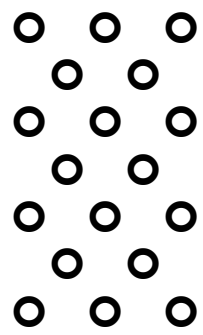


DENVER DRAWKNOB

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

September 2026



A Season of Music AGO Programs

Summer Scholarship Student Recital

Sunday, August 30, 4 p.m.

**St. Paul Center for Music and the Arts
1600 Grant St., Denver**

Our traditional season-opening concert features students who received scholarships for organ lessons this summer, performing on the M.P. Möller pipe organ in the former Saint Paul Lutheran Church. Student performers will be Anida Carpenter, Madelyn Ellsworth, Natalie Ellsworth, Alyss Thurmond, Natalie Volda, and Jonathan Watabe. Special guest artist is Joel Trekell, newly appointed Director of Music at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, and an alumnus of the scholarship program. This year's teachers were Phil Bordeleau and Cindy Lindeen-Martin. Piano and organ teachers: your students are especially encouraged to attend and learn about the scholarship application process. A reception and music swap will follow the concert. Free and open to the public, with free street parking on Sunday.



Workshop: A Composer's Perspective on Commissioning

**Saturday, October 3, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Augustana Lutheran Church, Denver**

John Dixon: A 250th Anniversary Tribute to America

**Sunday, October 4, 4 p.m.
Augustana Lutheran Church
cosponsored with Augustana Arts**

John Dixon, a native of England, was active in music and theater during his undergraduate studies at Oxford and graduate studies at Harvard. After moving permanently to the United States, he became organist-composer in residence at Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, Va. His many published choir anthems and organ pieces have been performed all over the world. With this Colorado concert, Dixon will complete a 10-year project to perform recitals in all 50 states. He will be performing his own music, with a special focus on Americana in celebration of the Semiquincentennial. His workshop will describe the commissioning process, providing free handouts of several Dixon compositions and offering tips for fundraising. Both programs are free and open to the public, with a suggested donation of \$20 for the concert.

Annual Historic Organ Tour

**Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m.-noon
Park Hill UCC, St. Thomas Episcopal Church,
Park Hill UMC**

This popular holiday event, cosponsored with Historic Denver, returns to Park Hill in 2026, visiting three churches with diverse and historically interesting architecture and pipe organs. At each venue, the building's history will be described, and the organ will be demonstrated with holiday fare.

Second Annual Epiphany Zoom Happy Hour

**Friday, Jan. 8, 7-8 p.m.
Your Home**

Members Recital: After Bach

**Friday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.
First Plymouth Congregational Church,
Cherry Hills Village**

J.S. Bach has been an inspiration to both organists and audiences for centuries. In this free public recital, scheduled during Bach's 342nd birthday month, DRMCAGO members will provide a survey of works derived from Bach by other composers, including fugues on BACH and "deconstructions" of Bach organ pieces. Multimedia technology will be used to enhance the audience experience. This program is supported by an Arapahoe SCFD grant.

Pentecost Hymn Festival and Chapter Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 16, 5 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge

DRMCAGO members will celebrate the season of Pentecost with an evening festival of hymns introduced by organ preludes and performed by choirs, organists, and instrumentalists. Holy Cross Lutheran houses two Rodgers Trillium digital organs with supplemental pipes. The entire community will be invited to enjoy and sing along with this free event. Followed by dinner and a short business meeting.

Other events may be added.

THE DRAWNOB

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The Dean's Mixture

Welcome to a new year of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter!

It is both a pleasure and an honor to serve as your new Dean. I'm looking forward to a year filled with wonderful music, opportunities to learn, and—just as importantly—opportunities to get to know one another better.

Sub-Dean Aaron Hirsch and his team have put together a terrific season of concerts and events, with something for everyone. I'm grateful for their work and excited about what lies ahead.



As I write this, our Board has just gathered for an informal evening at the home of Linda and Ed Mack. (Thank you, Linda and Ed, for your wonderful hospitality!) Along with good food and conversation, we spent time considering where

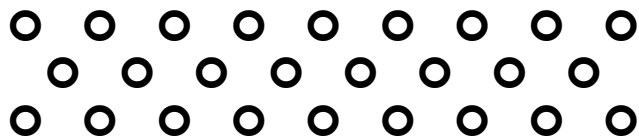
we are as a chapter and where we might go from here.

Being part of this great Guild is a privilege. We meet new people, hear wonderful concerts, learn new skills, support one another, and invite other musicians into a community they may not yet realize has a place for them.

