

THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



JULY 2019

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FROM THE DEAN

Terrific performances! Relevant and applicable workshops! Unusually well-organized scheduling! Busses that were immediately available and on time! Friendly faces at each venue eagerly extending traditional Mid-western hospitality to everyone! Centrally located hotel, within walking distance of several venues! Superb choice of near-by restaurants, cafes and bistros within walking distance of the hotel and convention venues! -- All crowned with the very best of hospitality! This is all to say the convention the Milwaukee AGO chapter developed and hosted was a huge success! Thank you, Milwaukee!

Milwaukee AGO is not the only chapter in the Midwest celebrating success. Two members of Omaha AGO successfully earned the Service Playing Certification (SPC) this season. Their matted and framed certificates will be presented to the successful candidates by the North Central Regional Counselor, Dr. Karen Black at the 2019-20 Season Kick-off dinner hosted by Dr. Christensen on Sunday, September 8, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Omaha AGO membership continues to grow, especially in the "Young Organist" category, those members who are 30 or under! Omaha AGO membership includes eleven members in this category—each listed as a "Young Organists" in the Membership Directory. The future of the AGO depends on the registration of young members. Omaha AGO challenges other chapters to match –or better yet—out-do our "Young Member" registration!

And yet another positive challenge for Omaha AGO---read on!

Omaha AGO has been invited to be one of four chapters to develop a "pilot project" titled AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS program. Quoting from the "For the Chapter and the Mentor" hand-book: "The AGO Achievement Awards are designed to assist and encourage early-level organists as they improve their skills. A mentor from the chapter volunteers his/her time and energy throughout the process – from



First-Plymouth
Church, Lincoln,
Nebraska | July 19-
21, 2019

We invite you to come to join us here in the heartland for a weekend choral and spiritual retreat—a gathering intended to offer inspiration for those who love to sing their faith and healing for those who long to refresh their spirit through singing and worship. We look forward to welcoming you to the sanctuary of our church and to the heart of our ministry where you can truly sing your faith and refresh your spirit.

Retreat fee: \$75.00

<http://www.firstplymouth.org/singyourfaith/>

a mentor, a teacher, a chapter member, or friend. He/she may then complete the requirements at any time during one or more appointments with the mentor. This process provides a simple way for the chapter to involve new organists in chapter activity and to encourage them to continue their education through AGO certification."

The well-planned and documented curriculum is divided into five sections: The Organ Console; Harmony I; Registration I; Manual and Pedal Technique; and Transposition I. Worksheets, "hands on" activities, and resources are offered. The role of the Mentor is clearly defined; five "Learning Resources" are listed. Upon successful completion of the course, the candidate is awarded an "AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD." There is no cost to or fee to earn this AGO award.

The four chapters that have been invited to develop this pilot project include the Hudson River, Omaha, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles chapters. Representatives from these chapters will offer feed-back and suggestions to National as the project develops.

It is an honor Omaha AGO has been invited to participate in this very worthy educational project.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, AGO

BURNETT BEGINS TERM AS AAM PRESIDENT

Marty Wheeler Burnett, Canon Precentor of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Omaha, Nebraska, is attending the annual conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians in Boston this week. She is the newly elected president of this national organization of Episcopal church musicians and will be installed at the conference's closing Eucharist on July 4. Congratulations, Marty!



Please like the Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Facebook page. Information is posted regularly so that we may update those passionate about the organ frequently. Our page name is: Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

LET FREEDOM RING

Brent Shaw will present the annual carillon concert at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Please gather outside the bell tower.



FIRST TIME ATTENDEE REVIEW OF THE 2019 NORTH CENTRAL AGO CONVENTION

By Jeremiah Bolin

The convention's main events broke down into two categories: seminar/informational sessions and music performances on flagship organs from the Milwaukee area. Each day had information sessions that were grouped at churches around a general location. The Milwaukee Hyatt Regency served as the base of operations.

RECITALS

The conference began with the Regional Competition for Young Organists (RYCO) followed by recital performed by Dr. Jan Kraybill from Kansas City. Due to travel scheduling, I was unable to attend these events, but heard bits and pieces in the following days.

