

# THE OPUS

OCTOBER 2020



Volume 37 – Issue 2  
The official publication of the  
St. Louis Chapter of the  
American Guild of Organists



Rick Burk (CAGO)

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As we now head into October, I suspect many of us are still trying to get a grasp on what we will be able to do in our music ministries this fall and how we will accomplish those plans. I hear from some who are almost back to a music program that closely resembles the pre-COVID-19 days; others have not ventured back to their churches to even play their instruments in solitude. Many of us probably fall somewhere in between those two extremes. The one common theme I hear is that “I am tired of these circumstances. I want things to return to normal.” Sadly, I strongly feel that what comes next is going to be a *new* normal – not a replication of the immediate past. Therefore, we must be preparing ourselves for that reality. In the meantime, allow time to take care of yourself. Some of the suggestions from the Mayo Clinic regarding staying healthy (both physically and mentally) during the pandemic include: getting enough sleep; participating in regular physical activity; eating healthy; relaxing and recharging. Don’t hesitate to be in touch with one another to share your thoughts and feelings – good or bad. This might be a time when “misery loves company” could be turned into a positive thing.

In the June/July 2020 issue of the *AARP Magazine* there was an article entitled “Happiness in Hard Times” by Sari Harrar. An inset to that article talked about how playing and/or listening to music helps to relieve mental stress and anguish. For

those of us who work as musicians, hearing this is nothing new. The music therapists among us would be able to expound on this in even greater detail. The point I wanted to make, however, is that now might be a good time to give new thought on how we share our musical talents to help others, thinking outside the box of our usual Sunday morning worship formats. Starting at the end of March I began recording a piece of music most days of the week which I emailed to my singers and ringers (or sometimes posted on my YouTube page as an unlisted video) – just to offer something to hopefully brighten their day and a way to stay in touch. These were certainly not top-notch quality recordings and were intended only for a specific audience (which has grown to include family members and friends). The music (on either piano or organ) ran the gamut from classical, to pop to show tunes. I just started grabbing music off the shelves and went for it. There has been a very positive response from this. I know others of you have done something similar over the past several months. Kudos to you all! Be creative.

Before signing off, I just want to invite you to attend our October chapter event – a carillon concert at Concordia Seminary on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. The audience will be able to safely distance themselves from one another sitting in the quad or in other parts of the campus. (See page five for further details)

Together, we will endure.

Peace and Grace,

Rick Burk (CAGO), Dean  
St. Louis AGO Chapter

# Sub-Dean



## St. Louis AGO Chapter



Heather Martin Cooper (CAGO)

Dear Members,

It looks like our October program at Concordia Seminary will be a "GO". Dr. Steven Ball will play a program celebrating Reformation Sunday on the seminary's outdoor carillon at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Do you ever feel like you cannot tolerate one more change? Life is so different for everyone. At my parish, we have just celebrated the feast of St. Monica and the installation of our new pastor. We have some other big things coming up like Confirmation and a Mass of Remembrance for our deceased parishioners. All Saints' Day, the Festival of Christ the King, Advent and Christmas will soon follow. Until this year, our parish children's and adult choirs have been central to my music planning for all of these. As hard as the spring was, I am almost finding this part of the year to be more challenging. It's discouraging not to have things the way they were! It's stressful to re-imagine how every liturgy now can be ennobled without the full complement of ministers, and then to make it happen is another stress. Each little realization of what I MUST CHANGE hits me like another loss that I have to grieve.

As time rolls on, we are becoming more and more accustomed to our "new normal". A year ago,

Heather Martin Cooper (CAGO), Sub-Dean  
St. Louis AGO Chapter

most Americans would only have covered their mouth and nose if going outside on a very cold day. Some of us now are conducting 12-14 hours of daily business while wearing a mask. Some avoid contact with human beings outside of their home, and this can mean serious isolation. A year ago, we would not have routinely talked about in-person versus virtual, live vs livestreamed.

