

## Choral Techniques Workshop Highlights January Meeting

Welcome to the second half of our Chapter's program year! After a month's break, we will resume our meetings with *Getting the Best Possible Sound Out of Your Volunteer Choir*, a program to be presented by Dr. Joel Knapp. In his lecture, Dr. Knapp will introduce us to techniques and ideas for improving the sound of volunteer choirs.

Dr. Knapp is director of choral activities at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, having held that position for nine years. He held similar positions at Utah State University, Texas Tech, Jacksonville State University, and the University of Akron. During his tenure at Akron, he was named director of the Akron Symphony chorus for the 1992-1993 season, and served as guest conductor for the Akron Symphony Orchestra. He has served as an adjudicator and clinician in 11 states.

He earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Wichita State University and holds an MM and DMA, in choral conducting, from the University of

Missouri - Kansas City. Dr. Knapp graduated summa cum laude from both schools.

The origins of First Unitarian Church may be directly linked to the ministry of the famous William Greenleaf Eliot. Upon graduation from Harvard Divinity School, Eliot was encouraged to organize a



Dr. Joel Knapp

Unitarian Church in the frontier town of St. Louis. In 1835, he established the Church of the Messiah (the first Unitarian church west of the Mississippi), and in 1868 he founded the Church of the Unity (the second Unitarian church formed in St. Louis). These two churches merged in 1938 to form the First Unitarian Church which has about 350 members today.

With members of his congregation Eliot founded Washington University in 1853

and became its first president and chancellor. In its early years, the university was maintained almost entirely through the beneficence of Unitarians.

In October 1991, First Unitarian dedicated its 2-manual, 20-rank Dobson pipe organ, which replaced at 74-year-old Kilgen instrument. In 2006 the Dobson organ was dedicated to Alice Gerdine in gratitude for her support of the organ's installation.

The organ was carefully designed to harmonize with the church's historic mural which is focal point at the front of the sanctuary. The

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### The Details

**Date:** Monday, January 26, 2009  
**Event:** Getting the Best Possible Sound Out of Your Volunteer Choir - Dr. Joel Knapp  
**Location:** First Unitarian Church  
 5007 Waterman  
 St. Louis, MO 63108  
**Time:** Dinner – 6:30 p.m.  
 Program – 7:30 p.m.  
**Host:** Emily Pearce  
**Cost:** \$10 for dinner  
**Reservations:** Kathleen Bolduan (314-725-1251 or [kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com))  
 (Please confirm your reservations by Wednesday, Jan. 21.)

#### Directions:

Due to the ongoing reconstruction of I-64/U.S. 40, specific directions are difficult.

- For those living south, it would be advisable to take a road leading to Kingshighway north.
- From west, Forest Park Expressway or Lindell Blvd. to reach Kingshighway might be appropriate.

The church is one mile north of 64/40 at the northwest corner of Kingshighway and Waterman. The name of the church is on the east end of the education wing facing Kingshighway. Parking is available in a lot just west of the church building on Waterman. Additional parking is available in the Central Reform Congregation lot across the street.

## An Epiphany for the New Year

We're all in this together. Seriously, it's not just a platitude. I think we would benefit from realizing it and acting on it consciously. As much as we deal with people, our profession can be isolating to the point where we can stop thinking about others and how we affect them. We can think one decision is as good as another, it doesn't really matter.

This point came to me recently on PipeChat, where someone described what they played as a prelude on Christmas Eve (FYI, it was "Christmas Time Is Here" from the Charlie Brown TV Christmas special). A firestorm ensued. And it was quelled by the moderator, who in effect said, "What is

it to you? If he's happy with it and his church is happy with it, what is it to you? It has nothing to do with you."

This surprised me. Your opinion about the choice is one thing; claiming your choices do not affect others is quite another. How many times has a congregant brought you a bulletin from another church (or taken one to a pastor) and said, "See!?! Why can't WE do cool stuff like this?" And, in my experience, I usually don't think what they're referring to is cool in the least. Sometimes I think it's downright tacky.

I don't want to be cagey about this; anybody who knows me knows my

personal position: trying to prove "relevance." The church has allowed the voice of the culture to become the voice of the church and thus has given away any power it had to speak with authority. Sensing a lack of authority that is "not of this world," mainstream worshippers have looked elsewhere. These decisions, and these alone, account for the loss of power in the society that the church itself bemoans. There, now I did it, you know where I stand.

But I'm not advocating that you take my position. I am asking that you consider how important your decisions might be. I am exhorting you to remember how they affect people, sometimes without you even knowing. I am not asking you to buy into my way of doing things — I am asking you to strategize feverishly in order to raise the theological and musical standards of whatever music you choose to do.

Choices do matter, and we're all in this together. That is the spirit of this Guild — please consider how we can be of help to you. Conversely, consider how you might better support the AGO in the coming year. Resolve to help us improve our "togetherness!"  
— Chuck Peery

## Chapter Office Nomination Procedure

A word to members about placing names on the ballot for Chapter elections:

Soon after the first of the year, a Nominating Committee will be established to select candidates for vacant positions and present a proposed slate to the Executive Committee. If you have any interest in serving as a member of the Nominating body, please contact Chuck Peery, Chapter dean, and he will forward your name to the committee chair.

