

OMAHA CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN
GUILD OF
ORGANISTS

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

Recital Dates

Special Events

Centennial News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Dean 1

AGO 2
Certification
2018 Convention
News

In the News... 3

Pedaling Around 4
Omaha

Recitals and 5
Special Events

Tip of the 6
Month

Ancient Worship 7
Schedule

About the AGO 8



The Windchest

January 2018

Celebrating 100 Years!

From the Dean...

A LIST OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS, 2018 FOR AGO MEMBERS

- File all Advent and Christmas music immediately;
- Systematically update files, including:
 - Organ
 - Organ with instruments; instrumental
 - Choral
 - Vocal solo; small vocal ensemble;
- Update (and re-organize if need be) the music index file;
- Encourage positive communications within the church/synagogue staff: acknowledge the role of others; communicate within the parish/congregation; develop friendships; encourage development of social events: (Christmas caroling; monthly lunch birthday club; attending concerts with others, etc.);
- Encourage and support service planning with clergy and staff;
- Practice: hymns, liturgy, voluntary music; be prepared;
- Pray, study the Scriptures; provide quiet time on a daily basis for personal contemplation and reflection;
- Seek professional growth opportunities:
 - Attend chapter meetings, programs, events sponsored by fellow members and neighboring AGO chapters; exchange ideas and information;
 - Attend national and regional AGO conventions; including the Kansas City national convention this summer;
 - Attend and participate in denominational seminars, conventions, symposiums and workshop opportunities;
 - Earn AGO certification;
 - Develop and maintain a library of current publications relevant to growth as a church/synagogue musician;
 - Read articles in topic- related periodicals, including *The American Organist* and denominational publications;
- Keep a list of updated organ "maintenance needs" for the organ technician;
- Identify a potential organ student, offering lessons and performance opportunities;
- Invite clergy and staff members to lunch.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dr. Christensen, Dean
Dean, Omaha AGO





AGO Certification

Kansas City 2018

American Guild of Organists National Convention



AGO CERTIFICATION

Some updates on AGO Certification. For those planning to take the CAGO exam in May of 2018, the completed application must be submitted by March 1, 2018. The CAGO exams are taken locally, recorded and sent to AGO Headquarters for evaluation.

The Service Playing Certificate application must be completed by February 1, 2018. The SPC is taken locally, recorded and sent to National Headquarters for evaluation.

Omaha AGO member Sally Hodges makes all the arrangements for local CAGO and SPC exams.

To date, Omaha AGO has three members preparing to play CAGO exams in May, 2018; two members have expressed interest in earning the SPC. Are there others interested in certification this spring?

Would those members who are interested in preparing for either the SPC or CAGO certification exams please contact Dr. Christensen at mrc@chase3000.com or (712) 352-0298.



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
Seniors: \$450 Early Bird: \$395
Students \$250 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!



Omaha Chapter AGO Events
Tuesday January 16, 2018
6:30 p.m.

**“Work Place Harmony:
Identifying Tools for the development of Good Collaboration in Ministry – WORKSHOP I”**

*Host: Jodi Korth, facilitator
with the Omaha AGO*

Clergy-Musician Task Force

Location:

*St. Michael Lutheran Church
13232 Blondo Street, Omaha*

January 16 Workshop Seeks Input on Collaboration from AGO Members

By Jodi Korth, Omaha AGO Clergy-Musician Task Force Facilitator

Enhancing existing relationships between clergy and organists and providing an opportunity to collaborate more effectively throughout their ministries is the mission of the Omaha AGO's newly-formed Clergy-Musician Task Force. The first in a series of meetings supporting this work is a workshop entitled: “Work Place Harmony: Identifying Tools for the development of Good Collaboration in Ministry—WORKSHOP I.”

The Task Force seeks your input on Tuesday, January 16 as we explore challenges and opportunities in establishing effective clergy-musician relationships. Through a roundtable discussion format, members will be asked to share their perspectives in several related areas. The results of those conversations will be collected and used for the development of a Best Practices document intended to enhance relationships of clergy and musicians throughout the Omaha metro area.

In addition to offering an opportunity to support the positive development of clergy-musician relationships across Omaha, this workshop will enhance members' professional development. By engaging with other professionals on this important topic, AGO members will walk away with expanded perspective on strengths and weaknesses of other clergy-musician relationships.

