

OMAHA CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN  
GUILD OF  
ORGANISTS

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

Recital Dates

Special Events

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# The Windchest

February 2018

Celebrating 100 Years!

## From the Dean...

Yes, we as organists and choral directors are currently immersed in preparing music for Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter! Choral and handbell music is in choir folders, and organ music is readily accessible at the organ console for practice sessions, ready to make good use of those moments before a scheduled appointment arrives.

The Omaha chapter's late winter and spring months include five scheduled events, in addition to one that is a continuation of our January 16 event "Work Place Harmony." Omaha's 2017-2018 season is consistently of the highest level of professionalism, programs that are attractive, applicable, and relevant not only to our membership, but to friends of the organ as well. Moreover, it is significant our season offers important professional growth opportunities not only for members, but for "friends of the organ" from the community as well.

An additional strength of the Omaha AGO chapter is the involvement of members in developing our programming. Consider the fact that the upcoming "Part-time Organist," the "AGO Chapter Hymn Festival," and performance for the "Final Banquet" are totally planned and developed by chapter members! Moreover, the three earlier programs were developed and presented by our own members as well. Our chapter is comprised of members collaborating with other members, sharing talents and gifts with fellow organists and choral directors.

The "Work Place Harmony" program, with an initial opening presentation in Mid-January, will continue not only in this season, but into the next season as well. Developed and presented by member Jodi Korth, this project has far reaching potential well into the future, not only for Omaha AGO members, but for musicians, clergy, and ecclesiastical administrators throughout AGO membership.

An article updating readers on "Work Place Harmony" is published elsewhere in this issue of Windchest.

The strength of our chapter's programming would not be what it is if it were not for the deep respect and positive support members generously share with fellow members. We follow the professional programs and activities of fellow members, offering encouragement, collaborating with one another. May we continue to respect and support fellow members and their programs.

Dr. J Gordon Christensen  
Dean





Omaha AGO  
Website

Kansas City  
2018

American  
Guild  
of  
Organists  
National  
Convention



## OMAHA AGO WEBSITE

Omaha AGO has a new Webmaster. Jeff Hoffman has agreed to serve a "second term" as Webmaster for our chapter.

First, however, thank you to Mayumi Naramura for time and energy she graciously gave to the chapter as Webmaster—especially challenging because of time needed for her studies while living in a community hundreds of miles from Omaha. Thank you, Mayumi!

Jeff has our Website up and running, bringing about several updates and changes. Look for a new dean's article on the title page, a list of AGO and chapter goals based on the AGO Mission Statement, and visionary plans to implement stated short and long range goals.

Last summer, Jeff offered to enter the historic files, programs, and highlights of the 100 year history of Omaha AGO in computer files. Highlights of these historic files will appear on the Website, beginning immediately. The chapter was founded as the "Nebraska Chapter AGO" in 1917, renamed the "Omaha Chapter AGO" in the Mid-fifties. The very first program sponsored by the Nebraska Chapter was a choral program held at All Saints' Church on December 9, 1917. It featured the choirs of All Saints and First Presbyterian Churches. This program is an example of historic items that will appear on the Website.

Included on the Website is a list of current Omaha AGO members. Only dues paying members have access to the membership list. Members gain access to the membership roster by entering a code. Contact Jeff at [buildandencourage@gmail.com](mailto:buildandencourage@gmail.com) or Dr. Christensen at [mrc@chase3000.com](mailto:mrc@chase3000.com) to learn the code.

Again, thanks to Mayumi for her contributions as Webmaster, and to Jeff Hoffman for taking a "second term" as Webmaster.



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  
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!



## The Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

January 2018

RE: Call for Choir Members

Dear Choir Director,

We invite you and your talented choir members to share your voices during "A Celebration of Psalms: A Hymn Festival," to be held on **Sunday, April 15, 2018!** Hosted by the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) the Festival will begin at 3:30 PM at St. John Lutheran Church (633 Willow Ave., Council Bluffs).

During the Festival, approximately 75 choir members will serve alongside guest organists (invited from the Omaha and Lincoln AGO chapters). To help build this choir, we're asking you to share this "Call for Choir Members" with your choir members. Participating musicians will receive music to prepare in advance (to be returned following festival activities) and should be available to participate in a rehearsal from 2:00-3:00 PM on April 15.

**To confirm participation, please email me by February 28, 2018 at [jodi.korth@gmail.com](mailto:jodi.korth@gmail.com) with choir member names and voice parts.**

More details will be provided over the next few months. Thank you for your consideration. This is sure to be a wonderful afternoon as we make joyful music to the Lord!

