

# PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

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[www.agoseattle2022.com](http://www.agoseattle2022.com)

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#### **Executive Board**

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**Class of 2023**  
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Fr. Tom Lijewski  
Ingrid Pierson  
Zach Jones

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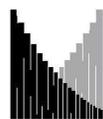
**Biennial Elections** for members of the AGO National Council and Board of Regional Councillors will take place April 1–April 30. Watch for an email with your login credentials so you can vote online at our secure election site, or use the ballot bound into the April issue of TAO which also contains photos, bios, and statements of all the candidates.

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## April 2022

20 (Wed) 12:15 Lis Joyal, Flute &  
Thomas Eberhard, Flute  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI

24 (Sun) 3:00 Richard Elliot, Organ  
Zion Lutheran Church  
709 Sixth St  
Wausau, WI

27 (Wed) 12:15 Charlie Rasmussen, Cello  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI

## May 2022

1 (Sun) 3:30 Choral Evensong for Eastertide  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
914 E. Knapp St  
Milwaukee, WI

4 (Wed) 12:15 Becca Dora, Oboe  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
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6 (Fri) 8:00 Grand Music 2022  
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April 2022

Thank you to David Bohn, coordinator, and John Schubring, sub-dean, for putting together another successful organ crawl on March 12<sup>th</sup> to the western/southwestern Milwaukee area. We especially appreciate Blessed Savior Lutheran, St. Rita Catholic; St. Paul's Lutheran; West Allis; and St Stephen the Martyr Lutheran, Greendale for hosting our chapter. It sounded like everyone had a great time being introduced to, exploring, and playing several different instruments. Thank you to those who attended and supported this popular event!



St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran, Greendale



St. Paul's Lutheran, West Allis



St. Rita Catholic Church, West Allis



Blessed Savior Lutheran, New Berlin

Please thank our nominating committee, Ingrid Pierson, Sheri Masiakowski, and Caroline Senn, for their efforts in putting together a fine slate of candidates for the upcoming executive board terms beginning in July 2022. See the candidate biographies in this issue of PipeNotes. Please take a moment to vote. Voting will take place electronically. We are using our website platform which supports voting as a poll. It works well, but it does not allow the biographies to be included on the same page where the poll is; only the names will be listed there. Please take time to look over the candidate biographies first and then go into the voting poll and cast your vote. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask! Paper ballots were sent to those who receive PipeNotes by postal mail.

Watch here and the website for upcoming events and the introduction of the online archive to the chapter. Please plan to celebrate with us and help us to keep our chapter as a vibrant part of the greater Milwaukee area!

Blessings!  
Audrey Rhinehart  
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[musicministry@stkiliancong.org](mailto:musicministry@stkiliancong.org)

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## Nominations for 2022



**Dean - John Schubring** serves as director of music and organist at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Greendale, where he directs the Senior Choir and the Handbell Choirs. John currently is serving the Milwaukee Chapter as Sub Dean and PipeNotes Editor. He has also previously served the chapter as Dean and has served on the faculty of the POE held by the Milwaukee Chapter at Carroll University. John holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carthage College, studying with Susan Klotzbach and Gary Verkade. He also holds a MA degree from the University of Iowa where he studied organ with Delbert Disselhorst.

**Sub-Dean - 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. These include his inter-disciplinary compositions *Opera Noir: The Tickler Murders, The Dream of the Rood, Music of the Mind, Elegy, REFORMATION(s), and Eros and Errors*. Active in sacred music for over 30 years, Karel is currently accompanist in Trinity Lutheran Church, South Milwaukee and organist in Second Presbyterian Church in Racine.

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.”



**Registrar - David Bahrke** is the Organist of Delavan United Church of Christ – Congregational church in Delavan, Wisconsin, and a piano and voice instructor with Maestro Makers Music School. He also works as a freelance organist, choral director, and pianist.

Mr. Bahrke has worked as a music director in Episcopal, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic parishes and other Orthodox and Protestant denominations. Mr. Bahrke has been a performing organist for the Gesu Church Organ Concert Series.

Mr. Bahrke has served as a Dean and a Sub Dean of the American Guild of Organists-Milwaukee Chapter and as a member of the Development and Finance Committee of the AGO National Council. He was Chorus Manager and Artist Liaison in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Operations Department for seventeen years. Mr. Bahrke’s career integrates computer and internet technology for video and live-stream production, media and music publishing, and data management.

## Class of 2024

**Heide Hongsermeier** is currently the owner of *Wild Iris Photography* and serves as a substitute organist for churches in the Milwaukee area. She started music studies in piano at age of four and added organ studies at age thirteen, studying under Dr. William Kuhlman of Luther College. She continued studies during her high school years with Dr. Karen Black of Wartburg College. During that time, she also served her home church in piano and organ, and organized and directed a chime bell choir. She attended Valparaiso University with an organ scholarship under Dr. Lorraine Brugh and Dr. John Bernthal. She graduated from Valparaiso in 2005 with a degree with Electrical Engineering and a minor in German.



Following graduation, she and her spouse moved to Milwaukee. She worked for Magnetek and Rockwell Automation as a Applications Engineer specializing in power drives. From 2008-2013, she was the 8:00 a.m. service musician at Fox Point Lutheran Church working with Kevin Bailey, and she directed the handbell choir during part of that time. After her first child was born, she chose to work from home, and continued to share her skills as a substitute organist. While her two children were preschoolers, she was active in her local MOMS Club and served as Membership VP for 1 year and President for 2 years. She enjoys opportunities to substitute and appreciates being included on the AGO substitute list. She's also volunteering to create an online presence and recruitment tools for the Milwaukee German *Damenchor*.



