

# THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



FEBRUARY 2020

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

## FROM THE DEAN

The "Founding Fathers" of the American Guild of Organists were truly visionary when they listed education as a purpose for founding the guild. Education opportunities have been—and continue to be—a primary focus of AGO programming for more than a century, and the Omaha chapter of the AGO is no exception. In fact, the Omaha AGO chapter is recognized for development of education opportunities not only in our region, but nationally as well.

Consider the chapter's current programming: two upcoming workshops before the end of this season, including one titled "Basic Improvisation" (February 15); and "Service and Program Planning, Organization & Management" (April 25). Yet to come this season is the performance of the "B-Minor Mass" by Johann Sebastian Bach, (Friday, March 6), certainly a rare opportunity for musical growth, but for aesthetic, spiritual and artistic growth as well. Quoting from Spire Chamber Ensemble promotional material: "The B-minor Mass" is a pillar of human achievement on par with Michelangelo's "Sistine Chapel" and Shakespeare's collection of plays, and to witness it live is quite simply an essential life experience."

How about AGO certification opportunities offered by the Omaha chapter? Yes, our membership has at least one member preparing the take AAGO exams this spring in addition to one member who will finish Part II of the CAGO exam. Three members are preparing to play the SPC exam this spring. Moreover, National is developing a new certification program which "precedes" SPC. Omaha AGO is one of few chapters invited to serve as a "pilot project" chapter to "test run" examples of "what works and what needs to be changed." In its initial year of experimentation, this education opportunity may be either self-taught or taught as a class. This experimental education program will continue into the next season.

Omaha AGO has a significant history developing and supporting education events, not only at the local level, but the regional level as well. It has been noted that Omaha AGO membership lists 13 "Young Members," those members who are under the age of 30 years! Omaha

## 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.

AGO members have an amazing number of organ students, some of whom, as teen-agers, play for regular services. National AGO has taken note of the increase in “Young Organist” enrollment. The “Young Organist” membership is the reason, for example, that the content, format and presentation of The American Organist (TAO) has been updated, offering a fresh and new perspective to the publication that appeals to young people.

The executive board of the chapter is actively developing an exciting series of events for the upcoming season. Meanwhile, take advantage of the significant opportunities for professional and personal growth the chapter offers this season.

Stay up to date! Watch the chapter’s Face Book and Website for up-to-the-minute news and updates!

Peace and good will. Psalm 96:1,2. Sincerely yours,

*Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, AAGO*

Dean

## THE FUTURE OF OMAHA AGO

The Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is alive and well! Our chapter meets frequently, provides outstanding educational opportunities, and strives to always nurture the art of playing and the appreciation of the organ.

Planning for the future will be an important agenda item on the February agenda for our Executive Committee. In anticipation of the possibility of hosting a Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced we are asking for everyone’s help in strengthening our chapter’s resources.

With the blessing of the Dean, Executive Committee Member will be reaching out to all members of the Omaha Chapter to determine how every member might participate in some way in service to our chapter and the mission of the AGO. In advance of a personal contact Mr. Hoffman will send an email containing details of the opportunities for service. Please contemplate how you may help and do all you can to contribute to the continued success of the Omaha AGO!

## OMAHA AGO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Omaha AGO Executive Committee did not meet in January due to lack of a quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. A summary of the meeting will be included in the March edition of *The Windchest*.

## PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER ADVANCED

The Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists submitted an application to host a Pipe Organ Encounter – Advanced in July of 2021. We will be notified in May of 2020 regarding the approval of our application. Until that time, we may not actively engage in many planning activities, including securing teachers. Should our application be accepted a committee will be appointed immediately and work will begin in earnest!

In anticipation of a positive outcome several members of the Omaha AGO have been working behind the scenes to have the groundwork in place to launch and active agenda to organize the event. Should our application be declined, the efforts being undertaken will benefit the chapter by putting in place sound committees and communication mechanisms.

## OMAHA CHAPTER FEBUARY MEETING

2019 - 2020  
FEBRUARY

OMAHA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Saturday, February 15, 2020 - 9:00 a.m.

