



Organ at Oute Kerk, Delft.
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Bombarde



Newsletter of the Greater Kansas City Chapter – AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Dean: Boyd Ahrens boydlee@aol.com · Sub-Dean: Mike Maiden mmaiden@kc.rr.com

Bombarde Editor: Ken Walker bombarde@kicago.com

June, 2020

FROM THE DEAN

Organists, choir directors and musicians in general are always working toward a goal. It may be so simple as you start at the beginning of a piece of music, and then work your way to the end. Other times it may be practicing just certain segments of a piece to polish it. And groups like a choir or an orchestra have many individuals all working together toward a common goal. There are struggles, troubles, and certainly wrong notes along the way. Our situation these days is like working on a very unusual and difficult piece of music. It is handed to us, and it is like nothing we have ever seen before. We call it the world pandemic of the corona virus. We know it has an ending, but it did not come with instructions on how to “play it.” We know we are all players in a

worldwide event, however.

There have been quite a few surprises as we turn the pages of this wild and at times destructive piece. Some of our work has paid off, and we see cases of the disease slow down in parts of our world. I think most of us realize there are more difficulties ahead, but we keep moving toward the goal of working through this great trouble. I hope you are staying as safe as you are able during these difficult days. And I hope you are finding bright spots and beauty in our work of getting through all of this.

This is my last message to you as your Dean. My thanks to so many of you who have been a part of my year of service to our chapter. Working with the members of the chapter board has been a great pleasure for me. They

serve us all so well with their knowledge and dedication. The Program Committee put together an exceptionally fine year of events for us. We are sorry we did not get to implement all of the plans we made.

I am grateful to all of you, our members. You renew your membership every year, and many of you contribute extra funds for our concerts and programs. And with your paid dues and extra contributions we can present programs that many other chapters throughout the country would be thrilled to have in such abundance. Mike Maiden and his team have developed a fantastic program year ahead, as we anticipate 2020-2021.

At the May “virtual meeting” I installed the new members of the board and we look for-

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FROM THE DEAN (CONTINUED)

ward to their leadership. I will be exchanging the “Dean” hat for the “Registrar” hat. In that roll I will again be hoping you will renew and do it before your anniversary date! The board voted to cancel the June potluck. Nara Newcomer and Lara West announced that they will be putting together a “virtual Bachathon” via the internet. Their hope was to have it ready by the end of May. There will be more news of this elsewhere.

Dan Madura, who assembles our Membership Directory, put forth a proposal to also make the Directory available online. This measure passed, and the hope is to have the Directory available to everyone in print form in early Fall, with the online version available to members at that time, also. This is a great step forward for our chapter!

I am sad to report a former member, and chapter Dean, has died. The Rev. James Krehemker was our Dean during the 2004-2005 program year. We remember and appreciate those who have served us so well in the past.

Now we look ahead to the days when our music will be made with all of us together again! This most difficult “piece” that we have been given to work on will be a memory, and we can seriously enjoy each other in person again. All the best to you my friends and musicians!

Boyd Ahrens, your Dean



A most unusual ending to my year as Dean was to conduct the May board meeting via “Zoom” on my laptop computer.

CHAPTER OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2020-21

Dean: Mike Maiden

Sub-Dean: Geoffrey Wilcken

Secretary: Jacob Hofeling

Treasurer: Dan Madura

Registrar: Boyd Ahrens

At Large Members/Long Range Planning Class of 2023:

John Deahl, Joshua Hearn

Auditor: John Davies

GK CAGO PROGRAMS 2020-21

Sunday, August 23, 2020

2:00 - 5:00 PM French Organ Music Festival VIII
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, KC MO

Monday, September 21, 2020

7:30 PM Pipe Dreams - The Documentary
Blue Valley Baptist Church, OP KS

Monday, October 19, 2020

7:30 PM Adam Pajan in Recital
Grand Avenue Temple, KC MO

Monday, November 16, 2020

7:30 PM Schola Cantorum & Members Recital
Visitation Catholic Church, KC MO

Monday, January 18, 2021

7:30 PM Organ Music Reading Session
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Blue Springs MO

