



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Tip of the Month

Pedaling Around
Omaha

Recital Dates

Special Events

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From the Dean...

Founded 121 years ago, the American Guild of Organists (AGO) is the national professional association serving organ and choral fields. The guild serves these two fields by offering educational and service oriented opportunities to more than 15,500 members across the United States and other parts of the world.

Among the stated goals of the guild, (National Website under "History and Goals") numbers two and three will be especially applicable for the next four issues of Windchest, April-July. Each Dean's column will be followed by an article regarding organ education in the "Tip of the Month" column. Two columns will be submitted by guest authors, the other two by Omaha AGO members.

The topic of the four columns will discuss opportunities locally available to meet two specific goals of the AGO:

- (2). "...to improve the proficiency of organists and choral directors," and
- (3). "...to evaluate, by examination, attainments in organ playing . . . and the theory and general knowledge of music, and to grant certificates to those who pass such examinations at specific levels of attainment..."

It is widely acknowledged there is an urgent need for "training up current and future generations" of church musicians, especially organists and choral directors. There are those in our midst who cultivate an interest in developing their talents as a church musician, often expressing interest in becoming an organist. This interest is observable at all ages, from five- year- olds through 75 year olds and up!

Consider these observations every organist experiences: Who, with visible curiosity and interest, comes to the organ console (usually with parents) following a postlude or organ recital to see the organ? Who asks for "a tour" of the organ loft and/or chambers? Who, among five-twelve year olds that you know, sings out with remarkable pitch accuracy and intonation, volunteering to be a Kantor? Who among your acquaintances maintains a piano studio that offers an "organ crawl" for piano students? Are there those you know who inquire about organ lessons? Referrals? A positive response to any of these observations or questions may lead to opportunities do develop an organist in present and future generations!

The Omaha metropolitan community is home to organizations that provide organ study opportunities for five -year- olds and up, including St. Paul's Music Conservatory; the Music Institute of the Omaha Archdiocese; two chapters of the National Federation of Music Clubs; and the Omaha Chapter AGO. The "Tip-of-the-Month" column for April-July issues of Windchest will feature some of these resources for organ study in the metropolitan community.

Peace and good will. Psalm 96;1,2.

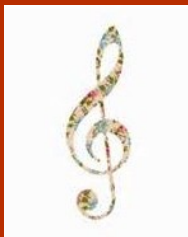
Dr. Christensen, AAGO
Dean, Omaha Chapter AGO



Tip of the
Month



The Parish Based Music Conservatory



“Soli Deo Gloria!”



Tip of the Month By: Rev. Nathan Sherrill St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Bluffs, Iowa

The Parish Based Music Conservatory

It is no surprise to this readership that the number of church musicians is decreasing. While trends can be charted, analyzed, and discussed, the bottom line is the same: there is less and less music and musicianship in our churches. Ultimately, there are only two possible responses. Do something or do nothing. Rather than do nothing, and go on about the “good ol’ days,” I would rather do something and celebrate any progress God provides.

As a pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa, I worked with two of our members eleven years ago encouraging them to share their musical talents with other members. This led to the development of studio lessons in guitar and piano. A few years later we were blessed to be able to add organ, then cello and then voice. Presently, we operate a growing parish-based music conservatory giving lessons to roughly 65 students a week, expanding and developing daily. We have recently finished a remodel project to include four professional studios within our church education wing and have also acquired two brand new Boston studio pianos. Presently we are in a good position to support the development of church musicians and display ourselves as an active service agency within our community.

Some fundamentals guide our conservatory. First and foremost we are a ministry not a business. All glory, honor and praise goes to God alone. We are his humble servants and are not in this for ourselves. Performance has a way of puffing up the individual. If anyone receives praise, let it be given to Christ alone. As Bach made clear, “Soli Deo Gloria.” Secondly and related, we exist as a service to others. Our goals of developing as musicians relate to the service of those around us. This necessarily leads to a third fundamental, “performance opportunities.” Unique to St. Paul's are the ready made local opportunities for performance, which are intended to hone talent, inspire interest, and serve others. In the last year SPMC students have played in church services, at dinners, at area nursing homes and in local businesses including Lauritzen Gardens and The Historic Dodge House. A most rewarding event was participation in the “Christmas Giveaway” for a local homeless shelter. Not surprisingly, our students return from these performances more blessed by what they received than by what they gave.

