

# THE WINDCHEST



OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

JANUARY 2021

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## FROM THE DEAN

So, nine months into this pandemic - what have we learned?

I believe we have all had to learn to lean in hard to things that really matter. We miss worship with others, we miss going to stores, we miss gathering with friends and family, we miss a sense of normal. There has been job impact, financial impact, health impact, skill impact, and the impact of constant statistics about death and illness. It has taken a toll, but also brought realization of life as others have experienced it, and we know we are blessed. If you find yourself needing to speak with someone, please call Jerry Brabec, our Professional Concerns chair. He would be glad to help you determine a path forward.

The Omaha Chapter Board has been meeting via Zoom and I appreciate what all the members are doing to plan in a way that is instructive and interesting to all of you. We made calls to members in December to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. I hope you have received a phone call or email. Reports from the board include that some of you have had COVID and recovered, there have been other health issues, most of you are recording or livestreaming. A few actually play with a congregation. Some are having to do school with their children at home. We know this will not change quickly. We have learned that people and relationships matter. You are all important to the Omaha AGO and we hope we can be of encouragement to you.

To our new members - Alex, Zach H, Jason, Mary, Brett, and Carolyn - we are glad to have you in our chapter. We look forward to meeting you and getting to know you. Look for programming elsewhere in this newsletter and be sure to introduce yourself when we gather.

Last year my husband bought a smart TV - and I did not see the reason. Well - add a soundbar to that TV and pull up Youtube and it has given us hours of wonderful music this month. We listened to concerts from St. Olaf, Gustavus, Luther and the National Lutheran Choir - along with offerings from Abendmusik in Lincoln, the AGOYO organ crawls, and River City Ringers. We would never have been able to experience all that unless some very creative people spent a lot of time pulling things together for broadcast. If you have not tried this - **RESOURCES**

The American Guild of Organists national website has numerous resources for members. Under the Membership Tab drop-down menu, you can access upcoming recitals and workshops: <https://www.agohq.org/online-programming-for-chapters/>. This page will continually be updated as new information is received. There is also a page that shares links to past leadership webinars: <https://www.agohq.org/leadership-webinars/>. Past webinars with supporting documents can also be viewed: <https://www.agohq.org/ago-webinars-and-supporting-documents>.

you can find great music just by typing in the name of the person or college you want and go from there. Happy listening!

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Blessings,  
*Jean Johnson*, Dean

## JANUARY OMAHA CHAPTER VIRTUAL MEETING

Our zoom OAGO meeting on Saturday, January 16, at 11:00 am will focus on AGO certification and a few minutes on the Achievement Awards. To make it as informational and practical as possible, please send any questions or comments to the presenter, Sr. Claudette Schiratti, Certification chair for the chapter to [cschiratti1@gmail.com](mailto:cschiratti1@gmail.com) by Monday, Jan. 11.

## DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

- Plans for the January-June 2021 programming were approved.
- The vote for the Operating Procedures, as emailed to members, was approved. They will be forwarded to Elizabeth George for AGO national.
- The board will make contact with all members during December wishing all a Merry Christmas and checking to make sure how all are doing.
- Jean and Jeff “met” with Zach Hastings to get things rolling for the Young Organists of the chapter. A reminder to anyone under the age of 30 - your dues are \$50. This is not a “student membership”. These members are the Young Organists.
- Scholarship opportunity - there is an application on the website for anyone interested. If you have students check it out.
- The Board is considering a mentoring program especially for college age students. Watch for more to come in February and consider becoming a mentor.

