

OMAHA CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN
GUILD OF
ORGANISTS

SPECIAL
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The Windchest

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From the Dean...

Ten Omaha AGO members are just back from attending the 2017 North Central Regional Convention YES, WE'LL GATHER AT THE RIVERS, in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The four day event, June 19-22 was fully scheduled with a variety of events that were well presented and attended.

The YES, WE'LL GATHER AT THE RIVERS had special significance for the host chapters, their organ venues and organs, and community's ability to host an AGO convention. Registrants were reminded that, during the summer of 2008, major flooding in the area virtually ruined dozens of organs, churches, the University of Iowa music building, public and private concert venues throughout the area. It was with distinct sense of thanksgiving to God members of the host chapters welcomed AGO members and friends to new and/or restored organs and the venues in which these organs are housed.

Simply stated, the convention was a series of stellar quality events, opening with a hymn festival, followed by days and evenings filled with master classes, workshops, and organ recitals. The biography section of the program included the bios of 22 presenters, including Omaha's very own MARIE RUBIS BAUER, who presented a workshop titled "Leading a Schola." The convention featured fourteen pipe organs, some new and some refurbished. Venues included two restored auditoriums, each featuring theater organs. The convention offered a program that focused on the music of Czech culture, of interest because of a significant Czech settlement in Eastern Iowa. The program included a major display of Czech organ music that was for sale.

Another Omaha AGO member, TIMOTHY SCHREIBER, was one of six students who played in a Master Class mentored by Stefan Engels, the organist for the convention's final event.

The chairman of the planning committee of the well organized convention, Mark Baumann, faced an unexpected challenge that unfolded during the convention. The challenge: President Donald Trump was in town, near one of the venues that was hosting an organ recital during at the same time President Trump was offering comments to his audience. YES, WE'LL GATHER AT THE RIVERS leadership was asked to cancel its event! Chairman of the committee, Mark Baumann, visited with security six times, verifying safety for everyone in the area. It was reported that one security guard commented: "I'd rather go to the organ recital!"

The River Valley Chapter is to be commended for organizing and presenting a highly successful convention. Mark Baumann and his committee prepared a convention that presented significant organists in recital; relevant, applicable, well-prepared workshops; attractive and readable program booklets; conveniently located hotel facilities; clean, competent transportation; and a full program that was kept on schedule! Thank you to the RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER for YES, WE'LL GATHER AT THE RIVERS!

Dr. Christensen, Dean

Tip of the
Month



National Federation
of
Music Clubs

"Student musicians receive positive, professional, motivational feed-back, encouraging further preparation and growth, following a specifically out-lined curriculum."



Tip of the Month (Repeated from last month!)

The American Organist is available on-line.

AGO dues are due for many of us during the summer months. Moreover, some of you reading this Windchest will be registering to become new members of AGO.

For those members renewing, be sure to read the "New AGO Dues Structure" article on p. 6 of the TAO, taking note that members register to receive TAO on-line. Receiving TAO on-line is a savings of \$8.00 annually.

This information is available in the ONCARD registration form.



The next national 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 SuperSaver: \$375
Seniors: \$450 Early Bird: \$395 SuperSaver: \$350

In order to get the SuperSaver, your registration must be paid before December 31, 2017. Students will pay \$250 at 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!



Recital at Sinai Lutheran Church ~ August 1 at 12:00 p.m.

Four Fremont area organists will present a brief noonday recital on Tuesday, August 1, at Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont.

Performers include Claire Eason, Scott Flanagan, Jeff Hoffman, and Dana Sloan.

The program will begin at 12:00 pm and will be over before 1:00 pm to allow time for guests to return to scheduled activities.

Light refreshments will be served following the program when there will be an opportunity to talk with performers.

The program is free of charge. Sinai Lutheran Church is located at 950 E. 8th St. in Fremont.



Summer Sing Thursday, July 20, 7:00 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral 113 N 18th Street, Omaha

Vivaldi Gloria

Come sing in an instant performance of some of the world's greatest choral music! No entrance fee. No preparation necessary. No auditions required. No long-term commitment. Music, hospitality, air conditioning, refreshments, and fun provided! Tom Trenney, Minister of Music at First-Plymouth, Lincoln, and Artistic Director of Abendmusik, will serve as our engaging and dynamic guest conductor and organist. Presented in collaboration with Abendmusik. Identical events are being offered in Lincoln and Omaha on consecutive evenings. Join us in Omaha at Trinity Cathedral and bring your choir!

Part-Time Organist Needed

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Council Bluffs, IA is searching for a part-time organist to accompany a small choir (including Sunday morning rehearsals) and the congregation in worship. This is a year-round position. The organist would provide music for Sunday services, special services, weddings and funerals. Resumes should be sent to office@stpaulscb.com.

SEEKING A MUSIC DIRECTOR

Presbyterian Church of the Master is seeking a director of music to provide a variety of musical opportunities for worship. The candidate needs a degree in music, and to be creative, imaginative, fun, highly motivated and an active Christian with an appreciation for the Reformed Tradition. They should be organized and be able to plan a monthly schedule of weekly performances, in coordination with the pastors. This position is currently a .75 FTE position where present responsibilities include directing chancel choir, leading children and youth music/programs, and supervising other PCM music groups. In the right circumstances, however, PCM is willing to consider splitting responsibilities between multiple individuals. Please contact Pastor Robert Keefer (402) 498-0871 or robert.keefer@pcmwindow.org.