But belonging also asks something of us. The AGO speaks of "fostering a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ." I love the word community in that statement. A thriving community isn't something someone else creates for us. We create it together.

So this year, consider how you might play a part. Encourage a musician friend to get involved. Reach out to a fellow member who may feel isolated. Bring a friend or neighbor to a concert. Share something you know. Learn something you don't. And if you've been watching from the sidelines, perhaps this is the year to step a little closer. There is room for you.

I hope to see you at our Annual Summer Scholarship Student Recital this Sunday, August



30, at 4:00 p.m. at Saint Paul Center for Music and the Arts in Denver as we celebrate and encourage these young musicians.

Finally, my personal motto is “The door is always open.” I mean it. I welcome your thoughts, questions, ideas—and even the occasional crazy idea. I look forward to listening, learning, and growing with you.

After all, this chapter belongs to all of us.

Brian du Fresne, AAGO
Dean

Professional Certification

Autumn is just around the corner, school classes have started, our church program years are beginning, and Guild events are happening. If you are not already in the process of working toward one of the AGO certification levels, now is the time to seriously consider a plan of preparation — for this year or the next.

Would you like to transpose hymns with ease? Are you baffled when faced with adapting an anthem to the organ? Have you ever wanted to be more skilled at sight reading, harmonization, or improvisation? Do you want to take your playing up to the next level? Do you want to learn new pieces but are overwhelmed by the possibilities?

If your answers to these questions are yes, then you are an excellent candidate for the AGO certification program. All of us have areas in which we need more expertise. The certification program teaches those areas that may have been missed in school, or that perhaps you may not have grasped the first time around. Certification is also a great chapter building project, allowing members to achieve common experiences and meet a mutual standard.

Revisit the July 2026 issue of *The American Organist* magazine and read pages 44-51. Give the requirements for each of the certification levels and application deadlines a close look. Imagine yourself initiating a program of study which leads to attaining one of these certificates. Also check the AGO website, www.agohq.org, and issues of TAO magazine throughout the year for updates.

If you have a little extra time, read the certification requirements for our Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) neighbors to the north in Canada and Royal College of Organists (RCO) distant neighbors across the pond in England. Note the great number of similarities.

Again, now is the time for preparation. Speak to any of our Denver Chapter members who hold certificates, and they will be more than happy to give you advice and encouragement. I am certain that most would say that once the habit of study is established, it doesn't end when the certificate is earned.

Denise Lanning, FAGO
Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter Education
Coordinator
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Looking Way Ahead . . .

Sunday, October 18, 3:00 p.m.
Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
Joel Trekell performs his inaugural organ recital as Director of Sacred Music at the Basilica.

Sunday, November 15, 4:00 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church, Parker
Recital by **Kevin Hildebrand**, Kantor at
Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne

Organist Sought for Meantone Performance

Michael McNeil has built an organ in Baroque style in meantone temperament. This instrument was described in the September 2025 issue of *The Drawknob*. He wishes to hire someone to do a demonstration of the organ playing the Nicolaus Bruhns *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor (The Little)*, and possibly some other pieces. He is not expecting perfect perfect performances. Contact him about a charge per hour and travel expenses to Mead (about a half-hour north of Denver). Michael McNeil, 321 Seventh Street, Mead, CO 80542, cell: 720-308-5740

Portable Zimbelstern Available

Nine bells, five clappers, leatherette-covered case with polished brass fittings and red velvet lining. On/off touch button with long cord. Very portable and good for weddings and other events. Free; call Jim Hill at 720-236-7665.



Employment Opportunities

Listings should be sent to Isaac Johnson; contact information on page 2.

Piano and Organ Accompanist, part time, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Denver, Colorado

Primary Responsibilities

Accompany the Adult Choir during rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 6:30–8:30 PM and at the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday Mass each week. Accompany the 8:15 AM School Mass on Wednesday mornings and Children's Choir Wednesday rehearsal from 6:00-6:50 PM (2-3 times during the choir season). Optional opportunities to substitute for other weekend Masses, based on availability, qualifications, and interest.

Qualifications

Proficiency in piano and organ performance, especially in a liturgical/church setting. Familiarity with Catholic liturgy and sacred music (preferred). Ability to collaborate with choir directors and singers of varying skill levels and ages.

Compensation

This is a paid position, compensated at \$175 per unit - e.g., accompanying a rehearsal = 1 unit, one Mass = 1 unit. Average of 3-4 units per week.

To apply, please send your resume and a brief statement of interest to natalie.thompson@goodshepherddenver.org or apply directly through Paylocity - <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/Apply/4344327>.

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

To do this, we encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors; provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support; nurture future generations of organists; promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

