



Saturday, February 13, 2021

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It is an honor and privilege as Dean of the St. Louis Chapter – AGO to welcome you to February Flourish 2021. While this year's event takes on a much different format, it does follow the same intent and purpose as our previous winter events over the past three years. I sincerely hope you find inspiration and refreshment from participating in this event during this most unusual time.

The purposes of the American Guild of Organists are:

To advance the cause of organ and choral music, to increase their contributions to aesthetic and religious experiences, and to promote their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment.

To improve the proficiency of organists and choral conductors.

To evaluate, by examination, attainments in organ playing, choral techniques, conducting, and the theory and general knowledge of music, and to grant certificates to those who pass such examinations at specified levels of attainment.

To provide members with opportunities to meet for discussion of professional topics, and to pursue such other activities as contribute to the fulfillment of the purposes of the Guild.

It is our hope that several of these purposes will be met today.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Dawn Riske and her planning committee for tackling the challenges of creating an online, virtual event in lieu of an in-person event as in past years. It would have been easy to say: "let's just skip it this year," but that was not the attitude of Dawn and her committee. While they had to learn many new technical skills to make this event a reality, I feel they have more than risen to the occasion.

T

he past eleven months have presented many challenges in our programming, but if you would like to see a current list of events or learn more about the AGO here in St. Louis, please visit our website at www.agostlouis.org.

Cordially,

Rick

Rick Burk, Dean

St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Greetings from your *February Flourish* Director
February 2021

Dear Flourishing Friends,

The date of Saturday, February 13, 2021 was in place and in play a year ago, dedicated for February Flourish 2021. At that time we could not imagine the shape that this year's event would take. But here we are, glad to offer a virtual church music workshop with recorded and live, real-time components. Our presenters are sharing wisdom born of hard work and life experience to which we can relate. There are many ways to move forward, how wonderful to be on this journey together.

Pulling together any multi-faceted occasion takes a team, and what a fine group we have. We Zoomed through planning meetings and managed countless details via e-mails, texts and phone calls.

Our amazing planning team includes:

Chapter Dean and FF Secretary: Rick Burk, CAGO
Registrar: Matthew Gerhardt
Treasurer: Mike Kaberline
Handbell Liaison: Dr. Cathy Benton
Publicity and Social Media: René Zajner
Sub-Dean/Programming: Heather Martin Cooper, CAGO
Program Booklet: Burnell Hackman
At large: Dr. Cathy Bolduan
Kendra Rusler
Jim Threlkeld, SPC
Nannette Tornblom
Brenda Tripp
Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO
Jeff White, CAGO



Seeking a sense of balance is a priority for me. Life during this time of “Corona-tide” rarely feels balanced. It is not even clear how that might look or be attained. Yet the days come and go and we dig deep into ourselves and our faith and share small miracles in the music. Note by precious note, we are given opportunities to bring healing to the brokenness we confront. Our common mission is strengthened in the vocation that we share. And in the collegiality, a sense of balance, indeed wonder can be grasped. For that I am immensely grateful.

If you belong to one of our host organizations, what a blessing! Keep on reaching out and making connections--these are “your people.” If you are seeking that collegiality and ongoing education, consider becoming a part of American Guild of Organists (AGO), National Pastoral Musicians (NPM), or Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis (HAGSTL).

AGO: www.agohq.org/membership/join-as-a-chapter-member/

NPM: <https://npm.org/membership/>

HAGSTL: <https://handbellmusicians.org/membership/join-the-guild/>

So glad that you are with us! Savor the experience, and please leave comments or evaluative notes on the Zoom chat or via an e-mail to februaryflourish@agostlouis.org.

Dawn Riske, CAGO
Director, February Flourish



SCHEDULE

February Flourish 2021 Schedule

February 13, 2021 Virtual Conference - online 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Saturday, February 13 Workshops, Presentations and Networking

8:30-8:45 a.m. Informal "Meet and Greet"
Check-in for plenary Zoom session

8:45-9:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
Dawn Riske, CAGO. Director of February Flourish
Rick Burk, CAGO, St. Louis Chapter Dean
Dr. Karen Black, Regional Councillor
Dr. Bill Wade, CAGO, Zoom Coordinator

Organ work

"Toccata in B Minor" from *10 Pieces for Organ* by Eugène Gigout
Dr. Sarah Bereza, Minister of Music, First Congregational Church

