

# THE WINDCHEST

OMAHA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

NOVEMBER 2019



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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

To what do we as organists and cantors aspire? How do we identify our aspirations? And how do we know we are accomplishing our aspirations as organists and cantors?

Of course we know clergy, organists and cantors experience many variables, including theological, music resources, acoustics, size of membership, and many other variables. Musicians encounter numerous challenges supporting and meeting the musical needs in any worship setting, regardless of denominational affiliation. One of the few common denominators among all denominations is choral music. Singing is observable in worship services of most denominations. To be human is to sing. The focus of the "people's song" in worship includes hymns, anthems and liturgical music, strengthened when accompanied by competent music leadership. Leadership usually includes a cantor and/or organist, or an instrumental ensemble.

This article will address the importance of the organist's role in influencing successful congregational singing. What preparation does an organist need to be a successful organist? How does an organist measure gain and growth in congregational singing? Initially, a well-developed technique will encourage good singing. The singing of the choir will improve, and so will the singing of the congregation, even down to technical details of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and phrasing. When an organist has the skill of accompanying congregational song, the song will be sung well.

A well-developed technique, however, is not enough—the playing and singing also has to be musical. Musical leadership will evoke a musical response, and the people's song will be set in motion. Organists need to question themselves in sincere honesty: "How well is my technique and musicianship faring? Is my technique encouraging development of artistic musicianship? Is my technique and musicianship encouraging those whom I accompany to better understand the Scriptural meaning of the text?" The development of solid musicianship is a key factor in successfully accompanying congregational song.

# OPERA OMAHA ONE FESTIVAL PREVIEW CONCERT

Thursday,  
December 5 at  
7:00 p.m.  
Trinity Episcopal  
Cathedral  
113 North 18th  
Street, Omaha,  
NE 68102  
Free admission

A musical  
preview of the  
ONE Festival  
operas *St. John the  
Baptist* and *The  
Capulets and The  
Montagues*. The  
Opera Omaha  
Holland  
Community  
Opera Fellows  
and members of  
the Trinity  
Cathedral  
Schola  
Cantorum will  
perform  
Baroque works  
of Stradella, as  
well as various  
musical  
interpretations  
of the Romeo &  
Juliet fable.

A seemingly unusual question organists and cantors should ask themselves: “Do I love the people whom I accompany?” Simply stated, if you love the people—with GENUINE love—your playing (or cantoring) will reflect that love. The organist must be a loving part of the community he/she accompanies—and only one self can measure this need and answer this question. However, there will be responses from those served that will offer answers to this important question: “Do I love the people whom I accompany?” Only you can truthfully answer this question.

In addition to exploring if our aspirations as an organist or cantor whether the Lord’s song is being sung with meaningful Scriptural interpretation and understanding, there are other ways of assessment of self as an organist or cantor. One is to seek conversation with peers, inquiring about events, ideas, how were issues resolved? Attend professional meetings, seminars, conventions, including those offered by the American Guild of Organists, Hymn Society, or Choristers Guild. Or consider courses in church music, hymnody, liturgy and worship. Colleges and universities offer courses in music theory, history, and applied instrumental lessons, including organ and vocal lessons.

And, without ceasing, extend prayers of thanksgiving for the gifts we as church musicians have been given to lead others in song praising God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

*Dr. J. Gordon Christensen, AGO*

Dean

## MICHAEL MCCABE COMPOSITION PREMIERE

Michael McCabe’s “Flourish and Choral” was performed in Westminster Cathedral in September and appeared in the October 14th edition of Pipedreams. His new publication, “Fanfare and Cortege” will receive its premiere performance by Wilma Jensen in March at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

## HARPSICHORD AVAILABLE

Any harpsichord aficionados? Countryside would love to find a new home for its harpsichord! John Miller built it from a kit bought by the Women's Fellowship about 45 years ago. It needs some tender loving care, but all in all is in pretty good condition. If you are interested, please contact Diane Hill [dihill@outlook.com](mailto:dihill@outlook.com) or 402-330-1899.

## OMAHA CHAPTER NOVEMBER MEETING

2019 - 2020  
NOVEMBER

OMAHA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Saturday, November 9, 2019 - 9:00 a.m.  
Advent, Christmas & Epiphany Music  
Hosted by Joan Ebersold  
at St. John Lutheran Church  
633 Willow Avenue, Council Bluffs, Ia



Chapter members will share their favorite music of this festive season

Plan to attend this month's Omaha Chapter AGO meeting, Saturday, Nov. 9th at 9:00 a.m. Members will be sharing selections of Advent, Christmas & Epiphany music. Location of the meeting is St. John's Lutheran Church, 633 Willow Avenue in Council Bluffs.