As time goes on, SPMC is moving in a national direction. Having stimulated the development of the parish based music conservatory now in Cedar Falls, Carlisle and Carroll Iowa, we are beginning to collaborate with parishes, parish leaders and like-minded entities (such as the AGO) across the nation. Our prayer is that more and more churches might see themselves as an active part of the development of the next generation of church musicians. Sometimes it takes more determination than talent and more faith than skill in order to achieve something you've never imagined. Maybe the first step in taking on such a challenge is simply forward.



2016-2017 AGO Season

**THE ORGAN IN JEWISH REFORMED
WORSHIP. Intro to Tri-faith Initiative**
MONDAY, APRIL 24, at 6:30 p.m.
With Wendy Shermet, Cantor, presenter
Temple Israel
13111 Sterling Ridge Drive, Omaha
Host: Julie Sandene

Cantor Wendy Shermet will be sharing information about the role of the organ in German-Jewish worship through the years and where it stands today in Europe and the United States. She recently toured Prague, Amsterdam and Malta and will share some of her experiences regarding synagogue music.

She will also sing various selections to illustrate the changes in liturgical music. The second part of the program will deal with the Tri-Faith Initiative... how it began in Omaha and how it is progressing today.

**CLOSING DINNER and MEMBER
CERTIFICATION PARTICIPANTS/ RECITAL**
MONDAY, MAY 22, at 6:00
Dundee Presbyterian Church
5312 Underwood Avenue, Omaha
Hosts: Dr. Wayne Kalstrom
J. Gordon Christensen



NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD

2017-2018

Omaha Chapter by-laws require nominations for the executive board for the upcoming season be announced in the April edition of Windchest. The chapter's nominations committee is comprised of Michael Kesar, chairman, Barbara Fremder and Jean Johnson.

Chapter by-laws provide for additional nominees to be submitted to the chairman of the nominations committee on or before April 15. The names of additional nominees and the respective office should be submitted to Michael Kesar: mkesar@stmarkomaha.org; or (402) 571-8272 by April 15.

By-laws indicate balloting and installation takes place at the chapter's May meeting, scheduled on at Dundee Presbyterian Church on Monday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m. The new term begins July 1.

The nominations committee has submitted the following roster of nominees for the 2017-2018 season:

Dean: J Gordon Christensen, AAGO
Sub-Dean: Marie Rubis Bauer
Secretary: Gregory Johnson
Treasurer: Gina Simpson
Member-at-Large:
Sonya Lundgren: 2017/18 -2019/20
Claire Eason, CAGO: 2015/16 - 2017/18
Jean Johnson: 2016/17 -2018/19



Presbyterian Church of the Cross

VESPER CONCERTS has one concert remaining in their 2016-2017 season. **Sunday, April 2**, will feature three outstanding Omaha musicians: Brian Sherwood, viola; Maria Harding, flute; and Kathleen Wychulis, harp. They will play Debussy's *Sonata for Flute, Viola, and Harp*, and Benjamin Britten's *Lachrymae: reflections on a song of John Dowland*. Both concerts take place at **Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1517 S. 114th St., Omaha, at 3 p.m. As always, the concerts are FREE.**

The choirs of Presbyterian Church of the Cross, accompanied by professional orchestra, will present their annual Palm Sunday worship services on **Sunday, April 9, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:10 a.m.** Works will include the "Kyrie" and "Sanctus" from Duruflé's *Requiem*, and selected movements from Bach's *St. Matthew's Passion*.

