

THE WINDCHEST



OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

JUNE 2021

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

FROM THE DEAN

May 16 was a wonderful day!

Jan Kraybill's concert at the Cathedral was amazing. Her playing was articulate, exciting, emotional, and able to fill the listener with powerful sound. I hope you were there! Omaha AGO co-sponsored the concert. I had a chance to photograph Dr. Kraybill with Dr. Christensen and I sent the photo, along with an article, to the TAO. Watch for its publication, probably the July issue.

Before the concert was the opening of the "Art of Nebraska" exhibit of 70 works owned by Dr. Christensen. The reception was sponsored in part by the Lincoln Chapter AGO and we thank them for their contribution. I look forward to returning to look more carefully before the exhibit closes June 6.

All this made May 16 a great day. But maybe the best part was getting to actually see and visit with about 25 of you. It has been a long year and having a "public" in-person gathering felt so good. I got a chance to sit down with Marie Meyers, who is coming on the Board as an at-large member. I understand there were several Lincoln members in attendance. The day felt so good.

SCHOLARSHIPS The chapter has awarded 3 scholarships to beginning organists Laney Pendegraft student of Sally Hodges, Sr. Laura Ann Haschke student of Dr. Jeremy Owens and Rachel Pfeiffer student of Zachary Zieschang. Each \$300 scholarship is paid to the teacher. A committee made up of Laura Rau, Michael Bauer and myself will be looking at our Scholarship program this summer for any changes that need to be made.

CONGRATULATIONS to Colleen Jeffrey and Gianna Manhart who have completed their Service Playing Certificate. Thank you to Sr. Claudette Schiratti for her help with Certification this year.

A committee to draw up a plan for a mentoring program for young organists will meet this summer. Steve Bartelt, Laura Scow, Sr. Claudette Schiratti, Marie Meyers and Jean will look at the proposal and finalize it.

BOARD NOTES The chapter thanks Greg Johnson for the several years he has been Secretary of the Board. Thanks also to Jeff Hoffman for the 3 years he has been an At-Large Board member. Jeff has been publishing the Windchest and our website and Facebook page.

Finances - David McCain, chapter Treasurer is compiling our "end of the program year" report so it can be published for the membership. You will be able to see it in the July Windchest. Please ask David or Jean if you have questions.

The Organ Historical Society Virtual concerts and the AGO summer Virtual Concerts information will be in the July Windchest. AGO concert information has already been forthcoming through email blasts. Both are fabulous opportunities for listening this summer!

Thanks to Zachary Zieschang for gathering the Young Organist performances onto our YouTube site. Those performances were a thrill. Congratulations to teachers. The Omaha AGO chapter has, I believe, 11 Young Organists. Speaking of Young Organists - FREE MEMBERSHIPS in AGO for a year begin July 1. When your dues come up - just fill out the form with no charge. If you have students - have them join for a year for free so they can begin to appreciate what the AGO means to all of us.

An important thing your Dean has learned this year is that our national organization is very active with chapters. Elizabeth George, while in Florida, is instantly responsive with answers to questions, or suggestions of where information can be found. This is not always true of other national organizations. I have listened to 5 Webinars this year to learn what I need to be your Dean. If you have time this summer - go to agohq.org and look at the watching and listening opportunities there. Especially AGOYO. Technology can let us listen to instruments and visit places we would not otherwise have the opportunity to hear or visit.

Speaking of technology - We need someone to HELP!

Thank you to Steve Bartelt, David McCain, Laura Rau and Sr. Claudette Schiratti who continue on the Board. They are the best.

Enjoy your summer. I know most of us are getting back to full worship beginning in June. What a blessing.

Blessings,

Jean Johnson, Dean

FREE MEMBERSHIP

The AGO National Council is committed to membership recruitment, retention, and growth within our organization. During the Year of the Young Organist, July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022, any individual under the age of 30 can become a member or renew her/his membership for free as part of this program. Events and new initiatives will be held throughout the year.

SPRING 2021 OMAHA AGO PROGRAMMING

A Final Hurrah?

And/Or A New Beginning?

