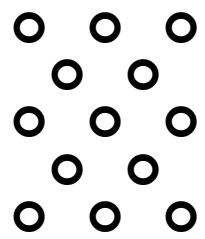


# THE DRAWKNOB

Newsletter of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

October 2025



## Susi Tattershall Adventures in Restoration

**Saturday, October 25, 10 a.m.-noon**  
**Holy Comforter Episcopal Church**  
**1700 W. 10th Ave., Broomfield, CO 80020**

Susi Tattershall is an ethnomusicologist who has been restoring historic pipe organs for more than 50 years, with a special interest in the instruments of Mexico. More recently, she has also been restoring violins and square pianos. In this presentation, she will describe some of her projects, including her work on the 1869 E. & G.G. Hook organ that was rebuilt for Saint John's Cathedral in Denver and now resides at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Broomfield. The program will include an organ demonstration.



Come to hear about what the photographs depict and where the various pictures of her adventure were taken. A little more about Susi:

“Born near Chicago, grad Wittenberg U (Springfield, OH), apprenticed with Gabriel Kney for a few years, then moved to Europe where I learned with Georges Lhôte, Jurgen Ahrend, Gabriel Blancafort, Bartolomeo Formentelli, and eventually ended up on the Restoration Team at Rieger Orgelbau. Tattershall Organs est. 1980, and began restoration of organs in Mexico shortly after that, as well as restorations of small early American organs



in my shop in Rhinebeck NY. Moved to Mexico 1995-1997, coming to Denver in 1998. Too few organs/too many organbuilders here, no organ work for Susi, so I began a string of conventional paralegal jobs, ending up at Legal Aid for 10 years. During those years, vacation time was spent documenting organs in Oaxaca with IOHIO, and installing 19th century American organs in Bolivia. And, of course, directing the restoration of the Hook organ for St. John's (not that I didn't get my hands dirty...I was in the thick of it). I now restore early fortepianos, currently working on an 1804 Érard, with a few other early instruments waiting in line.”



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### The Dean's Mixture

It was wonderful seeing several of you at the chapter's opening program last month at Augustana Lutheran Church. The students in the summer scholarship program played well and it was nice to see them interacting with each other before and after the concert. The scholarship program may be the most important program that this chapter runs each season. In addition to my appreciation to the teachers, I am very grateful to Billie Busby Smith for serving as coordinator. She put in many hours behind the scenes to make this program work for the young people involved.



Before and after the program I was struck when seeing and helping the volunteers too numerous to name here who showed up to help. Some of you helped with the music swap, the post-concert reception, hospitality, handing out

programs, and making guests feel welcome.

If you are interested in helping out with logistics at future chapter events please let me know. There

are no meetings to attend ahead of time and it's an easy way to get to meet other people in the chapter and community. When Christine and I arrived in Denver in November of 2021, I only knew one AGO person, Denise Lanning, since we had served on an AGO committee together in the past. After leaving Denver on September 8 I felt like we got to know so many of you through our work in AGO.

Please read further information in this newsletter about the October program. It sounds like a fascinating presentation and I hope you will consider attending.

Happy Autumn,  
Andrew Peters, Dean

### Scholarship Recital

The annual student scholarship recital of the Denver-Rocky Mountain Chapter was held at Augustana Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 7, 2025.

The students performing were Caleb Rossi, Spencer Wilson, Emerson Clark, Sophie Bohman, and Andrew Perry. Their teachers were Isaac Johnson, Andrew Peters, and Cindy Lindeen-Martin. In this program a group of auditioned students receives six organ lessons supported by funding from the Chapter.



Pictured are Andrew Peters (teacher), Cindy Lindeen-Martin (teacher), Sophie Bohman, Andrew Perry, Emerson Clark, Caleb Rossi, Spencer Wilson, and Isaac Johnson (teacher).

In the recital compositions by John Barr, Johann Sebastian Bach, Theodore Ripper, Wayne Leupold, Cesar Franck, Dennis Janzer, and

Charles-Marie Widor were performed by the students. They all played very well, and all, including their teachers, are to be congratulated for their accomplishments in just six lessons. This writer would hope that these students will continue their organ studies.

Denise Lanning also gave a presentation on the AGO Pipe Organ Encounters. The recital was followed with a reception and a music exchange. Many thanks to Andrew Peters and Augustana Lutheran Church for hosting this event.

Norman Sutphin  
Denver-Rocky Mountain AGO Board Member

## Coming in December Annual Historic Organ Tour

**Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-noon**

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church,  
Holy Ghost Roman Catholic Church,  
Trinity United Methodist Church, 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. Holy Ghost's three-manual pipe organ was built by Schantz in 1985 and enlarged in 1990. Trinity's restored 1888 Roosevelt organ is the largest American-built pipe organ from the 19th century in current use.

## Something New in January First Annual Epiphany Zoom Happy Hour

**Friday, Jan. 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.

## Notes of Hope

A concert by the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Friends of Music will be presented on **Friday, October 10** at 7 pm at Mountain View Estates (home of Linda and Ed Mack).

Come enjoy works by 19th- and 20th-century Ukrainian, Czech, and Russian composers — including Lysenko, Skoryk, Dvořák, Mussorgsky, Shostakovich, and Rachmaninoff — presented under the theme *“Even in times and circumstances of distress, we must have music.”* The program will be performed by singers Lesley Watson and MB Krueger, cellist James Fittz, and pianists Paul Zeller and Linda Mack. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served at 7:00 pm, with music beginning at approximately 7:30. A suggested donation of \$25 (cash, check, or credit card) will support the parish. To assist us in planning for refreshments and seating, please RSVP to **Linda Mack** at **[lindajoymack@hotmail.com](mailto:lindajoymack@hotmail.com)**; address and parking details will be provided the week of the event. For additional information, please contact Linda at **269-313-7593**.

