

# The Windchest

Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



June 2019

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## 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.

## From the Dean

From the dean's perspective, the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is on the threshold of a new season that promises to offer a wide variety of high-quality concerts, recitals and professional growth opportunities.

But before listing future programming opportunities that are at hand, let's review some high points which are current, immediately past, while others look to the future. High points to consider include Omaha's AGO membership growth, especially the number of members who are 30 years of age or under. Membership at the beginning of the 2018-19 season listed 11 "Young Members." Current membership includes one "Young Member" who registered paying full membership fees rather than the "Young Member" or "Over 65" category. In October, a new Kantor arriving in the area, joined AGO as a "Young Member," making Omaha's "Young Member" registration count at 14! Among those "Young Members," one recently earned SPC certification; another "Young Member" successfully finished Part I of CAGO certification; currently preparing for Part II of CAGO certification. The future is looking better and better!

Of many high points that could be listed, space allows only one more: that one is opportunities Omaha AGO has to collaborate with other groups and organizations regarding program and/or promotion development. Consider collaboration opportunities Omaha AGO has with CAP (Cathedral Arts Project) and AGO membership churches that sponsor high quality programming at the parish level. Promotional and programming collaboration increases visibility, encourages participation and audience growth not only for AGO, but for various other groups to say nothing of personal and professional growth.

The future for Omaha AGO, both immediate and far into the future, is looking good! Eighteen "Feed Back Sheets" distributed at the End-of-Season banquet business meeting included the following list of suggestions for programming:

- Have a program of "sharing music, favorite pieces, wedding preparation"
- Program on Improvisation; technique improvement; transposition
- Youth participation by recruitment as organ assistant for guild members to introduce youth to organ
- Continue sponsoring recitals—outstanding organists and choirs
- Continue collaboration with local churches and organizations
- Workshop on: "Everything they didn't teach me about being a parish musician!"
- Reading sessions of new music; organ and piano works
- Web Site: continue "great updates!"
- Schedule a workshop in spring season
- Develop master classes
- Schedule an organ crawl
- Program involving members playing for each other on a special topic—seasonal music, etc.
- Workshop on hymn playing; creative hymn playing
- Quarterly or semi-annual hymn festivals
- Workshop on working with choirs, especially small choirs

This list is a powerful programming resource which will certainly be used by the board as plans for the upcoming season are finalized.

Soli Deo Gloria!

*Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, AAGO*

## 2019 Regional Convention Information

### NORTH CENTRAL REGION



Please review the 2018 convention information now!  
<http://www.agomilwaukee.org/>

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Hotel: Hyatt Regency Milwaukee  
June 16-19, 2019  
Larry Wheelock  
(Coordinator)  
3112A W. Highland Blvd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(Cell) 414-617-2535  
llwheels@icloud.com



Please like the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Facebook page. Information is posted regularly so that we may update those passionate about the organ frequently. Our page name is: Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

## Installation of the Omaha AGO Executive Board

Members of the newly elected and re-elected members of the Omaha AGO executive board were installed during the annual business meeting following a banquet on Monday, May 20 at Dundee Presbyterian Church.

Newly elected officers include Dirk Lindner, Sub-Dean; and Dr. Laura Rau, Member-at-Large 2019/20-21/22. Re-elected officers include: J Gordon Christensen, Dean; Gregory Johnson, Secretary; Gina Simpson, Treasurer. Continuing three-year terms as Members at Large include Sonja Lundgren and Jeffrey Hoffman.

Michael McCabe, one of the chapter's former Deans, conducted the installation rite.

Dirk Lindner is a long-time member of AGO, currently the organist at First Presbyterian Church in Bellevue. Laura Rau is the Director of Music at Christ the King Catholic Parish, Omaha. The chapter welcomes Dirk and Laura to leadership responsibilities, expressing appreciation for their commitment to serve Omaha AGO in leadership roles.

A sincere note of appreciation for the leadership contribution of Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer for serving four terms as chapter Sub-Dean; and to Jean Johnson for filling out a three-year member-at-large term followed by serving a full three-year term as board Member-at-Large. Your contributions as board members are acknowledged and deeply appreciated. Thank you!

