



## Dean's Corner

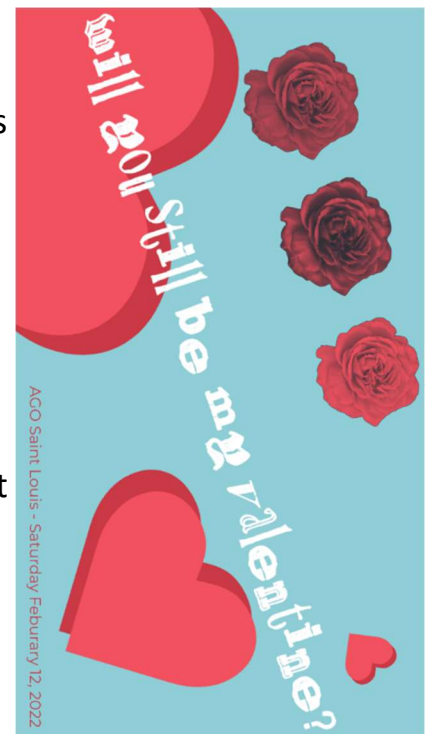
Dear Colleagues,

As I mentioned in my January letter sent out just a few weeks ago, we continue to be confronted with many challenges – both personally and professionally. I continue to hear of more and more of our membership who have been infected with COVID. Know that you are in the thoughts and prayers of all of us. More activities and events are once again being curtailed, cancelled or postponed. We have had to make those difficult choices about many of our Chapter events. Sadly, the February Flourish planning committee met on Saturday, January 15 and made the difficult decision to postpone the full schedule of events until 2023. We have “lost” so much over the past two years. Perhaps one of the most meaningful things lost has been the ability to gather and just share time together: to share the joys and concerns we each have in our individual music ministries; to share significant things happening in our personal lives; to simply share ourselves with each other. While it is far different from being together in person, in lieu of this year’s February Flourish we will be providing an opportunity to gather via Zoom (the best we can do for now!) on Saturday, February 12, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. We hope to be able to provide some “teasers” about the 2023 February Flourish, but most importantly we will have the opportunity to at least see each other’s faces on a screen and share and chat with one another. Plan to be with us that day. The information for joining the Zoom gathering may be found on page 2.

Rick Burk  
Dean



Rick Burk, CAGO





Dawn Riske - CAGO

## February Flourish Coordinator

Our Saint Louis Chapter February Flourish Planning Team met recently. Given the COVID numbers and realities, it was decided to postpone this year's program. The plan is for all the programs, sessions, exhibits, reading sessions, prayer, and concert to be transferred to February 10, 11 and 12, 2023. Thankfully, Burnell Hackman and the people of Peace Lutheran Church have again agreed to be our hosts.

The eventbrite registration site for 2022 has been deactivated. But we are not writing things off entirely. On February 12, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. CT, the St. Louis Chapter will host a "Will You Still Be My Valentine?" Zoom. [Link below]

We will have a time of greeting, and share a virtual cup of coffee, then Dr. Steven Wenthe of Chicago, IL will offer a brief presentation. A "Question and Answer" time will follow. Then together we can socialize and, well, commiserate. Stay current by checking the Chapter webpage [agostlouis.org](http://agostlouis.org).

Here's the information for joining this meeting. Hope to see you there.

Join Zoom Meeting (copy and paste into browser if on paper)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98045735791?pwd=THFsMkRuWDNuOUNDM0FVVUluKzBsUT09>

Meeting ID: 980 4573 5791

Passcode: 021321

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,98045735791#,,,,\*021321# US (New York)

+13017158592,,98045735791#,,,,\*021321# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 980 4573 5791

Passcode: 021321

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kbl5ZvWZil>



# Executive Board Nominees for 2022-2023

## **DEAN: JEFF WHITE**

Jeff White, CAGO, is a long-time member of the St. Louis Chapter. He has previously served on the Executive Committee, and did a partial term as Sub-Dean. He holds a Master of Church Music degree with an emphasis in Organ from Concordia University, Wisconsin. He is the Minister of Music and Organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis. He is a member of the Gateway Ringers, and has served on their board as Secretary, Vice President, and President. Jeff is comfortable in leadership roles, having led a previous congregation as President, and as a people manager for two different international teams at Mastercard. He is passionate about the work of the AGO and our chapter, and looks forward to the opportunity to serve the chapter once again.