9:00-9:45 a.m. **Organ: Plenary session**
"Approaching the Theater Organ from a Classical Organ Background: Why It Matters More than Ever Before"
Presenter: Dr. Steven Ball
Moderator: Heather Martin Cooper, CAGO

9:45-10:00 Move to next Zoom, unmute microphones to chat

10:00-10:45 - Break-out Session 1

Organ and General

"Flourishing Inside the Pandemic Box: Finding Fulfilling Musical Expression amid Disruption and Constraint"
Presenter: Dr. Sarah Bereza
Moderator: Beth Duello

Handbells

"Handbell Roundtable: Ringing More with Less"
Presenter: Dr. Cathy Benton
Moderator: Burnell Hackman

10:45-11:00 Move to next Zoom, unmute mics to chat

11:00-11:45 a.m. - Break-out Session 2

Ministry

“Pastoral Care for Musicians in a Time of Pandemic”

Presenter: Fr. Jeremy Secrist

Moderator: Mark Scholtz

Technology

“Use of Technology within Worship during a Pandemic and Beyond”

Presenter: Jeff White, CAGO

Moderator: Joy Elowsky

11:45 a.m.-12:00 noon **Invitation to membership**

AGO: Saint Louis Chapter- Kendra Ruesler,
Membership Chair

AGO: Gateway Confluence Chapter - Kirk Meyer, Dean

NPM: St. Louis Chapter Director, Marc Strathman

HAGSTL: Dr. Cathy Benton, Chair of the Board

AGO National Convention 2026 - Burnell Hackman

Closing Hymn, “When in Our Music God is Glorified”

Ben Blasingame, CAGO

Organist at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis

Scott Kennebeck and Angela Rocchio, voice

(see page 6)

Key:

AGO = American Guild of Organists

HAGSTL = Handbell Association of Greater Saint Louis

NPM = National Association of Pastoral Musicians

Internet links to local websites:

AGO Saint Louis Chapter: www.agostlouis.org


AGO Gateway Confluence Chapter: www.facebook.com/GCCAGO

HAGSTL: stlbells.org

NPM St. Louis Chapter and Duchesne Branch: www.npmstlouis.org

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The resource page of
media information
for organists and
lovers of the
pipe organ.

curated by AGO member
rene.zajner@gmail.com

facebook.com/OrganConsole



L'ORGUE DU PALAIS OU LE TEMS PERDU.

When in Our Music God is Glorified

Fred Pratt Green

Charles Villiers Stanford,
arr. Blasingame

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and corresponding lyrics. The lyrics are arranged in five numbered parts: 1. All, 2. Men, 3. All, 4. Women, and 5. All. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final section in 3/2 time marked by a double bar line and a new time signature. The lyrics are as follows:

1. *All* When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,
2. *Men* How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found
3. *All* So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song,
4. *Women* And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night
5. *All* Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!

and a - dor - a - tion leaves no room for pride,
a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,
in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the Light?
Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!

it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried
as wor - ship moves us to a more pro - found
borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue,
All Then let us sing, for whom He won the fight,
And may God give us faith to sing al - ways

Al - - - le - lu - - ia!

Approaching the Theater Organ from a Classical Organ Background: Why It Matters More Than Ever Before

Dr. Steven Ball

Program notes:

This talk is divided into three sections:

- I. Organs in Theaters--An Historical Perspective
- II. The Relationship of Technology to Interpretation in Studying Historic Performance Practices
- III. Application to Modern Performance.

Universal Laws of Organology (as first proposed by the Author at the U of M Organ Conference of 2011)

- I. When an instrument stops evolving, it dies.
- II. The compass, dynamic range and timbre of instruments will continually expand.
- III. Other things being equal, all instruments will proceed from their current state towards one of greater 'human vocality'.

Materials referenced as a part of this presentation:

The Organ of the Ancients Henry George Farmer, M.A. Ph.D.
<https://archive.org/details/TheOrganOfTheAncientsFromEasternSources>

Advanced Organ Course Jesse Crawford:
<http://michaelsmusicsservice.com/books/Crawford.AdvancedOrganCourse.html>

Cavaillé-Coll (1875) Opera Garnier. Paris, France. (specification)
https://www.organsparisaz2.vhhil.nl/index_htm_files/Composition%20Opera%20Garnier.pdf

Hope Jones op. 2 First Unitarian Universalist Church. Rochester, NY. (specification)
<https://pipeorgandatabase.org/organ/658>

