

# THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



AUGUST 2019

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FROM THE DEAN

While the Omaha Chapter, AGO has not had an official meeting since the highly successful "End-of-Season" banquet and program in May at Dundee Presbyterian Church, hosted by Dr. Wayne Kallstrom, members and friends of the Omaha chapter continued to be visibly active and involved in music leadership throughout the area during the summer. Moreover, Omaha members have attended AGO Regional conventions and other professional seminars, meetings, and events which provided opportunities for growth, exchange of ideas, and fellowship.

Several Omaha members attended the North Central Region Convention in Milwaukee June 16-19. The Milwaukee chapter, celebrating its Centennial anniversary, produced a well planned and organized convention, with a registration of about 175 in attendance. Registrants quickly recognized a "theme" that served as a "common denominator" for the convention. Quoting the dean of the Milwaukee chapter, Sheri Masiakowski, who welcomed attendees and always wore a dramatic, very dramatic white summer hat, featuring wide net-covered brims and a crown featuring huge white lilies of lace and net. Moreover, quoting three lines from her welcoming letter printed in the program booklet, which became the theme for the whole convention:

"We need each other's voice to sing. . .

We need each other's strength to lift the cross. . .

We need each other's views to see the limits of the mind. . ."

This theme was evident from the beginning event, titled A COMMUNITY OF VOICES. The first music on the program was a hymn composed and written for the convention: "We Need Each Other's Voice to Sing" featuring a text by Thomas Troeger, carried on the tune ANNA, composed by Jan Kraybill. It is a four stanza hymn, the first three verses respectively begin with the three quoted lines above: the fourth and last verse begins with: "We need each other's voice to sing, each other's strength to love, each other's views to help us bring our hearts to God above."



It's not too early to mark your calendars for the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta!

The theme is kaleidoscope and the event will share the many shapes and colors that make this diverse city so great.

This convention will be like no other in the past, using more technology and a diverse kaleidoscope of sound, artists and worship styles. Attendees will have access to apps to make the experience more informative, educational and user friendly.

The programming for this convention followed this theme throughout—and we were always reminded of the theme whenever and wherever we saw the dean of the host chapter, Sheri Masiakiwski, wearing her dramatic hat, reminding us that “We need each other’s voice to sing. . .”

Of course, it is impossible to attend each and every workshop, seminar, recital and concert. Every event I attended was impressive—high quality, well prepared performances by organists Michael Hey, Dr. John Behnke, Greg Zelek, Jillian Gardner and Jelan I Eddington. Choirs in concert included: CHANT

CLAIRE CHAMBER CHOIR, Benjami Bedroske, director; a concert including music by a choral ensemble, handbell choir and hymnody at Concordia University Wisconsin under the direction of Dr. John Behnke. There were many other well prepared, professionally developed and presented programs as well.

The Milwaukee convention programmed many applicable and relevant workshops, well attended and deeply appreciated. These workshops were instructive, offering much information that reinvigorated and motivated those of us attending this convention.

Omaha AGO has had member representation at the National Organ Society Convention and several denominational conventions this summer. Omaha AGO membership seeks opportunities for professional growth throughout the year, many taking advantage of professional growth programs across the United States. Our commitment is deeply appreciated and respected by congregations and parishes, clergy, choral and instrumental music directors and musicians throughout the community!

Remember: “We need each other’s voice to sing. . .”

Soli Deo Gloria!

*Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, AAGO*

## CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE

New AGO member benefit! Join the Church Music Institute for only \$35 and get full access to its online Sacred Music Library.

Go to <https://www.churchmusicinstitute.org/membership/individual-membership/> and enter coupon code AGO35.



## AN INTERVIEW WITH MARTY WHEELER BURNETT – ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN MUSICIANS PRESIDENT

*What is the mission and purpose of the AAM?*

The Association of Anglican Musicians is a non-profit organization of musicians and clergy serving in Episcopal churches, seminaries, and church-related schools. AAM focuses on the elevation, stimulation, and support of music and the allied arts in liturgy. The Association seeks to encourage the sharing of ideas and skills among members, and it strives to strengthen our Anglican musical tradition. The organization seeks to be an effective force in establishing just and equitable compensation and employment practices for professional musicians working within our churches. It works closely with Episcopal seminaries to encourage the establishment of courses of study in church music. AAM also seeks to foster healthy working relationships between musicians and clergy based on mutual respect and trust. Finally, it provides an avenue of communication with diocesan music and liturgy commissions and the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.



*Please describe your history with AAM and the path that led you to the Presidency of the association.*

I have been a member of AAM since 1992 and have found it to be incredibly helpful in my work in the Episcopal Church. The annual conferences provide opportunities to connect with colleagues, discover new resources and music, and hear from leaders in our field. The AAM Journal also provides monthly information and inspiration. I was honored by the invitation to be a candidate for President. I am the seventh woman to be elected president, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the organization that has given so much to me.

