

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



JANUARY 2023

FROM THE DEAN

Happy New Year! Sitting here looking at the dreary January 2 weather, I believe I have figured out why we do so much festive lighting for the holidays. Our lights are still up, and I'll leave them up until Epiphany on January 6. It does my heart good to see the timer light up the tree at 5 p.m., as well as turn the tree on early before I wake up.

However, January brings good intentions, but for most of us it marks a return to what we've been doing all along. Perhaps we can resolve to approach what we do with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. For those of us with weekly responsibilities, things can easily become a grind. Hopefully, we can have a bit of time to regroup and find renewed joy in what we are doing. For those of us who provide music for worship, remember that our efforts are helping God's people bring their praises before the Almighty.

I have good memories of what our chapter did in 2022. Our programs, our return to in-person events, the joys of getting together and learning something about our instrument and profession—all of these were good. Be sure to read the January issue of *The American Organist*, especially the article and photo from our October recital at St. Wenceslaus by Timothy Schreiber on p. 88, and the obituaries for the passing of our two honorary members, John A. Hanson on p. 25 and Harold W. Payne on p. 27. Please also note the detailed certification requirements on p. 66. Our certification chair is Dr. Jeremy Owens. Contact him for details. Jeremy.owens@briardiff.edu Perusing what other chapters did recently, it appears recitals are once again happening all over the country.

We also offer our sympathies to our chapter friend, Sara Young over the sudden and unexpected passing of her sister shortly before Christmas. Sara has been dealing with her own health issues, and the suddenness of her sister's death saddened the holiday celebration for her and her husband John.

Be sure to put our 2023 Chapter events on your calendars and plan to take advantage of what these largely educational events can offer us. We have some good presentations lined up on subjects that can be helpful to us professionally and personally. Hope to see you at them.

Stephen Bartelt, Dean

2023 CHAPTER PROGRAMS

Saturday, January 14 -- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. -- How organists can adapt pianistic accompaniments and lead sheets for the organ led by Dr. Elizabeth Grimpo, piano music faculty, Concordia University, Seward, and organist at Christ Lutheran Church, Lincoln. Location: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 15005 Blondo.

Saturday, February 11 -- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. -- "Beyond the Console" Presentation on the inner workings of pipe organs. Ryan Luckey from Bedient Organ in Lincoln. Location: St. Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St.

Saturday, March 11 -- 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. -- "Breaking and Entering" Challenges when beginning, ending, retiring, subbing. Panel discussion headed by Jean Johnson. Location Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, 2650 Farnam St.

Sunday, April 23 – Informal member’s favorite piece recital. Play your favorite (short 3-5 minute) all time “go to” piece for your fellow members. Location: Countryside Community Church, 13130 Faith Plz. Coordinator: Reggie Pifer. A fun time to celebrate each other.

Monday, May 22 -- End of season dinner/fellowship, 6:00 p.m. catered dinner, installation of officers. Feature certification achievers. Installation of officers. Location: St. John Lutheran, 633 Willow Ave., Council Bluffs.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We are pleased to announce that with the contributions and memorials recently received, we will again be open to applications for \$300 scholarships for new organ students. What we can do to encourage young organists will bear fruit in years to come as these young people move into serving churches and other organ positions. During the past two years, the chapter awarded six scholarships to students taking lessons from any of our chapter members. Details including eligibility requirements and the form for applying for scholarships are on the chapter website.

BOARD MEETINGS

The chapter Board meets the second Thursday of the Month at 10:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church. Members are always welcome to “visit” a Board meeting and see your chapter leaders at work. Please let the Dean know in advance if you are planning to attend a Board meeting, especially if you have a concern you would like to mention to the Board.

OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS INVITE YOU . . .

From Kimberly Pearce, Patron Engagement Manager, Resonance

Résonance performs Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors on Friday, January 6, 7:00 pm and Saturday, January 7 at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 18th and Capitol Streets, Omaha. The performance is open to the public with a free will donation suggested. Tickets available at the door; advanced ticket reservation is encouraged. Free parking is available in the parking lot on the corner 18th and Capitol, after business hours, when the gate is up. Ticket reservations can be made at resonancevoices.org/events or for more information contact info@resonancevoices.org.

From Jeff Hoffman

Please join us at Holy Family Community Center, 1715 Izard St., on Sunday, January 15, at 3:00 p.m. for a concert! My friend, Ricardo Amador and I will present a program of varied music for the violin accompanied by organ and piano. Ric is a violinist with the Omaha Symphony. He's the best! The concert is free, and all are welcome. Lite refreshments will follow the program.

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

The Wichita Chapter is hosting a Pipe Organ Encounter for teenagers ages 13-18 this summer, June 25-30. POE's are intended for young teenage organists, as well as teens interested in discovering the organ. Among others, faculty members include our chapter member, Dr. Michael Bauer. Student registration is available online. Please visit: www.agohq/education/poe/poe. Additional information and brochures are available from Annette Lindal in Wichita. alindal@gloriadeiwichita.com (316) 215-4402 or (316) 655-5245.

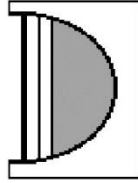
AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION

The 2023 North Central Region convention is scheduled for July 4-7 in Minneapolis—St. Paul, Minnesota. For details, consult NorthCentralAGO2023.org.

A FINAL THOUGHT FROM THE DEAN . . .

My motto for 2023 as stated on a button given me this Christmas from my family:
"I don't make mistakes when playing organ. I make spontaneous creative decisions!"

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