

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

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Volume 70 – May 2024



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
MILWAUKEE CHAPTER AND
IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESENT



GRAMMY NOMINATED ORGANIST

Dr. Jan Kraybill

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

3:00 PM

THE BREADTH OF OUR BREATH

IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1100 N. ASTOR STREET

MILWAUKEE, WI

COME WITH ME TO EXPLORE THE WORKS OF COMPOSERS AND POETS THROUGH THE AGES, AND SHARE IN SONG WITH THE PIPES AND PEOPLE WHO SURROUND YOU. INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (RUACH, THE HEBREW WORD MEANING "AIR IN MOTION"), WE CAN BREATHE IN NEW LIFE, CAN CON-SPIRE ("BREATHE TOGETHER"), AND CAN CREATE MUSIC THAT TRANSFORMS OURSELVES AND OUR WORLD.



WWW.AGOMILWAUKEE.ORG

THE MILWAUKEE CHAPTER
CELEBRATES IT'S 105TH
ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEKEND.
FOUNDED MAY 5, 1919

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Dr. Mary Newton, CAGO
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May 2024

It's almost here finally! After many years of planning, phone calls, zoom calls, Covid, three deans this program is finally going to happen, and it is one that you will not want to miss!

Dr. Jan Kraybill at Immanuel Presbyterian Church! Jan has crafted a stellar program entitled "Breadth of our Breath" that you will not want to miss. Jan writes about the program "Explore the works of composers and poets through the ages and share in song with the pipes and people who surround you. Inspired by the Holy Spirit (ruach, the Hebrew word meaning "air in motion"), we can breathe in new life, can con-spire ("breathe together"), and can create music that transforms ourselves and our world. "Here is a little more about Dr. Kraybill:

Dr. Jan Kraybill is a musical leader, dynamic speaker, performer, educator, organ consultant, and enthusiastic advocate for the power of music to change lives for the better. In addition to maintaining a very active concert schedule, in the Kansas City metro area she is Organ Conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Organist-in-Residence at Community of Christ headquarters, and organist at Village on Antioch Presbyterian Church.

Throughout her career Jan has performed as both a solo and collaborative musician, taught workshops on a variety of topics, and inspired audiences and congregations. While in high school in Colby, Kansas, she was invited to play her first European piano recital in Andover, England. Since then, she has performed in many venues in North America and Europe, as well as in Australia, Russia, South Korea, and Tahiti. In 2015, she designed and led a hymn festival at the International Gathering of Hymn Societies at Cambridge University. She has been a featured artist and presenter at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada, the American Choral Directors Association, and other musicians' organizations, and on American Public Media's *Pipedreams* and other broadcasts. Several solo and collaborative recordings are available, including her Grammy-nominated album *The Orchestral Organ*, released by Reference Recordings in 2019 and nominated as Best Classical Instrumental Solo and in two other categories in 2020. Her most recent solo disc is *Marked for Grace*, released by Naxos in 2021.

Dr. Kraybill has degrees in music education and piano and organ performance. She attained the AGO's Fellow certificate, organists' highest certification level, in 2010. She has served in local, regional, and national roles in the AGO and other non-profit organizations. Her extra-musical interests include lacemaking, painting, and riding her Harley-Davidson motorcycle. You are welcome to visit www.jankraybill.com for more information.

I hope to see you at this exciting program it is going to be spectacular!

