

# *PipeNotes*

**American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter**

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*River Valley Chapter*

*Iowa City, IA*

*June 19-22, 2017*

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HONORING

Joan Lippincott

Friday, April 21, 2017, Princeton, N.J.

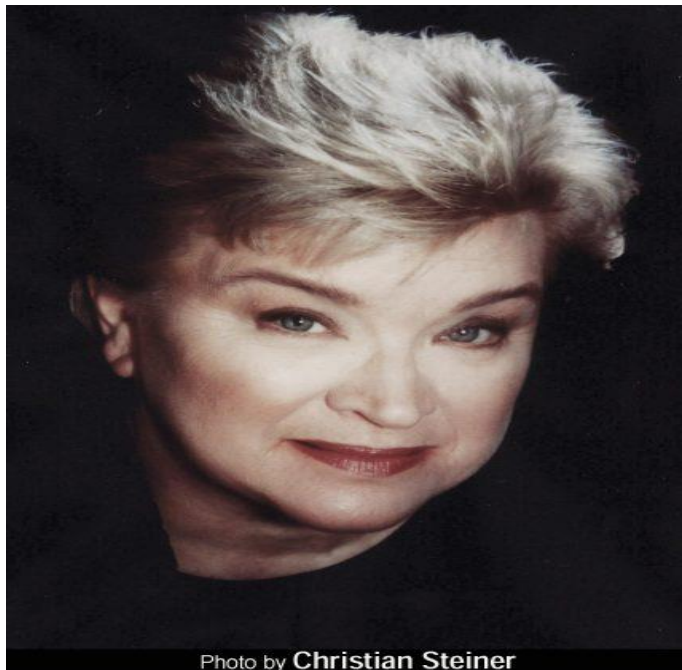


Photo by Christian Steiner

Recital at 7:00 p.m. featuring  
Joan Lippincott, Eric Plutz, and Scott Dettra  
Princeton University Chapel

Reception following (advance tickets required)

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

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[pneditor@agomilwaukee.org](mailto:pneditor@agomilwaukee.org).  
The Deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month

Our Chapter Young Artist Competition took place at Mt. Carmel Lutheran on March 4th. We are grateful to Martha Aslakson, chair of the event. Judges—Lee Erickson, John Paradowski and Drew Rutz awarded First Prize to Isaac Drewes. He performed the Bach *Fantasia and Fugue in G Minor* BWV 542, Marcel Dupré's *Prelude and Fugue in B Major* Op. 7 No. 1 (both from memory) and his hymn choice was *Lobe den Herren*. Drewes is a senior organ performance and church music major at St. Olaf College in Northfield MN, where he studies organ with Dr. Catherine Rodland and voice with Prof. Karen Wilderson. He holds the position of Organ Scholar at St. Louis, King of France Catholic Church in St. Paul MN. Isaac also placed first in the 2016 Twin Cities AGO Student Competition, and is the recipient of the 2015 Ruth and Paul Manz Scholarship and the 2015-16 John R. Rodland Scholarship. He has also been involved with the Organ Historical Society in 2015 as an E. Power Biggs Fellow, and in 2016 as a performer. We wish him the very best as he competes in the North Central Regional Competition in June.



I just finished reading *Organists and Organ Playing in Nineteenth-Century France and Belgium* by Orpha Ochse (© 1994 Indiana University Press). Charles-Marie Widor was one of the illustrious organ professors at the Paris Conservatoire (himself a student of Jacques Lemmens). Noted for shifting the role of the organist as composer/improviser to interpreter he emphasized Bach repertoire and his own compositions. His teaching standards were rigorous:

1. Every detail of organ playing can, and should be, subjected to critical analysis, including physical motions, use of the instrument, and expressive performance of the score.
2. Every detail contributes to the musical result and should therefore be planned, practiced, and ultimately controlled by the performer.
3. Expression in organ playing is not produced by whim, special effects, or bizarre exaggerations, but by correlating rhythm, phrasing, touch, and use of the instrument with the musical content and structure of the piece.
4. The organist is not exempt from the professional standards required in other branches of music.
5. Organists must learn to listen to what they play. (pp193-4)

Simone Gheller played the first of two all-Mendelssohn concerts this afternoon. Because he studied extensively in France I assume that he is well acquainted with this tradition. It was a joy to hear/see him exemplify the Widorian traits. Don't miss the April 30th (3pm) Part 2 of the remaining Mendelssohn organ works. You are in for a treat.

Meanwhile I feel like a kid, a novice player, trying to be aware of these pieces of wisdom with each new composition, piece of service music or hymn that I approach. I especially like #5—encourage the emanating sound to be tasted by the ears. A recent concert of mine was video-ed and I winced to see some of my mannerisms that got in the way of better mastery. It was a lesson outside of a lesson. Oh that I could have seen and used that information years ago.

