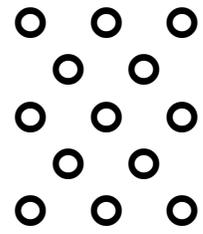


# THE DRAWKNOB

Newsletter of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

July 2021



## June Chapter Event The Light Is Shining



On June 13 the American Guild of Organists and First Plymouth Congregational Church hosted the Denver Brass and Ricki Vorrath-Moyer, organist and Sub-dean, in a special concert entitled *The Light Is Shining*. It was a celebration of the end of a difficult year and the light at the end of the tunnel as live musical performances are once again possible. The concert opened with Karg-Elert’s majestic “Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals” for brass and organ. The versatile Denver Brass then followed with numerous diverse pieces beginning with Paul Dukas’ “Fanfare to Precede La Péri.” Next was the early Baroque “Canzona Bergamesca” of Samuel Scheidt followed by Puccini’s “Nessun Dorma” from his opera *Turandot*. Selections also included lighter jazzy tunes such as “Ain’t Misbehavin” by Fats Waller, “That’s a Plenty” and a rousing version of “Just a Closer Walk with Thee.” They were interspersed with Randall Thompson’s “Alleluia,” John Chatam’s “Scherzo,” Paul Battle’s setting of the “Ode to

Joy” and the nostalgic “Prayer for Bruno” which recognized those who died during the past year. Following the Service of Remembrance lead by District Convener Bonnie Linder and District Convener-Elect, Linda Mack, and the Installation of Officers, the program concluded with Gigout’s “Grand Choeur Dialogue “arranged for brass and organ. Special thanks to First Plymouth Congregational Church, Joel Rinsema, audio tech and webcaster, and Bonnie Linder and Linda Mack for their assistance. Twelve people attended in person and 130 remote viewers watched the live-steamed program.

Jill Dodds



## The Dean’s Mixture

Hi All,  
2020–2021 has been difficult for people everywhere—people In the arts have experienced many losses this year. As church musicians, you have not only had your usual full plate of church musician responsibilities, you have had the challenge of making sure that your congregations have meaningful music and worship utilizing technology that many have never before used.

In my role as Dean, I have been stopped in my tracks by the many ways that you all have risen to

the challenge—often while suffering illness and loss as well as the stress of massive workloads and uncertainty about the future. *And yet here we are . . .*

**JUNE** has been designated by the national AGO leadership as **Member Care Month**.

The message about **Member Care Month** which I am receiving from national staff is that we really want to be the organization which cares for its members and ensures a better future for our members and our profession. All members, individually and collectively can make a huge difference. Hopefully you will have heard from one of our Board members during this time. If your contact information has changed, please contact Diane Gallagher, Registrar.

We are looking forward to 2021–2022 as a year of returning to normal *and better*. If you read recent chapter *Drawknob* or the Annual Report, you will see a superior quality of programs which have been booked.

### So, how can I support Member Care Month?

*This is our opportunity to reach out to former members, those who we haven't seen in a while and those organists who have never heard of the AGO. Reach out to those folks, check on how they are faring and invite them to learn more about our chapter. Our chapter is a remarkable resource for church musicians. We have excellent website and Facebook pages. Share the good news!*

*Take a tour of the National AGO website. As Denise Lanning has suggested in her monthly *Drawknob* articles, there is a remarkable amount of information and resources in that one website*

If you use Facebook, be sure and follow our chapter's page. Feel free to share your music news on our page.

A second initiative that is very important to the AGO is **The Year of the Young Organist – Investing in the Future**

Indeed! Your role, as an AGOer is to seek out young organists. Recruit them and get them signed up as members. For the period of July 2021–July 2022, *all organists who are less than 30 years old are eligible for a free AGO membership. As the program matures, there will*

*be even more opportunities for these young organists.*

In the meantime, (1) be on the look-out for young organists and tell them all about the Year of the Young Organist. (2) Talk to your piano teacher colleagues and tell them about the program as well.

Over the last few months, I have met a number of young pianists who really want to know more about the organ. Makes me think of my teen years when I was drawn to the organ. *And guess what we have our first new young organist member and he is 10 years old!*

Dan Romero's article elsewhere in the *The Drawknob* discusses the specifics about this important initiative. If you have questions, please be sure and contact Dan or me.

