



# THE OPUS

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

[www.agostlouis.org](http://www.agostlouis.org)

## AGO + NPM = GREAT KICK-OFF EVENT AND THEN . . . A Year of Exiting Programs

Well, friends, it is time to roll-out another year of programs for the St. Louis Chapter of the Guild. Your Program Committee (Mary Beth Wittry, Brent Johnson, Andy Peters, Bill Stein, David Erwin, and Mark Scholtz) has developed what we believe to be an exceptional series of events. My sincerest thanks to each of them for spear-heading projects related to securing venues, presenters, and programs.

The Season begins with a festive flourish at the **Psalm Fest to be held at the newly-refurbished Old Cathedral Monday evening 21 September at 7:30** (Dan Vizer, host). This event will be a combined effort with the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and will feature music of our own Stephen Mager and Horst Buchholz, as well as Herbert Howells, David Cherwien, Jan Mulder, Frank Ferko, Virgil Thompson, and Charles Villiers Stanford. Performers will include Dan Vizer, Horst Buchholz, the Masterworks Chorale and Stephen Mager, Bill Stein, Stephen Eros, Kathleen Bolduan, the Choir of the Old Cathedral, and Brent Johnson.

The roster of significant new organs in St. Louis is on the increase. To highlight two installations taking place at the time of this writing, we have invited the builders of these instruments to meet with the Chapter and interested members of the broader community. The first such evening will be **Monday evening 19 October at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church** (David Erwin, host) and will feature **Jack Bethards of Schoenstein & Co.** Mr. Bethards will talk about the genesis of Ladue Chapel's new Schoenstein and his ideas on tonal design. **The Chapter will gather for dinner at 6:30 with the presentation commencing at 7:30.** (The second installation is highlighted below.)

Following last season's wonderful success of Andy Peters' accompanying of a silent film at the **Scottish Rite Cathedral**, we determined that it would be very worthwhile to feature the Rite's venerable old Kimball in a solo recital. **Friday evening 6 November at 7:00 organist John Schwandt**, Associate Professor of Organ of the University of Oklahoma School of Music, will put the instrument to work in a program specially designed to show off the beautiful colors lurking in those organ chambers.

**Saturday morning 30 January** internationally acclaimed organist and teacher **Nathan Laube** will present a Master Class on the splendid Casavant at **First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood** (Bill Stein, host). It is not too early to begin thinking of repertoire that *you* might play at this Master Class. Mr. Laube is an extraordinary player, a gifted teacher, and a fine communicator. **Breakfast will begin at 9:00 with the Master Class taking place from 10:00-Noon.** Of course, we should all be placing our orders for tickets to Mr. Laube's recital the very next afternoon on the Cathedral Basilica series!

**Monday evening 7 March at Second Presbyterian Church** (Andy Peters, host), **Dr. Agnes Armstrong** will deliver a talk on Alexandre Guilmant focusing on his series of recitals at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. **Dinner begins at 6:30 with the presentation commencing at 7:30.**

The second new instrument being installed in the St. Louis area is at **Manchester United Methodist Church** (John Cargile, host). **Monday evening 25 April Brad Colby of R.A. Colby Organbuilders** will discuss the design of the organ for this very large space, and how he, Robert Walker (Walker Technical Company), and John Cargile (the Parish's Organist) arrived at the generous specification for the 5-manual organ. This will undoubtedly be a very interesting evening! **Dinner will begin at 6:30. At 7:30 we will adjourn to the Church for the program.**

Finally, our Program Year will conclude **Monday evening 16 May at Grace Episcopal Church, Kirkwood** (Phillip Brunswick, host) with the Chapter's Annual Meeting, presentation of the Avis Blewett Award, and a performance of Warren Martin's comic, one-act, concert opera ***The True Story of Cinderella***. Until his death in 1982 Martin served variously as head of the Graduate Department, as musical director, as conductor of the Symphonic and Westminster Choirs, and as head of the Theory Department at Westminster Choir College. It is not possible to adequately describe this work. One must experience it to fully appreciate the outrageous giftedness (and wit) of its creator. **Dinner will be at 6:30 with the performance at 7:30.**

I look forward to seeing each of you Monday evening 21 September at 7:30 at the Old Cathedral!