At a recent doctor appointment the check-in nurse weighed me (don't ask) and measured my height. In high school I was 5'3.25". At age 64 5/6 I am 5'2". Ergonomics and calculated movement at the organ are important for my comfort, control and accuracy. No matter what size we are there are challenges presented by physique. If your feet happen to be wide you work on an angled approach to each pedal. Mine are short so I've tried a higher heel on my organ shoes. Meh! It's a little better. There is a beautiful composition by Jeanne Demessieux that requires hours of practice in the treble reaches of the *Récit* (3rd manual). My short little arms can't take that so I Finale-d it down an octave and intend to register it with super-octave couplers. At a future AGO potluck we should share "war stories/solutions". Have you seen the relaxing organ bench wine-bottle holder at recent convention exhibits? Not exactly ergonomic but it contributes to tension reduction.

**Be kind to yourself in the intensity of Holy Week and Easter and do PRAY. Cordially 🤗,**

**Sheri**



## April 2017

2 (Sun) 3:00 Guitar and Friends  
MacDowell Club of Milwaukee  
Apostle Presbyterian Church  
1509 S. 76<sup>th</sup> St  
West Allis, WI

5 (Wed) 12:15 Paul Kosower, Cello  
Michael Batcho, Organ  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI

7 (Fri) 7:30 "Sing" She Said  
The Milwaukee Choristers  
Wisconsin Lutheran College  
8800 W. Bluemound Rd  
Milwaukee, WI

8 (Sat) 10:00 Nolte Organ Building  
Open House  
5242 W. Electric Ave  
West Allis, WI

19 (Wed) 12:15 George Radosavlievic, Piano  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI

22 (Sat) 7:30 Sara and Kenny  
St. Matthias Episcopal Church  
111 E. Main St  
Waukesha, WI

23 (Sun) 4:00 Derek Nichols, Organ  
Organ Re-Dedication  
Church of the Holy Comforter  
222 Kenilworth Ave  
Kenilworth, IL

26 (Wed) 12:15 Ravena Lipchick, Violin  
Revenna Helson, Cello  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI

29 (Sat) 2:00 Karen Beaumont, Organ  
First Unitarian Society  
1342 N. Astor St  
Milwaukee, WI

29 (Sat) 7:30 Brahms's German Requiem  
Milwaukee Choristers & UW Parkside Choirs  
UW Parkside  
Rita Tallent Picken Regional Center for  
Arts and Humanities  
900 Wood Rd  
Kenosha, WI

30 (Sun) 3:00 The complete organ works of  
Felix Mendelssohn  
Simone Gheller, Organ  
SS. Peter and Paul Church  
2490 N. Cramer St  
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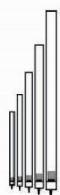
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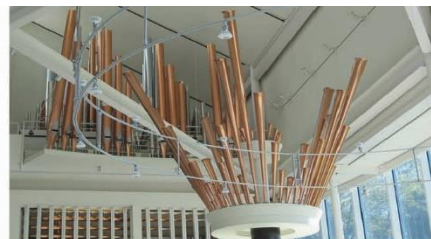
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Feb. 4      Feb. 11  
Feb. 18      Feb. 25

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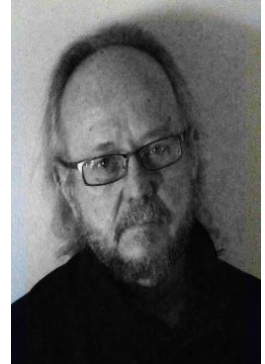


## Nominees for the Class of 2019



**Barry Hay** is the owner of Intergrity Organwerks, offering a full range of pipe and digital organ services throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota. He received his formal organ training at Immanuel Lutheran College and Seminary in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Over the years, he has served as organist for congregations in Washington, Florida, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. He is currently the head organist at Faith Lutheran Church in Markesan, Wisconsin, where he recently completed a rebuild of the congregation's aging instrument. Having been intrigued by the organ since childhood, Barry's true joy is to use the full tonal range of the instrument to lead congregations in the nuances of liturgical worship. He is excited about the opportunity to become more actively involved with the AGO.

Composer **Karel Suchy** integrates musical composition and performance with photography, video and engineering design. He collaborates with other artists and their work, including poetry and prose – both spoken and sung, visual art, music improvisation, dance and drama. Music and structural/architectural engineering are encompassed in his career. He employs the creative process equally in engineering design and the arts.



Karel was born in Czechoslovakia, where he studied piano, organ, and composition, and earned his M.S. in engineering. He led and composed for avant-garde ensembles and performed in major live venues, radio, television, and studio recordings.

Suchy performed electronic and computer-aided classical music at ISU and U of I—Champaign. Recent commissions include *Sound Poem, inspired by Nosferatu* for the Choral Arts Society, and "Transfigurations" for midi activated organ. His Blues and Rock Liturgies were introduced in area churches. He is founder/director of Voices and Verses, and has facilitated many collaborative, multi-media performances. The most recent include his inter-disciplinary compositions *Opera Noir: The Tickler Murders*, *The Dream of the Road*, and *Music of the Mind*. Active in sacred music for over 30 years, Karel is currently Director of Music in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kenosha, WI.

