



Cathedral of St. Michael and St. Gudula, Brussels, Belgium... Photographer: Diego Delso / CC BY-SA 4.0

Bombarde



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

Dean: Jacob Hofeling dean@kcago.com Sub-Dean: Josh Maize josh.maize@villagepres.org

Bombarde Editor: Ken Walker bombarde@kcago.com

September, 2023

FROM THE DEAN

August concluded with the eleventh annual presentation of our French Organ Music Festival. This tremendous event, planned by the Mario Pearson, GKCAGO Board, and each of the performers is a benefit to the culture of arts in the Kansas City region. This event has become a well-attended tradition for many of our local concert goers. The French Organ Music Festival highlights some of the great music for the organ and our own virtuosic KC performers. Thank you to everyone involved in this year's French Festival. It is always a pleasure to hear our very own perform such fantastic music.

It's interesting to trace the history of the organ and the two regional powerhouses of organ literature: France and Germany. Both regions exploded with artistic creativity over time, both in terms of composers and organ builders, and we are all the luckier for it. From France we get the first organ in Western Europe (following the ancient Greeks and Romans) given as a gift to King Pepin the Short in 757 AD. From this moment, the organ spread gradually across Europe and became a staple of Christian worship in churches. The organ originally had one stop and was built as a *blockwerk*. Imagine this as a principal chorus with the mixture permanently on! From this point, over several centuries, regional builders began separating the blockwerk into separate stops and adding new colorful stops. The distinct German Baroque organ with thunderous pedal strength and the colorful French Classic organs with their uniform stoplists and meticulously specified organ registrations demonstrate how unique each region had become. With the French Romantic organ, pioneered greatly by the organ builder Aristide Caville-Coll, we began to see more technical innovation, colorful stoplists, and symphonic sounds. Much of the music we have today in the French Romantic and French Modern repertoire is due in large part to the existence of the beautiful Romantic harmonic flutes, roaring reed stops, and warm foundations developed in the 19th century.

I encourage you to visit our website for more information on upcoming events. Our September event will be "Practical Practice Skills" on Monday, September 18th at 7:30 pm at Village Presbyterian Church on Antioch. Chapter member Jan Kraybill, FAGO, will share practical keyboard practice skills that will help you learn music more effectively, efficiently, and engagingly. There will be a chapter dinner prior to this event starting at 6:15 pm. Thank you all for your membership in our chapter!

Jacob Hofeling

GKCAGO Dean

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SEPTEMBER AGO DINNER
Monday, September 18, 2023
“Practical Practice Skills” with Dr. Jan Kraybill

Village Presbyterian Church, Antioch Campus, 14895 Antioch Rd., Overland Park, KS

Punch Bowl at 6:00 pm
Dinner at 6:15 pm

Dinner Menu
Meat Loaf
Mashed potatoes
Green beans / Sweet corn
Mixed green salad
Water, Iced Tea, Coffee

Cost: \$20/person

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

PLEASE NOTE: NEW EARLIER DINNER RESERVATION DEADLINE

Please call Nancy Ramirez at 816-436-9467 or email reservation@kcago.com by 9:00 pm Sunday, September 3. 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 September 3.

Please reserve your dinner in advance. The price for unreserved dinners is \$25.

REPORT FROM OUR CHAPTER REGISTRAR

OUR NEW SEASON HAS BEGUN!

As of July 6, when I filed my report for the board, we had 156-chaptermembers. This is a slight increase from last year. We have an exciting upcoming seasonof programs and events, and I am very pleased to say this will help us with maintaining our membership.

The Executive Director's article in the June 2023 issue of the American Organist wrote explicitly about membership. James Tomashower had a number of categories that we should be considering and addressing. Our overall membership is aging, and we need to be working towards the influx and influence of the next generations of organists and musicians. Our under 30 category of members is nowhere near the number needed to replace the older and retiring musicians. This will cause loss of volunteer stamina and dues revenue. Chapter programming and leadership is crucial to keeping up with expectations of younger generations. He even mused about our name: Guild of Organists. The name is so specific and exclusive. Our past success does not guarantee future rewards.

Our own chapter's structure has changed in the past year. We now have 5 board members and 6 teammembers. These 11 people control our chapter's business. We will soon behaving a "retreat session" where we will try to confront our chapter's needs, strengths, and future goals. Obviously retaining members and encouraging new members and growth are of primaryimportance. Are we primarily a group oforganists who program events for ourselves, for our community, or do we haveother relevant areas to utilize our resources?

Our 156 members consist of: 51 Regular (30-65 yrs.), 73Special (65 and older), 11 Young Organists, 10 Chapter Friends, and 1 Lifetime member. I will point out that our national office is switching over to a new membership program soon. For now, please use ONCARD to renew your membership. You can contact them at: <https://www.agohq.org/oncard/> or by phone at: 212-870-2310. I am very happy to assist you, also.

We have a great 2023-2024 year of time together! Please stay with us and enjoy!

Boyd Ahrens

boydlee@aol.com

816-405-8209 cell

CERTIFICATION CORNER

Interested in taking the Colleague Exam in November? Be sure to complete the application by the **September 15 deadline!** To apply, visit <https://www.agohq.org/ago-colleague-certification>.

Sarah Lyons
Certification Chair

GKCAGO 2023-2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 2023

"Practical Practice Skills" with Dr. Jan Kraybill
Monday, September 18, 2023 6:15 PM dinner and program 7:30 PM
Village Presbyterian, Antioch Campus, Overland Park, KS

OCTOBER 2023

James Kealey in recital - 2022 NYACOP winner
Sunday, October 22, 2023 3:00 PM
Hope Lutheran Church, Shawnee, KS

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 Burkfarm
Monday, June 17, 2024 6:00 PM
Burkfarm, Lawrence, KS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Complete Bach Organ Works, Concert 8

Sunday, September 14, 2023 3:00 pm

Village Presbyterian Church

6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS

Preludes and Fugues in E minor (the “Cathedral” and the “Wedge”)

Trio Sonata in E Minor and Chorales

Freewill offering to benefit Schola Cantorum program at Christ the King Catholic School

Hymn Festival

Saturday, September 23, 2023 5:30 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

5601 West 62nd Street, Mission, KS

Please join us for “God Give Us Faith to Sing Always,” a hymn festival led by David Cherwien.

Cherwien is Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. From 2001 until 2022 he also served as Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir. He is a nationally known conductor, composer, improviser, and organist. David played the inaugural recital of Trinity’s Quimby organ in 2010 and we are excited to welcome him back to lead this celebration.

Complete Bach Organ Works, Concert 9

Sunday, October 16, 2023 3:00 pm

Holy Angels Catholic Church

15440 Leavenworth Rd, Basehor, KS 66007

Freewill offering

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



Announcements need to be 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 will guide you through information needed for the editor.

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.

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| 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

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| 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 |
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