OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Recital Dates

Special Events

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The Windchest

December 2018

Celebrating 100 Years!

From the Dean...

Gina Simpson, the treasurer of the Omaha AGO chapter, is often the bearer of good news at the regularly scheduled executive board meetings! "How so?" you may ask. Gina's treasurer's reports often include names of new members joining the American Guild of Organists, Omaha chapter.

As every chapter member knows, our new 2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY, published in August at the beginning of the season, lists 72 voting members and four Chapter Friends, up from 67 members and four friends in the 2017-2018 directory. Omaha AGO had a net gain of eight members at the beginning of the current season. Since then, the chapter has gained an additional six members, announced by Gina at the November Executive board meeting. This is all good news!

More good news: eleven of our members are listed as "Young Organist," a specific category developed by National AGO assigned to those age 30 and under. Of the eleven Omaha AGO Young Organists, six are new members this season. The future of organists in our culture is indeed.

Education, a primary purpose of the guild listed by the founding fathers of the American Guild of Organists, is increasingly evident in the membership of Omaha AGO, further strengthening the chapter's image. Several members offer organ lessons to students of all ages. There are at least two organizations in the Omaha metropolitan area who offer organ lessons to developing church organists. Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer, organist and director of music for the Omaha Arch – diocese of the Roman Catholic Church has seven organ students; Marie's associate, Dr. Michael Emmerich, has one organ student. Dr. Christensen, AAGO, teaches 15 organ students through the Music Conservatory of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs. Of the 23 organ students mentioned, at least five are working on AGO certification; two students have already earned SPC and CAGO certification through Omaha AGO instructors.

Omaha AGO programming not only offers members opportunities for professional growth, but opportunities for professional leadership and growth as well. Witness, for example, the fact that the presenters for "The Part-Time Organist" workshop sponsored by the chapter on Saturday, November 10, were all Omaha AGO members: Gerald Oehring, Marie Meyers, Reginald Pifer (a Young Member), Pastor Timothy Frank and new member Dr. Daniel Page. Joan Ebersold was the host, and Brett Allen, 11 year-old organ student of Dr. Christensen accompanied a hymn using a simplified trio arrangement of a published by Wayne Leopold Publications.

Other examples of chapter leadership for chapter events include the "Clergy-Musician Luncheon Program" in January, and the "How to Practice" workshop, implemented by Dr. Michael Bauer teaching organ students taught by chapter members. The Season Finale Banquet will be an organ recital presented by members who have earned AGO certification this season.

Omaha members collaborate with one another in service-music planning, exchange of music, serve as substitute organists and directors for one another, eagerly support music events hosted, developed and presented by fellow members. Members attend organ-related conventions, seminars, meetings, concerts and recitals, visibly greeting one another and the performers with a keen sense of sincerity. The list of mutual support and encouragement is continuous. positive—strengthening to cause and presence of the organ and its repertoire in our communities and culture. Moreover, we ourselves grow as individuals and as AGO members, recognizing the importance of mutual support, encouragement, and recognition of beauty.

Attention! Omaha AGO members and friends! Let's keep up the good work!

SOLI DEO GLORIA! Dr. Christensen, AAGO





The presenters left-right: Joan Ebersold, Pastor Timothy Frank, Gerald Oehring, Dr. Christensen, Dr. Daniel Page, Brett Allen, Marie Meyers and Reginald Pifer.

Review of "The Part-time Organist" workshop

The Part-time Organist" workshop sponsored by the Omaha AGO chapter Saturday, November 10 at Saint John Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, hosted by Joan Ebersold, organist at Saint John Lutheran, and J Gordon Christensen, was a success. The purpose of the workshop was to reach out to "part-time" organists in the area. While we did not achieve our registration goal of 30, there were 17 official registrants; 23 packets were claimed.

The three sessions were presented by chapter members Gerald Oehring, Pastor Timothy Frank, Dr. Daniel Page, Marie Meyers and Reginald Pifer. Brett Allen, an intermediate organ student, accompanied one hymn. Host Joan Ebersold prepared a feast of tasty snacks which everyone enjoyed during two breaks.