John Schubring

May 2024


5(Sun) 1:30 Chapter Annual Meeting
3:00 Dr. Jan Kraybill, Organ
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
1100 N. Astor St
Milwaukee, WI

5 (Sun) 2:30 Music for Trumpet and Organ
And "The Sepulcher" A Medieval Easter Play
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
914 E. Knapp St
Milwaukee, WI

12 (Sun) 3:00 The Dream of Gerontius
Bel Canto Chorus
Bradley Symphony Center
212 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

June 2024

9 (Sun) 3:00 Charlie Rasmussen, Cello &
Del Kahlstorf, Harpsichord
Gary McWithey Concert Series
Brookfield Congregational Church
16350 Gebhardt Rd
Brookfield, WI



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch, Archivist and Historian archivist@agomilwaukee.org

This month I share some interesting NEWS-NOTES, facts and music reviews that caught my eye in PipeNotes. Did you know that the Wisconsin State Fair and the Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs sponsored a composers contest? Well, five members won awards in 1959. Robert Legler, in fact won two awards, one for his organ solo and the other for a vocal ensemble. The article didn't offer the titles of his works, it's our loss. Sister M. Theophane was a winner for her "*Prelude and Allegro for Oboe and Piano.*" "***Hmm, I wonder if Sheri has a copy of this score in the Archives of the School Sisters? My inquiring mind will investigate and report back.***" Cyril Owen won a special award for his sacred anthem titled "*Trilogy*" as well as James Bauman's piece for trumpet and strings. Dr. John Carre was also a recipient of an award. This theme of members who have composed music and members who are composing music is leading me to do a deeper dig into the Archives. It is my hope this summer to work on such a list and share in the fall.

New to me was reading about The Seven Arts Society at Downer College, now the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This society sponsored a Composer's Program in November of 1959. Again, our chapter was well represented. Robert Legler played a group of his organ compositions. There were two pieces for harp by Edward Aldrich on the program and Homer Johnson served as piano accompanist.

Here is news of Gertrude Stillman's appointment as organist and choir director at St. Paul's Episcopal in the fall of 1959. As a way to bring organ music to the Milwaukee community, beyond Sunday worship, her organ recitals were being aired over Station WFMR-FM on Sunday evenings at 7:30 pm.

Who would consider being a weekend commuter organist? Well, member John Rockenbach answered the call for the First Presbyterian Church in Fairbury, IL. The church's Möller pipe organ project was recently electrified and in May he played a short organ recital on the occasion of the dedication of the new console. Now that's dedication to serving!

The more I read in the Archives, the more I discover about the multi-talented members in the chapter! Genevieve Jensen had been working on a novel with a Wisconsin setting and was under consideration with one of the big publishers in New York city. So far, I haven't learned more details on her book deal, but if I do, I will report back. Robert Legler, a prolific composer, crafted an article on English Handbells that was published in the December issue of "*The Journal of Church Music.*"
PipeNotes September & November 1959

In the summer of 1963, the Executive Board had given preliminary consideration to forming a Chapter Library. This hit home for me as I worked in the Music Library of UW-Milwaukee for 25 years. The idea was to have books and phonograph records available to members for use in their church ministries. With the Chapter Library concept at the very beginning of discussions, the chapter was open to all members' input. By November of 1963, the library content grew to include pamphlets on various phases of church music along with books and phonograph records. Next in the plan was the "how to" part. Lots of questions were raised, some problems were also in the mix. Initial questions to establish a foundation were: where would the library be housed? Would there be a charge for library use? If the library were housed at the Milwaukee Public Library how would non-Milwaukee residents, who are members, access materials or would they be excluded from library use? Stay tuned, as I dig deeper into the Archives on this developing idea.

PipeNotes Volume 10, September 1963, No. 1 & No. 4.

Member Gil Konkel wrote Organ Music Reviews in PipeNotes. The name of his column was PATS AND PANS. Here is a sampling of his wit, humor and writing style.

“God forbid you should break a leg or something but just in case, you might want to invest in a couple of volumes for manuals only. Let’s say ‘it’s good insurance.’ Anyway, you can use them even without breaking a leg.”

His selections for review were varied in compositional style and composers across the globe. He always added his opinion of the score’s perks and pitfalls letting us know if the series/edition was worth purchasing or to keep on pedaling away.

Here is a sample from his SILLY SELECTIONS!!

