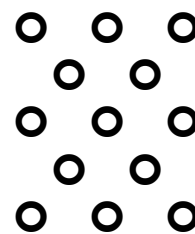


THE DRAWKNOB

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

January 2024



The Dean's Mixture

Advent and multiple Christmas services are complete. Wasn't it lovely to have full churches again and see many of the congregants who have been absent?

I have also been thinking about the number of worship services musically led by members of our chapter. HUGE! Some of us played numerous services during the Advent IV/Christmas Eve weekend while free-lance organists provided much-needed substitute services to give churches the gift of music. The importance of what we do cannot be underestimated. PRICELESS!



Another thought on my mind. We have recently lost two of our long-time members who passed away during December. Norman Lane and Dean Stalnaker both freely shared their gifts with area churches and with our chapter. Thanks to chapter members, Don

Zimmermann, Tom Strickland, and Ben Ehrlich for their collaboration in providing us with written tributes for both Norman and Dean. In addition, Norman and Dean will be remembered at our Annual Meeting in May.

Before the race to Lent begins, I hope that we can spend some time reflecting on our musical gifts and the impact that we, like Norman and Dean have and continue to have on our church music profession. Thanks to Linda and the Program Committee, this spring will be full of varied and fun events. Mark your calendars and treat yourselves to a wonderful season of music!

Have a blessed 2024!
Billy Busby Smith, Dean

AGO Members and Friends Recital

**Friday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church
1419 Pine St., Boulder**

Our own Chapter members are the featured performers in a recital on the three-manual Austin/Morel organ at St. John's Boulder. The focus is on repertoire suitable for Lent or Holy Week and especially by underappreciated composers such as women and people of color. Music includes works by Adolphus Hailstork, Charles Tournemire, Eurydice Osterman, Florence Price, and Philip Glass. Free and open to the public, with an offering taken. A reception to greet the performers will follow, as well as the usual Music Swap—now including CDs! Watch for more about this next month in *The Drawknob*.

January 19 Concert Cancelled

The event scheduled on January 19 at St. John's Cathedral has been cancelled.

Navigating the AGO National Website: Educational Advancement at Your Fingertips

... and Happy New Year.

In the November Drawknob I gave you some tips on locating information under Webinars, Recitals and Workshops found under Education on the AGO website, www.agohq.org, homepage tool bar. This month we will take a look at what is available under the next dropdown, The New Organist.

The immediate assumption is that this category is only for organists born in the 21st century. I like

to think that this information is for the organist that is constantly *renewing*.

The first bullet on The New Organist page is the educational videos, all thirty of them, focusing on teaching basic skills. A closer look reveals discussions that might be a step beyond basic: Architecture and Layout of the American Pipe Organ, Getting Around on the Hammond, and How to Be an Excellent Substitute Organist, topics that may be of benefit to many of us.

Scroll to the bottom, and you will find a few surprises: Pipe Organs of the World, Making a Metal Organ Pipe and Organ History are but a few areas covered.

It's easy to get lost in all the information contained in The New Organist. Don't wait for a blizzard day to check it out – look now.

Denise Lanning, FAGO
Education Coordinator

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Carole Hedrick, Faythe Freese, Cindy Lindeen-Martin (2025)
Jon Busch, Karl Isaac Johnson, Jack Walsh (2026)

Chapter address, Website address, and Facebook
P.O. Box 101448, Denver, CO 80250-1448
www.agodrmc.org
<https://www.facebook.com/agodenver>

Chapter Directory

Chapter Directory of members is available on the chapter website? Navigate to www.agodrmc.org and look at the right side of the header for "Directory Access." Click there and on the PDF symbol that shows next, and your directory will be downloaded.

