

PipeNotes

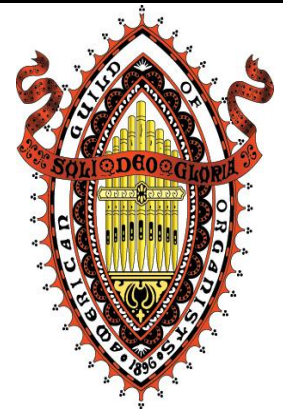
American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

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Volume 67 – July 2020



agoorganfest2020.org



AGO ORGANFEST 2020

*beauty in the
midst of chaos*

JULY 20-24, 8 PM EASTERN



*American Guild of
ORGANISTS*

The American Guild of Organists is thrilled to announce the first online OrganFest, which will take place July 20-24. Each evening's broadcast will premiere a new work which had been commissioned for the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta, accompanied by interviews with the composers.

Featured performers will be Jens Korndörfer, Amanda Mole, Alan Morrison, Thomas Ospital, and Catherine Rodland. Additional recorded performances by recent international organ competition winners will be presented, and short presentations will share exciting news and updates from the AGO.

The daily YouTube premiere (8pm Eastern) and accompanying Festival website will be available at no charge.

OrganFest 2020 promises to be an exciting way to showcase our beloved instrument and the great work of the AGO. Please share this information widely with your music-loving friends.

While we are saddened by the cancellation of many musical events this spring and summer, including our National Convention in Atlanta, we look forward to celebrating the future of organ music together online.

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News and Webinars From the National Office

Registration is now open for these upcoming webinars:

July 10 at 3:30 pm EDT*

A Smoother Experience for Substitute Organists and Hosts

Presented by Dr. Sarah Bereza

This webinar will address important questions for both substitute organists and hosts to ensure smooth service playing for all houses of worship. To attend this webinar, please register [here](#).

*Please note: a previous version of this incorrectly listed the time for this webinar as 2:30 pm EDT. The correct time is 3:30 pm EDT.

August 13 at 4:00 pm EDT

Virtual Choir for the Rest of Us (Part 1)

Presented by Ms. Carol Spradling

Carol Spradling, director of music at First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, decided that the COVID "stay at home" order was going to mean that her small but mighty choir was going to adapt, rather than disband. Using Zoom rehearsals, smartphones, electronically distributed music, and the online digital audio workstation BandLab, she and her choir started scaling the learning curve between live choral singing and digital recording. This is a hands-on, nuts-and-bolts course in how to produce socially distanced audio recordings of your choir or ensemble (from home), using smartphones, laptops, and free software. To attend Part 1 of this workshop, please register [here](#).

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PipeNotes is published monthly, with the deadline for articles the 20th of the preceding month.

pneditor@agomilwaukee.org

July 2020

22 (Wed) 12:15 Avanti Piano Trio
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

24 (Fri) 7:00 Cecilia Davis, Soprano
St. Marcus Lutheran Church
2215 N. Palmer St
Milwaukee, WI


29 (Wed) 12:15 Yeram Yoon, Guitar
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

August 2020

5 (Wed) 12:15 Olga Sklyanskaya, Piano
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

8 (Sat) 12:00 Virtual Workshop for Church Musicians
John Behnke, Clinician
Music at Historic Trinity

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



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A Message from the Dean

July 2020

Greetings and blessings to all the members of the Milwaukee Chapter AGO! Your membership is truly valued and our chapter leadership looks forward to continuing to serve you and to “foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ” (Mission Statement of the AGO). We have a wonderful executive committee preparing to lead with many tasks at hand. Please feel free to contact any of us directly with comments and ideas; we will take your feedback seriously and will respond to you directly. Our newly elected and returning officers and board members include myself, Audrey Rhinehart, Dean; John Schubring, Sub-Dean; Mike Keegan, Secretary; Steven Jensen, Treasurer; David Beyer-Registrar; Class of 2022: Joe Dominic, Richard Ewert, Caroline Senn and Mary Utzerath; and Class of 2021: Michael Batcho, Tim Handle, Roger Meyer and Gary Wood.

We are deeply grateful for the time and commitment of our outgoing board members in the Class of 2020: Bill Lieven, Fr. Tom Lijewski, Dean Rosko and Joel Schwartz. Please be sure to pass along a word of thanks to Sheri Masiakowski who served two terms as Dean and Nicole Moritz who served several terms as Secretary.

As sub-dean, a committed and inspiring programming committee worked to develop and deliver substantial programming and deserves recognition for meeting monthly for the past two terms: Sheri Masiakowski, Carol Peterson, Marilyn Schrader, John Schubring, Karel Suchy, Charles Sullivan and Sr. Mary Jane Wagner. Christopher Berry also served the first term and was critical to bringing Jon Gillock and the music of Messiaen to Gesu.