Have a great summer!  
Billie Busby Smith, Dean

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

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Phil Bordeleau, Jill Dodds, Denise Lanning (2023)  
Mark Kelly, Charles Nolen, Cheryl Saborsky (2024)

Chapter address, **New website address**, and Facebook  
P.O. Box 101448, Denver, CO 80250-1448  
[www.agodrmc.org](http://www.agodrmc.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/agodenver>



## Summer Get Together and “Music Swap”

**When:** Saturday, August 7, 2021 come and go 11-2.

**What:** Come join friends and colleagues for conversation, meeting new friends, drinks, and finger foods

**Where:** Linda and Ed’s shady yard, 8421 E Oregon Place, Denver 80231

Colorado Chapter members of AGO, friends and family, are invited to enjoy a Summer outing to reconnect, talk shop, and browse the ever growing supply of wonderful music “swap” materials. This is a chance to find something “new,” or replace an old favorite. You may also bring items to contribute. Any voluntary contributions go to our scholarship fund.

RSVPs are welcome, but not required. Please direct comments or questions to Linda Mack, 269-313-7593 or [lindajoymack@hotmail.com](mailto:lindajoymack@hotmail.com)

## The Year of the Young Organist

The AGO has presented us with a golden opportunity! The Year of the Young Organist is our chance to build up the younger membership of AGO on both a national and local/chapter level.

In an effort to grow the community of younger musicians in the pipe organ field, the American Guild of Organists has declared this year the “Year of the Young Organist.” Through the sharing of performances by young musicians and the publication of resources, we hope to bring more visibility to the new generation of musicians. Additionally, one year of free Guild membership is now available for all current, lapsed, and new members under the age of 30.

We all know young people under the age of 30 in our families, our churches, and in our teaching studios. Right now, we need to invite all of these folks to explore the AGO through the offer of free membership for one year, beginning on July 1, 2021. These young members will be offered all the perks of AGO membership, including *The*

*American Organist* magazine, membership in a local chapter of their choice (tell those who you recruit to join the Denver Rocky Mountain chapter), and all of the other resources of the AGO. The form for free membership is here:

<https://www.agohq.org/free-membership/>

A series of video performances by young organists will be offered online.

In addition to the usual programming and resources of the AGO, the Guild is offering a series of special, online programs for young organists. Information about these programs can be found here:  
<https://www.yearoftheyoungorganist.com/program-year>

Here are the AGO Young Organist programs for this fall:

**August 8:** Charles Miller will present on website design, biography writing, and general publicity.

**August 29:** Gary Louie offers a masterclass on resume writing.

**September 19:** Luke Staišius and Solena Rizzato will talk about basic organ tuning.

**October 17:** M. Tinder Harris will give a webinar on insurance, retirement, and health care.

**November 14:** Kevin Simon from St. James Music Press will discuss planning resources for the church year.

**November 21:** Dr. Richard Zielinski will offer planning resources and programming ideas for the church year.

**November 28:** Joe Vitacco of JAV Recordings will give a webinar on making good sound and video recordings.

**December 10:** Christmas Party on Zoom.

Please visit The Year of the Young Organist page at <https://www.yearoftheyoungorganist.com> for more information.

I always welcome your ideas and questions, [ddorganman@gmail.com](mailto:ddorganman@gmail.com).

Daniel Romero

## Linda Mack Appointed District Convener for the Colorado District

I am very excited to announce that our chapter's very own Linda Mack was recently named AGO District Convener for the Colorado District. Linda has long provided her multiple talents to our chapter. Most recently, she served as Sub-Dean, and this year she stepped up to serve in an advisory capacity to our Chapter Board. *Congratulations to Linda!*

Billie Busby Smith, Dean



Left to right: Bonnie Linder, outgoing District Convener, Cheryl Saborsky, Cathy Bruno, Linda Mack, new District Convener, Denise Lanning, Billie Busby Smith, and Ricki Vorrath-Moyer.

## Aspen Community Church Recitals

Continuing this Summer, the Aspen Community Church, 200 E. Bleeker St., Aspen, CO 81611, presents two organ recitals at 6:30 p.m. on summer Sunday evenings. On July 11, **Faythe Freese**, Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama and now a resident of Colorado, will perform music by Bach, Alesh Jermar, Alexandre Guilmant, Florence B. Price, and Leo Sowerby. On August 15, **Simon Jacobs**, Organist and Choirmaster at Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, will perform music by Bach, Jennifer Bate, Marcel Dupré, Herbert Howells, and César Franck. The organ is a 2-manual 34-rank mostly Wicks. The recitals are free and donations are welcome.

