

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



APRIL 2023

FROM THE DEAN

There have been many organ events around the Metro, most of which have involved our members one way or another. What I have noticed in the ones I have attended is that only a handful of our members appear to be in attendance at these events. I'm not sure why so many of us don't support these events by attending and appreciating the efforts of those who are sponsoring and/or playing at the events. I know we are all busy with our own lives and our own musical challenges. But this month's comments from me serve as a reminder that there are many good events happening in our community and attending them is valuable not only for us who attend, but especially for those who are conducting the events.

Along that line, please consider participating in our informal member's recital on April 23. Actually, calling it a recital is sort of a misnomer. It is more of an occasion for us to get together and share a favorite, "go-to" piece with one another. It is an opportunity for us to cheer each other on. This is not a recital to prepare a difficult "concert piece." This is an opportunity to share one of those compositions you go back to when you need something fast or last minute or that you find useful in a variety of situations. See the article about it below and let Reggie know you will share something that afternoon.

Stephen Bartelt, Dean

AGO NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

The ballot will ask you to affirm the following nominations:

Executive committee:

Dean: Steve Bartelt - on the ballot for a one year term
Sub Dean: Jeff Hoffman on the ballot for a one year term
Secretary: Dirk Lindner - on the ballot for a one year term
Treasurer: David McCain - on the ballot for a one year term

At-Large Members:

Julie Sandene - came on to fill a term in January - on the ballot for a 3 year term

On April 2 Secretary Laura Scow will send out the email ballot to the membership for voting. Votes will be taken on a separate email address and need to be cast by May 1. Officers will be installed at the May dinner.

INFORMAL MEMBERS' RECITAL

Sunday Afternoon, April 23, 3:00 P.M.

Countryside Community Church, 13130 Faith Plz.

Greetings to you all!

I have met with Alex Ritter of Countryside Community Church and I'm pleased to announce that the Springtime Members Recital is a go!

Countryside Community Church has a beautiful Sanctuary with a fantastic instrument that not only sounds great in their space, but is accessible for all who wish to share a piece of music with those who will be present.

Please send an email to myself at rwpiferh23@gmail.com, to schedule a time to meet Alex at Countryside to have a review of the organ and get a feel for the space as well.

I look forward to hearing from those of you who will be sharing your gift of music with us.

As previously discussed, we're looking for members to share a short 3-5 minute piece with others that are gathered. This can be a piece as simple as an improvisation or a complex Toccata, if you wish. It can be one of your favorite "go-to" pieces that you pull out when you need something. In other words, we are not asking any of you to go to a lot of work to prepare a "recital piece" only a couple of weeks after Easter. Hopefully, it will be a time at which we can applaud and appreciate each other.

Thank you all and please let me or anyone on the AGO board know if you have any questions.

Respectfully yours,
The Rev. Reginald W. Pifer

"SAVE THE DATE" FOR OUR MAY EVENT!

MONDAY, MAY 22, 6:00 p.m. End of season fellowship banquet. Meal will be catered. Location: St. John Lutheran, 633 Willow Ave. Council Bluffs. Cost will be \$15 and reservation details will be announced in a couple of weeks. Program will be an opportunity to honor two of our longtime members. Sounds exciting, doesn't it. Watch for details.

UPCOMING ORGAN PROGRAMS . . .

LINCOLN CHAPTER EVENT

The Lincoln Organ Showcase will feature Adam Pajan in concert at Southwood Lutheran Church, 4301 Wilderness Hill Blvd, Lincoln, on April 14th at 4:00 p.m. Pajan is on the organ faculty at the University of Oklahoma and Artist in Residence at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tulsa. Admission is free. Here is an opportunity for us to support our sister chapter in Lincoln. These are always fine recitals.