The Task Force has established three goals to frame our work over the next 18 months centered on the areas of clergy, musicians and the congregation:

- **Clergy:** Foster understanding of the role of a church musician and provide support in the growth and development of that task.
- **Musicians:** Foster understanding of the role of the clergy and provide support in the growth and development of that task.
- **Congregation:** Enhance ability for clergy and musicians to uphold each other through their service in the congregation.

As the Task Force continues to explore these topics, we thank you in advance for your support, participation and perspective. Your input and insight is critical and necessary for this important work. Please plan to attend the Tuesday, January 16th workshop!



All AGO members!!!!

Now is the time for all of us to remind our choral directors and singers to save the date for our annual AGO Chapter Hymn Festival. Make sure before the holidays start that all of our churches and organizations have the April 15, 2018, date on our calendars. There will be a mass choir once again and all singers are invited to be part of this event. Location is Saint John Lutheran in Council Bluffs and time is 3:00 p.m. More details will follow, but now is the time to "save the date."

A CELEBRATION OF PSALMS

A Hymn Festival

Presented by the Omaha Chapter AGO

3:00 p.m. Sunday, April 15, 2018

St John Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs A reception will follow

Organists Dana Sloan, Jeremy Owens, Julie Sandene, Gerry Oehring, J Gordon Christensen, Tom Andrews, Tim Schreiber, Joan Ebersold and Marty Wheeler Burnett will be joined by a choir for this event which features the organ as leader of congregational song.

A free-will offering will be received toward the chapter's raising \$1,000 to match a challenge gift. Details about choir participation will be forthcoming.

Jean Johnson is the chair of the committee working on this event. Joining her are Rick Richards, Jodi Korth, Jerry Brabec, Ann Spangler, Steve Bartelt, Gilbert Ward and Laura Rau.

Omaha Chapter AGO Events

Sunday April 8, 2018

7:00 p.m. Kola Owolabi

Organist from
the University of Michigan,
*Hosts: Omaha AGO
and UNO Music Department*
Location:
*Strauss Performing Arts Hall,
University of Nebraska,
Omaha Dodge at 62nd Street
Casavant Organ*

In the News...

PART- TIME ORGANIST WORKSHOP SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24. 9:00-12:00 noon

Planning for "The Part-time Organist: Encouragement, Ideas, and Help for Anyone with Limited Resources in Your Church," an outreach project of the Omaha Chapter, is well underway. The workshop, scheduled from 9:00-12:00 noon on Saturday, February 24, will be held at Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1517 South 114th Street, Omaha.

This workshop is designed for those who find themselves, with little or no training, asked to serve in leadership roles as church musicians, especially serving as organist. While many part-time organists possess piano playing skills, some have limited or no background regarding organ technique, registration, and repertoire. This workshop is designed following the model of January Jubilee held at Saint John Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs two years ago. The purpose of the workshop is to help organists who find themselves in need of direction and encouragement regarding organ technique, registration, and repertoire.

In addition to a brief welcome that includes two or three hymns accompanied on the Presbyterian Church of the Cross organ, three 40 minute workshop sessions will be offered, each with hand-outs: Registration; Basic Organ Technique; and Accessible Repertoire. Dietze Music House headquarters, based in Lincoln, will provide a display of music for sale. Refreshments will be served.

As an AGO chapter, we are reaching out to many part-time church musicians, especially organists, who are not members of AGO. Part of our challenge is identifying and inviting these musicians to attend this workshop, encouraging them to become members of the AGO.

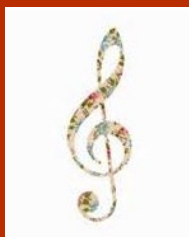
So, here is a challenge: let's suggest each member of Omaha AGO invite one or more musicians who would appreciate "encouragement, ideas, and help for anyone with limited resources in your church." ----SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24. 9:00-Noon. Offer guests transportation, hospitality, answering questions and sharing the excitement generated by interest in the organ, its literature and challenges.

*Pedaling
Around
Omaha*



AGO Board
Members

Committee Chairs



HINNERS TRACKER ORGAN

News from

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ann Chambers, Director of Music at St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church, is sharing the good news with Omaha AGO members that the church has received a small grant to start restoration of their Hinners tracker action organ.

The church would like to re-dedicate the organ with a recital presented by Omaha AGO members. No date for the concert has been set, depending on completion of the restoration and availability of organists to play. Marty Wheeler Burnett is assisting Ann in planning the event.