## **SUB DEAN: MARY BETH WITTRY**

Mary Beth Wittry is Director of Sacred Music at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church in the city of St. Louis. Previously, she was Director of Sacred Music at Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Missouri from 1985-2004 and Instructor of Organ at MSU. She moved to St. Louis in 2004 to be Director of Sacred Music at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary until 2013. Mary Beth has her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Bradley University and her Master of Music in Organ Performance from University of Illinois.

## **Class of 2025 (Alphabetical Order)**

### **SUZANNE CHISUM, PhD**

Suzanne Chisum is a life-long learner, who is continuing organ studies, while playing the organ at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in the city of Saint Louis. She recently became a member of the AGO. In the past Suzanne has been an organist at Holy Family Church (now closed) and Saint Francis de Sales Church in the city of St. Louis.

Suzanne first played the organ at a small rural parish, Immaculate Conception, in Madonnaville, Illinois, where she grew up. Suzanne has a doctorate in education with an emphasis on adult learning. She lives in south Saint Louis with her husband. She has two adult sons. Besides music, Suzanne enjoys, cooking, gardening, and playing with her little dachshund, Bits.

### **MARQUISE JONES**

Marquise Jones is a senior Criminal Justice major at Cedarville University, Ohio. He is also an Army ROTC cadet with the Central State Marauder Battalion. He is mostly a self-taught organist, with some training from Barbara Raedeke through the St. Louis AGO Pipe Organ Encounter and Brent Johnson. His future career plans include being a full-time police officer and an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.

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## **ROBERT RAYMOND, MM**

Robert Raymond received his Graduate Degree in Organ and Piano Performance and Chamber Music accompaniment from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. It is here where he has taught organ since 1997, and piano in the Keyboard Development Program since 1989. Robert studied with organist Kathleen Thomerson, FAGO; and with pianist Ruth Slenczynska. Robert earned a Permanent Professional Certificate in Organ and Piano Teaching from the Music Teachers National Association.

Robert has given SIUE faculty organ recitals, participated in master classes and workshops, performed with area organists in group recitals at McKendree University, Lewis, and Clark Community College and with the St. Louis AGO. Robert served as Dean of the American Guild of Organists, Gateway East Chapter from 1994-1997.

First Presbyterian Church, Edwardsville is where Mr. Raymond has served as organist and pianist for 28 years, performing all weekly services, accompanying the adult and youth choirs, as well as guest musicians.

## **DAVID SINDEN**

Noted for his “centered leadership and solid musicianship,” David Sinden is the Organist and Director of Music at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in St. Louis, Missouri. His recording with the St. Peter’s Choir, *Longing for Home* (Regent, 2020), has been met with widespread acclaim. Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Sinden served in the same capacity at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Capitol Square, in Richmond, Virginia. While in Virginia, he was the Artistic Director of the Central Virginia Masterworks Chorale for three seasons and served on the Standing Committee for Liturgy and Church Music for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

Mr. Sinden has held leadership positions in several chapters of the American Guild of Organists (AGO). He currently serves on the New Music Committee for the 2026 AGO National Convention. He has previously served on the Program and Executive Committees of the Richmond Chapter of the AGO and is a former Dean of the Indianapolis Chapter.

David has appeared as organist at conventions of the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada and the Anglican Association of Musicians. He holds degrees in music from Oberlin College and Indiana University.

Voting will take place between March 15 and April 15.  
Instructions for voting will appear in the March issue of OPUS.

# Your Invitation to the 2022 RCO Winter Conference

*Our photographer Rene Zajner received this email recently and thought, since we can't have an in-person experience for our February Flourish this year, that this online conference might be of interest to our members. AGO members benefit from a special registration rate.*

*Since this email is from the **Royal College of Organists** in England, the spelling reflects that.*

Following the success of last year's event, the RCO is pleased to be offering a second online conference from 17-19 February. You can browse the full programme by clicking [here](#).

