



NOVEMBER 2016

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The Windchest

From the Dean...

SERVANT-LEADERS

Organists and choral directors are servant-leaders. We plan, we prepare, we practice daily to serve as worship leaders, serving those who serve in fellowship organizations organists and choral directors lead.

What are the characteristics of a servant-leader, especially a servant-leader in fellowship organizations, including Christian congregations and Jewish Synagogues? Of the many possible characteristics, the most important one is communication.

“The first service one owes to others in fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love of God begins in listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them. It is God’s love for us that He not only gives us His Word but lends us His ear. So it is His work that we do for our brother when we learn to listen to Him.”
Deitrich Bonhoeffer: *Life Together*.

Communication is a two-way street, listening to others as well as exchanging thoughts and information. Nothing is more important than listening to others, thoughtfully and attentively. Listening to others conveys to others that we care, that other people matter, and that their ideas or feelings are worthy of consideration. Not only do others appreciate the opportunity to offer suggestions, opinions and share frustrations, the listening servant-leader gains respect and support, it strengthens fellowship and participation within the groups led by the servant-leader.

Communication is reaching out to others, including choir members, instrumentalists, clergy and church leaders, congregation members, and the public. Servant-leaders treat others with respect, show appreciation, compassion, enthusiasm, and expect the best from everyone, always communicating thoughts, information with respect and love. The servant-leader genuinely listens to those we he/she serves, responding thoughtfully, truthfully.

A kind word from the servant-leader has far-reaching meaningful to those he/she serves. Thanks be to God!

Peace and good will. Psalm 96:1, 2.

Dr. Christensen, AAGO





TIP OF THE MONTH

Keyboard Fingering
Contributed by Joan Ebersoll,
St. John Lutheran Church
Council Bluffs, IA

Most people enjoy the process of learning new music to add to their repertoire. Sitting at the organ and sight reading new music is great fun. However, the most tedious part of learning is to determine how to position the hands and plan the fingering to accomplish the intended musical effect of the composer. It's not fun, but it is a step that all organists must not forego.

There is a reason that most organists have piano/organ preparatory books such as Hanon, Schmitt, Gleason, or Stainer in their libraries. These are designed to ingrain proper hand position and touch. Knowing just when to tuck the thumb under, perform a thumb glissando, or substitute a finger are important skills. Keeping the hand balanced over the keyboard gives an organist control and accuracy.

Notating fingering makes sure that one knows what his personally preferred fingering is and increases deeper understanding of the music. One cannot assume that

you will just know what you did before. Because we all have different hand sizes, we each must determine our own fingering. What is comfortable for your hand is what is best.

I have found that after achieving some proficiency with a particular composer or style, fingering notations may be limited to the beginning or end of a phrase with just one or two fingers marked per measure. However, it is always important to sight read with care to make sure an awkward fingering isn't learned. If I carefully learn a piece with good fingering; then, kinesthetic memory can carry my performance through several measures if I lose my place, get nervous, or need to direct my eyes to somewhere other than the music such as when I am looking for where the ushers are during the offering or if the last bridesmaid has entered at a wedding. Always using the same fingering makes it easier to relearn music that I haven't played for quite some time.

Playing the organ requires precision when holding half and whole notes with one finger while continuing to play a moving theme with the other fingers of the same hand. This can't be learned without careful consideration of which finger to use to accomplish this feat. An additional benefit when working with this aspect of fingering is that one learns to hear the different motifs moving through the music.

The least important part of notating fingering and learning to play a selection with the best hand position is the appearance. It just looks awkward to watch an organist play and substitute fingers multiple times to keep a note depressed for its whole value. Deciding which finger to use and only substituting once if necessary is just more aesthetic in appearance. It presents a much stronger performance than one where multiple substitutions occur.

It's not the most enjoyable part of learning, but notating fingering is a practice that even the most famous musicians still do. Learning can go faster and help commit piece much more deeply into memory. The benefits are definitely worth the little time it takes to work it out and write it down.



OmAGO OFFERING AGO CERTIFICATION CLASSES

Are you considering earning an AGO Certificate? Do you envision a SERVICE PLAYING CERTIFICATE (SPC) or COLLEAGUE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS (CAGO) on your office wall? Does the opportunity to include a SPC, ChM, CAGO, AAGO or FAGO title behind your signature appeal to you?

You may ask: "What are the requirements to earn an AGO certificate? Is there an application procedure? How much time will it take to earn any one of the certificates? What resources does the AGO offer to those earning a certificate? Will I need a mentor? Are classes and lessons offered to help prepare for certification exams?" The Omaha Chapter AGO plans to offer certification classes beginning this fall. The

MORE DETAILS CERTIFICATION CLASSES

Omaha AGO certification classes will be offered, beginning Saturday, November 12. The first class will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 239 Frank Street, Council Bluffs, at 9:30 a.m. A second class is scheduled for Saturday, December 10.

