

# THE WINDCHEST



OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

OCTOBER 2020

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**facebook**

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

Sometimes I enjoy watching TV shows where folks are redoing houses or looking for houses. Especially interesting are the ones from Europe where buildings are so old. In the U.S. the “distressed” look is in. European folks want houses “with character”. Six months into this pandemic, I feel like all of us are somewhat distressed and already have lots of character.

Our first virtual meeting went pretty well, once we got started. Thanks to Jeff Hoffman for making that possible. Thanks also to Zachary Zieschang, Mark Kurtz and Marie Rubis Bauer for their insights. One congregation was never closed, one is partially open and one is still closed. All 3 felt like they had worked harder during this time, reimagining what things would look like, and thinking up new things to try. All agreed we are going to be doing this for a long time yet.

From remarks that day, and from other conversations, caring for our musicians has become increasingly important. We realize our groups are small segments of family and they can be very fragile. Being together for support is needed - however your “being together” takes place. As members of the AGO, we too are like a family and caring for each other will help us through this time. Anyone in charge of events or people now come at their jobs humbled. It is not easy. Some of us are not playing yet, maybe our salaries have not been paid, or maybe drastically cut. The national office did remind us that there is money in a national fund to help those who might need it. Please ask. If you need to talk with someone, Jerry Brabec, our Professional Concerns chair would be glad to hear from you.

I was watching a show about Martin Luther and this quote resonated with me: “The attitude with which you pursue your calling is more important than the calling”. Let that sink in your mind for a while. We have learned a lot going through these months and I hope we will be able to say, when all this has passed, that we have learned to love more.

## 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.

## DIRECTORIES

The updated Omaha Chapter Membership Directory was published electronically. If you wish a printed copy please email us at [omahaago@gmail.com](mailto:omahaago@gmail.com) or call Jeff at 402-317-8887 and one will be mailed to you.

### **Good news!**

Welcome to Mary Norton who retired from her church work in San Jose, CA and moved to Omaha last week! Once settled, she would like to be a substitute. Her name is in the Directory.

**Looking for organists** who are not members but would benefit from being a part of the AGO. Would you help us with names and addresses so that Laura Rau, our membership chair, might reach out to them?

### **TECH help is needed!**

I know there are some of you with the skills to help the chapter by keeping up the Facebook Page or our homepage. For so many, those are the places they look for information. Please - someone volunteer. You will be trained. Thank you!

Blessings to all,  
*Jean Johnson*, Dean

## AUGUST OMAHA CHAPTER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Approved the fee for Dr. Marques Garrett from UNL for the November presentation. Lincoln chapter to be invited.

Decision was made to put the Directory online but offer a printed copy to anyone who asks.

Zach Hastings will be chair of the AGO Young Organists committee.

Omaha Chapter Historical materials will be donated to the Douglas County Historical Society where they may be viewed by appointment.

The Board approved the Operating Procedures for the chapter. They have been forwarded to Elizabeth George at the national office for any suggestions. They will then be presented to the membership for a vote.

OMAHA  
CHAPTER  
MUSIC  
GIVEAWAY

Saturday,  
October 10  
7:00 – 3:00 p.m.

St. Barnabas  
Catholic Church  
129 N 40<sup>th</sup> Street

Choir Room

Enter using the  
entrance to the  
Undercroft. The  
stairs to the Choir  
Room are  
immediately to the  
left once entering.

You may bring  
music to share!

OMAHA CHAPTER PROGRAMMING

**Saturday, October 10, "A New Instrument: Start to Finish."**

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you are comfortable, you can attend this presentation in person, and it will be streamed on Facebook Live for those wishing to participate virtually.

Location: Countryside Community Church, 13130 Faith Plaza (132nd and Pacific), Tri-Faith Campus

Host Alex Ritter will talk about the process the church went through to acquire their new instrument: design, bidding, construction, installation---in short, all the steps, the joys and frustrations, along the way. The organ may or may not be ready to demonstrate but reviewing the process of acquisition will make a fascinating program. Additionally, if time permits and the group is interested, Alex will give us an introduction to the Tri-Faith campus.