Still there are signs of hope. For about a month, many schools have been successfully educating students both in-person and virtually. While the deaths from Coronavirus are always tragic, there have been more and more recoveries. We have enjoyed beautiful weather these past months. Our chapter is moving forward with some nice programs, including the February Flourish and plans for hosting a National Convention.

Some things I guess will never change. By the next *OPUS*, the 2020 election and all the propaganda that accompanies it will be in the rear-view mirror. As irritating and relentless as the campaign noise is, I guess we can at least count it among the things that haven't changed much.

I hope to see many of you on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Bells will ring!!



# IN MEMORY

William R. Memmott passed away on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at the age of 84. William is survived by his loving and devoted husband of 42 years, Robert A. Brown and his brother, James Memmott. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard Ridsdale Memmott and Mabel Elmira Stenquist Memmott. William "Bill" grew up

in northern New Jersey, the son and brother of Presbyterian ministers. He began serving as an organist at age twelve, serving churches in New Jersey, New York City, St. Louis and New Orleans. In high school, he was Organist/Choir Master at Gladstone Methodist Church in Trenton, NJ. He studied organ with Dr. Charlotte Garden of the Sacred Music School of Union Theological Seminary, Dr. Carl Weinrich and Princeton University and Jean Langlais of Ste. Clotilde, Paris. His composition studies were with Milton Babbitt and Edward Cone at Princeton

University, with Dr. Leigh Gerdine at Washington University in St. Louis, and with Michael Rihner and Dr. Yotam Haber at the University of New Orleans where he obtained his Master's Degree. Other music studies included piano, trombone, violin, conducting and musicology.

Over the years he served at St. Paul Episcopal Church in Alton, IL (Suburban St. Louis), Memorial, Westminster and Northminster Presbyterian Churches in St. Louis and First Presbyterian Church, Jamaica Queens, New York City.

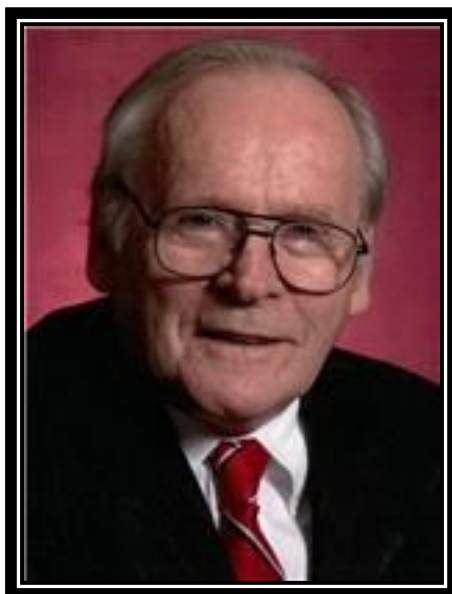
He was Head of Music Activities at Fontbonne University in St. Louis and conducted the concert

band at St. Louis University. He was the founder and artistic director of the Contemporary Chorus and the Pro Arte Chorale in northern New Jersey, founder of the Rider University Glee Club, and the Bel Canto Chorus and Orchestra in St. Louis.

He performed widely as conductor and organ recitalist. His compositions included works for piano, organ, choir and instrumental ensembles. Bill was also President and Tonal Director of Louis IX Associates Pipe Organ Company. After moving to New Orleans, he was Organist/Choir Master at St. Anna Episcopal Church, served on the Episcopal Bishop's Commission on Worship and Liturgy, and served as Dean of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Most recently, he served for more than twelve years as Organist/Choir Master at John Calvin Presbyterian Church where he conducted two

major choral concerts yearly with professional orchestra and soloists. He scored more than a dozen of these works for orchestra.

