

Welcome to the website of the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We are a vibrant, welcoming, diverse group of musicians passionate about the organ and its music, as well as choral and vocal music. We desire to work collegially to improve our skills and to encourage others to share our love for the organ and its music.

The chapter's almost one hundred members represent a broad spectrum of skills and experiences. On the one hand, we have a number of members professionally employed in music full time. At the other end of the spectrum, we have a significant number of young organists and organ students. In between, are the majority of our members who are part-time organists, retired organists, aspiring organists, and some who just love the organ and its music. Additionally, several of our members teach organ and anyone interested in learning the instrument is invited to contact one of them.

Thank you for viewing our website. I invite you to look at our monthly newsletter, the *Windchest*, where you'll find our latest news and information about our upcoming programs. If you are not a member, I'd invite you to check out a program or two of ours and then consider joining.

Our programs provide opportunities for our members to get together to share and to support one another, to grow professionally, and to contribute their talents to the chapter and community. The chapter generally sponsors at least one major recital or festival per year that is open to the whole community.

Our chapter, of course, is part of the national American Guild of Organists. The national organization, among other things, sponsors several levels of organist certifications, sponsors regional and national conventions, supports a number of Pipe Organ Encounters to introduce the instrument to young people, provides resources and assistance to chapters such as ours, and publishes a monthly magazine, *The American Organist*. A membership includes both the national and chapter membership.

There are many organs in the Omaha metro. While many churches have adopted other musical idioms, the organ is still well represented in Omaha

churches, from modest instruments in many locales to several large, nationally recognized instruments. UNO has a wonderful instrument, and the Rose Theater is home to an historic theater organ. The AGO and the Omaha Chapter are on the forefront of promoting a continuing love for and appreciation of the organ and its music in our churches and culture.

The chapter is far from an elite group of organ “snobs.” If you are an organist or a lover of organ, you are welcome and encouraged to become part of our group of organ enthusiasts. If you have questions or comments, please email us at omahaago@gmail.com.

Stephen Bartelt, Dean