



Detail of organ at Monasterio de Santa Cruz, Coimbra, Portugal. Image shared via CCAttribution-SA 3.0 Unported.

Bombarde



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

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November, 2023

FROM THE DEAN

Our October meeting featured James Kealey, winner of the 2022 AGO National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance. James prepared a varied concert and performed on the Pasi organ at Hope Lutheran Church. This program showcases what our chapter does consistently well; provides beautiful music that enriches the artistic life of the Kansas City Region. Not only that, inviting this young organist to perform helps to shore up the foundation of the next generation of musicians and performers. I'm grateful to all involved who helped to organize this event, especially the program team, and the administration and finance teams who helped to iron out all the logistics to getting James here to perform. We should also extend thanks to Hope Lutheran Church for opening their doors to our organization.

Our November event will involve a practical masterclass on improvisation. Several chapter members have bravely volunteered to improvise for our teacher, Robert Nichols. Improvisation is a vital skill for the organist, even if it is a simple approach rather than a large scale piece. A bit of advice from my favorite improvisation textbook, "Breaking Free" by Jeffrey Brillhart is as follows: "Improvisation is a mystery. We do not fully understand what happens within the mind of the improviser while improvising. Improvisation is a search. It is a search for a personal musical language. It is a search for musical coherence. It is a search for personal self-expression. It is a search for beauty. Indeed, improvisation is a lovely search."

I encourage you to join us for our November meeting as we learn about improvisation together. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Jacob Hofeling
GKCAGO Dean



Report of Action Items from September Chapter Board Meeting Motions passed to:

- > Carry over \$1K from 2023 for 2024 French Festival.
- > Move \$2,500 from endowment to operating budget to fund current program season.

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NOVEMBER CHAPTER EVENT:

Monday, November 20, 2023

Practical Improvising Skills with Robert Nicholls



Robert Nicholls was born in Cambridge, England, to a British farmer and American mother from Carmi, Illinois, and grew up in rural Cambridgeshire. At the age of eight he joined the Choir of Westminster Abbey in London under the direction of Simon Preston. He graduated from Oundle School and Cambridge University. Robert sang tenor in the choirs of Gonville and Caius and St. John's Colleges in Cambridge. He was appointed Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana, in 1996.

Robert won first place at the American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Improvisation in 2012 and also has a wide range of silent films he enjoys accompanying, including *Nosferatu*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Golem*, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, *Faust*, *Metropolis*, and Alfred Hitchcock's *The Lodger*, in addition to numerous comedy shorts.

Robert has served as a choral clinician and organist for RSCM America summer residential courses and is in demand nationwide to lead choral festivals as a guest conductor. In 2022 he helped found the Midwest Choir Festival, affiliated with RSCM America in 2023. His compositions for both organ and choir have been performed and broadcast in both the US and Europe, and at RSCM America events.

As a member of the Evansville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, he has served as Dean and has chaired special events including the 2009 Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced, the 2015 Bolcom Commission of *Fantasia for Organ and Brass Quintet* premiered in Evansville with Dr. Douglas Reed and the American Brass Quintet, and the 2018 restoration by Taylor and Boody Organbuilders of the historic Edmund Giesecke organ made in Evansville in 1889.

Robert was an adjunct lecturer in Music at the IU Jacobs School of Music from 2015-2017 teaching keyboard skills, graduate improvisation courses and supervising the Sacred Music Practicum. He is currently adjunct Professor of organ and harpsichord at the University of Evansville and serves as Manager of the RSCM America Midwest Summer Choral Residency.

Robert is married to Emma Nicholls, PhD, a pediatric Clinical Psychologist whom he met next door in Evansville. They are proud parents of Elena (18) and William (16).