The chapter also acknowledges nominations committee members who recruited candidates to fill all positions of the board. Special thanks to Ann Spangler, chairman of the committee, and to members Julie Sandene and Dr. Wayne Kallstrom for serving on the nominations committee.

## Project Opportunity

Dr. Jonathan B. Hall, FAGO, Director of the AGO Certification program, has contacted Omaha AGO leadership asking the chapter to consider developing a "Music Theory Class" taught by a member who holds AGO certification and/or a degree that includes semester hours of college level theory. Omaha is one of six chapters invited (recruited) to develop this program as a pilot project developing a program that leads to transposition, improvisation, and theory related skills that are necessary for organists, --and for meeting CAGO, AAGO and FAGO requirements. National would develop the curriculum which would be taught at the chapter level by a local chapter member, offering feed-back, including suggestions for change, or approval. Successful students would be awarded a professionally produced certificate at no cost to the chapter or members.

The National AGO Board of Directors formally supports the development of this project.

Omaha AGO is the fourth of six chapters recruited for this pilot project. Chapters currently committed include the Hudson Valley and Los Angeles chapters. The executive board of each participating chapter is required to officially approve participation in a duly called business meeting.

J Gordon Christensen, AAGO  
Dean, Omaha AGO



Support the American Guild of Organists national organization when you shop on Amazon. To designate the AGO to receive a portion of your shopping dollars, visit the following link: Click [here](#).



A choral and spiritual retreat in the heartland

A CHORAL AND SPIRITUAL RETREAT IN THE HEARTLAND First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska | July 19-21, 2019

We invite you to come to join us here in the heartland for a weekend choral and spiritual retreat—a gathering intended to offer inspiration for those who love to sing their faith and healing for those who long to refresh their spirit through singing and worship. Tom Trenney will shepherd the retreat choir as our pastoral leader in rehearsal and in Sunday worship. Ariel Merivil will share his spiritual gifts as a true minister of music. Rev. Barbara Crafton’s deep and meaningful reflections will comfort and challenge us. Dr. Michael Hawn will open our eyes to a broader vision of our faith experience, opening us to new vistas of joy. We look forward to welcoming you to the sanctuary of our church and to the heart of our ministry where you can truly sing your faith and refresh your spirit.

Retreat fee: \$75.00 (includes two meals and choral music)

http://www.firstplymouth.org/singyourfaith/

## Omaha AGO Member Earns Service Playing Certificate

Congratulations are in order to Kantor Zachary Zieschang, who recently earned the Service Playing Certificate of the AGO! Congratulations, ZACHARY ZIESCHANG, SPC!

Zachary Zieschang was installed as Kantor of Zion Lutheran Church, 14205 Ida Street, Omaha on September 2, 2018. He earned Bachelor degrees in Church Music and Music Education from Concordia University Chicago, as well as earning piano pedagogy certification. A native of Austin, Texas, he served churches in Texas and Michigan before moving to Omaha.

Zachary and his wife Mary are the parents of three children. He enjoys collecting and learning new musical instruments and has a passion for teaching children a variety of instruments. Additional interests include running, swimming and grilling.

Zachary is one of the newest members of Omaha AGO, officially joining the American Guild of Organists following his move to Omaha. So, Zachary, welcome to the American Guild of Organists, Omaha Chapter, and congratulations on earning the SPC in the first year of membership!

## Summer Sings!



Do you miss singing with your choir during the summer months? Join *Abendmusik* for our annual community Summer Sings!

This year's piece is W.A. Mozart's **Requiem** conducted by our incredible Artistic Director, Tom Trenney!

No entrance fee. No preparation necessary. No auditions required. No sign-up, just come ready to sing!

Music, hospitality, air conditioning, refreshments, and fun provided!

