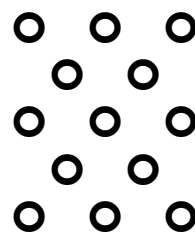


THE DRAWKNOB

*Newsletter of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Guild of Organists*

May 2024



Festive Evensong, Annual Meeting, and Dinner

Sunday May 19, 2024

**St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church
6190 E. Quincy Ave.
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80111**

The Chapter program year concludes with a festive event including a worship service, meal, and meeting to conduct the Chapter's official business and install new officers.

5:30 • Gather in the church's St. Francis Garden for *Happy Hour*

6:00 • Move to Church nave for Pentecost Sunday *Evensong and Service of Remembrance* with the St. Gabriel's and AGO Choir, directed by Mark Kelly

6:45 • *Dinner and Annual Meeting* in the Parish Hall

The traditional service of choral evensong will feature singers from St. Gabriel's choir and volunteers from the AGO. Music will include settings by Robert Powell, Arlen Clarke, and *If ye love me* by Thomas Tallis. If you would like to sing in the choir, please contact Mark at worship@stgabriels.org for copies of the music. We also need organists to accompany the service and provide prelude and postlude. We rehearse at 5:00 in the choir loft prior to Happy Hour.



Dinner Menu

Garden Salad with Ranch and Italian Dressing

Chicken Marsala

Vegetarian option available upon request-

Roasted Vegetable Penne Pasta

Steamed Vegetables

Oven Roasted Potatoes

Dinner Rolls with Sweet Cream Butter

Dessert-Assorted Cheesecakes

Beverages-Wine, Iced Tea, and Water

Dinner: \$25. Please RSVP by Friday, May 10 to worship@stgabriels.org. Ample parking is available at the church. **See last page for payment options.**

A Harpsichord Showcase: Bach and Beyond

Sunday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Boulder

Friday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.

Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver

While the sounds have finished echoing, the joy remains from this pair of concerts featuring multiple harpsichords, organ, and string quartet. The concluding spectacular was J. S. Bach's *Concerto for Four Harpsichords*, preceded by music for varying ensembles by Bach, Couperin, Mozart, Soler, and Otto. Keyboardist Jeremiah Otto was the organizer of this complex event with help from Linda Mack and others. Harpsichord schlepping was handled by Craig Peters, Ed Mack, Tom Strickland, and Jeremiah Otto.

Keyboardists Jeremiah Otto, Linda Mack, Mark Alan Filbert, Thomas Strickland, Aaron Hirsch,

and Dr. Robert Hjelmstad will be joined by a string quartet.

Some pictures will appear in the future when the photographer returns from abroad. Meanwhile, here is a glimpse of the rehearsal. Left to right: Aaron Hirsch, Robert Hjelmstad, Mark Alan Filbert, and Linda Mack.



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Mark Kelly, Charles Nolen, Cheryl Saborsky (2024)

Carole Hedrick, Faythe Freese, Cindy Lindeen-Martin (2025)

Jon Busch, Karl Isaac Johnson, Jack Walsh (2026)

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The Dean's Mixture

We have all received notifications about the National AGO Convention to be held in San Francisco this summer. I had it on my calendar to use this column to say a few words about the Convention. This year's convention is very special convention for a number of reasons: The National Headquarters has made many changes — a number of these changes are

reflected in the contents of the convention program. It is our first large gathering as a community post-COVID. Our chapter's very own Faythe Freese is a featured performer. After speaking with Faythe several times about the Convention I knew that her "birdseye view" of the Convention would be a great aid for learning about it. Look for her article elsewhere in this newsletter.

I have other thoughts about Convention attendance. We all know that our profession struggles with dwindling numbers of academic programs, fewer churches hiring professional musicians, fewer organists entering the profession, etc., etc. Our power in gaining support for church music and organ performance is by collaborating with colleagues, learning new and different ways to work and perform and ensuring our voice is heard. Even if you are unable to attend the Convention, check out the national website for educational resources. Our chapter's Education Coordinator, Denise Lanning writes a column for our newsletter pointing us toward the available educational resources.

This is my last column as Dean of the Chapter. The nominating committee, under the direction of Cathy Bruno has provided a wonderful slate of officers. The 24-25 Executive Board is full of talent and under Andrew Peters' leadership, the 24-25 AGO season will be an exciting year. Our Board is comprised of organists with many years of experience, as well as organists new in their careers. Our program Committee has worked hard to look ahead to next year and we submitted really exciting grant proposals to SCFD. The best news of all — we are definitely post-COVID and that will allow for more public events and interactions.

