

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



JULY 2022

FROM THE DEAN

July is sort of a “breather month.” Last year’s programs are now history, and next year’s programs have been planned and anticipated. That is true for most of us in our musical positions, as well as for your AGO chapter here in Omaha. Jean Johnson and I have worked together for a seamless transition from her leadership as Dean to my beginning my term. I am excited to be your Dean and will do my best together with our outstanding Board to make your chapter alive and vibrant. But before we move on to new things, I must again thank Jean for all that she has done for our chapter the past two years as Dean. She has quietly but determinedly guided our chapter to move forward. Another fabulous kudo goes to Jeff Hoffmann who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure our website and communications have been effective and relevant. Jeff is also a Past Dean. Jeff is moving on to new ventures and we wish him success and fulfillment as he moves forward in new areas.

As I was reviewing the National AGO Strategic Plan, it became obvious to me that the aims of our national organization are also the aims of our chapter. Several of the most relevant are repeated below:

- Welcome and include organists of all ages, races, and religions who play all types of organs at all skill levels.
- Provide a valuable, engaging, and meaningful experience to all AGO members.
- Feature and recognize a diverse range of organists, instruments, composers, and musical genres.

Additionally, I believe it is an aim of our chapter to provide programs that encourage professional growth among our members and that contribute to our knowledge, skills, and abilities as musicians. I believe that our next year’s program offers much of that and I encourage all of us to take advantage of the opportunity we all have to participate.

Another area in which I hope our chapter can grow is to encourage organists throughout the metro who are not involved with our chapter to join. I believe some have the perception that AGO is an elite group. Our chapter membership, however, already reflects a broad spectrum of members from full time professionals at one end of a continuum to beginning organ students at the other end—and most of us somewhere in between. With programs

designed to encourage professional growth, there is something for any organist at any level of skill and experience.

Our new Board will begin its work in July. We meet the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church. If members of the chapter would like to attend a meeting to observe or have a matter to present to the Board, please let me know. You are the chapter and your input is important and welcome. The chapter's email is omahaago@gmail.com.

Stephen Bartelt, Dean

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

JULY 4 – Brent Shaw returns to the UNO Campanile for a patriotic carillon program outdoors at 9:00 a.m. Bring your lawn chairs. It is always amazing and inspiring to hear this magnificent instrument. And playing it brilliantly is another of Brent's many talents.

JULY 14-15 – The Arts and Spirituality, retreat at Saint Benedict Center, Schuyler, with Michael Bauer, DMA, Fr. Keith Winton, Dorothy Tuma and Cathedral Organist Marie Rubis Bauer, DMA. This retreat will engage participants in the process of spiritual growth. Through the medium of the arts we will enhance our knowledge and our intuitive connection to God, experience God's presence in liturgy, and seek new insights through artistic projects. Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to Friday, 3:00 p.m. Register by calling (402) 352-8819.

JULY 22-24 – Sing Your Faith/Refresh Your Spirit, a choral and spiritual retreat at First-Plymouth in Lincoln featuring among others Tom Trenney and Marques Garrett. For more information please visit www.firstplymouth.org/singyourfaith or call (402) 476-7565.

AUGUST 7 – River City Theatre Organ Society presents Zach Frame (from Organ Piper Pizza in Milwaukee) playing the historic Rose Theater Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre organ. 3:00 p.m. Advance tickets available by mail through August 1 for \$20. Check to RCTOS and mailed to RCTOS, 8825 Executive Woods Drive #85, Lincoln, NE 68512. More information at www.rctos.com or (402) 421-1356.

If chapter members are aware of other happenings of interest to our members, please forward information to omahaago@gmail.com and announcements will be emailed to the members. And . . . for chapter FALL HAPPENINGS, see the list of chapter programs on the next page!

Omaha Chapter AGO 2022-2023 Chapter Programs

Be sure these dates get on your calendar.

An exciting year awaits our attendance and participation!

Saturday, September 10 -- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Fall kick-off with refreshments. Program: "Organ lessons: What works and what doesn't." What is happening at the university level presented by Drs. Michael Bauer and Marie Rubis Bauer. What is happening at the congregational level working with young, beginning organists presented by Kantor Zachary Zieschang. Location: All Saints Retreat Center behind All Saints Episcopal, 9302 Blondo.