As an added attraction, there will be five boxes of music available from previous music exchanges for your perusal. Please check your libraries for music you no longer want or are no longer using, and bring it for the music exchange. This is your opportunity to pick up some new music for yourself, as well.

### 2020-2021 OMAHA AGO PROGRAMMING SEASON

Here's your chance to have some input into programming for the 2020-21 Omaha AGO season. I'd like to get ideas from you. What types of programs would you find to be most helpful, or would be most interested in? Are there programming ideas that we haven't done before, or haven't done lately, or programming ideas that you would like to see more frequently?

Please send me your input to [dirk16@cox.net](mailto:dirk16@cox.net) by **Nov. 30**. If you have helpful comments re program dates, time, locations, send those as well. I will be looking at all comments in order to put together next season's programming.

Thanks for your input!

## TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

The Omaha AGO chapter event on January 5<sup>th</sup> will feature chapter members' compositions in a Christmas Service of nine Lessons and Carols in the Anglican King' College tradition. Several composers have submitted works for inclusion. Please contact Jeff Hoffman at 402-317-8887 or [omahaago@gmail.com](mailto:omahaago@gmail.com) to submit a work or inquire about the musical needs for the service.

## LE GRAND SIÈCLE: ORGAN MUSIC AND CULTURE IN 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY FRANCE

**Nov. 8-9, 2019**, the University of Kansas, School of Music, Division of Organ and Church Music, will sponsor a conference entitled *Le Grand Siècle: Organ Music and Culture in 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century France*, featuring the teaching of Olivier Latry, the new William T. Kemper Artist-in-Residence at the University of Kansas. Registration for the conference is now available online at <http://music.ku.edu/latry> Several Omaha chapter members are attending. Watch the Omaha AGO Facebook page for updates during the conference.

## ADVENT VESPERS ON GAUDETE SUNDAY

Sunday, December 15, 2019 + 3:00 p.m.  
Saint Cecilia Cathedral, 701 North 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68131

Celebrate a special VESPERS including singing the premiere of a new setting of Magnificat by Kevin Vogt for Choir, Assembly and Organ. The Vespers Liturgy is the Church's daily expression of evening prayer, including the singing together of hymns, chanting psalms, sharing the word of God, praying on behalf of the world, and culminating in the Magnificat. On this Gaudete Sunday, we will celebrate Vespers in a festive and ecumenical way. Join your voice to the choir, which will include members of the Saint Cecilia Cathedral Choir, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral choir, St. Paul's Methodist Church, Holy Cross Parish and others. YOU are invited to join your voice personally, or come with your choir.

- +ONE REQUIRED REHEARSAL Saturday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m.
- +WARM-UP AND REHEARSAL IN THE CHURCH Sunday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m.
- +RSVP your presence to [merubisbauer@archomaha.org](mailto:merubisbauer@archomaha.org) by December 1
- +Music will be shared via PDF
- +Bring your own vestment or provide your height and request a vestment in your RSVP.
- +Spread the word to your community, inviting them to come and pray in Advent in this special way.
- +If you are bringing a full choir, indicate that on RSVP to receive special instructions.
- +If you are a director and cannot attend, please share this opportunity with your singers.

