

THE WINDCHEST



OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

DECEMBER 2020

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FROM THE DEAN

"Find Joy in each day" - Saint Philip Neri

This quote is on a card a friend sent to me knowing that I like the word JOY. I see the quote when I sit at my desk. Last week I decided that I really want to wake up with joy in my heart every day. I quickly realized - that is hard! There is so much that drags the joy out of our lives right now. Maybe the challenge is to find the joy every day. Lately my joy has come from a great-niece's wedding, being part of churches giving food, practicing the piano to accompany special music at church this week, receiving emails and calls from friends I haven't seen for a while, realizing in this time of thanksgiving all for which I can truly be thankful. In this time of COVID we can be thankful that so many folks are able to recover and resume life. And that a vaccine is closer.

I hope, as we enter the season of Advent, that we can all find joy in the waiting. The anticipation of the birth of Christ propels us through this time. Maybe the ways we do our waiting for this season will help us as we wait for the time we can be together. I have not heard of Omaha members being sick - and I hope you would let us know if you know of AGO friends for whom there is health concern.

facebook

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

Steve Bartelt, Sub-Dean, and his committee are working on programming for 2021, which will be mostly virtual. We think there will be 2 in person events. There are getting to be lots of things to watch on YouTube or in webinars. The national AGO website has offerings you can access. I know I have been on more Zoom meetings than I ever thought I would experience! Elizabeth George, the AGO Director of Chapter Development, has had Chapter Deans involved in meetings about technology and chapter information during this unusual time. Your Board continues to meet monthly via Zoom and notes from November's meeting are elsewhere in this newsletter.

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>.

NEW MEMBERS

Omaha AGO welcomes 13 year old organist Brett Allen from Council Bluffs. Brett plays two Sundays a month at the ELCA Lutheran Church in Treynor. Welcome Brett!

Also welcome to Carolyn DeLorme from Fargo, ND, who is a mental health professional and a supporter of the organ. She has joined the chapter at the invitation of Dr. Christensen. Welcome to Carolyn!

Maybe this is a good time for us, as members, to think of other organists who don't belong to the AGO. I hope we can be supportive of each other and offer encouragement when things are sometimes hard to manage. Is there someone you know who might benefit from membership in the Omaha chapter? Membership chair, Laura Rau, would be happy to contact possible members.

YouTube - have you availed yourself of the opportunities offered here? Last month, the National Lutheran Choir offered an All-Saints concert (was in the Windchest) that had 5,000 views - more than would have fit at their concert site. It was an amazing concert with videos. This month - December 8 at 8 p.m. - check out NLCA.com for their Christmas concert.

The Organ crawl at Longwood Gardens last month was interesting. In case you missed it - was about 15 minutes long - but the nice thing about YouTube is that other things pop up. So, we listened to "Finlandia" played on the organ by Peter Richard Conte - and then there was a tour of the Gardens and conservatory. That made a wonderful organ meeting for me. I hope you have tried this out. You can still access this organ crawl.

December 11 - Organ factory tour of the Austin Organ Co. It premieres at noon that day, but stays on YouTube after that where you can watch it any time. It is on AGOYO YouTube on the AGOHQ.org website.

I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving - and much joy in the days to come.

Blessings to all,
Jean Johnson, Dean

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.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

Updated operating procedures for the Omaha Chapter have been emailed to you with a request to vote on the updates. If you did not receive this email, please contact Jean Johnson or Jeff Hoffman.

ENCOURAGING YOUNG ORGANISTS

American Guild of Organists, or as we all call it, the AGO. This is one of the many acronyms we organists and musicians seem to use. "Are you playing out of LSB, ELW, or LBW?" Something so small yet so important, as who wants to substitute at a church and find out they practiced out of the wrong hymnal! It is certainly a learning process to memorize all the different acronyms we use, and one of them that may not be as familiar to some of us is AGOYO.

What is an AGOYO, or more specifically, who is an AGOYO? AGOYO stands for American Guild of Organists Young Organists, or an AGO member who is under 30 years of age. The AGOYO National Board is a team of 6 young organists (AGO members) who plan educational and social events for young organists across the United States and international chapters, so young organists everywhere may have the opportunity to learn and connect with one another.

I recently had the honor of serving on the National AGOYO Board and was part of planning the current virtual AGOYO Fridays at Noon EDT series for this year. Program list found here: <https://www.agohq.org/agoyo/agoyo-fridays-at-noon-online-events/>. We spent a lot of time discussing what types of panels and events would be interesting to organists, but also something more specific that young organists would have an interest in participating in - I'm sure we can all remember beginning our organ career and how much there was to learn! Examples of these events have been virtual organ crawls and different panels such as being an organist in different parts of the globe! A future panel event that AGOYO and AGO members might find of interest is a panel of members who tell about their experiences about serving on AGO boards and other leadership positions and answering questions about them. While this event is in March, I think it might be useful for members of all ages to check out, as it can share a lot of how to contribute as a young organist and also help other members find ways to engage young members!

Now that my time on the National AGOYO Board has come to an end, I am focusing more specifically on Midwestern chapters. I recently started at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church as their Director of Music and am slowly but surely getting better acquainted with the wonderful Omaha community! Having grown up in Ankeny, IA (north of Des

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following new members may be added to your directory.