UNO STUDENT RECITALS

Two of our chapter members are presenting their student recitals at UNO on the same day, May 7. Kali Matz will be playing her Junior Recital at 3:00 p.m. Annika Johanson follows with her Senior Recital at 4:30 p.m. Both recitals are in the Strauss Performing Arts Center on the UNO campus, 6001 Dodge, Omaha. A good turnout from our membership will be an encouragement to these student members of our chapter.

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

The Wichita Chapter is sponsoring a Pipe Organ Encounter for teenagers, ages 13-18 on June 25-30 at Wichita State University, Wichita. Participants should have achieved an intermediate level of keyboard proficiency, but no previous organ study is necessary. What is necessary is an interest in learning what the organ is all about and an eagerness to explore if pursuing the organ might be right for the student.

If our chapter members are aware of students who might benefit from attending this POE, our chapter has decided to offer a limited number of \$250 scholarships to students nominated by one of our chapter members. Chapter members should contact the Dean, Stephen Bartelt, through the chapter email, omahaago@gmail.com to request a scholarship for any students they may nominate with detailed information about the student and their application. Since our chapter was not able to hold the POE we wanted to sponsor last summer, we want to make attendance at this "nearby" POE workable for any interested students in our area.

The other POE this summer is located at Wheaton, Illinois, June 18-23. More information on both of the Pipe Organ Encounters is on the national website, agohq.org. The scholarship offer applies to the Illinois event also.

A NON-AGO EVENT OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS:

Come lend your voice to the NCDA Church Choir Festival on April 29, sponsored by the Nebraska Choral Directors Association! The festival will take place at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 510 N. 93rd St, Omaha.

Mark Hayes will be the featured choral clinician at this all day event, rehearsing seven of this anthems from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM. He will share his inspiration behind the creation of these compositions and arrangements and give his unique perspective on how to best sing his music. The day will culminate in a concert at 4:30 PM featuring the festival chorus conducted by Maestro Hayes, vocal solos accompanied by the arranger and several piano solos performed by Mark Hayes, an internationally known concert pianist.

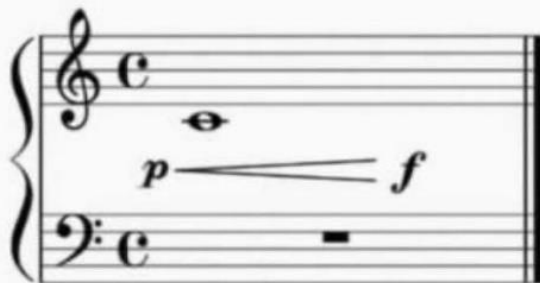
Cost for the event is \$20 per person, plus the cost of music. Snacks and drinks will be provided throughout the day and lunch will be offered by St. Timothy's church for a free-will offering.

For more information about how to be a part of the choir and to purchase festival repertoire, please visit the NCDA website at www.nebraskachoral.org. All singers are expected to purchase the music in advance and learn it prior to the massed rehearsal with Mark Hayes on April 29.

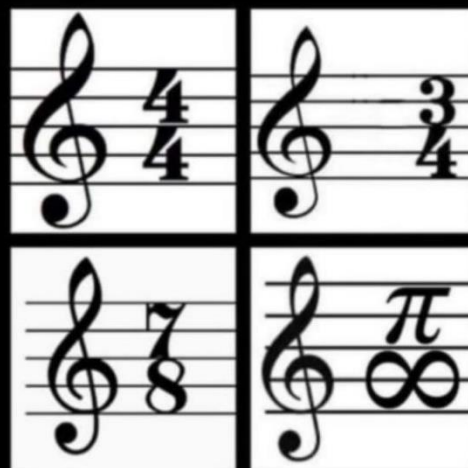
Please contact Kristi Treu with questions at kristi@pcoc.us or 402-333-7466.

Laughs Around the Organ Bench . . .

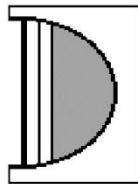
Musicians, if a pianist ever bullies you, just ask them if they can play this



Time signatures in order of increasing difficulty



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