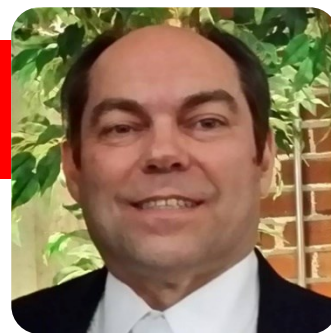


THE OPUS

FEBRUARY 2021

Volume 37 – Issue 5
The official
publication of the
St. Louis Chapter of
the American Guild of





Rick Burk (CAGO) - Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Is it February already? As I write this, watching the snow falling outside certainly makes it look and feel like it must be February. Winter months are often the time when we feel stuck inside more than we might want. Yet, I suspect most of us have had that “stuck inside” feeling for the past year as the COVID-19 pandemic put us in lockdown to one degree or another. Like me, you may have felt frustrated at the limitations of staying connected not only with family, but with friends and colleagues as well. As your Dean there have been many moments when I have felt frustration at our not being able to provide our Chapter members with more opportunities to connect, even though it has been through no fault of our own. I am guessing it is probably healthy to acknowledge those frustrations in order to keep moving forward in a more productive manner.

And, so, as we do continue to move forward, there are several events and opportunities for us to demonstrate our commitment to the Chapter and thus to one another. First and foremost, we have the opportunity to gather together online and participate in *FEBRUARY FLOURISH 2021*. There are many more details about this event on pages three and four. I would encourage you to register and plan to “attend” if you have not already done so. Regardless of what the weather may be that day, you will be able to join with others from our Chapter, from the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis and from NPM all from the comfort of your own home. The various presentations and break-out sessions all focus on doing our work and caring for ourselves in the midst of the pandemic.

Secondly, you will find the slate of nominees for various officers who have so graciously agreed to serve if elected. The voting process will begin in another month or so, but you have the opportunity now to peruse the biographical information on each nominee and begin to consider your choices and prepare to exercise your right to vote.

Finally, it will soon be time to select a candidate for this year’s Avis Blewitt Award. I will be appointing a committee soon to make this selection. If you would like to serve on the committee, please contact me. There is another notice regarding this on page 7 where you will find my contact information.

Stay safe and healthy, and I hope to see you on February 13.

Rick Burk

Dean – St. Louis AGO Chapter

Music Conference Coordinator

February Flourish 2021



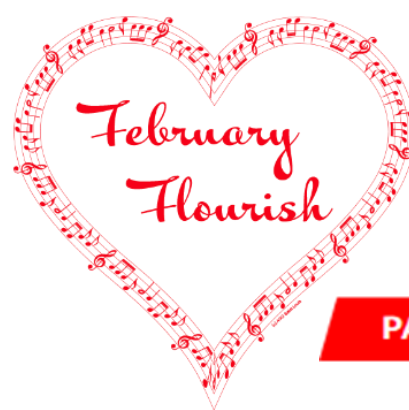
Dawn Riske (CAGO)

The “February Flourish” Virtual Church Music Workshop is designed to support and encourage worship leaders who are providing musical prayer in a time of pandemic. Presentations are being offered that are relevant to sacred musicians, whether part-time or full-time, organists or directors, singers or bell ringers. Register now and participate in the Greater St. Louis “February Flourish” on Saturday, February 13, 2021 from 8:30am to Noon. We are glad for the collaboration with the AGO Gateway Confluence Chapter, the Handbell Association of Greater Saint Louis, and the local chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

Five timely and engaging recorded workshops are almost ready for your viewing. The key-note session by Dr. Steven Ball, recorded in Florida at the Tampa Theater promises to be exceptional. All the presenters bring wisdom and depth into their presentations, whether discussing pipe organ, music ministry, worship in a time of pandemic, or handbells. Links to the presentations will be made available to February Flourish registrants only. Then, on February 13 between 8:45am and Noon, live Zoom meetings will take place with the presenters. Those Zoom gatherings will allow presenters to expand on the presented material and to interact with attendees in a time of questions, answers and collaborative learning. Dr. Cathy Benton will lead us through a helpful presentation, and Burnell Hackman will join her for the live Zoom “Handbell Roundtable” during the Saturday morning meeting. Look for more details of the “Flourish” on our chapter web-site ([click here](#)).