Cheers – Mark

(See "The Details" on Page 9)

## FROM THE DEAN . . .

It is my hope that your summer gave you time to reconnect with people important to you, and to appreciate some leisure and personal renewal. A real highlight for our Chapter was the Regional Convention which we hosted in June. Master Organizers, Registration Experts, Budget Maximizers, Cookie Managers, Transportation Gurus, Singers and Ringers, Rectors and Directors—what a wealth of talent and hospitality was shared to make this an exceptional gathering. Everyone involved has my lasting gratitude and amazement.

Resting on our laurels is not something we are prone to do. The program for 2015-16 will provide a wonderful variety of offerings full of insight and interest. Our events will also bring us “in on the action” for two new local organ installations. As we move forward we will have times to visit, to learn, to laugh, and to pray. Mark Scholtz and the Program Committee have assembled a strong series which will build our skills while enriching our lives.

The Festival of Psalms which we will share this month gathers vocal and instrumental settings of several Psalms. We will be drawn into many interpretations of sacred texts. I am looking forward to experiencing the emotional and artistic expressions drawn from the “songbook of the Bible.” Re-connecting and building collegial relationships is another valuable part of our gathering. Plus, I can hardly wait to see the improvements made in the Basilica of Saint Louis, King. And the parking will be free—how cool is that!?!

I have a favor to ask—I know that everyone who is able to make the opening event on September 21 will be there. If you are coming, would you take time in the next day or two to invite along another friend or acquaintance who is interested in organ and choral music? Reaching out to others at the beginning of the new academic year will lay the groundwork for more chapter initiatives which will slow (or reverse) the decline in AGO membership which is being documented across the country by the National Organization. Inviting a friend to be our guest at an AGO event is something we can do.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

*Soli Deo Gloria*

Deaconess Dawn Riske, CAGO

**Photo: Rene Zajner**

This photo captures the remarkable spirit and energy of the Saint Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists!

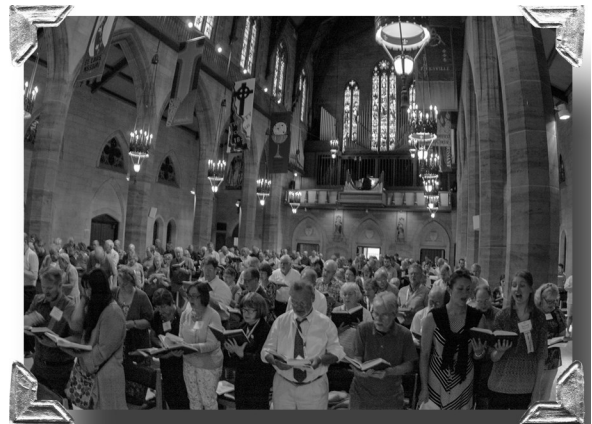
### THE OPUS

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Organists

September, 2015  
Volume 32, No. 1  
Nancy Barbee, Editor

You are invited to submit  
material to the editor  
for publication consideration.  
Material and calendar items  
should be e-mailed to:  
opusSLAGO@gmail.com

October deadline is  
September 15



*The Joy is in Joining*



www.ago2015.org

**A big thank you to the Convention Steering Committee for their work in our successful June regional convention!** The hard working members of the Convention Steering Committee were:

Bill Aitken, Programming

Rick Burk, Hotel

Cathy Cassy, Secretary

John Hawn, Gifts and Grants

Brent Johnson, Program Book and Web

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Martha Shaffer, Logistics

Bill Stein, Regional Competition

Jim Threlkeld, Transportation

Convention registrations only paid for part of the many expenses for the convention. We thank the following for their generous gifts to the North Central Regional Convention:

Bombarde (\$5000-\$10,000)

Charles E. Peery and Alan I. Glass, MD

Dr. Bill Wade and Mike Kaberline

Swell (\$1,500-\$2,499)

Suzanne Manelli

Andrew and Christine Peters, in memory of Kurt Larson

Great (\$750 - \$1,499)

William Aitken

Rick Burk and Darwin Tanguilig

Cathy Cassy, in memory of James Dederda

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Mullgardt

Choir (\$200 - \$749)

Anonymous

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Anonymous, in memory of Edward Klammer

River Valley AGO Chapter

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John Behnke

JD Brooks

Bob Chamberlin, in honor of Sarah Chamberlin

Barb Dierking-Weinhold, in honor of my mother Dorothy

Kretzschmar

Luella Foster, in honor of Wes Proctor

John Hawn

Brent Johnson and Carrie Bradfield

Norbert Krausz

Dr. Stephen Mager, AAGO, ChM

Dawn Riske, CAGO, in honor of Andrew Peters

and the Convention Steering Committee

Fr. Secrist- St. Thomas, MO

Jane Southard

Dr. Cornelia E. Tolbert, in memory of Lucie E. Campbell

Dennis York

## CHAPTER NEWS

### THE GUILD OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO BRENT JOHNSON AND BOB MULLGARDT

Brent's brother, Daren Stewart Johnson, a lifelong amateur musician who worked in 2004 and 2005 for the Wicks Organ Company of Highland, Illinois passed away on April 30 of this year in his hometown of Corsicana, Texas. He had struggled with Juvenile Diabetes and related ailments for 35 years.