*What are the goals for your term as President of the AAM?*

My goals are to enhance communication with members and create greater transparency in our association. As the organization has grown (we are just under 1000 members), we are making greater use of technology to improve communication. We are working to enhance our

## PAUL MANZ HYMN FESTIVAL

A Paul Manz Hymn Festival was held May 12, 2019, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. David Cherwein, Paul Westermeyer and the Augustana College Choir led in honor of Manz's 100th birthday year.

To listen on Youtube search: Paul Manz Hymn Festival // May 12, 2019 - YouTube or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZaKTgrqM5w>



Please like the Omaha Chapter Facebook page. Information is posted regularly! Our page name is: Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

website, making more materials available online. We are using video conferencing for board meetings, which allows for shorter, more frequent meetings while reducing costs. Most of the work of AAM happens behind the scenes in committees. I'm working with every committee to establish a rotation of membership and insure that appointments reflect the diversity of our organization. By the end of my first year, we will have information on every committee posted on our website, accessible to all our members. We will devote an issue of the AAM Journal to governance, including an article about each committee. The Journal will also begin offering monthly updates by one of our committee chairs, discussing projects currently on that committee's agenda.

*What do you see as the largest challenge facing the AAM?*

Our largest challenge is responding effectively to the growth of our organization. AAM continues to gain members. Our summer conference "sold out" this year for the first time in the Association's history. New organizational structures are being created to accommodate growth while maintaining the personal connections that are so important to our members.

*Please share a highlight (or two) of the recent convention in Boston.*

Boston has a wealth of historic churches and organs, and we visited many of them! Two highlights for me were Choral Evensong at Church of the Advent and a Morning Prayer liturgy at the Old North Church (the "one if by land, two if by sea" church of Paul Revere) on July 4 featuring early American shape-note hymnody. We also had the opportunity to see the splendid fireworks over Boston Harbor that evening. Other high points were performances by the Boston Camerata and Lorelei, an outstanding women's vocal ensemble. This was followed by a reception for the women of AAM – the first in our organization's history. Women comprise approximately 25% of the AAM membership, and that number is growing steadily.

*Why should Windchest readers join AAM?*

AAM provides excellent resources for musicians working in Episcopal churches, and it offers unique opportunities for connections with colleagues. Due to the relatively small numbers of Episcopalians in Nebraska, we sometimes feel a sense of isolation in our work. AAM

TIMOTHY  
POBANZ

Timothy Pobanz, a "Young Member" of Omaha AGO, has recently joined the staff at the Bedient Pipe Organ Company as an apprentice. A recent high school graduate, Timothy grew up in Sac City, Iowa, where he is the organist for a Lutheran Church. He also earned the Service Playing Certificate in the AGO this spring.

Congratulations to Timothy on his achievements and best wishes in his new position with Bedient Pipe Organ Company!

provides a connection with the larger church and an opportunity for continuing education. I would encourage Omaha AGO members to consider attending an AAM conference; the conferences are open to all. The 2020 Conference will be held in Richmond, Virginia next summer; learn more at <http://richmond2020.anglicanmusicians.org>

-Marty Wheeler Burnett!

## OMAHA AGO SEASON KICK-OFF EVENT

Mark your calendars! The Kick-off event for the Omaha AGO chapter is Sunday, September 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The event will be at Dr. Christensen's home, 170 Nicholas Street, Council Bluffs. Parking is available in the parking lot of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 239 Frank Street.

Dr. Christensen is hosting a catered out-door dinner party for members and guests. We will welcome Dr. Karen Black, North Central Regional Councilor, who will offer a motivational presentation regarding the significant influence and programming of the American Guild of Organists. The 2019-2020 Omaha AGO season will be announced (our incoming Sub-dean, Dirk Lindner, has planned an attractive season for us). Two AGO members who earned their SPC (Service Playing Certificate) this past season, Zachary Zieschang and Timothy Pobanz will receive their framed certificates, and the KVNO "Classical Kid of the Month" an organist, Thomas Koch, will receive his framed award as well.

Dr. Christensen is asking for an RSVP from everyone planning to attend the seated, catered dinner party he is hosting. RSVP to: [drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com](mailto:drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com) by Tuesday, September 3. Please and thank you!

## CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT 2019-2020 SERIES

Please visit the Cathedral Arts Project website to view the season offering for the 2019-2020 season. Scroll down on the homepage to view the schedule.

<https://www.cathedralartsproject.org>

## THE WINDCHEST

The *Windchest* editor is Jeff Hoffman. Please send content suggestions and information to Jeff at [omahaago@gmail.com](mailto:omahaago@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. *The Windchest* will be published on or before the first of each month.