Be sure to bring your mask if you plan to attend in person, and we will certainly space ourselves out sufficiently to minimize COVID.

**November: "African American Organ and Choral Music" November 7**

Location: First Christian Church, 6630 Dodge (across from UNO)

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Presenter: Dr. Marques Garrett, UNL

This presentation will also be livestreamed on the Omaha Chapter Facebook page for those not wanting to attend in person. Those wishing to attend in person will be practicing social distancing and wearing masks.

Dr. Garrett is a professor of choral music at UNL and a distinguished representative of African American music. His presentation will broaden the horizons of us all on this timely subject.

**December:** No program planned.

## SILENT FILM

Benefitting the  
Lincoln Music  
Teacher's Music  
Outreach Program

Friday, October 30  
at 7:00 p.m. Online  
at  
[www.abundmusik.org](http://www.abundmusik.org)

Experience the  
thrilling 1925 silent  
film, The Phantom  
of the Opera,  
starring Lon  
Chaney,  
accompanied live  
by the thrilling  
6000-pipe Lied  
Organ, starring  
Tom Trenney.  
Sponsored by John  
Casey and the  
Mary Riepma Ross  
Media Arts Center  
to benefit Lincoln's  
LMTA Music  
Outreach Program  
- an organization  
that offers music  
lessons,  
instruments, and  
sheet music to  
students in Lincoln  
who cannot afford  
a musical  
education.

## ANTHEM BY DONNA MIESBACH

Omaha Chapter member Donna Miesbach wrote the poem used in Nancy Lau's composition, "Ah, Gentle Mary." Once published by Abdington Press, the anthem is now out of print. Donna has acquired copies which now may be obtained at no charge.

Donna would be happy to send a sample copy to anyone who would like to review the composition. Those who wish to use the anthem may copy it or contact Donna for printed copies.

Donna Miesbach  
[dmiesbach@cox.net](mailto:dmiesbach@cox.net)  
[www.donnamiesbach.com](http://www.donnamiesbach.com)  
402-330-2474

## ANNUAL FUND

Thank you for your chapter's contribution to the AGO. Your chapter's generous gift of \$400.00 to the Annual Fund was recorded on August 31, 2020. Our donor list will be published in the December issue of THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine.

The American Guild of Organists fosters a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. Your generous contribution helps to support this mission through educational programs, outreach, and member services that otherwise could never be supported by membership dues alone.

Please extend our thanks to the members of your chapter executive board for this gift. Thank you again for your support of the AGO!

Sincerely yours,

F. Anthony Thurman, DMA

## 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>.

## CONCERTS AT ST. THOMAS

My name is Patrick Fennig. I am the Concert Series Manager here at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue. Like many in our industry, we have spent the spring and summer reimagining our concert series for this extraordinary time. Our [Fall 2020 season](#) is being presented entirely on a digital platform. Of course, this format of presentation is not ideal, but it has created new opportunities for viewership. Our concerts are now available to those who cannot travel to be with us in person. Many of our biggest supporters are members of the American Guild of Organists. For that reason, we would like to offer a discounted ticket (50% off) to all AGO members for our Fall 2020 season. If you feel it is appropriate, we would appreciate if you, as Dean of your chapter, could send this offer to your members. I obtained your contact information from the AGO website. My apologies if you are no longer the Dean of your chapter. In order to purchase a discounted ticket, one can simply visit our [ticketing page](#) and enter the **promo code: AGO**. Details of our season are below. We hope you and your members will be able to join us for any or all.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fennig

### CONCERTS AT SAINT THOMAS FALL 2020 DIGITAL SEASON

*IMPORTANT NOTE: The events below are video presentations. Instructions for viewing each concert will be included in your ticket purchase confirmation email. Events are "premiered" at a specified time and available on-demand for a limited time after the premiere. All concerts are pre-recorded in Saint Thomas Church in compliance with recommendations from the CDC and Episcopal Diocese of New York at the time of the recording.*

Les Compositrices Françaises: 20th Century French Organ Music by Female Composers

*Saturday, October 3, 2020 @ 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm, Digital Presentation*

Rescheduled from last March, American Fulbright Scholar, Joy-Leilani Garbutt presents the music of Jeanne Demessieux and *les compositrices françaises* on the Miller-Scott Organ. A culmination of her own research in France, Garbutt plays a program of rediscovered

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**Young Organists**

TBD

French organ music composed by Jeanne Demessieux, Elsa Barraine, Nadia Boulanger, and other women of the early 20th century.