## Hirsch at Calvary

Aaron Hirsch plays some of “My Favorite Things” in an organ recital **Sunday, October 12**, 4:00 pm., at Calvary Baptist Church, 6500 E. Girard Ave., Denver. Hirsch is Principal Organist at St. John's Episcopal Church in Boulder and Director of the St. John's Music Society. His program includes music by Bach, Smyth, Margaret Sandresky, Alexandra Thomsom, Florence Price, and Guilment. Suggested minimum donation \$5.



## Combined Evensong Services

The choirs of **St. John's Cathedral** and **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church** come together with organists and directors Michael Boney, Timothy Krueger, Linda Mack, Joseph O'Berry, and Ralph Valentine for choral Evensong. Services are by Blair and Gibbons. **Sunday, October 19 at 3 pm** at St. John's Cathedral and **Thursday, October 23 at 5:45 pm** at St. Andrew's. All are welcome.

## Jekyll and Hyde at Augustana

On October 25, Augustana Arts is presenting a [showing of the 1920 film Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde](#), accompanied by the booming sounds of pipe organ. The organist for the evening is **Simon Jacobs**. Jacobs was Organ Scholar at Christ's College, Cambridge, and then spent consecutive years as Organ Scholar at Salisbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. He moved to the USA in 2007, and held positions at many prominent churches, most recently as Organist and Choirmaster at Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, CO. In 2017, he returned to his hometown of Truro as Acting Assistant Director of Music at Truro Cathedral, where he accompanied and directed the world-famous Cathedral Choir. Simon is renowned for his work as a choral accompanist. He is an Associate of the Royal College of Organists.

Before the film, audiences can join us for a Halloween reception, with spooky activities and a bar (one drink included with each ticket). Plus, after the film, audiences have the opportunity to head up to the organ to meet Simon and test out the organ themselves.

Reception at 6 pm; film at 7 pm. Tickets \$45. Use the code **Organ** for 10% off tickets. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

## Halloween at St. John's

The St. John's Music Society presents its Fourth Annual Halloween Organ Concert on Sunday, October 26 at 4:00 pm. Held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1419 Pine St., Boulder, CO, this regular installment in the concert season is a crowd pleaser! Free, and family-friendly, come in costume and enjoy hearing the Austin/Morel organ put through its paces by Principal Organist

Aaron Hirsch and Associate Organist Lydia Morrongiello, as well as guest organists David Vogels, Andrew Todd, and Isaac Johnson. Start spooky season the right way with some great organ music!



## Halloween at First Congregational

Halloween Concert with Dr. Kajsa Teitelbaum will be presented on Sunday, October 26 at 6:00 pm at First Congregational Church, 1128 Pine St, Boulder, CO 80302. Pizza and family games at 5:00 pm, concert begins at 6:00 pm. Spooky organ music, poetry, and images will prepare you for the Halloween season. Come dress up and receive a treat at the door. A free will donation will be taken at the door.

## Jeffrey Blersch in Parker

Grace Lutheran Church, 11135 Newlin Gulch Blvd. in Parker, CO, presents a concert on Sunday, November 2, at 4 p.m., by Jeffrey Blersch. The program features the new Rodgers Infinity organ. Blersch is a nationally recognized organist, choral conductor, and composer of music for the church. He serves as Professor of Music at Concordia University, Nebraska, a position he has held since 2002, where he teaches organ, courses in music theory, composition, arranging, and is the conductor of the Cantamus Women's Choir. He is a graduate of the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music where he received degrees in organ performance and music education, and of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance. His principal teachers have included Roberta Gary, Garth Peacock, and Marilyn Mason.



Best known for his creative hymn interpretations, he regularly performs hymn festivals and recitals across the United States. His performances have been featured on American Public Media's *Pipedreams*, and *The Lutheran Hour*. His organ, choral, and piano compositions and collections, which number over 250 titles, are published with Concordia Publishing House and Northwestern Publishing House, and his original hymn tunes have been included in three hymnals, including *Lutheran Service Book*. A reception follows the free concert.

## Lunch Concerts at First Congregational Church in Boulder

Starting on September 10, Dr. Kajsa Teitelbaum will offer lunch concerts every Wednesday at 12:00 noon throughout the fall. Bring your lunch and join us for 30 minutes of music while eating



in our beautiful sanctuary. Parking on the west side of the church, or on the street. Building is handicap accessible. Free and open to the public. The First Congregational Church is located at 1128 Pine St., Boulder, CO 80302. 303-442-1787

## Requiescat in pace

We note with the sadness the passing of a long-time member and another person known to many in our chapter.

**Ron Yeater** died August 31, 2025. Ron was not a member of our chapter but was known to many as a regular attender at AGO events and at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in recent years. Born in Durango, he studied at CU with Everett Hilty and became an organ builder, working for Wicks and later with Holtkamp.

The Rev. **Donald Nelson Warner** died on September 25, 2025. He had a career as a church musician before entering the Episcopal priesthood. After serving as Rector of St.

Timothy's Episcopal Church in Littleton, in retirement he served as interim or guest organist in many churches. In recent years he had attended St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

*May the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

## Employment Opportunities

**Augustana Lutheran Church** of Denver seeks a **Director of Music/Organist**. Complete details are found at

<https://www.augustanadenver.org/position-available-director-of-music-and-organist/>

**First Baptist Church of Denver** seeks a Director of Music/Organist. Description and details are found on the church's home page at <https://www.rethinkbaptist.org/home>

**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.