Warmly,

Jodi Korth

AGO Hymn Festival Committee Member  
Director of Organ & Choral Music  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church; Gretna  
E: [jodi.korth@gmail.com](mailto:jodi.korth@gmail.com)  
C: (641) 430-6229



Watch for news regarding  
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church's  
"Lenten at Noon Organ Recitals"  
beginning February 14<sup>th</sup>!  
Full schedule to be announced soon!

**A CELEBRATION OF PSALMS  
A Hymn Festival  
Presented by the Omaha Chapter AGO  
3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 15, 2018  
St John Lutheran Church  
633 Willow Ave in Council Bluffs  
PLEASE NOTE THIS TIME CHANGE!**

A free-will offering will be received toward the chapter's raising \$1,000 to match a challenge gift. A reception will follow.

The Book of Psalms helps the reader experience sorrow, joy, hard times, hope and celebration. Organists for the festival will lead the congregation and choir through old favorites and new song as we think about our daily experiences. Organists participating are Marty Wheeler Burnett, Tom Andrews, Tim Schreiber, Julie Sandene, Gerald Oehring, J Gordon Christensen, Joan Ebersold Dana Sloan and Jeremy Owens. The chapter is grateful for the work they are contributing for the festival.

**Please publicize this event in your church. Your enthusiasm is what will draw choir members and congregation to help us sing the song.**

Jean Johnson, Chair [jean.johnson.8@cox.net](mailto:jean.johnson.8@cox.net)

Jodi Korth is assembling the choir. [jodi.korth@gmail.com](mailto:jodi.korth@gmail.com)

Other committee members are Jerry Brabec, Ann Spangler, Gilbert Ward, Rick Richards and Laura Rau.

## Omaha Chapter AGO Events

**Sunday April 8, 2018**

**7:00 p.m. Kola Owolabi**

Organist from  
the University of Michigan,  
*Hosts: Omaha AGO  
and UNO Music Department*

*Location:  
Strauss Performing Arts Hall,  
University of Nebraska,  
Omaha Dodge at 62<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Casavant Organ*

**Saturday February 24, 2018**

**9:00 - noon a.m.**

*The Part-time Organist: Encouragement,  
ideas, and help for anyone with  
limited resources in your church.*

*Outreach project of the  
Omaha AGO Chapter to area organists.*

*Host: Dana Sloan  
Location: Presbyterian Church of the Cross  
1517 South 114<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha.*

## In the News...

### **"THE PART-TIME ORGANIST"**

Plans are well underway for "The Part-Time Organist" workshop scheduled on Saturday, February 24 at Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1517 South 114<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha. The workshop runs from 9:00-12:00 noon, with registration beginning at 8:30.

Those attending are encouraged to park in the south parking lot, entering the church through the south door. Day-care for infants and young children will be available from 8:30-12:30 p.m. DAY-CARE RESERVATIONS, INCLUDING AGE, NEED TO BE MADE BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21. Contact Dr. Christensen at: [mrc@chase3000.com](mailto:mrc@chase3000.com) to reserve child-care privileges. The chapter is responsible for child-care fees.

Sessions include:

- Meaning of stop names, (principal, octave, etc.) four stop families, (Principal, Flute, String, Reed); and numbers on stops (8' 4' 2 2/3' etc.);
- Organ practice techniques; resources for organ students, including beginners; collaboration with other educational groups;
- Session on accompanying (leading) congregational singing; including introduction of hymns; simple verse variation; registration;
- Accessible music for organ; examples will be played, then passed around;
- Choral repertoire; directing.

Dietze Music House will bring a display of organ music for sale, implemented by Jill Anderson of the West Center Dietze store. Multiple titles introduced in the "Accessible music for organ" will be available for sale. Refreshments will be served during registration and two short breaks.

A specific challenge is reaching those part time organists who would benefit by attending this workshop. While the chapter is promoting this workshop through various denominations in Nebraska and Western Iowa, those communications often do not reach the parish musicians. So, a suggestion: personally invite one or more "Part-time Organists" to be our guests for this workshop. Offer a ride to and from the workshop, and maybe lunch in a local restaurant or café following the workshop! Let's set of goal of 50 or more attending this workshop!