Monday morning began with convention attendees bussing from the Hyatt Regency to the Yankee Hill region for a Matins service at All Saints Episcopal Cathedral (this was my first Matins service outside of the Missouri Synod). The service featured the Cathedral Choir.

Monday afternoon began with the RYCO Winners recital at St. Paul's



The console and front windchest for the Schantz Organ at Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Episcopal Church, which was performed on a Shantz organ. The first-place winner's repertoire featured works from multiple eras. After supper on our own in downtown Milwaukee, everyone was bussed to the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist for the Michael Hay concert. Michael Hay is one of the organists at St. Patricks Cathedral in New York City. The organ has two chests (front and rear) with console located in the front. The console's location afforded attendees the opportunity to watch Mr. Hay's amazing footwork.

THE KVNO "CLASSICAL KID OF THE MONTH" for July is Thomas Koch, a 13 year old organ student in Dr. Christensen's studio at St. Paul's Lutheran Music Conservatory.

Thomas, son of Jim and Tana Koch of Council Bluffs, is a long-time piano student of Omaha AGO member Berneil Hanson. He has studied organ for about two years. His audition CD included "Prelude and Fugue in C-Major" from Bach's "Eight Little Preludes and Fugues." He has begun to play the Saturday evening Mass at St. Bridget Catholic Church, Omaha.

Tune in to KVNO Radio FM, 90.7 on your radio dial to hear comments regarding organ study by Thomas Koch!

Tuesday afternoon's performances lead with a recital Greg Zelek at St. Jude the Apostle Parish. The performance included works from Bach and several 19th century composers (including Alexandre Guilment's Organ Sonata in D minor, Op. 42, No 1 – *Introduction, Pastorale and Final*). While the pieces were wonderful to hear, this concert was not as engaging compared to the prior evening since the Shantz organ's console was in a rear balcony.

Mr. Zelek's recital was followed up by a unique concert: Carmex Labs (a lip balm manufacturer; which explains the Carmex lip balm sample in the convention packets) has installed a Wulitzer-style theater organ one of their warehouses. The debut concert was performed by Jelani Eddington, who gave an amazing performance of pieces from Broadway productions, including *The King and I*.



Nave at the Cathedral of St. Josephat

The final event of Tuesday took place at the Basilica of St. Josephat, which was a spectacular space (some state capitols are the only buildings I have seen that approach this beauty of the space). Rather than another organ recital, the Chant Claire Chamber Choir gave a dynamic performance. While I would question the appropriateness of some pieces for performance within a church setting, they performed choral versions (in Latin) of many parts of the historic liturgy.



Greg Zelek kicks off his recital at St. Jude the Apostle.



The Festival Choir and Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble in front of the Steiner-Reck Organ at Concordia University Wisconsin's Chapel of Christ Triumphant.

AMERICAN ORGANIST CONTENT

The July issue of *The American Organist* is now available. The current issue features the Quimby organ at St. John's Episcopal Church in Lafayette, Ind.

Also included is a report on the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral and a review feature of Rollin Smith's new book, *The Aeolian Pipe Organ and Its Music*.

The 2020 AGO Professional Certification Requirements can also be found in this issue.

The publication may be viewed online for those who may not yet have received their copy.

www.agohq.org

Since I had to return to work on Thursday (when the convention would have an organ crawl with the Organ Historical Society), the final event I attended was the performance of a Festival Choir and the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble. These groups were conducted in part by Dr. John Behnke (who also served as organist) at Concordia University in Mequon (a major highlight for me since this was the only LCMS affiliated venue for the convention and we sang out of *Lutheran Service Book*!). Scripture readings and hymns were interspersed between the choral and handbell performances.

WORKSHOPS

On Monday, the Matins service was followed by choral reading sessions at All Saints Cathedral, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, and First Unitarian Church. The choral reading sessions covered recent choral works from Cliff Hill Publishing, Hal Leonard Publishing, and MorningStar (I attended the latter two). The Hal Leonard session, lead by a local dealer and a national marketing representative, featured a number of choral pieces intended for piano accompaniment but did have a handful for organ. MorningStar session was led by Dr. John Benke (included some of Dr. Benke's compositions) but was in the choir practice room rather than the sanctuary due to a funeral later in the day. Between the two sessions, I thought that MorningStar featured more music that would be a better fit for amateur/volunteer choirs.