Wednesday | July 31 | 7:00-9:00 p.m. ~ First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln  
Thursday | August 1 | 7:00-9:00 p.m. ~ Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Omaha



Check [www.abendmusik.org](http://www.abendmusik.org) or contact us at 402-476-9933 for more information



## Celebration of Creativity in Fabric, Music, and Words

You are invited to attend "Come to Us, Creative Spirit," a celebration of creativity in fabric, music and words, at Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont on Sunday, June 9, at 3:00 p.m. Historic quilt patterns on Biblical themes and their stories will be paired with hymns and music based on those themes. The event is for quilters, musicians of every kind, and anyone interested in considering with eyes and ears the creative gifts God gives us all. The program features the work of nationally recognized quilter and designer Scott Flanagan with presenter Karen Melang. Organist Claire Bushong will be assisted by soprano Emily Wageman, and there will be opportunity for all to raise voices in song! The program is free of charge. Sinai Lutheran Church is located at 950 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Fremont.



## Pipe Organ Encounter Events for 2019

(as appearing in THE  
AMERICAN ORGANIST  
Magazine)

### Pipe Organ Encounters (for ages 13-18)

July 15-20, 2019  
Cape Cod,  
Massachusetts  
Cape Cod and Islands  
Chapter

July 14-19, 2019  
Seattle, Washington  
Seattle Chapter

July 28-August 3, 2019  
St. Louis, Missouri  
St. Louis Chapter

August 1-7, 2019  
Helsinki, Finland  
Finland Chapter

### Pipe Organ Encounter- Advanced

(for grades 9-12)  
June 23-28, 2019  
Houston, Texas  
Houston Chapter

### Pipe Organ Encounter- Technical

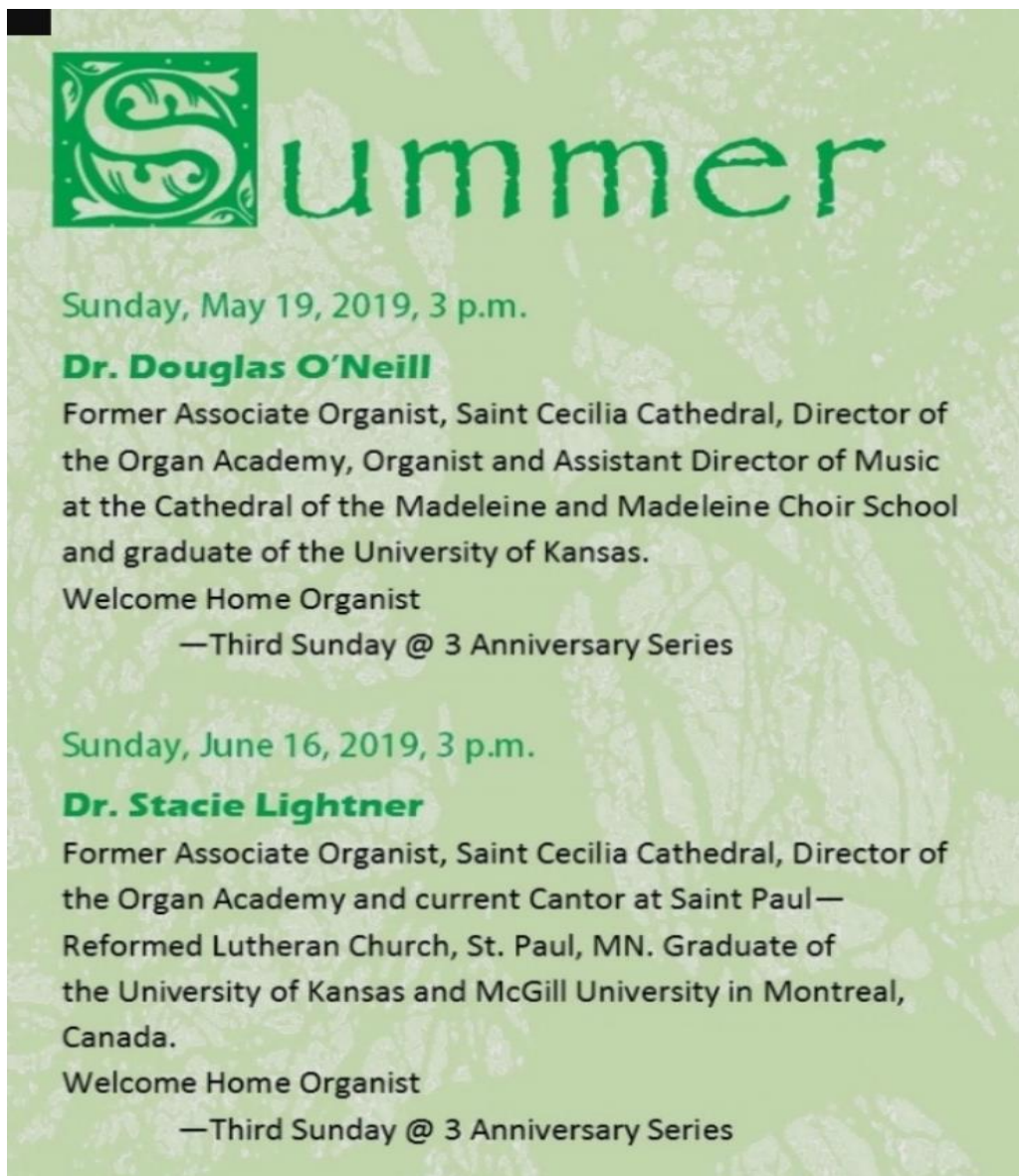
(for ages 16-23)  
July 21-27, 2019  
River Forest, Illinois &  
Oak Park, Illinois  
Berghaus Organ  
Builders, Inc. /  
Chicago Chapter