Bill was a member of the Christ Church Cathedral and served as Organist/Choir Master at Gretna United Methodist Church. His other musical appointments included serving as Director of the Delaware Valley Opera Theatre in Levittown, PA and the Fontbonne University Opera Theatre in St. Louis. Services will be held at a later date when both family and friends can safely gather. At this time, the family invites you to express your fond thoughts, memories and condolences online at [www.lakelawnmetairie.com](http://www.lakelawnmetairie.com)



# This Month's Event

St. Louis AGO Chapter 2020-2021



## CARILLON CONCERT

### Celebrating Music for Reformation Sunday

Join us on the campus of Concordia Seminary for a FANTASTIC afternoon of Carillon music presented by Dr. Steven Ball. Dr. Ball's concert will be held on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Music will include several compositions on the hymn tune "Ein feste Burg" and will also feature Improvised Variations on "The Tower Hymn" which was composed for the dedication of Luther Tower at Concordia Seminary May 1, 1966. There will be plenty of "social distancing" on campus. You are invited to bring a friend, a neighbor, someone who has never heard a carillon, bring some food, bring a beverage or two, bring a lawn chair, bring a blanket, bring a jacket, bring whatever you need to enjoy this concert. Please do NOT forget to bring a mask.

Come and Enjoy a WONDERFUL afternoon of FANTASTIC MUSIC!!



# CONCERTS FROM SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVE NEW YORK CITY

Interested in hearing/viewing some amazing concerts from St. Thomas Church? What an opportunity. St. Thomas has announced their fall 2020 Digital Season and is being presented all ON-LINE. Tickets are 50% off regular price and a few concerts are FREE. All events are video presentations due to the pandemic. Instructions for viewing each concert will be included in your ticket purchase confirmation email.

Events are “premiered” at a specific time and available on-demand for a limited time after the premiere. All concerts are pre-recorded in Saint Thomas Church in compliance with recommendations from the CDC and Episcopal Diocese of New York at the time of the recording. To purchase a discounted ticket, simply visit the ticketing page ([HERE](#)) and enter the **PROMO CODE: AGO**

**Saturday, October 3** (3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EST) AGO DISCOUNT: \$2.50

*Les Compositrices Francaises: 20<sup>th</sup> Century French Organ Music by Female Composers*

Rescheduled from last March, American Fulbright Scholar, Joy-Leilani Garbutt presents the music of Jeanne Demessieux and *les compositrices francaises* on the Miller-Scott Organ. A culmination of her own research in France, Garbutt play a program of rediscovered French organ music composed by Jeanne Demessieux, Elsa Barraine, Nadia Boulanger, and other women of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Saturday, October 17** (3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. EST) AGO DISCOUNT: \$2.50

*The German Chorale: Masterworks of Bach, Distler, and Reger*

Featuring both the Loening-Hancock and Miller-Scott organs, Assistant Organist, Nicholas Quardokus, performs music from the German tradition. Quardokus pays homage to the centuries-old organ chorale heritage from Bach to Distler and Buxtehude to Reger, juxtaposing masterworks from the Baroque, late-Romantic, and Neoclassical eras. The program, framed by Bach’s monumental partita on *Seigegrusset, Jesu gutig* and Reger’s thunderous fantasia on *Straf mich nicht in deinem Zorn*, promises to be a kaleidoscopic exploration of both world-class organs at Saint Thomas Church.

**Saturday, October 24** (3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. EST) AGO DISCOUNT: FREE

*The Complete Beethoven Sonatas: Early Gems and the Waldstein*

32@32, created by pianist Adam Golka on the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration is a free 8-concert series surveying the master’s complete Piano Sonata. Program I features Sonatas 1, 7, 19, and 21.