Highlights of the 2022 conference include three Celebrity Recitals, recorded especially for the College on iconic organs:

Jean-Baptiste Monnot (France), at Saint-Ouen, Rouen

Katelyn Emerson (USA), at the Methuen Music Hall, Boston

Daniel Moulton (UK), at St George's, Hanover Square and St John's, Upper Norwood

These concerts feature the gamut of organ literature, from Bach to Guillou, via Franck, Schumann and Elgar.

Three Spotlight Recitals will showcase an emerging generation of talented younger players, with concerts recorded in Switzerland, Germany and Hungary:

Wenying Wu, winner of the 2020 IAO-RCO Organ Playing Competition

Freddie James, former organ scholar of St John's College, Cambridge

Ivan-Bogdan Reincke, winner of the 2019 Northern Ireland International Organ Competition

Many of our partner organisations are giving interactive presentations, including the Society of Women Organists, the Royal School of Church Music, the Incorporated Association of Organists, and the Institute of British Organ Building. The BIOS lecture will be given by Dr James Berrow and our keynote speaker is the eminent conductor, Paul McCreesh (Gabrieli Consort and Players).

Each day includes a series of Organ Shorts, brief introductions to new and notable organs around the world:

This series will take us to America (St Thomas Church, NYC, the Walt Disney Concert Hall, and Church of the Advent, Boston), France (Toulouse and Paris), New Zealand (Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland), Sweden (Uppsala Cathedral) and Spain (San Sebastián), and will feature a number of interesting UK organs: New College, Oxford; Dunblane Cathedral, St James, Sussex Gardens, London; and Trinity College, Cambridge.

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There is also an emphasis on organ teaching, and we are delighted to be featuring the work of four internationally admired conservatoires:

Daniel Moulton at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

David Graham at the Royal College of Music

Martin Schmeding at the University of Music and Theatre, Leipzig

David Higgs at Eastman School of Music, USA

As part of this, a team of RCO accredited teachers will offer a series of live and pre-recorded webinars.

We will also be joined by six eminent British organists, talking about their lives and careers in a two-part Profiles series:

Dame Gillian Weir

Kevin Bowyer

Anne Marsden Thomas

Christopher Herrick

Margaret Phillips

John Butt

This year's event has something for everyone and features the very best that the organ world has to offer. 'One Day' or 'Full Access' passes are available at a variety of levels and all content will be available to view until the end of March 2022.

I very much hope that you will join us!

Yours faithfully,

Drew Cantrill-Fenwick  
(Artistic Director)

<https://conference.rco.org.uk/>



## PRINCIPIA COLLEGE CONCERT &amp; LECTURE SERIES

# Celebration and Meditation on Women's and Black History Months: Women in Prayer

Principia Dance program in *Seven Last Words and Triumph of Christ*  
Black women composers of *Exodus Suite (Tribute to Harriet Tubman)*, *Sonata in D*



Florence Price  
Composer



Sharon Willis  
Composer



Pamela Decker  
Composer



Doug Cleveland  
Organist



Casavant  
Pipe Organ



Erin Lane  
Choreographer

"One infinite God, good, . . . annihilates . . . whatever is wrong in social, civil, criminal, political, and religious codes; equalizes the sexes . . . ." *Mary Baker Eddy*

