

Pipe Notes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 67 – December 2020



HAPPY KWANZAA!

Merry
Christmas

Happy
Hanukkah

Happy Holidays

From

The American Guild of Organists
Milwaukee Chapter

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AGO Milwaukee Chapter Upcoming Programming

January 2021 Virtual Meeting
Watch PipeNotes, Email and the Website
For the date and time.

April 17, 2021
Workshop with Juget-Sinclair Organ builders
Christ King Parish
Wauwatosa, WI

May 16, 2021
Annual Meeting/Member's Recital
Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology
Hales Corners, WI



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JOHANNUS

PipeNotes is published monthly, with the deadline for articles the 20th of the preceding month. pnditor@agomilwaukee.org

December 2020

16 (Wed) 12:15 Matthew Lawrenz, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

23 (Wed) 12:15 Friends of the Milwaukee Liederkranz
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
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30 (Wed) 12:15 David Jonies, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
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December 2020

A blessed Advent and Christmas with an awareness that some of you may be celebrating in other denominations and in other religions. With sincerity of heart, it would be great to hear about your traditions and experiences throughout this season of light and peace. This could be a beautiful and refreshing Zoom gathering all on its own!

Take time to reflect on this past year 2020. It certainly has been challenging in many ways, but also life giving in many others. Perspectives, as in all things, are determined by experiences and we must uphold the joys and sorrows of all of us in prayer and in our ability to be present to each other.

With that, we give thanks for how we have been able to gather at this time and we look forward with hope to 2021! The following list is included in the patron appeal letter that has gone out to members. Please take note of all that the chapter has done and continues to work on and make plans to support these efforts! If you have not renewed your membership yet or are not a member, please join us!

- ❖ Zoom sharing sessions were held on Saturday, October 10th, and Monday, November 16th. A total of twenty members joined us to share about their current church situations with the pandemic as well as their experiences and ideas for virtual options and delivering church services. More to come!
- ❖ OHS/AGO Recital at St. Francis of Assisi on November 1st, David Bohn performed music featuring "Holy Minimalism" and showcased the Schuelke instrument well.
- ❖ A March organ crawl to the Chicago area is being checked out by David Bohn.
- ❖ The Juget-Sinclair organ installation at Christ King is still in progress. A new date is being set in April to visit the instrument in the installation phase and to hear about aspects of voicing from voicer, Robin Cote.
- ❖ A NYACOP Winner recital was also planned for April. This recital has been tabled; a possible young organist option is still being pursued to be presented at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.
- ❖ The postponed members' recital featuring the Leipzig Chorales is now planned for May 16th at Sacred Heart Seminary.
- ❖ Digitization of the AGO Milwaukee Chapter Archives is in process. Liz Walloch and the archive subcommittee have done an amazing job of organizing the archives and researching ways to make the archives more accessible to our membership. The archives will be digitized and included on our website. The hard copies will be donated to the Wisconsin Historical Society and housed at UW-Milwaukee permanently.
- ❖ Fall of 2021, two big events! Jan Kraybill's delayed recital and presentation titled, "The Breadth of Our Breath" at Immanuel Presbyterian; and Isabelle Demers' concert dedicating the Juget-Sinclair at Christ King.

I look forward to connecting with you and meeting you in person as we are able! Please know that your comments, suggestions and both volunteer and financial commitments are sincerely appreciated! Watch for another Zoom gathering early in the New Year. It is a great opportunity to gather from the convenience of your home, office or worship space!

May light and peace be with you! May you continue to walk in joyful hope!
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The Archives presents...

Liz Walloch
Milwaukee Chapter Archivist/Historian

We Need A Little Christmas

For some reason I have had the words from the song “Need a Little Christmas” from the Broadway Musical “Mame” on auto play in my heard for weeks now. Maybe it’s because I know of two radio stations that switched their format to all Holiday music in early November!

Seems our world continues to keep us suspended in midair with the uncertainty of the virus. I thought, what would uplift our spirits right now, besides actual spirits in a glass with ice? The answer is holiday cheer through the decades from the pages of own “PipeNotes.” With so much material to select from, I choose a “did you know” story and along with a sharing from one of our PipeNotes Editors on sacred music at Christmas time. To add an interesting twist, I included an article which is a mini science lesson on the gifts of the Magi and wrapped it all up with a very unique recipe for the New Year. Sit back, have a glass of eggnog and enjoy the read.

Did you know that during the 1940s the Wisconsin Chapter held an annual Christmas “Open House?” As most events were centered on socializing, a member who had a home organ hosted the event with food, drinks and a “sing along with the AGO.” **Now here is a tradition worth revisiting hosting a socially distancing “sing along with the AGO.”** At these home parties, along with the socializing there was also time for members to have “bench time” to play the home instrument. As with any tradition, it either grew or it was replaced or bits were retained and repurposed. It was during the early 1950s the annual event became a thing of the past. But wait, as the saying goes “everything old is new again,” the annual tradition was revived anew from 1962-1969. With an eleven year hiatus since 1951, the Milwaukee Chapter planned a “strictly social Christmas party and all indications point to a very gala affair.” PN December 1962



Member who hosted this event included Norman Burzlaff on December 8, 1962. He had in his recreation room an 11 rank pipe organ which was at Tabor Church at 8th and Keeffe for many years. “Now’s the time, get out your best ‘bib and tucker.’ We are planning on seeing you at the CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE.” PN December 1962

Seems there is a missing link of information about how or if the annual chapter party was hosted in 1963 as I found nothing in PipeNotes for December 1962 or January 1963.

