service structure, lectionary, and music traditions. I think the program sounds interesting.

Our reality for the last year is that we have had to devise new ways to worship, with many of our rituals put away for a while. Right now, we are stuck - hopefully for just a few more months - but stuck none the less. I have not heard of any churches changing how they have been worshiping for the last year. Our groups have stopped, much mission is put on hold. Who would have thought this would be our church direction for a year and a half, at least. Streaming has intensified over this time. The words have been spoken at my church - perhaps yours too - what will it look like when folks can come back? Will they? Will they want to continue on-line? What does that do to the mission each congregation has? How long will the food pantries need to operate at Pandemic levels? Will choirs and handbell groups be meeting in the fall? Lots of questions.

I believe it is time to make sure we are cultivating relationships within our groups. We miss seeing each other, but what will it take to actually get together. Keeping in touch with individuals, talking about when we get together, maybe some plans for next year. What can we look forward to - in the church - as a group. We are tired and probably some have quit caring about things that used to matter. What are we

MID-WEEK ORGAN RECITALS

Jeff Hoffman has begun a recital series at St. Barnabas Church. The 30-minute organ recitals will be held each week in historic St. Barnabas Church. Doors open at Noon following 11:15 a.m. Mass. A free-will offering is encouraged to support the parish and the music program. The programs will consist of music of peace, hope, and joy to encourage you during a stressful time in our world. Masks are required and seating is safely socially distanced.

Visit our Facebook page at St. Barnabas Church – Omaha, Nebraska each Monday for program information.

doing, as leaders of music in the church, to encourage folks to be ready. God still has purpose for us! God has brought us this far.

Let's get ready to SING!

Blessings,
Jean Johnson, Dean

THE SPIRITUALITY OF GEORGE FREDERIC HANDEL

George Frederic Handel is most famously remembered as the composer of the oratorio Messiah. He was also a deeply spiritual man. Handel was born into a family of devout Protestants and from early childhood, he became well-acquainted with Lutheran chorales and theology. His first and only music teacher was the organist of the parish church in Halle, Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow. Handel's musical career began as a church musician and organist.

When Handel moved to London, he joined the church community of St. George's Hanover Square. He attended worship regularly and even had a favorite pew where he sat. There are very few surviving details of Handel's personal life, but through his music and the written accounts of friends, we have a glimpse into his spirituality. Sir John Hawkins, personal friend of Handel and his first biography, wrote:

He was a man of blameless morals, and throughout his life manifested a deep sense of religion. In conversation he would frequently declare the pleasure he felt in setting the Scriptures to music; and how much the contemplating the many sublime passages in the Psalms had contributed to his edification; and now that he found himself near his end, these sentiments were improved into solid and rational piety, attended with a calm and even temper of mind. For the last two or three years of his life he was used to attend divine service in his own parish church of St. George, Hanover-square, where, during the prayers, the eyes that at this instant are employed in a faint portrait of his excellencies, have seen him on his knees, expressing by his looks and gesticulations the utmost fervour of devotion.

RESOURCES

The American Guild of Organists national website has numerous resources for members. Under the Membership Tab drop-down menu, you can access upcoming recitals and workshops: <https://www.agohq.org/online-programming-for-chapters/>. This page will continually be updated as new information is received. There is also a page that shares links to past leadership webinars: <https://www.agohq.org/leadership-webinars/>. Past webinars with supporting documents can also be viewed: <https://www.agohq.org/ago-webinars-and-supporting-documents>.

WINTER & SPRING 2021 OMAHA AGO PROGRAMMING

UPCOMING CONCERTS

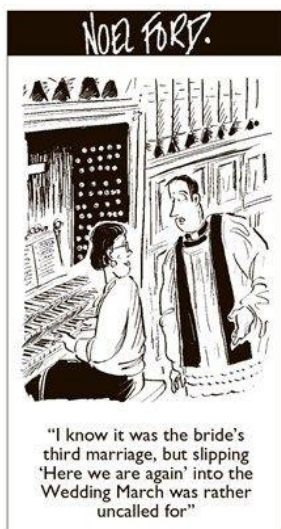
The Omaha Symphony Concertmaster Susanna Perry Gilmore joins our chapter member Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer in a Cathedral Arts Project concert to celebrate the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach on Sunday afternoon, March 21, at 3:00 p.m. in St. Cecilia Cathedral. Violin and organ music, along with harpsichord will be featured. It is always a thrill when one of our chapter members presents a recital and this one should be thrilling indeed with the added appearance of Susanna Perry Gilmore. Masks and social distancing will be observed. Don't miss it.