Pedaling Around Omaha

Upcoming Events at Sinai Lutheran, Fremont

The final program in the dedication series for Sinai's new Juget-Sinclair organ will be a recital by Michael Bauer on **Sunday May 7 at 3:00 p.m.**



Highlights...

Two Omaha AGO members recently played their Service Playing Exams. Thanks to members SALLY HODGES and MICHAEL KESAR for making arrangements for our two SPC scholars to play their exams.

Certification classes will resume in September. Classes to be scheduled on a regular schedule.

Member TIMOTHY FRANK will tour Germany in June as part of an auditioned male choir celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Pastor Frank is one of two singers from the Omaha/Council Bluffs community selected to sing in the 22 voice choir.

Finalize your plans to attend a Regional Convention this summer!

CHALLENGE GIFT

A member of Omaha AGO has offered the chapter a challenge gift of \$1,000.00, payable May 1, 2017. The donor will match dollar for dollar up to \$1,000.00 given to the chapter on or before May 1.

Let's meet this challenge! The Omaha chapter has about 70 members. If each member donates \$15.00, the challenge would be met. Gifts and donations of any amount, no matter how large or small, will be deeply appreciated—and put to good use for programming our upcoming 2017-2018 season.

Send your gifts to: Gina Simpson, treasurer
5633 South 118 Plaza
Omaha, NE 68137

Thanks in advance for meeting and/or surpassing the challenge.

(P.S. FYI, the donor of this challenge gift has been known to match dollar for dollar challenge gifts that surpassed the stated goal. The potential for more than \$2,000.00 being added to our treasury is a very real possibility!)

AGO STUDENTS DO WELL IN LOCAL FESTIVAL COMPETITION

Five organ students registered as studio students at St. Paul's Lutheran Music Conservatory in Council Bluffs earned superior ratings at the annual Spring Festival sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs held in Council Bluffs on March 25.

Two are student members of Omaha AGO: Timothy Conner and Timothy Schreiber. The other three students winning superior ratings in organ entries include Brett Allen, a fifth grader at Rue Elementary School in Council Bluffs; Emma Milbrath, a student at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs; and Mary Milbrath, who studies at Duscesne Academy in Omaha.

The students entered in the following categories: Organ Repertoire; Sacred Organ; and Organ Hymn.

*Dowd Memorial
Organ
Rededication
Boys Town*



*Vincent
Dubois*

Tuesday,
April 25, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Open to the public
Free of charge

DOWD MEMORIAL ORGAN REDEDICATION What: Organ Recital

Who: Vincent Dubois, Titular Organist, Notre Dame of Paris

When: Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Open to the public, free of charge. Donations accepted

A rededication recital of the Reuter organ in Dowd Memorial Chapel, Boys Town will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. The featured organist will be Vincent Dubois, new Titular organist at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The concert is open to the public free of charge. Donations are welcome.

As the result of a roof leak last year, the Reuter organ in Dowd Memorial Chapel sustained damage to the swell division. At the time of repair, selective re-voicing of some upper work, reed stops, and foundation stops was done. Additions included digital 32' stops, flute celeste, and a Voix Humana.

Vincent Dubois will be giving a short presentation on organ improvisation, Monday, April 24 following the program at Temple Israel on the Dowd Memorial Organ. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Vincent Dubois
Biography**



Newly appointed as one of the three titular organists at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, France, Vincent Dubois is one of the finest concert organists to appear on the world stage in many years. He is a graduate of the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris where he was a student of Olivier Latry, and earned First Prizes in Organ, Harmony, Counterpoint, Fugue and 20th-century composition.

In January 2016, after a comprehensive audition and competition for the available post, Mr. Dubois was appointed the newest of three titular organists of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, where he will serve along with the two other titular organists,

Olivier Latry and Philippe Lefebvre.