(continued on next page)



**Saturday, October 31** (3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. EST) AGO DISCOUNT: FREE

*The Complete Beethoven Sonatas II: Humor and Passion*

32@32, created by pianist Adam Golka on the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration, is a free 8-concert series surveying the master's complete Piano Sonata. Program II features Sonatas 10, 4, 20, and 23

**Thursday, November 12** (7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. EDT) AGO DISCOUNT: \$5.00

*Heroic Music of Handel and Purcell*

The centerpiece of our Fall 2020 Digital Season welcomes back New York Baroque Incorporated (Wen Yang, Artistic Director) to Concerts at Saint Thomas. In this special chamber performance, directed by Jeremy Filsell, rising star mezzo-soprano Sarah Rose Taylor joins NYBI in a program comprising the heroic music of G.F. Handel and Henry Purcell. Following the restoration of King Charles II to the English throne in 1660, Handel and Purcell emerged as important figures in English music history. Handel's great Arias, his Organ Concerto in B flat and Trumpet Suite in D reflect the heritage of Henry Purcell, upon whose music Handel so consistently drew for inspiration.

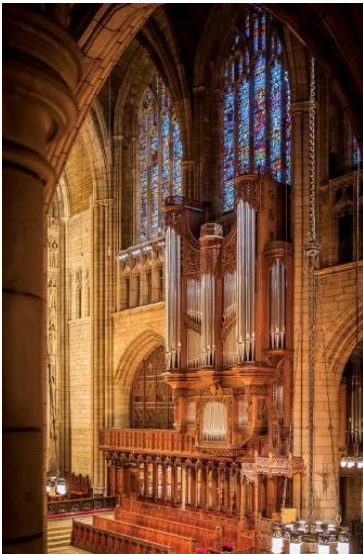
**Saturday, November 21** (3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., EDT) AGO DISCOUNT: FREE

*The Complete Beethoven Sonatas III: Fantasies and the Moonlight*

32@32, created by pianist Adam Golka on the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, is a free 8-concert series surveying the master's complete Piano Sonatas. Program III features Sonatas 16, 27, 13 and 14

**Saturday, December 5** (3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m., EDT) AGO DISCOUNT: \$2.50

*Messiaen: La Nativite du Seigneur*

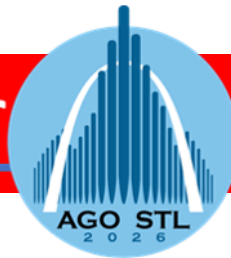


Associate Organist, Nicolas Haigh, plays Messiaen's masterful cycle on the Miller-Scott Organ. Arguably the most distinctive and progressive voice in twentieth-century French music, and certainly the most significant organist-composer of any nationality since Bach, Olivier Messiaen is best known for his cycle of nine pieces entitled *La Nativite du Seigneur*. Written in 1935, the music speaks directly of the joy, peace and wonder of Christmas. Join us for this digital presentation and slip into this synesthetic world of color and sound, showcasing some of the most hidden and delicate sounds of the Miller-Scott Organ.



# Convention Coordinator

## 2026 National Convention



Burnell Hackman

Your 2026 National Convention is beginning to take shape.

At the August Executive Board meeting the following Officers of the Convention were approved:

- Rick Burk – Executive Assistant
- Kendra Ruesler – Executive Secretary
- Mike Kaberline – Treasurer
- Regina Morris – Registrar

These names will be forwarded to the National Council for approval.

Brainstorming sessions were held on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. One was an in-person session and the other was a virtual session. Although attendance was small, many good ideas came from both sessions. Members discussed what they envisioned for the convention, things they have noticed at past conventions and were invited to list committees that they would like to serve on.

If you missed either of the brainstorming sessions, you can go to the St. Louis Chapter website ([click here](#)), then to the 2026 National Convention page on the left side of the home page ([click here](#)) and complete a Member Survey. This will allow the Officers of the Convention to know your interests and place you on an appropriate committee.

More sessions will be held in the future as this will only be a success if EVERY member participates.

2026 seems like a long way off, but there is much work to be done NOW!

One way you can help now is by financially supporting the convention. Information for this can also be found on the 2026 Convention page. ([click here](#))

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to e-mail me: [agostl2026@agostlouis.org](mailto:agostl2026@agostlouis.org)

Please visit our website for continuous updates and complete the forms so we can get you involved.