*Pedaling  
Around  
Omaha*



AGO Board  
Members

Committee Chairs



**CHORAL EVENSONG**

Sunday, February 18

4:00 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church

Combined Choirs of All Saints Episcopal Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,  
and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Dr. Michael Bauer, Dr. Marty Wheeler Burnett, and Dr. Laura Palmer Scow,  
organists and conductors  
Garrett Law, horn

Music for the Lenten season by René Clausen, Egil Hovland, James Mulholland,  
and Philip W. J. Stopford

**Sinai Festival Sounds**



Sinai Festival Sounds, concert series of Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont, opened the 2017-2018 season on November 12 with a concert by Lincoln Lutheran Choir. Other upcoming programs in the series include a recital at 3:00 pm on February 18 by Ann Marie Rigler, organ, with Eric Williams, violin; and the Lincoln Early Music Consort on May 6 at 3:00 pm. Programs are free to the public and are supported by freewill offerings and other generous donations. Sinai Lutheran Church is located at 950 East 8th Street in Fremont, NE. See more on page 6!!

**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!

**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      |
| Windchest Editor              | Claire Eason         |
| Windchest Publisher           | Rosemary Paul        |





## Sinai Festival Sounds



**Sinai Festival Sounds**, concert series of Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont, Nebraska, presents organist **Ann Marie Rigler** with violinist/violist **Eric Williams** on Sunday, February 18, at 3:00 pm. Their varied program will be based in part on Lenten themes and will include pieces that feature modern violin, Baroque violin, and viola, as well as Sinai's Juget-Sinclair organ.



Many Omaha and Lincoln AGO members will remember Rigler from past performances in the area (Sundays at Strauss and Lincoln Organ Showcase among other programs) and her time on the music faculty at Wayne State College. She is now Professor of Music and College Organist at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, where she teaches courses in music history and Christian worship practices in addition to organ and piano lessons. She also serves as organist for weekly Chapel services, as pianist for the Chapel Choir, and as organist for Jewell's critically acclaimed Concert Choir, with whom she will return to the United Kingdom in May 2018 for her third tour as organ soloist and accompanist. Her performances with the choir on their 2015 release on the Centaur label, *The Trumpet Sounds*, earned her accolades from the *American Record Guide* as "a jewel of an organist." In the spring of 2017, she was honored to receive the William Jewell College Student Senate's Excellent Campus Citizen Award for her work as College Organist. As a member of Concert Artist Cooperative, she maintains an active schedule as solo recitalist, chamber musician, and presenter, including performances at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Organ Historical Society, the College Music Society, and Musforum.

Eric T. Williams is a violinist and violist with an eclectic background. He holds Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Music in Violin Pedagogy degrees from the University of New Mexico, and a Master of Music in Viola Performance from Yale University. Among the many ensembles he has performed with are the Santa Fe Opera, New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Symphony, Lawrence Chamber Orchestra, Jackson Symphony, North Arkansas Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque, and the Four Corners Opera. He also performed in several cities in Germany and Hungary as a founding member of Camerata Lawrence. Williams served on the music faculties of the University of New Mexico and Murray State University and also taught orchestra in the Albuquerque Public Schools for five years. After obtaining his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kansas School of Law, he was a solo practitioner in Kansas and Missouri for nearly 11 years. Williams is currently manager of grants for the Kansas City Symphony. A freelance musician, he performs at many musical events throughout the greater Kansas City area. He is especially devoted to Baroque music and is a founding member of the Kansas City Baroque Consortium.

Sinai Lutheran Church is located at 950 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Fremont. Sinai Festival Sounds concerts are free and supported by freewill offerings and other generous donations. A reception will follow the program.



# Compline at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

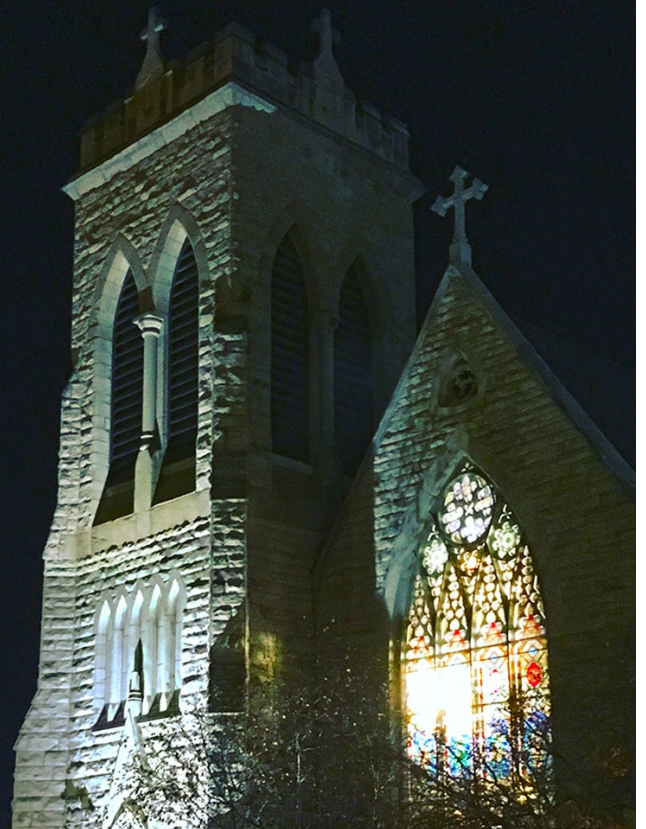
113 N 18<sup>th</sup> St • Omaha, NE 68102 • (402) 342-7010

