

# PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

[www.agomilwaukee.org](http://www.agomilwaukee.org) • [chapter@agomilwaukee.org](mailto:chapter@agomilwaukee.org)

Volume 71 – September 2024



MOUNT CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA AND  
THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS - MILWAUKEE CHAPTER PRESENT



## ORGAN CONCERT AND INTERACTIVE HYMN SING BRUCE BENGTSON, ORGANIST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 - 3:00 PM

MOUNT CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

8424 W Center St, Milwaukee (*Event Entrance on 84th Street*)

[www.mountcarmelchurch.org](http://www.mountcarmelchurch.org) | Freewill Offering

### Fanfare

William Mathias  
(1934-1992)

### Trio in F Major

Fugue in B Flat Major

Trio in F Major

J. L. Krebs  
(1713-1780)

### Organ Sonata #11

II. Cantilene

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger  
(1839-1901)

### Romanian Folk Dances

Béla Bartók/arr. William Dean Tinker  
(1881-1945)

### Concerto in D Minor (BWV 596)

Antonio Vivaldi/arr. J. S. Bach  
(1678-1741) (1685-1750)

### Interactive Hymn Sing

Audience Member Requests Collected  
and Drawn from a Hat

### Te Deum

Jeanne Demessieux  
(1921-1968)

### Dessert Reception

Post-Concert



 MOUNT CARMEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Chapter Directory  
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#### Class of 2026

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Lee Erickson  
Paul Kasten  
Christian Rich

### North Central Regional Ambassador

Dr. Catherine Rodland  
[northcentralra@agohq.org](mailto:northcentralra@agohq.org)

## ***Unknown and Newly Discovered Service Music for the Organ***

**Bruce Bengtson, Presenter**

### **Workshop/Demonstration**

Saturday, September 28, 10:30 – 12:00 Noon

**Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church**

**8424 West Center St., Milwaukee (Event entrance on 84<sup>th</sup> Street)**

*Registration is \$25.00 and includes the opportunity to purchase or order music from a display by Lois Fyfe Music, Nashville*

Register online at the Milwaukee Chapter Website, or at the door on the day of the workshop.



### **Organ Concert/Hymn Festival**

Sunday, September 29, 3:00 PM

**Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church**

**8424 West Center Street, Milwaukee (Event entrance on 84<sup>th</sup> Street)**

*Co-Sponsored with Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church*

*Freewill Offering*

*Dessert Reception following the program.*

This weekend's events will focus on music which may be unfamiliar to many organists. The music presented will be service music and will include pieces in a wide variety of styles and levels of difficulty. This is a great opportunity to discover some new organ repertoire to include in your plans for the year.

**Bruce A. Bengtson** was Director of Music at Luther Memorial Church in Madison, Wisconsin, 1978-2018. Besides the duties of organist, he was responsible for the choral and instrumental program of the parish. He played weekly Wednesday noon organ recitals at the church throughout the University's fall and spring semesters.

Mr. Bengtson's organ study began at the age of 11. Undergraduate work was in organ performance under Dr. Robert Anderson at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Graduate work in organ and church music was done at Valparaiso University with Dr. Philip Gehring.

Mr. Bengtson has been featured in concerts throughout North America and Europe. The Lahti Organ Festival in Finland, Gävle Organ Week in Sweden, and the cathedrals of Paris, Salzburg, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, and Uppsala are among the European concert sites. Recitals have been played for the National Convention of the Organ Historical Society and for National Conferences of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM). Mr. Bengtson has also been heard on Wisconsin Public Radio broadcasts. His anthems for choir and organ are available from Augsburg Fortress Publishing Company.

Sunday's Concert/Hymn Festival will feature Hymn Improvisations by Mr. Bengtson. As you arrive for the Concert, you will be asked to choose Hymns from the 3 Service Books in Mt. Carmel's pews: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006)*, *With One Voice (1996)* and *All Creation Sings (2020)*. Your choices will be placed into an offering plate, and Mr. Bengtson will blindly reach into the plate to pull out the hymn titles for improvisations and singing. More than 15 years ago I attended the National Conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians held in Milwaukee. Mr. Bengtson played for the Opening Service, which was held at the St. Joseph Convent Chapel. His improvisations and service playing were wonderful and inspired everyone present. Please plan to attend these two great programs!