Thank You

Burnell L. Hackman  
Convention Coordinator  
2026 National AGO Convention





# Reminders/Information

St. Louis AGO Chapter 2020-2021



## **OFFICERS:**

Dean – Rick Burk (CAGO)  
Sub-Dean – Heather Martin Cooper (CAGO)  
Secretary – Cathy Cassy  
Treasurer – Mike Kaberline  
Past Dean – Burnell Hackman

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

### Class of 2021

Martha Shaffer (CAGO)  
Bob Chamberlin

Tim Jansen

### Class of 2022

Dr. Steven Ball  
J.D. Brooks

Dr. William Sullivan

### Class of 2023

Gaye Anderson  
Andrew Peters  
Shawn Portell

## **APPOINTED POSITIONS:**

### 2026 Convention Coordinator

Burnell Hackman

### Auditor

Denis Doelling

### Dinner Reservations

Dr. Cathy Bolduan

### Directory Editor

Al Black

### Educational Resources

Dr. Barbara Raedeke

### Exam Coordinator

Brent Johnson

### Historian

Randy Zerkel

### Membership Coordinator

Kendra Ruesler

### OPUS Editor

Ted Cronbaugh

### Photographer

Rene Zajner

### Professional Concerns Liaison

Shawn Portell

### Publicity Liaison

Dawn Riske (CAGO)

### Registrar

Regina Morris

### Social Media

Rene Zajner

### Webmaster

Brent Johnson

2020-2021



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**FEBRUARY 13, 2021**

A day of **LIVE** Zoom meetings on presentations and topics. Areas to be offered include: Organ, Handbells, Recording Technology and Spiritual Care. Stay tuned for more information.



## **St. Louis Organ Archive:**

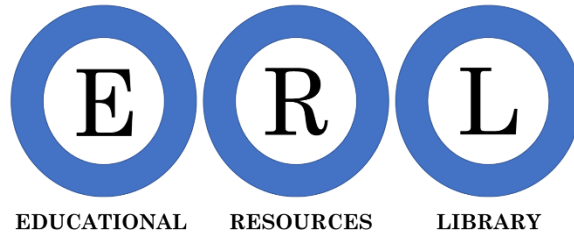
Check out what's new. Get your pictures, stop list and other information prepared NOW.



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

## REMINDERS/INFORMATION CONTINUED

Books. Pamphlets. DVDs. CDs. Music.



Just to remind everyone of our Chapter's Educational Resources Library (ERL). A catalogue of our holdings can be found on our website. ([click here](#)) There's a wealth of information here – materials on service playing, registration, organ literature, choral conducting, organ building, exam preparation – in a variety of media – books, DVDs, printed music, etc. This time of pandemic may offer you the opportunity for study and professional growth, so I encourage you to browse our library catalogue and find something that interests you. Chapter members may check out materials for a period of two months. If you find something you'd like to check out, please contact me and we will make arrangements for you to pick up the materials. I encourage you to use this valuable chapter resource!

[Dr. Barbara Raedeke](#)

Educational Resources Librarian

## ORGAN.MEDIA FOUNDATION

Have you **EVER** played the organ at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica? Have you **EVER** been inside the organ chambers at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica? Come along for an experience you will never forget AND at the same time discover the beautiful tonal sounds and resources of the Great Kilgen Organ.

Dr. Horst Buchholz leads you through the tonal sounds and Brent Johnson takes you through the chambers where many people have never been. This is something you do not want to miss.



Part One: The Stop List



Part Two: The Chambers



# THE *LAST* PAGE



Have an event or concert you would like included on our Chapter Calendar Events page? Send an email to: [events@agostlouis.org](mailto:events@agostlouis.org) with all the necessary information.

Do you have an article or something you would like included in the *OPUS* newsletter? Please submit all material to Ted Cronbaugh by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Space and content are subject to availability. Email: [ted.cronbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:ted.cronbaugh@gmail.com)

Articles for the November/December issue of the *OPUS* are due on October 15, 2020



**DO NOT** forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, October 31, 2020