Our sympathies are extended to Chapter member and former Executive Committee member Bob Mullgardt on the death of his wife Melissa on June 8. An artist, seamstress and occupational therapist, she shared her gifts in her position with the Special School District in Saint Louis. She and Bob were both active with their respective Guilds (Melissa's being the St. Louis Quilt Guild), and they shared many outdoor activities and travels. We pray for peace for Bob and their children and grandchildren.

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### VIRTUAL CHAPTERS

OK, so here is the next new thing for American Guild of Organists: Virtual Chapters! Membership to the newly-formed Virtual Chapter is limited to those under 30. There is no additional charge for this membership, and much of its operations is being developed by these same members. The first Sub-Dean for this Virtual Chapter is our own David Ball, also of Young Organists Competition fame. If you know of any young organists for whom this might be a draw, please spread the word!

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### ROLLING DUES

AGO National now accommodates registrations at any time of the year. Whenever a person joins the AGO, that is the date from which the year's membership is calculated. Before, a fixed date system did not guarantee the full year's subscription to *The American Organist* would arrive. So, spread the word, rolling dues guarantee a full year's benefits for a full year's dues. Another advantage to the ONCARD system. And everything can happen online, just find the ONCARD link at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)

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### SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Did you know that our chapter has a Facebook page? If you are on Facebook, then we really want you to "like us". That's because we really, really think that you will find benefit from this page. Currently, we have 235 page "likes", which is more than the number of chapter members. So, you can see that we are reaching out to the broader community. 219 of our likes are from within the United States, which means we have a handful of international fans—5 from Germany, 2 each from Iraq and Mexico, and one each from Belgium, France, Canada, Japan, Argentina, and Austria. Those are impressive numbers for a group of our size, but we seek even more involvement. What are the benefits of belonging to our Facebook community? Quite honestly—lots! To begin with, we are curating both redistributions of other Facebook communities, in addition to our own posts, and our followers are finding this interesting. "Organ in the News" makes an almost daily appearance, with recent links to interesting articles such as an organ builder in Japan, the restoration of the only Wurlitzer theater organ in Europe, and even news about the organ which made an appearance in "Downton Abbey." Shortly after each of our chapter events, a curated set of photographs makes an appearance. Of course, we also keep a close eye on events happening in Saint Louis. If you have not joined us on Facebook yet, then please give us a try; look us up at [facebook.com/agostlouis](https://facebook.com/agostlouis) and hit the like button! Once you do—and even if you already are following us—then consider what information you can contribute to our community. Yes, **you!** Facebook is meant for sharing, and you are encouraged to share your topical events and information on our page. Finally, don't overlook our webpage which is a compendium of even more information. At <http://www.agostlouis.org> - you'll find a calendar of events, listings of open positions, a list of substitute organists and teachers, a list of important chapter contacts, and even a summary of very useful resources on the AGO National web site. Why, you can even find the Opus online!

Contributed by Rene Zajner, Social Media Coordinator. Rene may be reached via email at [rene.zajner@gmail.com](mailto:rene.zajner@gmail.com)





## SEPTEMBER

**Thursday, September 3—12:00-1:00 pm—Thompson Music Bldg, Webster University. Seminar**—Sarah Bryan Miller, Post Dispatch music critic talks about her life in music and the music critic's role today. Free of charge. 8282 Big Bend Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63119. [www.webster.edu](http://www.webster.edu)

**Friday, September 11—12:30-1:00 pm—Third Baptist Church "Friday Pipes"**—Kevin Vaughn, Director of Music and Organist, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, South Bend, IN. Free of charge. 620 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**Tuesday, September 15—7:00-9:00 pm—Art Hill, Forest Park Concert**—David Robertson leads the orchestra in an evening of classical favorites and highlights from the upcoming season. Bring a blanket, a picnic and your closest friends. Fireworks cap off the evening at the bottom of Art Hill. Free of charge.

