



**The Windchest
Omaha Chapter, American Guild of Organists**

**Volume 66, No. 6
April 2016**

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**DEADLINE
For the May
issue of
THE WINDCHEST
the deadline is
April 15, 2016**

Gina Simpson, Editor
ginas@chirock.com

Dean's Message

While reviewing the 2015-2016 Membership Directory of the Omaha Chapter, I was impressed with the diversity of talent and developed musical leadership represented in our chapter. 100% of our membership reflects remarkable skill, knowledge, and commitment in organ and/or choral leadership throughout the area. Omaha AGO membership includes published composers of choral, organ, and pedagogical resources, music teachers and professors, choral directors and concert organists of local, national and international repute, organ builders and technicians—the list of talent and developed skills in Omaha AGO membership is endless! All of this talent and skill reflects educational commitment to achieve the levels of musicianship represented in our chapter.

In fact, the *AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS* was chartered as an educational organization. The Guild's strongest education component is certification. "The AGO was chartered in 1896 by the Board of Regents, University of the State of New York, to administer a comprehensive series of examinations for professional certification." Through the Professional Certification Committee the Guild offers five certificates:

- Service Playing Certificate (SPC)
- Colleague American Guild of Organists (CAGO)
- Choir Master (ChM)
- Associate American Guild of Organists (AAGO)
- Fellow American Guild of Organists (FAGO)

These certification exams are indeed comprehensive. Not only do the exams require considerable development of technical skills at the console and with the baton, they increasingly require historic, repertoire, transposition, improvisation and compositional skills as well. Guild headquarters offer many pedagogical resources available to members (and non-members) who are preparing to take the certification exams. The July issue of *THE AMERICAN ORGANIST* publishes certification requirements, examination

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OUR NEXT MEETING

**The Omaha Chapter AGO Hymn Festival
Sunday, April 17, 2016; 3:30 PM
First United Methodist Church
7020 Cass Street, Omaha**

The Omaha Chapter AGO's Hymn Festival is fast approaching! April 17 at 3:30 p.m. I hope you are at First United Methodist Church to join the song. The festival is held as an outreach of the guild to the community. We will experience ways the organ can lead congregational song in new and different ways.

This is a big undertaking for the chapter. nine organists have set aside extra practice, a hard working committee is putting it all together and 75 choir members are learning their parts. I think it will be meaningful and uplifting for everyone.

The chapter was challenged with a \$1,000 gift, if we could raise a matching amount. All gifts are used to fund educational events for organists. We will have a free-will offering at the festival toward this goal. I would encourage all members to consider a gift - even if you cannot attend. Send a check made to the Omaha Chapter, AGO to Gina Simpson at 5633 South 118 Plaza Omaha 68137. Maybe your church would contribute. Think of how your church has benefited from the educational events you have attended as an AGO member.

Join your voice in the song! See you April 17.

Jean Johnson
Chair of the Hymn Festival Committee

MAY MEETING - 5/9

**Omaha AGO Banquet
and Installation of Officers**

**Monday, May 9, 2016; 6:00 P.M.
St. Paul United Methodist Church
5410 Corby Street, Omaha**

Host: Jerry Brabec

Menu, prepared and served by St. Paul Methodist Catering Service:

- Boneless Breast of Chicken in Apricot Glaze
- Roasted Sweet and White Potatoes
- Mixed Greens Salad in Balsamic Vinaigrette
- Dinner Roll
- Flourless Chocolate Cake with Berry Blend Topping

Price per meal:

ADULT: \$18.00

CHILDREN 12 YEARS AND UNDER: \$10.00

RSVP: GINA SIMPSON by MAY 4.

Payment payable to the Omaha Chapter, AGO. Please send your check to Gina, who will write a check to St. Paul Catering Service from the Chapter's checking account.

Gina's contact information:

ginas@chirock.com or (Cell) 402-312-1157.

Organ for Sale



Omaha AGO member Sally Hodges is offering a Lowry two manual full pedal board instrument dating from the 1970's for sale. Quoting Sally: ". . . good condition and is certainly suitable for practice. Would be suitable for a student."

Available for \$50.00 and pick-up from Sally's walkout basement.

Contact Sally at: (402) 289-1860 or email: sallyspiano@cox.net.

Dean's Letter (continued from page 1)

schedules and sites annually. SPC and CAGO exams may be taken locally; for ChM, AAGO, and FAGO, candidates travel to listed examination sites.