Engineering accomplishments include a Daily Reporter Top Projects award for Alternative Learning Center, West Allis, a solar/wind/ hydro/ biogas power plant in Tanzania, pier structures for Discovery World, Milwaukee, and the Anheuser-Busch Western Malt Facility, featured in National Geographic's "Ultimate Factories."



**Tim Dyksinski** is a native of Milwaukee who has recently returned from Houston Texas where he served in music ministry. He has worked in parishes, seminaries and most especially 15 years in the Houston Archdiocesan Office of Worship. As a full-time director of music he served as organist, choir director and cantor. In 2012 Tim received the National Member of the Year Award from the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM). Tim is known as a presenter of choral literature workshops (12 consecutive years for National NPM Conventions). He is currently choral director at Greendale Community Church (UCC).

**David Porth** currently serves Pilgrim Lutheran Church & School in Menomonee Falls as Grades 7-8 Teacher and Music Director. As Music Director, David is responsible for planning worship with the pastor, playing organ for services, directing three choirs, and scheduling organists/cantors. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education/Music from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN. While living in Minnesota, David served on the Executive Committee for the AGO - Sioux Trails Chapter. David is currently pursuing a Master of Church Music Degree at Concordia University - Wisconsin where he studies with Dr. James Freese.





**Gary Wood** was awarded a Bachelor degree in Organ Performance, along with independent study in Physics. I learned electronics technology in the U.S. Navy; was Quality Control Manager for Gulbrandsen Organs, then worked at Lawrence Phelps, Associates, and later with Ron Wahl, building pipe organs. The opportunity arose to become a military contractor in Europe working on NATO and other projects. During this time, I had significant exposure to organs across Europe.

Since high school I have played the organ for church services, and served military chapels overseas. I have continued to serve local churches as organist, and managed a concert series at St. Casimir Church in Riverwest for the past 6 years. I currently work with Johannus Organs, designing, installing and voicing modern digital organs in a variety of tonal styles. (Recently installed a Cavallé-Coll inspired French organ in Wisconsin Dells. See TAO magazine.)

The Milwaukee chapter of the AGO does a good job of fostering a community of like-minded musicians. Members have benefited from excellent chapter leadership. With the approach of the AGO Regional event to be held here, the chapter will need leadership adept at planning, organizing, communicating and being creative. It would be an honor to participate as an Executive Committee member during this period.

**Timothy R. Handle** is an organist, pianist, and music director with over 20 years of experience in various churches and over a decade of experience teaching in elementary and secondary education. Handle started his musical career playing piano for his home church, Grace Lutheran in Oak Creek, WI when he was 13 years old. At 17 he started playing for the Saturday evening Folk Mass at St. John Catholic Parish (now Divine Mercy Parish) in South Milwaukee while studying at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Following the merger of the four Catholic churches of South Milwaukee in 2002, Handle started playing piano and organ for Faith Presbyterian Church in Franklin, WI. In 2005 he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in K-12 general music and instrumental music education from UWM. While at UWM, Handle studied organ with Jeffery Peterson and Martha Stiehl, and piano with Elena Abend.



In 2014 he completed his Masters of Music in organ performance under Dr. Larry Schou at the University of South Dakota.

In September of 2014 through June of 2015, Handle worked for St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Big Bend as the Director of Music Ministry. There he strengthened the choir with challenging repertoire, incorporating songs in Latin, Hebrew, as well as English. He also established the Resurrection Choir to sing at all funerals.

July 1st, 2016, Handle was hired to be Director of Worship and Liturgy at the newly merged parish St. John XXIII, formed from St. Mary, St. Peter (both of Port Washington), and Immaculate Conception (of Saukville.) He is enjoying the exciting work of combining the multiple choirs and sites into a single Parish. The musical traditions of all the sites is very rich, and he is enjoying finding music the big deepens the choir's theology and pushes their skill level.



**Stephen Rohde**, AAGO, is a graduate of Lawrence University and UW Madison. He has been organist-director of music at Lutheran churches in the Milwaukee area and recently retired after 17 years as Director of Music at Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa. Presently he is organist at Underwood Baptist in Wauwatosa and Composer in Residence at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on the Eastside of Milwaukee.

A native of Wisconsin, **David Bohn** received degrees in composition from the University of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Illinois. His primary composition teachers were Joel Naumann, Yehuda Yannay, and William Brooks. He currently resides in West Allis, Wisconsin, and is organist and choir director St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in West Milwaukee. He is President of the Wisconsin Alliance for Composers, and Vice President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Organ Historical Society; he also edits the newsletter for the Wisconsin OHS.

