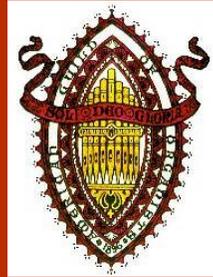


OMAHA CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN
GUILD OF
ORGANISTS



The Windchest

Celebrating 100 Years!

SEPTEMBER 2017

SEPTEMBER 2017

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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From the Dean...

The Chapter's 2017-2018 Season is at hand! Our new season includes numerous professional, educational, performance, concert and recital opportunities not only to members, but for the metropolitan community as well. Professional organists and choirs in concert, a hymn festival and workshops developed and presented by fellow members, and opportunities for fellowship and exchange of ideas and information are included in the upcoming season.

Many of our members attended summer conventions, seminars, workshops and tours, representing our chapter with enthusiastic visibility. The Omaha Chapter was well represented at the North Central Regional Convention; Pipe Organ Encounter-Advanced; and the National Historic Organ Society Convention. We have members who attended and/or participated in respective church-related conventions and seminars, and one member who was selected to participate in a 22 voice auditioned male choir that toured Germany. Various members studied and prepared new choral and/or organ repertoire and traveled, seeking new and inspirational information and ideas. Chapter members who take advantage of these many opportunities and share their excitement are part of the reason one of our new members "was pleased to find an AGO Chapter that is vibrant and enthusiastic..." when moving to Omaha!

The Omaha Chapter has many strengths among its membership. Among those strengths is the observable fact that our members sincerely care for one another. Members engage in conversation, exchanging information, ideas, and sharing professional concerns. Members are actively supportive when a fellow member is grieving the loss of a loved one, facing illness, personal or professional challenges, extending greetings and offering to help in any way possible.

Our chapter membership includes many highly professional musicians, both in the choral and organ fields. These members collaborate not only with other chapter members, but with non AGO members in the community who seek help regarding organ and/or choral information from a professional musician. This sharing not only helps develop the talents and skills of those making the inquiry, it improves the quality of music for those they serve. Moreover, it provides positive visibility for the American Guild of Organists and its standards.

The Omaha Chapter, AGO, is increasingly on the cusp of regional and national leadership. For example, Omaha membership currently includes the Nebraska State Convener; a Kansas City National Convention committee member; and the North Central Region professional concerns board member. The chapter has been asked to consider hosting the North Central Regional Convention in 2021 or 2023. Omaha AGO is one of several chapters under consideration by National to carry out a pilot project regarding the addition of a certification level. Additional opportunities will be forthcoming!

May our beloved Omaha Chapter AGO have a stellar and blessed season!

SOLI DEO GLORIA!
Dr. Christensen, Dean



Tip of the Month



Kansas City
2018

American
Guild
of
Organists
National
Convention



Tip of the Month

As I was talking to my great aunt* recently, she told me two organizational tips that I have started to implement in my file system. The first tip was to write the date a piece of music was used onto the piece itself, instead of relying on sticky note trails. Knowing when you last played the piece helps keep you from repeating your repertoire too often. The second tip was to write the approximate time a piece takes onto the piece as well, an enormous time saver. I used to time each piece during my practice and write it onto a sticky note, never once thinking to write the time on the music. In my experience, sticky notes don't always stay stuck, or they stick too much, and destroy your pages. I hope these tips help you as much as they have helped me!

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy D. Conner, SPC

*My great aunt, Karen Albers, holds a Master of Music in Organ Performance from Northwestern University and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance from the University of Michigan.



The

next

national convention of the American Guild of Organists will take place in July of 2018 in Kansas City. Look for information about artists in the August issue of *The American Organist* which should arrive around July 1. One of the best features of the convention is a second discount for early joiners. There has always been an Early Bird discount but now there is also a SuperSaver with a good discount. Here are the details:

Regular: \$495 Early Bird; \$435 SuperSaver: \$375
Seniors: \$450 Early Bird: \$395 SuperSaver: \$350

In order to get the SuperSaver, your registration must be paid before December 31, 2017. Students will pay \$250 at any time.

There will also be a Kansas City barbeque on July 4. Most national conventions have a banquet and you pay for it. In Houston, the banquet was \$60. In Kansas City the barbeque is included with your registration!

It's going to be a great convention. The steering committee is working very hard and it should be great!

Hope to see you there!