Sunday, February 14, 2021

3:00 PM David Briggs in Recital - Great Spaces
Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Topeka KS

Sunday, March 21, 2021

2:00 - 6:00 PM Pedals, Pipes and Pizza
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, KC MO

Monday, April 19, 2021

7:30 PM Reuter in Recital
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Olathe KS

Sunday, May 2, 2021

2:00 - 6:00 PM Bachathon XLII
Village Presbyterian Church, PV KS

Monday, May 17, 2021

7:30 PM Jacob Hofeling - German Romantics
Atonement Lutheran Church, OP KS

Monday, June 7, 2021

6:00 PM Chapter Potluck
Liberty Christian Church, Liberty, MO

ONLINE MEMBER REGISTRATION

Greetings fellow KC AGO members! It is time to renew your membership to the AGO. It is quite simple.

Follow these steps:

1. Go to : www.agohq.org <<http://www.agohq.org/>>
2. Click on Member Login (top right of the screen)
3. Enter your user name and password
4. Click on "Renew Dues and Subscriptions"
5. Follow prompts.

Thank you very much for taking care of this,

Dan Brown, Registrar

IMPORTANT NOTE from Elizabeth George National Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development regarding ONCARD for Renewals and Impexium Software Update:

By the order of our governor, the AGO office in Manhattan has been closed since mid-March. AGO staff are now working from home and as I write this newsletter, we are uncertain when we will be able to return to our office. **Mail is being held, therefore, if a check for membership renewal is sent to our office, we will not be able to process it in a timely manner.**

We have extended a member's expiration date with a three month grace period, however, when a membership becomes inactive, it will result in suspended delivery of TAO. During this time, we urge you to encourage your members to renew their membership by credit card, utilizing 5 ONCARD. A video with instructions on how to renew through ONCARD can be found here.

Please let everyone know that if they are not comfortable using ONCARD through our website, our member services team is here to help! Please call 212-870-2311 and follow the voicemail prompts. We are most happy to help in processing anyone's membership renewal by credit card!

I also want to update everyone that **the AGO has decided not to move forward** in migrating our database to Impexium software. We do not feel that Impexium will adequately serve our large chapter structure, and most importantly, serve your chapter's needs. I look forward to keeping you updated, as we continue to research other membership software that will provide the capabilities needed to service 287 chapters and their members and leaders.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Continuing to explore the resources at agohq.org under education, we turn to “Lessons for the New Organist” installment 5 “Families of Organ Tone”. Fred Hohman demonstrates the families of organ tone, focusing on strength or volume of the sound and the different qualities of the different families of tone. He does point out that there may be dozens of names for an organ stop of a similar quality, and so it is best to familiarize yourself not with the name, but with the actual sound available to you. These lessons are short and give you a lot of ideas to experiment with on your own. Masterclass number 2 (on You Tube) features Marie Claire Alain, these classes were given at The Church of the Holy Trinity in New York City, and at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. In the first of 4 installments, Marie Claire discusses the fascinating history of her musical family. She describes the home organ built by her father, which utilized many 2nd hand pipes and even had some pipes constructed from cigar box wood. Ultimately the home organ had 4 manuals and 46 ranks. She also shows some of the original hand written manuscripts by her brother Jehan, none of which were published before his untimely death in WWII Two of Marie Claire’s quotes I especially enjoyed were “An organist should be able to play a bad organ nicely”, and that she likes to practice at home where she can accurately judge the length of notes as the “Acoustics play tricks” in larger venues.

Dan Cline

VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

LUYBEN’S ORGAN MUSIC SALE

Luyben’s Music Store is closing its Main Street store. The store’s final day is June 20. Steve Lewis has compiled a spreadsheet of organ music <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HaUePK2yvtv7A2qKeE5YhlpOzgZ2WHexy3wNHPlczUVw/edit?usp=sharing> and there are also hundreds of single-copy organ pieces.

