

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 67 – January 2021



Pipe Organ Encounters

Welcome to the world of Pipe Organ Encounters, the most successful outreach program sponsored by the AGO. POEs offer teenagers and adults a rewarding opportunity to learn more about the pipe organ and its construction, instruction with experienced faculty, visits to hear and play outstanding instruments, and the chance to meet and interact with peers who share an interest in the King of Instruments.

New Dates set for 2021 POE events.

Pipe Organ Encounters (for ages 13-18)

June 21-26, 2021

Kansas State University (Manhattan, Kansas)

Director: David Pickering

(785) 560-4520 (home)

(785) 370-6110 (cell)

dpickeri@ksu.edu

<https://ksupoe.weebly.com/>

Pipe Organ Encounter-Advanced (for grades 9-12)

July 11-16, 2021

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Co-Director: James Wagner

734-645-5360 (home)

jwagner@aacrc.org

Pipe Organ Encounter-Plus (for Adults)

June 6-11, 2021

Rockford, Illinois

Director: Jean Anderson

815-399-9686

jeancec@yahoo.com

<https://www.rockfordago.org/poe>

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AGO Milwaukee Chapter Upcoming Programming

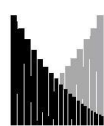
January/February 2021 Virtual Meeting
Watch PipeNotes, Email and the Website
For the date and time.

April 17, 2021

Workshop with Juget-Sinclair Organ builders
Christ King Parish
Wauwatosa, WI

May 16, 2021

Annual Meeting/Member's Recital
Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology
Hales Corners, WI



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Up Coming AGO Webinars and Events

January 30, 7:30 PM & January 31, 2021, 3:00 PM CST

[Emmanuel Episcopal Church, LaGrange, Illinois](#) will unveil its fully renovated Casavant 3062 pipe organ with a re-dedication recital by Clive Driskill-Smith on Saturday, January 30 at 7:30pm followed by an AGO masterclass on Sunday, January 31 at 3pm. The recital will feature works of Bach, Widor, Willan, Mulet, and Dupré among others.

Saturday, Feb 6, 2021, 11:00 AM PST David Enlow, FAGO, will present a workshop for the Sacramento Valley Chapter on responsibilities of the church organist. Topics include selecting repertoire, accompanying hymns, registration changes, and last stanza harmonizations. **This virtual workshop will take place over Facebook live.**

AGOYO Fridays at Noon EST

February 12, 2021: Organ Crawl at the Wanamaker Organ



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January 2021

Happy New Year!

I hope that your holiday celebrations were meaningful and that you were able to spend time in some way with family and friends. Continue to take care of yourselves as we look forward into 2021!

Thank you to all who made donations through the patron appeal! Your gifts contribute to the opportunities we are able to deliver through workshops and professional development along with concerts and recitals. Special donations were also made toward the digitization of the chapter archives with the intention that this material will be available through the chapter website to members this year. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated!

Do follow through and make it your New Year's resolution to mark upcoming dates on your calendar. Better to have the date reserved and have to move it ahead rather than miss it altogether! Even with the flexibility needed at this time, we continue to plan and work within the parameters and limitations of the pandemic. Check with the website and watch for email reminders as events approach!

January/February 2021

Zoom Session

Watch for details/link!

March 2021

Organ Crawl

Watch for details!

April 17, 2021

11:00 am

Visit to the Juget-Sinclair installation in progress and presentation by voicer, Robin Cote

Christ King Parish

2604 N. Swan Boulevard, Wauwatosa

May 16, 2021

2 pm/3 pm

Annual Meeting/Member's Recital

Featuring the Leipzig Chorales

Sacred Heart Seminary

7335 S. Highway 100, Hales Corners

October 8, 2021

Jan Kraybill "The Breadth of Our Breath"

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

1100 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee

November 14, 2021

Isabelle Demers

Dedication Recital of the Juget-Sinclair Organ

Christ King Parish

2604 N. Swan Boulevard, Wauwatosa

With sincere best wishes for the New Year and thanks for your membership,

Blessings!

Audrey Rhinehart

Berghaus

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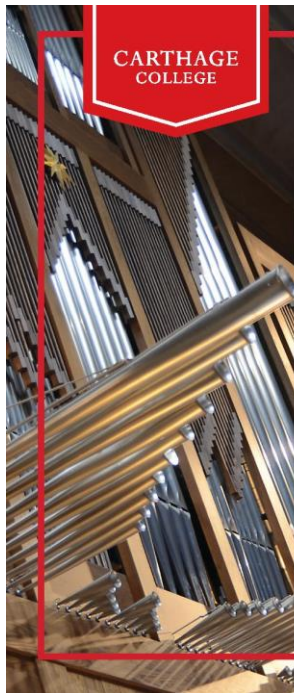


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The Archives presents...