Mr. Dubois took the world's stage early in his career when he won two major organ competitions in 2002: the Recital Gold Medal at the 2002 Calgary International Organ Competition, and the Grand Prize at the 2002 International Competition of Toulouse, France. As a result of these prizes, Mr. Dubois has performed in major concert venues throughout Europe, North America, Asia and the Pacific. His performances have included numerous international music festivals such as Cambridge, Stuttgart, Dresden, Vancouver, Montreal, Chartres, and Roskilde. Mr. Dubois has also appeared as guest soloist with several orchestras and ensembles, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Hong-Kong Philharmonic, the Orchestre Philharmonique of Radio France, the Orchestre National de France, the Orquesta Filharmonica del Gran Canaria, the Orchestre de Picardie, and the Orchestre de Bretagne. His performances have been broadcast over Radio France, the O.R.F. Vienna, CBC Radio Canada, Australian Radio and American Public Media's *Pipedreams*. In addition, he has been invited to teach organ master classes at such prestigious institutions as Yale University, Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Oberlin College, Baylor University, St. Paul University, Emory University, and he was recently appointed Continuing Guest Artist at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he continues with teaching residencies each season.

Mr. Dubois has made several recordings, including a CD of the organ music of Franz Liszt available on the Vox Coelistis label; a CD on the JAV label recorded at St. Sulpice in Paris; and on the Radio France and Tempéraments label a recording at St. Etienne de Caen, which features the complete *3rd Symphonie* of Louis Vierne and the *Op. 7 Preludes and Fugues* of Marcel Dupré.

In addition to his extensive performing and teaching, Mr. Dubois has held the post of Director General of the Strasbourg National and Superior Conservatory of Music in France since March 2012.

*Katelyn
Emerson

Organist*



*Recital

Friday, April 21

at

7:30 p.m.*

AGO Board
Members

Committee Chairs



KATELYN EMERSON, ORGANIST



Winner of the 2016 AGO National Young Artists' Competition

In recital

St. Cecilia Cathedral

Friday, April 21, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Open to the public, free of charge

Sponsored by CAP



Music by:

Muffat, Sweelinck, J. S. Bach, Rheinberger, De Grigny, Boely,
Franck, Langlais, Mozart

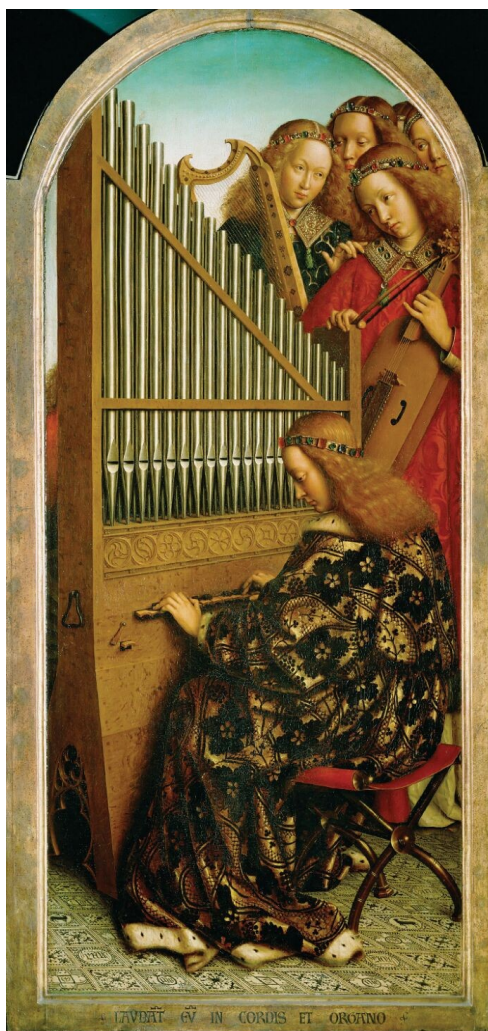
**CURRENT AGO BOARD
MEMBERS
2016-2017**

Dean: J Gordon Christensen, AAGO
Sub-Dean: Marie Rubis Bauer
Secretary: Gregory Johnson
Treasurer: Gina Simpson
Immediate Past Dean: David Schack
Members - at - Large:
Julie Sandene: 2014/15-2016/17
Claire Eason: 2015/16 -2017/18
Jean Johnson: 2016/17 - 2018/19