Sunday, October 9 -- Recital by Chapter member Timothy Schreiber, 3:00 p.m. St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, 15353 Pacific Ave. Timothy is completing his undergraduate work in organ at the University of Kansas and is serving as Kantor at a church in suburban Kansas City.

Saturday, November 12 -- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. -- "Choral techniques for organists working with small choirs, ensembles, children, etc." Presented by Alexander Hoefling, interim choral director, Trinity Cathedral. Location: Trinity Episcopal Cathedral., 113 N. 18th St.

Saturday, January 14 -- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. -- How organists can adapt pianistic accompaniments and lead sheets for the organ led by Dr. Elizabeth Grimpo, music faculty, Concordia University, Seward. Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 15005 Blondo.

Saturday, February 11 -- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. -- "Beyond the Console" Presentation on the inner workings of pipe organs. Ryan Luckey from Bedient Organ in Lincoln. Location: St. Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St.

Saturday, March 11 -- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. -- "Breaking and Entering" Challenges when beginning, ending, retiring, subbing. Panel discussion headed by Jean Johnson. Location: Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, 2650 Farnam St.

Sunday, April 23 -- Hymn Festival featuring chapter members, a "mass choir" and congregational singing. Location: Countryside Community Church, 13130 Faith Plz. Coordinator: Laura Rau assisted by Reggie Pifer. Choirmaster: Stephen Bartelt.

Monday, May 22 -- End of season dinner/fellowship, 6:00 p.m. catered dinner, installation of officers. Feature certification achievers. Installation of officers. Location: St. John Lutheran, 633 Willow Ave., Council Bluffs.

Approved by the Chapter Board, subject to revision, May 12, 2022.

CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

In the July Issue of TAO you will find the requirements for certification exams for the coming year. Look at them now, decide that this is the year for more professional development and set out on a plan of practice and study. For more information, contact Sister Claudette Schiratti, AAGO, chapter Certification Chair, at cschiratti1@gmail.com. Be sure to start early on your plan.

MEET OUR NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

SILVIYA MATEVA – Hello AGO fellow members! My husband and I moved to Bellevue a few months ago for his job with the Air Force. He was previously stationed in Coco Beach, Florida, so we experienced a bit of a climate shock.

I am originally from Bulgaria and moved to the United States for my undergraduate organ studies at Stetson University in Florida. After I finished my BM I pursued an MM at the Eastman School of Music, and a DMA at the University of Oklahoma. My organ teachers include Boyd Jones, Hans Davidsson, and John Schwandt. I've held a number of part-time and full-time positions in churches, and I am currently taking care of my two year old daughter at home. Since I don't have a weekly commitment, I hope to be able to substitute in the area.

I am looking forward to getting to know many of you in the fall.

JACOB MIKKELSON – Jacob resides in Plainview, Minnesota. His primary chapter is Southeast Minnesota, but has joined the Omaha chapter also. Jacob is a graduate of Concordia University, Seward, and is teaching and playing at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Plainview. Welcome to another young organist. His parents live in Bellevue.

AN IMMEDIATE NEED . . .

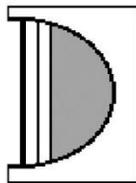
The Omaha Chapter is in need of a Webmaster. The chapter manages its website using Wix, an easy-to-use management program. The Webmaster is responsible for posting (not creating) material, reminding chapter leaders on what needs updating, making sure the current Windchest is available on the website, making sure the website is relevant and up to date, and related duties. If you have these skills, your help is needed. If you know of anyone who would help the chapter with these skills, that would be wonderful as well. Please contact Dean Stephen Bartelt through the chapter email (omahaago@gmail.com) for more information.

Additionally, it appears we need someone to keep our chapter Facebook page up-to-date. Upload current information and make sure it is timely. Again, let our Dean know if that is something you can do.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Watch your e-mail for a copy of the “draft” membership directory. When you receive it, please check your entry, note any changes necessary and return that information as instructed. We want our membership list to be accurate, up-to-date, reflecting current addresses and emails, as well as current positions. Remember, the directory is only available to members of the chapter and is protected by a sign-in passcode.

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