Wurlitzer op. 1429 The Tampa Theatre (specification)
cftos.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/TampaTheatreSpecification.ods

AGO Examination Hymn Booklet: 2013 Revised Edition is available for individuals studying for Certification. Copies by request through exams@agohq.org

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Gateway Confluence Chapter

American Guild of Organists

**Congratulations AGO Saint Louis
on the occasion of
“February Flourish 2021”**



www.facebook.com/GCCAGO

the bridge to musicians in Illinois



Purpose of the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis:

- A. To promote handbell and handchime ringing in the Greater St. Louis area.
- B. To uphold the purposes of The Handbell Musicians of America,
- C. To act as a resource in planning handbell and handchime ringing events throughout the year.
- D. To be a source of communication, coordination and networking for the St. Louis area handbell directors, ringers and enthusiasts.
- E.. To sponsor educational ringing events that may include festivals, seminars, and workshops for children, youth and/or adults.

Virtual Handbell Reading Session

View our Fall 2020 Reading Session selections online at:
<http://stlbells.org/reading-session/>

We'll Come To You

The Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis is available to bring a personalized Bell Boot Camp right to you and your choir. The presenter will tailor the Bell Boot Camp to fit your choir's specific needs. Cost is \$50 per hour for two hour minimum session plus mileage if clinician travels over 50 miles. A minimum two hour session is recommended. E-mail us at HAGSTL2020@gmail.com and a clinician will work with you to schedule a date and plan an itinerary specific to your needs.

Subscribe to our Email list at:

<https://stlbells.org/>

For more information visit: www.stlbells.org or email: HAGSTL2020@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook at Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis

St. Louis AGO February Flourish 2021

Ring More With Less

Cathy Benton - Chair, Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis

Professor of Music/Director of MBU Ringers - Missouri Baptist University

Interim Director - Gateway Ringers

Chancel Choir Accompanist/Handbell Director - Central Presbyterian Church

Resources

For the last several years, more and more music has been written for smaller groups of ringers. The list of available music for solo ringers, bell tree ringers, and almost any number of ringers is overwhelming. The offerings greatly increased during the pandemic. The intent of this handout is to give you some ideas and starting places. Unfortunately I couldn't cover every publisher/composer in detail – the list is endless! In addition, many composers are beginning to self-publish and several have introduced new sites just in the past year. The following is a sampling of resources that are available, arranged alphabetically by publisher or website.

Beckenhorst Press www.beckenhorstpress.com

Selected music for 12 bells, level 2/2+ include the following titles:

Festive Hymn Tunes arr. Jason Krug

Five Hymns from Around the World arr. Michael Helman

Music for the Church Year arr. Karen Buckwalter

Cantabile Press www.cantabilepress.com

Less Than a Full Choir Series – numerous titles available for example:

Lent and Easter Vol. 1,2 arr. Bill Ingram

Early American Hymn Tunes arr. Linda Lamb

Majestic Hymn Tunes arr. Bill Ingram

Ring Along Series – no music needed – these are to accompany singing. In addition, Cantabile Press publishes numerous titles for solos and ensembles (duets – sextets).

Choraegus.com is the website for Larry Sue's handbell music.

The website includes recordings and downloadable pieces for numerous combinations of bells (6 bells, 8 bells, 12 bells, 16 bells, etc.). Purchasing their arrangements gives you permission to print and maintain copies for your handbell group (plus the accompaniment score) and also gives permission for performance, broadcasting, live-streaming and video-sharing online.

Choristers Guild www.choristersguild.com

All Praise to Thee – Jason Krug (3 volumes)

Reproducible collection - music for 12 bells that includes repertoire for the entire church season.

Bells and Keys More or Less – Sandra Eithun (2 volumes)

Reproducible arrangements may be used with or without keyboard. They can be performed with 12 bells in the treble or with the addition of the bass clef for a full 2-octave ensemble sound. Collection includes general hymn titles.

Easy Favorites for the Handbell Soloist – Cathy Moglebust (3 volumes) Features music for soloist and includes keyboard accompaniment. Includes repertoire for the entire church year.

“Ring More With Less” is a series of individual pieces for 5-7 ringers. Each includes suggested assignments for various combinations of ringers. Many of them include handchimes as well as handbells

Here is a sampling of some of the titles available:

Foundation arr. Karen Thompson
Holy Manna arr. Karen Thompson
Land of Rest arr. Karen Thompson
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross arr. Karen Thompson

Grassy Meadow Music www.grassymeadowmusic.com

Jason Krug, composer, is publishing his own music and this is his recently created website. Be sure to check out this site – it includes music for solo handbells, 8 and 12 bell music and full bell choir selections as well as solo piano collections. He is also writing accompaniments for many of his previously published bell ensembles.