**Friday, February 25 at 7:30 pm**

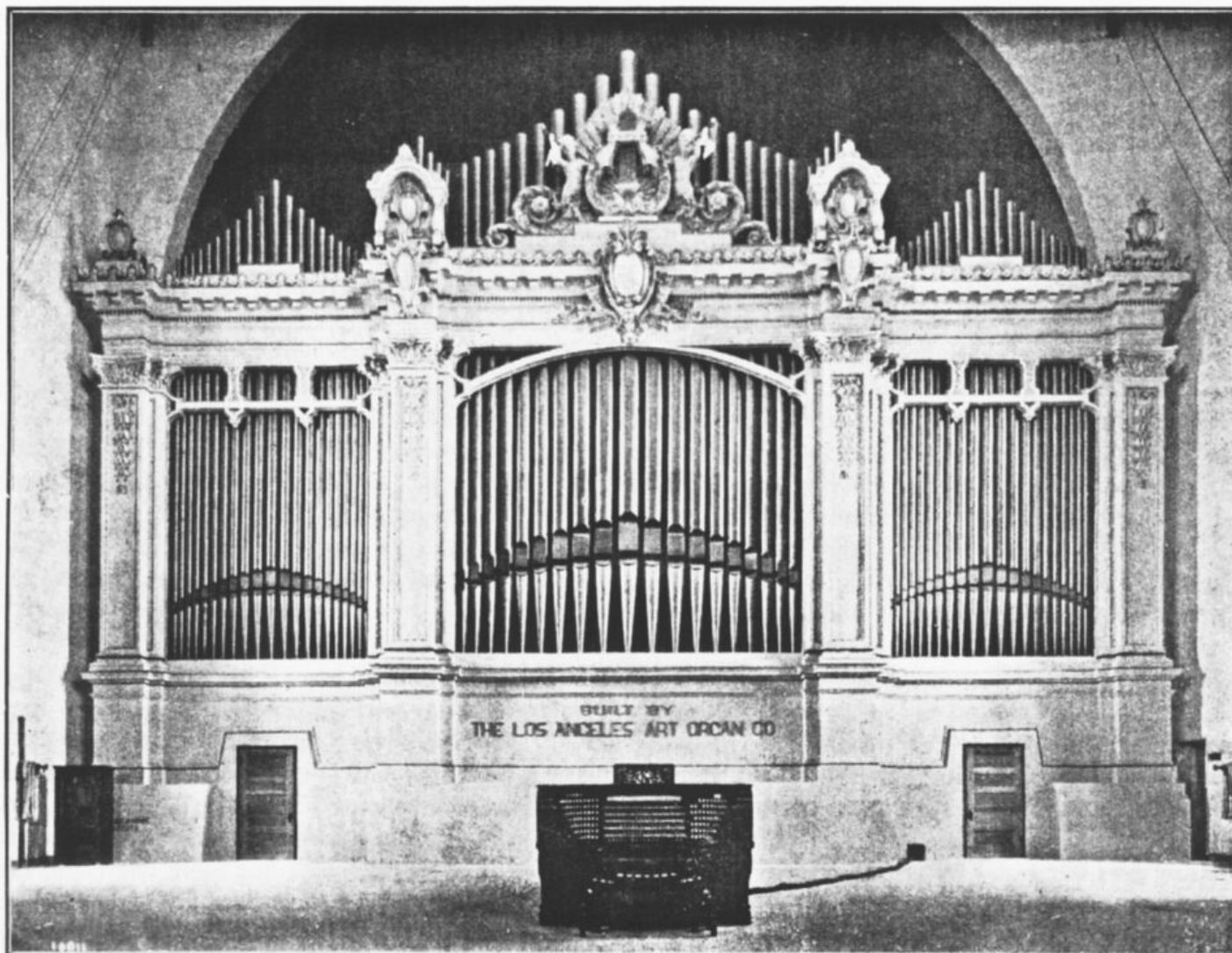
Elsah, IL, Principia College, Cox Auditorium

**Sunday, February 27 at 2:00 pm**

St. Louis, Principia School, Ridgeway Auditorium



## PRINCIPIA COLLEGE



ELECTROLIAN  
GRAND CONCERT ORGAN—FESTIVAL HALL, ST. LOUIS, MO.—COST, \$100,000.

### 1904 World's Fair and the Festival Hall organ.

- The Fair was located at Forest Park and the surrounding area. It last 7 months and was attended by almost 20 million people. The 1904 St. Louis population was 575,000.
- The Festival Concert Hall was located near the Grand Basin and Art Hill.
- The hall was of temporary construction and contained the largest pipe organ in the world in 1904. The organ was constructed by the Los Angeles Art Organ company. The cost was \$105,000, \$40,000 over budget, and bankrupted the company. After the Fair, the organ went into storage and was eventually purchased by John Wanamaker. It was transported to Philadelphia for installation in his department store. The 1904 World's Fair organ forms the nucleus for today's Wanamaker organ.
- The 1904 World's Fair organ had 5 manuals with pedal board, 140 speaking stops, 10,059 pipes and weighed 125 tons.