CHORAL LIBRARY

Our chapter has accumulated over time a choral music library, and we want to make it available to any choral ensemble that might make use of it. We now have a page on our website with details about the library listing and contact information for how to obtain the music to borrow. For this go to the chapter website kcago.com, then About>Choral Library. Please share this information with

any choir director that might have interest to explore what is available here. Many thanks to Mary Davis and Stephanie Henry for working to get this effort organized so that these resources can be shared and used to make beautiful music.

PAUL ERICKSON has been appointed Director of Music and Arts at the First United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas. The chapter thanks Paul for the vibrant spirit and creativity he has brought to us in performance and vision. Perhaps most memorable have been Bachathons when he was chair, clearly thinking 'out of the box' in programming and realization.

We wish him well in his exciting new adventure.

40 YEARS OF BACHATHON: A GLIMPSE

For forty consecutive years The Kansas City Chapter of AGO has sponsored a Bachathon—four hours and sometimes five of the music composed by J. S. Bach. This has included a vast number of organ works, cantatas, instrumental ensembles, solo instrumental works, vocal solos, duos, trios, oratorios, and more. In forty years of Bachathons, we have records of 1189 performances of works ranging from BWV 2 to BWV 1729.

For those interested in more details, a comprehensive list has been maintained in a MS Excel spread-sheet that reports all works, in what years, and all performers from each program book. Having been recently updated, it contains information from 1980 to 2019. Sadly, the 2020 Bachathon was canceled due to the pandemic.

Organ works have been the most frequently performed, as we might expect, but there have been a wealth of other instrumental pieces, ranging from solo flute, violin, cello, piano, harpsichord, as well as ensembles large and small which presented Brandenburg Concertos and accompanied cantatas with choir and soloists. CKAGO’s own Schola Cantorum has sung a cantata most years, often accompanied by historically accurate practices on ancient instruments. Solo cantatas along with selected arias from numerous cantatas and oratorios have also graced the pages of program.

And the full range of pieces from charming simplicity to virtuosic complexity is represented. We have enjoyed the participants of elementary age string players who played little marches, minutes, and instrumental arias—all the

way to what I believe may be the most demanding of all the Bach keyboard works, the monumental Prelude and Fugue in e minor—the “Wedge” (BWV 548), which has been performed 16 times. The Anna Magdalena Bach Book has been a source for a large number of less complicated pieces including minuets, rondeaux, polonaises, chorales, sonatas, preludes, musettes, marches, and gavottes. The delightful French and English Suites for harpsichord are also found in Anna’s two books, and have been presented over the years. Three of the six French Suites for keyboard have been played. Two of the five English Suites have been heard. Speaking of monumental, the grueling Goldberg Variations have been played in their entirety twice, on piano. Hopefully it didn’t help anyone sleep! (Sorry—a historical joke!)

So, what have been the most popular of Bach’s works? *Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele*, BWV 654 has been played 23 times in 40 years. Fantasy and Fugue in G, BWV 542, 18 times; Passacaglia in C, BWV 582, 17 times; *Nun Komm’ der Heiden Heiland*, BWV659, 17 times; The *Pièce d’Orgue* (also known as the Fantasia in G) BWV 572 was

played 13 times, including once as arranged for brass quartet. The Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue BWV 564, 11 times.

For Chorale Preludes, the hymn set most frequently by Bach, and played most frequently by our performers was *Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Her*. Four separate settings were played a total of 30 times. *Nun Komm’ der Heiden Heiland* was also set by Bach several times. BWV 656 was played 18 times, BWV 659 17 times. *Komm, heiliger Geist*, BWV 651, 15 times. *Wachet auf*, BWV 645, 12 times.