Members interested in playing for the re-dedication recital should contact Ann at: (402)-733-8815 or <stmartinoftoursomaha@gmail.com.

Sinai Festival Sounds



Sinai Festival Sounds, concert series of Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont, opened the 2017-2018 season on November 12 with a concert by Lincoln Lutheran Choir. Other upcoming programs in the series include a recital at :00 pm on February 18 by Ann Marie Rigler, organ, with Eric Williams, violin; and the Lincoln Early Music Consort on May 6 at 3:00 pm. Programs are free to the public and are supported by freewill offerings and other generous donations. Sinai Lutheran Church is located at 950 East 8th Street in Fremont, NE.

Save the date: June 22-23, 2018!

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians will be offering mini-conferences in multiple locations during 2018 in lieu of the larger regional conferences. One of these events will be held at Sinai Lutheran Church, 950 East 8th Street in Fremont, NE on June 22-23. The conference features Brett Epperson as choral clinician, an organ reading session by Lara West, and other topics that will be of special interest to musicians in parishes with limited resources. The conference is open to all interested musicians regardless of denominational affiliation. More information will be available soon!

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
Windchest Editor	Claire Eason
Windchest Publisher	Rosemary Paul

Tip of the Month

January 2018

Suggested Reading for Professional Growth

Forster, Stuart. **HYMN PLAYING, A Modern Colloquim**. Missouri: Saint Louis. MorningStar Music Publishers. MSM-90-44. 2013. 336 pages. Bibliography.

Promotional material: “**PLAYING HYMNS ON THE ORGAN IS A CENTURIES-OLD TRADITION** that has been passed down largely through osmosis and guesswork. To address a growing need for more explicit instruction, Forster surveys available resources about hymn playing, and then launches a discussion expounding twenty vital aspects encompassing the art of accompanying hymns. To equip the organist with a palette tools for every occasion, he has amassed the expertise of eleven leaders in the world of hymn playing. The panel considers everything from learning and teaching hymns through the instruments and people involved in growing a community of engaged singers within a congregation. The character and artistry of the participants is revealed through frank anecdotes from the collective 300+ years of experience. Here, we learn from David Cherwien, Mark Dwyer, David Erwin, John Ferguson, Peter Jewkes, Stephen Loher, Walden Moore, Bruce Neswick, John Scott, Jeffrey Smith, and Tom Whittemore.” Highly recommended.

Hyslop, Scott M. **THE JOURNEY WAS CHOSEN. The Life and Work of Paul Manz**. Missouri: Saint Louis. MorningStar Music Publishers. MSM-90-39. 2007. Bibliography.

This volume “includes a full biography of Manz’s life, a section devoted to the analysis and examination of his chorale based organ and choral works, and a brief festschrift. This last section features contributions from various composers, theologians, musicians, and a touching family portrait provided by Rev. John Manz, all of whom wish to emphasize the significance of Manz’s life and work.”

Dr. Manz’s presentations for BOY’S TOWN seminars are discussed in this volume.

Westermeyer, Paul. **THE CHURCH MUSICIAN**. Revised edition. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress. 97-11149. Annotated Bibliography.

Besides offering practical suggestions, this volume discusses music in the worship life of a congregational and introduces the concept of cantor as leader of the people’s song. More than a “how-to” manual for musicians, this book is an interdisciplinary study of worship, music, and theology accessible to everyone.

Westermeyer, Paul. **TE DEUM. The Church and Music**. Minneapolis: Fortress Press. 1998. 98-4062. Extensive Bibliography and General Index.

This volume is designed especially for students and teachers of liturgy and church music as well as clergy, musicians, lay readers, and libraries. The volume stands in partnership with other texts on the topic, serving as a text-book, a reference, a history, and an essay.

Zager, Daniel, ed. **HYMNS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**. Indiana: Fort Wayne. Concordia Theological Seminary Press. 2004.

Hymns in the Life of the Church is a Journal for the Fourth Annual Conference –November 2-4, 2003, sponsored by the Good Shepherd Institute on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Topics, presented by active musicians and theologians, include “Discerning Strengths and Weaknesses of Hymns, Historic Departures: Pietism, Rationalism, and Revivalism; Hymns in the Life of the Church: Defining Our Singing Together; and The Roots of American Lutheran Hymnody. Includes Hymn choices and the Lectionary –Series C, and plans for a Hymn Festival: *Hymns Past and Present*.

