

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 72 – July 2025



2025-2026 Season Calendar

American Guild of Organists - Milwaukee Chapter

September | October | November

Sunday, September 21, 2025 | 3:00 p.m.

Music - Community - Food

Organ and Piano Music Concert

Tom Koester & David Bahrke, Organists | Maria Koester & Jeffrey Peterson, Pianists

Installation of Chapter Officers and Board Members

Tapas Food and Dessert Reception by Kelly's Catering

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

7919 W. Lincoln Ave | West Allis WI

Free will offering received.

Co-sponsored with Saint Peter's Episcopal Church



Sunday, October 26, 2025 | 3:00 p.m.

Hymn & Choir Festival for All Saints
David Cherwien, Organist and Conductor

Festival Choir of singers from area churches.

Post concert reception

Mount Carmel Lutheran Church ELCA

8424 W. Center Street | Milwaukee WI

Free will offering received.

Co-sponsored with Mount Carmel Lutheran Church ELCA



Friday, November 7, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

Monica Berney, Concert Organist

Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist

802 N. Jackson Street | Milwaukee WI

Free will offering received.

Co-sponsored with the Cathedral Fine Arts Series



February and May Events on Reverse Side.

www.agomilwaukee.org





Saturday, February 21, 2026 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Organ Master Class with Catherine Rodland, Saint Olaf College
Saint Olaf College Organ & Theory Instructor

Concordia University Wisconsin - Chapel of Christ Triumphant
12800 N. Lake Shore Drive | Mequon WI

Free and Open to Everyone
Co-sponsored with Concordia University Wisconsin



Sunday, February 22, 2026 | 3:30 p.m.

Catherine Rodland, Concert Organist

Concordia University Wisconsin - Chapel of Christ Triumphant
12800 N. Lake Shore Drive | Mequon WI

Tickets available at the door. University Students Free.
Co-sponsored with Concordia University Wisconsin



Friday, May 8, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.

AGO Milwaukee Chapter Annual Meeting

2026-2027 AGO Chapter Season Announcement

All Saints' Cathedral Guild Hall
818 E. Juneau Ave | Milwaukee WI



Friday, May 8, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Jerrick Cavagnaro, Organist, Improvisatur, Transcriptionist

First Prize Winner
2024 AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation

All Saints' Cathedral
818 E. Juneau Ave | Milwaukee WI

Free will offering.
Co-sponsored with All Saints' Cathedral



American Guild of
ORGANISTS
Milwaukee Chapter

Chapter Directory
www.agomilwaukee.org
chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Chapter Officers

Dean

John Schubring
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Sub Dean

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Secretary

Sharon Adel

secretary@agomilwaukee.org

Treasurer

Richard Ewert

treasurer@agomilwaukee.org

Registrar

David Bahrke

registrar@agomilwaukee.org

Executive Board

Class of 2026

Michael Batcho
Lee Erickson
Paul Kasten
Christian Rich

Class of 2027

Marilyn Schrader
Mary Seboldt
J. Craig Sproat

North Central Regional Ambassador

Dr. Catherine Rodland
northcentralra@agohq.org

AGO MILWAUKEE CHAPTER EVENTS Appearing in The American Organist

In the June 2025 issue you can see a picture and description of the February 2025 Church and Organ Tour to Racine and Kenosha.

In the July 2025 issue you can find a picture and description of the March 2025 St. Patrick's Day Organ Concert held at All Saints' Cathedral.

In September 2025 watch for a picture and description of the May 2025 James Kennerley Workshop and Concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

New Email System for AGO Milwaukee Chapter Officers and Coordinators!

If you attended the Chapter's annual meeting in May you heard that the chapter is embarking on a technology overhaul over the summer months. One of the systems that we are switching is our email system. We are moving to a Google Workspace system. Previously all emails that were sent to an email address that ended with agomilwaukee.org were forwarded to that person's personal email address, and occasionally they would just end up in spam or junk mail and missed communication.