Liz Walloch
Milwaukee Chapter Archivist/Historian

The Milwaukee Chapter takes to the Air Waves on WFMR

The Archives PipeNotes from the 1960s is the first of my finds referencing WFMR and Thursday evening pipe organ recitals airing at 7:30 pm. These recitals sponsored by Moller Pipe Organ Company showcased programs played on Moller organs with guest recitals of E. Power Biggs, Robert Elmore and Fred Swann. Seems that Thursday nights were choir practice night “for a [good] percent of our memberships” and they were missing out on hearing these concerts. So members were encouraged that “this might be the time to write letters to WFMR thanking them for having the program and requesting that consideration be given to scheduling future organ programs earlier in the week.” PN January 1963

Well, it did more than encourage a time change. In the February 1963 PipeNotes, there was even more exciting news shared about WFMR and the Milwaukee Chapter.

“Here it is – just what we’ve been waiting for. An opportunity to hear our friends and at a time which will probably be convenient to most of us.

Radio Station WFMR 96.5 mc, has announced that effective Saturday, March 2 at 4:30 pm and continuing at that time for the next fifteen weeks there will be a half hour FM stereophonic program entitled ‘The Organ in Milwaukee’ featuring local organists at the organs of various churches throughout the city. Many different denominations of churches and a wide variety of organs will be used in these broadcasts.”

Here is the list of Chapter members who participated in this initial recital series.

- March 2 – Carl Rupprecht, Aeolian-Skinner-Nazareth Lutheran Church*
- March 9 – James A. Keeley, Wicks, Christ the King Catholic Church*
- March 16 – Arnold Mueller, Schantz, Whitefish Bay Methodist Church*
- March 23 - Walter Gresens, Wangerin, Emmaus Lutheran Church*
- March 30 – Raymond Nott, Allen, North Shore Presbyterian Church*
- April 6 – Robert Erdman, Casavant, Mount Carmel Lutheran Church*
- April 13 – Hour Long Spectacular with instruments – Harold A. Hosback, Eberle Special with Trumpets, Grace Lutheran Church*
- April 20 – Carl Rupprechts, Alternating between the Rodgers Electronic and the Aeolian-Skinner*
- April 27 – Rodney Schrank, Eberle Special, Cross Lutheran Church*
- May 4 – Sr. M. Theophane, O.S.F., Reuter, St. Francis Seminary*
- May 11 – Prof. James Engel, Schlicker, Milwaukee Lutheran High School*
- May 18 – Phyllis Stringham, (no organ named), First Presbyterian Church*
- May 25 – Richard Weber, Kilgen, Gesu Catholic Church*
- June 1 – Carl Bertram Swanson, Reuter, Capitol Drive Lutheran Church*
- June 8 – Robert Legler, (no organ named), Epiphany Lutheran Church*
- June 16 – Gertrude Gates Stillman, (no organ named), Christ Episcopal Church*
- June 22 – Ed Wise, (no organ named), Immanuel Reformed Church*
- June 29 - Hour Long Spectacular with instruments – Mrs. John Slattery, St. John’s and Grace Lutheran – Henry J. Engelhardt, Nazareth Lutheran Church – Judith Toeness, Emmaus Lutheran Church, (no organs named)*
- July 2 – Special program Walter F. Gresens, Eberle Special, Emmaus Lutheran Church*
- July 6 – Gertrude Barr, (no organ named), Immanuel Presbyterian Church*
- July 13 – Esther Jepson, Austin, Kenwood Methodist Church*
- July 18 – Special program Rodney Schrank, Eberle Special, Cross Lutheran Church*
- July 20 – Walter Derthick, Wicks, St. Edmund’s Episcopal*
- July 25 – Special program Walter F. Gresens, Eberle Special*
- July 27 – Judith Toeness, Eberle Special, Cross Lutheran Church*
- Aug. 3 – The Organ in Milwaukee, featuring several of our members*
- Aug. 6 – Great Pipe Organs Music from Great Churches 7:30 pm*

Aug. 8 – Jascha Heifetz and Richard Elsasser will play Chaconne for Violin and organ by Vitali-Respighi, 11:15 pm

Aug. 10 – The Organ in Milwaukee, again featuring several of our members

Aug. 25 – Robert Legler, (no organ named), Epiphany Lutheran Church

An added bonus to these recitals was an anthology made of the first seven programs which was available on a stereo record that sold at the station for \$5.00 each. Each of these records included music from the 7 recitals – about 6 minutes by each organist. As the series expanded, a three volume set of records representing an anthology of the series was also made available. Included with the records was an attractive booklet with information on the recitals and recitalists. The price for each volume was \$5.25 which included postage and handling. The purchase price for all three volumes was \$14.50 and needed to be preordered to station WFMR by sending your name, address and “written signature to WFMR and tell which volume(s) you wanted.” You would be billed later. I wondered if these record set anthologies are still among us. I did a Milwaukee County Cat search and to my disappointment found nothing in their database. I don’t know where the archives from WFMR went after the station was bought out. Hopefully, some of WFMR’s materials are preserved somewhere. It would be a loss if nothing survived when the station was bought out. Here is a request from me. If any members know about or have in your possession these record sets, send me an email. These recordings would be a bonus for our Archives to add to our collection.