Offices to be filled in the calendar year 2009 election are three positions on the Executive Committee, to be designated the Class of 2012.

At any point prior to approximately April 1, any member may submit a nomination for a vacant office. The procedure stipulated for this by the National AGO is that you need a petition of five Chapter members in good standing in order to place your candidate on the ballot. We recommend that you do as the Nominating Committee does: Make the first step to ask your candidate if he/she is willing to serve if elected!

Please remember that, as Chapter members, you are always welcome at Executive Committee meetings. We appreciate hearing from you via e-mail or phone as well.

## Executive Committee Meeting Summary

November 3, 2008

- Renewal membership reminders have been sent. As of November, there were numerous membership renewals pending.
- Expansion and improvement of the chapter Web site ([www.agostlouis.org](http://www.agostlouis.org)) is underway. Suggestions have included a password protected members-only area for available positions, substitute positions, and membership roster, and the ability to renew membership online. Requests and/or suggestions about how the site can be improved are welcome from the membership and should be directed to Chapter Dean Chuck Peery ([cepeery@earthlink.net](mailto:cepeery@earthlink.net)).

## THE OPUS

The official publication  
of the St. Louis Chapter  
of the American Guild of Organists.

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**Wayne King, Editor**

You are invited to submit material to the editor for publication consideration. Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to [opusstlago@aol.com](mailto:opusstlago@aol.com).

**Next issue deadline: January 31, 2009**

## January

(Continued from Page 1)

mural, entitled "Hope," was painted in 1919 by Edmund H. Wuerpel. It was originally commissioned by the church as a tribute to those members who served in World War I and whose names are listed on a framed document on the south wall.

We'll look forward to welcoming you at our 2009 Chapter meetings.

— Henry Evans

## University of Kansas Sponsors North German Organ Study Tour

From July 28-August 10, the University of Kansas will sponsor KU European Organ Study Tour IV: North Germany, under the direction of Professor Michael Bauer. This tour will include a significant number of the major Schnitger organs, as well as Renaissance instruments, important 17th Century organs by Scherer and Stellwagen, Romantic organs by Ladegast and Sauer, and contemporary instruments by Ahrend and Metzler. We will also tour the Ahrend shop and have free time in Hamburg and Lübeck.

For further information, see [www2.ku.edu/~organ](http://www2.ku.edu/~organ), write [mbauer@ku.edu](mailto:mbauer@ku.edu), or call 785-864-9744.

## Get In on Early Registration For Region VI Summer Convention

The Wichita AGO Chapter has issued an invitation to all Region VI AGO members to join them June 15-18 for the biennial regional convention. A registration form postmarked by Feb. 15 will gain you a saving in the fee.

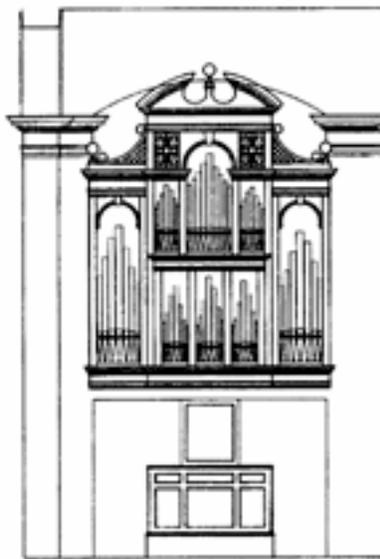
Themed "Pipes on the Plains," the regional promises lots of information, inspiration, fun and fellowship. A wide variety of organs will be featured including a 1986 IV/65 Marcussen, the only instrument by this builder in North America.



Program participants will include St. Louis Chapter member John Romeri, who will lead an organ and brass festival at the opening convocation; Lynne David, Clive Driskill-Smith, Steve Egler, David Josefiak, Shirley King, Jan Kraybill, Anna Myeong, Melody Steed and Brett Valliant.

At just 460 miles away, Wichita is an easy day's drive via interstate and turnpike and offers a variety of family attractions.

Full details about the regional meeting — including accommodations, schedule of events, presenter biographies, photographs of organs to be heard, workshop descriptions, and registration forms — may be found online at [www.pipesontheplains09.org](http://www.pipesontheplains09.org).



### ORGAN RECITAL & CHORAL EVENSONG

FIRST SUNDAYS from OCTOBER through MAY

The St. Peter's Singers - S. William Aitken, Director

Sunday, February 8 – NOTE DATE CHANGE

Recital & Choral Evensong

5:00 p.m. - **William Partridge**, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis, Mo.

5:30 p.m. - **Evensong for Epiphany – Music of Byrd and Purcell**

Sunday, March 1

Recital & Choral Evensong

5:00 p.m. - **Henry Evans**, St. Andrew's Church, Edwardsville, Ill.