We now have the ability to each have our own individual email accounts. Whomever is dean will be able to login as dean@agomilwaukee.org, or the registrar will be able to login to the registrar@agomilwaukee.org email and have access to that email account without having to worry about having emails being forwarded to another account, and getting lost in cyberspace.

These accounts run in Google Workspace. It is like having a gmail account. We also then have access to all of the Google applications and can share our google drives, documents and pictures with each other in our Google Workspace. It will have a learning curve, so hang in there with us, but in the long run it will be a great move for all of the officers and coordinators to work together for the Chapter

July 2025

2 (Wed) 12:15 Rowen Erickson, Organ
Lunchtime Organ Series
All Saints Episcopal Church
100 N. Drew St
Appleton WI

8 (Tues) 6:30 Jason Pues, Organ
Power of Pipes Series
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
427 St. John St
Green Bay, WI

9 (Wed) 12:15 Dr. Benjamin Stone
Lunchtime Organ Series
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
200 N. Commercial St
Neenah, WI

15 (Tues) 6:30 Adria Cary & Denise Zenko, Organ
Power of Pipes Series
Grace Lutheran Church
321 S. Madison St
Green Bay, WI


16 (Wed) 12:15 Ethan Mellema, Organ
Lunchtime Organ Series
Zion Lutheran Church
912 N. Onieda St
Appleton, WI

22 (Tues) 6:30 Devin Atteln & Wendy Dearborn, Organ
Power of Pipes Series
St. Norbert's Abbey
1016 N. Broadway
De Pere, WI

23 (Wed) 12:15 Jeffrey Verkuilen, FAGO, Organ
Lunchtime Organ Series
First Congregational UCC
724 E. South River St
Appleton, WI

29 (Tues) 6:30 John Kopp, Organ
Power of Pipes Series
St. Anne's Episcopal Church
347 Libal St
De Pere, WI

30 (Wed) Dr. Paul Weber, Organ
Lunchtime Organ Series
First English Lutheran Church
326 E. North St
Appleton, WI



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July 2025

As we are in the middle of the summer months, many of us take time to enjoy the warm weather here in Wisconsin, which we know will only last a couple of months. We take time away from our normal jobs to renew and revitalize our spirits and become energized again. I hope you get to take that time away and take in some needed rest and relaxation and come back revitalized and energized.

As you may have noticed earlier in PipeNotes, there was a mention about the chapter taking a leap and commitment in refreshing the website and moving forward and getting officers and coordinators actual email accounts. Technology is crucial for communicating with each other and the outside world. Our website says who we are, what we do, what events, concerts, and workshops we hold for the public and our members. It shows that we are active in the community.

Our current website has been a great asset to us. It moved us to have an online directory that members were able to access. It gave us the ability to accept credit card payments for workshop registration fees and donations. The current website also has a built-in events calendar that was able to send email blasts, which didn't come from someone's personal email. All things that moved us forward from the past. However, the look of the site has not changed since it was introduced nearly 20 years ago. It was time for a refresh and time to revitalize and reenergize the website.

Technology has changed over the past 20 years and so has the way people use websites and scrolling and clicking through menus. After some discussion it was decided that we might need some outside help beyond what chapter members are able to do. The chapter was in a place financially where we could possibly look outside the chapter and get some ideas of costs for redesigning our website. It was then that Designs Touch, a local company, was found and their proposal was very thorough, and they have done work for not-for-profits before. It seemed to be a good fit for us. The board decided that we should accept their proposal and work with Designs Touch to redesign our website.

We are currently in the development phase, so it may still be a couple of months before you see any changes when you go to www.agomilwaukee.org, but I think that when the roll out comes around September 1st, it will be a great asset to our chapter.

John Schubring

New Website Design Update

Dear Chapter Members and Patrons,

We are pleased to update you on the progress of our new website project, currently developed by Nim Joshi of DesignsTouch [www.designstouch.com] in Milwaukee. DesignsTouch specializes in partnering with not-for-profit arts and education organizations. The Board selected DesignsTouch because of the owners' strong interest in organ and choral music, as well as their direct support. As we work toward our September 1st launch, we want to keep everyone informed about our advancements and what we have planned next.