*Paul Kasten*

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# ORGAN SERVICE MUSIC DEMONSTRATION

## *UNKNOWN AND NEWLY DISCOVERED MUSIC*

**BRUCE BENGTON, PRESENTER**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024**

**10:30 AM TO 12:00 NOON**

**MOUNT CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA**

8424 W Center St, Milwaukee (*Event Entrance on 84th Street*)

*Registration is \$25.00 and includes the opportunity to purchase or order music from a display by Lois Fyfe Music, Nashville*

Advance Registration Online  
by Wednesday, September 25

or

Register and Pay at the Event

Cash or Checks payable to AGO Milwaukee Chapter



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### ***BRUCE BENGTON BIOGRAPHY***

After over 40 years as Director of Music at Luther Memorial Church in Madison WI, Bruce retired in 2018. Beginning organ study in Salem, Oregon, at the age of 11, he earned degrees in organ performance at Southern Methodist University and Valparaiso University, winning state and national competitions during his college years. Bruce has been featured in concerts in the U.S., Mexico, Canada, and Europe. He continues to play services and concerts, accompany vocalists/instrumentalists, teach organ lessons, and is a member of the Organ Historical Society, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and the American Guild of Organists. He taught organ lessons at Lawrence University, Appleton, WI 2019-2020, and assists in playing for Masses at Pastorate XXII of the Diocese of Madison.



***BRUCE BENGTON***

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## September 2024

28 (Sat) 10:30 Bruce Bengtson  
Organ Service Music Demonstration  
Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church  
8424 W. Center St  
Milwaukee, WI

Cost: \$25 you may register online at  
[AGO - Milwaukee - Organ Service Music Workshop with Bruce Bengtson \(agomilwaukee.org\)](http://AGO-Milwaukee-OrganServiceMusicWorkshopwithBruceBengtson(agomilwaukee.org)) and pay with a credit card or you may register at the door.

29 (Sun) 3:00 Bruce Bengtson  
Organ Concert and Interactive Hymn Sing  
Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church  
8424 W. Center St  
Milwaukee, WI


29 (Sun) 4:00 Brian Schoettler, Organ  
St. Mary's Lutheran Church  
2001 80<sup>th</sup> St  
Kenosha, WI

## October 2024

6 (Sun) 2:30 Choral Evensong with  
Organ Prelude  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
914 E. Knapp St  
Milwaukee, WI

20 (Sun) 4:00 David Jonies, Organ  
Brookfield Congregation Church  
13850 Gebhardt Rd  
Brookfield, WI

Events can be submitted to  
[event@agomilwaukee.org](mailto:event@agomilwaukee.org)



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## 2024 Patron Appeal

Soon we are kicking-off of our annual patron appeal. Previously this fundraising effort took place at the end of the calendar year. However, after observing that other arts organizations announce their appeal with the release of their season offerings, the Program Committee suggested that we do the same.

Before long you will receive a mailing that includes information about this year's appeal as well as a handsome flyer announcing this year's program, about which we are very excited and hope that you will be too!

Thanks for your support in the past and hope that we can rely on your continued support now!

September 2024

## Chapter Program Committee Update

The Program Committee, with its monthly meetings, plays a crucial role in implementing the 2024-2025 Program Events, completing the 2024-2025 Chapter Patron Appeal, and planning the 2025-2026 Chapter Program Year. The committee is a dedicated team, including Michael Batcho (Board '26), Jim Burmeister, Lee Erickson (Board '26), Paul Kasten (Board '26), Keri Kelly (Board '25), Christian Rich (Board '26), Dean Rosko, and myself.

We invite you to email [SubDean@agomilwaukee.org](mailto:SubDean@agomilwaukee.org) with suggestions for the 2025-26- and 2026-2027-Chapter Program Years and beyond. The Program Committee will consider suggestions at our monthly working meetings. The committee intentionally plans AGO Milwaukee Chapter events for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Area and Southeastern Wisconsin. Stay tuned. The 2025-2026 Program Year is shaping to be another active Chapter Season with diverse concert and educational offerings.

Please view and download the fliers about the first two events of the AGO Milwaukee Chapter Season. Invite your friends, colleagues, and network contacts to attend either the Organ Service Music Demonstration—Unknown and Newly Discovered Music on Saturday, September 28th, at 10:30 a.m. or the Organ Concert and Interactive Hymn Sing on Sunday, September 29th, at 3:00 p.m. This event features the renowned Bruce Bengtson, a presenter and organist you won't want to miss.

Keys to our Chapter's success are membership and community participation in program events. You will help make community engagement happen by sharing the Program Calendar and future event publicity, talking about the AGO and what it means to you, and personally inviting people of all generations from the community.

