

OMAHA CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN  
GUILD OF  
ORGANISTS

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

Tip of the Month

Recital Dates

Special Events

Centennial News

INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

From the Dean 1

Tip of the Month 2  
2018 Convention  
News

Upcoming 3  
Events

Position 4  
Available

Timothy 5  
Schreiber  
Interview

Centennial News 6



AUGUST 2017

# The Windchest

## Celebrating 100 Years!

AUGUST 2017

### From the Dean...

The Omaha Chapter, AGO is on the threshold of celebrating its Centennial anniversary 1917-2017.

The chapter was chartered on September 24, 1917, with ten names listed as "Colleagues" in the American Guild of Organists. Chartered as the "Nebraska Chapter" in 1917, the name was changed at the request of Nebraska Chapter membership to the "Omaha Chapter" on May 14, 1956.

Ben Stanley, listed as one of the ten Colleagues who founded the chapter, was elected dean in 1919, becoming the chapter's first dean. Between the founding of the chapter in 1917 and the election of the first dean, one additional member joined the chapter. Membership was then comprised of six women and five gentlemen.

A Centennial Committee has been appointed to explore the history of chapter, author articles for Windchest and the Website regarding the chapter's history, and develop plans to celebrate the chapter's centennial. Members of the committee include Marty Wheeler Burnett, Barbara Fremder, Jeff Hoffman, Michael McCabe, Anne Spangler, and David McCain.

The executive board is in the final stages of planning the chapter's eight-event 2017-18 season, which will be officially announced at the season's Kick-Off event, a sit-down catered dinner in Dr. Christensen's gardens on Sunday, September 10, at 5:00-7:00 p.m. Other scheduled events include a choral and organ concert at Dowd Memorial Chapel, Boys Town; a workshop promoting understanding of music written for and performed on mechanical action keyboard instruments; a program promoting work place harmony and collaboration between clergy and musicians; sponsorship of a major organist in recital; a hymn festival; a significant Nebraska organist in recital co-sponsored with CAP; and the season finale banquet featuring AGO certification winners in recital.

The official announcement of the season will be published on or before September 1.

A quote that appears on the back side of a "Nebraska Chapter" sponsored Hymn Festival at First Presbyterian Church on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1938, which involved choirs and organists from ten Omaha churches:

#### "Purposes of The American Guild of Organists"

"To advance the cause of worthy church music; to elevate the status of church organists; to increase their appreciation of their responsibilities, duties and opportunities as conductors of worship; and to obtain acknowledgement of their position from the authorities of the church.

To raise the standard of efficiency of organists by examination in organ playing; in the theory of music; and in general musical knowledge, and to grant certificates of Fellowship, Associateship and Choirmastership to members of the Guild who pass such examinations.

To provide members with opportunities for meeting, for the discussion of professional topics, and to do such other lawful things as are incidental to the purposes of the Guild."

SOLI DEO GLORIA  
Dr. Christensen, Dean



## Tip of the Month



Kansas City  
2018

American  
Guild  
of  
Organists  
National  
Convention



## Tip of the Month

Mutations on the pipe organ are stops that have a fractional value, such as the Nazard  $2 \frac{2}{3}$ , or Tierce  $1 \frac{3}{5}$ . Mixtures also use mutation pipes. Mutations play notes other than the one expected from the keyboard. As an example, a  $2 \frac{2}{3}$  stop will play a G when a C is held on the keyboard so if you turn on a 4' and a  $2 \frac{2}{3}$ ' stop and play a scale, you get parallel 5ths or a 2' and  $1 \frac{3}{5}$ ' stop gives parallel 3rds. Different fractions give different intervals. A few people will hear these as separate pitches but most of us hear them as changing the color of the 8' stops because they reinforce different "overtones" that are already present in the 8' sound. Try different 8' stops with different mutations and you may come up with some very interesting and pleasant solo combinations. I have one piece that I use the 8' trumpet and mixture and it works well together for that piece of music. Sometimes I think we get too hung-up on what's "acceptable" and miss out on finding new and exciting sounds. After all, the organ has all those stops for a reason and if your using the same ones every Sunday it is time for a change. My tip for the month - "Experiment a little and try something new".

Rick Darrow



The next national convention of the American Guild of Organists will take place in July of 2018 in Kansas City. Look for information about artists in the August issue of *The American Organist* which should arrive around July 1. One of the best features of the convention is a second discount for early joiners. There has always been an Early Bird discount but now there is also a SuperSaver with a good discount. Here are the details:

Regular: \$495 Early Bird: \$435 SuperSaver: \$375  
Seniors: \$450 Early Bird: \$395 SuperSaver: \$350

In order to get the SuperSaver, your registration must be paid before December 31, 2017. Students will pay \$250 at any time.