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education (AGO Certification)	Sally Hodges
Chapter Historian	Claire Eason
Organ Historian	David McCain
Membership	Julie Sandene
Membership Directory	Gina Simpson
Professional Concerns	Jerry Brabec
Programming (2016-2017)	Marie Rubis Bauer
Publicity	J Gordon Christensen
Referrals	Julie Sandene
Webmaster	Mayumi Naramura
Windchest Editor	Claire Eason
Windchest Publisher	Rosemary Paul



Prairie Voices

A Musforum Conference

June 8~10, 2017 | Omaha, Nebraska

Join us in Omaha this June for **Prairie Voices**, a conference presented by **Musforum**, the online network celebrating the accomplishments and wide-ranging interests of women organists. We are advocates for women organists in liturgical music and higher education. Conference includes keynote, concerts, lectures and social events.

Register at www.musforum.org

Prairie Voices—A Musforum Conference

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Saint Cecelia Cathedral

10am Rhonda Sider Edgington Organ recital
 11am "I the Siren" Chamber Music:
 Darci Gamerl, oboe and Stacie Haneline, piano
 12 noon Wilma Jensen, Keynote Speaker
 12:45-1:45 Lunch provided by Musforum
 2pm Elisa Bickers and the Bach Aria Group
 3pm Music by Women Composers:
 Reading Session led by Stacie Lightner
 4pm Wine and Cheese reception provided by Musforum
 6pm Marie Rubis Bauer and the musicians
 of Saint Cecilia Cathedral

Friday, June 9, 2016

Dundee Presbyterian Church

9am Chelsea Vaught Organ recital
 10am Catherine Rodland, Choir
 and Organ Traditions at St. Olaf College
 11am-12:20pm Young Organists
 Boston University: Sarah Johnson
 Indiana University: Yumiko Tatsuta
 University of Kansas: Shayla Van Hal



First United Methodist Church

12:30-1:30 Lunch provided by Musforum
 2pm Marty Wheeler Burnett:
 The Hymns of Rae E. Whitney
 3pm Film Screening: Sacred Sound
 4pm Melodie Steed and Ann Marie Rigler, Organ recital

Saint Cecelia Cathedral

8pm Gala recital: Lynne Davis, Gail Archer, Crista Miller

**June 10: Extra: Visit to Sinai Lutheran Church,
 Claire Bushong, Music Director**

**BE SURE TO REGISTER FOR AND ATTEND A:
REGIONAL CONVENTION, POE, OR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH
OPPORTUNITY THIS SUMMER!**



Yes, We'll
Gather at the
Rivers

The River Valley
Chapter of the
AGO

June 19 - 21, 2017

The River Valley Chapter of the AGO
Online registration for
the 2017 North Central Regional AGO convention
is now open!

Don't delay, register today and plan ahead for the big event
19 - 21, 2017 in Iowa City/Cedar Rapids.

CERTIFICATION CLASS

Omaha AGO is one of only four chapters in North Central Region that sponsored a certification class as part of the 2016-2017 season programming. Following a highly motivational program presented by Dr. Joyce Shupe Kull as our season opener, nine members expressed interest in attending classes. Registrants included interest in earning the SPC (Service Playing Certificate); CAGO (Colleague); and FAGO (Fellow) certification. A wide geographic area, ranging from Sioux City, IA to Ashland, NE was represented.

Two registrants played the SPC exam in late February or early March. Arrangements for these two exams were made by member Sally Hodges, AGO Certification Education chairman, played at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Omaha. Member Michael Kesar, organist and director of music at St. Mark Lutheran, facilitated hospitality and recording arrangements. Other members of the class plan to register to take exams next season, including two SPC and one CAGO candidate.

Watch for
on
Certification
Classes