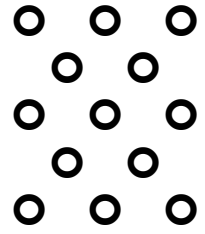


THE DRAWKNOB

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

July 2024



Richard I. Morel

Richard (Rick) Ivan Morel, 76, lost his life to COPD and heart disease on June 3, 2024 in Denver. He was a long-time member of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the AGO. Rick was born on July 14, 1947, to Ivan P. and Rita E. (Sheridan) Morel and his beloved sister, Patricia Ann, in Watertown, Massachusetts. All predeceased him. The family moved to Colorado when Rick was eight. His father, Ivan, came to work for Fred H. Meunier Co. in the pipe organ business. Rick's dad eventually bought the business and it became Ivan P. Morel and Associates, Inc. When Rick graduated from high school he decided he liked the "pipe organ" and really liked working and learning from his dad. When his father retired, Rick took over the business. He loved his work. The company installed, built, refurbished, and provided service to pipe organs in five states.

Rick not only loved the pipe organ but he loved the history of pipe organ. Rick's company refurbished the pipe organ at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on Colfax in Denver. Rick was present at the Cathedral making sure the organ worked perfectly when the Pope visited in 1993. he spent the last 10 years or more trying to bring "new blood" into the business of pipe organs. He was dedicated in preserving historical files on many incredible instruments. He celebrated his 58th anniversary being employed at Morel and Associates on May 8, 2024.

When Rick was 25 he met and married the love of his life—Sharlie Ann Kern. They had so much fun together. Their marriage was what most hope and dream of. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 1, 2023 with their "chosen family"—so wonderful.

Rick was a great "study." He loved to talk about and investigate almost any subject. He loved all sports especially baseball. He was an amazing woodworker and a perfectionist in everything he did. Rick loved anything techie. He was tenacious in learning what he didn't know. He was kind and considerate of everyone and everyone's friend. He will be missed.

Rick is survived by his wife, Sharlie Morel, brother-in-law, Harrell Johnson; nephew, James and Carissa (wife) Johnson, their kids, Brandon & Claudia Johnson and Dominick Johnson; nephew Doug and Tracy (wife) Johnson and their kids, Derek Johnson, Shaina, Jeff and Emmett Blandin, all residing in Colorado.

Rick is also survived by a special "chosen family," Bruce and Diane Durham, their kids, Stacy Crowell (Rick's godchild) and her son Gabe Crowell, Gina Marie Durham (Rick's godchild) and her son, Mark Durham and his daughter, Lexi Durham and Jeff Kerschner (Gina's partner), Barbara Boger, Glen Blanco and Don Belshaw (Rick's work associate for over 50 years), all residing in Colorado.

There will be a Memorial Service for Rick Morel at Montview Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. This will be a very wonderful and special service as Rick and his father, Ivan, provided years of loving care for the Montview pipe organs.

Phil Bordeleau, Music Director at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver, plans to dedicate a concert to Rick Morel in the Spring of 2025.

There are no specific memorial donation suggestions. When you do donate to your favorite charity, simply remember Rick with a good thought like "Long live the pipe organ!"

Editor's Note

This special summer issue of *The Drawknob* is to provide some information about employment opportunities, memorialize a recently-deceased member, and remind us to pay our dues.

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

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Registrar's Renewal Recommendations

It has come to our attention that AGO staff is having performance issues with our renewal system ONCARD! It is temporarily offline with an independent tech company examining the issues. There is good news for our members! You can still renew!

- Since many renewals are due July 1, be proactive in using the forms accessible on the member login page - agohq.org
- If you need to talk with someone (I did!), call AGO Headquarters at (212) 870-2310 for someone to assist you.
- And more good news! There is still a place to add a donation to our local chapter!

If you are not certain of your renewal date, call the above number like I did. National AGO is quite helpful!

Happy summer,
Diane Gallagher, Registrar

September Reminder

Save the date for the first chapter event of the coming season. **Sunday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m.** the **Summer Scholarship Recital** will be presented by the young people who have been studying all summer. Site is Denver South Seventh Day Adventist Church, 2675 S. Downing St. Denver, CO, 80210.

Employment Opportunities

Calvary Baptist Church of Denver (www.calvarydenver.org), located at intersection of S. Monaco Pkwy & Hampden, is looking to hire a permanent and salaried **Organist/Piano Accompanist** to begin August 29, 2024. A complete job description is available at <https://calvarydenver.org/worship/music-ministry> Please email a cover letter and resume/CV to Dr. David Farwig, Director of Music at dfarwig@calvarydenver.org. Once your materials are reviewed, you will be contacted and asked to audition and interview in person.

Queen of Peace Catholic Parish, Aurora is seeking an **Organist** to play for Sunday Masses at 7:30 am and 9:30 am with rehearsals 45 minutes prior to worship. The Organist will be available every Sunday, or a rotating schedule could be discussed. Payment is \$120 per Mass & rehearsal. Contact Music Director Jorge Salazar for more information, or to apply: jorge.salazar@queenofpeace.net

St. Pius X Catholic Church, 13670 E. 13th Pl., **Aurora**, is seeking an Organist to play for our sacred music Masses. Interested parties should send an email with resumé to father.jorge@stpiusxparish.org. Primary Duties: Accompany congregational hymns, Gregorian Mass ordinary and propers, and occasional choral works. Desired Skills: Ability to improvise a plus. Experience with Novus Ordo Roman Catholic liturgy. Ability and desire to direct cantors and select music is a definite bonus, with greater

compensation, but not required. Initial commitment is Sundays from 8am-10:15am, with extended availability for additional Christmas and Easter Masses. Musicians are paid on a "per event" basis with rates for organists ranging from \$100 to \$150 per event. However, if available and desiring to direct cantors and lead the music program, further compensation will be negotiated.

Sixth Avenue United Church of Christ, a growing, LGBTQ+ friendly, social justice oriented congregation, seeks an **Organist &/or Pianist** to accompany worship. We are flexible in our schedule (two or three Sundays per month), and our Accompanist can have Christmas Eve and Easter off. Salary is in the \$150-\$175/per Sunday range. Pianist will accompany song leader, guest instrumentalists and play prelude, hymns, postlude. There is no weekly choir rehearsal. Our church has a Baldwin 7ft grand piano, resonant Sanctuary, and a congregation that enjoys singing. We offer a wide range of music and are open to new music. Musicians from under-represented groups are encouraged to apply. Interested persons please contact our Director of Music, Kyle Bradley at kyleb76@gmail.com or call/text at 970-888-0654.

Christ United Methodist, Denver has openings in their music department. See their website here: <https://christchurchcolorado.org/ministries/music/ministries/>

