

PipeNotes

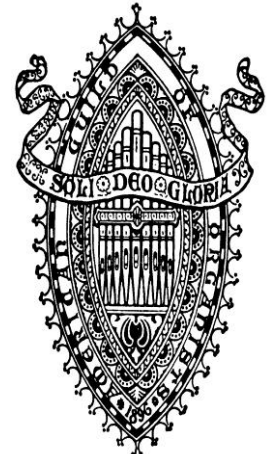
American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 65 – December 2018



Happy Holidays
From
The American Guild of Organists
Milwaukee Chapter



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Upcoming 2018 – 2019 Programs For The AGO Milwaukee Chapter

Saturday, January 19, 2019 • 10:00 am

Improvisation Workshop

Christian Rich and Charles Ludwig, Clinicians

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

7845 N. River Rd.

River Hills, WI

March 9, 2019

Organ Crawl

More Information Coming Soon!

May 5, 2019

100th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Chapter

Annual Meeting

Member's Recital

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PipeNotes is Published Monthly submit information to the editor via email at,
pneditor@agomilwaukee.org.
The Deadline is the 20th of the preceding month

December 2018 Dean's Column

FROM THE KEYBOARD of Sheri Masiakowski

Happy Advent Good Folk,

In relation to my music ministry I pray for patience, good health for myself and my choir members, our mutual presence at rehearsals, peace of mind, focus, clarity and stamina. I try to be truly present in the midst of the need to perfect and produce for the special services of Advent and Christmas. 'Tis my personal challenge and I would bet, yours too. May we all arrive at year end with a few days to rest and enjoy the season.

Thank you to those who responded to our plea for contributions. Your action makes a difference. Our Milwaukee Symphony program insert has our high-lighted our program schedule to the broad public that attended concerts which used the Skinner organ. The cost to print was not minimal and we are grateful for contributions which made it possible. Meanwhile, Steve Jensen—our treasurer tells me that contributions are down from previous years. Can you turn that comment around with your own donation? For on-line donations by credit card visit: <http://agomilwaukee.org>

Snail-mail donations may still be sent to:

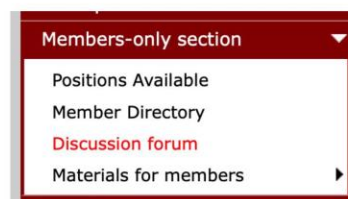
AGO-Milwaukee Chapter
Steven Jensen, treasurer
P.O. Box 11731
Milwaukee, WI 53211

North Central AGOYO (AGO Young Organists) — information from David Porth, our Milwaukee Chapter board member. Check out part 3 of their blog on hymnody. [HYMNODY PART 3 - ELEVATING THE ART OF HYMNODY](#) This third and final post about hymnody explores how we can take small steps to improve our own playing. Hopefully our conversation with Minneapolis organist David Chervien has been helpful and inspiring to all organists to improve and elevate their hymn playing. Feel free to join in on the conversation.

I had lunch this past week with Dr. Charles Ludwick II at Sacred Heart School of Theology. He invited me to attend the 11:15 liturgy with the seminarians. It's always of great interest to hear one's colleague play prelude, hymns, acclamations and postlude. My musical soul was well-fed. I will return because I felt that his leadership firmly supported our sung prayer. His prelude was by Francis Jackson, a Brit with whom I was unfamiliar. The seminary chapel is a reverberant space with a 2-manual Burghaus instrument installed during the tenure of Christian Rich (27 stops/35 ranks, slider chests/mechanical key action). Dr. Ludwick and Christian Rich will co-host the AGO Improvisation Workshop on January 19, 2019 from 10:00-11:30AM at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church. If you are in the Menomonee Falls area please stop in at St. Anthony Parish. Dr. Ludwick's wife, who arrived within the last two weeks from Poland, is the new music director. Many thanks to Christian Rich for his input on the workshop. His hymn-playing is worth a serious "listen-to". 😊

* * *

Remember that there is a **discussion forum** category on our Chapter web-site. You must be logged-in to open the "Members-only section" at the bottom of the red left column. Move your cursor to "Members-only section" and you will see the headings shown in this picture. Click on "discussion forum" and then "Favorite organ or piano pieces for liturgical use" to share your favorite music literature. I want to hear your tried-and-true favorites and your new discoveries.



