

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 72 – September 2025



Tom Koester



Maria Koester



Jeffrey Peterson



David Bahrke

American Guild of Organists Milwaukee Chapter

Music - Community - Food

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

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

7929 W. Lincoln Avenue

West Allis, WI 53229

www.stpeterswestallis.com



Free-will Offering Received. Co-sponsored with Saint Peter's Episcopal Church.



Saint Peter's Church Hinners/Crane Organ | Yamaha C1 Piano

Program

Installation of Officers and Board Members

Welcoming of New Chapter Members

Recognition of AGO Exam Certificate Awards

Music for Piano and Organ

Cesar Franck: Prelude, Fugue and Variation, Opus 18
(Harmonium and Piano)

Adolphe Hesse: Fantasie for Organ
(Four Hands)

Johannes Brahms: Four Hand Waltzes for Piano
(Selected)

Tom Koester and Maria Koester, Organ and Piano

Gerald Near: Aria for Piano and Organ

Jeffrey Peterson, Piano - David Bahrke, Organ

Food, Dessert and Wine Reception

www.agomilwaukee.org

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

Chapter Officers

Dean

John Schubring
715-212-3078

dean@agomilwaukee.org

Sub Dean

David Bahrke
414-232-6717

subdean@agomilwaukee.org

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 Sprout

**North Central Regional
Ambassador**

Dr. Catherine Rodland
northcentralra@agohq.org

AGO MILWAUKEE CHAPTER EVENT

**Join Us for an Exciting Community Building Event!
Sunday, September 21st at 3:00 PM**

Dear AGO Milwaukee Chapter Members and Friends,

We are thrilled to invite you to our upcoming Community Building Event on Sunday, September 21st, at 3:00 PM, at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, 7929 W. Lincoln Avenue, West Allis, WI.

This is a fantastic opportunity to come together for music, connection, creativity, a wine, food, and dessert reception, and a chance to strengthen the excellent relationships that make our Chapter so special.

Music - Community - Food

Installation of Board Members and Officers

Recognition of AGO Exam Certifications

Introduction of New Chapter Members

Wine, Food, and Dessert Reception

Date: Sunday, September 21, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: St. Peter's Episcopal Church

7929 W. Lincoln Avenue

West Allis, WI

www.stpeterswestallis.com

We look forward to you meeting your colleagues, engaging with community members and patrons, and enjoying music specially composed for organ and piano four-hand performances. Whether you're new to the chapter or a longtime member, your participation helps the AGO Milwaukee Chapter shine!

Here's What You Can Look Forward To:

Organ and Piano Music Concert

Tom Koester and David Bahrke, Organists

Maria Koester and Jeffry Peterson, Pianists

Installation of Board Members and Officers

Recognition of AGO Exam Certifications

Introduction of New Chapter Members

Wine, Food, and Dessert Reception

No RSVP needed. Feel free to invite your friends and family to join you. We're excited to see you there and work together to make the AGO Milwaukee Chapter a welcoming and engaging music organization.

Warmly,
David Bahrke
Sub-dean

September 2025

Chapter Event

21 (Sun) 3:00 Music – Community – Food
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
7929 W. Lincoln Ave.
West Allis, WI
Co-Sponsored with St. Peter's

October 2025

5 (Sun) 3:00 Heather Boehm, Violin;
James Grzadzinski, Piano, and Organ
Brookfield Congregational UCC
16350 Gebhardt Rd
Brookfield, WI

5 (Sun) 4:00 David Jonies, Organ
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
6101 S. 51st St.
Greendale, WI

12 (Sun) 2:00 AGO Milwaukee Chapter Board Meeting
All Saints Cathedral
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee


17 (Fri) 7:30 Olivier Latry, Organ
St. Chrysostom's Church
1424 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL

19 (Sun) 1:30 Karen Beaumont, Organ
St. Hedwig's Church
1702 N. Humboldt Ave
Milwaukee, WI

19 (Sun) 3:00 Michael Hoerig, Organ
Bethany Calvary UMC
7265 W. Center St
Wauwatosa, WI