Allen, Brett
402-637-1527
820 S 32nd St,
Council Bluffs, IA
51501
Young Organist

DeLorme, Carolyn
701-739-2089
4150 40th Ave S,
Unit 225, Fargo ND
58104

SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST

Please add new member Mary Norton to the substitute list in your directory. She may be contacted at davidandmarynorton@yahoo.com or 408-202-4127.

Moines) and attending Iowa State University, I am elated that Omaha has been so welcoming and that it is also quite similar to the Des Moines area in terms of culture and living – I think we have all had to make plenty of adjustments in this unique year of 2020, so I'm happy that this was not another big adjustment!

In coordination with the Omaha AGO, I am actively seeking ways to engage young organists in the Omaha and surrounding chapters! Some things to look forward to in the future would be bi-weekly virtual meetings for AGOYO members to connect and get to know each other. A future event currently in planning for January will be a presentation/QA on the AGO certifications – what are they, how are they useful, and how do I complete a certification. I also am welcoming any other ideas AGO or AGOYO members might find enticing! Feel free to pass those ideas along to me, or to connect with me, at hastings134@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Zach Hastings

PIPEDREAMS

Some of you may have noticed a program entitled "Pipedreams" in March on the Presbyterian Church of the Cross Organ Vesper Series season. This is not a "Pipedreams" as we know it hosted by Michael Barone. This is a title their organizers thought would be appropriate for their program. We wanted you to be aware of this, as Omaha Chapter member Marie Rubis Bauer is playing a program on the same day and time with the Omaha Symphony's Suzanna Perry Gilmore. Now we do not need to choose between the two!

OMAHA CHAPTER PROGRAMMING

No program is scheduled for December. Programming for 2021 is being finalized and the information will be published soon.

OMAHA
CHAPTER
COMMITTEE
CHAIRS

**Education /
Certification**

Sr. Claudette Schiratti

Historian

David McCain

Membership

Laura Rau

Publicity

Windchest

Jeff Hoffman

Professional Concerns

Jerry Brabec

Programs

Stephen Bartelt

Young Organists

Zach Hastings

From the
November 10,
2020 Board
Meeting
The chapter is on a
solid financial
footing. Three
members have not
renewed, but the
chapter has
continued to
receive new
members.

NOVEMBER EXECITVE BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The program offerings for 2021 will be published in the January Windchest and you will receive a printed copy. The board believes the programs will be worthwhile, educational, and enjoyable to all. Kali Matz will be working on the Facebook page. Zach Hastings has agreed to work with our Young Organists, having recently gone off the national board of the same.

Scholarship and membership opportunities for young organists are being developed so they can be offered in the spring.

The "Operating Procedures to Govern the Omaha Chapter" will be sent to members as a separate attachment. This is a document that has been drawn up and voted by the board to be adopted by the chapter. Ordinarily this would be done at a meeting, but you are asked to send your vote whether to adopt or not.

The chapter is grateful to your board members - Steve, Greg, David, Jeff, Laura and Sr. Claudette for their continued efforts.

OMAHA SYMPHONY VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

This learning resource is for teachers and students of all levels and ages who are looking to expand their knowledge and understanding of musical performance. Resources are continually being added to this page, which will serve as an index of what is available. You may find it helpful to bookmark this page and check back regularly.

All resources are broken down by type and then suggested age range. However, our musician videos may be of interest to other age ranges. Please feel to use whatever might be of use for your students.

Be sure to check our YouTube Channel regularly — new Virtual Classroom content created by the musicians of the Omaha Symphony is being added weekly!

If you do use the resources in your online learning or you are looking for something specific, we'd love to hear from you! Send an email to education@omahasymphony.org.

<https://www.omahasymphony.org/virtual-classroom>

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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Member-at-Large Jeff Hoffman - 2018/2019 - 2020/2021
omahaago@gmail.com + 402-317-8887

Member-at-Large Laura Rau - 2018/2019 - 2019/2022
laura.m.rau@gmail.com + 620-870-9768

Member-at-Large Sr. Claudette Schiratti - 2020/2021 - 2022/2023
cschiratti1@gmail.com + 913-530-0960

OPEN POSITION

Church of the Holy Spirit, 1305 Thomas Dr., Bellevue, NE

Part-time beginning on December 1, 2020

Starting Pay: \$100 - \$125/Sunday and for special events/services

Job Description: Work alongside our choir director to provide inspirational music for our Sunday morning worship serves at 9:30 am and during other special/seasonal worship services throughout the church year. While the organ has been our primary instrument, we also have a Clavinova, and electronic keyboard.

Duties include:

- Coordinating choral music selections with the Choir Director and Clergy
- Accompanying the choir during rehearsal (typically Sunday morning before the service)
- Selecting solo music for prelude, postlude and other times as coordinated
- Attending quarterly Worship Committee meetings (held on Sunday mornings)
- Playing for funerals and weddings held at the church (paid for separately)

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's of Music degree or equivalent work experience
- At least 3 years experience playing piano and/or organ in a worship capacity
- Self-motivated to rehearse and maintain a high quality of music
- Knowledge of, and familiarity with, worship in the Episcopal Church (preferred)
- High degree of competence on the organ (preferred)

Please contact Fr. Tom Jones at frtom@chsepisopal.org.



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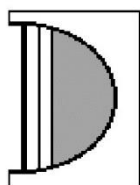
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