Basic Improvisation

Presented by Michael McCabe

Dowd Chapel on the Boys Town Campus

13943 Dowd Dr, Boys Town, NE 68010

Discover the fundamentals of composing on the spot!



The February program of the Omaha Chapter of the AGO promises to be useful and inspiring! Those who have accomplished improvisation skills will find some new techniques and those who are beginning or have never attempted improvisation will find the way to begin!

## LENTEN EVENSONG

Sunday, March 1,  
4:00 p.m.

St. Andrew's  
Episcopal Church

925 S 84th Street

The combined  
choirs of All Saints  
Episcopal Church,  
St. Andrew's  
Episcopal Church,  
and Trinity  
Episcopal  
Cathedral offer the  
traditional Anglican  
service of Choral  
Evensong annually  
on the first Sunday  
in Lent. Rotating  
between the three  
churches, this  
year's liturgy will be  
held at St. Andrew's  
Church. Choral  
works will include  
Magnificat and  
Nunc Dimittis by  
Michael McCabe  
and the premiere  
of an anthem by  
Marie Rubis Bauer.  
Marty Wheeler  
Burnett, Michael  
Bauer, and Laura  
Scow will play and  
conduct.

## REVIEW

Suggestion of Three CDs to listen to. They have all been nominated for Grammys.

Jan Kraybill, *The Orchestral Organ*, Reference Recordings, ©2019.

This recording, played on the Julia Irene Kauffman Organ, Casavant Frères, Op. 3875, at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, MO, includes transcriptions of well-known and some obscure orchestral pieces, transcribed by organists, and in some occasions, the composer himself, including a world premiere and a first recording. Jan is only the third organist nominated for a Grammy, and the first woman organist nominated. This is an interesting recording involving transcriptions for organ of orchestral pieces.

Joyce DiDonato, *Songplay*, Erato, ©2019.

In this CD, Joyce improvises classical Italian vocal repertoire as well as contemporary selections. She is having fun with music and quotes Louis Armstrong, "You got to love to be able to play." As organists, we are encouraged to develop the skill of improvisation, so often used in previous centuries and by our French counterparts and making a comeback in our own time. *Songplay* is a fun example of a classical vocalist, having fun and improvising.

KC Chorale, Charles Bruffy, conductor, *Artifacts: The Music of Michael McGlynn*.

This recording explores the works of Irish composer Michael McGlynn (b. 1964). *Artifacts* is a remarkable collection of Chorale stalwarts and new favorites that deliver the movement and intimacy of a live performance. Recorded at the Cathedral of Saint Peter the Apostle in Kansas City, the album features elements of traditional Irish music, such as modal harmonies and ornamented melodies, as well as new compositions on ancient Irish texts. The Gaelic language and choral sounds are captivating and inspiring.

Sr. Claudette Schiratti, AAGO

## GEORGE RITCHIE INTERVIEW

Please note the second part of an interview with *George Ritchie* is included in the most recent issues of *The American Organist*.

## OPEN POSITIONS LISTED ON OMAHA AGO WEBSITE

Please visit the Omaha AGO website [www.omahaago.org/open-positions](http://www.omahaago.org/open-positions) for details regarding the following open positions in the area. We feature one open position in this month's newsletter. Please visit the Omaha AGO website at [omahaago.org](http://omahaago.org) for information regarding all positions.

### **Pacific Hills Lutheran Church**

Director of Music (Organist, Choir Director)

