

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



SEPTEMBER 2019

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FROM THE DEAN

Yes! A new season of the American Guild of Organists is at hand! And the 2019-20 Omaha Chapter season promises to be a fulfilling, challenging, inspirational, educational, exciting---in many respects, it is a land-mark season featuring workshops, seminars, opportunity for conversation offering professional growth opportunities. The highlight for the season is a performance of *Mass in b-minor* by Johann Sebastian Bach, presented by the Spire Chamber Ensemble at St. Cecilia's Cathedral on March 6. Omaha AGO and the Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) are co-sponsors for this significant once-in-a-lifetime event in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area.

In addition to the *Mass in b-minor* presentation, the eight-program season will be announced at the chapter's Season Kickoff supper event featuring Dr. Karen Black, North Central Regional Councilor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs. Details of additional season programs include a program on Denominational Musician Associations; Student Recital/Masterclass; "Twelfth Night Lessons & Carols service; Basic Improvisation; Service and Program Planning; and Finale Banquet and Installation of Officers.

In communications initiated by the national director of the AGO Certification program, Jonathan Hall, Omaha AGO has been asked to be one of six AGO chapters nationwide to participate in a pilot research project titled AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS. The purpose statement of the lead paragraph reads: "The AGO Achievement Awards are designed to assist and encourage early-level organists as they improve their skills. ---- This process provides a simple way for the chapter to involve new organists in chapter activity, and to encourage them to continue their education through AGO certification." The proposal, approved by the executive board, is a 13 page document that includes requirements, lesson plans and evaluation tests for each lesson. The Hudson Valley, Salt Lake City, and Los Angeles chapters are among the other chapters invited to develop this project.

The probable reason Omaha AGO was invited to participate in this AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS program is because Omaha's 2018-2019 MEMBERSHIPS DIRECTORY lists eleven members as "Young Organists," those members under 30 years of age. Of the 11 members, three have

SALLY HODGES

Sally Hodges is celebrating her 10th year as organist at St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Elkhorn by playing a short program/recital at 10:00 AM on Sunday, October 6, prior to the 10:30 service. There will be works of J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Debussy, Gerald Near, and Carson Cooman. You are invited to come for the program and the service following, as well."

earned the SPC (two as teen-agers); one has successfully completed Part I of the CAGO. Currently, two "Young Members" have indicated plans to earn SPC this season.

As dean of the Omaha Chapter, AGO, I am deeply encouraged! Among the reasons: first, to my knowledge, members who are organ teachers currently have an enrollment of more than 40 private organ students, mostly in the age range of nine to thirty year olds. Membership includes one student currently a sophomore majoring in organ at a major university in Kansas where his organ professor is also a member of Omaha AGO. Another member, a teen who recently earned the SPC, recently joined the staff of the Bedient Organ Company as an apprentice.

Omaha AGO members emerge in national level leadership: one member is the national president of a Denominational Musician Association; another is listed as a concert organist on the roster of an internationally recognized booking agency; many members are in leadership roles and the local and regional levels. And it is a fact that the quality of life in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan community is simply much higher because of the commitment by Omaha AGO to raise the quality of music and the arts to its highest level.

And what could be a better close to this column than quoting the email address of an Omaha AGO board member: "buildandencourage!" So, let's keep on building and encouraging one another as members of Omaha AGO.

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

Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, AAGO

2019 - 2020
OCTOBER

OMAHA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Sunday, October 13, 2019
5:00 p.m. Denominational Musician Associations,
6:00 p.m. Complimentary Dinner
7:00 p.m. Compline
led by Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Schola Cantorum

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral - 113 North 18th Street, Omaha, NE





SEASON KICK-OFF EVENT

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta!

The theme is kaleidoscope and the event will share the many shapes and colors that make this diverse city so great.

This convention will be like no other in the past, using more technology and a diverse kaleidoscope of sound, artists and worship styles. Attendees will have access to apps to make the experience more informative, educational and user friendly.



The Kick-off event for the Omaha AGO chapter is Sunday, September 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The event will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 239 Frank St, Council Bluffs. Parking is available in the parking lot of the church. Please enter either through the front door of the Perin Street (canopied-no steps) door.

The program will follow in the sanctuary. We will welcome Dr. Karen Black, North Central Regional Councilor, who will offer a motivational presentation regarding the significant influence and programming of the American Guild of Organists. The 2019-2020 Omaha AGO season will be announced (our incoming Sub-dean, Dirk Lindner, has planned an attractive season for us). Two AGO members who earned their SPC (Service Playing Certificate) this past season, Zachary Zieschang and Timothy Pobanz will receive their framed certificates, and the KVNO "Classical Kid of the Month" an organist, Thomas Koch, will receive his framed award as well. The 2019-2020 Executive Committee will be installed and a tour of St. Paul's Music Conservatory will be given.

Dr. Christensen is asking for an RSVP from everyone planning to attend the seated, catered dinner party he is hosting. RSVP to: drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com by Tuesday, September 3. Please and thank you!

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

AGO
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD PILOT
PROGRAM

Please look forward to more information regarding the selection of the Omaha Chapter's participation in the AGO Achievement Award Pilot Program in the October edition of *The Windchest*.

ST. PAUL'S MUSIC CONSERVATORY

Attached is a photo of 11 organ students who played a recital/hymn festival at Zion Lutheran Church in Manning, Iowa on Sunday, August 18, at 3:30 p.m. Those who played are organ students at St. Paul's Music Conservatory, Council Bluffs--students in Dr. Christensen's organ studio. The concert was attended by about 200 at Zion Lutheran Church in Manning--Casavant II/26 organ, followed by a beautifully presented reception.