Find and support a concert or church service for your own enrichment this season. Our own crowded schedules make it hard to enter another event in our personal calendars. I'm eager to hear an upcoming concert by the Prometheus Trio at Wisconsin College Conservatory. I followed their schedule for a year and this is my first open opportunity. God has not yet granted me bi-location. There are so many services/concerts from each of you that I would like to attend but am double-scheduled. May we all have continued energy and enthusiasm ...

Merry Christmas! See you at a concert or a service or for coffee or ...??

Cordially,

Sheri

December 2018

11 (Tues) 7:30 Drew Rutz, Organ
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

12 (Wed) 12:15 Sheri Masiakowski, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

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

January 2019

1 (Tues) 2:00 Karen Beaumont, Organ
Salem Lutheran Church
2400 N. Cramer
Milwaukee, WI

4 (Fri) Karen Beaumont, Organ
Viktor Brusubardis, Cello
Grace Lutheran Church
1209 N. Broadway
Milwaukee, WI

6 (Sun) 3:00 Epiphany Vespers
Music at Historic Trinity
St. John's Lutheran Church
7877 N. Port Washington Rd
Glendale, WI

6 (Sun) 3:00 Epiphaneia
Bach Chamber Choir & Orchestra
St. Joseph Center Chapel
1501 S. Layton Blvd
Milwaukee, WI

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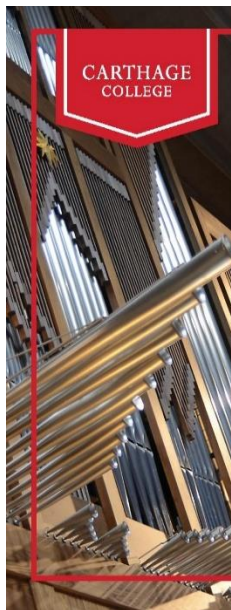
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ORGAN STUDIES at Carthage College

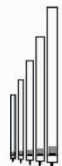
Study with Professor Christopher Berry, Director of Music at the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, as an organ student at Carthage.

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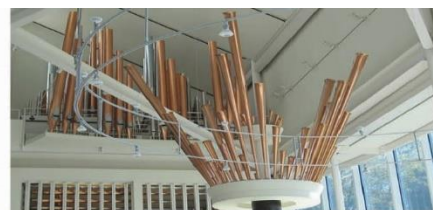
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From the Archives

Liz Walloch, Archivist/Historian

The archive files continue to bloom with many interesting finds as Sr. Mary Jane, Sheri and myself spent an afternoon reviewing materials from the very early years of the Wisconsin chapter. Materials are being selected for the 100 days media blast. Take a look at this month's photo for identifying. In January, I will be sharing the identity of the November and December's photos. Last month's post of an "Organist Prayer" has been identified by our guild's Chaplain Fr. Tom Lijewski. He shared that the prayer was crafted by member Marianne Chaudior. December's sharing continues with a message from former guild Chaplain Rev. Hoover T. Grimsby. His message appeared in the first December issue of PipeNotes, Vol. I – Number 2, December 1954. Given this article was written in 1954 before gender inclusive language use, Rev. Grimsby's message rings true for us in 2018.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Nineteen hundred fifty years ago this month the King was born, but He was more than an earthly King for He was the King from all eternity – the Son of the living God. There were no presses, news reels, or radios to bring the glorious news for which the world had been waiting, nearly two thousand years but something far greater—an angelic host uniting in the glorious *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*, and then the startling message, *Unto you is born this day – a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.*

Since that date, many times on the calendars of men, Christmas has come and gone. Countless millions of times it has come to the hearts of men. Christmas still comes to us without regard for season or day or month. In every clime, in every land, among all colors and all races, Christ is ever being born in the hearts of men.

Too often, however, we have allowed the nativity scene to become a sentimental emotion with us and never let it go any deeper. Our whole idea and attitude toward Christmas in Bethlehem seems to imply that the matter ended there, but Eleanor Slater has a two verse poem entitled - *December Twenty-Fourth.*

*Tomorrow you were born again
who died so many times.
Do you like the candlelight?
Do you like the chimes?*

*Do you stop wonder
why men never see,
how very close to Bethlehem
approaches Calvary?*

Yes, the story that began at Bethlehem ended at Calvary. The old familiar saying is still true; Bethlehem is meaningless apart from Calvary. For Jesus Christ was not born to live, He was born to die. We accomplish our work through living. He performed His real work in dying. The Bible record is just as simple and plain *God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.*

His gracious purpose which He stated so simply that millions could cast their eternal destiny upon it was *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.* There is the Christmas Gospel; there is the *GOOD NEWS* of which the angels did sing. When mankind had missed the mark, God came down, not for the self-sufficient, but to seek out those who would confess that they had need of Him.