The second Sunday in October, November, January, February, and April at 7:00 p.m.

## *Ancient Worship For the Modern Soul*

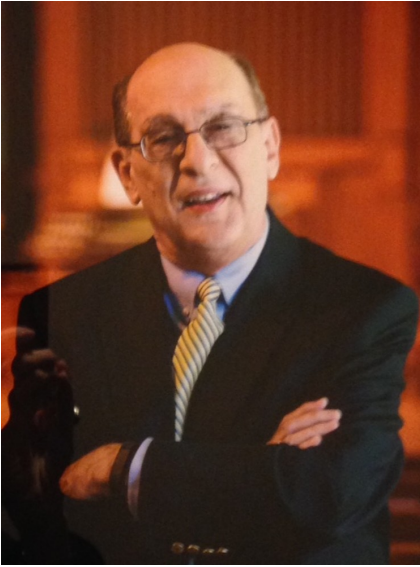
Oct 8<sup>th</sup> • Nov 12<sup>th</sup> • Jan 14<sup>th</sup> • Feb 11<sup>th</sup> • Apr 8<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m.

Compline – night prayer – is the final worship of the day in the monastic system of daily prayers. Dating from the fourth century, this contemplative office focuses on spiritual peace. No words are spoken; worshipers bathe in beautiful, timeless music. Compline is less about “doing” and more about “being.” You will be invited to light a candle, offer prayers, and be still in God’s presence.





## Member Spotlight Dana Sloan



Dana Sloan moved to Omaha in 1974 to become the first, full-time Minister of Music of the Presbyterian Church of the Cross. He retired from this position in 2014 after a 40 year tenure, the longest serving staff member in history of the church. He recently retired as Artistic Director of Vesper Concerts but continues as organist of the church.

Mr. Sloan attended the University of North Carolina and holds degrees in music from The Ohio State University and the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana. Among his teachers were Wilbur Held, Gordon Wilson and Jerald Hamilton.

The music program at the church grew under his direction to include 2 adult choirs, a Youth choir, 2 children's choirs, 2 handbell choirs, quartets of both men's and women's singers and a large brass ensemble. These ensembles perform a wide variety of choral music in worship services on a regular basis. The larger of the 2 adult choirs sings at least twice a year with professional orchestral accompaniment. Other ensembles perform with instrumental accompaniment as the occasion demands.

The church is home to Vesper Concerts which he began in 1988 to celebrate the dedication of the church's McFarland-Beaudry organ, an instrument which was built originally by the Boston-area builder George Hutchings in 1895. This 2 manual, 31 stop, 39 rank tracker organ is unique to the Omaha area. In the 29 year history of the Vesper Concerts (originally the Organ Vesper Series), a great variety of music has been performed by a large number of musicians, local, national and international. Several times the Series has been honored by mention in the Omaha World Herald as "Top 10" or "Honorable Mention Top 10" musical events of the season.

Mr. Sloan is active as a keyboard player and conductor. His repertoire of choral works and choral works with orchestra is extensive ranging from Bernstein's Chichester Psalms to Mozart's Requiem. In addition to his work in the weekly service playing, Dana has a wide repertoire of solo and ensemble music for organ, harpsichord and piano.

He would count among highlights of his career, performing as a harpsichord and organ soloist and ensemble musician with the Omaha Symphony and Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra. His travels have taken him across America and Europe. He would count among highlight during these travels playing excerpts of Widor's 5th Symphony (no, not the Toccata) at the church of St. Sulpice, playing Couperin at St. Gervais and Durufle and Poulenc at the Church of St. Etienne du Mont, all in Paris. He also played Handel at the church of St. Bavo in Haarlem, Holland. In this country, while on sabbatical, he had the opportunity to play many famous instruments in New York City, most notably at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Dana is the father of two adult children, Ryan, an intensive care nurse in an Indianapolis hospital and Ashley, a special education teacher in Papillion. His two granddaughters live in Papillion.