Chapter Event

26 (Sun) 3:00 David Cherwien Hymn &
Choir Festival for All Saints
Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church
8424 W. Center St.
Milwaukee, WI
Co-Sponsored with Mt. Carmel



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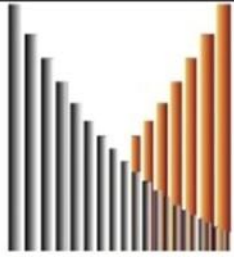
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch, Archivist/Historian
archivist@agomilwaukee.org

The monthly Archive articles return this month re-energized from a pause. My hope for all readers of PipeNotes is your summer was filled with many musical moments to savor. The summer season leaves us this month making way for fall to mark the restart button of our schedules in music ministry. From rehearsals with choirs, ensembles, and soloists to meetings to music planning and prep, to choir recruitment and more the days on the calendar will be flying by. As a relaunch this fall, I did some searching in the Archives and share some “did you know this about our Chapter?” I selected interesting facts and finds on the Chapter’s Executive Board and its development and one particular committee -- The Programming Committee. Enjoy learning...

Did You Know This About Our Chapter?

The earliest information I found on the Programming Committee was found in the meeting minutes of January 19, 1927. Member Miss Lillian Way was appointed the first to chair the Programming Committee by Dean Mr. W. J. L. Meyer. Source : Binder 2 Correspondance, Reports, etc. 1927-1939 (B2CR) pg. 5

Here is an interesting approach to mentoring the next generation of musicians from the Executive Committee meeting minutes of November 19, 1928. Member Mr. S. B. Foote gave a brief verbal report on ticket sales to the area music schools in the city. Five schools listed in the report were Normal, Milwaukee Institute, Conservatory, College of Music, and Marquette School of Music. Each of these schools were sent ten tickets to upcoming Guild programs that were for sale to their music students. The winning school that sold all of their ten tickets was the Conservatory and the overall consensus in the report from the students was that their interest was “*centered in organ music.*” Source: (B2CR) pg. 40

An interesting association was on the horizon with the Guild from the meeting minutes of the Executive Committee of November 19, 1929. Dean Mrs. Kirchner reported that member Mrs. Foster was approached by the Federation of Music Clubs to invite the Guild to become a member of the Federation. “*After a thorough discussion of the question,*” a motion was made to have a letter written to the Federation “*expressing our appreciation of their offering this opportunity to us to join them, but that inasmuch as we are only a small factor of a nation-wide organization, we have no authority from National Headquarters to affiliate with any Federation, but that we will be more than glad to co-operate with them in every possible way in the good work which they are doing.*” Source: (B2CR) pg. 41

Creative planning by the Programming committee with Mrs. Rees Powell as chair and the Executive Committee in 1930 networked together to shape future organ events and locations. One such network was with the officers of the Chapter replying to Mr. John Robertson, organist at Nashotah House. He extended the invitation to the Guild to hold a meeting at Nashotah House as guests of the Seminary. From this initial invitation, it opened the door to expand and program organ workshops and recitals in the future. Also, this shared by Dean Mrs. Kirchner that Richard Keys Biggs of Hollywood, CA would be playing a recital at St. Sebastian’s church on the evening of September 24, 1930. As a welcome to Mr. Biggs for his Milwaukee recital a motion was made and seconded “*that an invitation be extended to Mr. Biggs to be our guest while in the city, either at a luncheon or dinner.*” From connecting with potential artists from the west coast the general discussion turned closer to home. A suggestion to the Programming Committee came from member Mrs. Rudolph Hokanson who was offering her residence to Guild members to host recitals on her home organ. “*It was also suggested that it might be profitable to make trips during the season to surrounding cities to visit various churches and organs.*” Ah, now this is a suggested program that has bloomed and continues to bloom through the decades to the present time, as the Chapter’s annual organ crawl event. From a simple sharing at an Executive Board meeting seeds were planted for the future, taking root in its due season. Source: (B2CR) pg. 96

Headquarters in May of 1934 shared some interesting communication with all the chapters. There was a proposed merger of the American Guild of Organists and the National Association of Organists. Dean Mr. Earl Morgan “*reported that he had written Headquarters expressing the opinion of the Wisconsin Chapter as being in favor of the merger, which action was approved by the chapter.*” Along with this merger of organizations the “*Wisconsin Chapter recommended that the Diapason be adopted as the official paper of the new organization. If the merger is consummated.*” Source: (B2CR) pg. 206

I just couldn’t leave the story unfinished in the “proposed merger” stage. The following is added info on the National Association of Organists that I found online from the Philadelphia Chapter website.