But all of this is meaningless unless there is an inner personal response on our part. There must be a birth of faith in us as we, this year, kneel before the cradle of Bethlehem which became the cross of Calvary. Let our prayer be the prayer of Phillips Brooks:

*O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in;
Be born in us today.*

Rev. Hoover T. Grimsby
Chaplain-Milwaukee Chapter

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

JUNE 16-19
2019



GREAT MUSIC ON A GREAT LAKE

Featured Performer Elisa Bickers

Elisa Williams Bickers performs regularly in recital as a solo organist, harpsichordist, and piano accompanist. She is the Associate Director of Music and Principal Organist at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, where she directs the Alegria Young Adult Choir and the Village Ringers advanced hand bell ensemble. As organist at Village, she oversaw the acquisition and installation of a new mechanical-action pipe organ, built by Richards, Fowkes & Co. of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Bickers dedicated this stunning instrument in August of 2017, and its inaugural year included fifteen concerts of solo organists, choirs, instrumental ensembles, and hymn festivals. The instrument has received high acclaim from players and listeners far and wide.

As a solo performer, chamber musician, and choral accompanist, Bickers has performed in Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Italy, and Thailand, as well as all over the United States. She feels at home on ancient and modern instruments alike, enjoying repertoire from the entire breadth of the history of the pipe organ. Her doctoral lecture recital focused on the organ works of Olufela Sowande, a delightful Nigerian composer whose works were inspired by African folk song, Anglican traditions, and American jazz.

Bickers is the keyboardist for the Bach Aria Soloists, a Kansas City-based chamber music ensemble devoted to the works of Johann Sebastian Bach and those inspired by him. Their programs range far beyond the Baroque, celebrating new compositions, tango, jazz, and art song. The Bach Aria Soloists were featured as Artists in Residence at the Thai International Composition Festival in Bangkok, Thailand in 2016.

A native of Clinton, Maryland, Bickers began her organ studies with the Potomac Organ Institute. She holds degrees in church music and organ performance from Texas Christian University (B.M., M.M.) and the University of Kansas (D.M.A.). Her organ teachers have included Dale Krider, Joseph Butler, and Michael Bauer; she studied harpsichord in summer sessions with Edward Parmentier. She competed in and won prizes in the William Hall Competition, National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP), and the International Buxtehude Competition. She was awarded the 2009 Carlin Award for excellence in teaching, the highest honor possible for graduate students at KU. In 2016, she earned the Fellow certificate from the American Guild of Organists, the Guild's highest certification. She has served on the music faculties of the UMKC Conservatory and Washburn University as instructor of organ and harpsichord.

Bickers served as chair for New Music for the 2018 AGO National Convention, held in Kansas City, and is currently dean for the Greater Kansas City chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She makes her home in Overland Park, Kansas, along with husband Robert, their daughter Isabel, and a harpsichord built by Thomas Pixton. When not making music, she can be found covered in dirt in her vegetable garden.



From NCAGOYO

North Central AGO Young Organists

Hymnody

Part 3 of 3
Phillip Radtke

Elevating The Art of Hymnody

How many organists have opened the bulletin on Sunday morning to find out what hymns they are playing that day? What can we do as organists to improve our hymnody? We continue our conversation with director of the National Lutheran Choir and cantor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, David Cherwien.

"Breathing and a consistent pulse. Those two things are very seldom clear I'm sad to say. Those two things will instantly improve singing. Practicing with a metronome and making sure you breathe taking in air physically within the context of that pulse – every downbeat right when it's supposed to be.

How can organists improve congregational singing?



Breathe
Clear tactus

What role does text play in preparing hymns?

"That's step one. Everything you do helps illuminate that text. First the text then where did the hymn come from? That informs the style of singing it. Those two together definitely have to be thought through."

What are some first steps towards creative hymnody?

"Experience it. Seek out places where people playing do that sort of thing. You learn by singing while they are doing it. That way you learn what's working and what isn't."

"Start with registration."

"Do small little things keeping in mind that less is more."

"When clever overpowers..."

- The singing itself
- Ability to go to the next melody note
- The meaning
- What people are used to"

How much is too much?