Information for the Dinner prior to the November 20 Program:

Menu

Roasted Turkey Breast

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Homemade Dressing and Cranberry Sauce

Green Beans and Rolls

Assorted Holiday Desserts

Water, Iced Tea, Coffee

Cost: \$20/person

Payment due at the dinner by Cash, Check, or Credit Card

*** SPACE IS LIMITED TO 40 DINERS *** MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY !

Please call Nancy Ramirez at 816-436-9467 or email reservation@kcago.com by 9:00 AM Monday, Nov 6. Nancy will confirm your e-mail reservations. Please call if you don't get a confirmation. Remember, if you have a reservation (permanent or one-time) and miss dinner, you are still obligated to pay for your meal if you have not cancelled by Nov 6 morning. Please reserve your dinner in advance. The price for unreserved dinners is \$25.



CERTIFICATION CORNER

NEW SERVICE PLAYING EXAM ONLINE STUDY GROUP

Join the new online community of organists who are preparing to take the Service Playing Certificate (SPC) exam! Guided by the leadership of the AGO Committee on Professional Certification, sessions will be held via Zoom monthly through March. Sessions will be available only to those who register for the SPC in this examination cycle. Upcoming sessions are as follows: November 13, December 4, January 8, February 12, and March 4. To register, visit <https://www.agohq.org/service-playing-test>.

Sarah Lyons
Education Team Leader

OCTOBER PROGRAM REVIEWED

Sunday October 22, Hope Lutheran Church in Shawnee Kansas and the Greater Kansas City Chapter hosted a concert by James Kealey, First Prize and Audience Prize winner at the 2022 AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ performance (NYACOP).

James serves as full time Interim Director of Music/Organist at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY. Alongside this position, James is a candidate for the Doctor of Music Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY in the studio of Prof. David Higgs. James is represented in North America by Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.

Norm Kinnaugh,
GKCAGO Chapter Reporter



photo identification:
James Kealey – performer

GKCAGO 2023-2024 REMAINING PROGRAM YEAR

NOVEMBER 2023

"Getting Away from the Notes"

Robert Nicholls, presenter, *practical improvising skills*

Monday, November 20, 2023 6:15 PM dinner and program 7:30 PM

Park University Chapel with dinner in McCoy Meetin' House, Parkville, MO

FEBRUARY 2024

Dr. Katie Webb in recital

Canon Musician at Trinity Cathedral, Portland, OR

Monday, Feb 19, 2024 6:15 PM dinner and program 7:30 PM

Visitation Parish, Kansas City, MO

MARCH 2024

Dr. Elisa Bickers in recital

Friday, March 1, 2024 7:00 pm

Village Presbyterian, Prairie Village, KS

Co-sponsored event with Village as a part of the church's 75th Anniversary.

APRIL 2024

Silent Movie – Brett Valliant, organist

TBD

Church of the Resurrection UMC, Leawood, KS

MAY 2024

Bachathon XLV

Sunday, May 5, 2024 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, MO

JUNE 2024

Social Event - Food and fun exploring the 34-rank house organ at Burfarm

Monday, June 17, 2024 6:00 PM

CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

WANTED WEBMASTER + ELECTION COMMITTEE PERSON

The Information team will have an opening for a webmaster starting in July 2024.

What does the webmaster do:

- Attend bi-monthly team meetings.
- Post items on the chapter website
 - monthly chapter newsletters
 - update substitute list
 - create job opening email blasts.
 - updates emails in MailChimp
 - create events on website.

The information team will also have an opening on the Election Committee. Once the nominating committee completes their work and has a slate of candidates for the annual election, this position will organize the election, create, and distribute ballots, capture, and report election results.

This position works with the nominating committee, communications committee, the webmaster, newsletter editor, and the dean. The election takes place in April and March would be the preparation month.

Both these openings could be handled by the same person or two different people. The webmaster is a year-round position, and the election committee currently would be working in March and April. (Unless there is a special election.)

Detailed process documents exist for both openings. If you are interested and would like to review the process documents describing the tasks involved, or if you would like to shadow Mike Maiden for the rest of the year, please contact Debbie Winter, Team Lead.

PUNCH BOWL COORDINATOR NEEDED

After many years of faithful service, Kathy Hellwege is retiring as Punch Bowl Coordinator due to her medical situation. Thank you Kathy for your service to the chapter and welcoming so many members and guests at our meetings!

