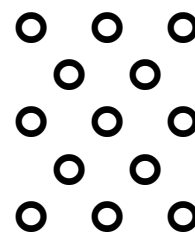


THE DRAWKNOB

Newsletter of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Guild of Organists

October 2023



Chapter Event Concert by Alcee Chriss III

Friday, October 27, 7:30 pm
Bethany Lutheran Church
4500 E. Hampden Avenue
Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113

Organ virtuoso Alcee Chriss III will be presented in concert by the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the AGO and Bethany Lutheran Church with support from the SCFD, Friday, October 27 at 7:30 pm. The public is welcome; a donation of \$20 is suggested.

A featured star in the PBS documentary *Pipe Dreams* (2019), Alcee Chriss III is an organist and keyboardist from Fort Worth, TX. Dr. Chriss is the winner of the 2017 Canadian International Organ Competition and the Firmin Swinnen Silver Medal at the 2016 Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition. He has been celebrated for his “grace, skill and abundant proficiency” by the *Journal Assist News*, Albuquerque. And of his most recent solo recording at Montreal Symphony Hall, *Art et Rhapsodie* (2019), the American Record Guide wrote that “he plays with clarity, imagination, musicality, virtuosity, and yes, personality.”

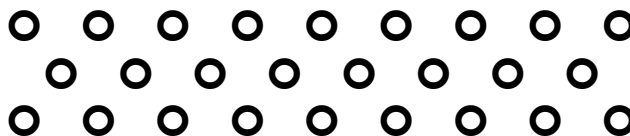
Dr. Chriss has performed throughout North America and Europe. Recent and upcoming performances include the International Orgelsommer (Stuttgart, Germany), Stockholm City Hall (Sweden), and as soloist with the Montreal Symphony in a performance of Copland’s *Symphony for Organ and Orchestra*. Other engagements include the Princeton University Chapel, Spreckels Organ Pavilion and International Organ Summer Karlsruhe, Germany. In July 2022 he was a featured performer at the national convention of the American Guild of Organists, held in Seattle WA.



In July 2019, Dr. Chriss was appointed as University Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Wesleyan University, where he teaches courses in organ and keyboard skills. In October 2019, he was awarded his Doctor of Music degree from McGill University, where he studied with Hans-Ola Ericsson. He previously studied at Oberlin Conservatory of Music where he received his Master’s degree in historical keyboard and a Bachelor’s degree in Organ Performance, studying with Olivier Latry, Marie-Louise Langlais, and James David Christie.

Dr. Chriss is active as a church musician, guest lecturer, and remains engaged with his lifelong love of gospel and jazz music. He is currently Assistant Organist at Trinity Church Wall Street, New York City, and serves on the editorial board of *Vox Humana* magazine.

The concert will be followed by a reception and display of music for the Music Swap. There is abundant parking available at Bethany.



The Dean's Mixture

As I write this, we have passed the official beginning of fall and our fall church seasons are in high gear!

One more word about the annual Summer scholarship Concert — Under the leadership of Mark Alan Filbert, this summer was very thoughtfully planned and executed. Thanks to all who made this program so successful. Our young organists played really well. Our faculty, all members of the chapter (Mark, Cindy Lindeen-Martin, and Wil Smith) provided excellent instruction and coaching.

The venue, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, was a wonderful setting and an opportunity for our young organists to play a three-manual organ. Jeff Harms, who oversees St. Paul's live stream program gifted his services and equipment to livestream our concert. A huge thank you! This video is currently available on YouTube. And guess what, when last I looked there had been **over 5,000 views**. A huge thanks to Jeff, who, by the way was an organ major at CU-Boulder and also has a long history of conducting, including the Rocky Mountain Ringers. We are NOT alone in our longing to create more young organists. In fact, we have dreams for young organists that extend beyond the Scholarship program! ONCE AGAIN, if you have interest in being involved in this effort, please feel free to email me.

As always, our program year is packed full of wonderful events! Please be sure and check out the programs (the updated list is on the website) and put them on your calendar. Now that we CAN gather, post-COVID, it is a wonderful opportunity to actually see each other. Many of our events have receptions (hosted by Linda Mack) and some even have our Music Swap.

One way to be involved — Check out ways to volunteer for the chapter. Again, you may email me.

AGO COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

Chapter Website <https://www.agodrmc.org/>

David Vogels, Webmaster

Chapter Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/agodenver>

Ben Erlich, Coordinator

Chapter Newsletter

The Drawknob

Thomas Strickland, Editor

Sent by email and posted on website.

National Website

<https://www.agohq.org>

Always, there is good news.

Earlier this month, our Registrar, Diane Gallagher and I were invited to the retirement party for Barbara Hulac, organist at Montview Presbyterian Church. She and her husband relocated to Denver right after she finished graduate school.



