DENVER DRAWKNOB

Newsletter of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Guild of Organists

November 2026

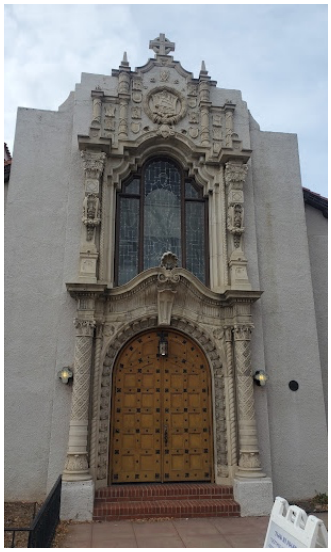
Coming Next Month
Annual Historic Denver Organ Tour

Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m. Noon
beginning at
Park Hill United Church of Christ
2600 Leyden Street, Denver
and including
Park Hill United Methodist Church
St. Thomas Episcopal Church

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. Tickets are $27.55 for the general public and $22.04 for members of the AGO, Historic Denver, or the Molly Brown House Museum. Make your reservations **here**.







Churches that will be visited are (below) Park Hill United Church of Christ, Park Hill United Methodist Church, and (left) St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

The Sub-Dean's Stop

This month started with two wonderful events led by composer and organist John S. Dixon, who completed his 50 - 60 - 70 project. Upon turning 60 years old, John decided he wanted to give a concert in each U.S. state by the time he turns 70. His October 4th performance at Augustana Lutheran marked the final stop on this tour, and it was celebrated by a performance of his own music along with stories and statistics of his travels. The audience of about 50 were enthusiastic and a good time was had by all.

The day prior, Dixon gave a workshop on commissioning new music. We had small gathering to listen to his advice, which was pertinent and went a good way to ease anxieties many had with that experience. Because I believe everyone should be aware of what John had to offer, I compiled a 2-page PDF outlining the steps you can take to commission your own works, and how to avoid pitfalls that many have experienced in this regard. Perhaps there is a special event

coming up in the life of your work as an organist/music director/choir director? Or perhaps someone close to you is celebrating a milestone and you want to gift them a new composition in tribute? Share in the joy of creating new music and giving composers a medium to express their talents! This PDF document is included in the same email in which you received this newsletter.

As the season changes, and we inch ever closer to the Holiday season, I hope you are able to find moments of rest and beauty to sustain yourself during the upcoming busy season. One sure way is to reach out to your colleagues throughout the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter, attend upcoming events, and continue to support one another in our efforts to celebrate the King of Instruments.

Aaron Hirsch, Sub-Dean

Pictures from the top.
John Dixon performs at Augustana.
Dixon delivering some remarks.
Linda Mack showing the celebratory cake.
DRMC board with Dixon.
Photographs by Aaron Hirsch.









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The Dean's Mixture

As we move into November, I hope you'll take a few minutes to look through the many activities and opportunities highlighted in this month's *Drawknob*. There is plenty happening in the musical community, and each event offers another opportunity to enjoy wonderful music, renew friendships, and make new connections.

I also want to encourage everyone to help spread the word. Invite a friend, colleague, student, or neighbor to join you at an upcoming event. Some of our most enthusiastic supporters may be people who have never attended an AGO gathering or even heard a pipe organ in person. A personal invitation can make all the difference.

As the Board continues its work this year, we're exploring ways to strengthen the chapter, increase participation, and make the AGO more visible throughout the community. But these efforts shouldn't belong to the Board alone. This chapter belongs to all of us, and there are many ways to contribute, whether by helping with a single event, sharing an idea, welcoming newcomers, or helping us reach people who might enjoy what we do.

I'd love to hear from you! Please email me with your ideas, or simply ask about opportunities to become more involved. You don't need to make a long-term commitment to make a meaningful contribution.

Thank you for being part of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter. I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events—and perhaps meeting some of the friends you bring along!

Brian du Fresne, AAGO, Dean

National Election

If you are eligible to vote for national officers of the American Guild of Organists, you have probably already received an email message containing a link to the election website. Three offices are to be filled. The Editor urges you to support **David Vogels,** our chapter member and recent dean, to continue as Secretary.

Music for a While: A Friends of Music Gathering

Please join us for on **Sunday afternoon, November 8, 4:00 p.m.** at Mountain View Gardens (home of Linda and Ed Mack). Pianists Paul Zeller and Linda Mack and mezzo-soprano MB Krueger will perform a potpourri of piano and vocal duos with a dash of harpsichord thrown in. The music and good company will be enhanced by a spread of hors d'oeuvres and beverages. A suggested donation of $25 (cash, check, or credit card) will support the music program of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. To assist in planning for refreshments and seating, please RSVP to **Linda Mack** at linda@standrewdenver.org; address and parking details will be provided in the response to the RSVP. For additional information, please contact Linda at 269-313-7593.

Kevin Hildebrand Concert

Grace Lutheran Church, Parker is blessed to feature Kantor Kevin Hildebrand of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The November 15 at 4:00 p.m. event is their third annual organ concert on the four-manual Rodgers Infinity 480. Hildebrand will be playing some of his original compositions as well as various organ literature.



Kevin Hildebrand is Kantor at Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne. He completed his undergraduate education at Concordia University Chicago, holds master's degrees in music and theology from The University of Michigan and Concordia Theological Seminary, and currently is a doctoral candidate at Ball State University. He is an active composer and music editor, with numerous compositions for organ, choir, and instruments in print with several publishers. Kevin is also a frequent organ recitalist, hymn festival presenter, and workshop leader.

Grace Lutheran Church is located at 11135 Newlin Gulch Blvd., Parker, CO 80134

Organist Still Sought for Meantone Performance

Michael McNeil has built an organ in Baroque style in meantone temperament. This instrument is featured in the October 2026 issue of *The Diapason* with sound clips. He wishes to hire someone to do a demonstration of the organ playing the any toccata, prelude, or fugue by Buxtehude or Bruhns. He is not expecting perfect perfect performances, but a demonstration of the sound and temperament. 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

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.