There is no small task; all offer their time and talent as volunteers and take on many behind the scenes commitments to make this wonderful organization run. There are many of you in our chapter who serve without recognition and willingly give time to individual projects or share suggestions; thank you! We will continue to look to you as a vibrant community ready to support and inspire the work of the chapter!

That being said, Covid-19 has provided some challenges right now as we begin this programming year! We were very (VERY) excited to host Jan Kraybill in a meaningful and inspirational kickoff to the year this September; this event will be postponed to next fall 2021 with Immanuel Presbyterian committed to host and hoping for the opportunity to take the theme of “breath and spirit” and actually be able to share this in a live and dynamic format. Much preparation has already been put into this event and we want it to have every opportunity to succeed.

An organ/piano duo, Nicholas Schmelter and Tyler Kivel were to present a masterclass and concert at Brookfield UCC in October and that has now been cancelled. We will continue to monitor whether they will be rescheduled at a later date.

The early November OHS/AGO concert at St. Francis is also still up-in-the-air.

Should you think, however, that very little is happening this fall that is not necessarily the plan. We are working on possible opportunities to bring some online workshops to you and see this as an opportunity to get creative and develop some community forums for feedback and possible topics that allow us to gather in a safe and yet meaningful and time-valued way.

The spring 2021 program continues in process including the Chicago area organ crawl to be rescheduled from this past spring, a visit to the new Juget-Sinclair organ on March 20th, 11:30 am, at Christ King in Wauwatosa, with a presentation by voicer Robin Cote, and the rescheduling of the member’s recital including the Leipzig Chorales for May. The NYACOP competition was not held with the cancellation of the national convention so we will see what happens with that event and follow up with another possible recital opportunity originally planned in April at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to serve you! It is my privilege to meet you and to talk with you and to share ideas and learn about *your* passion for the organ and the people that you serve. Music and the people that surround us are a gift to treasure!

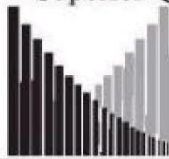
Blessings and thanks, again, for your commitment to the Milwaukee Chapter AGO!

Audrey Rhinehart

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The Archives presents...

Liz Walloch
Milwaukee Chapter Archivist/Historian

PipeNotes

Yes, you read that right, an article on PipeNotes. Did you know that PipeNotes is celebrating its 66th year of publication in November? We have become so accustomed to receiving the chapter's PipeNotes either electronically or in the USPS mail, we don't really give it a second thought. For this month's article some history on how PipeNotes come to be and its intended purpose for members. The idea grew out of the sharing in the

Wisconsin Chapter NEWSLETTER June 1953

"Many of you have regretted missing concerts and Guild meetings. Many of you are strangers among us. To help you know your organization and its members we have gathered information about Who's Who and What and hope that you will find the letter worthwhile reading." This is the opening paragraph of the June 1953 Newsletter, the only one I found among our materials.

At this time in 1953, the Chapter was in deep discussions on the topic of changing the Chapter's name to the Milwaukee Chapter or remaining the Wisconsin Chapter. Membership in 1953 numbered 180 with 100 of these members residing in Milwaukee. Other members resided close in Illinois, Indiana and as far away as New York.

The Wisconsin Chapter Newsletter launched in 1953 consisted of one page sharing the News of the Month, Membership update, and a Welcome to the New Members. Concert attendance from the prior year's concerts, 1952-1953, was shared. The numbers are quite impressive.

	Attendance
Marilyn Mason	478
E. Power Biggs	1,583
Claire Coci	900
Robert Baker	<u>200</u>
Totaling	3,161

It was noted that attendance increased by 1,000 from last year.

From this one page Newsletter, it was suggested to continue having a monthly newsletter mailed to the members. Thus, the publication moved forward and became a monthly newsletter as well as the Chapter's name changed to the Milwaukee Chapter in 1954. The Chapter's Yearbook were an established part of the Chapter being the member's passport for the entire year at a glance for events and programs. This new monthly newsletter was an added reminder of what is coming during the month and beyond. The combination of the Chapter Yearbook and Newsletter strengthened the awareness of their united effort by the committees for successful events.

With Mrs. Alfred Cotton, Dean and Dr. Eunice Bardell, first editor, Pipe Notes, Volume I - No. 1 was born in November 1954. The first issue consisted of two pages sharing the upcoming members' program, the Conclave in New Orleans, the upcoming organ competition and examinations for Associate, Fellowship and Choir Master. It included a gentle reminder to pay your dues as the fiscal year at that time was October 1 to September 30. It also shared an update on National's adopting a decal for the Milwaukee Chapter at the cost of 10 cents apiece. It was fitting to round out this first issue with a Thanksgiving prayer.

The chaplain for the Milwaukee Chapter at the time, Pastor Hoover T. Grimsby wrote to Mrs. Alfred Cotton on this first issue.

