

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



NOVEMBER 2022

FROM THE DEAN

What an amazing last few weeks for the organ community in Omaha! Starting with the Peter Sykes recital at St. Cecilia the 25th of September, continuing with the Mark Kurtz recital at Rockbrook United Methodist the 2nd of October and the chapter sponsored Timothy Schreiber recital at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church the 9th of October, through the Brent Shaw recital at Pacific Hills Lutheran the 30th of October, all I can say is wow! What a fantastic series of a tremendous variety of organ music. If you missed them, you missed a series of grand experiences.

Peter Sykes: What glorious sounds filled St. Cecilia Cathedral as we heard several movements of Holst's "Planets" in Sykes' awesome organ transcription. He provided a fabulous afternoon as the resources of the Pasi were stretched beyond what many of us had heard before. The Cathedral Arts Project sponsored this recital, and we are grateful that the Cathedral Arts Project used its resources to bring an artist of this caliber to Omaha.

Mark Kurtz: Our chapter member, Mark shined on the newly renovated Austin at Rockbrook United Methodist Church. That instrument includes some interesting stops from the original instrument, which were wisely preserved in its renovation. Mark used them well, and the results were beautiful. We are truly blessed to have an experienced recitalist like Mark in our chapter. Thanks to Rockbrook United Methodist for hosting him.

Timothy Schreiber: Again, our chapter member, and our chapter sponsored recital for this year, and what can we say except, "Wow!" With only a few days to transform his recital selections to the resources of this fabulous Casavant instrument, Timothy found a way to use its resources to the fullest. He took some very ancient Baroque music and made it zing for the 21st century. Giving the audience an opportunity to sing the stanzas of "Savior of the Nations, Come" with his own interpretive harmonizations along with the interesting variations of Anton Heiler were a high point of the recital. The success of this recital has opened the door for the chapter to hold future events at St. Wenceslaus. We were amazed at the almost 300 in attendance at the recital and the \$935 contributed to our scholarship fund. Watch as Timothy continues to blossom as a recitalist in the future.

Brent Shaw: Our dual chapter member with Lincoln, Brent, also an accomplished recitalist, played an eclectic program all the way from Pachelbel to a silent movie clip

featuring Donald Duck organizing the animals for Noah's ark and almost losing his beloved Daisy Duck. The concert ended with a set of "Concert Variations" by Dudley Buck that provided the melody for our national anthem. Brent utilized the extensive resources of the Pacific Hills instrument. Thanks to Pacific Hills Lutheran for sponsoring this. By the way, Pacific Hills is sponsoring a "Concert Series" that will include an organ recital by Zachariah Hastings, their Director of Music on December 11th and several 2023 events as well.

As I think about these recitals, I believe our chapter (along with the Lincoln chapter) can be very proud of the artistic abilities of our members. These are only three of our members and as I think about our chapter membership there are several more members who have done concerts both locally and nationally. Omaha/Lincoln has a wealth of talent, and we appreciate the abilities of our own members. At the same time, I believe our chapter is equally appreciative of the young organists among us, the organists who consider themselves "average," and those who simply love the organ. Our chapter has in my opinion been wonderfully welcoming of all, no matter what their skill level. One of my fondest memories of our chapter was a number of years ago when we did a members' recital in which we applauded some who played from organ book 1 and some who played elaborate works. I hope we can do one of those events again sometime.

On a more somber note, we are remembering the heritage of one of our chapter giants, Harry Payne, who recently passed. Harry was the long time organist at Bensen Presbyterian and a piano professor at UNO. Thankfully, the Casavant he cherished at Bensen was repurposed at St. Barnabas Catholic Church after Bensen Presbyterian closed. The family has requested memorials for Harry to go to a number of charities including AGO.

Wishing everyone a relaxing November as we hectically begin to get ready for the holiday season.

Stephen Bartelt, Dean

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We are pleased to announce that with the contributions received, we will again be open to applications for \$300 scholarships for new organ students. What we can do to encourage young organists will bear fruit in years to come as these young people move into serving churches and other organ positions. During the past two years, the chapter awarded six scholarships to students taking lessons from any of our chapter members. Details including eligibility requirements and the form for applying for scholarships are on the chapter website.

OUR NOVEMBER EVENT

“CHORAL TECHNIQUES FOR ORGANISTS”—PRESENTED BY Alexander Hoefling, Saturday, November 12, 10:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 113 N. 18th St. Organists are often asked to serve both as accompanist and as director. Alexander Hoefling, interim choral director at the Cathedral will offer techniques and skills to assist us when working with small groups of singers.

Alexander is a talented musician who has much to offer to all of us. If you have ever had the challenge of working with singers and there have been difficulties, this is the session for you to learn some new techniques to assist you. Plan to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST . . .

All Souls Day Mass: Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at St. Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St., Omaha. Featuring the Maurice Durufle “Requiem” sung by the Saint Cecilia Cathedral Choir. Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer invites us all to this solemn mass, but also a wonderful musical production.

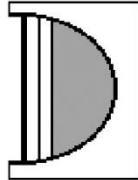
James Kealey in concert: Sunday, November 13, 2022, 4:00 p.m., Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 6001 A Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. The Lincoln Organ Showcase invites our members to their events. Kealey has been honored as one of the “20 under 30” by the publication *The Diapason*, an accolade awarded to some of the most successful artists in the field.

Handel’s Messiah Community Sing, Sunday, November 27, First-Plymouth Congregational Church, 2000 D St., Lincoln, 4:00 p.m.

Zachariah Hastings, Organist and Director of Music at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church presents an Advent recital on Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m. at the church, 90th and Pacific, Omaha.

Any member knowing of other events the chapter should promote, please send information about them to omahaago@gmail.com. Especially welcome will be any very special holiday programs that will be of interest to the community.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!



Darrow Pipe Organ LLC

Sales - Service - Renovation

Tom Darrow, owner (712) 301-5964

e-mail: darrowpipeorgan@gmail.com

website: www.darrowpipeorgan.com

721 Pearl Street - Onawa, Iowa 51040-1428

Gerald Oehring & Associates
Classic Church Organs

RODGERS® **JOHANNUS**

2600 N. 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504
Studio Visits
By Appointment Only

Gerald Oehring
402-432-7126
gerry@geraldoehring.com
www.geraldoehring.com

Quality Pipe Organ Building
and Service *since 1969*

bedient
pipe organ company


pipe organ company

bedientorgan.com | 402.420.7662 | Lincoln, Nebraska

Claire Roehrkasse Eason
Colleague of the American Guild of Organists

Pipe Organist
Church Services, Weddings, Funerals

Home 402.652.3366
Cell 402.720.5205

creeason@gmail.com
956 Hwy 30
North Bend NE 68649



Keyboard Kastle EST. 1972
Midwest's Largest Selection @ Lowest Prices

Yamaha - World's first choice in Pianos & Keyboards

Greg Johnson Manager

7013 Dodge
Omaha, Ne 68132
402-593-9400
cell: 402-719-1923

Allen Church Organs

Clavinova * Avant Hybrid * Disklavier * CX Grands * Portable Keyboards



Note new address for Keyboard Kastle

12216 K Plaza in the L Street Market