Of the 11 that played and are pictured, three are members of Omaha AGO; Timothy Pobanz, SPC; Timothy Conner, SPC; and Jeremiah Bolin. Also playing and pictured is Thomas Koch, the KVNO "Classical Kid of the Month" for July as an organ student.

Names in photo: Front row left-right: Augustine Terneus; Lydia Baker; Catherine Conner; Nathanael Conner; Wyatte Baker.

Back row, left-right: Dr. Christensen; Timothy Pobanz, SPC; Shelby Underwood; Mary Milbrath; Thomas Koch; Timothy Conner, SPC; Jeremiah Bolin.



CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE

On June 11, 2019, the American Guild of Organists, by action of the AGO National Council, entered into a partnership with the Church Music Institute to provide discounted CMI membership rates for AGO members. AGO members will have the ability to enjoy CMI member benefits at a discounted rate, which include access to its fully searchable online Sacred Music Library with nearly 19,000 curated choral selections and over 14,000 organ composition titles.

<https://www.churchmusicinstitute.org/ago-partnership-with-church-music-institute/>

SOUND CHOICES FOR THE ORGANIST

Dan Miller Concert and Workshop

When: Sat, September 21st, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. - Workshop

Sun, September 22nd, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. - Concert

Where: Saint Paul UMC, 324 South Jackson Street, Papillion NE 68046

Description: Details - Free Admission



Featuring the Rodgers Infinity 361 provided by Gerald Oehring & Associates

Contact Us to RSVP at rsvp@geraldoehring.com or call (402) 432-7126

Workshop Details:

The organ should: + be friendly, warm, inviting, fun! + joyfully celebrate or prayerfully meditate

+ be user-friendly + offer unlimited creativity + enhance worship

Workshop focus:

Explore creative organ stop and ensemble selections for any worship style + Learn solutions for record/playback + Discover useful repertoire including free internet downloads + Make me sound good!

Free organ music by Dan Miller will be given to each attendee

Dan will offer tips and practical suggestions to organists to expand their opportunities for creative selection of organ stops and managing the console functions. Dan will also offer useful organ music repertoire ideas, always of interest to any organist!

Sponsored by Rodgers Instruments and Gerald Oehring and Associates

Email: rsvp@geraldoehring.com

PAUL HESSELINK

In this month's AGO magazine (pg. 16), there is an article on Paul Hesselink being honored by the Southern Nevada AGO chapter. He is the brother of Omaha Chapter Friend Ardys Hansum.

THE WINDCHEST

The *Windchest* editor is Jeff Hoffman. Please send content suggestions and information to Jeff at omahaago@gmail.com by the 25th of each month. *The Windchest* will be published on or before the first of each month.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



Compline at Trinity Cathedral
Ancient Worship for the Modern Soul
Compline – night prayer – is a contemplative office focused on spiritual peace. Trinity Cathedral's Schola Cantorum will offer music at this candlelit liturgy of prayer and reflection.

Compline is offered at 7:00 pm on
September 22
October 13
November 17



Cantata Choral Academy
Choral music education for children and youth in the Anglican tradition.
Fall registration now open

<http://trinityepiscopal.org/cantata>



Opera Omaha ONE Festival Preview Concert
Thursday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Cathedral

Music of Alessandro Stradella, including motets sung by the Trinity Cathedral Schola Cantorum
Free admission



MAGNIFICAT: Cathedral Vespers
Sunday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.
Saint Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St., Omaha

Choral Festival event with the Saint Cecilia Cathedral Choir, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choir, and guest choirs



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18th St. (18th & Capitol)
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 342-7010
trinityepiscopal.org

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.

CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT

AUTUMN

Saturday, September 7, 2020 - 10 AM—1:00 PM
Remembering TRK
A tour of some of the buildings of Thomas Rogers Kimball and a visit to the family plot at Forest Lawn Cemetery.
Departure & return: Saint Cecilia Cathedral, 40th & Webster Streets.
RSVP by September 4, 2019, with name, phone & number of guests to dabegley@archomaha.org or call 402-827-3847

Sunday, September 8, 2019 - 1 PM—3 PM
Edge: Fiber Art and Quilting
First Friday Reception: October 4, 2019
Closes: Sunday, October 13, 2019

Saturday, October 5, 2019 - 10:30 AM
The Blessing of the Animals
A celebration of all creatures great and small

Sunday, October 20, 2019 - 3 PM
Cathedral Organist Series
Nicole Simental, Organist
Saint Joseph Cathedral Columbus, OH

Sunday, October 20, 2019 - 1 PM—3 PM
Plein Air: In the Tradition of the Impressionists
First Friday Reception: November 1, 2019
Closes: Sunday, November 17, 2019

Sunday, November 17, 2019 - 3 PM
HOMMAGE NOTRE DAME
Saint Cecilia Cathedral Choir
Missa Notre Dame, Machaut; Messe Solennelle - Vierge;
Salve Regina - Latry
Marie Rubis Bauer, Director & Michael Emmerich Organist

CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT

35 YEARS

OMAHA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

2019-2020 chapter season details were discussed, and all plans to be completed for inclusion in the 2019-2020 Membership Directory.

Complimentary memberships, funded from the Omaha AGO budget, will be given annually, to encourage organists who have not joined to experience the AGO.

An email will be sent to encourage members recruit new members for the Omaha Chapter.

The AGO Achievement Award Pilot Program was discussed, and the application to host POE Advanced in 2021 is in process.

Discussion was held regarding future collaboration with Central Iowa (Des Moines) and Lincoln chapters.

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