Bells, Bells, Bells! Inside the Grand Carillon

Three In-Person Sessions
Wed., March 13, 20, 2024, 7-9 pm
Carillon Tour, Sunday, March 24, 2-4 pm
Fee: \$130 Contact: joey.brink@du.edu

Hidden high above the University of Denver campus, tucked away inside the gold-topped tower of the Ritchie Center, is both the most public and most mysterious of instruments. The Williams Carillon, with 65 chromatically tuned bronze bells, is the fifth-largest instrument in the country. Everyone on campus can hear the bells, yet few know how the instrument is played, or that a person is even in the tower at all. How does the carillon work? What is its history? How are bells made? What kind of music is played? Why do bells sound the way that they do? DU Carillonist Joey Brink guides you through the evolution of the carillon, from its birth in 1510 through its 500-year history to its arrival at DU. Brink demonstrates various carillon performance techniques, showcases examples of bells and carillons from around the world, discusses the acoustic properties of bells and the phantom pitch that we all hear (but which is actually a construct of our minds), and goes into how performers, composers and arrangers for the carillon have to flip their musical brains and think "upside-down." Following two classroom sessions, this course features a live concert and an opportunity to climb the 95 spiral steps up the 215-foot Williams Tower to see the bells up close.

Dean Stalnaker, RIP

Services for Dean Stalnaker, 60, Westminster, CO, will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 13, at Calvary Episcopal Church in Golden, CO. The church will livestream the service. <https://www.calvarygolden.net/deanstalnaker>
Dean was a longtime member and former officer of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the AGO.

Dean Curtis Stalnaker was born July 9, 1963, in Norfolk, Nebraska, to Maurice and Edith (Piwenitzky) Stalnaker. He grew up on the family farm and attended elementary school in Hadar. He

graduated from Norfolk Senior High School in 1981 and Bob Jones University in 1985. With his degree in English Education, he taught high school English in Limerick, Pennsylvania, for five years. For the next five years, he worked for the Resolution Trust Corporation, dealing with failed savings and loans companies nationwide. In 1995 he relocated to the Denver area, working for several law firms as a paralegal, mainly with real



estate and water rights. He was also involved in music ministry at several churches, lastly at Calvary Presbyterian in Denver and Calvary Church in Golden, CO. He was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer in September 2021. He is survived by his mother and sister Joleen; sister-in-law Valerie Stalnaker; a niece Kelly (Andrew) Hoag; a nephew Alexander (Brandi) Stalnaker; and four great-nieces. He was preceded in death by his father in 2016 and brother Tom in 2001. His management skills and attention to detail served his employers well. He brought glory to God and joy to the congregations with his music ministry.

Norman Lane, RIP

Three friends of Norman Lane have written remembrances given here. They are by Donald Zimmermann, Craig Peters, Rick Morel, and Daniel Romero. It is anticipated that there will be a memorial event for him in the future; Chapter members will be informed.

The photograph shows Norman explaining the organ at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Denver to a group of people who had come to see it. This organ was completely rebuilt by Lane. (Photograph by Benjamin Ehrlich.)



Norman Clark Lane, one of Colorado's premier organbuilders, died in mid-December at the age of 86. Born in Denver in 1937, he was a graduate of the Church Music Department in the College of Music at CU-Boulder in 1958. Later that year he went to work for the Fred Meunier Company, which had a virtual monopoly on organ tuning and maintenance in the Colorado area. In 1973 he started his own company and soon took care of almost all the major instruments in the Denver area. The company also did tower bell maintenance and installation. A born engineer, mechanic, and builder, Norman had an encyclopedic knowledge of the pipe organ. His company at its peak around 1995 employed several full-time and part-time employees, doing not only tuning and maintenance but additions, renovations, and rebuilding of pipe organs. One of his complete instruments exists in the Little Ivy Chapel at Fairmount Cemetery, where Sunday afternoon recitals were played from 1977 until 1990. Another organ which was completely rebuilt by the company is the Kimball/Reuter at Our Savior's Lutheran in Denver. Norman was also a fine tenor singer and sang in the choir at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral for many decades. Still climbing into organ chambers well into his eighties, Norman was one of the last caretakers for the organs at the Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel until that building was closed down for renovations.

—Donald Zimmermann, DMA
employee of the company 1980-1986, 1992-2011

Norman was a great friend and was great to work with. He taught me a lot about pipe organs. Each church or venues' instrument definitely each had its own quirks and personalities. He knew his way around solving any issues with these things. My best memories are helping him care for the organs at the Air Force Academy for over a decade! He will be dearly missed.