Our "crown jewel" concert of the season is a collaboration between the Cathedral Arts Project and our chapter. Jan Kraybill will be featured in recital at St. Cecilia Cathedral on Sunday afternoon, May 16, at 3:00 p.m. Be sure this concert is on your calendar as it is one not to be missed. Additionally, our past Dean, Dr. J. Gordon Christensen will be honored at a reception prior to the performance in the Sunderland Gallery adjacent to the cathedral for his long-time service both to the Cathedral Arts Project and to our chapter. The reception begins at 1:00 p.m. Be sure to arrive in time to view Dr. Christensen's collection of paintings by Nebraska artists, which will be on display in the gallery

APRIL VIRTUAL RECITAL TO FEATURE ORGAN STUDENTS

Omaha Chapter AGO April Virtual High School/College Organ Recital Instructions

- The recital is open to any high school or college age student studying with an Omaha Chapter AGO teacher.
- Students in consultation with their teacher are invited to perform an approximate 5-minute selection. The selection is to be recorded. (Smart phone recording is acceptable. Other means are also acceptable.)
- To avoid copyright issues, we request all selections to be in the public domain.
- Teachers are to submit the names of the students performing and the composition selected to the chapter Sub-Dean, Stephen Bartelt no later than March 15, 2021.

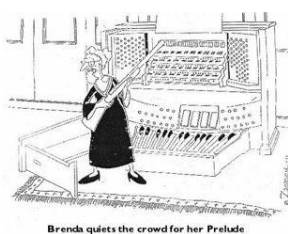


- Recordings should be submitted by Monday, April 19, 2021. That is two weeks after Easter, so that there is time after Easter to accomplish the recordings. The recording should include the student introducing himself/herself by name, with whom they are studying, and the composer and name of the composition they are submitting. Exact instructions for submitting the recordings will follow in early April.
- The recordings will be combined into a Youtube and uploaded to the chapter website and/or Facebook page

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Rick Richards

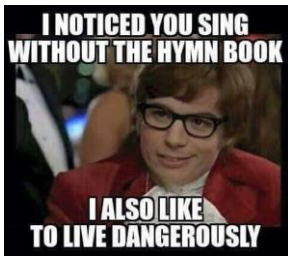
I've been doing church music since high school - off and on. I started working at Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha in the mid-90's and have played at least one, if not two, services every Sunday since. I have worked at MCC-O, Aldersgate United Methodist, Holy Cross Lutheran, and I'm currently the organist, bell choir director, and choir accompanist at Augustana Lutheran. I was mainly a pianist when I started, but decided to get serious about the organ in 2001 and studied with Dana Sloan, Wayne Kallstrom, and Jeremy Bankson for several years. In January of 2020 I also became the director of the River City Ringers, Omaha's community handbell choir. It's great fun to work with this very talented group of musicians. I consider my work as a church musician not just a job, but also a calling. And I've had the opportunity to be part of amazing congregations and offered music in worship with wonderful musicians. It's been a blessing to be able to do this work.



Robin High

I am currently the organist at St Michael Lutheran Church in Omaha having started that position in the Fall of 2013. Prior to that, I was the associate organist at the Presbyterian Church of the Cross in Omaha for four years. I am also currently a biostatistician in the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. I grew up on a farm a few miles southwest of the community of Bertrand in south-central NE having received my initial piano training with a highly respected teacher there who had many students come from surrounding communities. I studied piano with Audun Ravnan as an undergraduate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where I also took organ lessons with George Ritchie.





After graduating from UNL, I lived in Austin, Texas (where I received a master's degree in statistics), Corvallis and Eugene Oregon, among a few other places. While I was a graduate student in statistics at Oregon State University when I lived in Corvallis I participated in activities with the OSU music department and also the choir at the Presbyterian Church that motivated me to study music once again. I entered graduate school in the department of music at the University of Oregon, receiving a Master of Music degree where I was an organ student of Barbara Baird. Following graduation, I worked as a statistical consultant at the University of Oregon and was organist/pianist for several Lutheran churches in Eugene until moving back to Nebraska in 2008.