She took a position at Montview and has been a vital part of their really remarkable music ministry for 46 1/2 years — and an AGO member for nearly as long. It was inspiring to hear lovely tributes and stories about a colleague who has always supported our chapter in so many ways. Thanks to Barbara and Montview for that lovely afternoon.

A number of changes are afoot in the National headquarters, AGO. You will begin to hear more about those this fall.

Have a great fall!

Billie Busby Smith, Dean

THE DRAWKNOB

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American Guild of Organists*

All items for publication must be submitted by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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Treasurer: Cathy Bruno, cathy.bruno@gmail.com

Registrar: Diane Gallagher, dianegallagher48@gmail.com

Members at Large:

Mark Kelly, Charles Nolen, Cheryl Saborsky (2024)

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

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

Chapter address, Website address, and Facebook

P.O. Box 101448, Denver, CO 80250-1448

www.agodrmc.org

<https://www.facebook.com/agodenver>

Save the Dates

Our Chapter Programs 2023-24

NOTE CORRECTED DATE

December 2023 – Friday, December 1 -7pm

- Denver Brass/Organ Christmas concert
St. Andrew UMC – 9203 S. University Blvd.,
Highlands Ranch
Rick Seaton, Organist

December 2023 – Saturday, December 9 - 9 am

- Historic Denver Organ Tour
Churches on Hampden/University
Calvary Baptist Church
6500 E. Girard Avenue
Christ Church
2950 S. University Boulevard
Wellshire Presbyterian Church
2999 S. Colorado Boulevard

January 2024 – Date and artist TBA

- Organ Concert and Reception
St. John's Cathedral

February 2024 – Friday, February 23 – 7:30pm

- Members Lenten Organ Recital
St. John's Episcopal, Boulder
Deadline for sign up Monday, January 15

March 2024 – no event because of Easter

April 2024 – Friday, April 19 – 7pm

- Harpsichord Showcase
Featuring 4 harpsichords, organ, and strings
in collaboration with Augustana Arts
Augustana Lutheran Church

May 2024 – Monday, May 20 – 5pm

- Chapter annual meeting and dinner
St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church,
6190 E. Quincy Ave., Cherry Hills Village

Looking Ahead: AGO 2024 San Francisco

The Steering Committee of the **SFAGO 2024 Convention** proudly hosted a reception for **Faythe Freese** (board member of our chapter) at Grace Cathedral to celebrate her concerts there on July 1 and 2, 2024. Her exceptional organ playing will be paired with dance, immersive light installations, and projected art in the cathedral, creating a multi-dimensional experience.

Performing works by Guilmant, Decker, Sowerby, Langlais, Price, and Jermar, this evening performance will be a highlight of the Convention, which runs from June 30 to July 4 next year. We look forward to opening registration on December 1, but in the meantime feel free to contact **Matthew Burt**, Convention Coordinator, at chair@sfago2024.org. Whale song and tour de force organ mastery await you!



Organ Needs a New Home

For sale: 2 manual Rodgers 850 with AGO pedals, drawknobs with capture combination action. There are 2 swell shoes, a crescendo pedal with indicator lights, plus a 9 step transposer. It has 10 General pistons, 5 Great, 5 Swell, and 5 Pedal pistons with duplicated toe studs for Generals and Pedal. There is a tilt lighted music rack and roll-top. Comes with 1 100 amp and speaker. Call Donna Chase at 303-909-8568. Asking \$2000.



Harpsichord Tools and Parts

A now-deceased harpsichord builder has left behind tools and materials, and the current possessor doesn't want to throw these treasures in the dump. He is happy to give away all that he has found. There are woodworkers (wooden) clamps of all sizes, 2 bent sides, wood for soundboards, pearwood and ebony and various other things. Nothing is so big it cannot be transported in an SUV. Contact Chris VanDoren, 303-870-1740, van_doren@juno.com

Employment Opportunities

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, is seeking an **Organist and/or Pianist** to support all worship services and provide music ministry to our congregation.

The ideal candidate will:

- Provide all aspects of service music and communicate selections to church staff in a timely manner.
- Be knowledgeable of classical and contemporary church music.
- Be proficient on organ/piano; responsible for personal musical preparation.
- Good understanding of the church liturgical year.
- Be accountable to, and work closely with, the Pastor.
- Be a strong accompanist for all musical groups.
- Be responsible for playing for additional seasonal services (Advent/Lent)
- Assist in securing a backup substitute when absent.
- Possess a varied repertoire and improvisational abilities.
- Make recommendations on prospective new music to be purchased.

This is a paid position with compensation commensurate with skill and experience. Please send inquiries and resumes to John Miller, dickensbass2@gmail.com.

