

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

MARCH 2023



FROM THE DEAN

We've had two educational events so far in 2023. In January Dr. Elizabeth Grimpo, from the piano faculty at Concordia Nebraska, gave us some excellent suggestions for accompanying pianist praise songs and using lead sheets on the organ. Ryan Luckey used materials from Bedient Organ Company in Lincoln and the tracker organ at the Cultural Arts Center at St. Cecilia to demonstrate how the "invisible" parts of the pipe organ work. Coming up in March is a member led panel discussion on beginning and ending positions, as well as the art of substitute playing. Coming up in April will be our informal members' recital. May will be our end of the season banquet. See the details below for more information on the upcoming programs.

What would you like to see our chapter feature for programs in 2023-2024? Julie Sandene is heading up the program committee for next year and would welcome your thoughts and suggestions. You can email Julie at jasandene@gmail.com or email them to the chapter at omahaago@gmail.com It is my desire that our programming meet the needs and interests of our members. Actually several of this year's programs came from member's suggestions a year ago.

A big thank you to our Nominating Committee consisting of Jean Johnson, Chair, Ann Spangler, and Gina Simpson. Their report is printed below.

Thank you also to Jeff Hoffman and Marie Meyers for getting our chapter Facebook page back into operation. If you are a Facebook user, you will want to make our page part of your routine. It is titled "Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists."

Members are involved in a number of programs this month. Six members are playing noon Wednesday recitals at St. Paul's Lutheran in Council Bluffs. Bach's 338th birthday will be marked with music led by Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer at St. Cecilia on March 26.

Be on the lookout for high school students who might be interested in attending a Pipe Organ Encounter. Our chapter is offering \$250 scholarships to students who attend either the one in Wichita or the one in Illinois. Kudos to Augustine Terneus, a young organist member of our chapter, who is headed to the POE in Illinois this summer. We were pleased to grant him one of our scholarships.

Enjoy whatever you are playing, preparing, or performing this month.

Stephen Bartelt, Dean

AGO NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

Executive committee:

Dean: Steve Bartelt - on the ballot for a one year term
Sub Dean: Jeff Hoffman on the ballot for a one year term
Secretary: Dirk Lindner - on the ballot for a one year term
Treasurer: David McCain - on the ballot for a one year term

At-Large Members:

Julie Sandene - came on to fill a term in January - on the ballot for a 3 year term

The other At-large members remain on the board:

Barbara Fremder - came on to fill the remainder of a 3 year term - remains for 2 years
Marie Meyers - remains to finish one more year of a 3 year term

As per the By-Laws, other nominations will be accepted until April 1. The person nominated has to have agreed to be nominated. Send to Jean Johnson at hjeanjohnson8@gmail.com. April 2 Secretary Laura Scow will send out the email ballot to the membership for voting. Votes will be taken on a separate email address and need to be cast by May 1. Officers will be installed at the May dinner.

THE CHURCH MUSIC JOB – “BEGINNING, ENDING, AND LIFE AFTER”

Saturday, March 11, 10:00 a.m.

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, 2650 Farnam.

Enter the Office Door on Farnam Street. There is a large free parking lot to the west. The street parking meters are active on Saturday - 25 cents per hour.

The panel discussion will be chaired by Jean Johnson. Panelists will be David Schack, Mary Norton, Barbara Fremder, Dirk Lindner, and Diane Hill. All are experienced organists who have retired from full time playing. However, there is music life remaining and experience to share.

A panelist will give background on an issue, their perspective and their best advice about how to proceed. The ideas for the day are as follows:

Ready to begin a position - what to ask - contracts

Time to change positions - full time and part time - making the decision to leave

Retirement from a full-time position

Decision to substitute - how to proceed - keeping track

Music life remaining - music - relationships - physical challenges

Questions are welcome!

INFORMAL MEMBERS' RECITAL

Sunday Afternoon, April 23, 3:00 P.M.

Countryside Community Church, 13130 Faith Plz.

Greetings to you all!

I have met with Alex Ritter of Countryside Community Church and I'm pleased to announce that the Springtime Members Recital is a go!

Countryside Community Church has a beautiful Sanctuary with a fantastic instrument that not only sounds great in their space, but is accessible for all who wish to share a piece of music with those who will be present.

Please send an email to myself at rwpiferh23@gmail.com, to schedule a time to meet Alex at Countryside to have a review of the organ and get a feel for the space as well.

I look forward to hearing from those of you who will be sharing your gift of music with us.

As previously discussed, we're looking for members to share a short 3-5 minute piece with others that are gathered. This can be a piece as simple as an improvisation or a complex Toccata, if you wish. It can be one of your favorite "go-to" pieces that you pull out when you need something. In other words, we are not asking any of you to go to a lot of work to prepare a "recital piece" only a couple of weeks after Easter. Hopefully, it will be a time at which we can applaud and appreciate each other.