With the decline and elimination of organ departments in universities, colleges and conservatories, opportunities for organ study have been eliminated. The Guild is one of very few organizations that continue to offer solid organ and choral music education of substance.

Several members of the Omaha Chapter have expressed interest in earning SPC and/or CAGO certification, suggesting the chapter offer a "certification class," with an emphasis on preparation for SPC and CAGO certification.

Omaha AGO has the diversity, developed musical talent, and resources to host a certification class. Three members have expressed interest in SPC, two in CAGO preparation. The executive board has briefly discussed development of a class, which will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Members interested in a certification class, either as a teacher or scholar, are asked to contact Dr. Christensen before July 1.

Dr. Christensen, Dean
Omaha AGO

Officers for 2015-16

DEAN: J. Gordon Christensen
SUB-DEAN: Marie Rubis Bauer
SECRETARY: Gregory Johnson
TREASURER: Gina Simpson

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (3-year terms):

Claire Eason (1st of 3 years)
Julie Sandene (2nd of 3 years)
Jean Johnson (3rd year – fulfilling
J. Gordon Christensen's term)

Spire Baroque Ensemble – 4/15

Spire Baroque Ensemble – Choir and Period Instrument Ensemble

Friday, April 15, 2016 @ 7:30 p.m.
St. Cecilia Cathedral

Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, a virtuosic work composed in Rome in 1707, is truly a unique masterpiece that shows how prodigiously gifted, inventive, and ambitious the musician was in his early twenties. All of Handel's art and style are already embodied in this 30-minute long breathtaking composition. Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* has been lauded as "arguably Haydn's greatest single composition." The profound majesty of this monumental work is a highlight of the Classical era and influenced, among others, the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and Brahms. The *Lord Nelson Mass* will be sung by the expert voices of the Spire Chamber Ensemble, and, to our knowledge this is the first time for a period instrument orchestra in Omaha.

The Concert is Free – with a free-will offering gathered – hosted by Saint Cecilia Cathedral and the Cathedral Arts Project.

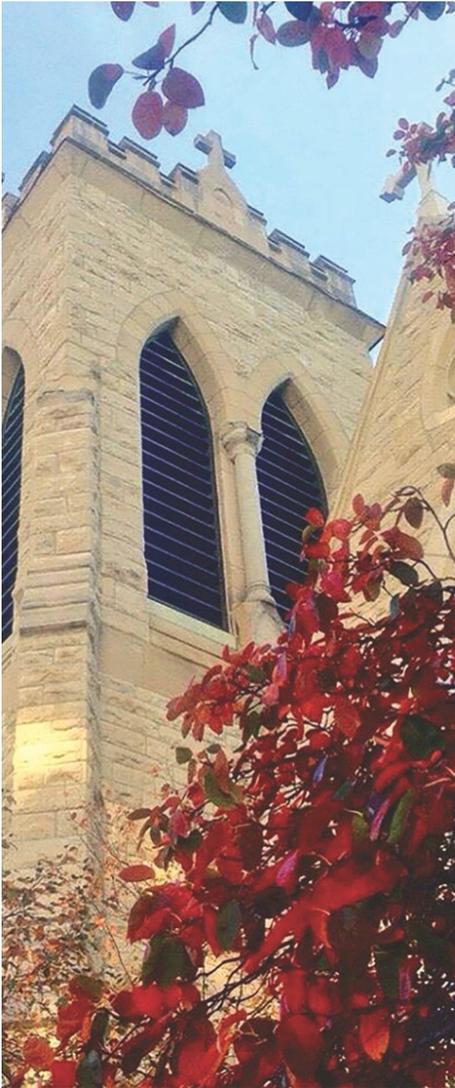
Nominating Committee Report

The Omaha AGO Nominating Committee has unanimously approved the following slate for the 2016-2017 term:

J. Gordon Christensen (dean),
Marie Rubis Bauer (sub-dean),
Greg Johnson (secretary),
Gina Simpson (treasurer),
Jean Johnson , Board Member at Large

(Julie Sandene and Greg Johnson each are serving three-year terms, and are "mid-term.")

The membership is invited to submit further nominations. Members may contact Chapter Dean, J. Gordon Christensen, or Nominations Committee Chair, Michael Kesar.



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

Historic church. Fresh ideas. Your spiritual home in downtown Omaha.

