



THE OPUS

Volume 39

Issue 2

October 2022

Dean's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

Fall is in the air! Kids are back to school, choirs are back in session, we count down the days leading to Advent and the busy Christmas season, and our chapter program year is underway. Thank you to all who attended our September "meet and greet" at the Cardinal Rigali Center.

We also heard from our Convention Coordinator, Burnell Hackman, about opportunities to support and serve the 2026 National Convention which will be in St. Louis. As John Heywood said, "Many hands make light work." We will need volunteers to fill many roles, and the more we have, the easier it will be. The last National convention held here was in 1948, and more recently we hosted the North Central Region Convention in 2015. If you are interested in helping, contact Burnell for more information. I know he would love to hear from you!

Also, hosting a convention takes financial support. You may even join the "2026 Club." With a donation of \$2,026 or more, you will be helping out our chapter as well as receiving a couple of perks for your donation. You may pay this in installments over the course of the next four years. Any amount would be appreciated. Contact John Walsh, who is managing the fundraising for the convention, to make a pledge.

I hope you will attend the Martin Ott Organ Crawl on Saturday, October 15th. I am looking forward to hearing four of Martin's wonderful instruments. We'll also have an opportunity to gather for lunch along Mackenzie Road - there are a few places from which to choose.

I hope your September went well, and, as always, I would love to hear from you, on anything - comments, suggestions, questions, and, yes, even complaints. We have one of the larger chapters in the Guild, and I would like to know what would help you engage and attend events.

Your friend and colleague,
Jeffrey White
Dean, St. Louis AGO Chapter

Sub-Dean's Column

Greetings!

Our St. Louis AGO had a wonderful combined event with National Pastoral Musicians to begin the year! We feasted with song, prayer, and a tasty meal! Thank you so much to all who helped make the evening so lovely; John Walsh, Nori Fahrig and the Polyhymnia singers, and Heather Martin Cooper for her part in Polyhymnia and in playing the Bach Magnificat Fuga Super, BWV 733, as postlude.

Next month, we will have our organ crawl with Martin Ott and see four of his St. Louis instruments. We will begin with coffee and fellowship at 8:30 a.m. and see the organ at Peace Lutheran, then travel to Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Affton at 10:30 a.m. and have lunch nearby. Then, we will travel to St. Paul's Lutheran in Des Peres at 1:00 p.m., and end up at St. Monica's in Creve Coeur at 2:30 p.m. It will be a fun day of listening, playing, and enjoying some 'shop talk' with peers. Feel free to join us for the entire day, or any of the stops along the way.

Fall blessings to all of you, and hope see you soon! Soli Deo Gloria!

Mary Beth Wittry
Sub-Dean, St. Louis AGO Chapter



February Flourish 2023



A Trio of Happenings

Friday, February 10, 2023

Taizé Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 11, 2023

Church Music Conference

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 12, 2023

Recital by Dr. Steven Wente of Concordia University Chicago at 3:00 p.m.

All happening at Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksvue,

Saint Louis (Mehlville), MO 63125

Presented by American Guild of Organists--St. Louis Chapter with support from Handbell Association of Greater Saint Louis and National Association of Pastoral Musicians--St. Louis Chapter

\$25 registration for in-person attendance includes all workshops and lunch

\$10 registration for in-person student attendance includes all workshops and lunch

Organ, Choral, Handbell, and Ministry Workshops

Presenters: Dr. Steven Wente, Simeon Layne, Jr., Burnell Hackman, Carlos Flores Ramirez, Nori Fahrig, Mark Lawson, Jacob B. Weber, David Erwin, Sherry Boland, Yvonne Sullivan, Julie Binder, and Dolan Bayless

Chapter Meeting Report

From Dawn Riske

NORTH CENTRAL REGION, AGO

Saint Louis, Missouri – The Fall Banquet of the Saint Louis Chapter was held on Monday, September 12, 2022, at the Cardinal Rigali Center in Saint Louis. This well-attended gathering was held jointly with the St. Louis Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Solemn Vespers in the Saint Vincent de Paul Chapel began the evening. Polyhymnia, a women's choir under the direction of Nori Fahrig, sang an extended chant prelude and led the singing of the Psalms and canticle. Nori accompanied the liturgy on the two-manual, 10-rank Wicks pipe organ. Heather Martin Cooper, CAGO, played the Bach Magnificat Fuga Super BWV 733 as postlude.



Heather Martin Cooper, Nori Fahrig, and the singers of Polyhymnia

A catered meal in the Fleur de Lis Room of the Rigali Center provided an opportunity to renew friendships and meet new colleagues. Several vacant positions have been recently filled: Andrew Kreigh at the Cathedral Basilica, Spencer Smith at Second Presbyterian, and Dominic Richards at Christ, Prince of Peace. AGO Dean Jeff White, CAGO, and NPM Director John Powel Walsh shared greetings from their respective organizations and led us through a time of sharing news and upcoming events of interest to organists and pastoral musicians.

Chapter Meeting Report *continued*



John Powel Walsh addresses local chapter members of AGO and NPM



*AGO Dean Jeff White and NPM Director John Powel Walsh
at the joint September meeting*



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

MSM & DMA in Organ Performance

Greetings

We are now accepting applications to our graduate program in sacred music for the 2023-24 academic year. Students in this program pursue a two-year master's degree in Sacred Music (concentrations in organ performance, choral conducting and voice) or a three-year Doctor of Musical Arts (concentrations in organ performance or choral conducting). Students also work closely with faculty in musicology, liturgical studies and theology. Our programs are broadly ecumenical, while giving specific attention to Roman Catholic traditions and practice.

We are extremely excited about what is going on here. The MSM students in organ performance play two recitals and the DMA students play three, one of which is a lecture recital. The studio meets weekly for an organ performance class, and the students have many opportunities to perform on campus. Students also take a four-semester sequence in creative hymn playing and organ improvisation.

All students receive full-tuition scholarships, health insurance, and an assistantship that supplies a generous stipend. Typically, an MSM organ student on an assistantship works in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on campus, while DMA organ students are placed off campus in local churches.

Our Fritts organ and Reyes Organ Hall are stunning. In addition, the Fritts organ in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart was dedicated in January 2017. With the opening of our music building, O'Neill Hall, our practice organs have increased to six, and in total we now have fifteen organs on campus.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in applying, I am happy to hear from you. Alternatively, feel free to give the prospective student my email address and/or phone number. **Our application deadline is December 15, 2022.**

Many thanks for your help, and all the best,

Kola Owolabi

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Notre Dame, Indiana

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newsletter@agostlouis.org.

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Send address changes or mailing labels requests to:
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2022-2023

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ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
EST. 1868

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*

Concert: Early Music Missouri

Sunday, October 9

3:00 p.m.

St. Peter's warmly welcomes Early Music Missouri for their concert *Voz, Viol y Vihuela*: Fantasies, Songs & Dances from 16th-century Spain. Victoria Botero, soprano; Stephanie Hunt, viola de gamba; Jeff Noonan, vihuela. Admission \$10-20 at door.

Choral Evensong

Sunday, October 9

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 English composer William Byrd.

Choral Evensong

Sunday, November 13

5:00 p.m.

Music includes Balfour Gardner's sublime *Evening Hymn*. The St. Peter's Singers are led by guest choirmaster Nicholas Bideler.

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