Thank you all and please let me or anyone on the AGO board know if you have any questions.

Respectfully yours,
The Rev. Reginald W. Pifer

"SAVE THE DATE" FOR OUR MAY EVENT!

MONDAY, MAY 22, 6:00 p.m. End of season fellowship banquet. Meal will be catered. Location: St. John Lutheran, 633 Willow Ave. Council Bluffs. Details including cost and reservations will be coming closer to the event.

OUR MEMBERS ANNOUNCE THEIR PROGRAMS . . .

LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 239 Frank Street, Council Bluffs announces its Lenten Organ Recitals. The series features all Omaha AGO recitalists. Thirty minute recitals are held at noon on Wednesdays during Lent. Lunch is served following the recitals. There is no charge for the recitals. A poster regarding the series is attached. Please use as appropriate.

February 22	Timothy Frank
March 1	Wayne Kallstrom
March 8	Laura Scow
March 15	Zachary Zieschang
March 22	Stephen Bartelt
March 29	Peggy Wolverton

BACH'S BIRTHDAY CONCERT—"BACH AMONG FRIENDS"

Sunday – March 26, 3:00 P.M.

Saint Cecilia Cathedral – 701 North 40th Street

What could be better than sharing a little music with 'Bach among Friends' to celebrate the beloved composer's 438th Birthday!

Musicians across time all believe he loved their instrument best and that is because he writes such amazing melodies for each person involved. Musical friends will include: Darci Gamerl, oboe; Claudia Fusselman, violin; Shelby VanNordstrand, soprano; Laura Rau, organ; Micah Fusselman, cello and viola di Gamba; Marie Rubis Bauer, continuo; and Michael Emmerich, organ. This free concert is an annual Tradition, near the March 21 birthday of the composer. Come hear beautiful music in a sumptuous acoustical and visual holy place. Just the thing to bring cheer in the ides of March and the middle of Lent! Extend your friendship to neighbors in need by contributing food or items of clothing, leaving them by the south entrance of the Cathedral.

The concert will include music performed on the newly acquired Memorial Continuo Organ built by Bennett and Giuttari, their opus 47. Thank you to the Cathedral Arts Project for support of this program!

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

The Wichita Chapter is sponsoring a Pipe Organ Encounter for teenagers, ages 13-18 on June 25-30 at Wichita State University, Wichita. Participants should have achieved an intermediate level of keyboard proficiency, but no previous organ study is necessary. What is necessary is an interest in learning what the organ is all about and an eagerness to explore if pursuing the organ might be right for the student.

If our chapter members are aware of students who might benefit from attending this POE, our chapter has decided to offer a limited number of \$250 scholarships to students nominated by one of our chapter members. Chapter members should contact the Dean, Stephen Bartelt, through the chapter email, omahaago@gmail.com to request a scholarship for any students they may nominate with detailed information about the student and their application. Since our chapter was not able to hold the POE we wanted to sponsor last summer, we want to make attendance at this “nearby” POE workable for any interested students in our area. Note the April 1 deadline for “early registration.”

The other POE this summer is located at Wheaton, Illinois, June 18-23. More information on both of the Pipe Organ Encounters is on the national website, agohq.org.

A NON-AGO EVENT OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS:

Come lend your voice to the NCDA Church Choir Festival on April 29, sponsored by the Nebraska Choral Directors Association! The festival will take place at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, [510 N 93rd St, Omaha](#).

Mark Hayes will be the featured choral clinician at this all day event, rehearsing seven of this anthems from 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM. He will share his inspiration behind the creation of these compositions and arrangements and give his unique perspective on how to best sing his music. The day will culminate in a concert at 4:30 PM featuring the festival chorus conducted by Maestro Hayes, vocal solos accompanied by the arranger and several piano solos performed by Mark Hayes, an internationally known concert pianist.

Cost for the event is \$20 per person, plus the cost of music. Snacks and drinks will be provided throughout the day and lunch will be offered by St. Timothy’s church for a free-will offering.

For more information about how to be a part of the choir and to purchase festival repertoire, please visit the NCDA website at www.nebraskachoral.org. All singers are expected to purchase the music in advance and learn it prior to the massed rehearsal with Mark Hayes on April 29.

Please contact Kristi Treu with questions at kristi@pcoc.us or 402-333-7466.



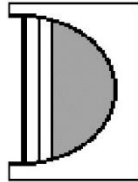
LAUGHS AROUND THE CONSOLE . . .

The organist was fired for his “lude” behavior.
All he did was play a prelude, an interlude, and a postlude.

What’s the difference between an organist and a terrorist?
You can negotiate with a terrorist!

What do you get if you drop an organ down at an Army post? A flat Major!!

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