Lord of the Hills Lutheran, Centennial has opened a search for an **Accompanist**. The successful candidate will accompany our Sunday morning worship services (prelude, postlude, offertory, Communion, guiding our congregation in hymns and responses, accompany choirs and soloists) and accompany our Sunday morning choir rehearsals. The Accompanist will also be a part of planning and budget meetings with the Pastor and staff. To submit your resume for consideration, or to inquire about the position by **October 15, 2023**—Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church – Accompanist, 21755 E. Smoky Hill Road, Centennial CO 80015
Email: music@lordofthehills.org and pastor@lordofthehills.org

Christ the King Roman Catholic Church, Denver has opened a search for an **Organist/Pianist** to accompany the 12 pm Mass every Sunday. The position will entail rehearsing with cantors and accompanying the Mass each week on piano and/or organ. Please contact Music Director John Prager (jprager@christthekingdenver.org) for more information.

Lakewood UCC is currently seeking to fill the part-time position of **Director of Music Ministries**. Our music program currently consists of a Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and smaller vocal groups. This is an approximately 15 hour per week position, depending on practice and rehearsal needs. Interested candidates should submit a resume with references and direct all inquiries to luccpersonnel@gmail.com

Calendar

Sunday, October 1, 3:00 pm

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

Regis Jesuit High School Combined Choirs and String Orchestra

This is the very first time that the High School's Combined choirs will perform with the String Orchestra in a concert program. Composers include Franz Schubert, Sarah Hart, John Williams, Peter Warlock, Soon Hee Newbold, Ola Gjeilo, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Concerts are free, last one hour and a free-will offering is collected.

Saturday, October 21, 6:00 pm

*Saint Paul Lutheran Church
1600 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203
and*

Sunday, October 22, 6:00 pm

*St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
1401 East Dry Creek Road, Littleton, CO 80122*

Colorado Bach Ensemble

Part of Cantata Insights Series, Bach's Cantata "Where Shall I Flee?" (BWV 5). Both concerts are free with donations accepted.

Sunday, October 22, 3:00 pm
Wellshire Presbyterian Church, 2999 S. Colorado
Boulevard, Denver, CO

Vivaldi Extravaganza Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado

An animated celebration of the music of Antonio Vivaldi, pairing acclaimed guest violinist Ingrid Matthews and our own Cynthia Miller Freivogel as leaders and soloists. Rarely performed ensemble works alternate with virtuosic violin concertos to transport the audience with an extravagance of sound and sense. **Special Sunday addition:** an organ solo by Artist in Residence, Stephen Gamboa-Diaz, playing J.S. Bach's Concerto in A Minor after Vivaldi, BWV 593. This concert is presented in other locations Friday and Saturday. Information <https://www.bcolorado.org/>

Friday, October 27, 7:00 pm
Augustana Lutheran Church
5000 E. Alameda Avenue, Denver, CO

Tuvayhun Colorado Chorale and Augustana Chancel Choir

"Tuvayhoon" in Aramaic is "blessed." Immerse yourself in a mesmerizing choral journey in Kim André Arnesen's ethereal masterpiece. This extraordinary work begins from the biblical Beatitudes and responds with new poetry that sheds light on who among us might be in need of blessing. The texts—ancient and new—are woven into a colorful tapestry of music inspired by a variety of traditions, highlighting the universality of the human experience. Tickets \$25 general, \$20 senior, free child/student, online at <https://www.coloradochorale.org/season/>

Friday, October 27, 7:30 pm
Bethany Lutheran Church
4500 E. Hampden Avenue, Cherry Hills Village, CO
80113

Alcee Chriss III in Concert AGO Chapter event; see page 1.

Sunday, October 29, 4:00 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church, 1419 Pine St., Boulder,
CO 80302

Halloween Organ Concert

Organists Aaron Hirsch, Lydia Morrongiello, Tony Lee, David Vogels, and Andrew Todd perform various works of dramatic and spooky qualities to get everyone into the spirit of Halloween. Composers featured are Max Reger, Claude Debussy, Olivier Messiaen, Modest Mussorgsky, Leon Boëllmann, and more! This performance is free and open to all. The audience is invited to arrive in costume, as the organists will also be costumed, and there is a prize opportunity for best dressed.

Sunday, October 29, 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm
Wellshire Presbyterian Church, 2999 S. Colorado
Boulevard, Denver, CO

Spooky Organ Concerts

Organist Wil Smith and digital artist Nathan Selikoff present an evening of spooky classics. In a darkened sanctuary, digital images are projected onto the organ pipes accompanied live by creepy organ pieces such as Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Gyorgy Ligeti's avant-garde masterwork Volumina, and works by Messiaen, Copland, and more. Child-friendly concert at 4:30 followed by a trunk-or-treat; full-length concert at 7:00. Suggested donation: \$20 per person (or \$20 per family for child-friendly concert). wpcdenver.org