Compline at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

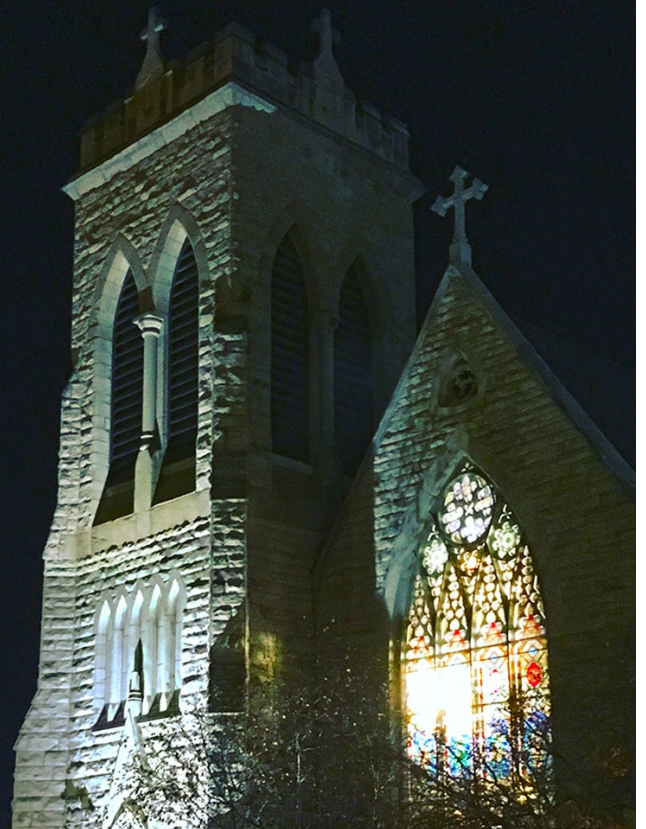
113 N 18th St • Omaha, NE 68102 • (402) 342-7010

The second Sunday in October, November, January, February, and April at 7:00 p.m.

Ancient Worship For the Modern Soul

Oct 8th • Nov 12th • Jan 14th • Feb 11th • Apr 8th
7:00 p.m.

Compline – night prayer – is the final worship of the day in the monastic system of daily prayers. Dating from the fourth century, this contemplative office focuses on spiritual peace. No words are spoken; worshipers bathe in beautiful, timeless music. Compline is less about “doing” and more about “being.” You will be invited to light a candle, offer prayers, and be still in God’s presence.



About the AGO

About the AGO 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. The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. The Guild serves approximately 14,700 members in approximately 300 chapters throughout the United States and abroad.

Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, the Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music.

Under the leadership of the National Council, a network of volunteer committees and officials at the regional, district, and local levels directs the activities of the Guild. The AGO National Headquarters is in New York City where a full time staff supports and coordinates publication, administration, and development activities of the organization. For purposes of administration and representation, the Guild is divided into nine geographical regions, and each chapter is assigned to one of them.

The American Guild of Organists and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA) share a mutually beneficial association, a collaboration that has existed since 1975. For several decades this relationship has been strengthened by financial contributions from APOBA and its members in support of the AGO and its Pipe Organ Encounters (POE) program. The AGO has responded with generous provisions for bringing news from APOBA and its members to the organ public.

The purposes of the American Guild of Organists are:

- To advance the cause of organ and choral music, to increase their contributions to aesthetic and religious experiences, and to promote their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment.
- To improve the proficiency of organists and choral conductors.
- To evaluate, by examination, attainments in organ playing, choral techniques, conducting, and the theory and general knowledge of music, and to grant certificates to those who pass such examinations at specified levels of attainment.
- To provide members with opportunities to meet for discussion of professional topics, and to pursue such other activities as contribute to the fulfillment of the purposes of the Guild.
- Guild sponsored activities include a series of examinations for professional certification as well as programs and an extensive list of publications, CDs, DVDs, and learning resources for all levels of interest.
- The Guild sponsors competitions in organ performance and improvisation and in organ and choral composition. National and regional conventions held in alternate years, present the finest performers.
- The American Organist magazine, published monthly by the AGO, is the most widely read journal devoted to organ and choral music in the world.