SEASON KICK-OFF EVENT



WHAT: Kick-off Event for 2017-2018 Season
WHEN: Sunday, September 10 at 5:00-7:00 p.m.
WHERE: 170 Nicholas Street, Council Bluffs. (Dr. C's home and back-yard)
WHO: AGO Members, Spouses, Families and Friends
WHY: Food, Fellowship, Program, Quarterly Meeting

RSVP: mrc@chase3000.com

The annual chapter Kick-off event will be held on Sunday, September 10 at 5:00-7:00. Dr. Christensen will host the event, including a catered sit-down out-door dinner for everyone. The program will include announcement of the upcoming season, presented by Jerry Brabec; presentation of two SPC playing certificates (Timothy Conner and Jeremy Owens); introduction of new members; fellowship; and a brief business meeting. Dr. C's expanding art collection will also be available for leisurely viewing, beginning at 3:00.

For those interested, St. Paul's Lutheran Church is sponsoring an open house of the Music Conservatory facilities housed in the church next door. Studio teachers will present a brief concert at 3:00, followed by tours of the Conservatory wing of the church, including the director's office, three sound-proof studios and one class room. Everyone is welcome.

For AGO members attending the Kick-Off, door prizes will be offered. One of the door-prizes is a registration for the 2018 National Convention in Kansas City."



In the News...

YOUNGEST CERTIFICATE HOLDER IN GUILD HISTORY TIMOTHY CONNER, SPC

A member of the Omaha Chapter AGO made American Guild of Organists history when he became the youngest member in the 121 year history of the guild to earn the Service Playing Certificate. Timothy Conner, SPC, who joined AGO and the Omaha Chapter in 2016, earned the certificate at the age of 12 years.

Timothy's required repertoire included compositions by J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn and Wayne Wold, played on the Casavant organ in St. Mark Lutheran Church on North 90th, Omaha. Member Sally Hodges was Timothy's proctor.

A two-page article titled "Celebrating Timothy Conner, SPC" was published in the July issue of *The American Organist*, authored by Jonathan B. Hall of the AGO Committee on Professional Certification.

The article, based on a telephone interview, includes a quote that is applicable to organists and musicians in general: "Just keep trying, don't give up on the first try. It takes a lot of work but it's worth it." A can-do spirit emerges when he observes that "if one day your practice isn't going well, the next day it will go *twice* as well."

Not only is it an honor for Timothy to earn the SPC, it is an honor the youngest AGO member ever to earn AGO certification is a member of the Omaha Chapter AGO.

Timothy's new goal? To earn the CAGO in 2018! Preparation is already underway.

Congratulations, Timothy Conner, SPC!

Soli Deo Gloria!

CERTIFICATION CLASSES

Several chapter members have inquired about earning AGO certification this season, especially SPC and CAGO certification.

The SPC and CAGO exams are taken locally, recorded and sent to National for evaluation. The SPC exam can be taken any time between October - March 31. Applications for SPC may be submitted any time between September 1 - February 1.

The CAGO exam may be taken on November 17, 2017; or May 11, 2018. For the November date, application must be made by September 15; for May 11, the application deadline is March 1.

Currently, Omaha AGO has three members working on CAGO certification, two planning to play their exams in November.

Interested in earning certification? Contact Dr. Christensen at mrc@chase3000.com, indicating your interest and which certificate.

*Pedaling
Around
Omaha*



AGO Board
Members

Committee Chairs



Exciting New Season of Vesper Concerts 2017-2018 Season Announced!

Read more! We need your support! Keep Vesper Concerts free. We rely on your support to bring quality chamber music to the Omaha community at no cost to the audience. Please consider making a donation. DONATE NOW Website Our History Contact Us: 1517 South 114 Street Omaha, Nebraska 68144 kristi@vesperconcerts.org 402-333-7466 (ext. 4)

Unclouded Day, featuring *sounding light* & conductor Tom Trenney

Fri | Sept 29 | 7:30 PM ~ Trinity Episcopal Cathedral-Omaha, NE
Sun | Oct 1 | 4:00 PM ~ First-Plymouth Church-Lincoln, NE

Having recently received the highest honor offered by the American Choral Directors Association, the radiant voices of *sounding light* return to Lincoln to sing a diverse and inclusive program sure to enlighten and inspire.

From favorite gospel hymns and treasured choral masterworks, to familiar folk songs and brand new compositions, a message of hope shines through their music.