The Executive Boards that served during the COVID years did a remarkable job of ensuring our chapter not only survived but thrived. Being on the AGO Board is not the easiest job. However, during COVID times, it was certainly much more difficult. I think back over the initial difficulty of learning to use ZOOM and do our work that had often previously included a cup of coffee and social opportunities. And yet, we found opportunities to work together on projects and even see each other — carefully and masked. Who

could forget the outdoor get togethers in the yard of Ed and Linda Mack.

A few examples: Our program committee quickly adjusted and ensured that our members had access to programs, using new technology. Our membership did NOT shrink, we won awards, we enjoyed recruiting and bringing young organists into leadership positions, our Scholarship program was a huge hit on YouTube, the video on women composers researched and written by our chapter's Dr. Lyn Loewi and produced by our chapter was broadcast nationally by AGO.

We all hope to see you at the Annual Meeting. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet and welcome the new Board and thank those who previously served on the Board. Read elsewhere in this newsletter about the lovely evening planned for our membership. Not to be missed!

Billie Busby Smith, Dean



Candidates for Chapter Election

The ballot for the election of chapter officers is included in the email with this issue of the newsletter. Instructions for returning it by US Mail or email are on the ballot. *The Drawknob* April issue included biographies and pictures of the candidates. Please vote soon; the window for sending a ballot is short this year. The new officers will be installed at the annual meeting on Sunday, May 19.

Dean • Andrew Peters

Sub-Dean • Linda Mack, SPC

Registrar • Diane Gallagher, CAGO

Members-at-large (three to be elected):

Member • Liam Harty, SPC

Member • Barbara Hulac

Member • Kathryn Walsh, SPC

A Call for Singers

Do you like to sing, but are always playing? Come be a part of our choir at the annual meeting Choral Evensong on May 19, 2024. Our Evensong choir will provide the anthem and support the singing of the Preces, Suffrages and hymns. We will use settings by Robert Powell and Arlen Clark and the anthem will be *If ye love me*, Thomas Tallis. We are also in need of an organist(s) to play for the service. Mark will be serving as Cantor and directing the choir. We will rehearse at 5:00 pm before Happy Hour. Please contact Mark Kelly at worship@stgabriels.org to express your interest in singing. He will provide copies of the music for advance preparation.

Faythe Freese at Grace Cathedral

The 2024 American Guild of Organists National Convention will soon convene in San Francisco on June 30-July 4. This is a source of renewal and inspiration for all of us. Being featured are some new young artists and composers along with the old guard. This is an opportunity for all of us to support one another through our attendance at inspiring concerts and wonderful educational workshops, to make new friends, and reconnect with folks we have not seen since the last national.

I am writing this article as a member of the Denver AGO chapter and as a member of your board. About three years ago, I was invited to be the featured performer on the evenings of July 1 and 2 at Grace Cathedral. I am



humbled by this extreme honor and very excited to share 90 minutes of fabulous music on a great instrument in a beautiful space. My programming assignment was to appeal to the serious, well-trained musician as well as to the general public. Why? Because on July 1, all of the AGO convention organists will be in attendance and on July 2 the concert will be open to the public. Therefore, my program must have broad appeal.

The program is to be presented in a multi-media format which includes organ in counterpoint with recorded whale song, seagulls, and ocean surf; and a recent commission by Pamela Decker entitled, *The Freese Collection* which was inspired by the Freese's art collection by the artist named "Nall," who is a protégé of Salvador Dali. *The Freese Collection* will feature dancers, with choreography by Kristin D'Addario, the Artistic Director at Los Gatos Ballet. A large screen will be provided to display whale and ocean scenes, the Nall artwork, and the performer.

Make every effort to attend the convention, you will not regret it. The barn-burner work by Guilmant/Middelschulte on my program is worth the price of admission alone! I hope to see all of you at my concert and afterward in the convention hall. Please see the program below. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,
 Faythe Freese, D.M.
 Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama
 Concert Artist Cooperative, Director
ffreese@ua.edu
 512-470-7782