By popular demand, emphasis will be on SPC (Service Playing Certificate) and CAGO (Colleague



GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS Laura Palmer Scow

"The thing I enjoy most about being a church musician is my relationships with parishioners and church families. I am able to share some of the most important events in their lives, weddings, baptisms, seasons of the church year (Christmas, Easter, Palm Sunday, etc.) funerals, first communions, etc."

When asked what organ was the one she found most inspiring, she replied, "That

classes will focus on SPC (Service Playing Certificate), CAGO (Colleague American Guild of Organists), and ChM (Choir Master American Guild of Organists). Classes will provide opportunity for mutual support and encouragement, opportunity to play required repertoire and skills requirements for peers, and professional mentoring from fellow members.

Certification information is available in the July issue of *The American Organist*. Sample copies of study materials, lists of required repertoire and skills, and other study materials are available for perusal by contacting Dr. Christensen, dean, at mrc@chase3000.com; or (712) 352-0298.

Questions? Please ask them! Together we can find answers. Dr. C.



American Guild of Organists) exams. Copies of the *2013 Revised Examination Hymn Booklet* and samples of the five anthem options will be available. Test time-lines and procedures, and other information will be available.

Teachers for the class are Jim Lytton, ChM; and Dr. Christensen, AAGO. Members (and non-members) planning to attend the classes should contact Dr. Christensen mrc@chase3000.com

would be the organ in Bales Recital Hall at the University of Kansas. I played it frequently while working on my MM and DMA. Playing it is always special." She received her baccalaureate degree from Wartburg College. Laura has been a member of our local chapter for around eight years. She is currently the Director of Music Ministries at All Saints Episcopal Church. She finds choral conducting her most enjoyable task.

Laura was married to Eric Scow last summer. They were introduced by her uncle. She runs ½ marathons and volunteers at Children's Hospital. They are both avid Husker fans. Congratulations to the happy couple...and Go Big Red!

Claire Roehrkasse Eason Regional AGO appointment

Claire R. Eason has been appointed to serve as one of the District Conveners for the North Central Region of AGO assigned to Omaha and Lincoln chapters. Conveners are liaison representatives between the Regional Coordinators and the local chapters. John Friesen of Lincoln had agreed to serve this term, but then had the opportunity to teach in China. Claire will be filling out the second year of his term.

Claire has been a member of both chapters for many years. She is currently serving on both boards of directors. She is a graduate of UNL and later also received a MM there. She is an active substitute organist in the Fremont/Omaha/Lincoln area. During the winter, she is an organist at

Fishers of Men Lutheran Church LCMS, Port Isabel TX which is the mainland area across from South Padre Island.

Claire is a retired high school choral director. At North Bend Central High School, she directed chorus, competition show choir and musicals and taught sections of British and World literature. In her “spare time”, she was also a Student Council and Academic Decathlon sponsor. After her retirement, she was an adjunct professor of music at Dana College. Claire and her husband Mike have two children: Daughter Marcy and their son LTC Mike Eason, his wife Tamara and their two daughters, Victoria and Isabella. She is also a member of the board of directors of the North Bend Golf Course.

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Chapter news items:

The chapter voted to contribute \$250 to the AGOYO (AGO YOUNG ORGANISTS) Young Composer Competition. The competition will be held at the Regional Convention in Des Moines, IA.

The competition is for the composition of solo organ works of five minute duration. (original; not hymn-based).

Composers are to be 30 years of age or younger. Contributions from chapters will be used for judges fees and the promotion of the project. The prize winning work will be premiered at North Central Regional Convention, summer of 2017 Awards: First prize: \$1500.00 Second prize: \$500.00 Three honorable mentions

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The Casavant organ at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church (5912 South 36th St. Omaha NE). This organ was one of two tracker organs recently played at the OmAGO Advent/Christmas chapter event.

On the following page is a poster advertising the Catherine Rodland recital at Kountze Lutheran next Sunday. Please copy and post.

The Omaha Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists

presents in concert



Dr. Catherine Rodland

Artist in Residence St. Olaf College Northfield, Minnesota

Sunday, November 6

On the pipe organ refurbished by Schoenstein and Co in 2014

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam

Omaha, Nebraska

3:00 p.m. * Admission is Free * Reception to follow

VESPER CONCERTS November 6, 2016

The Dover Quartet

Vesper Concerts continues its tradition of presenting a young, up-and-coming chamber music ensemble each season with a concert by the DOVER QUARTET. Their program will include quartets by Mozart, Benjamin The Dover Quartet catapulted to international stardom following a stunning sweep of the 2013 Banff International String Quartet Competition, becoming one of the most in-demand ensembles in the world. The New Yorker recently dubbed them “the young American string quartet of the moment,” and The Strad raved that the Quartet is “already pulling away from their peers with their exceptional interpretive maturity, tonal refinement and taunt ensemble.”