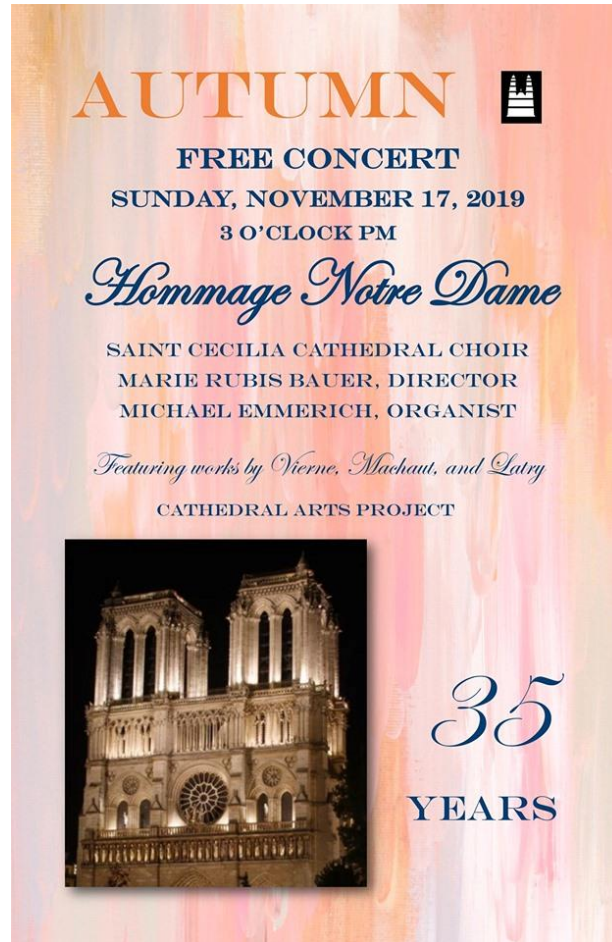
## MISSION

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- 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.

## HOMMAGE NOTRE DAME



Hommage Notre Dame will be performed by the St. Cecilia Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer and organist Michael Emmerich, on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 3 p.m. at St. Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40 St., Omaha. This concert will feature choral and organ music by Louis Vierne, Guillaum de Machaut, and Olivier Latry.

Begun in 1160, the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris is consecrated 'Our Lady of Paris' and has been an active worshipping community, embracing -- locals and international

visitors of all faiths. It is one of the finest examples of French Gothic Architecture. Notre Dame Cathedral is home to one of the largest and most famous organs which includes working voices more than 350 years old. The sounds of the organ, Gregorian chanters, and bells -- along with the soaring sights of tremendous towers, vaulted ceilings, ageless artwork, solemn gargoyles, and majestic buttresses -- are a testament to a universal faith, resting, figuratively, in the arms of the Mary, Mother of Jesus. If the edifice that contains the worshipping body of Christ is the Church, then the stone structure that encircles those worshippers in its rituals, sacraments and prayer is considered the architectural 'Mother Church,' womb from which the assembled community of the church is formed and birthed into the world, sent to live faith in the world. Admission to the concert is free.



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.

## AGO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PILOT PROGRAM

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 or her time and energy throughout the process – from planning through completion. The candidate, who must be a chapter member, prepares the requirements independently or with the help of the mentor, a teacher, or chapter member, or friend. The candidate then may complete the requirements 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 Achievement Award will be encouraging and motivating at every point in the process.
- Mentors are qualified, possessing an AGO certificate or college degree in organ.
- Study and practice will continue until all requirement are met. Candidates never “fail” anything in this process.
- Mentors are provided to teach and encourage throughout the entire process.
- The Achievement Award is a free benefit of AGO membership.
- Basic ORGAN CONSOLE skills covered will include identifying instrument builder and opus number, identifying stops and ranks, describe at least two important mechanisms (key actions), identify the keyboards that correspond to the organ's divisions, the pedal expression and crescendo devices, how to navigate the memory levels and stop controls, explain how reversibles operate, and the correct way to shut off the instrument.
- Basic HARMONY skills will include harmonizing a simple progression in four-part harmony, identifying scale degrees, explain what tonic, subdominant, dominant and tonic mean, play diatonic triads found on each scale degree, seventh chords, in C Major and A minor.
- Basic REGISTRATION skills will include identifying a principal chorus, a combination suitable for a trio, solo and accompaniment with balanced pedal, what a celeste is and used for, meaning and uses of couples, what 16, 8, 4, mixtures and mutations mean and are used for, and demonstrate an effective registration for a joyful and a contemplative hymn.

Basic MANUAL AND PEDAL TECHNIQUE, including the difference between piano and organ technique, legato and non-legato touch, demonstrate legato fingering techniques, supply legato



## THE WINDCHEST

The *Windchest* editor is Jeff Hoffman. Please send content suggestions and information to Jeff at [omahaago@gmail.com](mailto:omahaago@gmail.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

*The Windchest* will be published on or before the first of each month.

- fingerings for a short passage of music, describe the characteristics of good organ shoes, describe several pedal techniques, demonstrate proper body position, play a short, simple passage of music before 1750 with both legato and non-legato technique and a short passage of music using legato touch, play pedal scales, and a piece demonstrating good independence of line.
- Basic TRANSPOSITION, playing a short, prepared, passage of music in three keys, including G major, D Major, A Major, F Major, B-flat major, E-flat major.