**AGO DISCOUNT: \$2.50**

The German Chorale: Masterworks of Bach, Distler, and Reger

*Saturday, October 17, 2020 @ 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm*, Digital Presentation

Featuring both the Loening-Hancock and Miller-Scott organs, Assistant Organist, Nicholas Quardokus, performs music from the German tradition. Quardokus pays homage to the centuries-old organ chorale heritage from Bach to Distler and Buxtehude to Reger, juxtaposing masterworks from the Baroque, late-Romantic, and Neoclassical eras. The program, framed by Bach's monumental partita on *Sei gegrüßet*, *Jesu gütig* and Reger's thunderous fantasia on *Straf mich nicht in deinem Zorn*, promises to be a kaleidoscopic exploration of both world-class organs at Saint Thomas Church.

**AGO DISCOUNT: \$2.50**

The Complete Beethoven Sonatas I: Early Gems and the Waldstein

*Saturday, October 24, 2020 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm*, Digital Presentation

32@32, created by pianist Adam Golka on the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday celebration, is a free 8-concert series surveying the master's complete Piano Sonatas. Program I features Sonatas 1, 7, 19, and 21.

**FREE**

The Complete Beethoven Sonatas II: Humor and Passion

*Saturday, October 31, 2020 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm*, Digital Presentation

32@32, created by pianist Adam Golka on the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday celebration, is a free 8-concert series surveying the master's complete Piano Sonatas. Program II features Sonatas 10, 4, 20, and 23.

**FREE**

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**Member-at-Large** Sr. Claudette Schiratti - 2020/2021 - 2022 - 2023  
[cshiratti1@gmail.com](mailto:cshiratti1@gmail.com)  
+ 913-530-0960

Heroic Music of Handel and Purcell

*Thursday, November 12, 2020 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm*, Digital Presentation

The centerpiece of our Fall 2020 Digital Season welcomes back New York Baroque Incorporated (Wen Yang, Artistic Director) to Concerts at Saint Thomas. In this special chamber performance, directed by Jeremy Filsell, rising star mezzo-soprano Sarah Rose Taylor joins NYBI in a program comprising the heroic music of G.F. Handel and Henry Purcell. Following the restoration of King Charles II to the English throne in 1660, Handel and Purcell emerged as important figures in English music history. Handel's great Arias, his Organ Concerto in B flat and Trumpet Suite in D reflect the heritage of Henry Purcell, upon whose music Handel so consistently drew for inspiration.

**AGO DISCOUNT: \$5**

The Complete Beethoven Sonatas III: Fantasies and the Moonlight

*Saturday, November 21, 2020 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm*, Digital Presentation

32@32, created by pianist Adam Golka on the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday celebration, is a free 8-concert series surveying the master's complete Piano Sonatas. Program III features Sonatas 16, 27, 13, and 14)

**FREE**

Messiaen: La Nativité du Seigneur

*Saturday, December 5, 2020 @ 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm*, Digital Presentation

Associate Organist, Nicolas Haigh, plays Messiaen's masterful cycle on the Miller-Scott Organ. Arguably the most distinctive and progressive voice in twentieth-century French music, and certainly the most significant organist-composer of any nationality since Bach, Olivier Messiaen is best known for his cycle of nine pieces entitled La Nativité du Seigneur. Written in 1935, the music speaks directly of the joy, peace and wonder of Christmas. Join us for this digital presentation and slip into this synesthetic world of color and sound, showcasing some of the most hidden and delicate sounds of the Miller-Scott Organ.

**AGO DISCOUNT: \$2.50**



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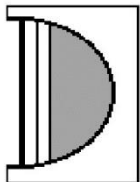
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