Dr. Jan Kraybill leading "Singing Poetry" from the bench at First Congregational Church in Wauwatosa, WI.

On Tuesday, the conference attendees travelled to Wauwatosa Village area of Wauwatosa, WI. A larger variety of presentations were offered during each of the 3 sessions (4 to 6 options as opposed to only 3 on Monday). I chose to attend a Poetry Reading session lead by Dr. Jan Kraybill, an improvisation session lead by Christopher Berry (Music Director and Organist for the Basilica of St. Josephat), and an AGO Certification Overview lead by Mary Newton (the Twin Cities' AGO Chapter's Education Coordinator). Dr. Kraybill's poetry session examined techniques and ways to support memory



Carmex Labs CEO Paul Woelbing (by console) introduces the Carmex organ and performing artist Jelani Eddington (left)

STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY

A comprehensive and vitally important new strategic planning survey is being distributed to all Guild members following each regional convention. The National Council enthusiastically encourages everyone to participate. The results will be analyzed by our strategic planning consultants and presented to Guild leaders in seven discrete regional webinars. Findings from the survey will help the National Council set future priorities and directions for the Guild. **Please complete the online survey when it arrives in your Inbox.**

retention and endearment of hymn texts (in many ways, a practical guide for improvisation/hymn accompaniment), though had more material to cover than the schedule allowed for. Mr. Berry's session was very heavy the French school of improvisation theories (above the average convention attendee's skill) as opposed to practical ways to improvise for hymn accompaniment. Mr. Berry but did have three volunteers on the bench to illustrate some of the concepts for improvisation. The AGO Certification exam was familiar territory having already taken the exam once, but did offer new strategies and ideas for preparation.

BUSINESS

During a box lunch on Monday, I was invited to attend the regional Dean's meeting. During the meeting, key topics of conversation showed that many of the AGO chapters are facing similar challenges to those faced by Omaha. Some ideas were discussed about how to address those challenges. Our very own Dr C proudly shared the accomplishments of the Omaha chapter and offered it as examples to help struggling AGO chapters.

Wednesday began with a breakfast business meeting that provided an overview of developments in the region and at the national level. They also reminded chapter leaders to confirm they are following AGO's FTC antitrust agreement. During this event, it was also announced that Dr. Christensen would be serving as the region's contact regarding professional affairs.

FUN AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

From the first official convention event we were able to attend, we had the opportunity during many of the events and bus rides to network with other organists and musicians across the region and nationally. This afforded the opportunity for me meet more members of the Omaha AGO as well as AGO members from Iowa.

Following Monday's RYCO recital, the convention attendees had the opportunity to visit the Milwaukee Art Museum (a very thought-provoking experience for those that attended) or the Harley Davidson Museum. I choose the Harley Davidson museum (which was



One of three motorcycles behind glass at the Harley-Davidson Museum. This motor cycle was washed ashore following the tsunamic causing the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster. The original purchaser requested the motorcycle be displayed in honor of those impacted by the disaster.

CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE

New AGO member benefit! Join the Church Music Institute for only \$35 and get full access to its online Sacred Music Library.

Go to <https://www.churchmusicinstitute.org/membership/individual-membership/> and enter coupon code AGO35.



a very small group). While I was originally expecting some tour/preview of the manufacturing plant (not part of the tour), the museum is a display of all motorcycles that Harley Davidson has made (one for each year). The display includes one of the motorcycles used in *Captain America*, *Terminator*, and other popular examples.

Tuesday evening's meal bussed to a fish fry supper (a traditional Milwaukee Friday fare) at the American Serb Hall. This even provided more opportunities to network with other organists around the region. Dr. C and I had met up with AGO members from the Twin Cities area.

SUMMARY

In all, the conference was a new experience. It offers an opportunity to learn a ton of new information and be exposed to repertoire I had never heard before. Changes I would suggest would like to see more workshops focused on skill development and fewer recitals. If vacation time is limited and you would like more skill development, one alternative to consider is the Musician Workshops hosted by Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN (<https://www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/musician-workshops/>).

I would like to thank the Omaha AGO Board for extending the scholarship to attend the AGO convention. It was a new experience that I hope the chapter will be able to continue offer to AGO members.