Greg Johnson, Secretary

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Certification**

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**Historian**

David McCain

**Membership**

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**Publicity**

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Jeff Hoffman

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Jerry Brabec

**Programs**

Stephen Bartelt

**Young Organists**

Zach Hastings

## 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.

## WINTER & SPRING 2021 OMAHA AGO PROGRAMMING

As of December 18, 2020

Virtual programming is available to all on the national AGO website: [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org) To access their offerings scroll down to the gray area towards the bottom of the page. The two main sites you are looking for are "AGO Youtube Channel" and "AGOYO" (AGO Young Organists). Once there, you can access both the archived programs and any new programs scheduled to be added. Our schedule features two of new programs offered on the "AGOYO" tab. Note, they are done live at 11 a.m. our time on the day scheduled. They will then be archived to be watched anytime later on the "AGO Youtube Channel." When you have time this winter on a snowy day or an "isolation" day or just any day you want to learn some new things about our instrument, take time to navigate all that national is offering and enjoy it.

January 8 (Friday). This AGOYO Webinar on "Young Conductors, Organists Guide to Church Music" can benefit all of us. Live at 11 a.m. as stated above and available anytime later on Youtube.

January 16 (Saturday). 11 a.m. Sister Claudette Schiratti, our chapter Certification Chair, along with Zachary Hastings, our chapter Young Organists chair, will lead a Zoom presentation on the details and requirements for the various AGO certifications. Zoom access information will be furnished before the event. Members with specific questions about certification should forward the questions to Sister Schiratti at [cschiratti1@gmail.com](mailto:cschiratti1@gmail.com) so that they can be addressed. If you've ever wondered if or how you should apply for certification, this is the event for you.

February 12 (Friday). A fascinating webinar "Wanamaker Organ Crawl." This will be live on the AGOYO tab at 11 a.m. and available later on Youtube. Should be interesting to see the inner workings of this famous instrument in of all places a department store in Philadelphia.

February 27 (Saturday) 11 a.m. Zoom presentation by our chapter member Dr. Laura Scow on "The Spirituality of Handel." This is one of three presentations Laura originally prepared for her choirs at All Saints. She is graciously re-presenting it for our chapter on Zoom.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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**Member-at-Large**  
Sr. Claudette Schiratti - 2020/2021 - 2022/2023  
cschiratti1@gmail.com 913-530-0960

Zoom access information will be furnished before the event. To whet your appetite, did you know that Handel's father was a clergyman?

March 21 (Sunday) Happy Birthday Bach! At 3 p.m. our own chapter member Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer will celebrate Johann's birthday with a concert at St. Cecilia Cathedral, a Cathedral Arts Project event. The cathedral is a large space and social distancing should be possible. Masks are required.

April is the month in which we can put something of our own together. The goal is a virtual member organ recital. Find something somewhat short that you enjoy or enjoyed playing. We will be at the time of Lent/Holy Week/Easter/Passover then, so something should pop out at you. The goal is about an hour or a bit more than an hour total for the whole recital for all participating. Our Sub-dean, Stephen Bartelt, will be glad to learn of what you want to submit and about how long it is. ([stephenbartelt@yahoo.com](mailto:stephenbartelt@yahoo.com)) Have a friend get out their phone or tablet and record you playing your selection. Our chapter member Zachary Zieschang will be handling the technical work of putting all our submissions together. More details will follow as we get closer to April, including how to get your recording to Kantor Zieschang.

May 16 (Sunday) 3 p.m. the "crown jewel" of Spring programming. Our chapter in conjunction with the Cathedral Arts Project will be co-sponsoring a recital by Jan Kraybill at St. Cecilia Cathedral. By then, hopefully, things will be beginning to return to normal. This is a concert not to be missed. Additionally, the CAP is sponsoring a reception to honor our former Dean, Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Sunderland Gallery adjacent to the cathedral. Our members are invited to thank Dr. Christensen for his years of leadership for our chapter and his service to the CAP. On display in the gallery will be Dr. Christensen's collection of paintings by Nebraska artists.

June 6 (Sunday). Hopefully, an in-person late afternoon gathering to install new officers and to greet one another after more than a year of pandemic. If possible, we will include a meal. If not, the event will be modified to reflect realities then in effect.



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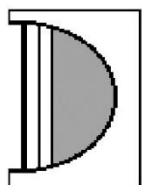
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