

THE WINDCHEST



OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

SEPTEMBER 2020

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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

What is the first page you read when you receive your copy of The American Organist magazine? For me it is Chaplain Don Saliers' article. Don has a way of reminding me why I am an organist in the church and how it is that what I do, as a musician, is important in the life of my congregation. I hope you will read the entire article - but what drew my attention in the August issue was the mention of Psalm 137. Stephen Schwartz paraphrased part of this Psalm in the musical "Godspell" and wrote a beautiful melody for it. The question is: how can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? In "Godspell" it was sung at Jesus' death. How to go on without Him. But this question has endured and is one we might ask today as we are certainly in a strange land. How do we do lead the church's song when we can't go to worship; how can we play our organs with 20 people in house and the rest on computers; or maybe with no one in the building? But, that is what we are called to do. Don't let what is going on in the world keep you from playing so that your congregation is reminded of how much God loves and cares for them. Do it with JOY!

Some Good News!

- ❖ The Omaha Chapter welcomes Carol Goodwin as a new member.
- ❖ Bedient Organs have joined as an advertiser - be sure to keep them in mind when needed.
- ❖ Congratulations to member Jeremy Owens who is the new organist for Dowd Chapel at Boys Town.

The Federal Trade Commission requires the AGO to publish a Settlement Statement that members should read and be aware of. It is on page 7 of the August issue of TAO.

The Programs for this fall are listed elsewhere. We do have things planned going forth in January, but we are holding off their publication until we know what is possible for meeting together. In the meantime, you should receive the 2020-2021 Directory before the September meeting. Maybe reading all the names will help you remember friends whom you have not seen for a while. Thank you to our board members and the committee chairs who are serving this year. Please contact any of us if you have questions, concerns, or need to vent!

"The Joy of the Lord is your strength". Nehemiah 8:10

Jean Johnson, Dean

MISSION

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music,
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors,
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support,
- Nurture future generations of organists,
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

FROM THE PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS CHAIR

Friends,

As the 80's SNL character, Emily Litella, might say when confronted with the fact that it's COVID-19, not bovine mating... "Oh, never mind!" Hopefully, we've all come to terms with the truth that this virus is certainly nothing to never mind! Our lives, our vocations as well as our avocations have been thrown all out of kilter due to something over which we really have no control. Yes, we can mask, socially distance, wash hands as long as it takes to sing the Doxology at a cathedral reverberating tempo, antimicrobial spray, and HVAC recalibrate, but none of it insures we won't catch the bug. From our places of self imposed exile it seems as there may be no hope. If you find yourself needing to talk, vent or otherwise ruminate about life's current situations and the 'novel' manner the pandemic is affecting you, please feel free to reach out to your AGO chapter leadership or to me as your Professional Concerns representative. All silliness aside, despite the way our world may appear we truly are in this all together and, for that, we need not say, "Never mind!"

Jerry Brabec
jbrabec@stpaulomaha.org

CHAPTER ADVERTISING POLICY

In an effort to standardize the advertising in our local publications, the Executive Board of the Omaha Chapter AGO is making some changes.

Most ads are purchased when renewing memberships. That will continue with the price of \$35.00 a year. Businesses may also purchase ads for the same \$35.00 price. All ads will be printed business card size, and will appear in the Directory, on the Omaha AGO website and in the monthly publication of *The Windchest*.

If you have already purchased an ad, please send your business card sized digital copy to Jeff Hoffman at: omahaago@gmail.com. A business wishing to advertise should remit \$35.00 check made out to Omaha Chapter AGO and send to David McCain, 607 North Chestnut St, Avoca, IA 51521. The digital copy to Jeff Hoffman. Please complete this as soon as possible. The Directory is in the process of final edits for printing.

The chapter will continue to print information about upcoming concerts or recitals in the Windchest, but will not print full page ads.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Dean Jean Johnson
Jean.johnson.8@cox.net + 402-571-7945

Sub-Dean Stephen Bartelt
stephenbartelt@yahoo.com + 402-496-6140

Secretary Gregory Johnson
gj1814@earthlink.net + 402-719-1923

Treasurer David McCain
davidmmccain@iowatel.com.net + 712-343-2328

Immediate Past Dean Dr. J. Gordon Christensen
drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com + 712-352-0298

Member-at-Large Jeff Hoffman - 2018/2019 - 2020/2021
omahaago@gmail.com + 402-317-8887

