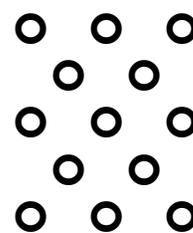


THE DRAWKNOB

Newsletter of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Guild of Organists

March 2026

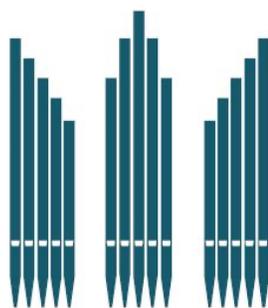


Woman Composer Sunday Concert

Sunday, March 8, 4:00 pm
Bethany Lutheran Church
4500 E. Hampden Ave.
Cherry Hills Village, CO

Bring your friends and family to hear a magical program of music for organ with flute, trumpet, and voice by woman composers from the 18th century to the present. Members of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter will perform, with special guest artists, in honor of Woman Composer Sunday. This annual celebration was launched by the Royal College of Organists and the Society of Women Organists in 2021, and it has since grown to be a worldwide event supported by the AGO. The program features the local premiere of *The Colorado Suite* by Pamela Decker, performed by organist Faythe Freese with narrator.

A music swap and reception will accompany the concert, which is free and open to the public (suggested donation: \$20 per adult). Use the attached flyer to recruit your choir and congregation. Donations can be made through the QR code on the flyer.



WOMAN COMPOSER
SUNDAY

PROGRAM

Festive Music Margaret Vardell Sandresky
(b. 1921)

Rick Seaton, organist
Tim Libby, trumpeter

Limina Luminis Olivia Belli
Rhonda Jones, organist

Attende Domine Jeanne Demessieux
(1921-1968)

*Choral paraphrasé from Douze Choral-
préludes sur des thèmes grégoriens, op. 8*
Liam Harty, organist

Trois Petites Pièces Augusta Holmès
(1847-1903)

I. Chanson
II. Clair de Lune
III. Gigue
David Vogels, organist
Cyndy McRae, flutist

Fanfare in G Minor Emma Louise Ashford
(1850-1930)
Norman Sutphin, organist

The Lord Is My Light Frances Allitsen
(1848-1912)
Norman Sutphin, organist
Jerome Sibulo, bass-baritone

Sicilienne Maria Theresa von Paradis
(1759-1824)

Prelude Nancy Plummer Faxon
(1914-2005)

Cantilena Rosalie Bonighton
(1946-2011)

Linda Mack, organist
Cyndy McRae, flutist

Star Fantasy Kristina Arakelyan
(b. 1994)

Aaron Hirsch, organist

In Quiet Mood
Florence Price
(1887-1953)
Liam Harty, organist

The Colorado Suite
Pamela Decker
(b. 1955)
I. Gargoyle Rock
II. Waterfall in the Pines
III. Scatflower Rag
IV. Pepper at the River
Faythe Freese, organist
Amy French, narrator

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American Guild of Organists*

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

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Liam Harty, Yinying Luo, Kathryn Walsh (2027)

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

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Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

Saturday, April 18, 9:00-11:00 am
Saint Andrew United Methodist Church
9203 South University Blvd.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter will host a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza event for elementary and middle school-aged children on Saturday, April 18. Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza is a national outreach program of the American Guild of Organists, designed to introduce young children to the pipe organ.

Doors will open at 9:00, and the morning's activities will include a demonstration of the console layout and the sounds of the organ. A "Royal Tour" organ demonstrator by Randolph Currie will be played by Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter member and Bethany Lutheran organist and director of music Rick Seaton. His Majesty King Rex (aka Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter member and Colorado School of Mines student Zachary Gonzales) will be in attendance and there will be the opportunity for attendees to play a piano piece on the organ. There will be a special demonstration of Orgel Kit, a small hands on pipe organ that the children can assemble.

Attendees will also receive a tote bag which will contain information about other AGO programs for young people, a copy of The American Organist magazine, and a small wooden organ pipe. The morning will conclude with everyone devouring (a lovely cheese) pizza.

If you have any small wooden organ pipes and/or copies of The American Organist magazine that you would like to donate for the tote bags, please contact Denise Lanning (contact information below). Better yet, bring these items to the March 8 members' concert at Bethany Lutheran. We currently have 13 children enrolled and that number will grow.

Please include this information about Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza in your church newsletters and orders of worship. Print out copies of the attached publicity flyer for church bulletin boards and make additional copies for church members to pick up on Easter morning.

