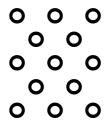


THE DRAWKNOB

Newsletter of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter American Guild of Organists

January 2025



December Organ Tour Historic Denver and AGO

The 13th Annual Historic Denver Organ Tour was presented on Saturday, December 7. The churches visited were in the Alameda/Hilltop area. Over 100 enthusiastic participants attended this popular event

This collaborative tour, coordinated by Historic Denver's Alison Salutz and Linda Mack, DRMCAGO Sub-dean, began at Augustana Lutheran Church. Church member Paul Blanchard gave an informative history of the church (at its various locations) and its architecture. Andy Peters, Augustana Director of Music and Organist as well as dean of DRMCAGO, demonstrated the many colors of the 1941, 1985 61-rank Reuter organ with many wonderful improvisations on seasonal tunes. He also performed James Pethel's "Of the Father's Love Begotten." The visit concluded by viewing the lovely Christ Chapel and hearing the small Wicks organ.





We next traveled next door along Alameda and visited the Assumption of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Music Director Chrysanthy Therianos welcomed us and gave a most interesting presentation on the magnificent building and its iconography. She and her sister Marika demonstrated the wonderful acoustics for singing with an Advent chant. Kenrick and Mervine discussed the acoustic Barbara challenges with the high-vaulted dome ceiling of the cathedral and explained how the installation the 58-stop Allen Organ was designed with specific speaker placement and angling to project the organ sound throughout this extremely reverberant worship space. Showcasing several of the multiple specifications of the instrument (Cavaillé-Coll, Skinner, Schnitger, Harrison) and the GeniSys Voices system, the Mervines presented works by:

Denis Bedard: *Huit Invocations*JS Bach: *Toccata in D Minor (BWV 565)*Marianne Kim: *Variation on "The Church on the Wildwood"*

Mark Hayes/Mervine: *Carol of the Bells* (demonstrating a broad selection of carillons/bells).

As our group left the cathedral, parishioners presented us with delicious Greek treats.





The final leg of the tour was at the *Episcopal Church of the Epiphany*. Fr. Stace Tafoya welcomed us and gave a wonderful presentation on the architecture and art in the church.

The Mervines explained the need and benefits, in the traditional rectangular worship space acoustics, of having the Main Organ of the custom 89-stop Allen projecting from the rear of the sanctuary, and an Antiphonal Division from the front. This facilitates the organ to surround the congregation with sound at a proper decibel level, rather than overpowering from one end of the worship space. Works presented included:

Karl Jenkins: *Palladio* (demonstrating orchestral colors of the MIDI System)

Virgil Fox/Robert Hebble: *Good King Wenceslas* (twice, on different specifications)

Joel Raney: *Variations on "Amazing Grace"* (composed for the Mervines)

Denis Bedard: *Huit Invocations* (with recited Invocations)

Bedard's *Huit Invocations* were presented both at the Cathedral and Epiphany to allow the participants to experience the extraordinarily different acoustics. Barbara recited the invocations of each of the eight movements at Epiphany. The Mervines chose the *Invocations* to acknowledge the restoration of the organ at the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris, being rededicated with the same spoken recitations that very day!





Photography by Ed Mack

Dean's Mixture

It was good to see some of you at the organ and church tour in early December co-sponsored with Historic Denver. Thank you to Linda Mack for her work organizing our end of this event and to Ken Mervine for his fine playing at two of the churches on the tour.

I trust that you have recovered from your December activities. For those of you with church or school positions I hope you got some quiet and rest to yourself after Christmas. As we embrace winter, the longer nights of the season, and possible burnout from the holidays, consider these words by Reginald Heber:

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid. Star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

While we do not have a chapter program this month I hope to see you at the Members Recital on Saturday, February 22 at Christ the King Chapel, Saint John Vianney Seminary in Denver. More information will follow in next month's newsletter.

Andrew Peters, Dean

February Program

Mountain Chapter's members and friends recital is February 22 at 7 p.m. Members and friends are invited to play their favorite "hidden gems" on the 25-rank Kegg organ in the Christ the King Chapel at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver. Maybe a wonderful Pachelbel piece that's not Canon in D, perhaps a Bach chorale that is rarely heard, or even toccata by an early 20th-century composer from the Danubian lowlands? A

fantastic opportunity to listen to the amazing talent right in our own Chapter and to enjoy "hidden gems": new repertoire, the Kegg organ, and a beautiful sacred space designed by Denver architect Jacques Benedict. A Reception following will feature the music library of Martha Sandford-Heyns that she has generously donated to the organists of Colorado.