My hobbies include long walks in the outdoors, reading, piano transcriptions of the music of Hans Zimmer and other movie soundtracks, and for the past thirty years, have been writing a detailed listener's guide to the vocal compositions of J. S. Bach. I also enjoy visiting the wilderness areas of the Pacific Northwest, returning each summer (except 2020) to favorite outdoor places and experiencing cultural events in Oregon or a few days at Holden Village in the north central Cascades of Washington.

Ryan Luckey is the Vice President & Project Manager at the Bedient Pipe Organ Company in Lincoln. Ryan graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he minored in vocal performance. At Bedient, Ryan is involved in all aspects of service, tuning, and voicing and is responsible for keeping all projects running smoothly. He is a member of the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO), The Organ Historical Society (OHS), and the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies. He is currently the treasurer for the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and is an active church musician.

His love of organ building began several years before he came to Bedient when he decided to build a 2-manual, 7-rank practice organ in his home. At UNL, he earned his bachelor's degree in Horticulture and Landscape Design. He is co-owner of Second Nature Landscape Management, specializing in pruning and other garden maintenance. Ryan has diverse hobbies including vegetable gardening, home meat processing, baking, and home improvement projects.

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Joyce Mynster

"God's time is the best. In Him we live, move, and have our being, as long as He wills..."

These words from J. S. Bach's cantata inspire my consideration of the elusive element of time (and enriched by studying an organ reduction with Roger Arnold).

"Time has been transformed, and we have been changed; it has advanced and set us in motion; it has unveiled its face, inspiring with bewilderment and exhilaration."

---Khalil Gibran

My reflection on "God's time is the best" seems just as relevant today as when it was written.

"Beginnings and endings --- all part of God's plan,
Mystery, wonder and more questions to scan.
Then trusting His wisdom and knowing His peace,
And stepping out boldly with joy that won't cease.

"Rememb'ring God's promises that led the way
Through mountains and valleys and streams, let me stay
Close by Him to serve others and to invest
In Eternity's call --- God's time is the best."

Dr. Jeremy Owens, DMA, CAGO

As an organist, I took the position of lead organist at Dowd Chapel in Boys Town, Nebraska, in September of 2020, after Michael McCabe retired. Unfortunately, we have been on hiatus from services since October, but may be back in person after Easter. For insurance purposes, I am an Associate Professor of Music at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. In this position, I teach General Education Courses in Music Appreciation, Music History, and other courses as needed. I also accompany the Briar Cliff Singers and individual soloists on campus as well as teach private organ and piano lessons. In addition, I also accompany local students and choirs for concerts, recitals, and auditions in the local region on a regular basis.

I received my Bachelor of Music degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, with an emphasis in Piano Performance. I continued my education and received my Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts degrees in Piano Performance at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I became involved in organ playing

when I took a position as organist in Ripley, Mississippi. Since moving to Sioux City, I have worked through the SPC and CAGO certifications of the AGO with the help of Dr. J Gordon Christiansen. I plan to retake the AAGO exam soon.

I live in Sioux City with my wonderful wife, Sue, and our two dogs Meg and Buddy. We have family in Minnesota and Mississippi and like to travel to see them when possible. When I am not practicing or teaching, I like to do Zymurgy on the side and have a ton of books, movies, and recordings that I like to work my way through.

BEDIENT PIPE ORGAN COMPANY

The Bedient Pipe Organ Company of Lincoln, NE has completed a major rebuild and expansion of a Kilgen & Son organ at Trinity Lutheran Church in McPherson, Kansas.

This organ has been a part of the congregation since it was installed in their "red-brick church" 1938. A new sanctuary was built in 1970, along with a fellowship hall, classrooms, and offices. At first, there were no plans to move the organ into the new sanctuary. A last minute decision saved the organ, but no space had been prepared for installing it. Temporary chambers were created behind the altar with hopes of enlarging them someday. The congregation voted to renovate and update the sanctuary in 2018. The organ was a central part of those renovations.

The organ was essentially unaltered when it was moved in 1970 and its original voicing style had been retained. The chests and reservoirs were due for releathering and decades of dust had accumulated. The biggest problem was service access. It was nearly impossible to enter the chambers for tuning. Tonal egress was also limited because of very small expression shade openings.