Hope Publishing www.hopepublishing.com

12 Bells for Worship – arr. Patricia Cota. The 12 Bells series covers C5 – G6, all written in treble clef and can be played with 3-6 ringers. There are numerous additional titles in the series – for example:

12 Bells for Praise and Worship
12 Bells + 1 for Spirituals
12 Bells Americana

Five By Five series by Douglas E. Wagner is for 5 ringers. Each ringer's part is printed separately, but a full score is included. Additional titles include:

5 by 5 Vol. 1, II
5 by 5 for Christmas
5 by 5 for Weddings

Ring With 6 for Lent and Easter – arr. Martha Lynn Thompson. The Ring With 6 series uses more bells than the 12 bell series – examples include C5-G7 or G4-C7. These pieces do not require 4-in hand ringing. There are numerous additional titles in the series – for example:

Ring With 6 Today's Hymns and Songs
Ring With 6 Classics
Ring With 6 Year Round

Ringings With Keys – arr. Lloyd Larson – reproducible collection; arranged for 2 octaves with keyboard accompaniment.

Small But Mighty, Vol. 1-2 – Jason Krug Another 12 bells series, F5-C7

Small But Mighty, Vol. 3 – Joel Raney. This volume includes pieces using F5-C7 and D5 – A6.

Jeffers Handbell www.handbellworld.com

Most handbell ringers and directors are very familiar with this site. They offer music from various publishers, including most of those included in this handout. You can search the site for music for various combinations of ringers, seasons of the year, levels of difficulty, etc. Their email blasts are very informative – a recent one promoted the following topics:

Lent and Easter – Solos and Duets
Lent and Easter - Bell Tree Music
Lent and Easter - Short-handed music for 3-6 ringers
Lent and Easter – Easy Selections for full choirs.

The website includes catalogs from most publishers of handbell music and there are HOT 40 lists of top sellers arranged by date. Some composers are self-publishing their handbell music and these are

being distributed by Jeffers. Examples include:

John Behnke (<http://johnbehnke.weebly.com/jab-publishing.html>) large variety of titles available

Brian Childers (Bellissimo Publications) – large variety of titles available

James Kimball – a variety of 4-ringer bell collections available - 8 bells, no tables needed.

Kathleen Wissinger (Ringtrue Pub) has a large volume of music for various levels and combinations of instruments, including music for school settings

Lorenz publications are available – some examples include:

All Nature Rings arr. by Sandra Eithun and Tammy Waldrop

Hymn for 3-6 Ringers, with optional keyboard arr. by Sandra Eithun

Lent and Easter for 3-6 Ringers arr. by Sandra Eithun

Ring out Press publications are available - some examples include:

12 Bells in F for Lent and Holy Week by Jason Krug

Ring Out! Arr. Mitchell and Sandra Eithun – a reproducible collection for 8 bells and keyboard, D5 – D6; Level 1+

Jubilate/Alfred www.jubilatemusic.com

Let It Shine – is a reproducible collection of full bellchoir pieces that have been arranged/transcribed for 12 bells and piano for 3-6 ringers. It includes music by various arrangers (Ron Mallory, Benjamin Tucker, Anna Laura Page, Tammy Waldrop).

The Jubilate Handbell Chamber Series includes published full-choir pieces that have been transcribed for soloist and/or ensembles (duets, quartets). Sample titles include:

Ain't-a That Good News, arr. Kevin McChesney arr. for 12 bells and piano

Celtic Dance on Pleading Savior arr. Savior Tucker for handbell quartet and piano with optional hand drum and optional flute

Celtic Grace arr. Tammy Waldrop; transcribed for soloist and piano by Sondra Tucker

Elijah Rock arr. Benjamin Tucker; transcribed for soloist and piano by Sondra Tucker

The Cross arr. Linda Lamb for handbell solo or duet and piano

Sonology Music www.sonologymusic.com

Sonology Music is a web-based publishing company that offers a wide variety of music that is not available anywhere else. All of the music is downloadable and instantly available. There are handbell solos, bell tree pieces, various kinds of ensembles. Many well-known composers of handbell music are represented on this site – just a few examples include: Barbara Bocker (bell tree music); Brian Childers, Linda Lamb, Bill Ingram, Kevin McChesney, Cathy Moglebust and many others.