Sign-up by January 24 to share your "hidden gem!" To join the program, please email Charles Nolen at charles.nolen@archden.org.



For a specification of the Kegg organ: Click HERE

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

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Support the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the AGO!

he Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is an all-inclusive social organization that provides education, resources, performances and events for organ music enthusiasts and professionals throughout Colorado. We offer a gateway for aspiring musicians to learn the organ, provide scholarships and mentoring opportunities, and

host a variety of events available to the public: <u>see</u> this year's program offerings.

Your support is critical to our ability to continue our mission and provide programs for our members. There are several ways you can donate to our chapter:

1. Make a donation via our website: https://www.agodrmc.org/

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/c170d700-8fd2-430b-85dd-24fa6be8e25f

Choose your amount to donate. Please note that Zeffy is a 100% free fundraising platform for nonprofits. Zeffy covers all transaction fees, so your full payment goes directly to the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. At checkout, Zeffy will ask for a donation to support its work. If you don't wish to contribute to Zeffy, simply click the dropdown menu, choose "Other," and change the donation to \$0. Please check your junk/spam folder if you do not receive payment confirmation.

2. Donate through the National AGO system: https://agohq.org/ago/membership/JoinRenew/C hapter-

Donations.aspx?CHAPT=C602&ItemId=C602A

There is a drop down in that top red section that allows you to select from the four different funds of the chapter. Enter your donation amount and add it to the cart. Then enter your payment source information and check out. The national AGO organization forwards all chapter donations to our chapter.

- 3. Make a donation when you renew your membership to the AGO using the AGO's new computer system. The system will ask you whether you want to add a donation to the national organization, and, right after that, it will ask you whether you want to donate to our chapter. The national AGO organization forwards all chapter donations to our chapter.
- 4. Mail a check to our Chapter's post office box:

DRMC AGO PO Box 101448 Denver, Colorado 80250-1448 Thank you for considering donating to our chapter. Every donation is helpful. When you donate to the Denver Rocky Mountain (Colo.) Chapter, you help support our projects, scholarships and members.

Hoping that you and your loved ones had a very happy holiday season!

Cathy Bruno, Treasurer for the Denver Rocky Mountain AGO Chapter Andrew Peters, Dean for the Chapter

Isaac Johnson in Boulder

Join us at St. John's Episcopal Church in Boulder for the fifth installment of this season of concerts by the St. John's Music Society as organist Isaac Johnson presents a recital celebrating the Epiphany. **Sunday, January 26, 2025,** 4:00 p.m. This is a free concert is open to all ages. Come hear the 1930 Austin/Morel put through its paces! The church is at 1419 Pine Street, Boulder, CO 80302.

Organ for Sale

Rodgers Allegiant 678 selfcontained organ; 28 stops, 84 Voice Pallette voices with 52 additional internal orchestral voices and internal MIDI The sequencer. organ can accommodate external speakers (not included) and



does include a headphone attachment. The organ has been lovingly cared for and is in excellent, like-new working order. I am asking \$12,000.00 for the instrument (with some room for negotiation). Contact Joseph O'Berry joseph@sicathedral.org



Employment Opportunities

The Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver seeks to hire an adjunct instructor in Organ for the 2025-2026 academic year. Teaching duties would include studio organ, juries and comprehensive assessments related to degree completion, organ-related classes on an as-needed basis, and auditioning and recruiting students. Compensation for studio lessons currently is \$117 per hour. Applicants should have at least a master's degree in organ performance.

Candidates must apply online through jobs.du.edu to be considered (job #497391; Adjunct Faculty, Lamont School of Music). Only applications submitted online will be accepted. Please submit a CV and brief cover letter outlining area(s) of expertise relative to the position.

Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist in Denver is in need of occasional substitute organists and/or pianists. We have two services during the week: Sunday morning (10:00-11:00) and Wednesday evening (7:30-8:30). Music consists of three hymns per service, appropriate church music before and after the service, and for Sundays, accompanying a vocal solo and playing two minutes during the collection. Pay is \$155 for Sundays and \$125 for Wednesdays. Sight-reading skills a plus. The church has a Moller pipe organ with 13 ranks, including chimes, and a Steinway piano. Please contact Bonnie Jean Schlaepfer at bonniejean.schlaepfer@gmail.com for information.