1110 South 90th Street

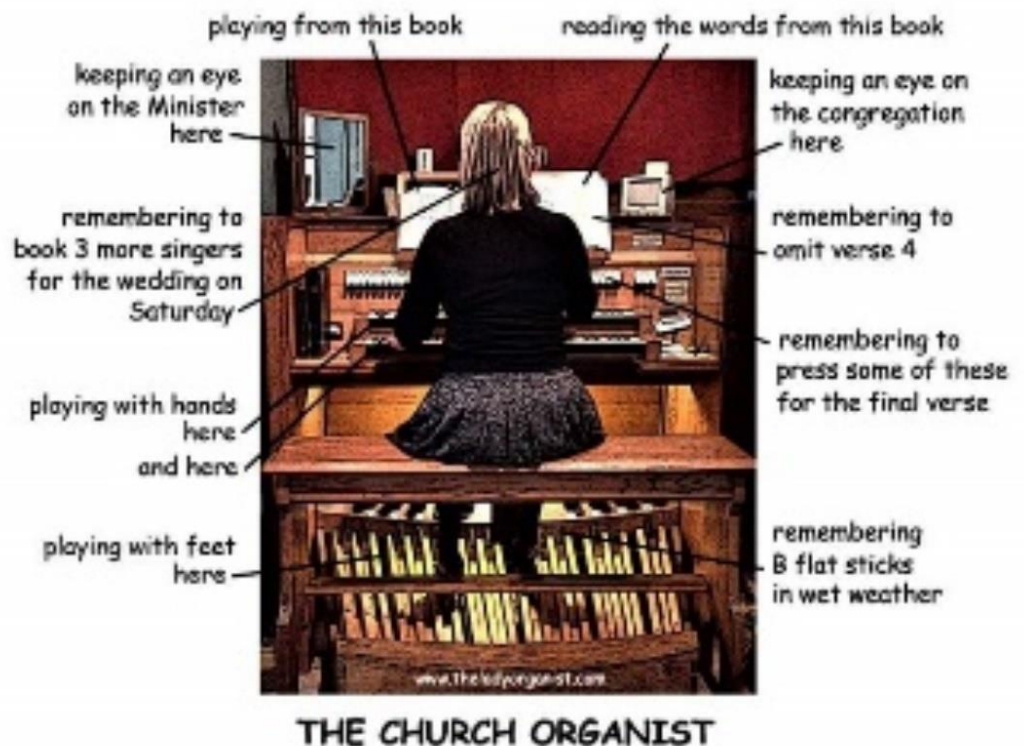
Omaha, NE 68124

Dennis Grindle, Consultant/Spokesman-Search Committee

Telephone: 402-690-1103

Email: [dgrindle@seimjohnson.com](mailto:dgrindle@seimjohnson.com)

## MANY ORGANISTS IN THEIR CURRENT POSTIONS!



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Rev. Nathan A. Sherrill**

**Rev. Timothy A. Frank**

**239 Frank Street**

**Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503**

**712-322-4729**

**Presents:**

**Wednesday at Noon**

**Lenten Organ Recitals**

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church invites you to a series of  
Lenten Organ Recitals to be held on Wednesdays at Noon during Lent.

The free recitals begin at 12:00 p.m. lasting 35-40 minutes.

A "home cooked" meal will be served in St. Paul's undercroft following the recitals.

**2020 Series includes:**

**February 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Ambrose Terneus**

**Studying organ in France**

**March 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Zachary Zieschang, SPC**

**Organist/Director of Music ~ Zion Lutheran Church, Omaha**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Peggy Wolverton**

**Member ~ American Guild of Organist, Omaha Chapter.**

**March 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Jeff Hoffman**

**Organist at St. Barnabas Catholic Church  
Omaha**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Timothy Conner, SPC**

**Part-time organist at Zion Lutheran Church, Manning.**

**April 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Thomas Koch**

**Part-time organist for St. Bridget's Catholic Church,  
Omaha.**







## Nicole Keller, Organist

Sunday, February 2, 3 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church  
2225 Washington Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Presented by Lincoln Organ Showcase & Grace Lutheran Church

Tickets available in the choir  
Register online and/or  
Senior \$10  
Youth \$5 (under 18 admitted free)  
Students with current academic  
achievement letter

Nicole Keller brings virtuosic technique and sensitive musicality to the 1969 Casavant and friendly acoustic of Grace Lutheran Church. An active solo and chamber music recitalist in the U.S. and abroad, Keller enjoys exploring all aspects of organ repertoire, especially pairing new music with the staples of the repertoire. She is on the faculty at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio and is Associate Organist at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland. Keller received the Performer's Certificate and Master of Music in Organ Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York under the tutelage of David Higgs.