Promotion included flyers sent directly through US mail to 143 church addresses in the Omaha metropolitan area and Western Iowa. From this mailing, we had three registrations in addition to 27 email, telephone and US mail responses, asking for additional information regarding guild programs. Seventeen evaluation forms were returned at the end of the day, each with many, many highly positive responses! Written suggestions included increased number of workshops on Saturday morning; suggestions of hosting a technical workshop; a workshop regarding choral music presented by a Lincoln area choral director; and increased emphasis on accessible organ music. The responses were all positive, encouraging the chapter to offer more education related programs.

Thanks to Saint John Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, for hosting this workshop and to Joan Ebersold, host organist, for facilitating all the preparations for our workshop. Thanks to AGO board members Gina Simpson and Jean Johnson for facilitating registration, and to Greg Johnson for positive promotion of membership in AGO during the breaks!

Clergy-Musician Luncheon Program

Relationships with clergy are always a concern for the parish musicians. Those of us who serve as musicians in churches have had a variety of relationships with the Pastors, Priests, and Rabbis we have worked with. A year ago, our AGO Chapter hosted an event at which the musicians could discuss their relationships with clergy. This year an AGO Committee has surveyed a number of clergy on their relationships with musicians.

A culminating event in this process is part of our Chapter's program this year. Musicians and clergy are invited to a closing session on January 12, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. including lunch at the German-American Society, 3717 South 120th Street, Omaha.

Three pairs of clergy-musician teams will serve as a panel to discuss and present not only their relationships, but give all insights into how we can better serve together in the music ministry of our churches. The panel includes:

- Tom Trenney and Pastor Jim Keck from First Plymouth in Lincoln. They represent a church with a long tradition of a fully developed music ministry.
- Kantor Zachary Zieschang and Pastor Lance Berndt from Zion Lutheran in Omaha. Mr. Zieschang is the first person to serve as a full time parish musician at Zion. They have been working together only since September and can speak about establishing a working relationship.
- Ann Spangler and Pastor Josh Sawyer from First Christian in Omaha will be rounding out the panel. They have been involved in surveying clergy from their denomination.

Moderating the panel will be Pastor Stephen Bartelt. He is the chair of the AGO committee working on this event. As both a musician and a Pastor, he has the perspective of both. He has also been involved in surveying clergy in the Omaha area.

The Chapter Board has determined that this event including lunch will be presented at no cost to those attending. Our Chapter members are encouraged to attend with the clergy they work for. Now is the time to get this event on your January calendar and on your Pastor, Priest, or Rabbi's calendar as well. The January date was picked to encourage maximum attendance at a time when we are past the December holidays and not yet into the busyness of Spring and Easter. To learn more about how to register, watch for an upcoming "Dean's Cipher."

New Members

Rick Jacobi - Regular Member 1923 North 132 Avenue Circle Omaha, NE 68154 Cell: 402-689-1490 rjacobi9@cox.net

Kim Fedorchuk - Young Organist 16017 Nottingham Dr. Omaha, NE 68118 Home: 402-916-9872 Xamser7@gmail.com

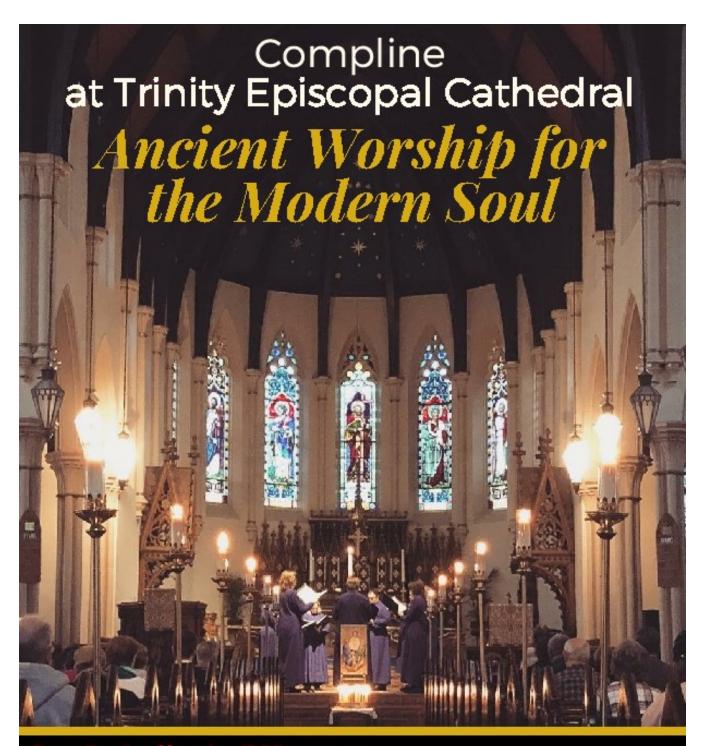
Molly Heng - Young Organist 3502 Webster St. Omaha, NE 69131 Home: 402-618-4078 kmhmother@icloud.com