Miscellaneous:

Kansas City composer Lauren Delancy, conductor of the community ensemble Rezound, has begun publishing her own music. Her website is www.laurendelancy.com. The name of her publishing company is Headless Mallets Publishing. She has numerous bell ensemble pieces, duets, solos, full choir pieces.

St. Louis based publishing:

Concordia Publishing www.cph.org This is the publisher for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. They have an extensive handbell catalog – many of John Behnke’s pieces are included. Some useful resources include:

Four Communion Hymns for 12 Bells by Sandra Eithun

Organ With a Touch of Bells by Sondra Tucker This collection is for organ and a few ringers-most of the bell parts can be played by 4 ringers or less. Titles include *Ding Dong! Merrily on High; We Praise You, O God; Easter Medley; Christ the Lord is Risen Today; This Joyful Eastertide; Scherzino on Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing; On This Day Earth Shall Ring; Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence; Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind* and *Still, Still, Still*.

Morning Star Music www.morningstarmusic.com Check out their tab “Handbells for Social Distancing.” It includes a wealth of resources.

Additional places to purchase and search handbell music:

www.jwpepper.com

www.sheetmusicplus.com

Facebook – most composers, publishers, handbell groups have Facebook pages and there is a wealth of information available on these pages. Here is one you might like to check out:

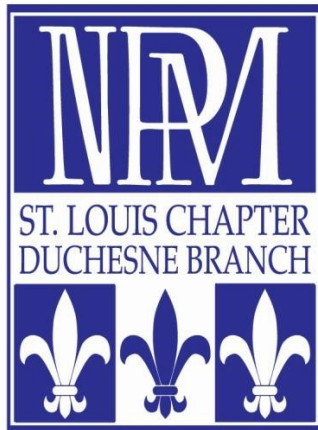
Handbell People – you have to join this group, but it is worth it – lots of good information and you can ask questions and get quick answers, suggestions for pieces, help with anything handbell related.



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February Flourish 2021

March Day of Reflection

"Blessings and Balance: A Time of Retreat and Renewal"

Saturday, March 6

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom online retreat

Retreat Leader: Dr. Jennifer Kerr Budziak
composer, clinician, author, conductor,
editor of *Pastoral Music*

Cost: NPM Members and February Flourish guests \$ 10
Non-Members \$ 20

Register on the Chapter website: npmstlouis.org



“Flourishing Inside the Pandemic Box: Finding Fulfilling
Musical Expression amid Disruption and Constraint”

Presenter: Dr. Sarah Bereza

Moderator: Beth Duello

1. What are you enjoying creatively right now?

2. What do you wish you were doing less of?

3. What are your creative constraints right now?

4. What *can* you do inside your box?

5. What practices or projects could make this season more meaningful, joyful, or satisfying?

Technology Use for Worship During a Pandemic

A Case Study: Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO

Jeff White, Minister of Music, Moderator
Brenda Wilson, Operations Manager
Andrea Roettger, Director of Christian Education
Rev. Dr. Josh Hatcher, Senior Pastor

1. Technology use by Trinity prior to the Pandemic
 - a. Website
 - b. Social Media – advertising
 - c. Used for In-Person ministry – ‘Front porch’
2. Movement into the Pandemic – how to keep worship going?
 - a. Asked fellow churches – what are you doing to keep worship?
 - i. Registration
 - ii. Restricted numbers by capacity
 - iii. Shut down by Mayor – slow drip of regulations until then.
 - iv. We followed the restrictions and adapted.
 - b. Moved to virtual worship
 - i. Used cell phones to record – Bluetooth headsets for audio
 - ii. iMovie (IOS)
 - c. Continuing to communicate to the membership
 - i. 3 minute devotional – “Trinity Minute”
 1. Matching audio and video – wasn’t working at first.
 - ii. Live Chat during the worship services
 - iii. Meetings and counseling went to online
 - iv. Zoom sessions after worship at times when angst detected
 - v. Move to more proactive connections for spiritual care
 - d. Moved to social media to display pre-recorded services.
 - i. Facebook
 1. Live chatting when service is posted
 - ii. YouTube
 1. 100 people need to be subscribed to YouTube Channel.
 - iii. Limited by platform – Twitter not conducive to streaming/videos
 - iv. Integration into Website
 1. One place to go for all recording/streaming.
 2. Able to give offerings online.
 - e. Upgrading the sanctuary and building
 - i. New WIFI
 - ii. New soundboard
 - iii. HDMI camera for streaming
 1. When things changed, we changed/adapted with it!
3. Movement toward Live-streaming and In-Person worship
 - a. Masked required
 - b. Reduced singing
 - c. Reduced service time – 30-45 minutes.
 - i. Limited attendance – 25% capacity (even though City says 50% allowed.)
 - d. 0% spread to date!
 - e. Try to make it as “normal” as possible – bring people back into the sanctuary through the camera.
 - f. Changes implemented as regulations changed – new normals will continue to roll-out as time goes along.
 - g. Reaching out beyond the four-walls of the church via technology and media
4. Looking beyond the pandemic – able to reach out to those who can’t physically make it to the church.
 - a. Virtual – but not to the level of being on television.
 - b. Zoom