“Improvisation on ‘Three Coins in the Fountain’ by Lee Erickson – Watergate Publishing Company

Lee got this inspiration to write these improvisations on the night he was elected Dean, whilst standing on the balcony tossing coins to the peasants. (Some landed in the fountain.) This is a rather ‘splashy’ number, and I wouldn’t give you two cents for it! The composition is very impressionistic, and if you’ve never played this type of music, you might want to ‘jump in and get your feet wet.’ You can almost hear the water tinkle..... (.... which reminds me!)”

PipeNotes August 1983

Hope this musical collage from the Archives is the May springboard leading the chapter into our 105th year!!

Amendment to the Operating Procedures

Upon the recommendation of the nominating committee the executive board agreed that we need to amend our operating procedures. The nominating committee recommends that we reduce the size of the class of members at large by one going from 4 members to 3 members beginning next year, 2025. We would amend Article VI. Election Procedures.

3. Election of Executive Committee Members. The duly elected members of the Executive Committee shall be divided into two [2] classes, each class having four [4] members. The members of both Class I and Class II shall be elected to hold office for a term of two [2] years. Elected members of the Executive Committee shall hold office only for the term for which they were elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and officially installed. After the initial election of Executive Committee members, these members at large shall serve a term of two [2] years, one half of the members at large being elected at each election.

Amend to:

3. Election of Executive Committee Members. The duly elected members of the Executive Committee shall be divided into two [2] classes, each class having three [3] members. The members of both Class I and Class II shall be elected to hold office for a term of two [2] years. Elected members of the Executive Committee shall hold office only for the term for which they were elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and officially installed. After the initial election of Executive Committee members, these members at large shall serve a term of two [2] years, one half of the members at large being elected at each election.

Candidates for 2024

Dean - John Schubring serves as director of music and organist at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Greendale. Where he directs the Senior Choir and the Handbell Choirs. John currently is serving the Milwaukee Chapter as Dean and PipeNotes Editor. He has also previously served the chapter as Dean and Sub-Dean and has served on the faculty of the POE held by the Chapter at Carroll University. John holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carthage College, studying with Susan Klotzbach and Gary Verkade. He also holds a MA degree from the University of Iowa where he studied organ with Delbert Disselhorst.



Sub-Dean - David Bahrke is the Director of Music and Organist of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church—West Allis. He is also a piano and voice instructor with Maestro Makers Music School and a freelance organist, choral director, and pianist.

David's musical journey has taken him to various denominations, where he has served as a music director. His talent as an organist is recognized through his performances for the Milwaukee Episcopal Parish Organists Concert in conjunction with All Saints' Cathedral 150th Anniversary and the John Weissrock Organ Concert Series at Church of the Gesu-Milwaukee.

David has served as Registrar, Dean, and Subdean of the American Guild of Organists-Milwaukee Chapter and as a member of the Development and Finance Committee of the AGO National Council. He was Chorus Manager and Artist Liaison in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Operations Department for seventeen years. David's career integrates computer and internet technology for video and live-stream production, data management, event production, website, print, and social media engagement.

David will resign from the position of Chapter Registrar to assume the responsibilities of Subdean. David looks forward to working with an accountable and active Program Committee. He will establish a laser focus on programs that serve and support the membership, are ambassadorial for pipe organ and choral music, engage multiple age groups, and collaborate with the metropolitan fine arts constituency. David brings a robust skill set and experience in organization, attention to detail, and effective implementation and planning strategies.

Class of 2026



Michael Batcho is the Organist/Choirmaster at Christ Church Episcopal, Whitefish Bay. For 26 years he served as Director of Music for the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, downtown Milwaukee. Additionally, Michael held interim positions at St. Mark's Episcopal and St. Jude Catholic Churches. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree (music education), Magna Cum Laude, from West Virginia University and a Master of Music degree with a choral conducting emphasis from Virginia Commonwealth University. Michael also studied liturgy and theology at the University of Notre Dame and Washington Theological Union. He has held various church and diocesan posts in West Virginia, Maine, and Virginia as well as faculty positions in the public school system in Maine and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA. In addition to his church work Michael was an adjunct faculty member in the religious studies and music departments at Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee.