We can look forward to future Bachathons, we’re certain. We owe a debt of thanks to all the performers, planners, printers, and those who purchased advertising space in the program book. Host churches have always been gracious and accommodating. Without them . . . well, you know. The planning and execution of these concerts have been admirably led by a host of Bachathon chairmen and women. It’s a nine-month effort, requiring many hours and organizational skills. We are indebted to them all. Thank you.

Dale E. Ramsey

Substitutes Available

Substitutes listed are members of the local organ guild. The people who hold AGO certificates have passed requirements of the National American Guild of Organists for various levels of service playing and choral conducting. However, the GKCAGO is not an endorsement agency for service provided by the persons listed here. To learn proficiency of substitutes, feel free to ask them for references. Feedback regarding the hiring of GKCAGO substitutes is welcome and encouraged. Please send feedback to John Schaefer canonjohn40@gmail.com.

Mary Bronaugh Davis, MA, CAGO	organ	816-436-1419, c. 816-456-0343
Nancy Custead, CAGO, S.S. Music Ed	organ/piano	816-590-9414 nancustead@gmail.com
Barbara Eichenberger, BM, CAGO	organ/piano	816-568-3873 musicaltouch36@gmail.com
Stephen Kucera, CAGO, BM	organ/piano/lit.	913-568-3873 skkansas@gmail.com
Linda Mann, BME, SPC (Weddings/Funerals only)	organ/piano	816-353-4826, c. 816-289-9760
Marjorie O’Konski, MM, MME, SPC	organ/piano	785-766-2545 mjokonski@hotmail.com
John Pitchford, MM, SPC	organ	913-663-3768 johnpitchford@kc.rr.com
John Schaefer, AAGO, Ch M	organ/piano/lit.	816-520-2084

SPC = service playing certificate | CAGO = Colleague certification | AAGO = Associate certification | FAGO

The following have various degrees in organ or church music at the college or post-graduate level:

Joyce Berg, MM	org	816-741-7388 joyberg74@gmail.com
Alisa R. Carmichael, BM	org, piano	270-535-4881 charmichael.alisa@gmail.com
Franklin Coleman, MM, FTCL	org, dir, lit	816-442-8570 erzhalerii@gmail.com
John Deahl, MM	org, dir, lit, bass soloist	785-250-4141 johndeahl@gmail.com
Stephanie Henry, DMA Choral	org, piano, dir, lts	816-678-6372 sahenry652@gmail.com
Sharon Hettinger, DMA	org, lit, dir, handbell	785-842-2053 slhett.sunflower.2016@gmail.com
Ronald Krebs, BM, MM	org, lit	785-843-2622 rkrebs@reuterorgan.com
Sarah Lyons, DMA	org, piano, lit, dir	309-333-8745 sarah.orr.lyons@gmail.com
Caroline Neal, BFA	org, piano, lit, dir	913-499-9201 carolinemneal1957@gmail.com
MacKenzie Reed, MFA, BM	org, piano, lit, dir	ivoryfistrule@gmail.com
Ann Marie Rigler, DMA	org, lit	816-808-8663 amrwjc@gmail.com
Nancy Stankiewicz, BA	org, lit	913-642-8642

The following also offer their services:

Boyd Ahrens	org, lit	816-453-8406 boydlee@aol.com
Betty Bauer	org, lit	913-814-9021 hababab@earthlink.net
Doris Daniels	org, lit	816-431-3244
Phillip Grubbs	org	816-721-2325 pgrubbs@embassylandscape.com
Edward Poston, KU Student	org	edward.rposton@gmail.com
Marilyn VanderLinden	org, lit	816-665-4441
Margaret Werth	org	785-478-0256

org = organist | lit = liturgical worship | dir = choral director | piano = pianist | lts = long-term sub



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Soli+Deo+Gloria

THANK YOU

Thanks to our Dean, Officers, and Board Members for their leadership, and for the many volunteers throughout this last year 2019-20.

We've been inspired, entertained, and have accomplished good things for the advancement of our profession and support of our chapter's membership.