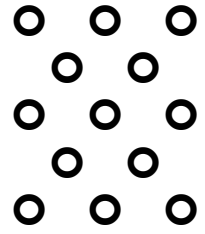


THE DRAWKNOB

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

March 2024



AGO Members and Friends Recital



Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter members and friends offered a wide-ranging program of music suitable for Lent and Holy Week, alternating with readings from various traditions on Friday, February 23. Unconventional and underrepresented repertoire was featured at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Boulder. Pictured above are performers and narrators.

Back row: Andrew Halladay, Matthew Dane, Isaac Johnson, Andrew Crisman, Aaron Hirsch, Daniel Nebel, Joseph Galema, Amy French.

Front row: David Vogels, Lydia Morrongiello, Linda Mack, Yinying Luo.

The Dean’s Mixture

Here we are in the midst of Lent — a time of contemplation. It seems as if I spent the majority of my time as chapter Dean trying to understand the pandemic and its impacts on my colleagues and our profession. I admit that I could relate to that as an individual as well!

Now that we are in the so-called “post-pandemic times,” we are now enjoying many of the

advantages of pre-pandemic American Guild of Organist membership – especially spending time together in-person. Two things that recently happened made me realize it is not “cut and dried” between pre-and post-pandemic times. Here is my story! I received an email from a Board member who had attended our recent members’ concert — by live-stream. (Something that would not have been possible prior to our pandemic isolation times.) To say that the concert had been impactful for her would be an understatement. In-person, at the very same concert was one of our youngest chapter organists, excited of course about the concert, but also about his latest composition project — a fugue. How exciting that members were able to use two different methods to experience the evening! It also made me think about the good and the bad that had come from the pandemic and the need to sort out how we go forward with serving our constituents. It is important to think strategically about those “new” concepts that seemed necessary for the years of pandemic isolation. The questions are: Do they have value in these post-pandemic times? Can we afford them? The churches who are our employers are reviewing the new digital programs that they developed to continue to serve their congregants during the isolation times of the pandemic. I suspect they are pondering whether or not these programs are worth the extra effort required to operate them and are they cost-effective?



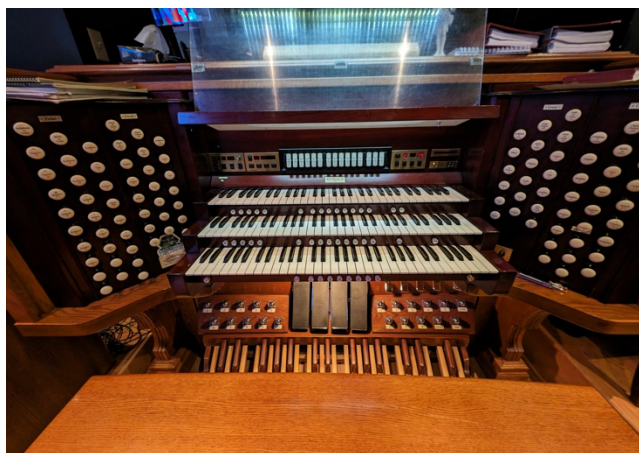
For AGO Chapters, program evaluation exceeds beyond those programs arising from the needs of the pandemic. AGO chapters are currently discussing just how to best serve the membership

of their chapters. This question has been and continues to be a critical issue for all of us. We all know that organists are fewer in number, many music schools have eliminated their organ performance programs and AGO chapters must learn how to best serve our membership. No news there. During the last few years, the demographics of our chapter have begun to change., e.g. our young organists are increasing, we have organists moving into Denver and our chapter from out-of-state. Our community needs to embrace them and learn from them and provide relevant services.

In recent months, our chapter has embarked on a project to identify ways in which we can better serve our membership — organists whose ages range from adolescence through post-retirement. We have discussed issues that impact our ability to serve our diverse membership and have identified additional services that would be helpful to our members. In addition, the National Headquarters recently presented a webinar, “Creating a Community within Your Chapter to Grow Volunteers and Future Leaders.” Our chapter is not alone in our need to create a broader community! Hopefully our chapter will have a final report with recommendations before the end of this season. A bit of a homework assignment. Please email me (Billbuzbee@comcast.net) with suggestions on how to better welcome and serve our membership and/or if you would like to be involved in discussions around this issue.