Lee Erickson having studied at UWM and the Wisconsin College Conservatory of Music, Lee is well known for his prowess as an organist and choral director. Currently, he serves as organist at All Saints' Cathedral; a position he has held since 2019. In his position as Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, Lee was the holder of the Margaret Hawkins Chorus Director Chair. He was appointed the Associate Conductor of the chorus in 1978 and assumed the position of Director in 1994 after founder Margaret Hawkins' death in 1993. He retired from the position at the end of the 2015-2016 season. He has served on the choral panel of the National Endowment of the Arts, is past Subdean and Dean of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and served as Music Director at St. Anthony's Church in Milwaukee for 35 years. Lee was the winner of the 1977 Milwaukee Chapter AGO Student Organ Competition. In 2007, Lee was named

Artist of the Year by the Milwaukee Arts Board and in January 2008, he was honored by the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music for his contribution to the Greater Milwaukee community. In 2011 he was named a Distinguished Citizen by the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee. As organist at All Saints' Cathedral, Lee has contributed significant amounts of time, expertise, and resources in maintaining and improving the Cathedral organ and is overseeing upgrades starting in 2020. He has a 31-rank organ in his basement instead of a muscle car or boat.

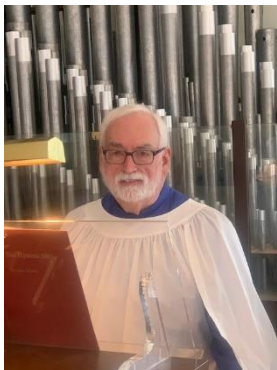
As a member of the board Lee would like to encourage members to get to know one another. Years ago, this was a rather active and fun chapter. He would also like to increase opportunities for members to loan their service playing skills in the areas of organ registration and leading congregational singing. Understanding phrasing, breathing, tempo and reflecting the character of the music and text are so important to good service playing.



Paul Kasten A native of Canada, Paul Kasten grew up in several communities around the state of Michigan, where his father served as a Lutheran Pastor. He began his organ lessons in High School, studying with Roberta Bitgood, who was the National President of the AGO. He received a Bachelor's degree, with a Major in Music, from Concordia University, Nebraska, where he studied organ with Charles Ore.

He has been the Director of Music & Liturgy, Handbell Choir Director and Organist at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, Milwaukee for 23 years. At Mt. Carmel he oversaw the rebuilding/redesign of the Casavant Organ. He has also been Organist/Accompanist at Congregation Shalom in Fox Point for 39 years. Paul has served as Milwaukee Chapter Treasurer, Co-Chair of the English Romantic Organ Festival, Chapter Dean and Executive Board member. He would like to see the Milwaukee Chapter presenting programs which entertain, instruct, and inspire members to improve their skills and raise

standards.



Charles Christian Rich has been St. Christopher Episcopal Church's Music Director since the Fall of 2016. He received his Master's Degree in Music and Liturgy from the University of Notre Dame in 1978. In the summer of that year, Christian was appointed Director of Liturgy and Music and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Franklin, Wisconsin, where he served for 36 years. In addition to his duties as seminary organist, Christian directed the seminary's three vocal ensembles, which sang regularly for chapel services and taught courses in liturgy. Upon his retirement in 2014, he was named Professor Emeritus. He currently serves on the board for *The Collegium Ladyes*, an all-women's vocal ensemble who performs their annual Christmas Concert at St. Christopher's. Christian has also served on the boards for *Early Music Now* and *The Milwaukee Choral Artists* and was Co-Chair of the Program Committee for Regional AGO Convention held in Milwaukee in the summer of 2019.