



Organ at St. Giles , Edinburgh.
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Bombarde



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

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September, 2022

FROM THE DEAN:

It is a great pleasure to begin our new program year in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the French Festival at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to celebrate the organ music of France in the splendid sacred space of the cathedral. I want to take a moment to recognize and thank the organizers, performers, and volunteers for their time, talent, and effort in providing an afternoon of splendid music. I would like to especially thank Mario Pearson and John Schaefer for spearheading the creation of this event, and I would like to thank the community, staff, and clergy of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for their gracious hospitality. Let us celebrate this milestone and look forward to another decade of fantastic French music with flourish and flair.

I would like to also take a moment to recognize the passing of our colleague and friend, Sr. Claudette Shiratti, who passed in late August. Sr. Shiratti was a member of this chapter for many years and was a great supporter of the French Festival. Claudette's generous spirit and graciousness will be greatly missed. Requiescat in pace.

Our tour of France continues in September as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of César Franck. We welcome organist, Scott Dettra, who will perform the twelve major organ works in two concerts on consecutive evenings at Visitation Church just south of the Plaza. Please see the announcement in this newsletter or visit our website (kcago.com) for further information on these and other concerts. Be sure to join us for dinner prior to the first concert where you will have an opportunity to meet our new GCKAGO chapter members. And do not forget to make your dinner reservation!

Also mark your calendars for Sunday, September 11, 2022, at 6 p.m. for the rededication of the organ at St. Mary's Episcopal Church (KCMO). Past GCKAGO and St. Mary's organist, Geoffrey Wilken, and guest organists will perform a concert of various organ works. A pre-concert talk detailing the history and evolution of the instrument will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Our new season is off to a great start, and I want to thank you for your continued and generous support of the concerts, events, and festivals our chapter presents. I look forward to experiencing these musical opportunities together, and I encourage and challenge you to bring a guest with you to our events. Let us be bold and share our instrument and its repertoire with our greater KC community.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Joshua G. Hearn, AAGO;

Dean, GCKAGO; Director of Music & Organist, Southminster Presbyterian Church - Prairie Village, Kansas;
Artistic Director, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble

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(Members' edition)

SEPTEMBER AGO PROGRAM DINNER**Sunday, September 18, 2022****The Complete Franck Organ Works performed by Scott Dettra
Visitation Roman Catholic Church, 5141 Main St., Kansas City, MO**

Punch Bowl at 4:45 pm

Dinner at 5:00 pm

Dinner Menu

Spaghetti with meat sauce

Garlic bread

Spinach Salad

Assorted Desserts

Water, Iced Tea, Coffee

Cost: \$20/person**Payment due at the dinner by Cash, Check, or Credit Card****Please call Nancy Ramirez at 816-436-9467 or email reservation@kcago.com
by 9:00 pm Wednesday, September 14.**

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.In an effort to help our caterer, and encourage timely reservations,
the price for **unreserved** dinners will be **\$25**.

If you reserve your meal in advance, the price remains the same at \$20.

***** Covid-19 Safety Information *****

Our caterer will be following current precautions. She will serve us buffet style.

Please call Nancy Ramirez at 816-436-9467 if you have any questions.



FRENCH FESTIVAL

The Tenth Annual French Organ Music Festival was celebrated on Sunday, August 28, 2022, at the Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, with the Greater Kansas City Chapter. Dr. Mario Pearson, Music Director and Principal Organist for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, is the founder and Chairman organizer for the French Organ Music Festival throughout each of the ten successive years. The program was presented in person and live-streamed for those unable to attend in person. Following the performance, there was a Tenth Anniversary celebration reception for everyone who attended and participated in the festival. The mayor of Kansas City, Quinton Lucas, issued a proclamation naming August 28, 2022, "French Organ Music Festival" day in Kansas City. The afternoon also included congratulatory video messages from French organists.

Solo Performers included Dr. Beth Loeber Elswick (Director of Music Ministries at St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church in Overland Park, Kansas, plus Teaching Professor in Music Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory in Kansas City, Missouri), Kurt Knecht (Organist at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church of Kansas City, Missouri, also a music composer and co-founder of the MusicSpoke marketplace for artist owned sheet music), Dr. Jan Kraybill, FAGO (Organ Conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts of Kansas City, Missouri, Organist-in-Residence at Community of Christ headquarters of Independence, Missouri, and Organist at Village on Antioch Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas), Dr. Paul Meier (Director of Music at Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Kansas City, Missouri)

Dr. Kenneth Walker (Director of Music and Arts at Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Mission, Kansas, plus a member of the Order of the Bishop's Cross in the Diocese of Kansas) was joined by freelance cellist Margaret Kocher, a native of Kansas City with a professional career also in Los Angeles and Spain).

Combined choirs of The Cathedral Schola and the Choir of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Missouri, were conducted by Dr. Thomas R. Vozzella (Director of Music/Organist at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Kansas City, Missouri). The combined Choirs were accompanied by Dr. Jacob Hofeling, AAGO (Director of Music and Liturgy at Saint Mark Catholic Church in Independence, Missouri).

Norm Kinnaugh,
GKCAGO Chapter Reporter



Performers in the 10th Annual French Organ Music Festival.
Photo by Norm Kinnaugh.

CERTIFICATION CORNER

Testimonial

"Earning a CAGO was actually a marvelous experience for me. I happened to be taking organ lessons from excellent organists at the time which really helped, so my practice skills were pretty much in tip-top shape. I practiced many hours a day which pushed me ahead of the game. I was extremely motivated to get certified, knowing that the letters CAGO next to my name would be there forever. I thought the exam in itself was such a "good" one, because it gave choices of music one could perform. As the weeks passed on, I asked a group of friends to sit in and listen just so I could get used to playing the selections in front of others.