Registration is encouraged (so that we have enough pizza) and suggested family donation is \$10. Contact Denise Lanning at deniselanning@netscape.net if you have questions and to register.



The Dean's Mixture

The Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the AGO takes education of the next generation of organists seriously. Billie Busby Smith, chair of the scholarship program, has been working on details of the spring auditions for the students who will receive organ lessons this summer. If you are interested in teaching, or want to suggest someone as a teacher, please contact Billie. If you believe strongly in the importance of this program and feel moved to make a donation to support this specific program, please contact Treasurer Cathy Bruno.

Denise Lanning, the chapter's Education Coordinator, has worked diligently on the Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza which will be held on April 18 in Highlands Ranch. This event is designed to be both fun and educational as an organ introduction to young people. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Denise.

Linda Mack works hard gathering and keeping music organized for the music swaps held at most chapter events. She goes out of her way to select music that young keyboardists will find useful and playable at the above two events. Students at the scholarship program and Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza have enthusiastically commented about receiving music that they can work on in their studies.

Thanks to all of you who support the future of the organ.

Andrew Peters, Dean

David Pickering Lecture

Active recitalist, recording artist, scholar and author David Pickering is Professor of Music at Kansas State University. He is spending a sabbatical year in Denver while he while he completes a book on the life of G. Donald Harrison. Chapter members gathered on February 7 to hear about his research and see historic pictures and even a very old home movie of Harrison and family and Ernest Skinner! The

lovely setting of the Linda Mack Music Studio provided opportunity for visiting and networking.



Chapter members gathered to hear David Pickering, right. Photo by Ed Mack.

Summer Scholarship Program

Each summer, the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the AGO offers scholarships for organ instruction to talented young pianists (age 13–18). Scholarship students study with faculty selected from DRMC members who are hired to provide six lessons.

If you are wondering just how you can help make this summer's program a success, here are a few ways.

- Nominate yourself or another organ teacher within the chapter membership to serve on the faculty
- Distribute copies of the flyer to young pianists or post in locations where young pianists might find it. (Request copies from Billie Busby Smith - billbuzbee@comcast.net) OR refer students to our chapter's website.
- When concert time comes along, help bring an audience for our young scholars.

Here is a huge opportunity to make a difference and help grow our profession! It does, indeed, take a village.

Billie Busby Smith

Coordinator, Summer Scholarship Program



Concerts

Friday, March 6, 7:00 pm
Church of the Holy Comforter
1700 W. 10th Ave., Broomfield.

A Lenten Organ Concert featuring Ben Ehrlich, Aaron Hirsch, and John Murgel on the historic Hook Organ, with reception to follow. Free and open to the public.

Sunday, March 15, 3:00 pm
Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
1535 Logan St. Denver, CO 80203

Organ Recital by Gail Archer. *Meditations on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity* (1969) by Olivier Messiaen. Concerts at the Cathedral Basilica are always free of charge; a free-will offering is collected for the performers. For more information, please visit <https://www.denvercathedral.org/concerts>

Sunday, March 15, 4:00 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
1419 Pine St., Boulder.

Rejoice, O Earth! The St. John's Music Society presents St. John's own Soprano Choral Scholar Kristina Butler in a stunning program of art songs, jazz, and various arias from opera and oratorio. This selection of Kristina's favorites seeks ways to rejoice in creation, cats, coffee, and the Creator. Accompanied by Aaron Hirsch on the organ, hear how her voice interacts with the organ's various colors as well as the versatility of St. John's Austin/Morel pipe organ. This concert is free, and there will be a free-will offering opportunity.

Employment Opportunities

The historic **St. James Church of Central City** is seeking an organist after March 1, 2026. Current pay rate is \$650 per month. Contact Eric Chinn at chinneric@hotmail.com for more information.

Littleton United Methodist Church seeks an organist. 5894 S. Datura St., Littleton, Colorado 80120. Position: Church Organist (Part-Time; 20 hours/week).

The Church Organist at Littleton UMC collaborates with the Director of Music and Fine

Arts and the pastoral staff in leading worship services and participates in all musical offerings during services, including serving as staff accompanist and collaborating with various groups and soloists as needed.

position is open to all qualified applicants, regardless of faith tradition. Application materials are to be emailed to davidkates@littletonumc.org. The deadline for submissions is March 30, 2026. Interviews/auditions will be held after Holy Week. Salary range: \$25,000-28,000.

A very detailed description is found on the Chapter website: www.agodrmc.org/

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.