New organ chambers are cantilevered out and above the back of the chancel. The larger chambers not only allow much better service access, but also make room for the addition of eight new voices. The first priority was selecting ranks that would enhance the organ's ability to lead worship and congregational singing. The second goal was ensuring that all the additions would be in the same tonal aesthetic as the original Kilgen stops. It was very important that no stop sounded "added on". A clear Fifteenth and rich, low-pitched Mixture in the Great lead congregational singing. A dark chorus Tuba enhances the plenum and is extended to the pedal to provide a 16' Tromba. A facade was designed using the new Double Open Diapason, adding clarity to the abundant existing pedal stops. A Geigen Principal 4 was added to the Swell to create a secondary principal chorus. The former Great Trumpet was moved to the Swell where it serves as both a solo and chorus reed. Vintage Vox Humana and Unda Maris ranks round out the additions. The new expression shades are nearly twice as large as the old shades and the organ speaks clearly into the room. A Virtuoso Control System provides many additional registration aids and unlimited memory levels.

Two weeks of tonal finishing brought out an incredible amount of color from the individual stops. They now can be combined in numerous, creative ways for leading worship and playing a wide range of organ literature. A dedication recital will be scheduled at a later date.



George Kilgen & Son 1938

* Bedient Addition, new rank

+ Bedient addition, vintage rank

GREAT

Open Diapason 8

Hohl Flute 8

Dulciana 8

Unda Maris 8 (TC)+

Octave 4

Flute d'Amour 4*

Fifteenth 2*

Mixture IV*

Tuba 8*

Chimes

Tremolo

SWELL

Lieblich Bourdon 16

Geigen Principal 8

Stopped Flute 8

Viola da Gamba 8

Voix Celeste 8

Octave 4*

Flute Harmonic 4

Piccolo 2

Trumpet 8 (former Great)

Oboe 8

Vox Humana 8

Tremolo

PEDAL

Acoustic Bass 32

Double Diapason 16

Major Bass 16

Bourdon 16

Lieblich Gedeckt 16

Octave 8

Flute 8

Still Gedeckt 8

Choral Bass 4

Trombone 16

Tromba 8

COUPLERS

Swell to Great 16

Swell to Great 8

Swell to Great 4

Great to Great 16

Great Unison Off

Great to Great 4

Swell to Swell 16

Swell Unison Off

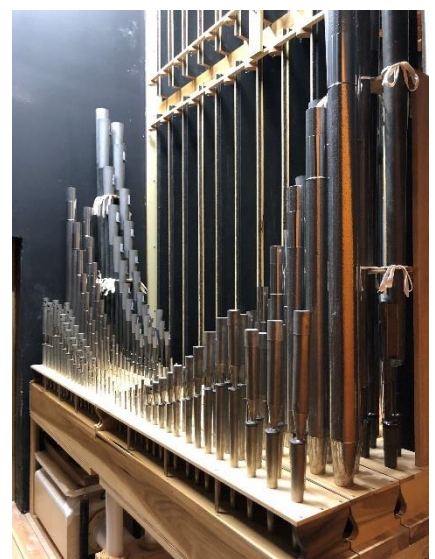
Swell to Swell 4

Great to Pedal 8

Great to Pedal 4

Swell to Pedal 8

Swell to Pedal 4



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MISSION

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Nathan A. Sherrill

Rev. Timothy A. Frank

239 Frank Street

Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

712-322-4729

Presents:

Wednesday at Noon

Lenten Organ Recitals

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church invites you to a series of Lenten Organ Recitals to be held on Wednesdays at Noon during Lent. The free recitals begin at 12:00 p.m. lasting 40 minutes.

No lunch will be served this year.

Please observe social distancing. Masks are optional.

2021 Series includes:

February 17th ~ Jeffrey Hoffman

Organist & Choirmaster ~ St. Barnabus Catholic Church, Omaha

February 24th ~ Timothy Schreiber

Junior Organ Major, University of Kansas

Former St. Paul's Music Conservatory Student

March 3rd ~ Dr. Jeremy Owens

Professor of Music, Briar Cliff University, Sioux City

Former St. Paul's Music Conservatory Student

March 10th ~ Joan Ebersold

Organist, Saint John Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs

Former, St. Paul's Music Conservatory Student

March 17th ~ Timothy Conner, SPC

Part-time organist at Zion Lutheran Church, Manning

Current St. Paul's Music Conservatory Student

March 24th ~ Peggy Wolverton

"Retired" Organist, Omaha





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from
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Marie Rubis Bauer, Organist
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of pandemic

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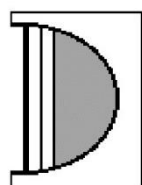
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