—Craig Peters, former employee

I worked with Norman Lane from 1966 to 1973. Of all of the organ builders I've known, I can't remember anyone else who had devoured virtually everything ever written about pipe organs, and usually could quote it to you verbatim!

—Rick Morel, colleague

I first met Norman Lane in the spring of 2000 after my freshman year of college. He invited me to work with him and his company for the summer. This was my first real, hands-on experience learning about how pipe organs work and how to perform some basic maintenance on these instruments. Some of the work involved working in the shop. One project in the shop was re-leathering a chest for a Trompette en chamade for a church in Cheyenne. Another project was constructing a stupendous, curved, wooden shelf to help keep dust and insects off an unenclosed great division with all of the pipe work exposed. This project was affectionately known in the shop as, "the flying potato chip." However, most of the work involved holding keys for Norman while he tuned organs for his clients over the summer. This was my first exposure to many of the instruments in the area, including many that I had no idea existed. But perhaps the greatest part of this job was hearing all the stories and information that Norman knew about organs and organists in Colorado over the years. I learned about his upbringing in Lakewood, his years as a student at the University of Colorado in Boulder, his formative years learning the organ building trade from Fred Meunier, Hugh Turpin, John Chrastina, and Ivan Morel. He was wealth of information regarding all of Colorado's major figures in the organ world. All I had to do was ask one simple question about any person or instrument, and over the next twenty minutes (or longer) Norman, in his slow and very deliberate way, would provide a

comprehensive answer to my query. Because of this, he contributed greatly to my ongoing research on the history of the organ in Colorado. I will miss him and the kindness he showed me over the years.

—Daniel Romero, former employee

Save the Dates

Our Chapter Programs 2024

February 2024 – Friday, February 23 – 7:30pm

- Members Lenten Organ Recital
St. John's Episcopal, Boulder
Deadline for sign up Monday, January 15

March 2024 – no event because of Easter

April 2024 – Friday, April 19 – 7pm

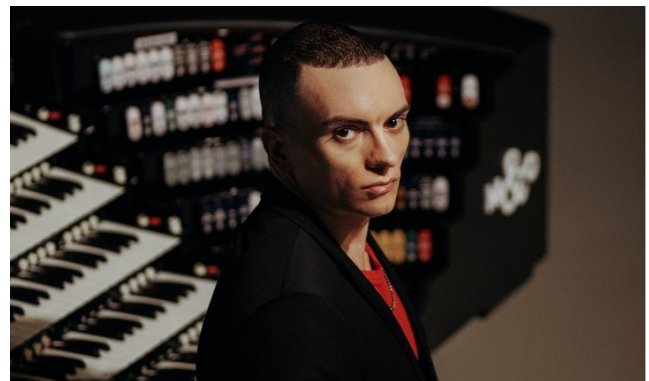
- Harpsichord Showcase
Featuring 4 harpsichords, organ, and strings
in collaboration with Augustana Arts
Augustana Lutheran Church

May 2024 – Monday, May 20 – 5pm

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

Carpenter in Lakewood

The Lakewood Cultural Center presents world-renowned, maverick organist, Cameron Carpenter. He is known worldwide for his fearless interpretations of the classics and is the first organist to ever be nominated for a Grammy Award for a solo album. Experience the musical prowess of this formidable musician at the Lakewood Cultural Center at 7:30 p.m., Friday, February 2.



The Los Angeles Times states, "Carpenter is one of the rare musicians who changes the game of his

instrument... He is a smasher of cultural and classical music taboos. He is technically the most accomplished organist I have ever witnessed... And, most important of all, the most musical.”

A graduate of New York’s famous Juilliard School, Carpenter has spent nearly two decades mesmerizing audiences with his uniquely contemporary style of playing such a traditional instrument. Audience members whose familiarity with the range of an organ from hearing it used in church services will be radically surprised by what Carpenter can do with it.