Jeremiah Bolin is a full-time Network Engineer in Ames, IA. Originally from Eagle, NE, he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering from University of Nebraska – Lincoln (Omaha Campus). He played piano for many years through high school, and took up organ in 2013. Since moving to Ames in 2018, he serves as a part-time/substitute organist for three Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod congregations (Holy Cross Lutheran in Carlisle, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown, and Our Saviour Lutheran in Des Moines). He continues to work with Omaha AGO's Dr. J Gordon Christensen toward the AGO SPC.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH HAVELOCK

Michael Emmerich,
organist,
presented an
amazing
dedication concert
at St. Patrick's
Catholic Church in
Havelock (Lincoln)
on Sunday, May
19, 2019.

Music included
selection by
Lemmens,
Froberger,
Mendelssohn,
Gounod,
Schumann,
Brahms, Hovland,
and a suite on "The
King of Love My
Shepherd Is" by
Michael Emmerich.

REGIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

By Emily Lindner

Here are my favorite pictures from the conference. One of them is me, Dr. C and his student. The conference was absolutely amazing! The artists did an amazing job performing beautiful music. Visiting the churches around the city were beautiful. My most favorite concert and church that I loved is the Tuesday night performance of the Chant Claire Chamber Choir at the Basilica of St. Josaphat. I had goosebumps through the whole concert. We had the opportunity to stay for a few minutes after the concert to see the small chapel where there is another organ that has been restored by John Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders (I uploaded a couple of pictures of the organ alone and me playing on it). The workshops were good, I wished we had another day of workshops because I wanted to attend a couple more but didn't fit in the schedule. It was great seeing old friends and meeting new people at the conference. I had a chance to visit a couple of places-The Art Museum and Lakefront Brewery. You would spend the whole day seeing the artwork at the museum and see a great view of Lake Michigan and the brewery was amazing. There was so much beer for me to enjoy and their food menu is really good especially their pretzels with beer cheese dip.





REGIONAL CONVENTION PHOTOS

By Julie Sandene

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta!

The theme is kaleidoscope and the event will share the many shapes and colors that make this diverse city so great.

This convention will be like no other in the past, using more technology and a diverse kaleidoscope of sound, artists and worship styles. Attendees will have access to apps to make the experience more informative, educational and user friendly.



Basilica of St. Josaphat



John Behnke



John Behnke



Church of the Gesu - Marquette University

OMAHA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

June 28, 2019

- New Member-at-Large Lau Rau was welcomed!
- The Omaha Chapter's contribution to the AGO Annual Fund was increased from \$375.00 to \$400.00
- Membership renewal season is upon us. Please reach out to those who are concerned about the renewal process.
- Enthusiastically approved the Omaha Chapter's participation in the AGO Achievement Award pilot program.
- Discussion regarding the 2019-2020 program schedule was discussed. Drik Lindner, Sub-Dean, is working using suggestions submitted by members at the May Banquet.
- A poll of the membership requesting support for a 2020 POE and instruments that should be seen, heard, and played in Omaha will be sent.
- Marty Wheeler Burnett is being installed as President of the Association of Anglican Musicians at their national convention on July 4, 2019.

RESOURCES FOR THE YOUNG ORGANIST

DO you know of a young person interested in the organ? There are two resources available on the AGO National Website store that you could obtain and share.

“A Young Person’s Guide to the Organ” is available for \$12.00. Members receive a discount, so this gift only costs \$10.80 to share.

“Close Encounters DVD” is available for FREE!

Please encourage those who have an interest in the organ with these resources, providing a few free organ lessons, and inviting the young to play the organ!

www.agohq.org

REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL CONVENTION NORTH CENTRAL REGION JUNE 16-19, 2019 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Four members of Omaha AGO attended the North Central Regional Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 16-19. The convention was well organized, offering a wide variety of organ and choral performances in addition to an applicable and relevant series of workshops. The approximately 175 registrants were offered a reasonably full schedule beginning Sunday evening through Wednesday evening. The schedule included adequate time between events for travel, conversation, lunch/dinner and fellowship. Several venues were within walking distance of the hotel; two busses were available for travel to venues away from the hotel.