Hats off to our presenters and moderators:

- “Approaching the Theater Organ from a Classical Organ Background: Why It Matters More than Ever”
Dr. Steven Ball & Heather Martin Cooper – moderators
- “Flourishing Inside the Pandemic Box: Finding Fulfilling Musical Expression Amid Disruption and Constraint”
Dr. Sarah Bereza & Beth Duello – moderators
- “Handbell Roundtable: Ringing More with Less”
Dr. Cathy Benton & Burnell Hackman – moderators
- “Use of Technology within Worship during a Pandemic and Beyond”
Jeff White (CAGO) & Joy Elowsky – moderators
- Ministry: “Pastoral Care for Musicians in a Time of Pandemic”
Fr. Jeremy Secrist, Bill Stein and Mark Scholtz – moderators



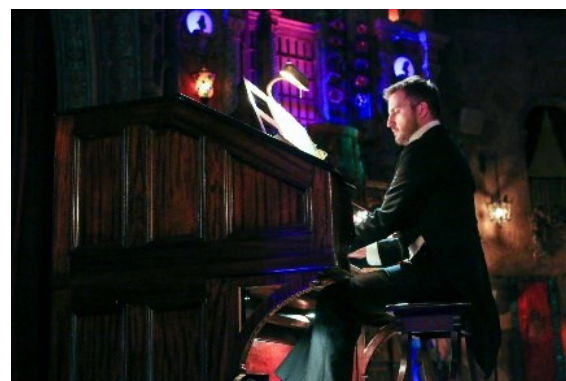
February Flourish continued

And kudos to our excellent February Flourish Planning Team:

- Director – Dawn Riske (CAGO)
- Dean & February Flourish Secretary – Rick Burk (CAGO)
- Registrar – Matthew Gerhardt
- Treasurer – Mike Kaberline
- Handbell Liaison – Dr. Cathy Benton
- Publicity and Social Media – Rene Zajner
- Sub-Dean & Programming – Heather Martin Cooper (CAGO)
- Local Arrangements – Burnell Hackman
- At Large – Dr. Cathy Bolduan, Kendra Ruesler, Jim Threlkeld (SPC), Nannette Tornblom, Brenda Tripp, Dr. Bill Wade, and Jeff White (CAGO)

Registration is open at Eventbrite ([click here](#)) or on our website ([click here](#)) We are glad to offer the event at the cost of \$10.00 for the registration fee.

We hope you will consider inviting other interested musical friends to be a part of this event, reach out to one or two musical friends, and you can be part of this shared experience. Take a moment to view a short [promotional video](#) (thank you Rene Zajner) which you can share. The previous three February Flourish events have been beautifully supported by our Chapter – we expect that may again be the case. Let's **Flourish** together!



Dr. Steven Ball recording his presentation for the February Flourish at the Tampa Theatre.

EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINEES

Class of 2024



DR. SARAH BEREZA

Dr. Bereza is the Minister of Music at First Congregational Church of St. Louis 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 Sara Bereza. Sarah's 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. Sarah 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. Sarah lives in St. Louis with her husband and two sons.



DR. KIRSTEN SANTOS RUTSCHMAN

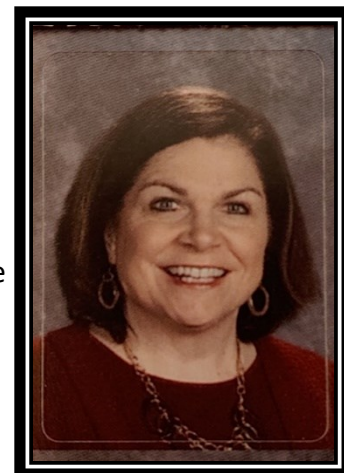
Dr. Rutschman is the Organist/Accompanist at First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, as well as an Adjunct Instructor of Music at St. Louis University and Webster University. Hailing from Washington State, she began studying organ at Stanford University, canvassing her dorm for enough fellow students to reach the minimum required capacity for organ class. A year of studying organ in Sweden inspired her to complete a PhD in musicology (Swedish music) from Duke University, which included presenting research across the U.S. and Europe, including at the 2014 AGO National Convention in Boston. In 2019, she presented a recital on the *Friday Pipes* series at Third Baptist Church in St. Louis. During the present period of online services, she has enjoyed the opportunity to "make double of herself" on occasion by recording organ-piano and organ-violin duets.