Member-at-Large Laura Rau - 2018/2019 - 2019-2022
laura.m.rau@gmail.com + 620-870-9768

Member-at-Large Sr. Claudette Schirati - 2020/2021 - 2012 - 2023
cshiratti1@gmail.com
+ 913-530-0960

OMAHA AGO BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Omaha Chapter Board Meeting Summary – August 11, 2020

- The chapter is donating \$400 to the national Annual Fund.
- David and Jean are working with the bank to change signatures.
- The chapter paid for the Honorary memberships of John Hansen and Harold Payne.
- The Board is working to revise the “Operating Procedures to Govern the Omaha Chapter”. When completed and approved, they will be brought to the membership.

2020-2021 SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 13: Virtual Happy Hour! 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Program will be conducted on the Zoom platform with Jeff Hoffman as facilitator. Login details, below, will be sent by email closer to the date. Jeff Hoffman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Omaha AGO September Meeting
Time: Sep 13, 2020 03:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84708517665?pwd=bWs5YWFLa1N5VFYxeTJjZWZ1L1pWZz09>

Meeting ID: 847 0851 7665

Passcode: 889692

Theme: “Organ and Choral Realities in a COVID World.”

We are excited to welcome Elizabeth George, Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development from the National AGO office. She will be part of our Zoom conversation. She will be speaking about the chapter support resources that are available on the AGO website, chapter program collaboration and the importance of staying connected and engage your members during this time of social distancing.

Additionally, chapter members will offer a short discussion starter on the following topics. The floor will then be open for any of us to share, question, or comment.

“Involving Congregation Members Safely.”
Kantor Zachary Zieschang, Zion Lutheran

“The Realities of a Musician in a Closed Building”
Mark Kurtz, First United Methodist

OMAHA
CHAPTER
COMMITTEE
CHAIRS

**Education /
Certification**

Sr. Claudette Schiratti

Historian

David McCain

Membership

Laura Rau

Publicity

Windchest

Jeff Hoffman

Professional Concerns

Jerry Brabec

Programs

Stephen Bartelt

Young Organists

TBD

“Music in a Functioning Cathedral during COVID Times.”

Marie Rubis-Bauer. St. Cedia Cathedral

Pour yourself your favorite refreshment, get out the snacks, and be part of this experience!

Watch your email for the Zoom instructions. If any need some help with Zoom, let Stephen Bartelt know, and we can do a practice session with those unfamiliar with Zoom.

Saturday, October 10, “A New Instrument: Start to Finish.”

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you are comfortable, you can attend this presentation in person, and it will be streamed on Facebook Live for those wishing to participate virtually.

Location: Countryside Community Church, 13130 Faith Plaza (132nd and Pacific), Tri-Faith Campus

Host Alex Ritter will talk about the process the church went through to acquire their new instrument: design, bidding, construction, installation---in short, all the steps, the joys and frustrations, along the way. The organ may or may not be ready to demonstrate but reviewing the process of acquisition will make a fascinating program. Additionally, if time permits and the group is interested, Alex will give us an introduction to the Tri-Faith campus.

Be sure to bring your mask if you plan to attend in person, and we will certainly space ourselves out sufficiently to minimize COVID.

November: “African American Organ Music”

November: “African American Organ/Choral Music,” November 7

Location: First Christian Church, 6630 Dodge (across from UNO)

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Presenter: Dr. Marques Garrett, UNL

This presentation will also be livestreamed for those not wanting to attend in person. Those wishing to attend in person will be practicing social distancing and wearing masks.

Dr. Garrett is a professor of choral music at UNL and a distinguished representative of African American music. His presentation will broaden the horizons of us all on this timely subject.

December: No program planned.

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Email:
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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/>.
- ❖ Under the Education Tab drop-down menu, members can register for upcoming webinars:
<https://www.agohq.org/upcoming-ago-webinars/>. Past webinars with supporting documents can also be viewed: <https://www.agohq.org/ago-webinars-and-supporting-documents>.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Veronica Elsie Koch born to Paul and Emily Lindner-Koch on Aug. 2nd at 8:06am. She weighed 7lbs 1 oz and was 20 inches long.

Emily is an Omaha Chapter member, organ student of Jeff Hoffman and a section leader in the St. Cecilia Cathedral Choir.



We welcome Bedient Pipe Organ Company as an advertiser in *The Windchest*. Thank you for supporting the work of the Omaha Chapter!