## Sinai Festival Sounds

### 2020 Spring Programs

Nola Jeanpierre, Soprano &  
Dr. Claudette Valentine, Accompanist

Sunday, February 16th at 3:00pm



Donna Hetrick  
& Shayla Van Hal

Organists

Sunday, March 22nd at 3:00pm



Series Supported by Freewill Offering

Sinai Lutheran Church 950 E 8th St., Fremont, Nebraska 68025 402-721-1665  
sinailutheranfremontne@gmail.com www.sinailutheran.com

# WINTER

**Sunday, December 1, 2019 - 1 PM—3 PM**

## **Annual Cathedral Christmas Market**

First Friday Reception: December 6, 2019

Closes: Sunday, January 5, 2020

**Friday, December 6, 2019 - 8PM**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019 - 2 PM**

## **Christmas at the Cathedral**

The Omaha Symphonic Chorus,

Greg Zielke, Conductor

Call (531) 600-8889 for ticket sales and information

**Sunday, December 15, 2019 - 3PM**

## **MAGNIFICAT: Cathedral Vespers**

Choral Festival Event with the Saint Cecilia Cathedral Choir,

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choir and Guest Choirs

**Saturday, Sunday, January 25, 26, 2020**

## **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Cathedral Flower festival**

### ***For Everything a Season***

Celebrating all occasions and honoring our florists

**Sunday, February 16, 2020 - 3 PM**

## **Sing Omaha Choirs**

Master Chorale & Women's Choir

Mathew Hill, Conductor

**Thursday, February 20, 2020 - 7 PM**

## **Annual Cathedral Lecture**

Cathedral Cultural Center - O'Donnell Lecture Hall

Completion of the Transformation of the Crystal Cathedral

Brother William Woeger, FSC, Liturgical Consultant and Designer

# CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT



# 35 YEARS



## 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>

OPERAOMAHA



### **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***

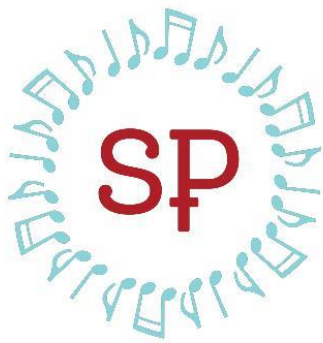
113 N 18th St. (18th & Capitol)

Omaha, NE 68102

(402) 342-7010

[trinityepiscopal.org](http://trinityepiscopal.org)

# ST. PAUL'S MUSIC CONSERVATORY



## St. Paul's Music Conservatory

Where Music Serves



### Teaching:

SPMC has 12 faculty members who teach in professional studios within St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

### Reaching:

SPMC teaches many students through the church and community that may not otherwise have an opportunity to take music lessons.



### Serving:

SPMC deploys students into churches and institutions throughout the community in order to encourage youth toward service and to show mercy and kindness to others.



St. Paul's Music Conservatory is located at 239 Frank Street in Council Bluffs. SPMC serves students in Eastern Nebraska and Southwest Iowa with professional studio lessons in the areas of Voice, Piano, Guitar, Organ, Strings, Winds and Brass. Our faculty is eager to serve the unique needs and interests of their students. For more information call:

712-322-8832 or email [pastorfrank239@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfrank239@gmail.com)

[www.stpaulsmusicconservatory.org](http://www.stpaulsmusicconservatory.org)

**Darrow Pipe Organ**

721 Pearl Street  
Onawa, Iowa  
Phone: 712-251-4101  
712-490-5669  
712-252-1804  
darrowpipeorgan.com  
darrowpipe@aol.com  
New Instruments,  
Restorations, Tuning &  
Service

**Pipe Organist**

Church Services,  
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Colleague of American  
Guild of Organists  
Cell: 402-720-5305  
claireason@gmail.com  
956 Hwy 30  
North Bend, Ne. 68649  
Answering Machine:  
(Home) 402-652-3366

**Keyboard Kastle**

Gregory A. Johnson,  
Manager  
Allen Organ  
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Omaha, Ne. 68132  
Ofc: 402-593-9400  
Cell: 402-7191923  
Ofc: 1-800-642-1271  
Fax: 402-593-1104  
Email:  
gj1814@earthlink.com  
keyboardkastle.com  
www.allenorgan.com

**Church Organs of  
Nebraska**

2600 North 48th St.  
Lincoln, Ne. 68504  
Gerald Oehring  
402-437-7126  
churchorgansofnebras  
ka.com  
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Corporation

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