We are seeking a new Punch Bowl Coordinator to provide punch and a welcoming face before most dinner meetings. The Punch Bowl Coordinator is responsible for buying punch ingredients and paper products, submitting receipts for reimbursement, bringing the ingredients and punch bowl to dinner meetings, making punch, serving punch, and cleaning up. It is a great way to meet other chapter members and welcome visitors. The Punch Bowl Coordinator also serves on the GKCAGO Membership Team, which currently meets every other month via Zoom. If you are interested in serving as Punch Bowl Coordinator, contact Membership Team Chair Nara Newcomer, naraorgan@gmail.com, 252-412-4676. Until we have a new Punch Bowl Coordinator, drinks provided by the caterer (such as tea, lemonade, water) will be available during the hospitality time before dinner meetings.

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 canon-john40@gmail.com.

Linda Mann, BME, SPC (Weddings/Funerals only)	organ, piano	816-353-4826, c. 816-289-9760
John Pitchford, MM, SPC	organ	913-663-3768 johnpitchford@kc.rr.com
John Schaefer, AAGO, Ch M	organ, piano, lit.	816-520-2084
Rachel Schulz	organ, piano, lit, choral	717-466-8080 rschulz@ku.edu

FAGO = Fellow certification | org = organist | lit = liturgical worship | dir = choral director | piano = pianist

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
Alisa R. Carmichael, BM	org, piano	270-535-4881 charmichael.alisa@gmail.com
Stephanie Henry, DMA Choral	org, piano, dir, lit	816-678-6372 sahenry652@kc.rr.com
Sharon Hettinger, DMA	org, dir, lit, 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, dir, lit, piano	309-333-8745 sarah.orr.lyons@gmail.com
Mark Pichowicz, CAGO	org, piano, choir dir. Avail June 17-Aug 20	trombal6@gmail.com
Ann Marie Rigler, DMA	org, lit	816-808-8663 amrwjc@gmail.com
Rachel Schulz	org, piano, lit, dir	717-466-8080 rschulz@ku.edu
Marilyn VanderLinden	org, lit	816-665-4441

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Bradley Hunter Welch

Friday, November 3 at 7:30 pm

All Faiths Chapel, KSU

1401 Vattier Street, Manhattan, KS 66506

Bradley Welch, organist in residence with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Artist-in-Residence at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, will be playing a recital at Kansas State University's on PM in All Faiths Chapel. The recital is free and open to the public and will feature the chapel's historic Austin organ (III/40, 1961), recently renovated by Quimby Pipe Organs. The repertoire to be played on this program will be released at a later date. Please contact David Pickering, Professor of Music at Kansas State University (dpickeri@ksu.edu), with questions.

James Higdon, Faculty Recital

November 10, 2023 7:30 pm

Bales Organ Recital Hall

1600 Stewart Dr, Lawrence, KS, 66045

Dr. James Higdon is presenting a free faculty recital on November 10th featuring works by Leo Sowerby, Dan Locklair, and Samuel Barber.

Complete Bach Organ Works, Concert 10

Sunday, November 19, 2023 4:00 pm

Hope Lutheran Church

6308 Quivira Rd, Shawnee, KS 66216

Freewill offering to benefit Christus Rex Schola Cantorum at Christ the King School, KCK

Aidan Hill Senior Recital

Monday, December 4, 2023 7:30 pm

Bales Recital Hall

University of Kansas

1600 Stewart Drive, Lawrence, KS 66045

Aidan Hill, a senior undergraduate student of Dr. James Higdon at the University of Kansas, will present Olivier Messiaen's "Meditations sur le Mystère de la Sainte Trinité" in its entirety for his undergraduate senior recital. The cycle of Meditations is in 9 movements, meditating on the Holy Trinity with Messiaen's dazzling colors, birdsong, quotations of Gregorian chant, and Messiaen's own musical alphabet, the "langage communicable." A slideshow will accompany the performance as program notes to guide the listening experience. Free entry.

Announcements need to submitted to the editor by the 20th of the preceding month.

The newsletter is sent out on the 1st of each month, August—May.

This QR code which will guide you through information needed for the editor.