## OMAHA CHAPTER OCTOBER BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Long-time chapter member Walter Hanson passed away September 8, 2019. Dean Christensen attended his Memorial Service representing the Omaha Chapter. A \$50.00 gift was given to Omaha AGO in Walter's memory.

The American Guild of Organists Achievement Pilot Program is in need of an Omaha location. St. Barnabas Church is willing to host.

The Omaha Chapter of the AGO had committed to sponsor the The Spire Chamber Ensemble B-minor Mass of J.S. Bach performance on Saturday, March 7, 2020 in the amount of \$1,000.00. An Omaha AGO member donation of an additional \$1,000.00 has been offered to the chapter, providing opportunity for Omaha AGO to support the event with \$2,000.00.

The POE Advance application is nearly completed and will be submitted before the November Executive Board meeting.

Delinquent members have been contacted and all are planning to renew.

The policy and rates for advertising in *The Windchest*, website, and Facebook requires further study and will be reviewed at the next Executive Board meeting, as well as policies for welcoming new chapter members, and a communication policy.

An event in the spring of 2020 will be held that focusing on and welcoming the young organist.

# ST. PAUL'S MUSIC CONSERVATORY



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SPMC teaches many students through the church and community that may not otherwise have an opportunity to take music lessons.



### Serving:

SPMC deploys students into churches and institutions throughout the community in order to encourage youth toward service and to show mercy and kindness to others.



St. Paul's Music Conservatory is located at 239 Frank Street in Council Bluffs. SPMC serves students in Eastern Nebraska and Southwest Iowa with professional studio lessons in the areas of Voice, Piano, Guitar, Organ, Strings, Winds and Brass. Our faculty is eager to serve the unique needs and interests of their students. For more information call:

712-322-8832 or email [pastorfrank239@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfrank239@gmail.com)

[www.stpaulsmusicconservatory.org](http://www.stpaulsmusicconservatory.org)



## CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT

# WINTER

**Sunday, December 1, 2019 - 1 PM—3 PM**

**Annual Cathedral Christmas Market**

First Friday Reception: December 6, 2019

Closes: Sunday, January 5, 2020

**Friday, December 6, 2019 - 8PM**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019 - 2 PM**

**Christmas at the Cathedral**

The Omaha Symphonic Chorus,

Greg Zielke, Conductor

Call (531) 600-8889 for ticket sales and information

**Sunday, December 15, 2019 - 3PM**

**MAGNIFICAT: Cathedral Vespers**

Choral Festival Event with the Saint Cecilia Cathedral Choir,

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choir and Guest Choirs

**Saturday, Sunday, January 25, 26, 2020**

**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Cathedral Flower festival**

***For Everything a Season***

Celebrating all occasions and honoring our florists

**Sunday, February 16, 2020 - 3 PM**

**Sing Omaha Choirs**

Master Chorale & Women's Choir

Mathew Hill, Conductor

**Thursday, February 20, 2020 - 7 PM**

**Annual Cathedral Lecture**

Cathedral Cultural Center - O'Donnell Lecture Hall

Completion of the Transformation of the Crystal Cathedral

Brother William Woeger, FSC, Liturgical Consultant and Designer

# CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT



# 35 YEARS

## TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



### **Compline at Trinity Cathedral**

*Ancient Worship for the Modern Soul*

Compline – night prayer – is a contemplative office focused on spiritual peace. Trinity Cathedral's Schola Cantorum will offer music at this candlelit liturgy of prayer and reflection.

Compline is offered at 7:00 pm on  
September 22  
October 13  
November 17



### **Cantata Choral Academy**

Choral music education for children and youth in the Anglican tradition.

Fall registration now open

<http://trinityepiscopal.org/cantata>

OPERAOMAHA



### **Opera Omaha ONE Festival Preview Concert**

Thursday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Cathedral

Music of Alessandro Stradella, including motets  
sung by the Trinity Cathedral Schola Cantorum  
Free admission



### **MAGNIFICAT: Cathedral Vespers**

Sunday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.

Saint Cecilia Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St., Omaha

Choral Festival event with the Saint Cecilia  
Cathedral Choir, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Choir,  
and guest choirs



## ***Trinity Episcopal Cathedral***

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Omaha, NE 68102

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