On January 11, 1964, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Treskow hosted sharing that “here’s your chance to let down your hair and have fun at the organ!” The Treskow’s have one of the new Rodgers electronic organs with many stops and several speakers.

PN January 1964

The Gajewski’s of Nancy and Ed hosted on January 16, 1965 at their new home and were eager to show off their Baldwin organ. They were anxious for the members to “try it out.” PN January 1965

“When the holidays are over and you’ve had two weeks alone, then it is, we hope you’ll join us at the Ralph J. Schroeder home. Leave the children with a sitter. Don’t do anything that is taxing. Plan to spend the evening with us JUST RELAXING on January 15, 1966.” PN December 1965

Don’t know what happened in 1967, couldn’t find who was hosting or maybe the details for the chapter party missed the deadline for inclusion in the December or January PipeNotes.

In 1968 the annual event included a New Year’s Party and Open House at the William Stolberg residence on January 13, 1968. “These affairs are always a wonderful opportunity for Guild members to become better acquainted and to meet new members.” PN December 1967

In 1969 the annual event had a “special accent.” The Milwaukee Chapter was celebrating its 50th anniversary. So it was a duet of a celebration on January 11, 1969. “This is quite an event and you will want to be sure to be there. So, mark your calendar now. Come early, or come late, but come!” Hosting this year’s event was Doris and Rudy Gergurich who invited members to come and play their Baldwin organ. “So come –entertain us.” PN December 1968

It seems the annual event went back on hiatus into the 1970s and beyond.

Here is a sharing from PipeNotes Editor, Alice Walters from PipeNotes December 1960.

“If ever there is a time when ecumenicity is evident in sacred music it is at Christmas time. The very fact that all Christian churches use the same music to herald Christ’s coming proves its greatness.

The widespread familiarity of the music makes it all the more important that we treat it with deftness and replace the trite with deep understanding and Love. The sometimes lonely and frustrated Church Musician can feel a real satisfaction in transmitting the beauty of this season to his [her] congregation.”

Since March we have been hearing so much about following the “science” of the virus. This article by member Dr. Eunice R. Bonow, PhD., Registered Pharmacist shares the science on the uses of the gifts of the Magi from PipeNotes December 1957.



“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy and going into the house they saw the Child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold, and frankincense and myrrh.”
St. Matthew 2, verses 10 and 11, R.S.V.

“The writer of an ancient hymn tells us of the spiritual significance of these gifts.

*Gold, a monarch to declare
Frankincense, that God is there,
Myrrh, to tell a heavier tale of his tomb and funeral.”*

“Perhaps these gifts also had a prophetic quality for gold, frankincense and myrrh are medicinal substances and did not Christ devote his short life to healing many kinds of sufferers? Yes, the most precious of the three gifts, gold is used in medicine. It was gold leaf that was used by the ancients to cover skin abrasions. Today, colloidal radioactive gold has been used in the treatment of cancer.

Frankincense is a gum resin that is obtained by incising the bark of the trunk and branches of certain species of Boswellia [sacra.] Because it gives off a strong aromatic odor when warmed or burned, it is still one of the most important incense resins in the world. It is very similar to the resinous product of the common fir which is often sold as frankincense. Frankincense has occasionally been used in the preparation of plasters.

Myrrh, also a gum resin possessing a fragrant aromatic odor is prepared by incising the bark of the stems and branches of a low thorny shrub Commiphora myrrha. Myrrh is still used in medicine today as a mild stimulant to promote healing and as a protective to inflamed tissue.”

I personally found Eunice’s article fascinating.

From PipeNotes January 1967, I found this gem, a “Recipe for the New Year.” I couldn’t think of a better way to usher in 2021.

GOOD SPIRITS, FUN, HUMOR, LOVE

"Take 12 fine full-grown months;
see that these are thoroughly free from
old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate and jealousy,
cleanse them completely from every clinging spite;
pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness;
in short, see that these months are freed from the past
have them fresh and clean
as when they first came from the storehouse of Time.

Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts.
Do not attempt to make the whole batch at one time
(so many people spoil the entire lot in this way)
but prepare one day at a time as follows:

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience,
courage [and] work (some people omit this ingredient
and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity,
liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like
leaving the oil out of the salad [dressing] - don't do it),
prayer, meditation and one well selected resolution.

Put in about a teaspoon of good spirits,
a dash of fun, a pinch of folly,
a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Pour love over the whole and mix with a vim.
Cook thoroughly in a fervent heat;
garnish with a few smiles and a spring of joy;
then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness."

--Author Unknown--

To all: "Blessings of the Season and a Healthy, Happy 2021!"

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