**Friday, September 18—12:30-1:00 pm—Third Baptist Church "Friday Pipes"**—Mary Beth Wittry, Director of Music, St. Gabriel's Church. Free of charge. 620 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis

**Monday, September 21—7:30 pm—Old Cathedral, St. Louis Psalm Fest**—AGO Chapter event In cooperation with NPM (National Association of Pastoral Musicians). The program will feature music of our own Stephen Mager and Horst Buchholz as well as many other composers. Performers include our host, Dan Vizer, Horst Buchholz, the Masterworks Chorale and Stephen Mager, Bill Stein, Stephen Eros, Kathleen Bolduan, the Choir of the Old Cathedral, and Brent Johnson. Free of charge. 209 Walnut St, St. Louis, MO 63102

**Wednesday, September 23—7:00 pm—Peace Lutheran Church "Concerts at Peace"-Piano Recital** featuring Valentia Igoshina with the We Are One Community Choir. Benefit Concert for "Feed My People" and the Arnold Food Pantry. 737 Barrackview Road, St. Louis, MO 63125. <http://www.peacelutheranstl.org/>

**Wednesday, September 23—7:30 pm—First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood. Con Spiritu Concert Series—Air Force Band Chamber Music Recital.** 100 East Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

**Friday, September 25—12:30-1:00 pm Third Baptist Church "Friday Pipes"**—Andrew Peters, Pastoral Musician, Second Presbyterian Church. Free of charge. 620 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**Friday, September 25—5:30-6:00 pm—Historic Trinity Lutheran Church. "Fourth Friday" Recital Series**—Wes Kassulke. Free of charge. 812 Souldard Street, Saint Louis, MO 63104

## OCTOBER

**Thursday, October 1—7:30 pm—Saint Louis Abbey Church Acclaimed singer, MeeAe Nam, soprano in concert**, assisted by Lauren Ziegler, soprano; Stephanie Hunt, cello; Andrzej Zahorsky, organ and the chanters of St. Benedict Schola. Free of charge. 500 S. Mason Rd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141

## UPCOMING

## CONCERTS

**Friday, October 2—12:30-1:00 pm—Third Baptist Church "Friday Pipes"**—Nicholas Bideler, Assistant Organist, Church of St. Michael and St. George. Free of charge. 620 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**Sunday, October 4—3:00 pm—First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood Con Spiritu Concert Series—The Saint Louis Brass.** 100 East Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122

**Friday, October 9—12:30-1:00 pm—Third Baptist Church "Friday Pipes"** Nick Botkins, Director of Sacred Music, St. Francis de Sales Oratory. Free of charge. 620 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**Sunday, October 11—4:00 pm—Second Presbyterian Church Rededication Recital**—Andrew Peters plays a program of organ music to rededicate the church's Schantz organ following its extensive restoration. The program includes music of J. S. Bach, Franck, Mozart, Vierne, and more. The afternoon also includes George Akerley's "A Sweet for Mother Goose," a playful composition that will be narrated by local classical radio station host Kathy Lawton Brown. Free of charge. 4501 Westminster Place, Saint Louis, MO 63108

**Friday, October 16—12:30-1:00 pm—Third Baptist Church "Friday Pipes"**—Eugenio Maria Fagiani, Director, Verna International Organ Music Festival, Bergamo, Italy. Free of charge. 620 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**Sunday, October 18—2:30 pm—St. Stanislaus Polish Church Concert—"Bravo, Bach!!"** The Bach Society Chorus and Orchestra will perform music from past concerts representing all six conductor. Soprano, Mary Wilson—featured soloist. Ticket prices from \$25-\$45. 1413 N. 20th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106 [www.bachsociety.org](http://www.bachsociety.org)

**Friday, October 23—12:30-1:00 pm—Third Baptist Church "Friday Pipes"**—Brent Johnson, Organist, Third Baptist Church. Free of charge. 620 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

**Friday, October 23—5:30-6:00 pm—Historic Trinity Lutheran Church. "Fourth Friday" Recital Series**—Kathleen Bolduan. Free of charge. 812 Souldard Street, Saint Louis, MO 63104

**Sunday, October 25—3:00 pm—St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. Pro-Arte St. Louis: "Ave Maria: A 500-Year Chronology of Marian Music."** Free of charge. 3140 Meramec Street, St. Louis, MO 63118

**Friday, October 30—12:30-1:00 pm—Third Baptist Church "Friday Pipes"**—Timothy Jansen, Director of Music, Church of St. Anthony of Padua. Free of charge. 620 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO

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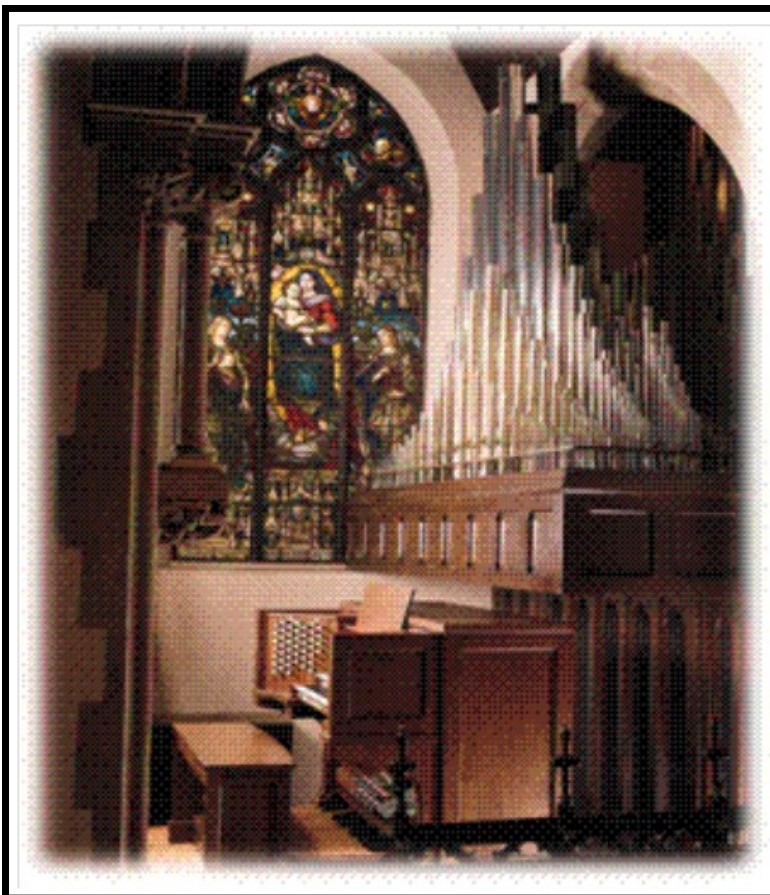
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**Brent Johnson**

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## THE DETAILS

**Event:** Psalm Fest (AGO + NPM)

**Location:** Old Cathedral

209 Walnut Street

St. Louis, MO 63102

**Date:** September 21, 2015

**Time:** 7:30 pm

**Host:** Dan Vizer

**Cost:** Free of charge

**Directions:** **From I-64 (from points west):** Follow I-64 to 6th St. Exit ("Last Missouri Exit"). Turn left on Gratiot. Turn right on to Walnut St.

**From I-55 and I-44 (from points south):** Use the Walnut St. exit and turn right into the parking lot.

**From I-70 (from points north):** Take then. Broadway exit and go South on Broadway and then left on Walnut St.

**From I-64 (from points east—Illinois):** Using the Poplar Street Bridge, take the Walnut Street Exit, and follow signage.

**Directions have been completed with the assistance of a MODOT representative. All construction and signage has been taken into consideration.**

**Free Parking will be available in the Cathedral Parking Lot**

**Please note: There will be a St. Louis Cardinals game at Busch Stadium.**

**Please allow sufficient time to negotiate traffic.**

## OPEN POSITIONS

### Singers--All Sections

The American Chamber Chorale and Orchestra (St. Louis, MO) seeks singers to fill paid positions in all sections. The chorale performs classical repertoire and works by today's most significant composers. Auditions can be scheduled by contacting the Artistic Director, Stephen Morton, at [scmacc@yahoo.com](mailto:scmacc@yahoo.com), or at 314.302.5564.

### Tenor

St. Paul UCC, Belleville, IL is seeking a tenor for its Chancel Choir, which sings at the 9 am traditional service. St. Paul has a strong, vibrant tradition of music ministry and the choir sings a variety of repertoire from Renaissance to the best of contemporary church music. Wednesday night rehearsal begins at 7:15. If interested please contact Daniel Fry, Music-Director/Organist for more information at 618.233.3303 (church) or at [dan-fry@stpaulucc.org](mailto:dan-fry@stpaulucc.org).

# THE OPUS

American Guild of Organists

St. Louis Chapter

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