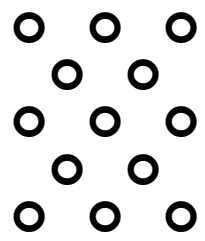


THE DRAWKNOB

Newsletter of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Guild of Organists

November 2025



Adventures in Restoration Susi Tattershall

Saturday morning, October 25, members and friends gathered at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Broomfield to hear Susi Tattershall talk about adventures in restoration in her organbuilding career.

She began by describing the restoration of two baroque organs in Mexico. Slides illustrated the process of bringing the instrument back to life but not the negotiations with clergy, town officials, local craftsmen, ceremonial drummers, and delivery schedules for milkmen that had to be challenged and aligned to allow her time to work in the churches. Susi's storytelling skills painted a vivid picture of the challenges. All work had to be done on site.



Then the topic turned to the restoration of the 1869 E. & G.G. Hook organ that was restored for use at Saint John's Cathedral while the great Kimball organ was out for a two-year restoration. The Hook organ, in a church in Massachusetts, had not been used for a number of years. But it was deemed restorable and Tattershall was willing to take on the project with the help of another

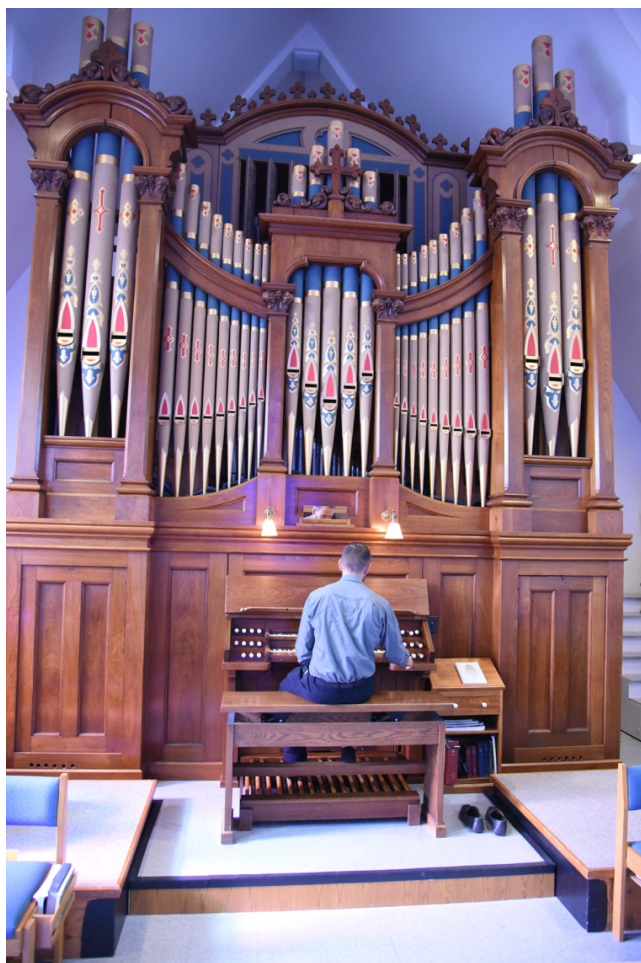
organbuilder and many volunteers. A storage space was rented and became a workshop. Every part of the organ had to be disassembled, cleaned, and examined to see if repairs were needed. Amazingly, the project was completed in the projected time, and the Hook sounded beautiful in the Cathedral acoustics. The late 1860s are considered a "golden era" for the Hook company, and the restored organ lived up to this reputation. It served as the sole musical instrument while the Kimball was away. But it needed to find a new home, as the space it occupied was needed for staging to install the new Antiphonal organ. There were inquiries from various places around the world, but fortunately for Colorado, Church of the Holy Comforter in Broomfield was interested and had an optimal space in the rear balcony to accommodate it.

Jim Steinborn carefully moved the instrument to its happy new home.



After some coffee and a look at books on organ building at the music swap, attendees moved upstairs for a demonstration of the Hook organ.

John Murgel, a former organist at Holy Comforter, demonstrated the individual stops and features of the instrument, including divided bottom octaves for some 8' stops, composition



pedals to facilitate registration, and the beautiful sound of each individual voice. Then the console was open for individuals to try out the organ

Photographs by Ed Mack.

The Dean's Mixture

I hope you were able to attend the October meeting in Broomfield with Susi Tattershall. The 1869 E. & G.G. Hook organ is an amazing asset to Holy Comforter Episcopal Church and the community. Thank you to everyone who worked on this program for our chapter.



