

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



NOVEMBER 2020

Inside this Issue:

- 1 From the Dean
- 2 Certification Opportunities
- 3 Chapter Events
- 3 St. Thomas Lutheran Church
- 4 Countryside Community Church
- 6 Advertisers

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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

THE NOVEMBER 7TH MEETING OF THE OMAHA CHAPTER HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

In reality, it is postponed until we have the opportunity to meet in person. This week has seen two of the churches we have been able to use close to outside groups. We have conversed with Dr. Garrett, who would rather present in person, and discussed with the program committee and this was the decision. As you all know the Pandemic is affecting more things and we need to do what is best for all of us.

MIGHT I SUGGEST - there is a video made available by the AGO Young Organists Group that is an organ crawl of the Longwood Organ. I looked up the Longwood Gardens - is in Pennsylvania - is very large - has an arts center as part of the facility with performing spaces, one of which houses the organ. Also, they have a 62 bell carillon and a Steinway piano. Longwood Gardens was the home and estate of Pierre S. DuPont. The organ crawl will be shown on YouTube FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 - 11:00 a.m. and will be available on YouTube after this showing. I look forward to seeing new places and hearing new things. Would you join me? [YouTube.com/user/Guild of Organists](https://www.youtube.com/user/GuildofOrganists).

In the October issue of The American Organist Marie Rubis Bauer has written an article about Women in Improvisation. It is well written and informative - even up to date with COVID considerations. I enjoyed seeing the pictures of 2 icons written by Brother William of St. Cecilia Cathedral. Beautiful. Thank you, Marie - Congratulations!

Also, in the same issue don't miss the article about "The Newsboys' Organ". If you have seen the musical "Newsies" you will appreciate this. Very interesting historical information.

A reminder of the National Lutheran Choir November 1 All Saints Concert available free at [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com) at 4:00 p.m. The choir is directed by David Cherwein and will feature a spiritual arrangement by Dr.

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.

Marques Garrett. Current technology has brought us ways to see places and hear things we would otherwise not be able to experience.

Part of the purpose of the AGO is to foster a thriving community, and while we cannot do that in person, we can certainly do it other ways. Would you pick 3 or 4 people in our chapter and send an email or card, or make a phone call? Maybe choose a couple friends and then someone you don't know. Let's check on each other and offer encouragement and support. We are blessed to have music in our lives - it feeds our souls. We are blessed, even in Pandemic, to live our lives as we do

.....and we are grateful.

Blessings to all,
Jean Johnson, Dean

CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

What are you doing during COVID to improve your musical skills and professional development?

This is such a strange time for all of us. We'd like to be in churches practicing, playing and subbing.

But health and safety are the first considerations these days for everyone.

Days flow into weeks and into months and COVID is still around. We all look forward to the day when we are beyond COVID but during this time we can still work on musical and professional skills.

Please consult the AGOhq.org website and look under the tab Education for New Achievement Awards and Certification. Even if you are not able to practice on an organ, if you have a keyboard at home, you can work on Achievement Awards and Certification skills depending on your interest. The Achievement Awards are administered by the local chapter. The Certification process is administered by national. There are no fees for Achievement Awards. There are registration fees for Certification.

Achievement Awards are for early-level organists with the help of a mentor. Topics are: The Organ Console, Registration, Manual and

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>.

pedal technique, Transposition, Harmony. Suggestions for resources are given. If not for yourself, you may have a student who would find any of the Achievement Awards helpful. Although these Achievement Awards are now being used across the country, the Omaha Chapter was one of the pilot chapters for these awards.

Certification levels are Service Playing, Colleague, Associate, Choir Master, and Fellow. By using this time of closure for so many opportunities, you can still study and be ready for the great reopening.

Service Playing Exams are given from Oct. 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021. All applications must be received by February 1, 2021. Since the other certificates are administered on specific dates, keep checking the website to learn if they are being administered in the spring of 2021.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sr. Claudette Schiratti, RSM, AAGO
OAGO Chair for Certification
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OMAHA CHAPTER PROGRAMMING

The November meeting has been postponed (please see the Dean's column for more information) and no program is scheduled for December. Programming for 2021 is being finalized and the information will be published soon.

ST, THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH



St Thomas Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE installed a "new" Two-Manual Allen Organ in our Sanctuary. This is the first organ this church has had in its nearly 40 years in this location. We are so blessed to have had the instrument donated. It was previously located in a parishioner's home and fits our worship space wonderfully.

A video of the organ may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG1LZnPeLXw&t=23s>

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COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Our apologies that the live stream did not work on October 10. We didn't realize it until after the event. We have made plans to make sure it does not happen again. There were 10 of us in attendance to see the church and the organ. It is a beautiful setting. We will ask Alex Ritter to provide some specific organ information for the December Windchest. Below are some of the main items of his talk.

- ❖ Dream big - even if your donation is not big enough, plan anyway. Educate your committee and if your plan needs more funds, do several campaigns if necessary.
- ❖ Many new organs come about due to the disintegration of older instruments. So, it is important to research maintenance needs for the future. Look at liturgical needs, flexibility, voicing.
- ❖ Take the committee to places where organ builders have had challenges - acoustics - historical buildings - previously set up for a band - see how the builder overcame challenges.
- ❖ Request for Proposal - list expectations and considerations - try not to follow fads or trends. Find out what parts are perishable down the road; what maintenance costs will be in 10 or 20 years.
- ❖ You want the ability to have an even gradation from pp to ff.
- ❖ Find a builder who wants to build your instrument - get very explicit costs - want a builder who will be around for years.
- ❖ Ask about the builder's business practices - women employees - health insurance - pay a living wage - have a succession plan for the business so it is around for years.
- ❖ Feel free to contact Alex if you would like further information. We thank him for the introduction to the space and instrument. This is an exciting time for the congregation.

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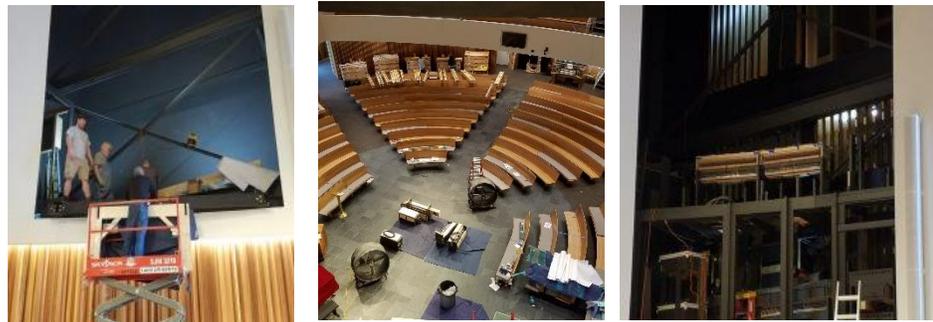
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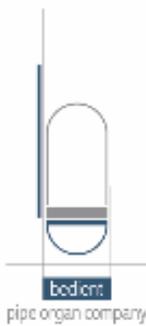


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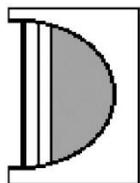
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