JILL GRIFFIN

Jill graduated from Washington University in St. Louis where she studied both mechanical engineering and music. After working 15 years in the corporate engineering sector, she left to accept a full-time music ministry position. Jill is now the Director of Worship at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Edwardsville, IL where she has been for the past 13 years. When not in "COVID times," she directs an adult choir of nearly 40 members, children's choir, handbell choir, instrumentalists, and teaches Chorus at the adjoining grade school.

Jill is a new member of the AGO, having joined just a year ago. She is excited about the possibility of serving as a member of the Executive Board and looks forward to becoming more involved, meeting new people and learning from them as well.



NOMINEES CONTINUED



KATHRYN LAMAR

After getting her B.S. in math, Kathryn spent 30+ years working on mainframe computers, mostly on operations side, ending up for many years as a systems programmer. After retiring from that, she was able to spend more time in the field of her college minor: music. Kathryn was often playing organ for church and singing or playing piano for choir as an avocation while earning money in her vocation. When time was more her own, she added to the music time, sharing music with preschool children, leading children in presenting musicals, learning handbells, and performing. Now, with the pandemic and staying home a lot, she watches concerts and church services and plays the piano at home.

TREASURER

MIKE KABERLINE

Mike began serving as Treasurer for the 2015 AGO Regional Convention in St. Louis and then as the Treasurer for the St. Louis Chapter shortly after. He has held positions in finance and financial reporting for several non-profit and political organizations – on national, state-wide, and local levels. In addition to managing a Healthcare Informatics company, he is also the Product Manager for three medical practice management software products for eMDs/CompuGroup Medical. Although not an organist, he has a long admiration and love of organ music and the physical design of organs. He is also currently serving as Treasurer for the 2026 AGO National Convention which will be in St. Louis.



SECRETARY

GAYE ANDERSON

Gaye is the Organist/Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Parish in Alton, IL. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree with emphasis in Piano Performance from Greenville College in Greenville, IL and a Master's degree from Webster University, St. Louis in Organ Performance. Gaye is a student of Canon Precentor Dr. William Partridge at Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis. She operates Livery Haus Music Studio in her hometown of Marine, IL and is also an equestrian instructor at the family owned dressage and hunter/jumper stable Brier Bank Farm in Marine.



Gaye is married to attorney Roy Anderson. They have been blessed with two children: Son, David (Organist/Music Director at St. Peter's UCC in Ferguson) and daughter, Lauren (artist). In her 'spare time', Gaye assists the staff at Gateway Music Group, LLC and enjoys antiques, renovating old houses, and playing with the family's two Jack Russell "hunt terriers."

Gaye is currently serving the St. Louis AGO as a member of the Executive Board, class of 2023.

Reminders/Information

St. Louis AGO Chapter 2020-2021



REMINDER:

Please make sure that your information is updated and correct in “[ON-CARD](#)” on the National AGO Web-site. This information is used to send out information via USPS and e-mail.

NATIONAL CONVENTION:

If you would like to volunteer/help with the 2026 National AGO Convention, please sign up on our Chapter’s Web-site ([click here](#)). We are especially looking for help with Transportation and Gifts/Grants. If you need more information – please contact Burnell Hackman ([email](#))

NEW ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

If you would like to help spread the news about the *NEW* Achievement Award program – [click here](#) for a downloadable flyer that can be inserted into newsletters, sent out as an email attachment, or printed and distributed.

AVIS BLEWITT AWARD:

It’s time to seek out that special individual in St. Louis to receive this year’s *Avis Blewitt* Award. Dean Burk will be appointing a committee soon to make that selection. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Dean Burk at your earliest convenience via [email](#) or call (630) 818-6265.

NEW FEATURE COMING SOON:

A suggestion has been made to include a section in each issue of the *OPUS* highlighting members of our chapter (perhaps under the title “Member Spotlight.”) This would be a great way for each of us to get to know more of our members, especially when we are not able to gather in person. If anyone would be interested in taking on the task of putting this together each month, please contact Dean Burk.



CONGRATULATIONS

Scott Pluff

**on passing the CAGO portion of the
combined CAGO-NPM exam!!**

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER - LINKS



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

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THE *LAST* PAGE