Zachary Zieschang - Young Organist 12640 ames Plaza, Apt. 202 Omaha, NE 68164 Cell: 512-626-2436 zzieschang@gmail.com Zion Lutheran Church - Director of Music 14205 Ida Street, Omaha, NE 68142

Kali Matz - Young Organist 3202 Westgate Road Omaha, NE. 69124 Home: 402-661-9487 kali.matz@icloud.com

Ambrose Terneus - Young Organist 910 Vannornam Place Bellevue, NE 68005 Home: 402-502-1347 amborse.terneus@gmail.com



Compline is offered at 7:00 p.m. on

October 14 & 28 November 11 & 25 December 9

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

113 N 18th St. (18th & Capitol) Omaha, NE 68102 (402) 342-7010 trinityepiscopal.org

BOOK REVIEWS!!

Music I Would Like to Share...

Several members were asked about recent purchases they would recommend. If you would like to share a great find for future publication, please email jean.johnson.8@cox.net

Dr. Christensen, AAGO

- Lau, Robert. *Variations on "Wondrous Love" for organ*. Paraclete Press: PPMO0845 \$11.25. General description: Four variations. Variations 1-3 are meditative, four is "Full organ;" Allegro energico; f-fff dynamics.
- Variations 1, 2 are each three pages in length; 3 is two pages; 4 is five pages
- Variations 1-3: easy; variation 4; intermediate
- Variation 1: based on phrase "What wondrous love is this, 0 my soul..." Moderato; In a lilting manner. Flutes, strings; 8' solo stop; Pedal 16' 8.'
- Variation 2: based on phrase "to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM" Myststerioso. String celestes, Tremolo; Flute or Solo 8'; Pedal 16' 8.'
- Variation 3: based on phrase "to bear the heavy cross for my soul..."
- Variation 4: based on phrase "And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on ..."

The first three variations, reflective, are technically "easy," long-valued notes featuring traditional harmony with some subtle dissonant harmonization supporting a solo melody. Suggests String celestes; Flute 8' solo. Last variation suggests Foundation 8'4'2' registration to support "Allegro energico" tempo. Suggested use: offering; pre-service; memorial and/or funeral services. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

- Lind, Robert. *Organ Works for the Church Year.* Manuals Only. Paraclete Press 2011: PPM01149. 74 pages. #35.00. Volume includes settings for 26 titles, listed in Index of Tunes.

 This volume of organ music for manuals only volume would be an asset to any organist's library. Each of the 26 settings is well crafted and accessible, generally "easy" to "intermediate." Each setting is appropriate for prelude or offering music; those for High Feast or Festival days work as a brief postlude. Several could be used as hymn introductions—just be sure the key signature matches the key signature in the hymnal in use. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.
 - Advent: four titles; Christmas: four titles; Epiphany: four titles; Lent: one title;
 - Palm Sunday: two titles; Holy Week: two titles; Easter: two titles; Ascension: one title;
 - Pentecost: one title; Special Days; Christ the King: one title;
 - For Marriage, Christian life or St. Bartholomew, one title; Saints' Days: one title;
 - Trinity Sunday: one title: General: two titles

Brent Shaw

Variations on Thaxted (O God, Beyond All Praising) by Tom Trenney published by Morningstar for organ solo. This set of variations has a loud fanfare, a statement of the theme and two quieter movements. I have played the quieter two movements during communion after singing the hymn, I have played all the variations in reverse order to get a "quiet to loud" prelude, and I have used the first two movements for a hymn introduction and statement of the hymn for congregational singing. This is a great arrangement if your congregation sings this hymn.

