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POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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From the Dean...

**“The Mission of
the AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.”**

American Guild of Organists is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields, and with 16,000 members throughout the United States and other countries across the world, the guild’s mission is developed, in part, through educational opportunities.

The most important education opportunity the AGO offers is the certification program, established as part of the guild’s charter in 1896. Five certificates are offered: Service Playing Certificate (SPC); Colleague American Guild of Organists (CAGO); Associate American Guild of Organists (AAGO); Fellow American Guild of Organists (FAGO); and Choir Master (ChM).

Each certificate outlines specific requirements leading to certification, including the development of formidable keyboard and/or conducting skills, musicological and theoretical knowledge. The requirements for the exams are published annually in the July issue of *The American Organist*, specifically outlining requirements at each level. Information is available through the national headquarters as well.

As dean of the Omaha Chapter, I heartily encourage membership to earn AGO certification. Preparation for guild certification improves technical and musical skills, as well as personal and professional growth. AGO certification credentials raise the professional image and respect of certificate holders among constituents, fellow professionals, friends and family. AGO certification broadens the field of opportunity and raises self image.

National publishes a calendar regarding application and examination time-line schedules. The SPC and CAGO exams are recorded locally, and are sent to headquarters for evaluation. The ChM, AAGO, and FAGO exams are played and written at designated sites in the presence of three judges who evaluate the performance and papers. Certificates are awarded in June of each year, announced at regional and national conventions.



AGO Certification Opportunities

Several members of the Omaha AGO have expressed interest in earning AGO certification, especially at the SPC and/or CAGO levels. Guidelines:

1. **SCHEDULE** - Check the July issue of *The American Organist*.
 - Dead-lines to national for application for all certificates.
 - SPC and CAGO are recorded locally: contact SALLY HODGED to arrange site and sate.
2. **FEES** - Each certification requires a fee, payable when registering.
3. **REPERTOIRE** - Selected from specific lists published by national. Check July issue of TAO.
4. **REQUIREMENTS** - Be sure to follow the requirements closely! AAGO and FAGO include extensive written exams in music history; repertoire; composition; improvisation; and ear training.
5. **PRACTICE; PREPARATION PATIENCE; PERSISTENCE!!**

Several members have suggested a certification class be available. Contact Dr. C if you are interested in a certification class: (mrc@chase3000.com). Preparation manuals for SPC and CAGO and some sample copies of earlier SPC and CAGO exams are available for member use. Contact Dr. C for those resources.

Welcome NEW AGO Members!!

Timothy Connor

New member TIMOTHY CONNOR joined the Omaha Chapter as a student member of the AGO. Timothy lives in Manning, Iowa, with his parents and five siblings. Timothy serves as organist for Zion Lutheran Church in Manning, presiding on a II/21 Casavant 1966, maintained by the Dobson Organ Company of Lake City, Iowa.

Twelve year old Timothy Connor is "Classical Kid of the Month" for September on KVNL Radio, 90.7 FM, Omaha. His competition repertoire included "Prelude and Fugue in C" from the *Eight Little Preludes and Fuges* attributed to the Bach circle, and the "O Hail This Brightest Day of Days" from *Orgelbuchlein* by J. S. Bach.

Welcoming and congratulatory greeting can be extended to Timothy at: connerjonathanidw@gmail.com.

Kent Seetin

New member KENT SEETIN, a native of Minnesota is a long-time organist in the Omaha Metropolitan community, most recently serving Cross Lutheran Church (now closed) as parish organist. A friend of several members of the Omaha AGO, Kent works for Union Pacific, and is often seen ushering events at the Holland Center in downtown Omaha. Along with several members of the chapter, Kent is involved in efforts to preserve and relocate the pipe organ in Cross Lutheran before the building is demolished.

Describing himself as a "self-taught" organist, Kent joined the Omaha Chapter AGO to develop his skills as an organist, planning to earn the SPC.