“The National Association of Organists (NAO) was formed in Ocean Grove, New Jersey by Dr. Tali Esen Morgan in the summer of 1908 during the annual music festival featuring the unique organ newly installed there. The NAO was formed as a fraternal organization of organists without examination requirements with Will C. MacFarlane as first president. There were state chapters and members who belonged to both the AGO and NAO. They had their own publications and held a convention annually, at first in Ocean Grove or Asbury Park and the city of Philadelphia in 1921 and 1926. The NAO ceased to exist when the group and its members merged with the AGO in June of 1935 during the National AGO Convention in New York, further diversifying the character of the AGO.”

I feel better coming full circle with this merger.

Source: <http://agophila.org>

The Executive Committee of November 10, 1934, brought forth a plan to attract new members to the Wisconsin Chapter. Several members reported they had *“in mind organists who are eligible for membership who would be desirable additions to our organization.”* The Dean, Mr. Vantine *“requested that prospects for membership be interviewed before the next meeting, and if any expressed a willingness to join our ranks, they be invited to attend the next meeting of the Chapter.”*

Source: (B2CR) pg. 233

You are probably wondering why I shared the above paragraph. The reason being it sets the stage for how the Programming Committee will be able to schedule organ recitals going forward with these new approved guidelines.

“It was the unanimous opinion of the Committee that no programs should be given in any church under the auspices of the Guild unless the organist of the church is a member of the Guild.

A decision was reached that in future...if a member of the Chapter gave a recital in a church whose organist is not a member, it must be as an individual, and not as a member of the American Guild of Organists.” This new guideline would maintain the high standards of the AGO Guild. Source: (B2CR) pg. 233

The Programming Committee did some outreach in December of 1934. A convention of the Music Teachers' National Association was held in Milwaukee during the Christmas vacation. Several prominent organists were to be in town attending and the Programming Committee teamed up with the Social Committee and planned a luncheon at the Hotel Pfister. The three names known to be attending were Mr. Palmer Christian, Mr. Riemenschneider and Mrs. Lockwood. They and other visiting organists were guests of the Wisconsin Chapter for this luncheon. This was a genius way to network for future programming considerations. Source: (B2CR) pg. 234 & 240

I found the 2nd half of the 1934-1935 program offerings to be a creative blend of something to attract members and potential new members.

On January 6, 1935, the Guild held a Hymn Service at Immanuel Presbyterian Church with member Mr. Earl Morgan directing the singing.

February was a study program on the “Forerunners of Bach” at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

March was member Mr. Nott’s program at Kenwood Methodist Church.

April and May were international programs of French and American music.

Source: (B2CR) pg. 240

The Archives is a learning center about our Chapter. What I shared is a smidge of what awaits your further exploration. It is our Chapter’s story preserved in a capsule available to be accessed by members. As a wrap to this month’s article, I share a portion of Dean’s column from September 1958 PipeNotes.

“We trust you’re had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. It is now time to plunge into a new year of Guild activities. Committees have worked hard to prepare an interesting program for you. For the many who have cooperated and will continue to throughout the year, we say ‘thank you!’

There were many who offered to help. If you were not definitely assigned to a particular committee, consider yourself a member of each committee. You can advise by helpful criticism; you can be social at all events and make new members feel at home. Everybody is on Membership, ready to invite and seek new members. As a member of the Program Committee, you will support all Guild programs.”

Source: PipeNotes Vol. 5, No. 1 September 1958

Reading through our 2025-2026 Season Calendar of programs, the work of our Programming Committee, we are all in for a fantastic musical time!

