

THE WINDCHEST



OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

MAY 2021

Inside this Issue:

- 1 From the Dean
- 2 Chapter Elections
- 2 Organ Historical Society
- 2 Links
- 3 AGO Resources
- 3 Omaha Chapter Programs
- 4 Free Memberships!
- 4 Brent Shaw
- 5 POE
- 5 Virtual Student Recital
- 6 Supporters

facebook

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

Have you heard?

Jan Kraybill will be in Omaha May 16, 3:00 at St. Cecilia Cathedral. This is a "not to be missed" event. Omaha AGO is a co-sponsor in honor of Dr. J Gordon Christensen and his years of leadership and support of our chapter. From 1:00 - 3:00 that afternoon Dr. C's collection of artwork by Nebraska artists will be on display at the Sunderland Gallery.

Have you heard?

Young Organists - that is anyone under the age of 30 - will receive one year of free membership from the national AGO. When you renew from July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022, there will be no charge. This includes new members. A perfect time to give the AGO a try. All will receive The American Organist publication.

Have you heard?

The Organ Historical Society is hosting a virtual conference entitled "A Kaleidoscope of Colors" for 5 Sunday nights in August. Feasting 15 organs from the U.S. and elsewhere, they will have 5 recitals and a hymn festival and will be free for viewers. Our own Marie Rubis Bauer will be one of the performers. Omaha AGO is a Silver level sponsor of this event and we have paid for an ad to be made and it was sent to be included in their on-line, in print and digital format. The Board felt this would be a great way to let the whole country know that Nebraska is home to wonderful instruments and organists! More info will be forthcoming.

Did you see?

Page 68 and 69 in the May issue of The American Organist includes the article about our Omaha Chapter activities and a photo of Dr. Laura Scow at the organ.

OHS EVENT

A series of programs will be featured online on the five Sundays in August. One of the programs will feature the Pasi organ at St. Cecilia Cathedral and Cathedral Organist Maris Rubis Bauer.

Look for detailed information in the July *Windchest*.

ORGANFEST 2021

presented by
National AGO
June 27 - July 2

<https://fb.me/e/27k2UHdu4>

Look for more detail in the June *Windchest*

John Hansen, member emeritus, sent me a picture of an article and photo of the organ at Countryside Community Church which is featured on the cover of the Diapason.

If you are a reader of "Funky Winkerbean" in the comics, you probably have enjoyed the strips about a church whose organist played til she dropped and the congregation needed a new organist. The group wondered how they might find another. Someone thought they could put a notice on the church bulletin board!!! Hopefully that thinking is not really happening, but it has come to my attention that congregations don't always know about the AGO and don't think about notifying us when positions become available. If you talk to folks, or someone says something to you - encourage them to have their pastor, or committee email us through our website at www.omahaago.org. We will be glad to post their positions available.

I look forward to seeing many of you May 16. Masks and distancing in place.

Blessings,
Jean Johnson, Dean

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Thank you to all who voted via email for our slate of officers and board members. Installation will occur at our May chapter meeting and members take office July 1.

Dean: Jean Johnson
Sub-Dean: Stephen Bartelt
Secretary: Laura Scow
Treasurer: David McCain
Member-at-large: Marie Meyers

Lau Rau and Sr. Claudette Schirati continue their terms as Members-at-large.

LINKS TO MUSIC RESOURCES

Please visit the following link for free resources, including music.
https://cazago.org/docs/Konzen_FreeAtLast.pdf

MID-WEEK ORGAN RECITALS

Jeff Hoffman has begun a recital series at St. Barnabas Church. The 30-minute organ recitals will be held each week in historic St. Barnabas Church. Doors open at Noon following 11:15 a.m. Mass. A free-will offering is encouraged to support the parish and the music program. The programs will consist of music of peace, hope, and joy to encourage you during a stressful time in our world. Masks are required and seating is safely socially distanced.

Visit our Facebook page at St. Barnabas Church – Omaha, Nebraska each Monday for program information.

RESOURCES FROM AGO NATIONAL

During these times of uncertainty, the American Guild of Organists remains dedicated to the needs of our members and fulfilling our vision; to engage, support, and uplift every organist. It is our mission to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. Now more than ever, we understand the importance of strengthening our wonderful organization by providing much needed benefits to all our members.