## Employment Opportunities

*Listings should be sent to Benjamin Ehrlich, contact information on page 2.*

**South Broadway Christian Church** (Disciples of Christ) is a progressive, historic congregation located in downtown Denver. We have opened a search for a part-time **Director of Music** (15-20hrs per week) The Director of Music would serve both as Choirmaster and Organist. Duties include: directing/playing in worship each Sunday morning and leading our Chancel Choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. Proficiency in both piano and organ is required. While our Sunday worship service is traditional, we welcome creativity and new ideas. SBCC has one of Denver's most beautiful worship spaces and our historic 12-rank Kimball organ was restored in 2007 by Morel and Assoc. with the addition of a Rodgers three-manual 420 Trillium Masterpiece console, resulting in a truly extraordinary pipe-digital instrument. Salary commensurate with experience. Please email [urbanchalice@gmail.com](mailto:urbanchalice@gmail.com) or call 303-589-6333 for more information.

**Mountain View United Methodist Church** in Boulder, CO, is hiring a **Hand Bell Choir Director**. The position ranges between 5-8 hours a week for rehearsals and worship services. The ideal candidate would have the ability to demonstrate excellent hand bell technique; motivate and inspire new members; and select appropriate, high quality hand bell repertoire. If you are interested in applying, or for more information, please email a cover letter and your resume to Brian du Fresne (Director of Music and Worship Arts / Principal Organist) at [worship@mtview.org](mailto:worship@mtview.org). A full job description is available on the church's website [www.mtview.org](http://www.mtview.org). We are accepting applications and resumes until the position is filled.

**Mountain View United Methodist Church** in Boulder, CO, is hiring a **Piano Accompanist**. The position ranges between 5-8 hours a week for rehearsals and worship services (weekday evening rehearsal only once a month). The ideal candidate would have the ability to sight-read and improvise around hymns; perform in myriad styles from Baroque to contemporary music; perform frequent

preludes and postludes for services; and accompany the choir, soloists, and instrumentalists. If you are interested in applying, or for more information, please email a cover letter and your resume to Brian du Fresne (Director of Music and Worship Arts / Principal Organist) at [worship@mtview.org](mailto:worship@mtview.org). A full job description is available on the church's website [www.mtview.org](http://www.mtview.org). We are accepting applications and resumes until the position is filled.

**Ave Maria Catholic Parish** in Parker, Colorado is seeking a full-time **Director of Music** to oversee all music-related activities for the liturgical and devotional life of the parish. The Director of Music will be the primary keyboardist (Yamaha piano and Rodgers organ) for four regular weekend Masses, as well as other liturgical events. The position also includes music planning, scheduling musicians, leading choir rehearsals and scheduling instrument maintenance. Full-time with benefits, salary \$50K-\$70K depending on education and experience. A detailed job description is available. Contact Father Nathaniel for more information: [fr.nathaniel@avemariacatholicparish.org](mailto:fr.nathaniel@avemariacatholicparish.org) <https://www.avemariacatholicparish.org/job-opportunities.html>

**First United Methodist Church** in Boulder, CO is looking for a part time (20-30 hrs/week) **Music Director**. Responsibilities include directing choirs, collaborating in worship design, creating and recording music for worship and community events, and directing/producing 2 community music events a year, at least one per season. Proficiency in organ playing is desired, but not a requirement. Contact the church, <https://fumcboulder.org/> or apply through

FaceBook, [https://www.facebook.com/jobs/job-opening/323664322616764/?source=post\\_timeline](https://www.facebook.com/jobs/job-opening/323664322616764/?source=post_timeline)

**Organist, First Congregational Church (UCC)**, 2101 16th St. Greeley, CO 80631. <https://www.firstconggreeley.com>

Approximately 20 hours/week beginning in August; compensation starting at \$30,000, depending on experience. 2011 Quimby Pipe organ, 3 manuals, 38 ranks. For more information about the position, please contact Rev. Ben Konecny: [revben@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:revben@firstconggreeley.com)

**Part Time Organist and Accompanist, First Presbyterian Church of Berthoud**, 531 N. 8th St., P.O. Box 1290 Berthoud, CO 80513. the full position description is at <https://www.firstpresberthoud.org/work-with-us>. Post-Covid, they hope to reestablish a choir and will seek a director, for which the organist may wish to apply.