Until next month,

September 2025

Ready or not, the fall season is upon us. Our schools are beginning; at church, our choir season begins. What about for the Milwaukee Chapter? We are starting the year with a great event at St. Peter's Episcopal in West Allis on September 21st beginning at 3:00 pm. The event will include the installation of officers, the recognition of members who have passed exams over the past two years, and welcoming new members who have joined the chapter. We will also enjoy music for organ and piano performed by chapter members, Jeffry Peterson, David Bahrke, and Tom and Maria Koester. After all of that we will have a chance to enjoy some food and the company of one another at the reception that follows. I hope to see many of you there!

On the back page you will find the complete program year. Please take a moment to mark them on your calendars. The program committee has worked very diligently in putting this program together and it will be spectacular, from hymn singing to improvisation! Along with this year's programming you will soon be receiving this year's patron appeal. It is only through your generosity and support that we are able to continue offering quality programs like the programs you see on the back page of PipeNotes. When you receive your patron appeal letter please give as you are able to support the Milwaukee Chapter in our endeavors and to keep our programming as strong and vibrant in the future as it is for the 2025 – 2026 program year.

I look forward to seeing you on September 21st!

John Schubring

ZOOM STUDY GROUPS FOR SPC, CAGO

Monthly online study groups are being offered for the 2025-26 [Service Playing Certificate \(SPC\)](#) and [Colleague \(CAGO\)](#) exams. Sessions take place on Zoom at 7 p.m. ET / 4 p.m. PT. *Click the links below to register:*

Service Playing Certificate

[Monday, Sept. 15](#) / [Monday, Oct. 20](#) / [Monday, Nov. 17](#)

Colleague

[Tuesday, Sept. 23](#) - Written Exam

[Tuesday, Oct. 14](#) - Repertoire and Keyboard Skills

NEW ONLINE SERIES FOR EARLY- AND MID-CAREER ORGANISTS

"From Console to Career: Professional Issues for Emerging Church Musicians" is a five-part, monthly online series designed to equip early- and mid-career organists with the tools, insights, and confidence to pursue successful and fulfilling careers. Whether you're just stepping into your first role or navigating the next move, these sessions, led by accomplished young musicians, will guide and inspire.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register for the masterclasses, beginning on Monday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. ET / 4 p.m. PT.

SPEAKERS, SESSIONS ANNOUNCED FOR VIRTUAL PEDAGOGY CONFERENCE

The AGO is pleased to announce the speakers and session topics planned for the **First Virtual Pedagogy Conference, Oct. 9–11**. More than a dozen master teachers and performers will convene on Zoom to explore "The Pedagogy of Practice," with focuses on "The Learner's Journey" and "The Teacher's Role." [Registration is now open, with special discounted rates for members.](#) [Click here](#) to learn more about the conference program.



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS MILWAUKEE CHAPTER ~ SERVING SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025-2026



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, Recognition of AGO
Exam Certifications, Food and Dessert
Reception



Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
7919 W. Lincoln Ave |
West Allis, WI
www.stpeterswestallis.com

Free will offering received. Co-sponsored with Saint Peter's Episcopal Church

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 • www.cuw.edu
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 with ID
Co-sponsored with Concordia University Wisconsin
www.cuw.edu

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 • www.mountcarmelchurch.org

Free will offering received.
Co-sponsored with Mount Carmel Lutheran Church ELCA

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
www.ascathedral.org



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

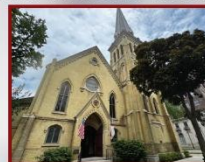
Jerrick Cavagnaro, Organist,
Improvisator, Transcriptionist
First Prize Winner 2024 AGO National
Competition in Organ Improvisation
All Saints' Cathedral
818 E. Juneau Ave | Milwaukee, WI
www.ascathedral.org
Free will offering received.
Co-sponsored with All Saints' Cathedral



Friday, November 14, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.



Monica Berney, Concert Organist
Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson Street | Milwaukee, WI www.stjohncathedral.org
Free will offering received. Co-sponsored with the Cathedral Fine Arts Series



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