**Paul Kasten** grew up in several communities in Michigan. He began his organ studies while in high school

with Roberta Bitgood in Battle Creek. At Concordia University, Nebraska, he studied organ with Charles Ore, and after settling in Milwaukee, he studied for a time with Sister Theophane Hytrek. He has been organist and Director of Music and Liturgy at Mt. Carmel since 2001. He has served as accompanist/organist at Congregation Shalom, Fox Point, since 1985, and he also works at Fernwood Montessori School in Bay View.

Between 1983-1985, Paul served as the Milwaukee Chapter's Treasurer. From 1985-1988 he was the Chapter's Dean. During this time he also co-chaired the Chapter's acclaimed English Romantic Organ Music Festival, held in 1988 and featuring performers/lecturers including Sir David Willcocks, John Scott, Percy Young, Todd Wilson, etc. Paul also served as Vice-President of the Miller Organ Concert Series Association, which presented several organ concerts every season by artists such as Simon Preston, Thomas Murray, Gillian Weir, Jean

Guillou, etc, on the Miller Organ in Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Center.

Paul shares his Washington Heights home with James Burmeister, 2 rescued dachshunds and 2 parrots.

**Thomas Koester** – I am currently serving in my eleventh year as Director of Music in Campus Ministry at Marquette University where I direct the Liturgical Choir, train student cantors and prepare ensembles for university liturgies. For the past eight years, I have been working as Choir Director and organist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wauwatosa. Previous positions include Ss. Peter and Paul, Milwaukee, and St. Jerome's Oconomowoc as organist, director of music and liturgy and at St Mary Visitation, Elm Grove, as organist and youth choir director. I have performed as organ soloist with the Waukesha Symphony and served as organ accompanist with the Concord Chamber Orchestra and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestras. From 2009-2020, I served as adjunct organ faculty at Carroll University in Waukesha, WI. If elected, I would enjoy serving our organ guild and arts community once again.



Hello! My name is **Keri Kelly**, I started violin lessons at the age of 6, and then shortly after I started piano. I was always attending music camps and conferences during the summer (such as Suzuki camp) and in middle school I was part of a junior orchestra which taught me a lot about chamber music and playing with others. I was blessed to have the opportunity to take singing lessons, sing in a polyphony choir at church, and learn Gregorian chant.

When I started high school, I was especially attracted to chamber music, especially early music and 'historically informed performance practice'.

I joined the Baroque Ensemble at the University of Whitewater-Wisconsin as a sophomore playing an authentic baroque violin! In the winter of 2020, I started getting interested in organ and I started teaching myself. At this time, I started playing for a few churches infrequently and accompanying choirs. I started formal organ lessons in the Spring of 2021 while working at a few churches as a substitute.

I purchased a harpsichord in August, and most recently in January, an early 1900's Estey Reed organ. I am hoping to acquire more "historical" instruments such as a clavichord and a fortepiano. I am very interested in instrument restoration, which is very important to know as a musician (especially as an organist!)

I am currently a music performance major at the University of Whitewater-Wisconsin, and I am hoping to study the viola da gamba as my undergraduate research project. I give piano lessons, and I am going to be taking Suzuki teacher training for piano and violin this summer. I am very passionate about introducing children to instruments such as organ and harpsichord, because it's so important for these instruments to be kept alive!

Other associations I am affiliated besides the American Guild of Organists include the following;

The American Bach Society, The American Beethoven Society, The American Recorder Society, American String Teachers Association, National Association for Music Education, Royal College of Organists (affiliate member).

Thank you for this opportunity!



**William Lieven** - Mr. Lieven is in his 37th year of Music Ministry for Catholic Parishes. He has served as Director of Music and Liturgy at St Killian Church, Harford WI, St. Patrick Church, Madison WI, St. Joseph Church, Grafton, WI, St. Eugene Congregation, Fox Point, WI and is currently Director of Liturgical Music at Christ King Parish in Wauwatosa, WI. Mr. Lieven holds a B.A. degree in Secondary Choral Music Education from Carthage College, Kenosha, WI, and a M.M. Degree in Organ Performance from UW – Madison. Under his direction the St. Eugene Adult and Bell Choirs have toured Italy, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Ireland. At Christ King parish Mr. Lieven has recently overseen the selection and installation of a new 53 rank Juget-Sinclair pipe organ. Mr. Lieven has been frequent lecturer in the Sustaining the Mission program offered through the St. Clare Center for Lay Ministry at Cardinal Stritch University. Mr. Lieven is currently on the Board of the Master Singers of Milwaukee and CoChair of the Programing Committee.

**Dean Rosko** is the Organist and Director of Music at Church of the Gesu, adjacent to the campus of Marquette University, playing and caring for the 4/115 Schantz pipe organ located there. He also curates the church's concert series (still on hiatus from the COVID-19 pandemic), which has featured some of the city, region, and world's finest organists. Since 2003, he has been the Organist of the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club, and since 2015, the Milwaukee Admirals AHL hockey team at UWM Panther Arena. He has served on the Board of the Milwaukee Chapter of the AGO in the past, and currently serves as Vice-President of the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society, where he works actively in that group's efforts to restore, maintain, and present the theatre pipe organ. Dean is also proud to represent the Allen Organ Company in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