5:30 p.m. - **Evensong for Lent – Music of Palestrina and Victoria**

Sunday, March 8

5:00 p.m. - 1st ST. LOUIS PERFORMANCE

JOHANNESPASSION – *Gottfried August Homilius (1714-1785)*

*St. Peter's Choir, Soloists and Chamber Orchestra*

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## National AGO Job Listings Now 'Private'

Effective Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, job listings posted online at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org) became accessible only to AGO voting members. Individuals wanting to view these pages must first enter their AGO membership number, found on the mailing label of *The American Organist* magazine.

"Membership has its privileges," remarked AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. "By limiting access to our online job postings, we are increasing the value of membership to our voting members by providing priority access to job information not available to others. Employers can rest assured knowing that their job postings are being seen by the members of the world's largest organization devoted to the organ and choral music. These individuals have pledged to abide by the AGO Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Standards."

## Principia College Concert Series



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314-645-6232 or 314-863-0850  
awblack3@aol.com

# Positions Available

## Organist

*St. Martin United Church of Christ, 3229 High Ridge Blvd., High Ridge, MO 63049, seeks organist. Duties include playing for Sunday morning worship, special religious services and accompanying choir on Sunday and at weekly evening choir practice. Salary negotiable. For information, call 636-376-5147.*

## Organist

*St. Clare of Assisi Parish, 1411 Cross St., O'Fallon, IL 62269, seeks organist. This is a vibrant parish of 900 families with a commitment to quality liturgical worship. Applicant would be primarily responsible for playing for three weekend liturgies, weddings and funerals, and rehearsals with two choirs. Send resume to Sister Carolyn McWatters, liturgy and music director at the church.*

## Worship Arts Director

*Bellefontaine United Methodist Church, 10600 Bellefontaine Rd., St. Louis, MO 63137, seeks part-time worship arts director to coordinate the overall music program and develop, direct and accompany a gospel choir. Sunday services start at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Salary is commensurate with experience. For information contact Adrienne Behmer, committee chair, at church (314-867-0800). Resumes can be mailed to the church or faxed to 314-867-4934.*

## Director of Music/Organist

*Incarinate Word Catholic Church, 13416 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, seeks full-time director of music/organist. Weekend liturgies are celebrated at 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Additionally, the successful candidate will be responsible for weddings and funerals. Ensembles include adult and children's choirs. The church has a 2-manual Rodgers organ and a grand piano. A cantor program is in place. Salary is per Archdiocesan scale. Send pertinent materials to the Rev. Timothy Vowels, pastor, at (phone) 314-576-5366, (fax) 314-576-2046, or (e-mail) [frvowels@incarnate-word.org](mailto:frvowels@incarnate-word.org).*

## Director of Music/Organist

*The Church of the Immacolata, 8900 Clayton Rd., St. Louis 63117, seeks full-time director of music/organist. Weekend liturgies are celebrated at 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. on Sundays. The successful candidate will also be responsible for weddings, funerals and school liturgies. Some teaching in the parish elementary school is desired. Ensembles include adult and children's choirs. The church has a 2-manual Rodgers organ and a piano. A cantor program needs to be developed. Salary is per Archdiocesan scale. Send pertinent materials to Rev. Msgr. Walter Whited, pastor, at (phone) 314-991-5700 ext. 315, (fax) 314-991-5700, or (e-mail) [wwhited@immacolata.org](mailto:wwhited@immacolata.org).*

## Pastoral Music Director

*Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 3519 North 14th Street, St. Louis, MO 63107, seeks part-time pastoral music director. Rooted in Jesus' call to discipleship, the pastoral music director must be committed to the service of the parish and the church, to the promotion of gospel values, and to collaboration with other parish ministers. This position is one-quarter time to include rehearsal, planning, preparation, and performance at one mass on Sunday. There is a grand piano in the church (no organ). A cantor program is in place. Salary is per Archdiocesan scale. Send pertinent materials to the Rev. Richard Creason, pastor, at the church address or by (phone) 314-241-9165, (fax) 314-436-9291, or (e-mail) [trinitystl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trinitystl@sbcglobal.net).*

## Music Director/Organist

*St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Road, Ellisville, MO 63011, seeks part-time music director/organist with responsibilities as organist, adult and bell choir director. Music is highly valued in this parish and designed to support the community in its worship of God through voice and instruments. This position requires 20 hours per week, including Sunday service at 10:15 a.m. and two rehearsals weekly. There is opportunity for work with soloists and instrumentalists, as well as creative approaches to music and liturgy. The church has an Allen organ and a grand piano. Salary commensurate with experience and AGO guidelines. For more information, call Rev. Susan Crawford, interim rector (636-227-1484; e-mail [scrawford@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:scrawford@stmartinschurch.org)).*

# The OPUS

American Guild of Organists

St. Louis Chapter

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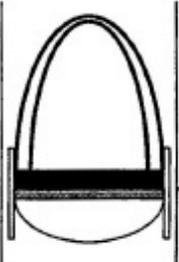
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