New York Polyphony
Friday, October 23, 7:30 pm
 Concert (Free admission)
Sunday, October 25, 10:30 am
 Choral Mass

All Saints Day Evensong
Sunday, November 1, 4:00 pm
 Combined choirs of Trinity &
 Saint Cecilia Cathedrals

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 6, 10:30 am
 Cathedral Choir and Handbells

Christmas Eve Choral Mass
Thursday, December 24
 5:00 pm Résonance
 10:00 pm Cathedral Choir
 & Palladium Brass Quintet

Organ Recital Dr. Robert Delcamp
Thursday, January 21, 7:30 pm
 (Free admission)

Choral Evensong
Sunday, February 21, 4:00 pm
 Combined Choirs of All Saints Episcopal Church,
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and
 Trinity Cathedral

Easter Day
Sunday, March 27
 8:30 and 10:30 am
 The Cathedral Choir & Palladium Brass

Cathedra
Thursday, May 12, 7:30 pm
 Resident choral ensemble at Washington
 National Cathedral
 Conductor Michael McCarthy
 (Free admission with donation to
 the Food Bank for the Heartland)



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 113 N 18th Street Omaha, NE 68102

www.trinityepiscopal.org

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 WESSINGTON SPRINGS, SD 57382

In the Cathedral Nave

Blessing of the Animals - Celebrating all creatures great and small.
Saturday, October 3, 2015, Prelude - 10:30 a.m., Blessing - 11:00 a.m.
featuring the *Palladium Brass* and the *Archdiocesan Youth Choir*.

James David Christie, Organ
Sunday, October 18, 2015 - 3:00 p.m.
Organist, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, College Organist at Wellesley College

Saint Cecilia Day Concert
Sunday, November 22, 2015 - 3:00 p.m.
A celebration of the Cathedral's patroness featuring the *Cathedral Choirs* and
Marie Rubis Bauer: Cathedral Organist

An Advent Celebration
Mary Bircher: Harp, Craig Bircher: Trumpet
Sunday, November 29, 2015, 3:00 p.m.
Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, 239 Frank St, Council Bluffs

Christmas at the Cathedral
Friday, December 4, 2015 - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 6, 2015 - 2:00 p.m.
Omaha Symphonic Chorus and the Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra
Information: www.omahasymphonicchorus.org.

Cathedral Flower Festival
Saturday, Sunday, January 30, 31, 2016
The 31th Annual Cathedral Flower Festival invites you to *A Night at the Movies!*
Check the *Omaha World Herald* for specific times and programs.

New York Polyphony
Sunday, February 7, 2016 - 3:00 p.m.
New York Polyphony is regarded as one of the finest vocal chamber ensembles in
the world. *The four men*, "singers of superb musicianship and vocal allure."
(*The New Yorker*)

Cathedral Lecture
Thursday, February 25, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
113 North 18th Street
The second presentation on the continued progress of the renovation of the
Crystal Cathedral presented by Brother William Woeger, FSC, Liturgical
Designer for the new Christ Cathedral, Diocese of Orange County, California.

Cathedral Jazz Workshops
Sundays of March, 2016
Led by noted Omaha Jazz pianist *Robert Glaser and Company*
Information: regpiano@cox.net

A Bach Birthday Celebration
Sunday, March 6, 2016, 3:00 p.m.
Douglas Cleveland, Organist, University of Washington, Seattle and Seattle Symphony

An Easter Celebration
Sunday, April, 3, 2016 - 3:00 p.m.
Music from Lent through Easter - Cathedral Choir, Marie Rubis Bauer, Conductor

Spire Ensemble - Choir and Baroque Orchestra
Friday, April 15, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Kansas City's newest ensemble will fill the Cathedral with Handel and Haydn!

Gail Archer, Organ
Sunday, May 8, 2016 - 3:00 p.m.
Grammy-nominated Organist from Vassar and Barnard Colleges in New York " ...she
played with an agility that met the music's coloristic and rhythmic demands." (*NY Times*)

In the Cathedral Cultural Center Sunderland Gallery

De-constructing Kimball
August 23 - September 27, 2015

Los Dias de Los Muertos
October 17 - November 7, 2015, Opening reception October 17 - 7:00 p.m.

Retrospective: Paintings by Mary Murphy
November 22 - December 30, 2015, Opening reception November 22 - 1:00 p.m. -
3:00 p.m.

Flower Festival Exhibition: The Golden Age of Film Stars
January 29 - 31, 2016

Phil Hawkins: Installations
February 21 - April 8, 2016, Opening reception February 21 - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Edge: Contemporary Fiber Artists
April 24 - June 5, 2016, Opening reception, April 24 - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.