This initial organ program showcased a variety of pipe and electronic organs and Chapter member organists in the Milwaukee area. This paved the way for a new series in September of 1963 featuring Organist Carl Bertram Swanson. His Sunday evening organ recitals aired on WFMR at 7:00 pm. Following Carl’s program another series began in October of 1963 entitled “The Art of the Harpsichord.” Here are a few of the artists from that program.

Oct. 6 – Robert Legler, Intermission : Epiphany Lutheran Church and Handbell Ringers

Oct. 13 – Father Robert Novotny, Intermission: Solos on the clavichord

Oct. 20 – Ed Aldrich

Oct. 27 – James A. Keeley

Nov. 3 – Robert Legler and Handbell Ringers

The following year in 1964, another new series aired on WFMR with recitals by Organist James Engel. His recitals started on Tuesday, September 1 and aired through September 15 at 7:30 pm. His recitals were recorded in stereo on the new organ in the Concordia College Chapel.

The Chapter’s connection with WFMR continued well into 1966. Radio and TV Chairman, Randall Kling announced that “during the month of February a series of our organ recitals will be broadcast over Radio Station WFMR.” These 7:30 pm recitals featured “Milwaukee Chapter organists Marianne Cox, Robert Legler, Phyllis Stringham, and Elfrieda Winninger playing the organ at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church.” From January 1966 PipeNotes “We extend our sincere appreciation to Randy who made the arrangements for this series during prime time on Sunday evenings, and who also will record the recitals for broadcast.

February 6 – Elfrieda Winninger; February 13 – Phyllis Stringham; February 20 – Robert Legler; February 27 - Marianne Cox”

What started out as a 15 week series of “The Organ in Milwaukee” expanded to a total of 30 weekly recitals. This was a huge project to coordinate all the behind the scenes work to make these programs ready for air time. With each new series that followed, there was a shift in the length of the series, highlighting either a recitalist or one of Milwaukee’s pipe organs. The popularity of these Sunday evening organ recitals continued through the months of March and April of 1966. In the last of my findings, our connection with WFMR airing recitals featured Sunday evening recitalists at 7:30 pm of Edward Wise, James Engel, Genevieve Jensen and instrumentalists from Ascension Lutheran Church and excerpts from the Rayfield Lecture Recital.

From PipeNotes April 1966

“The Sunday evening organ recitals, featuring Milwaukee Chapter Organists has proven to be a popular program among WFMR listeners. Randy Kling reports that many calls and letters have been received by him and the station. This response is very much appreciated. It is requested that our members write or call WFMR to let them know that we would like to have the series continued.”

This little slice of our Chapter history that aired on WFMR is a treasure. Those in the leadership roles of the Chapter sought out another path to make organ music present in the Milwaukee area. There are always risks involved when starting to launch an event that is unique like presenting organ recitals on the radio. However, the risk paid big dividends as the organ series were well received by listeners and continued onward through the years. Listeners didn't even have to travel to the venue to enjoy; it came to them via the radio in their homes, car radios or portable radios. With the year we just closed—2020, we sheltered in place, witnessed the shuttering of live music events, we missed gathering to socialize but we were able to experience music events as our members did during the 1960s. From the radio air waves to internet live streaming, it is such a transformation that we are enjoying. Each of us knows what we missed the most last year. We know what we will no longer take for granted in our lives, but appreciate with renewed gratitude. One thing I believe we can all agree on without a doubt is that “hindsight is 2020.”

As I continue writing monthly articles on facts, finds, stories, events, conventions, recitals and much more, we, the Milwaukee Chapter, are blessed with a treasure trove of 100+ years of lived Chapter history. We are indebted to our predecessors in the Chapter who gathered and preserved the paper trail using the best approaches of their time. This year our Chapter is beginning a project to preserve the papers of our Chapter history by having them digitized. This brings my 3 year project of sorting, organizing and assisting the Executive Board to a close. The CH Coakley Company has been selected to digitize and preserve forever our delicate paper collection. In the months to come, there will be updates shared on the progress of this project.

College Scholarship Opportunity

The Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Memorial Scholarships support the undergraduate education of young organists. The online application period for a 2021–2022 scholarship award begins January 1 and ends February 15. In addition to three renewing scholarships of \$15,000 each, one new scholarship of \$15,000 will be awarded to an entering college freshman. This scholarship is renewable annually through the recipient's senior year if certain requirements are met. [Click here](#) for more information.