PERFORMANCES

Performances I attended began with the All Saints’ Cathedral Choir (Episcopal) singing *Morning Prayer*. The 45 member choir sang with impeccable musicianship, intonation, accuracy—beauty personified. The program booklet offers the purpose statement of the choir: “Music and the Cathedral serves a two-fold purpose: the glorification of God through liturgical music offered in public worship, and the enrichment of those who attend services and musical programs. The role of the Cathedral Choir is to rehearse and perform such music to the highest standard. For this reason, membership in the choir is not taken lightly; it is a ministry of time and talent offered twice weekly by each chorister.”

Organists in recital included Michael Hey, Associate Director of Music and Organist of the famed Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City. Hey’s program featured music of 19th and 20th century composers, including Widor, Ravel, Dudley Buck, Jeff Herriott, Jonathan Dove, and Sowerby. Six words published in a review in *The Straits Times*, (Singapore, 2016) sum up his performance: “. . . described as ‘scintillating’ and ‘tremendously virtuosic.’”

Greg Zelek, praised as “extraordinary in the classical music world,” is Principal Organist of the Madison Symphony Orchestra. His repertoire included works by J. S. Bach, Weaver, Vierne, Liszt (arr. Potts), and Guilman. Greg Zelek is Cuban-American and a native Spanish speaker from Miami, Florida, where he became Music Director and Organist of

ARCHOMAHA UNITE

Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer and Michael Emmerich masterfully led the music for the largest Celebration of the Holy Mass in the history of the state of Nebraska on June 8, 2019 at the CHI Health Center. Dr. Rubis Bauer directed the 150 member choir and instrumental ensemble and Mr. Emmerich served as organist and pianist.

Months of planning and preparation went in to making this epic event a meaningful and spiritual experience.



Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Miami at age 15, and has served as the summer organist for San Pedro Apostol Church in Ramales de la Victoria, Spain. “Extraordinary in the classical music world” indeed describes this young organist well.

A powerful departure from concerts and recitals of classical organ music played on classical pipe organs in cathedrals, basilicas and churches was a concert presented on a six manual theatre organ housed in a huge warehouse! ---played by Jelani Eddington, an unusually gifted theater organist. He won the American Theatre Organ Society’s Young Theatre Organist Competition at the age of 13, and continues to hold that record. He has produced more than 30 CD’s, and to date is the only theatre organist to have a video of theatre organ music go “viral:”(---John William’s Star Wars Symphonic Suite---) has had millions of views worldwide. This concert was really entertaining---even if some of us in the audience had to stand underneath shelves which hold huge boxes of inventory waiting to be shipped!

In contrast to the theatre organ concert presented by Jelani Eddington was a concert of choral music presented by the Chant Claire Chamber Choir, Benjamin Bedroske, Director. (“Chant Claire” is French for “Clear Song.”) The choir “founded in the fall of 2013 by Benjamin Bedroske, with the intent to explore rigorous and thoughtful choral repertoire with singers and audiences throughout the Milwaukee area. The choir’s mission is to create authentic music in an authentic community. With an ensemble of over 50 singers, Chant Claire aims to combine the power of a large choir with the clarity of a chamber ensemble.” The stated goal, as demonstrated in this concert with difficult, challenging repertoire, has been reached. The fifty plus singers in the choir sang with transparent clarity, diction, intonation, singing complex texts whose meaning could easily be understood and comprehended by the audience.

A hymn festival “Early in the Morning, Our Song Shall Rise to Thee” was presented in the Chapel of Christ Triumphant on the Concordia University Wisconsin campus in Mequon, directed by Dr. John Behnke, Emeritus Professor of Music at Concordia University Wisconsin. Along with a choral choir comprised of about 50 singers, the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under the direction of Dr. Behnke. The festival included five hymns from *Lutheran Service Book*: (Concordia Publishing House, 2006); seven scripture readings, pre-service music by Buxtehude and post-service music by

OMAHA CHAPTER MEMBER SURVEY

Members were emailed a survey a few days ago asking two questions. Please reply if you have not done so. If you did not receive the survey, please send your responses to the two following questions to Jeff Hoffman at omahaago@gmail.com by July 8, 2019, so that the Executive Committee may make decisions based on your input at our meeting on July 9, 2019.