There will also be a Kansas City barbeque on July 4. Most national conventions have a banquet and you pay for it. In Houston, the banquet was \$60. In Kansas City the barbeque is included with your registration!

It's going to be a great convention. The steering committee is working very hard and it should be great!

Hope to see you there!



### **Recital at Sinai Lutheran Church ~ August 1 at 12:00 p.m.**

Four Fremont area organists will present a brief noonday recital on Tuesday, August 1, at Sinai Lutheran Church in Fremont.

Performers include Claire Eason, Scott Flanagan, Jeff Hoffman, and Dana Sloan.

The program will begin at 12:00 pm and will be over before 1:00 pm to allow time for guests to return to scheduled activities.

Light refreshments will be served following the program when there will be an opportunity to talk with performers.

The program is free of charge. Sinai Lutheran Church is located at 950 E. 8th St. in Fremont.

---

### **CERTIFICATION CLASSES 2017**

Plans are underway for the chapter to offer AGO Certification classes, beginning in September.

The plan is to schedule a class meeting monthly, suggesting Saturday morning because the chapter has students and teachers interested in enrolling. The class sessions will focus specifically on the requirements for SPC and CAGO certification, including opportunity to perform chosen repertoire for the class. Those preparing to take the exams will be offered mentoring sessions on repertoire and keyboard skills, in addition to taking a “trial run” exam prior to taking the exam.

The requirements, registration fees and time lines are listed in the July issue of *The American Organist*. The SPC and CAGO exams are recorded locally, sent to headquarters for review. The SPC may be taken at any time; the CAGO may be played on one of two specific dates, one in late fall, the other in early spring.

Sample scores of all music required for SPC and CAGO, including repertoire, choral and vocal accompaniment have been ordered for perusal by members considering earning certification. National offers SPC study guides and a booklet of SPC and CAGO required hymns on request.

The first class is scheduled Saturday, September 16 at 9:00 a.m., site yet to be announced.

Currently, Omaha AGO has three members planning to earn the CAGO this fall. Two members have expressed interest in earning the SPC.

---



### **MUSIC EXCHANGE**

Are you looking for new, fresh organ music for library? And are you wondering what to do with music you no longer use? Well, here's the answer to both questions!

The annual Omaha Chapter music exchange will be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6340 N. 30<sup>th</sup>, Omaha. The exchange is open on week-days during August: August 2-4; 7-11; 14-18; 21-25. Hours the display is open: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Entry is through the central door on the north side of the church, Redick Ave. Ring the buzzer, and the secretary will unlock the door. The display is in the sanctuary of the church.

Thanks to Julie Sandene for organizing and maintaining the chapter's annual music exchange. The exchange offers an opportunity to share music we no longer need, and exchange it for new repertoire for our own use. Moreover, student organists and those just beginning to build their libraries find the music exchange to be a valuable resource for building a library—at no cost!

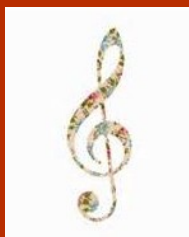
And there is an added advantage of the exchange covering four full weeks: we have time to select and sight read new repertoire, returning it and making other choices if we wish.

## Church Choir Accompanist



AGO Board  
Members

Committee Chairs



### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Choir Accompanist

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gretna is seeking a choral accompanist for a position beginning in September 2017. Details can be found on the below job description. The position is approximately 3 hours per week (1 hour rehearsal, and additional weekly preparation time). The accompanist will be paid a fee per rehearsal.

To apply, please send resume to:

Jodi Korth Director of Organ & Choral Music Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
11204 S. 204th Street, Gretna, NE 68028  
jodi.korth@gslcgretna.org Cell: 641-430-6229

### Choral Accompanist Job Description/Requirements

**Purpose:** Supports the Choir Director and members of the GSLC Choir in providing piano accompaniment for choral works during one weekly rehearsal, and during worship services approximately one Sunday monthly. Uses musical gifts and talents to praise and worship God.

**Responsibilities:**

- Rehearse weekly with the GSLC Choir. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM, and last approximately one hour. The choir season is September-May.
- Provide piano accompaniment for choral pieces shared during worship services following the choir's seasonal schedule. The Choir sings approximately one Sunday per month, at 8:00 and 9:30 AM worship services.
- Provide piano accompaniment for choral pieces shared on special occasions including Christmas Eve, Easter Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

**Qualifications:**

- Desire to share musical talents for God's glory.
- Attested musical skills on piano.
- Previous experience accompanying choral groups, soloists, etc.
- Sense of humor, positive attitude, and desire to have fun during rehearsals.