Join *sounding light* for a brilliant program that will brighten even the cloudiest day!

www.trinityepiscopal.org & www.abendmusik.org for details.

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST: Zion Lutheran Church, 144th and Ida, is in need of a choir accompanist for the 2017-2018 season, approximately the end of August through the end of April. We have a 20+ voice choir that rehearses Wednesday evening for an hour, usually 7 to 8 p.m. with adjustments during Advent and Lent to approximately 7:45 to 8:45 p.m. The choir sings 2 to 3 Sundays per month, more during the holiday seasons. The choir can sing either for the 8 a.m or the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service, occasionally for both on special occasions. Accompanying would be mostly on the piano, although depending on the interests and capabilities of the accompanist could sometimes be on organ. At times, an instrumentalist will also be used. The ideal candidate would be an advanced keyboard student, looking for experience in accompanying, as this would be a one year position at this time. Compensation would be \$50 per rehearsal and \$50 per service that the choir sings. The choir director holds an MM degree. Most of the music sung is either SAB or SA/TB, pretty much standard Protestant repertoire. Contact person, is the Rev. Stephen Bartelt, stephenbartelt@yahoo.com, or (402) 496-6140

CURRENT AGO BOARD MEMBERS 2017-2018



Dean: J Gordon Christensen, AAGO
Sub-Dean: Marie Rubis Bauer
Secretary: Gregory Johnson
Treasurer: Gina Simpson
Immediate Past Dean: David Schack
Members - at - Large:
Claire Eason: 2015/16 -2017/18
Jean Johnson: 2016/17 - 2018/19
Sonja Lundgren: 2017/18 2019/20

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education (AGO Certification)	Sally Hodges
Chapter Historian	Claire Eason
Organ Historian	David McCain
Membership	Julie Sandene
Membership Directory	Gina Simpson
Professional Concerns	Jerry Brabec
Programming (2017-2018)	Marie Rubis Bauer
Publicity	J Gordon Christensen
Referrals	Julie Sandene
Webmaster	Mayumi Naramura
<i>Windchest</i> Editor	Claire Eason
<i>Windchest</i> Publisher	Rosemary Paul



Position: Traditional Worship Director

Accountability: The Traditional Worship Director is accountable to the membership of the congregation and is a direct report to the Director of Worship Arts.

Position's Purpose: To inspire and equip traditional worshippers for lifelong transformation in Christ through prayerful selection, preparation and leadership of music, scripture and liturgy in worship, while mentoring and shepherding traditional music volunteers to that same end.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

- Leads traditional worship and music volunteers in the vision and manner of BSLC Worship Ministries
- Plan music and liturgy in coordination with pastoral staff for all traditional services
- Lead Organist and responsible for substitute organist if necessary
- Oversee acolyte program (coordinate with program director)
- Oversee direction of choir (may direct or coordinate with director)
 - Maintain musical excellence with weekly rehearsals
 - Maintain spiritual preparedness with Bible studies/devotionals
 - Music research for choir and special ensembles
- Recruit music and liturgical volunteers to serve in traditional services
- Coordinate with secretarial staff for production of weekly bulletins
- Serve and assist Director of Ministries, pastoral staff, worship staff and volunteers
- Accessible and welcoming to people for the care and nurture side of daily ministry.

Professional Attributes:

- Completion of a 4 year degree is preferred.
- Experience as a professional musician is preferred.
- Experience as choral director is preferred.
- Experience in a comparably-sized church is desired. Experience working with multi-site, multi-campus, and/or large staffed ministries is a plus.
- Excellent music, leadership and interpersonal skills to equip the church and volunteers.
- Has knowledge of and respect for traditional liturgies of the LCMS
- A coach/mentor for staff/volunteers, willing to broach difficult issues, delegate tasks and build up leaders.
- Must be a staff and congregational team player with the ability to work alongside a variety of people.