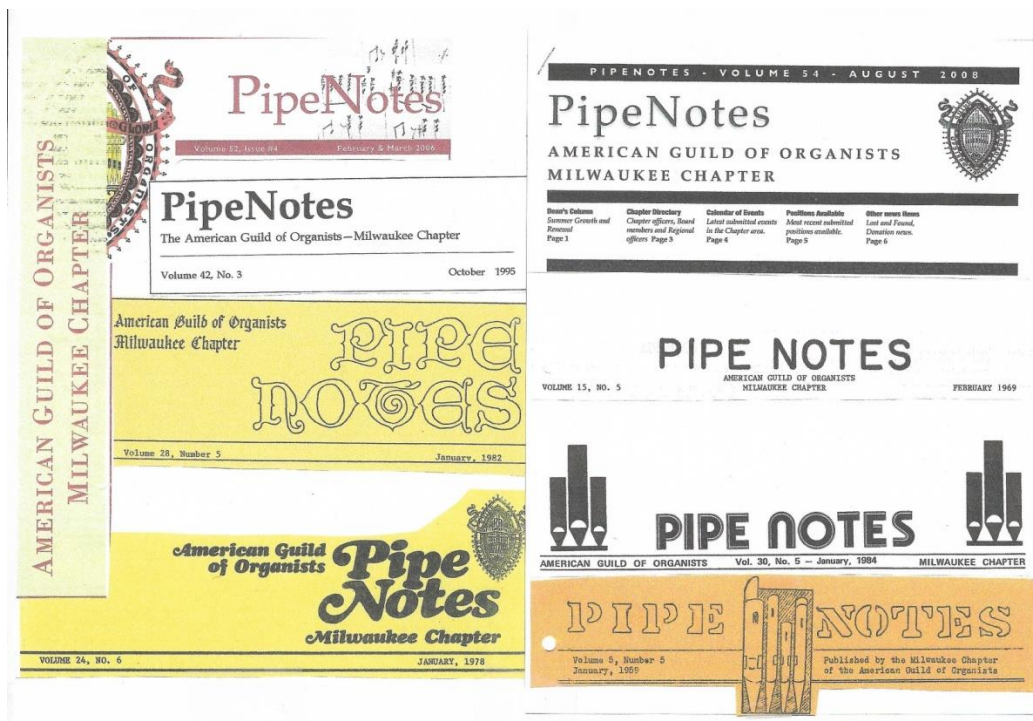
"I would like to compliment you on the first issue of Pipe Notes. I thought it was a magnificent idea. I enjoyed reading it immensely. I know that it will help tie the Guild together."

This comment box appeared in the first edition.



By 1955, PipeNotes readership expanded to include not only Chapter members but 143 concert patron subscriptions who had quite a nice balance of cash on hand of \$809.00.

As the content expanded in PipeNotes, the header graphic for PipeNotes also changed through the decades. It was interesting to find so many different graphics for this periodical. Here is a sampling of the various styles.



By 1959 the Dean's Column became a staple in each month's edition as well as a listing of open church musician positions, a recap of upcoming local events and looking ahead to Biennial National and Regional Conventions. By the 1970's PipeNotes included reports on actions taken by the Executive Board and committees on Salaries, Programming, and Professional Concerns to name a few. By 2004 the PipeNotes grew in size and content that a Content box was located on the first page to direct readers with ease to the pages of each article.

With the 1953 newsletter and 1954 PipeNotes being small in length, two to four pages, printing was not overly expensive and postage was \$0.03 in 1954. By 1978, the printing was handled by Dale Kastberg and Walker Music Co. With inflation on printing and postage, the Chapter began to explore having a website. Once the web site was up and running, the Chapter switched PipeNotes over to the web page sending an email to members of the availability of the latest issue. A small number of PipeNotes are still printed and mailed to members. Here is an interesting fact. Did you know that the Milwaukee Public Library has in their collection our PipeNotes as a monthly Serial? They have a run of issues, so if anyone is inclined to take a stroll through the decades of PipeNotes head over to Central Library downtown.

As I was looking through the archives PipeNotes, its format changed, the content expanded, the number of copies mailed grew with the increase of membership. Our membership in 2005-2006 topped at 190 so switching over to an electronic delivery was wise for the Chapter's use of budgeted monies.

With a monthly publication that has been in print just shy of its 66th birthday; a round of thanks is in order for all who contributed through the decades to bring PipeNotes to members and friends every month.

For all those members and friends who—

wrote articles,
served as editor,
proofread the content,
assisted in getting PipeNotes to the printer,
printed the labels,
assisted in labeling, folding and sorting by zip code for bulk postal rate,
assisted in getting the numerous postal trays to the post office every month,
uploaded PipeNotes to the web page every month,
assisted in any way through the decades,
read each month's issue so not to be a stranger among us,

THANK YOU for your dedication to the Chapter!

I was hoping at our November event, we could have celebrated PipeNote's birthday with a toast of bubbly and cake in the shape of organ pipes. Well that is not possible this year. We will be celebrating through this article practicing social distancing. Happy Birthday PipeNotes and many more...