### CURRENT AGO BOARD MEMBERS 2017-2018

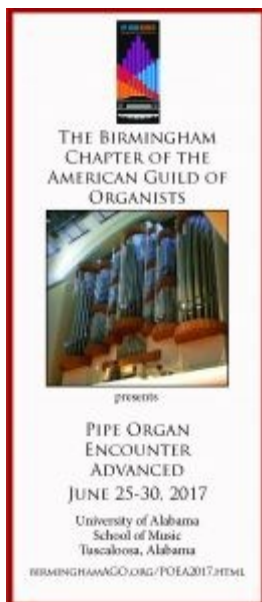
Dean: J Gordon Christensen, AAGO  
Sub-Dean: Marie Rubis Bauer  
Secretary: Gregory Johnson  
Treasurer: Gina Simpson  
Immediate Past Dean: David Schack  
Members - at - Large:  
Claire Eason: 2015/16 -2017/18  
Jean Johnson: 2016/17 - 2018/19  
Sonja Lundgren: 2017/18 2019/20



### 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 (2017-2018)	Marie Rubis Bauer
Publicity	J Gordon Christensen
Referrals	Julie Sandene
Webmaster	Mayumi Naramura
Windchest Editor	Claire Eason
Windchest Publisher	Rosemary Paul

## AN INTERVIEW WITH TIMOTHY SCHREIBER



Omaha AGO student member Timothy Schreiber recently attended Pipe Organ Encounter-Advanced in Birmingham, Alabama. Timothy is the 17 year old son of Scott and Debbie Schreiber of Plattsmouth, Nebraska. A senior at Plattsmouth High School this fall, Timothy is the interim organist at Zion Lutheran Church, Omaha, following the retirement of Omaha AGO member Lynne Eifert.

DR. C: Timothy, this is the third Pipe Organ Encounter you have attended. Why did you enroll in Pipe Organ Encounter events?

TIMOTHY: "There are several reasons I attended three POE events, including Wichita, Kansas in 2015; Waverly, Iowa 2016; and POE-Advanced Birmingham, Alabama this year. I have a good time being around peers and professionals that travel "out of state," attending and presenting educational concerts and events."

DR. C: What did you learn at Pipe Organ Encounters?

TIMOTHY: "POE teachers give students different insights, introducing different opinions and techniques. In conversation with teachers and peers, you learn about "'new to you" music, history, and performance practices."

DR. C: For Pipe Organ Encounter-Advanced this summer, who were your principle organ teachers? Would you share information about their teaching techniques?

TIMOTHY: "My two principle teachers in organ were Joby Bell and Jeff McClelland. Their teaching techniques were enjoyable: lighthearted, eager, active positive social interaction; bonding with students."

DR. C: What repertoire did your teachers choose for you to study?

TIMOTHY: "Bach and Buxtehude. Bach: *Orgel-Buchlein: Christ lag in Todesbanden*, which I played for the final concert."

DR. C: Tell me about techniques suggested to interpret *Christ lag in Todesbanden*.

TIMOTHY: "For the pedal, distinct articulation of larger intervals; more 'connected' in 16<sup>th</sup> note patterns. Shape phrases with nuances; clean articulation of phrase endings. Tempo for this chorale prelude should be slower than tempo for congregational singing. Suggested registration was a principal chorus 8' 4' 2' with a 'subtle' mixture."

DR. C: Last year for the final concert, you played Buxtehude's *Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne*, a technically and musically challenging "showpiece." Why did you choose *Christ lag in Todesbanden* for this year's performance?

TIMOTHY: "Everyone else was playing something 'loud and fast.' I wanted to play something that was reflective, meaningful, and deeply spiritual."

DR. C: What was the highlight of POE-Advanced for you?

TIMOTHY: "I enjoyed the recitals—five faculty recitals—well done, well received. The recitals included Handel, Mendelssohn, Bach, Vierne, Dr. Grigny, Gerry Hancock, and Nathan Laube, who played a piano work transposed for organ."

DR. C: Would you recommend POE to other organ students? Why or why not?

TIMOTHY: "Yes. It's good to be around peers, communicating and sharing with the 'under 30's' --small talk about our immediate future."

DR. C: What influence does the AGO have on your organ music education at this time?

TIMOTHY: "The AGO offers motivation, and professional connection aspects of net-working."

DR. C: Are there additional comments or information you wish to offer?

TIMOTHY: "I plan to maintain my AGO membership as a college student, and throughout my career."







# Happy Centennial Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Below is a photo of the "First Public Service of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. It was presented on December 7, 1917 at All Saints Church in Omaha. J. A. Simms was the organists and choir director. The choirs of All Saints and the First Presbyterian Church were included in the program. Mrs. E. E. Zabriskie accompanied the choirs. The address was delivered by "The Very Reverend James A. Tancock." The Organ Prelude was Adagio (from the Third Sonata) by Guilment.

Watch for Windchest articles of other recitals and events from the past 100 years!!