Here’s to a productive Lent and Easter season! Check out the rest of our chapter season and watch for your ballot for next year’s executive board.

Billie Busby Smith, Dean
Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter, AGO



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Navigating the AGO National Website: Educational Advancement at Your Fingertips

We are now well into Lent and anticipating Holy Week and Easter. Even though your plate is full at this time, take a break and continue examining the items found on the Education toolbar on the AGO website, www.agohq.org.

Certification, the backbone of the AGO, lists the five certification levels offered as well as the Certification Challenge for 2024 from our National President, Eileen Hunt, AAGO. It’s a very inspiring message that is worth your time to read. Click on webinars and you will find under certification extensive sessions on counterpoint, orchestration, transposition, fugue, and the new aural perception test.

Did you know that under **Scholarships** you will find listings of financial aid available for academic study, Pipe Organ Encounters, attendance at National Conventions for young organist as well as financial aid offered from other sources?

Pipe Organ Encounters – yes! There are two scheduled for this summer – a POE in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and a POE+ (for adults) in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Now is the time to register. If you know a high school student, or an adult, who will benefit from these organ weeks, advise them now.

Keep exploring the National AGO website.

Denise Lanning, FAGO
Education Coordinator

Workshop at Augustana

“**H**earts, Hands, and Voices” is for church musicians to gain ideas and expertise while networking with others. Workshop sessions will be offered on hymn playing on the organ, anatomy of the singing voice, leading choral rehearsals, handbells in worship, and more. Presenters include Denise Lanning, The Rev. Kent Mueller, Blake Nawa’a, Andrew Peters, and Deacon Shanna VanderWel. Sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) and held at Augustana Lutheran Church, 5000 E. Alameda Ave. in Denver.



The workshop begins with registration at 9 a.m. and concludes at 2:45 p.m. Cost is \$45, fulltime students \$20. Lunch is included. Deadline to register is April 16. More information and registration is at <https://alcm.org/event/denver-co/>

Upcoming Election

The Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the AGO will be electing several officers and members of the Executive Board in May. More information and biographies of candidates will be available in the April issue of *The Drawknob*. Cathy Bruno chaired the committee which also included Denise Lanning and Kimber Smith.

These candidates have been recruited by the Nominating Committee:

Dean Andrew Peters
Sub-dean Linda Mack, SPC
Registrar Diane Gallagher, CAGO
Members-at-large (three to be elected):
Liam Harty, SPC
Barbara Hulac
Kathryn Walsh, SPC

Save the Dates

Our Chapter Programs 2024

March 2024 – no event because of Easter

April 2024 – Sunday, April 14 – 7pm

- Harpsichord Showcase
Featuring 4 harpsichords, organ, and strings
St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church
2425 Colorado Ave, Boulder, CO 80302

April 2024 – Friday, April 19 – 7pm

- Harpsichord Showcase
Featuring 4 harpsichords, organ, and strings
in collaboration with Augustana Arts
Augustana Lutheran Church
5000 E. Alameda Ave., Denver 80246

May 2024 – Sunday, May 19 – 5pm

NOTE CORRECTED DATE

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

Employment Opportunities

Ascension Lutheran Church in Littleton is seeking a **Choir Director** to direct its adult choir which sings September – May, approximately 3 Sundays per month at the 8:00 service (and occasional Saturdays) plus additional special services. Choral and Vocal Training skills and degree are desirable, and the congregation/choir appreciates a variety of musical styles from Bach to John Rutter to Mark Hayes and Tom Fettke. Familiarity with Lutheran Music and Liturgy is highly valued. 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 Munson at office@alutheran.org.