A Service of Unity: St. Paula Methodist Church, November 13, 2016

With the election cycle over, regardless of party affiliation, healing needs to take place to move our country forward. The afternoon of **Sunday, November 13, 2016** offers the Omaha metro community the opportunity with "A Service of Unity" based loosely in the style of an Anglican Evensong. This will be an intentional time for prayerful reflection on the divisions we have endured and the conscience decision to pledge ourselves to living in harmony with one another. The **4:00 p.m.** service will take place in the Sanctuary of Omaha St. Paul United Methodist Church, located at 54th & Northwest Radial Highway. The music will be provided by the combined choirs of All Saints Episcopal Church, Dr. Laura Palmer, choirmaster/organist and St. Paul Church, the Rev. Jerry Brabec, Minister of Worship. All are welcome to join the faith community in a time of prayerful reconciliation and healing.

Voices of Omaha

Voices of Omaha presents its 48th annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*, Sunday, November 20, 2016, 3:00 p.m. at the Holland Performing Arts Center. There is no admission charge; no ticket is required. A voluntary offering will be taken.

The chorus of 185 singers will be joined by soloists Jamie Reimer, soprano, Janet Carlsen Campbell, mezzo-soprano; Paul Koenig, tenor; and Kyle Sandall, bass-baritone. Accompanied by chamber orchestra, the concert will be conducted by Edward B. Hurd.

Major financial support for this performance was provided by the Nebraska Arts Council and the Gilbert M. and Martha H. Hitchcock Foundation.

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE

December 11, 2017 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (84th & Pacific, Omaha) 7:00 p.m.

Conducted by Dr. Michael Bauer

Dedication events for Juget-Sinclair organ, Opus 46

Sinai Lutheran Church, Fremont Nebraska

Sinai Lutheran Church, 950 E. 8th in Fremont, will be dedicating a new Juget-Sinclair organ, Op. 46, with a series of events this year. Due to delays in installation and other conflicts, some dates for programs previously announced have been changed. Please note the new dates below. The congregation is looking forward to sharing this beautiful new instrument with the community!

December 9, 7:00 pm - Recital, Claire Bushong (rescheduled)

December 11, 3:00 pm - Service celebrating the congregation's 125th anniversary and dedication of the organ

February 19, 3:00 pm - Hymn Festival with David Schack and Paul Westermeyer

May 7, 3:00 pm - Recital, Michael Bauer

A Service of Remembrance: Fauré Requiem Tuesday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 113 N 18th St., Omaha The Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choir

Dr. Marty Wheeler Burnett, conductor Dr. Wayne Kallstrom, organ
On the evening of All Saints' Day, we gather to pray for those who have died and celebrate the promise of resurrection. The Cathedral Choir and instrumental ensemble, under the direction of Marty Wheeler Burnett, will present Fauré's sacred choral masterpiece. Childcare is available in the nursery.



Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

The Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choir Dr. Marty Wheeler Burnett, conductor Michael McCabe, organ

Sunday, December 4, **10:30 a.m.** Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 113 N 18th St., Omaha

Sunday, December 11, **10:00 a.m.** St. Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, Hastings

Sunday, December 11, **4:00 p.m.** St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Lincoln

For more information, visit <http://trinityepiscopal.org>

2017 Looking Ahead

March 19 - All-Bach Organ Recital, Marie Rubis Bauer, St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha

Further down the road ...from Lincoln AGO

The Lincoln chapter of AGO will be sponsoring the **RCYO (Regional Competition for Young Organists)** on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at St. Paul's Methodist in downtown Lincoln. Registration and more information is available online on AGO website.

Blersch to Present Concert

Sunday, November 13, 3 p.m. Music Center Recital Hall, Concordia University, Seward

Chapter member Dr. Jeffrey Blersch will play a faculty recital as part of the Concordia campus community's year-long celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This program is a "Bachathon" (all works of Bach). Dr. Blersch is a professor of music and university organist for Concordia University. He is a graduate of the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music where he received degrees in organ performance and music education, and of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance. His principal teachers have included Roberta Gary, Garth Peacock, and Marilyn Mason.

November 5, 2016 – The Lincoln chapter will host a workshop on "**Long-Term Care of Keyboard Instruments,**" beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Saint Paul United Methodist Church.

Check us out on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/omahaago/>

The parents of Rosemary Paul are currently dealing with severe health problems. Claire Eason has stepped in to compile November's issue of the Windchest. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rosemary and her family. Please bear with the rough editing and formatting of this issue.



CURRENT AGOBOARD MEMBERS

2016-2017

Dean J. Gordon Christensen
AAGO Sub-Dean: Marie Rubis
Bauer Secretary: Gregory Johnson
Treasurer: Gina Simpson
Immediate Past Dean: David Schack
Members - at - Large:
Julie Sandene: 2014/15-2016/17
Claire Eason: 2015/16 -2017/18
Jean Johnson: 2016/17 –2018/19

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 (2016-2017)	Marie Rubis Bauer
Publicity	J Gordon Christensen
Referrals	Julie Sandene
Webmaster	Mayumi Naramura
<i>Windchest</i> Editor	Rosemary Paul
November Issue Editor	Claire R. Eason