While we don't have a chapter event for November, please consider attending live music somewhere during the month. This could be anything from supporting a colleague's event or attending a concert elsewhere. There are so many musical events taking place in the Denver region.

Even though we know Advent is looming ahead at the end of the month, try to find some quiet time for the Thanksgiving holiday. This celebration can be an important time to think about the many blessings we each have in our lives. I know I am very thankful for the officers and volunteers who keep this AGO Chapter running and make it so special.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Andrew Peters
Dean

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

General items to the editor, Thomas Strickland, phone: 720-870-5503, e-mail: DrawknobEditor@myctl.net NEW DOMAIN

Employment Opportunities and Facebook Coordinator
Isaac Johnson, karl.isaac.johnson@gmail.com

Webmaster: David Vogels, dsvogels3@gmail.com

Dean: Andrew Peters, organ.andy@juno.com

Sub-Dean: Linda Mack, lindajoymack@hotmail.com

Secretary: Barbara Hulac, blhulac@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Cathy Bruno

Registrar: Diane Gallagher, dianegallagher48@gmail.com

Members at Large:

Jon Busch, Zackery Gonzales, Karl Isaac Johnson, (2026)

Liam Harty, Yinying Luo, Kathryn Walsh (2027)

Rhonda Jones, Cindy Lindeen-Martin, Norman Sutphin (2028)

Chapter address, Website address, and Facebook

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

www.agodrmc.org

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

Coming in December Annual Historic Organ Tour

Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m.-noon

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church,
2015 Glenarm Place, Denver

Saint Paul Lutheran Church,
1600 Grant St., Denver

Trinity United Methodist Church,
1820 Broadway, Denver

This popular holiday event, cosponsored with Historic Denver, returns to the downtown area in 2025. At each venue, the building's

architectural history will be described, and the organ will be demonstrated with holiday fare. Saint Andrew's John Paul Buzard pipe organ was installed in 2003 and has since been expanded with the digital Hauptwerk program. Saint Paul's three-manual M.P. Möller pipe organ was built in 1926 and enlarged in 1966 and 1984. Trinity Methodist's restored 1888 Roosevelt organ is the largest American-built pipe organ from the 19th century in current use. Tickets are \$25 for the general public and \$20 for members of the AGO, Historic Denver, or the Molly Brown House Museum. For advance tickets, click [here](#). Parking details will be given in the December issue of *The Drawknob*.



Simon Jacobs in Boulder

Friday, November 21 at 7:00 pm, Simon Jacobs will perform the Sawyer Memorial Concert at the First Congregational Church, 1128 Pine St, Boulder, CO 80302. Jacobs is an organist, composer, and arranger originally from Great Britain but now a resident of Colorado. For more information on Simon, go to [Simon Jacobs: Organist](#) or www.simonjacobs.com

in current use.

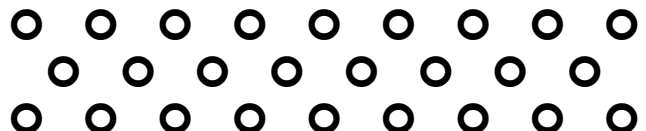
Something New in January First Annual Epiphany Zoom Happy Hour

Friday, January 9, 7-8 p.m.
Your Home

The Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter is pleased to announce our first (annual?) Epiphany Zoom Happy Hour. Sit back, relax, and start the New Year with your AGO friends and guests (yes, invite guests) to reconnect after a busy Advent and Christmas season. Building community is an essential part of the AGO mission statement, and so often in the midst of planning and attending chapter events, we miss time for conversation. This can be a moment where we share and inspire each other. The Zoom link will be sent to the membership just prior to Happy Hour.

Employment Opportunity

First Congregational Church, Boulder, is seeking a **Director of Youth and Children's Choirs** to lead our youth and children's music program. This academic-year role (\$25/hr) involves directing rehearsals, Sunday performances, and special music events, while inspiring young singers in a vibrant faith community. To learn more about our church, go to www.firstcong.net. **To apply:** Send your resume and brief statement of interest to Kajsa Teitelbaum at kajsa@firstcong.net.



New Email Address for Editor

The internet provider has required a new domain name for the Editor's email account. Please use DrawknobEditor@myctl.net for correspondence. The previous domain name will no longer work. Tom Strickland can also be reached at ThomasCStrickland@msn.com.

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.