David Bahrke

Sub-dean

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch/Archivist and Historian

My summer had so many twists, turns and surprises that were all good, but it meant that I didn't launch my two Archive projects. So, for now, compiling a list of members who have composed, and are still composing, and gathering a few profile stories from members is my fall into winter projects. Don't be surprised if I contact you to share your music story in PipeNotes in the near future! This month I felt a celebration would connect with the recent Summer Olympic games in Paris. So here is to celebrating highlights from our Chapter's 40th Anniversary year, 1959.

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, 1959--Our Chapter's Ruby Jubilee

The month of January launched with a member's recital on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> at Tabernacle Baptist Church on 17<sup>th</sup> and Wells Street at 4 pm. The members program offered a mix of organ works by Bach, Purvis, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Langlais, Rowley, Cabazon, and Titcomb. A total of three vocal pieces were on the program by Liddle, Hageman, and Rutenbeck. Of note from the program on the Rutenbeck piece titled "Our Wedding Prayer." The piece was composed by chapter member Mabel Nelson Rutenbeck who has served as either organist or choir director for Milwaukee churches. She performed her work at this member's recital. "*She now confines her activities to composing and Milwaukee Chapter is proud to count her as one of their members.*" Here is a name for my members who compose list. Binder 2, News Clippings, Events Printed (NCEP), 1954-1959, page 327.

February offered two programs. The first program was on Sunday, February 8, at 4 pm at First Methodist Church on 10<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue. This festival was directed by Professor Paul Warren Allen of North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. After a lapse for "*quite a few years*" this program was revived as a result of a Church survey. With the increase in churches in the Milwaukee area the "*purpose of a Festival is to permit a church to include in its choir library the finest anthems, to have them interpreted by some outstanding choral directors and finally to sing these anthems with an inspired Mass Choir under the direction of a reputable director's baton.*" With two rehearsals leading up to the February date, a total of 12 area churches participated with member Mrs. Gertrude Stillman as the Festival Organist and Accompanist. Binder 2, (NCEP) page 329, PipeNotes (PN), January 1959

On Monday, February 16, at 7:30 pm was the second program offering an organ seminar. The location was Grand Avenue Congregational Church on 21<sup>st</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue. The District Manager, Mr. A. C. Strahle, from The Schantz Organ Company in Orville, Ohio was the guest speaker who offered an overview of acoustics, the importance of contracting with a reputable organ builder early in the planning of a new worship space. Along with his talk, was the showing of a movie on how

Page 6 of 8

an organ is constructed, and he shared *"Why a pipe organ and not an electronic?"* Binder 2, (NCEP) page 332, (PN) January 1959

The month of March brought recitalist Mr. Robert Rayfield to play a 4 pm organ recital at Mount Carmel Lutheran church on 84<sup>th</sup> and Center on March 1. Here is some interesting background on him from his program notes. Mr. Rayfield served his country during World War II as a fighter pilot with the Air Force and was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster. Upon his return from military service, he continued his work on his Master of Music degree. He opened his recital program with F. Couperin's Chant of the first Kyrie in the tenor, Fugue on the reed stops, Cromorne recitative, Dialogue on the Trumpet and Cromorne and Chant of the last Kyrie from the *"Mass for the Use of Parishes."* After this unique set of pieces was followed by Bach's *"Prelude and Fugue in g minor."* The program then moved into the modern classics of Hindemith's *"Sonata II;"* Widor's *"Intermezzo"* from Symphony VI; *"Song of Peace"* by Langlais; Vierne's *"Scherzo"* from Symphony II; *"Carillon"* by Sowerby with Franck's *"Finale"* to bring his musical program to a close. From the program notes Mr. Rayfield's performances have been *"characterized by brilliance and dramatic warmth tempered by a fine sensitivity and innate musicianship which combine to delight all who hear him play."* Binder 2, (NCEP) page 335

The Sunday, April 5 scheduled organ recital by Ms. Nita Akin at 4 pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Astor needed some quick work to find a replacement for Ms. Akin. A case of pneumonia kept her from playing her program. I wrote about this in an earlier PipeNotes that Ms. Wilma Jensen graciously stepped in with a program that dazzled on very short notice.