“Carpenter is a ground-breaking organist, and we’re thrilled to have him in Lakewood this season,” said Lakewood Cultural Center Administrator Rita Sommers, Cultural Center administrator. “This is going to be a performance unlike anything our audiences have heard before.” For his Lakewood performance, Carpenter will be drawing from the works of Johann Sebastian Bach, a figure whose compositions have played a critical role in Carpenter’s musical evolution. He first became familiar with Bach playing the “Well-Tempered Clavier” as a child. The Lakewood concert will include “The Goldberg Variations,” one of the ultimate keyboard challenges.

Tickets start at \$25 and are on sale now at Lakewood.org/LCCPresents, 303-987-7845, or the Lakewood Cultural Center Box Office, 470 S. Allison Parkway (Wadsworth and West Alameda Avenue).

Piano in Need of Home

Yamaha GC1 baby grand piano, three years old and in impeccable condition, is available to give someone who will take good care of it. It is currently in storage in Grand Junction, CO and should be moved from there. Contact Judith Gerald, judithgerald15@gmail.com



Scenes from the Historic Denver Organ Tour

December 9 many people gathered to tour three Southeast Denver Churches. They heard about the architecture of the building and also had a description and demonstration of the organ. Photographs by Ed Mack.

Calvary Baptist Church



Christ Church (Episcopal)



Wellshire Presbyterian Church



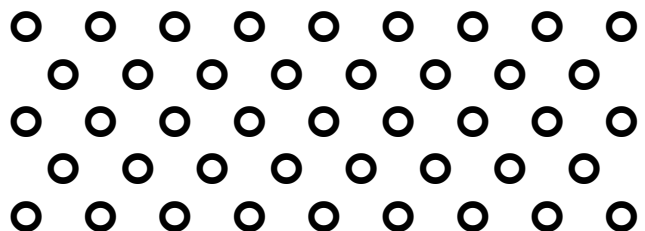
Employment Opportunities

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. The Choir Director will select choral music appropriate to the three-year lectionary and

church year season beginning in January 2024. 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. If the successful candidate has other skills and interests, such as leading adult and youth praise bands in contemporary worship at the 10:30 service (which would require additional skills such as playing guitar or piano), **planning the worship services** and directing instrumental musicians then additional compensation will certainly be included. This position does not include benefits. For more information or to apply please contact Dawn Munson at office@alutheran.org.

St. Mark Catholic Church, Highlands Ranch has opened a search for a **Saturday Accompanist** for their 4 pm Mass. Ideal candidates are those proficient in both organ and piano. The parish has a Rodgers digital organ and a 9-foot Steinway D that are used regularly at Mass. Candidates not proficient in organ but willing to be trained may be considered, as there are presets available on the instrument. Pay is **\$150** per service. Contact Director of Sacred Music Diana Corliss for more information or to apply. dianac@stmarkhr.org 720.348.9700 x213

St. Barnabas Episcopal, Denver is accepting applications for an **Organist**. This position accompanies the worshipping community in congregational song and provides special music for each worship service. The Organist also serves as accompanist for the St. Barnabas Parish Choir. For more information, please contact jeffrey.nelson@stbdenver.org or misty.dupuis@stbdenver.org.



Calendar

Sunday, January 21, 3:00 pm

*Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
1535 Logan Street, Denver, CO 80203*

Sacred Sounds: Music of the Divine

Ekaterina Kotcherguina, soprano, and Jessica Kressin, piano, perform Purcell, J. S. Bach, W. A. Mozart, Schubert, A. Dvorak, and Mendelssohn. The program is offered as part of the “Concerts at the Cathedral Basilica” series. A free-will offering is collected for the artists. For information contact PBordeleau@denvercathedral.org.

Saturday, January 20, 6:00 pm

*Christ Church (Episcopal)
2950 S. University Blvd., Denver, CO
and*

Sunday, January 21, 6:00 pm

*Plymouth Congregational Church
916 W. Prospect Rd., Ft. Collins, CO*

Colorado Bach Ensemble

Two chances to attend performances of Bach’s cantata “My Soul Magnifies the Lord” (BWV 10) ColoradoBach.org