Personal Attributes:

- Must demonstrate a commitment to the Beautiful Savior Mission Statement: Meet Jesus, Make Friends and Make a Difference.
- A bold Jesus follower, led by the Holy Spirit, who lives a lifestyle that reflects a dynamic relationship to Christ (spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically healthy)
- Lives and promotes a healthy balance between vocation and personal/family time.
- Openness to mentoring, coaching and training



Association of Lutheran Church Musicians 30th Anniversary Conference

Minneapolis, MN July 10-13, 2017

"Rise, Remember Well the Future" was the theme of the conference attended by several Omaha chapter AGO members, as well as 450 others. David Schack was among the founding members in attendance. Augustana Lutheran Church in St. Paul was the site of the Opening Eucharist led by James Bobb and associates from St. Olaf College. At the Gala banquet, Gail Ramshaw and Mark Bangert were presented Faithful Servant Awards.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, downtown, was the site of worship with a Celtic band, which was well received. Varied workshops were held throughout the day, with Plenary sessions on The Role of the Cantor by Chad Fothergill. A couple of thoughts presented - musicians need to understand the craft needed for their positions, read theological books, talk about those things with pastors and know the community they serve. Chad urged us to know, love and serve our people as they want to see Jesus in us. We were urged to have social components with arts events offered. St. Olaf Catholic Church welcomed us for a Hymn Festival by the National Lutheran Choir and organist David Cherwien.

Participants rode buses to Collegeville, MN to the campus of St. John's University, Prep School and Abbey. The chapel is stunning and seats 2,200. We enjoyed the beautiful grounds, time to see a peek of the St. John's Bible, and the opportunity to attend Evening Prayer with the monks, in commemoration of the Reformation Anniversary. Significant at the service was the fact that it was led by the Abbot and a female Lutheran pastor. Susan Briehl and Father Michael Joncas led a session following the service.

I am glossing over many workshops offered during the conference, and the time we were able to see how the downtown churches are working to feed the hungry, clothe those needing them, and give the homeless a place to rest. The Closing Eucharist was held at Central Lutheran Church downtown, which seats about 2,700. Mark Sedio is the musician there and the organist that day was Sarah Herzer from Wittenberg, Germany. Following the singing of the hymn which reiterates the theme, we were to gather for a remembrance of baptism outside. We exited the church and the tower bells were ringing, sound bouncing all around the city buildings, joyously sending all to continue our ministries around the country.

Jean Johnson



Happy Centennial Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

With the death of Edward (Ted) Holyoke, MD in October of 2015, the Omaha Chapter lost one of its most valuable members. His enthusiasm for *The King of Instruments* was infectious! In the early 1990's he self-published his booklet, *The Pipes of Greater Omaha*. His research was amazingly thorough! I had the pleasure of being among those helping him with the project, supplying the specifications of many of the organs I serviced. He published an updated edition in 1997. It was his intention to publish a third edition, but his passing prevented that. The Omaha Chapter is the better for his being a part of it. He is missed. Godspeed, Ted!

John A. Hansen
Member Emeritus

Forward

"Praise him with tambourine and dancing; praise him with stringed instruments and organs." - Psalm 150:4

The first thing I remember about the pipe organ was its resemblance to a large old furnace - the king with all the huge pipes - and the noise it made. I was afraid of it! As you might have guessed, it was the blower I had encountered. The sink where our Sunday School class had to wash up after our painting or craft sessions was right next to the blower room in the basement.

But then one Sunday, all of us attended Church for a Sunday School program. I remember being fascinated by all the different sounds the organ could make. I had no idea how it worked or how you played it. I was probably 6 or 7 years old at the time.

Since then, fascination has turned to curiosity, which is something that has always seemed to drive me. I tried to learn as much as I could about the organ, how it is put together, how it works, how it is played and the music written for it.

During the years I was in Medical School, I substituted occasionally as organist in a few churches and was often asked to lay for a friend's wedding. It was then that I started collection information about the various instruments I saw and played. I joined the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and kept on collecting information about organs we would see and hear. Over the years I have continued this little project and I have learned much about the pipe organ and the churches in which they stand.

There are close to a hundred pipe organs in this area. They range from very old to very new, from very small to very large, from unplayable to perfect condition. Some are used rarely; others are played every day. Some are presided over by people who find, as I do, that playing the organ is a wonderful hobby. Other are presided over by very talented professional musicians. But one thing seems to stand in common: In every church I visited, the people I met were almost always very proud of the fact that their church has a pipe organ - even if it was unplayable. Many of these people took great delight in showing me their instrument and in sharing with me information about the organ and the history of their church.

To all these people - pastors, music directors, organists, secretaries, custodians - I give my thanks. I hope that what I present here is accurate, but some mistakes are possible. I am still learning, and this book has been a great learning experience. I also wish to thank Randy George, John Hansen, George Rice and our Historian, Milford Mowers, for their contributions.

Edward Holyoke