I would suggest to begin practicing several months ahead of time...even more the better. Know that there is a time limit between getting the organ list of music, and taking the test. Be sure you have the guidance of an organist who has gone through this exam. There are many parts to the actual process.

Any organist knows that nerves will be more on edge when you actually perform the exam. It is a very precise exam...down to the second. One part of the exam requires you to be locked in a room without your phone until you are released by the examiner. Remember, there are other parts to this exam than playing the organ. And by the way, practice on other organs than your own.

The day I received "the letter" I could barely open it from shaking so badly. I screamed with delight when I realized I had passed it. The letters CAGO lets others know you are serious about playing the organ. One has their "foot in the door" with those initials. Others will know that you have what it takes to sight read, transpose, play from a figured bass, etc.

My happiest memory of all this was when I went to Chautauqua to sing in their choir. The great organist, Jared Jacobsen, who had been there for years listened when I shared with him my recent accomplishment earning a CAGO. He actually stood up, came around the organ bench and gave me a hug. I'll never forget it!

So, if you have any desire to earn those honorable letters beside your name GO FOR IT. Then go for the next round of letters, and the next, and the next. You will never regret it!!!!"

Nancy Custead, CAGO

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM

Our chapter Membership Team includes positions responsible for the Directory (Dan Madura); Hospitality (Dinner Reservations: Nancy Ramirez; Punch Bowl: Kathy Hellwege); Outreach, Recruitment, Member Connections (volunteer needed!), and Registrar (Boyd Ahrens).

We are seeking a volunteer for our new Outreach/Recruitment/Connections position, a one-year commitment. The Membership Team meets every other month, currently via Zoom, to fulfill our responsibility for "activities focused on recruiting and retaining Chapter membership." The Outreach/Recruitment/Connections role responsibilities will include: connecting with existing members, especially recently joined members (collaboratively with Registrar); identifying and enacting ways to reach out to potential GKAGO members; and other responsibilities as needed within the Membership Team. Contact Membership Team Leader Nara Newcomer naraorgan@gmail.com 252-412-4676 to learn more about serving our chapter in this way.

Do you know someone who would benefit from AGO membership? We have updated and clarified our website's info on how to [Join Us](#). Memberships range from \$30 (Chapter Friend with chapter benefits only and no voting rights) to \$105 for full voting members. That said, your personal invite and stories of why you value AGO membership are the real reason your colleagues and friends join! So share those stories and invite someone to a chapter event!

-Nara Newcomer, Membership Team Leader

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

From Stephen Kucera, a member of the KCAGO: a friend of his is emptying his mother's home and would like to give this organ to somebody who would appreciate it. It is currently located in Kingsville Missouri. If anyone has any interest you can reach him by text at 913-485-4832. Thank you.



Dear Spire Family,

We are thrilled to announce the concert line-up for our 13th season, a tour de force of innovative programs that re-defines the choral experience for singers and audiences alike.

This season includes Our Hands: Together We Rise featuring Caroline Shaw's To the Hands and Joel Thompson's Seven Last Words of the Unarmed, a celebration of the Holiday season with our annual performance of Handel's Messiah at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, and an a cappella program Transcendent: William Byrd's Mass for Four Voices (400th anniversary) showcasing beautiful compositions for British cathedral choirs.

Our 2022 – 2023 season promises unforgettable moments with your world-class Spire artists from around the country...all performed right here in some of Kansas City's most inspiring venues.

With profound gratitude and anticipation,

Ben A. Spalding
 Founder and Artistic Director
 Spire Chamber Ensemble and Baroque Orchestra

DOUGLAS O'NEILL

COMPLETE WORKS OF BACH, CONCERT #2

Friday, September 9, 7:00-8:30 PM

Atonement Lutheran Church

9948 Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS

Tocatta in C, BWV 564; An Wasserflüssen Babylon, BWV 653; Sonata No. 1 in E-flat, BWV 525; Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott, BWV 720; Concerto in A Minor (after Vivaldi), BWV 593; Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 547; Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 730; Partite diverse sopra il Corale "Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig", BWV 768; (Chorale and 11 Variations) Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 731; Passacaglia in C Minor, BWV 582

DOUGLAS O'NEILL

COMPLETE WORKS OF BACH, CONCERT #3

Sunday, October 23, 4:00-5:30 PM

Hope Lutheran Church

6308 Quivira Road, Shawnee, KS

Prelude and Fugue in E, BWV 566; Nun danket alle Gott, BWV 657; Trio Sonata No. 2 in C Minor, BWV 525; Von Gott will ich nicht lassen, BWV 658; Concerto in D Minor (after Vivaldi), BWV 596; Fantasia super "Komm, Heiliger Geist," BWV 651; Komm, Heiliger Geist, BWV 652; Sechs Choräle von verschiedener Art (The "Schüler" Chorales), BWV 654-650; Wachtet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, Wo soll ich fliehen hin, Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten, Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, Ach bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ, Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter; Tocatta and Fugue in F, BWV 540



Montepulciano, chiesa di Santa Maria delle Grazie. Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.

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 GKAGO 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 GKAGO substitutes is welcome and encouraged. Please send feedback to John Schaefer canonjohn40@gmail.com.

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

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

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
Steve Burk	org, lit, dir, handbells	785-331-7640 ssmkburk@gmail.com
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
Denis Nicholson	org, lit, piano	203-577-7367 nicholson.denis@gmail.com
Ann Marie Rigler, DMA	org, lit	816-808-8663 amrwjc@gmail.com
Nancy Stankiewicz, BA	org, lit	913-642-8642
Marilyn VanderLinden	org, lit	816-665-4441



Main Console, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. UK. Photographer : Rodhullandemu.
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