Would you support the Omaha Chapter hosting a Pipe Organ Encounter in 2020?

What instruments, both home and institutional, would you like to see, hear, and play on an organ crawl?

Thank you!

Vierne. The festival was well organized, featuring well prepared choral, handbell, and organ music.

WORKSHOPS

Three choral music workshops, including choice of two: HAL-LEONARD and MorningStar. Presenters for both workshops were well prepared as was their accompanist. HAL-LEONARD offered a bound booklet including twelve titles, including liturgical season titles, one Black Spiritual and hymn-based anthems, including 10 SATB titles, one unison and one 2-part arrangement. MorningStar presented 14 octavo scores: two unison; two two-part mixed; one SAB; nine SATB. Included are liturgical season titles and several hymn-based arrangements, including arrangements by Hildebrand, Behnke, D and S Cherwien, Burkhardt, Schalk, Biery and others.

“What I Wish Someone Would Have Told Me Years Ago About Handbells” was the title of a workshop presented by Dr. John Behnke, who has worked with handbells and chimes for more than 40 years. Registrants were encouraged to participate, using both handbells and chimes. There was an emphasis on both ensemble ringing as well as accompanying hymnody and chanting. Highly productive workshop.

“How to Become an Improviser” was the title of a challenging workshop presented by Christopher Berry, professor of Organ at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The emphasis of this workshop was on these questions: What prerequisites are necessary? How do I acquire the skills necessary: How do I develop the skills I have? These questions were answered from the French perspective. This was a highly informative and productive workshop, challenged by a large attendance in a tiny, tiny organ loft.

Among other highlights of the convention was the Regional Business meeting, chaired by Dr Karen Black, North Central Regional Councillor. Dr. Black is dedicated to professional leadership in North Central Region, planning to visit every chapter this year. Another highlight was a choice of one of three “excursion” options, including Milwaukee Art Museum; Harley-Davidson Museum; and Lakefront Brewery. The Milwaukee Art Museum is built on the shore of Lake Michigan. Recent portions of the architecture mirror that of a ship. The docents that guided the tours were insightful in different ways to view art, which was inspiring.

SPRECKELS ORGAN PAVILION LIVESTREAM

The Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park in San Diego, California, comprising 80 ranks, is the largest outdoor pipe organ in the world.

Spanish organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez is the new Civic Organist of the City of San Diego and Artistic Director of the Spreckels Organ Society.

Tune in every Sunday at 2PM (Pacific Time) to hear our weekly concert online.

During the summer months the International Summer Organ Festival concerts on Monday evenings @ 7:30 p.m., are also shared.

<https://www.ustream.tv/channel/spreckels-organ>

I missed the opening recital by Jan Kraybill on Sunday evening and the final recital by Lynee Davis on Wednesday evening because of travel to and from Milwaukee.

Overall, this convention was well organized. The Milwaukee Chapter of the AGO is to be commended for their visionary planning that led to a highly productive and exciting convention. The next regional will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

J. Gordon Christensen

SUMMER SING!

A poster for a 'Summer Sing' event. The background is a photograph of a dirt path leading through a lush green forest. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, 'Summer Sing' is written in a large, bold, orange font, and 'Mozart's Requiem' is written below it in a similar but slightly smaller font. Below this, in a smaller white font, is the text: 'Do you miss singing with your choir during the summer months? Join Abendmusik for our annual community Summer Sings! No entrance fee. No preparation necessary. No auditions required. Music, hospitality, air conditioning, refreshments, and fun provided!'. Further down, in a yellow font, is the date and time: 'Thursday, August 1 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.' and the location: 'Trinity Episcopal Cathedral 113 N 18th Street, Omaha'. Below that, in white, is 'Free will offering' and the website 'www.abendmusik.org'. At the bottom, the 'abendmusik' logo is displayed in a stylized white font, with 'AT FIRST-PLYMOUTH' in a smaller font below it, and the tagline 'Music that inspires' in a cursive font at the very bottom.

Summer Sing
Mozart's Requiem

Do you miss singing with your choir during the summer months?
Join **Abendmusik** for our annual community Summer Sings!
No entrance fee. No preparation necessary.
No auditions required.
Music, hospitality, air conditioning, refreshments, and fun provided!