Finally, an in-person event for our chapter! Our final event is truly a new beginning for chapter members to meet together. We meet at 3:00 p.m. at the All Saints Retreat Center. The Retreat Center is behind All Saints Episcopal Church 9302 Blondo Street. We will enjoy chatting with one another and catching up on experiences. Program is installation of officers. We will enjoy a fun activity together. Music will be provided by Jeff Hoffman playing Michael McCabe's compositions dedicated to David McCain on David's "portable" tracker organ. We'll also announce highlights of next year's program. Wearing masks is recommended, but not required.

VIRTUAL STUDENT RECITAL IS READY TO VIEW!

Our virtual student recital is finished and ready to view on the chapter's Youtube page. You can access it via the following link: <https://youtu.be/-xSCEODn2A4> The video is about 40 minutes long so it can easily be watched in its entirety. Students of chapter members Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, Sally Hodges, and Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer are featured. The students introduce themselves and state the composition they are playing. The recital reflects some excellent playing on the part of these students, which reflects also the excellent teaching of our chapter members. A big thank you goes to Kantor Zachary Zieschang for putting the video together.

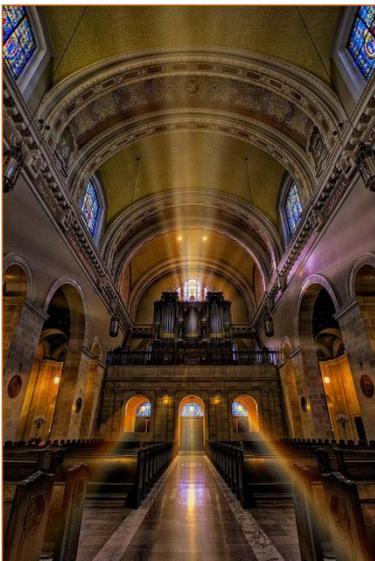
CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY & HOPE

Marie Rubis Bauer, Organist

June 13, 3:00 pm

Saint Cecilia Cathedral

Premier of a new work by Charles Callahan, Composer



Art can lead us to faith. Faith can lead us to art. I'm always captivated by the stories of Medieval gothic churches and cathedrals, and the intentional way in which these grand, transcendent buildings lead our thoughts to God, and at the same time, plant God within us. The function of the stories in the windows of stained glass have always had the pastoral goal of serving as a doorway to faith. Stories can be told with or without word - maybe in gestures and dancing, maybe in colors and shapes, maybe in melodies and harmonies. All of these lead us directly, and sometimes subtly to God.

Circle to the first half of the 20th Century on a hill in Omaha, Nebraska, I am moved to tears of the story of the very workers of the

cathedral - locals who hoisted beams, carried bricks, installed lighting and pews, found it within themselves to give their money - all together - to tell stories of faith through beauty and light in the windows of our own Saint Cecilia Cathedral.

On June 13 we will be celebrating signs of Beauty and Hope, including the premier of a new work by lauded American Composer, Charles Callahan. This work, the Saint Cecilia Organbook, draws upon the windows and their chants and is rooted in a lifetime of liturgical musical immersion in worship as a church musician and a composer of inspiring song. Charles Callahan's music is simple, direct, and profound. This is the context of the Saint Cecilia Organbook, and we look forward to introducing 12 miniature movements in order to bring us all closer to the great stories and melodies of faith found in our windows.

Secondly, on the same program we will introduce John Derry, photographer and his work, inspired by the art of the play of light on the cathedral windows, and faith of our Patron, Saint Cecilia.

Finally, because all of this would be 'a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal' to quote Saint Paul, if it didn't lead us to our most important mission: to love our neighbor. So the third part of this celebration will be to highlight an important ministry of hope, through the Food Pantry at the Cathedral, led by parishioners in the Saint Vincent De Paul Society and Knights of Columbus. This important ministry is ongoing, and it always needs and welcomes the support in the donation of food and financial support. Please join us for this special celebration and bring food or gift cards to help our parish minister in a special way to those in need.

Photo credit: John Derry

Article credit: Marie Rubis Bauer

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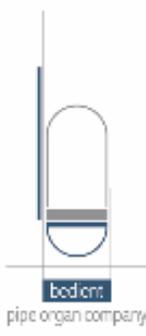
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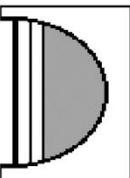
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