## A NEW HOME FOR AN OMAHA ORGAN

A deadline was approaching. At the end of April the former sanctuary of Countryside Community Church would change ownership. The new owner had no use for the thirty rank Reuter organ. If nothing were to happen, thirty ranks of Reuter organ pipes would end up in the landfill. Desperately a message went out through our AGO channels for anyone to claim the organ.

The new Kantor at Zion Lutheran Church, Omaha AGO member Zachary Zieschang, jumped at the opportunity. Zion was just beginning a sanctuary renovation project. The existing small organ at Zion needed some work. Miraculously, the powers that be both at Zion Lutheran Church and Countryside Community Church gave a go-ahead at least to disassemble the organ and crate the organ pipes

With less than a week to get the job done and with the help of a day's worth of service from Bedient in Lincoln and a crew of Zion volunteers, approximately 1800 pipes were removed from the chamber and crated in three days' time. After a quick approval from a congregational meeting at Zion, the crated pipes along with the console were removed and put in temporary storage. Additionally, most of the magnets from the chests were removed and saved.

They are not awaiting a rebuilding of the organ and new installation at Zion Lutheran Church, 144<sup>th</sup> and Ida. An organ committee is now considering how best to refigure the instrument for installation at Zion and how to incorporate this instrument into Zion's sanctuary renovation.

Special thanks go to two Omaha AGO members, Diane Hill, former organist at Countryside Community Church and the Rev. Stephen Bartelt, a member at Zion for working behind the scenes to make this "salvation" of a significant organ possible.

Zion is anticipating the completion of the installation to be at least two years down the road. But when completed,, Kantor Zieschang intends to invite the community to join in hearing this organ sound again in its new surroundings.

## AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

### OMAHA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING JULY HIGHLIGHTS

Discussion regarding the 2019-2020 program schedule continued. Dirk Lindner, Sub-Dean, is working to complete the schedule to be presented at the September chapter meeting.

The poll requesting support of hosting a POE in 2021 of the Omaha Chapter Membership was decidedly in favor. The application will be submitted in the near future.

The National Certification committee, with Jonathan Hall as a contact person, has invited the Omaha AGO chapter to be one of at least four chapters to develop a “test run” on a program titled AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS. Participating chapters are asked to implement the program, offering feed-back, suggestions, and input as the program is developed for use throughout the AGO.

The executive board approved the chapter’s participation in this pilot project at the July monthly meeting.

The AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS program has developed an articulate purpose statement which reads: “The AGO Achievement Awards are designed to assist and encourage early-level organists as they improve their skills. A mentor from the chapter volunteers his/her time and energy throughout the process—from planning through completion. The candidate, who must be a chapter member, prepares the requirements independently or with the help of the mentor, a teacher, chapter member, or friend. He/she may then complete the requirements at any time during one or more appointments with the mentor. This process provides a simple way for the chapter to involve new organists in chapter activity, and to encourage them to continue their education through AGO certification.

Detailed lesson plans, tests and resources are included in the proposal, as well as detailed instructions for implementation of the project. The five lesson topics are: the organ console, harmony I, registration, manual and pedal technique, and transposition.

Those successfully completing the course are issued a certificate verifying successful completion of the AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS certification. There is no cost to the candidate; mentors are to donate their time.

What is needed to implement this worth-while course? The key first is the need to identify mentors. National suggests only one—Omaha, with a membership that covers a radius of more than 100 miles, needs more than one mentor. National provides guidelines for mentors, lesson plans, evaluation agenda and test forms.

Questions? Please ask them. Contact Dr. Christensen at: [drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com](mailto:drjgordonchristensen@gmail.com).



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## SING YOUR FAITH - REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT

The dates for the 2020 choral and spiritual retreat in the heartland, "Sing Your Faith" are set. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

A review of the 2019 event will be included in the September *Windchest*.

**Sing Your Faith.**  
REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT.  
A choral and spiritual retreat in the heartland

First-Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska | July 24-26, 2020

Shawn Kirchner | Marques Garrett | Mary Louise (Mel) Bringle | Tom Trenney | Ariel Merivil

For more information please visit [www.firstplymouth.org/singyourfaith](http://www.firstplymouth.org/singyourfaith)

First-Plymouth Church | [firstplymouth.org](http://firstplymouth.org) | 2000 D Street, Lincoln NE | 402-476-7565

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## SUMMER SING

Summer Sing was a huge success! Omaha AGO members Gina Simpson and Jeff Hoffman attended the Wednesday evening event in Lincoln and Marty Wheeler Burnett and Jeff Hoffman attended the Thursday evening event at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. After a brief rehearsal, those assembled performed Mozart's *Requiem* for themselves!

Tom Trenney led the rehearsals and conducted the performance from the organ consoles. Tom's sensitive playing and beautiful registrations inspired great singing of this beloved text.

Thank you, Marty Wheeler Burnett, for hosting in Omaha!



## 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.

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