Thursday, August 1 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
113 N 18th Street, Omaha

Free will offering
www.abendmusik.org

abendmusik
AT FIRST-PLYMOUTH
Music that inspires

OLIVIER LATRY JOINS KU FACULTY

Olivier Latry, one of the three organists for the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, is filling the William T. Kemper Artist-in-Residence at KU for the upcoming school year, the university recently announced in a news release.

The appointment at KU will be Latry's first academic position outside of France. Currently he is professor of organ at the Paris Conservatory of Music. Additionally, he gives more than 100 concerts a year and has performed in more than 50 countries on five continents.



YOUNG ORGANIST INTERVIEW – ZACHARY ZIESCHANG

Zachary hails from Austin, Texas, where he began organ study in the 8th grade, following several years of piano study. During his high school years during the summer breaks he took weekly organ lessons.

It was in his last years of high school that he made the decision to pursue a career in church music. The field of aerospace engineering also interested him, however, the math course proved to more of a challenge than a joy, so he opted for the organ!

He studied at Concordia University Chicago, graduating with Bachelor degrees in Church Music and Music Education; as well as receiving Piano Pedagogy certification.

Prior to arriving in Omaha served at Cross of Christ in DeSoto, Texas from 2015-2016 and as Director of Music at Christ Our Savior in Livonia, Michigan from 2016-2018.

His experiences at both churches were good experiences. Cross of Christ was a small congregation however, the organ and the acoustic were favorable. During this time he married his wife, Mary, and his first son was born.

Christ Our Savior had an established music program, including choirs, brass, and handbell ensembles, and a lovely two manual Casavant organ. Zachary served there two years before being called to Omaha.

Zion Omaha's music program has a short history. Zachary is their first full-time Director of Music. "This was a unique opportunity I was interested in pursuing," Zachary said.

Forming a handbell ensemble was a first priority for Zachary. He is networking to find instrumentalists. He writes or arranges more music for the instrumentalists than he purchases and seeks creative and meaningful ways to engage musicians in the worship service.

Zachary has endeavored to offer unique opportunities for his congregation to become engaged and excited about music in the worship life of his congregation. He organized a "Church Music Ensemble" which involved both choral and handbell aspects. Participants combined both skills so that it was not viewed as a "choir" and members did more than stand and sing. Young members are

HEARTS, HANDS AND VOICES

Our mission is to provide children with lifelong tools for creating, appreciating and sharing music, participating in worship, and leading productive lives in society through hands-on experiences.

Visit www.heartshandsvoices.org for information on all the facets of this program.

Many of the materials and method resources developed for Hearts, Hands and Voices since 2009 are available for purchase through the Hearts, Hands and Voices series published by Morningstar Music.



invited to participate in a "Ride Along" where they sit on the bench with the organist to observe and assist with simple tasks, such as during the Zimbelstern off and on or pressing the cancel button at the end of hymns.

Hearts, Hands, Voices Founded in 2008 by Dr. Michael Burkhardt as a joint venture with the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hearts, Hands and Voices offers a unique opportunity for young people of all Christian faith and music backgrounds to come together in a safe and welcoming environment to grow spiritually and musically. The centerpiece of our program is a summer camp that immerses our campers in an intentional experiential process.

Zach hopes to form a music conservatory and is currently acquiring instruments for this purpose.

Another dream of Zachary's is to publish a series illustrated hymn books that follow each verse of a hymn. This library for young children, organized by the church year, would be available for use in worship and in homes. This resource would not only be for Zion, but the national church.

Zachary recently received the AGO Service Playing Certificate. While transposition and playing an anthem accompaniment on an unfamiliar instrument were challenging, he feels a great sense of accomplishment in achieving certification. "I did it!" Zach said. He also said, "It forced me to take transposition seriously."

When asked what he felt were the greatest challenges facing him as a young church musician, Zachary mention two things. He noted that clergy and musician relationships were key. Both must be moving in the same direction. The second is patience. "Things do not move slowly in my life," Zachary said. However, he realizes that change takes time. Development takes time. Being patient with Pastors, programs, and people is key.

Zion has acquired the Countryside Community Church Reuter organ. The instrument will be installed at Zion in the near future.

THE WINDCHEST

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- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

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