From our history as we celebrate our 110<sup>th</sup> chapter anniversary year:



• Ernest R. Kroeger (1862 – 1934)

- National AGO and Missouri Chapter founder.
- Organist at Grace Episcopal, Trinity Episcopal, Church of the Messiah, First Congregational, St. George Episcopal and Delmar Baptist
- Director of the Washington University School of Music, (1925-1934)
- Music teacher at Forest Park University and founder of Kroeger School of Music.
- After his death, his daughter, became the headmaster of the school until its closing in the middle of the century.
- Responsible for the music programs at the 1904 World's Fair. Conductor of the Exposition Symphony and Chorus of 2,000 members.



Please join us on Zoom at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 12

Meeting ID: 980 4573 5791

Passcode: 021321

**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 or need more information, please contact Burnell Hackman ([burnellhackman@gmail.com](mailto:burnellhackman@gmail.com)). We are especially looking for help with Transportation and Gifts/Grants.

**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 ([dean@agostlouis.org](mailto:dean@agostlouis.org)) or call (630) 818-6265.



## ORGAN LESSONS FOR STUDENTS OF ALL LEVELS

David Sinden

degrees in Organ Performance  
from Oberlin College (B.Mus.)  
and Indiana University (M.M.)

Study on the three-manual  
Mander organ of St. Peter's  
Episcopal Church, Ladue

CONTACT:

[dsinden@gmail.com](mailto:dsinden@gmail.com)

**THE OPUS**

The Official Publication  
of the St. Louis Chapter  
of the American Guild of Organists  
3526 Oxford Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63143-4209  
February 2022 - Vol. 38, No. 4

You are invited to submit material  
for publication consideration.

Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to  
[newsletter@agostlouis.org](mailto:newsletter@agostlouis.org).

**Copy deadline for the March issue is  
February 10.**

Send address changes or mailing labels requests to:  
Regina Morris  
3526 Oxford Blvd  
St. Louis MO 63143-4209

**OFFICERS:**

Dean - Rick Burk  
Sub-Dean - Heather Martin Cooper  
Secretary - Gaye Anderson  
Treasurer - Mike Kaberline  
Past Dean - Burnell Hackman

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**Class of 2022

Dr. Steven Ball  
J. D. Brooks  
Dr. William Sullivan

Class of 2023

(Vacant)  
Shawn Portell  
Kit LaMar

Class of 2024

Sarah Bereza  
Jill Griffin  
(Vacant)

**APPOINTED POSITIONS:**

*2026 Convention Coordinator*  
Burnell Hackman  
*Auditor*  
Denis J. Doelling  
*Dinner Reservations*  
Dr. Cathy Bolduan  
*Directory Editor*  
Al Black  
*Educational Resources*  
Dr. Barbara Raedeke  
*Exam Coordinator*  
Brent Johnson  
*Historian*  
Randy Zerkel  
*Membership Coordinator*  
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Kit LaMar  
*Photographer*  
Rene Zajner  
*Professional Concerns Liaison*  
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**2021-2022**

## THE OPUS

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ST. PETER'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
EST. 1949

# Choral and Organ Music at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The Rev. David Hodges *Rector*  
David Sinden *Organist & Director of Music*  
S. William Aitken *Organist & Director of Music Emeritus*

### Choral Evensong

Sunday, February 13

5:00 p.m.

A traditional Anglican service of scripture, prayer, and music led by the St. Peter's Singers.  
This service includes music by Charles Wood, George Dyson, and Annabel Rooney.

### Organ Vespers — Sarah Bereza

Sunday, February 27

5:00 p.m.

A service of evening prayer including music by Arvo Pärt and Philip Glass played  
by guest organist Dr. Sarah Bereza (First Congregation Church of St. Louis).  
Part of the ongoing celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Mander organ.

### Choral Evensong

Sunday, March 13

5:00 p.m.

Music by Alice Parker, David Ashley White, and Craig Philips.

*For full details visit [specstl.org](http://specstl.org)*