Greeting to Kent will reach him at KASEETIN@up.com



Certification
Levels
of
the
American
Guild
of
Organists:

SPC

CAGO

AAGO

FACO

ChM

Save the Date

Official 2016-2017 OMAHA AGO EVENT CALENDAR

- **August 28 - 5:00-7:30 p.m.** Kick Off Program on certification; supper; business meeting at Dr. Christensen's home in Council Bluffs
- **September 25 - 3:00 p.m.** Organ/Harp Concert at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Omaha
- **October 16 - Late p.m.** Advent/Christmas Progressive Dinner; business meeting at Sts. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, Omaha
- **November 6 - 3:00 p.m.** Roland Organ Recital - Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Omaha
- **December 11 - 3:00 p.m.** River City Theater Organ-AGO Christmas Social at the home of Robert Markworth
- **January 20 - a.m.** Latona two-session workshop on improvisation; business meeting
January 21 - 3:00 p.m. Latona Organ Recital at St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha
- **February 18 - 3:00 p.m.** Student Organ Recital - location TBA
- Arcus Film "Sacred Sound"; business meeting - location TBA
- **April 24 - 3:00 p.m.** Temple Israel, Tri-Faith Initiative at the Tri-Faith Campus, Omaha
- **May 22 - 6:00 p.m.** Season Finale: Concert by AGO certificate applicants; business meeting at Dundee Presbyterian Church, Omaha



TO BE ANNOUNCED BY OMAHA AGO

- **October 9** - Organ Recital by Dr. Wayne Kallstrom, Strauss Performing Arts Center
- **November 13** - Organ Recital, Mount Sinai Lutheran Church, Fremont
- **February 19** - Hymn Festival, David Schack, Mount Sinai Lutheran Church, Fremont
- **March 19** - All-Bach Organ Recital, Marie Rubis Bauer, St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha





*Kick-Off
Program*

August 28th

5:00 - 7:30



*News
from
the
Lincoln
Chapter*

Short Box...



Kick-Off Program - August 28

Plan to attend the chapter's kick-off event on Sunday, August 28 from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Dr Christensen's home, 170 Nicholas Street, Council Bluffs. The program will be a presentation on certification, presented by JOYCE SHUPE KULL, DMA, past chairman of the Committee on Education for National AGO. There will be a short business meeting and a presentation announcing the 2016-2017 season.

Dr. Christensen will host a sit-down dinner for members and guests. Directions: I-480 into Council Bluffs, continuing on Broadway to Frank Street. Turn right and continue on Frank Street to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Parking is suggested in the church parking lot or on Nicholas Street.

RSVP: mrc@chase3000.com or 712-352-0298 by August 25.

Organs in the NEWS!!!

The Boyd Chapel pipe organ at Boys Town is currently being repaired by Reuter Organ Co. There was roof damage over the swell last year which was temporarily repaired. Other changes are being made while the swell it out. Thanks to Michael McCabe for the update.

Further down the road ...from Lincoln AGO

Lincoln Organ Showcase

As the 2016-17 season of the Lincoln Organ Showcase is coming together, we want to let you know of some definite dates and some changes that are in store. We can announce that the first two concerts of the season will be **September 25, 4:00 p.m. - Thomas Heywood**, organ at First-Plymouth Congregational Church (co-sponsor with Abendmusik) and **October 9, 3:00 p.m. - Benjamin Sheen**, organ at Grace Lutheran Church.

I had the privilege of hearing Ben Sheen perform at Longwood Gardens during the Organ Historical Society convention this summer, so I can attest that we are in for a treat! A fine player, Ben is acting Director of Music at St. Thomas Fifth Avenue in New York City. We'll announce spring concerts soon - stay tuned!

This season, we will also be considering the LOS concerts to be part of the monthly Lincoln AGO chapter activities. Therefore, AGO Lincoln Chapter members will not have to buy season tickets to LOS; because they will now be included as a part of the chapter membership. However, we hope that you will still volunteer to give to LOS, which depends greatly on the generosity of our members and patrons!

- Chris Marks, LOS Chair