### The Pipe Organ Encounter-Plus

(for Adults) is not  
available in 2019

<https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/>

## Cathedral Arts Project



**S**ummer

Sunday, May 19, 2019, 3 p.m.

**Dr. Douglas O'Neill**  
Former Associate Organist, Saint Cecilia Cathedral, Director of the Organ Academy, Organist and Assistant Director of Music at the Cathedral of the Madeleine and Madeleine Choir School and graduate of the University of Kansas.  
Welcome Home Organist  
—Third Sunday @ 3 Anniversary Series

Sunday, June 16, 2019, 3 p.m.

**Dr. Stacie Lightner**  
Former Associate Organist, Saint Cecilia Cathedral, Director of the Organ Academy and current Cantor at Saint Paul—Reformed Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN. Graduate of the University of Kansas and McGill University in Montreal, Canada.  
Welcome Home Organist  
—Third Sunday @ 3 Anniversary Series

## Organ Historical Society



THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

2019

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DALLAS · TEXAS · JULY 14-18

JOIN THE OHS IN DALLAS!

IN COOPERATION WITH THE ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE HYMN SOCIETY  
IN THE US AND CANADA

2019.ORGANHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

ADVERTISEMENT

Dallas is proud of their organ culture. Once home to numerous Pilchers, Hook & Hastings, Esteys and Aeolian-Skinners, the region's prosperity through the decades has resulted in these instruments having been replaced with newer instruments, more in keeping with their time.

Texas has a long and storied past, and its often-overlooked tradition of organ building is no less interesting; to explore this, some long-time Texas builders and organ historians will guide attendees in this historical narrative.

Omaha Chapter member Marie Rubis Bauer will present a recital on the 2005 Pasi Organ Builders, Inc., Op. 16 (11/20) at the OPHS Convention on July 16, 2019.

## 2018-2019 Business Directory

### 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,  
Weddings, Funerals  
Claire Rae Roehrkasse  
Eason  
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  
Representative  
7031 Dodge Street,  
Omaha, Ne. 68132  
Ofc: 402-593-9400  
Cell: 402-7191923  
Ofc: 1-800-642-1271  
Fax: 402-593-1104  
Email:  
gj1814@earthlink.com  
Website:  
keyboardkastle.com  
www.allenorgan.com

### Church Organs of Nebraska

2600 North 48th St.  
Lincoln, Ne. 68504  
Gerald Oehring  
402-437-7126  
churchorgansofnebra  
ska.com  
Rogers  
Instrument  
Corporation  
Studio Visits by appointment

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## The Windchest

The *Windchest* editor is Jeff Hoffman.  
Please send content suggestions and information  
to Jeff at [omahaago@gmail.com](mailto:omahaago@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
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