Trinity Presbyterian Church on Sherman Blvd. was the host church for the fortieth Anniversary Guild Service at 4 pm on Sunday, May 3. Chapter members--Mrs. Charles Rickert (Mary Evelyn) and Mr. Raymond Nott were employed at Trinity as Director of Music and Organist. From the opening organ recital, to the processional hymn of *"The Church's One Foundation"* to the choral pieces sung by the choirs, to the sermon -- *"Praise Ye the Lord"* by Chapter Member Reverend David J. Griffith to the closing hymn of *"O God Our Help in Ages Past,"* this service was a well-planned anniversary celebration. Trinity church

was *"honored to have the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Guild worship in our church. It is our privilege to conduct this service on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guild. We welcome all of its members and hope that they will derive much inspiration from this period of worship."* Binder 2, (NCEP) page 340

With a summer pause, the fall programs resumed on Sunday, September 27, at the Grand Avenue Congregational Church on 21<sup>st</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue with a 5:30 pm business meeting and supper.

On October 12, a Monday, at 7:30 pm there was an Organ Seminar at Capitol Drive Lutheran church on N. 55<sup>th</sup> and W. Capitol Drive. This, free to all interested organists, non-members as well as members and was conducted by chapter member Mrs. Gertude Stillman. *"With her wide experience in both recital and teaching, Mrs. Stillman's seminar promises to be a wonderful evening for everyone interested in suggestions and demonstrations of good service playing."* A list of service music recommendations by Mrs. Stillman and a collection of organ materials will be on display for sale. (PN) June-July-August 1959, (PN) September 1959

The finale program for the year 1959 was held at Christ King Catholic Church on Swan Blvd. in Wauwatosa. Mr. Flor Peeters came to town to play a 4 pm recital on November 22, the feast of St. Cecilia. This recital was part one of two for him on the same day! His program included works by J. S. Bach, G. Dufay, J. P. Sweelinck, Cesar Franck, Seth Bingham, O. Messiaen and three of his own works. His first piece, *"Lydian Prelude and Fugue in F,"* had him being *"one of the first composers who has written classical forms on a modal frame of modern harmonies... the flowing allegretto of the Prelude and the more singing and solid Fugue exploit the charm resulting from the use of the Lydian mode with the augmented fourth."* The second composition was a Chorale Prelude *"O Sacred Head Now Wounded."* *"The meditative melody is delineated by an ornamented baritone in the chorale from the 30 Chorale Preludes on well-known hymn tunes. The other voices proceed in dark and painful chromatic contours expressing sorrow and suffering."* His finale piece for the recital a *"Flemish Rhapsody."* *"This composition consists of three parts: the exposition of a chromatic theme whose several episodes interlock and announce each other with vigor. The central part of the work is a complete contrast with the preceding opening. This part is built on a traditional Flemish tune first presented in the form of a chorale and giving birth to a series of most effective variations. The first theme slightly altered and presented in the form of a recitative appears twice in the middle part and gradually returns to the original theme. This re-exposition brings the work to an end in a still growing decorative and richly colored style. This work was conceived by Flor Peeters during a night spent on the Flemish Coast."* Binder 2, (NCEP) page 317

A 6 pm buffet supper followed the recital at Mount Carmel Church before Mr. Flor Peeters conducted a master class at 7 pm back at Christ King Church. His double music programs on the feast of St. Cecilia, our patroness of music, wrapped up the 40<sup>th</sup> year as the ruby of our Chapter's jubilee year!

# *requiescat in pace*

AGO Milwaukee Chapter Members are invited to attend:

## **Memorial Service for John Seboldt**

Saturday, September 7, 2024, at 11:00 AM

All Saints' Cathedral

Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin

818 E. Juneau Avenue

Milwaukee WI 53202

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

Parking: Available at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church Parking Lot at 1100 North Astor Street, one block east of All Saints' Cathedral.

Visitation begins at 10:00 AM. Memorial Service begins at 11:00 AM.

Live stream link of the Memorial Service and Cathedral Columbarium Interment:

<https://youtube.com/live/vIPwMdineog?feature=share>

Obituary: <https://everloved.com/life-of/john-seboldt/obituary>

Music for the service: [JohnSeboldtFuneralMusicAGOEmail.pdf](#)

## **Service celebrating the life of Roger K. Stephens**

*(husband of past Dean, Larry Wheelock)*

Saturday, October 5, 2024, at 2pm

*(Preceded by an organ prelude at about 1:50)*

Plymouth UCC

2717 E. Hampshire St.

Milwaukee WI 53211

Live stream link of the service will be on the Plymouth Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/plymouthchurchmke>

Obituary: <https://everloved.com/life-of/roger-kerr-stephens/>