**ANNOUNCING:
THE 2024 SUMMER ORGAN LESSON
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

One of the most significant endeavors of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has been its commitment to the Summer Organ Lesson Scholarship Program through which, for nearly two decades now, promising piano students have been awarded scholarships for six free organ lessons with qualified chapter members during the summer with the opportunity to perform at the September chapter meeting. This year the tradition continues with the 2024 Summer Organ Lesson Scholarship Program for which publicity materials and an application form are now available on the chapter website (www.agodrmc.org) or from Scholarship Coordinator Mark Alan Filbert (markalanfilbert@msn.com). They are also attached to the message delivering this issue of *The Drawknob*.

The schedule for this year's program is as follows:

AUDITION: Saturday, 4 May 2024, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Mark Alan Filbert Music Studio, 4427 South Atchison Circle, Aurora, CO 80015

ORIENTATION: Saturday, 18 May 2024, 10:00-11:30 am
Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 1600 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203

INSTRUCTION: Six Organ Lessons from June-August 2024
Dates/Locations to be arranged with Assigned Organ Teacher

FINAL RECITAL: Sunday, 8 September 2024, 7:00 pm
Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 1600 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203

All chapter members are encouraged to share this information with their students and/or colleagues who teach piano. The two-part audition will include an assessment of the student's keyboard skills (two prepared piano pieces, one of which must be a *Two-part Invention* by Johann Sebastian Bach, a short sight-reading exercise, and two-octave major and minor scales in the keys of the audition pieces) and a brief interview to discern the student's level of interest in organ study, sincerity of purpose, and sense of vision.

Chapter members are needed to assist with every aspect of the program. If you have an interest in serving as an audition judge, helping with the orientation session, teaching summer organ lessons, or assisting with the final recital, please contact Mark for more information.

Most important of all, however, is spreading the word about this signature program of the Denver Rocky Mountain chapter!

Calendar

Saturday, March 16, 7:00 pm
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
2015 Glenarm Pl., Denver CO 80205

A Choral Concert Celebrating Charles V. Stanford

The Choir of St. Andrew's and guest artists will perform works by Charles V. Stanford (1852-1924) marking the 100th anniversary of his death, including Evening Service in C, Beati quorum via, O for a closer walk, organ solos, Irish folk song arrangements, and the 1st movement of his Second Cello Sonata. A wine and cheese reception in the Undercroft will follow the concert. Suggested donation: \$30 per person (cash/check/credit card at the door) to benefit St. Andrew's Friends of Music.

Sunday, March 17, 3:00 pm
Jefferson Unitarian Church
14350 W 32nd Ave, Golden, CO 80401

Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado Bach + Soler

Solo selections from J.S. Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, plus a rarely performed Quintet for harpsichord and strings by Spanish composer Antonio Soler. Stephen Gamboa-Diaz, harpsichordist and artist-in-residence. Tickets \$26/15/12 at BCOcolorado.org

Sunday, March 17, 3:00 pm
Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
1535 Logan Street, Denver, CO 80203

Holy Family High School Festival Choir

Marcia Marchesi, 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, March 24, 4:30 pm
Wellshire Presbyterian Church
2999 S Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80222

Cindy Lindeen-Martin, organist

French and French-inspired music.

Maurice Duruflé's *Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain*

Jehan Alain's *Trois Danses*

César Franck's *Chorale No. 1 in E Major*

Pierre du Mage's *Suite du Premier Ton (from "Livre d'orgue")*

Additionally, the concert will showcase J. S. Bach's *Piece d'Orgue*. Cindy Lindeen-Martin, a longtime member of the Denver AGO community, currently serves as the Director of Music and Organist at the Church of the Ascension in Denver. Her impressive musical journey includes degrees from Colorado State University, a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music, and the prestigious Degré d'Excellence from the Conservatoire de Rueil-Malmaison, France. Among her impressive list of teachers and mentors, she studied under Marie-Claire Alain. Admission for the concert is \$20 per person, with a reduced rate of \$10 for children and students. Be sure to experience this celebration of exceptional talent and timeless compositions.