Project Overview

Our goal with this new website is to create an engaging, user-friendly platform that effectively highlights our organization's mission and activities. The website will serve as a resource for our community and will also improve our communication and outreach efforts through new features, including event registration, payment, and contribution portals, among others.

The website is coded to integrate with a chapter management database, making it easy for website visitors to sign up for chapter email newsletters about events and activities.

Current Status

We are happy to report that we are on schedule with our project timeline, for a September 1st launch date. Here's an overview of our progress so far:

Design Phase

The design team has finalized the website layout and visual elements, incorporating feedback from initial stakeholder meetings. This new design adopts a modern aesthetic, reflecting our brand identity. The key aspects of the AGO Milwaukee Chapter are easily accessible on the landing page. The website is optimized for use on phones, tablets, and desktop browsers. The website will include "search engine optimization" (SEO). It is optimized for searches related to organ, chorus, and choral concerts, as well as by state and city.

Content Development

Our content team has diligently rewritten and updated existing materials to ensure clarity, relevance, and engagement. We are also developing new resources that will provide our users with valuable information.

Functionality Testing

The development team will commence the first round of functionality testing once the final website design is complete. Functionality testing includes checking links, testing forms, and ensuring compatibility across various devices and browsers.

SEO Optimization

We have started applying best practices for **search engine optimization (SEO)** to help our website reach a wider audience. SEO involves optimizing content, meta tags, and images to improve the site's visibility online.

Next Steps

Looking ahead, here is what's on the agenda:

User Testing

We plan to start user testing sessions soon, collecting feedback from a select group of team members and stakeholders. This step is vital for identifying issues and making needed adjustments before the official launch.

Launch Preparation

As we get closer to our September 1st launch date, we will create a marketing plan to promote the website and share its key features with our wider community.

Your Input Matters!

We appreciate your input throughout this process! If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns as we move forward, please don't hesitate to contact us. Your feedback is crucial to ensure the website effectively serves the needs of our organization and community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration. We're excited about the potential of our new website, communication, and marketing platforms, and look forward to sharing them with you all soon!

Best regards,

David Bahrke
Sub-dean

John Schubring
Dean

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP? WE CAN HELP

Nearly half of all AGO members renew their memberships on July 1. If you haven't visited our new website yet, you'll need to create a new login and password to access your member profile and renew. [Click here](#) for simple, step-by-step instructions.

Convenient links can also be found in your renewal notice:

1-CLICK RENEWAL - Add Credit Card Info and Pay Online, Keep Current Member Options (Chapter, Magazine Subscription)

VIEW ONLINE INVOICE - Update Profile, Change/Add Chapters, Make Chapter Donations, Change Subscription

If your employer pays for your membership, you can forward the email to the treasurer and they can pay online or by check.

QUESTIONS? [Email](#) or call AGOhq at 212-870-2310 and a staff member will be happy to assist you.

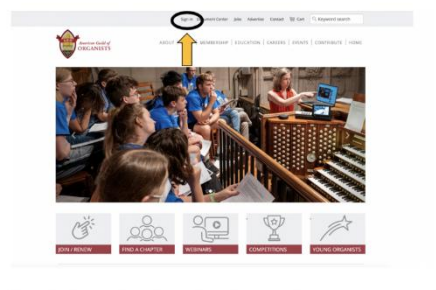
Reminder the National Office Handles Renewals

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR OCTOBER VIRTUAL PEDAGOGY CONFERENCE

The AGO will host its first annual Virtual Pedagogy Conference, "Pedagogies and Approaches to Practice," Oct. 9 – 11, a unique opportunity for organists, educators, and students to engage with innovative teaching methods and foster a deeper understanding of the learning process while practicing music.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.
[Click here](#) to submit a presentation proposal by Aug. 1.

1. Go to www.agohq.org. You will see a link in the gray navigation bar at the top of every page to SIGN IN. Click on that link.



2. You will then be taken to the SIGN IN screen. Because your account has not been set up, click on the link FORGOT PASSWORD first. (Your previous ONCARD credentials are no longer active.)