As a result, the AGO has compiled some valuable resources for musicians and teachers who are experiencing reduced income and/or the need to adapt to a new, virtual world due to the Coronavirus Pandemic: <https://www.agohq.org/responding-to-covid-19/>. This page is frequently updated with helpful information, so we encourage you to check it often.

SPRING 2021 OMAHA AGO PROGRAMMING

The Recital of the Season

Our members have graced the pandemic period with a number of wonderful recitals and presentations. For this the community is grateful. Without minimizing all of them, we are looking forward to the “crown jewel” of our season, the recital at St. Cecilia by Jan Kraybill on May 16 at 3:00 p.m. This recital is a joint project of our chapter and the Cathedral Arts Project. Similarly, both organizations are honoring Dr. J. Gordon Christensen prior to the concert in the Cathedral Arts Center adjacent to the cathedral from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Dr. Christensen’s extensive art collection of Nebraska artists will be on display as well. Come both to honor “Dr. C” and to hear this outstanding artist perform her concert. This is the event of our year not to be missed.

The Vimeo live stream link for Jan Kraybill’s recital on May 16 at St. Cecilia Cathedral is:

<https://vimeo.com/event/941310>

The Grand Finale

June 6 will not only be the “grand finale” but also the “new beginning” as our 2021-2022 Board will be installed at 3 p.m. The event will take

FREE MEMBERSHIP

AGO Year of the Young Organist July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022
Investing in the Future

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.

place at All Saints Episcopal, 9302 Blondo, in the Retreat Center behind the church. Members will be able to attend in person with masks and social distancing or tune in virtually. Directions for virtual will be in the June *Windchest*."

Next Year

We are not ready to announce all the details of next year's program, but just to give you a taste, here are some things in the works: a recital by our own Mark Kurtz, featuring his award-winning composition, a presentation on African-American choral and organ music, a registration seminar, a motivational presentation by Tom Trenney, and opportunities for us to reconnect and revitalize relationships. Look for a detailed announcement soon.

2021 WIHLA HUTSON ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to the winner Brent Shaw.

Applicants are from collegiate and alumni chapters internationally. Submissions were digital and included 30 minutes of recorded music or performances and a plan for outreach and education. Brent's funds will be used for outreach (music and books for lower income students), community connections (the Organ Happenings magazine) and continuing education (taking some music lessons from an advanced coach and performer).

Brent currently has organ students from middle school age through retirement. He especially enjoys working with pianists looking to offer organ as a ministry at their church.

Past winners have included longtime Lincoln AGO member David von Behren.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY- MANHATTAN PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

Please encourage those you know who might be interested to explore attending an IN-PERSON Pipe Organ Encounter this summer!

Info and the brochure can be found at this website:

<https://ksupoe.weebly.com>

MISSION

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

VIRTUAL STUDENT RECITAL

Students from several of our member teachers have submitted video recordings of their playing. They are currently being combined into a "virtual recital." Once all is finished, the recital is being uploaded to a Youtube channel. We will distribute the link to this recital to all of our members as soon as it is finished. We have received word that the recital will be distributed beyond our local chapter through the national AGO. This will be a tremendous credit to our student organists, as well as to their member teachers from our chapter. Special thanks to Zachary Zieschang for coordinating the recording, and to our member teachers who are working with these students. All of these students are eligible for a free year membership in AGO as part of the AGO young organist emphasis for 2021-2022.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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Member-at-Large

Sr. Claudette Schiratti - 2020/2021 - 2022/2023

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OMAHA CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education / Certification

Sr. Claudette Schiratti

Publicity & Windchest

Jeff Hoffman

Young Organists

Zach Hastings

Historian

David McCain

Professional Concerns

Jerry Brabec

Membership

Laura Rau

Programs

Stephen Bartelt

Organ Concerts
 from
St. Cecilia Cathedral
 701 North 40th Street
Marie Rubis Bauer, Organist
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 of pandemic

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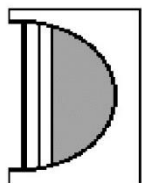
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