PROGRAM

From <i>Neuf Pièces</i> Chant Héroïque Chant de Paix Chant de joie	Jean Langlais (1907-1991)
<i>Revêtu de Lumière</i> (Clad in Light)	Alesh Jermar (1929-2004)
<i>First Sonata in D Minor</i> , Op. 42 Félix-Alexandre Guilmant Introduction: Largo e maestoso (1837-1911) Allegro Pastorale: Andante quasi Allegretto Finale: Allegro assai* *Includes a Cadenza by Wilhelm Middelschulte	
<i>The Freese Collection</i> Augenmusik Lirio e amapola La croix de foi	Pamela Decker (b. 1955)
<i>In Quiet Mood</i>	Florence B. Price (1887-1953)
<i>Pageant</i>	Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

Employment Opportunities

Ascension Lutheran Church in Littleton is seeking a **Contemporary Worship Leader** to direct our two praise bands: Youth Praise Team (teens) and Agape Praise Team (adults). Our praise bands play on alternating Sundays, September – May, at the 10:30am service. The Worship Leader also provides spiritual guidance, care and prayer for the team members. The Worship Leader will ensure that the services are meaningful for our members with an engaging mix of music with quality texts and tunes. Bachelor's degree in music and 3-5+ years of experience leading worship services preferred. Self-starter who strives for quality. Can skillfully play a lead instrument in the worship band (guitar or keyboard). Ability to perform on that instrument using just a lead line with chords. Quality singing voice for leading songs in worship and teaching songs in rehearsal. Skilled in giving vocal and instrumental direction. Knowledge of past and current contemporary worship music, but also able to occasionally incorporate other styles such as traditional or Gospel. Ability to effectively lead and engage a congregation in worship. Compensation ranges from \$9,000 to \$12,000 annually depending on level of expertise, degrees and experience. For more information or to apply please contact Dawn at office@alutheran.org or 303-794-4636.

New **Music Director** sought by **Peoples Presbyterian Church, Denver**. This position requires approximately 15 hours per week. Music Director is responsible for organizing and directing the Peoples' music program, including choosing choir and congregational music for the Sunday morning service, rehearsing a small, but enthusiastic choir on Saturday mornings, conducting the choir for Sunday morning services, and providing music for special seasonal services, weddings and funerals. Familiarity with jazz and gospel idioms is helpful and experienced pianists will be prioritized. Music Director works with the Pastor, Worship Life committee, and church organist in planning services. Salary range: \$17,500 to \$19,500. A full job description is available upon request.

Please forward your resume and compensation requirements to peoplespresdenver@gmail.com.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church (ELCA) in **Arvada** has opened a search for an **Organist/Pianist** to lead the congregation's singing during worship on Sundays from 10:30-11:30am, and seasonal services. Compensation is \$150 per service. Musical resources include an Allen organ, an upright Baldwin piano and a music library. Interested candidates contact Pastor Sara Wirth at pastorsarawirth@gmail.com to apply or for more information.

Calendar

Sunday, May 19, 3:00 pm

*Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
1535 Logan Street, Denver, CO 80203*

Rocky Mountain Chamber Ensemble

David Dunbar, Director. Concerts in the Cathedral Basilica are offered free of charge. A donation is accepted during the program. For information contact PBordeleau@denvercathedral.org.

Sunday, May 19, 7:00 pm

*St. John's Episcopal Church
1419 Pine St., Boulder*

Certified Organic Opera

The St. John's Music Society is proud to present the final concert of the 2023-2024 season: Certified Organic Opera. Washington-based performers Gayla Blaisdell, soprano, and Melissa Schiel, mezzo-soprano, will perform a selection of arias and duets from a wide variety of operas old and new. This dynamic duo will be joined by St. John's Principal Organist and Director of the St. John's Music Society, Aaron Hirsch. Hirsch will be accompanying the program on the wonderful Austin/Morel pipe organ at St. John's. This performance is free and will conclude with a light reception in the Parish Hall. This will be a great opportunity to meet and converse with the artists.

Annual Dinner Reservations

The \$25 payment for dinner may be paid at the door by cash or credit card or by Zeffy. This allows people to pay ahead of time ahead of time. If using a credit card at the door, it has to be a "tap and pay" credit card.

We now partner with [Zeffy.com](https://www.zeffy.com) to process your payment. Zeffy is a 100% free fundraising platform for nonprofits. Zeffy covers all transaction fees, so your full payment goes directly to the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. At checkout, Zeffy will ask for a donation to support its work. If you don't wish to contribute to Zeffy, simply click the dropdown menu, choose "Other," and change the donation to \$0. **Please check your junk/spam folder if you do not receive payment confirmation for the amount that is a donation.**

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a14a8875-e7c7-4071-924a-bffd4ad1c008>

Here is a QR code for the dinner event.