Majestic Praise, Praise and worship favorites for organ and piano by Mary McDonald and Larry Shackley, published by Lorenz. These can be played as duets, or I have found them to be easily adapted for piano or organ solos. These range from earlier praise songs like Majesty and Give Thanks to more current songs like I Will Rise and Stronger. It id a gift to be able to play arrangements of songs that a congregation is singing. If your congregation has a more "blended" feel with praise music or music from Christian radio being used, you will find this collection excellent. The pieces are beautifully composed and the arrangers handle syncopations from some of the songs very well.

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From:

Jean Johnson

Thoughts from Jean Johnson on being an organ substitute...

I retired from my full time church job two years ago as a Deacon in the ELCA. As a musician, the first thing I had to get used to was being home every night, instead of at church three nights a week. When I had that figured out, friends were beginning to ask for me as a substitute organist. Soon I had to figure out how I would handle requests. To date I have subbed at 17 different congregations, in several different denominations. Because I wanted to do some volunteering at my new congregation and wanted to be a part of that music program, I decided that I would substitute two Sundays a month only. I pretty much stick to that. I know others might like to play every week as a source of income, or something more to do than stay home!

After going through all this, I thought it might be helpful to share some thoughts about being a substitute with AGO members. It might give some direction to the newly retired, and I hope will be helpful to those of you who might need a substitute sometime. The chapter does have a substitute list, available through the Dean. I am not on the list, so you know word of mouth works too. I am going to list things that I like to know when asked to play. It is helpful to email this information so it may be printed for future use.

- 1. Name and address of the church, pastor's name.
- 2. Secretary's name (very important), phone number, email of church, office hours.
- 3. Usual attendance number at various services.
- 4. Is there a choir rehearsal before the service. What time is the sub able to warmup on Sunday.
- 5. Are there memory levels available to the sub, which pistons do you use for hymns, liturgy, choir, etc. That helps subs know what the congregation is used to hearing.
- 6. What parts of the service does the sub play? Is there liturgy?
- 7. Prelude how long Offering music communion music.
- 8. Postlude how long do folks sit and listen (so play something wonderful) or a short time (and that is a good time to improvise on the final hymn).
- 9. What are the hymns for the day this is sometimes hard, but I think organists can ask pastors for those earlier than usual, if there is a sub. It can be part of our educating them as to what helps us all play for services.
- 10. What will the sub be paid how is it handled helps to give the secretary your name and address, and email. Often, bulletins can be emailed when completed.

I quickly set up a notebook with information that I have shared above. I also keep track of what I play each time, as it helps with repeat jobs. It has been a joy to experience worship in many places and practicing all the time helps me keep up my skills.

I was sitting on a bus next to James David Christie at an Indianapolis conference a few years ago. We were talking about retirement and what that meant for us as organists. He asked how old I was, and then said "well you can certainly play until you are at least 70"! Good news - I'm not quite there yet, but I think it will be way beyond that.

AGO Board Members

Committee Chairs



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

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Membership Directory
Professional Concerns
Programming (2018-2019
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Windchest Publisher

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David McCain
Julie Sandene
Gina Simpson
Jerry Brabec
Marie Rubis Bauer
J GordonChristensen
Julie Sandene
Jeff Hoffman
Rosemary Paul

Sally Hodges



CHRISTMAS EVE

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Free parking in the adjacent Central City Parking Garage, 3:00 pm — midnight 4:00 Eucharist with children's choirs and pageant

7:00 Prelude Cathedral Schola and harp

A Ceremony of Carols

Benjamin Britten

7:30 Festival Choral Eucharist

10:00 Prelude Cathedral Choir and brass quintet

10:30 Festival Choral Eucharist

TRINITY CATHEDRAL

113 N 18th Street Omaha, NE 68102

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2018-2019 Business Directory

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