Music Exchange

"Bring your used music and or take some for free!" JULIE SANDENE, who is in charge of the chapter's third annual music exchange, sent word that the exchange will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6340 N. 30th, Omaha. Dates: August 1-4; 7-11; 14-18; 21-26, during office hours. Watch for more details in the July "Dean's Ciphers" and August edition of the Windchest.

HAPPY RETIREMENT!!



Lynne Eifert retired on June 11, 2017, after serving as organist and choir accompanist at Zion Lutheran Church in Omaha for 18 years. She was honored with a gift from the Zion choir at her last rehearsal and from the congregation between services on June 11.

Lynne was born and raised in Omaha, a graduate of Benson High School. She graduated from Valparaiso University with majors in music and German. She served in multiple churches in Omaha and Detroit for a total of 53 years in varying capacities as church and school organist, choir accompanist, choir director, and piano/organ teacher. For many years she accompanied the Saengerchor for the Omaha German-American Society. She is an active member of the Omaha Chapter, AGO.

Lynne has four children, all active in music and church work, as well as twelve grandchildren. She will be moving to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to be near family members.

The Rev. Thomas Schmitt, a former Pastor at Zion, hired Lynne 18 years ago. He served at Zion for most of Lynne's years there and in a tribute read at Lynne's farewell summed up Lynne's musical ministry as follows: "We already loved to sing, but we really loved singing to your love-filled playing. It came through in every stanza, every liturgical response and canticle, every service piece. Your love of music led us well, and we joyfully wanted to follow along!"

In Jean's words:

A commentary on her retirement by Jean Johnson

"As I neared retirement I knew that I would need to come to grips with leaving Trinity, just as a pastor who retires. It was hard for me to think about what might happen to "all I had done". The thing was, it was because of God's plan that I had done this - not my own doing.

Several months out, I began typing information someone else might need for things that were ongoing. I made sure all the music library was in order. Every day for weeks I took books or music home so my office was cleaned out by the day I retired.

I saved an article from *The American Organist* that I read and reread. Found in the February 2015 issue, it was a sermon given at a convention by the Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton entitled "Even More Blessed in Our Decrease". In it she talks about how we make a difference in people's lives with our music - weddings, funerals, baptisms, holiday programs - all this feeds our egos. This is not a bad thing - we all have egos. But in retiring, comes the question - was it enough and what now?

She helped me think about how the church transcends my life - it will continue - I am not going to be a member of Trinity, but others will continue the ministry. I was blessed to have been a part of something wonderful for 37 years - that was my increase. God was going to lead others to continue - but I was going to decrease. This helped me walk away feeling thankful for having been a line of music or the ring of a bell in that place.

After some time visiting churches, my husband and I have joined Kountze Memorial Lutheran and I am subbing about two Sundays a month at various churches. Life goes on. I feel blessed that I can continue to make music to the Glory of God - in a different way."

Jean has been an active member of the OmAGO chapter for many years. She presently serves on the Board of Directors. Jean is from Kearney and is a graduate of UNK. She started as a piano major, then as an organ major, studying with Art Bates and Arnold Sivils. During college Jean played at the Methodist Church and the Lutheran Church. The Methodist job lasted two years - until the church burned down on Christmas Eve! After her husband and she moved to Omaha, she served as a high school accompanist and substitute teacher until she opened her own studio. In 2000 Jean was commissioned as an Associate in Ministry (now called Deacon) in the ELCA and began serving under call at Trinity Lutheran Church, where she had worked since 1984. Her job became full time, leading Bible studies, some administrative duties, all the while continuing to plan worship and develop the music groups, including children's ministries. She retired from her call in May 2016.

*New
Member*



AGO Board
Members

Committee Chairs



**Welcome New Member
Laura Rau**



I moved to Omaha from Lawrence, Kansas with my husband, Chase Becker, in January. I serve as director of music at Christ the King Catholic parish.

My first experience with the AGO came in high school when I attended a Pipe Organ Encounter. I first joined the Guild as a member of the Wichita (Kansas) chapter during my undergraduate studies.

I earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Wichita State University, a Master of Sacred Music degree from the University of Notre Dame, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Kansas.

The role of music in worship is what interests me the most. It is a delightful challenge to encourage Catholics to experience congregational, choral, and organ music as prayer. I enjoy my role as teacher, particularly of children and youth choirs. I enjoy studying organ

literature as a way to broaden my abilities as an improviser for worship.

Several years have passed since I was last an active member of the Wichita chapter. I am so pleased to discover that my new home town, Omaha, has a welcoming and vibrant chapter. I look forward to meeting other members and supporting our chapter's activities.

**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

abendmusik
MUSIC THAT INSPIRES

Summer Sing

Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi



WED | July 19 | 7:00 PM ~ First-Plymouth, Lincoln

THUR | July 20 | 7:00 PM ~ Trinity Cathedral, Omaha

Do you miss singing in a choir?

Join Abendmusik for our annual community Summer Sing!

No auditions or extensive commitments. Come as you are and within two hours, we will have shared in an energized rehearsal and an instant performance!

Music will be provided & hospitality, air-conditioning, and fun are all included!

No sign-up, just come ready to sing!

Abendmusik | 402.476.9933 | info@abendmusik.org | www.abendmusik.org