Dr. Steven Ball is an organist, improviser, composer, conductor, campanologist, organ consultant and specialist in silent film accompaniment.

A native of Michigan originally, Dr. Ball studied at the University of Michigan and received his DMA in 2007 as a student of Marilyn Mason. He later went on to serve as University Carillonneur and teach as a faculty member of the Organ Department and has since served in several prominent churches and public institutions across the country over the years including as Organist and Director of Outreach (now Emeritus) for the world's largest pipe organ in Atlantic City, as well as the Cathedrals of Detroit and Philadelphia.

A former Fulbright Scholar to the Netherlands, he has traveled and performed extensively in both the United States and abroad including concerts in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Portugal, Ireland, England, Switzerland and Italy.

Fr. Jeremy Secrist is pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in Jefferson City, Missouri. While a seminarian, he assisted the M.L. Bigelow Company during the installation of Opus 24 at Conception Abbey. Later in Rome, Fr. Secrist led the Gregorian chant schola at the Pontifical North American College and regularly provided music for Masses in English broadcast by Vatican Radio. He served as an Air Force Chaplain candidate. He is a member of the Organ Historical Society and the American Guild of Organists, currently serving as Missouri District Convener. Following the restoration of an 1897 Pfeiffer pipe organ while Pastor in St. Thomas, Missouri, the Bishop of Jefferson City appointed Fr. Secrist as the Diocesan Delegate for the Care and Promotion of Pipe Organs. In that capacity, he is also the consultant for the Buzard Organ Company Opus 49 to be installed in the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Jefferson City.





Jeff White, MM, CAGO is Minister of Music and Organist at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in the Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis City. He has a Master's degree in Church Music from Concordia University Wisconsin and studied Organ with Dr. John Behnke, professor of music at CUW, and also with Dr. Nancy Ypma, professor of music at McKendree University in Lebanon, IL. He is active in the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is certified with the AGO at the Colleague level. He works for Mastercard during the day as a business analyst. Jeff is also very involved in community handbell choirs and has led workshops for both organ and handbells. He is a published composer through From the Top Music.

Sarah Bereza, PhD, is the Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church of St. Louis, UCC, and has ministered as a church musician since 1999. She produces resources for church staff and musicians on her website sarah-bereza.com, including the podcast Music and the Church with Sarah Bereza.. Her forthcoming book, *Professional Christian: Wholehearted Ministry in a Fragmented, Filtered World*, helps leaders learn to be fully themselves as they live out the call to be "all things to all people." She holds master's and PhD degrees from Duke University, a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, and a bachelor's degree from Bob Jones University.

Dr. Bereza has often worked in professional and semi-professional settings and performed early music as a continuo player and choral vocalist. She also enjoys making music with amateurs and encourages the personal growth of musicians at all levels in the church. She lives in St. Louis with her husband and two sons.





Cathy Benton serves as Professor of Music and Director of the Missouri Baptist University Ringers. Dr. Benton has a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Murray State University, a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from Webster University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance from UMKC. She performs as a soloist and accompanist on the piano, organ and harpsichord and has been an adjudicator and clinician for numerous keyboard festivals and workshops. She is currently the choir accompanist and handbell director at Central Presbyterian Church and is the Interim Director of the Gateway Ringers. Dr. Benton was honored for her achievements in teaching by being included in several editions of Who's Who Among America's Teachers and was also awarded the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. She is a past president of the St. Louis Area Music Teachers Association and the Missouri Music

Teachers Association. She is currently the Chair of the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis.