

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



APRIL 2021

Inside this Issue:

- 1 From the Dean
- 2 Board News
- 3 Spring 2021 Programs
- 4 Young Organist Member Profiles
- 5 Free Piano
- 6 Rubis Bauer Recitals
- 6 Supporters

FROM THE DEAN

Can you feel it yet?

Several weeks of Lent have been observed. A whole year of Pandemic has taken place. All that snow has melted, and maybe you have been vaccinated. Your church has begun to accept more people for worship, or just beginning to open. It feels like something is happening.

First, for me, is Holy Week. A blessed time I spend remembering and hearing again the story. And then the resurrection! A Hallelujah! HAPPY EASTER!

facebook

Our page name is: Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

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.

Spring is here, and the grass begins to green and flowers to grow. More folks are being vaccinated, and our lives are feeling a bit more normal. This will be an interesting time for churches. Will people come back? Will all those who have been listening at home decide to be part of the community? I am pretty sure churches will continue streaming, as it is a way to reach folks who are new or cannot attend. Interesting times ahead.

I hope you are taking advantage of the many YouTube or virtual offerings from churches, choirs, organists and the AGO. I have "been" to quite a few churches all over the country and heard things unavailable in the past. Wonderful fun. Thanks to Laura Scow for presentation the end of February. An article has been written about Omaha AGO activities and sent to *The American Organist* for publication in a couple of months. Dr. Scow's photo will be included. Keep watching!

Steve Bartelt, Dirk Lindner and Ann Spangler have been working to plan a fabulous program year beginning in September. Some dates and times are not firm as many churches have not opened yet, but this is a year to excite YOU. I look forward to meeting our new members and seeing long time friends.

Jean Johnson, Dean

ADDRESS UPDATE

John Hansen,
emeritus member
has moved to
Assisted Living.

His new address:
Room 108
3121 MacIneery
Drive
Council Bluffs, IA
51501

MANHATTAN, KANSAS

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

Info and the
brochure can be
found at this
website: [https://ks
upoe.weebly.com](https://ksupoe.weebly.com)

This event is IN
PERSON! Register
now!

BOARD NEWS

The Omaha AGO Board met March 9th by Zoom. Plans continue to play out for the rest of this year.

The nominating committee of Steve Bartelt, Sally Hodges and Gina Simpson put forth a slate of officers for 2021-2022. The board accepted them.

Dean - Jean Johnson

Sub Dean - Stephen Bartelt

Secretary - Laura Scow

Treasurer - David McCain

At large through 2024 - Marie Meyers

The other at large members have been voted in for their entire term.

At large through 2022 - Laura Rau

At large through 2023 - Sister Claudette Schiratti

Please send your vote for each office, or for the slate, to omahaago@gmail.com by April 30.

2022 POE - national has requested the chapter pursue sponsoring, as we had intended for this year. The board gave the okay to Jeff Hoffman to submit an application for a regular POE rather than an Advanced POE, and then further meetings and discussion will take place to determine if the chapter is able to do this.

Organ Historial Society is hosting a *Kaleidoscope of Colors* virtual convention featuring 10 instruments from across the country, played by organists who know the instrument well and can demonstrate its tonal variety. On five Sunday evenings in August viewers will watch one hour concerts featuring two organs each night. There is Zero cost to attend this convention. Exciting for us is that the Pasi organ at St. Cecilia Cathedral will be featured with Marie Rubis Bauer at the organ. The Omaha AGO Board voted \$500 to be a supporter of this event. More information will be forthcoming.

Jan Kraybill performing in Omaha on May 16th is a BIG DEAL for all of us. The board would like to make sure our organist friends know about the recital, reception and the exhibit of art collected by Dr. Christensen. Please help us by sending to omahaago@gmail.com names of organists you know, where they play, and home addresses.

CALLING ALL TECHIES

The Omaha and national AGO have been able to function this year because of technology. It is apparent that this will continue to be necessary for a vibrant chapter in the future. We appreciate all that Jeff Hoffman has done - but there is more to do. We NEED computer savvy folks to step up and help out with publishing the Windchest, taking care of the website and our Facebook page. This is not a board position, so no meetings to attend, unless they are helpful. Please give this consideration and reply to omahaago@gmail.com.

An invite to the recital will be sent along with information about the AGO and how to join. Thank you.

Big news from the national office: we have established the "Year of the Young Organist," July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022. During these 12 months, any individual under the age of 30 can become a new member or renew her/his membership for free as part of this effort. Those of you who are teachers have a chance to get memberships for your students at no charge. They just need to apply.

Scholarship - we have received no request for our New Organist Scholarship, the application is on the Website.

APRIL VIRTUAL RECITAL

At this point, eleven students of our AGO chapter members are preparing to participate in our virtual recital. They will be recording their playing in April. We are planning to have the virtual recital put together later in April. At that time, we will share the link so that all of us can listen to these young organists. They are to be encouraged and commended for their willingness to participate in this exciting endeavor. We are hoping to share this recital with national as well, so our students could be seen far beyond the local area. If there are still any students taking lessons from an AGO chapter member who would like to participate, please contact our Sub-Dean, Stephen Bartelt, at stephenrbartelt@yahoo.com or (402) 210-6626 within the next week.

OUR MAY 16 EVENT IS NOT TO BE MISSED . . .

Put Sunday afternoon, May 16, on your schedule for several events not to be missed. Our chapter is co-sponsoring the festivities with the Cathedral Arts Project. Start with attending the reception honoring our past Dean, Dr. J. Gordon Christensen in the Sunderland Gallery adjacent to the cathedral beginning at 1:00 p.m. He is being honored both for his service to our chapter and to the Cathedral Arts Project. You, too, can honor "Dr. C." and also view many of the paintings by Nebraska artists that are in his collection. The reception and display for sure are events not to be missed. But that is only the beginning of the festivities. Find your seat in the Cathedral for the 3:00 p.m. recital of the season by Jan Kraybill. Her recitals are always complete with something we all can enjoy. Again, an event not to be missed. If you

MID-WEEK ORGAN RECITALS

Jeff Hoffman continues a recital series at St. Barnabas Church. The 30-minute organ recitals will be held each week at 12:15 p.m. Doors open at Noon following 11:15 a.m. Mass. A free-will offering is encouraged to support the parish and the music program. The programs will consist of music of peace, hope, and joy to encourage you during a stressful time in our world. Masks are required and seating is safely socially distanced.

Visit our Facebook page at St. Barnabas Church – Omaha, Nebraska each Monday for program information.

get the idea you should come to this, you are absolutely correct. Also, invite your friends and any other organ lovers you know. As always, COVID protocols will be in place.

JUNE 6

The final meeting of the season will be a virtual meeting on June 6 at 3:00 p.m., in which the 2021-2022 officers will be installed. Members will be able to participate online. Details on how to “tune-in” will be provided later.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Gianna Manhart

My name is Gianna Manhart, and I am currently a sophomore at Duchesne Academy. My organ teacher is Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer, who is the Archdiocesan Director of Music at the Cathedral. I began to play for Sunday Mass this past summer at Our Lady of Lourdes. It was my first experience playing the entire Mass, and so far it has been a great experience. I started playing piano at age six, and when I was eleven, my piano teacher suggested I try the organ. I was familiar with the organ because I would hear it at Mass every Sunday. What I love about the organ is how unique and diverse it is. It is so easy to change the entire way a piece sounds just by pulling some stops. Hearing the way the air moves through the pipes and fills the church is an incredible experience. While being taught by Dr. Rubis Bauer, I have learned about the Mass and my faith, in addition to learning to play the organ. One of my favorite hymns to play is “O God Beyond All Praising”. Now I am sixteen, and I have been playing the organ for five years with Dr. Rubis Bauer. I also enjoy watercolor painting, baking, and basketball.

Timothy Conner

I quite reluctantly started piano lessons at the age of six. My parents persisted in making me practice, and after a couple years, I finally started coming around. But what really enthralled me was the two manual, 25 rank, Cassavant pipe organ at our church. Sometimes my piano teacher, who had some organ experience, let me play one of my piano songs on the organ. I really wanted to learn to play organ, but there were no instructors in the area. My father is an Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastor, and through his circuit, he learned of an organ

HANDBELL AUDITIONS

River City Ringers is seeking talented, dedicated, motivated musicians that want to embark on an incredible musical journey culminating in several local concerts. to schedule an audition.

Acceptance into the group is by audition. The audition will consist of sight reading in at least two different positions, a rhythm assessment, and a short interview with our director. <https://rivercityringers.com/> or rickrichards5008@yahoo.com
402-558-8121 • Home

teacher in Council Bluffs named Dr. J Gordon Christensen. Soon after, in 2015, Dr. C gave me my first organ lesson, thereby also beginning my relationship with St. Paul's Music Conservatory. Six months later, our church was suddenly short on organists, and I was tasked to play the entire All Saint's Day service, even though I had never played more than a simple postlude or a single hymn for church. Tackling the hymn "For All the Saints" with both hands and most of the pedal was probably one of my most intense musical struggles ever. I set my mind to determined practice, first by myself, and then with my dad singing the hymns so I could get the feel of accompanying the congregation. The service went well, and I found myself playing more and more frequently for church. Meanwhile, Dr. C nominated me to be the KVNO Classical kid of the month (September 2016), and started me working toward the AGO's Service Playing Certificate, which I earned at the age of 12. Dr. C travels near-weekly to Zion Lutheran Church in Manning, Iowa, where I am now the main organist, to instruct me and two of my younger siblings. I simply can't imagine life without the organ and Lutheran liturgy, and I am immensely grateful to St. Paul's Conservatory and especially to Dr. C for their dedication to and investment in church musicians.

FREE PIANO

The piano is a **KNABE Grand** (5'3") and is at least 80+ years old. The owner's mother-in-law had it before 1940 and she bought it from someone else. The sound board is cracked in 2 places and needs to be tuned. The current owner wants to give to someone who can use it. The receiver will need to pay for the moving of the instrument.

Contact Kathy Smith at kathysmith5115@cox.net or 402-850-0993



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
rohrbourdon@gmail.com + 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 Schiratti - 2020/2021 - 2022/2023
cschiratti1@gmail.com 913-530-0960

OMAHA CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education / Certification
Sr. Claudette Schiratti

Historian
David McCain

Membership
Laura Rau

Publicity
Windchest
Jeff Hoffman

Professional Concerns
Jerry Brabec

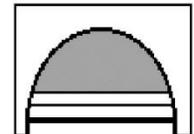
Programs
Stephen Bartlet

Young Organists
Zach Hastings



Keyboard Kastle EST. 1977
Midwest's Largest Selection @ Lowest Prices
Yamaha - World's first choice in Pianos & Keyboards
Greg Johnson Manager
7013 Dodge
Omaha, Ne 68132
402-593-9400
cell: 402-719-1923
Allen Church Organs
Clavinova * Avant Hybrid * Disklavier * CX Grands * Portable Keybo

Darrow Pipe Organ LLC
Sales - Service - Renovation
Tom Darrow, owner (712) 301-5964
e-mail: darrowpipeorgan@gmail.com
website: www.darrowpipeorgan.com
721 Pearl Street - Onawa, Iowa 51040-1428



Quality Pipe Organ Building and Service since 1969
bedient
pipe organ company
pipe organ company
bedientorgan.com | 402.420.7662 | Lincoln, Neoraska

Gerald Oehring & Associates
Classic Church Organs
RODGERS **JOHANNUS**
2600 N. 48th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504
Studio Visits
By Appointment Only
Gerald Oehring
402-432-7126
gerry@geraldoehring.com
www.geraldoehring.com