

October 2023

Dean's Corner

Dear Chapter Members,

September always feels like a new year, of sorts, with students going back to school, choirs resuming rehearsals after a well-deserved summer break, and, of course, Chapter programs resuming. We met at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alton, IL for a nice dinner, followed by a music swap and some time on the Robert Dial organ. We thank Gay Anderson for hosting the event, and there were over twenty members in attendance. As we go into the Chapter's new program year, we look forward to forming two important committees: the Program Committee, led by our Sub-Dean Mary Beth Wittry, which will plan the program year for 2024/2025; and a Nominating Committee which will provide names of those who might be willing to be elected as Dean, Sub-Dean, and three members at large (also known as the Class of 2027). If you have any interest in serving on either of these two committees, contact Mary Beth for the Program Committee or myself for the Nominating Committee. These are one-time committees, so the commitment is for only a meeting or two.



Jeffrey White—Dean

I also would like to share information regarding the February Flourish for 2024. The Executive Committee discussed the event at our recent meeting, and due to a couple of circumstances, they elected to postpone the 2024 event. Suzanne Chisum had done a lot of good groundwork, but logistically it was not feasible for us to present a February Flourish program in 2024. A team has been put together to consider a restructuring of February Flourish to see if we can gain interest from musicians who are not necessarily members of our Chapter: choral directors, handbell directors, etc. We will be looking to 2025 with this greater scope. If you would like to help with this planning team, please reach out to Suzanne (suzchisum@gmail.com).

I am always open to hearing your ideas and suggestions regarding our Chapter! My best wishes to all of you!

Jeffrey White
Dean, St. Louis AGO Chapter



Mary Beth Wittry
wittrym@stgabrielstl.org

Greetings my fellow musicians!

I hope you are all having a great beginning to the “school year” and are also enjoying the lovely autumn days! So many beautiful hymns come to mind for me at this time of year: *For the Gifts of All Creation, For the Beauty of the Earth, Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!*, . . . just to name a few!

The remaining programs for this year are confirmed, with one date change. Our annual February Flourish will be on hold until spring of 2025. We have a committee which met on September 19 to begin the planning stages for the event in 2025. Stay tuned for more details. In light of this change, the duo organ concert with Dr. Rigler and Dr. Steed will take place on February 18 at Third Baptist Church.

We are still looking for a volunteer to host our Epiphany Party. If anyone is interested and willing please contact me ASAP. Rick Burk was so gracious to host us at his lovely home last year. It would be fun to have a new venue and give Rick a break.

Also, we are still looking for a venue for our Closing Banquet. The fee for use of the space at the Sisters of St. Joseph in Carondelet was a bit pricy last year, so it would be great to use a space that would cost the Chapter very little, if nothing at all. I'll welcome any suggestions!

But before all of that we have a great program planned in October. In conjunction with St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ladue we are sponsoring an organ recital by Bruce Neswick on Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m. The following day, Monday, October 16, we will gather for another delicious dinner provided by *As You Like It Catering*, followed by a workshop on improvisation led by Mr. Neswick. More details may be found on page five of this newsletter.

See you in October! Blessings!

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

Upcoming Programs

Sunday, October 15 - 3:00 p.m.
 Organ Concert, Bruce Neswick
 Monday, October 16 - 6:30 p.m.
 Dinner and Workshop on Improvisation
 led by Bruce Neswick
 Venue: St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 Host: David Sinden

January Epiphany Party
 Venue and date TBD

Sunday, February 18 - 4:00 p.m.
 Organ Duo: Dr. Ann Marie Rigler
 and Dr. Melody Steed
 Venue: Third Baptist Church
 Host: Brent Johnson

Monday, March 18 - 6:30 p.m.
 Dinner and Members' Recital
 including Pipes for Parkinsons by Bob Schneider
 Venue: Little Flower Parish
 Host: Chuck Chauvin

Monday, May 20 - 6:30 p.m.
 Closing Banquet
 Venue TBD

Concert Calendar

USAF Band of Mid America
Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m.
Peace Lutheran Church
737 Barracksvue Road
St. Louis, MO

The concert is free and open to the public.

Sanctus Winds Band
Sunday, November 5, 4:00 p.m.
Peace Lutheran Church
737 Barracksvue Road
St. Louis, MO

The concert is free and open to the public.

Dennis Bergin, Organ
Friday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.
Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church
1230 Big Bend Road
Ballwin, MO

The recital is free and open to the public.

See the flyers for events at the Oratory on pages four and six.

Check the [Concerts and Events](#) section of the Chapter website for more details on these and other recently posted events. When visiting that page, be sure to click on the heading of each concert listing for full details including contact information and an interactive map.

The event content in the "This Week on the AGO Calendar" email blast that all of you should be receiving (unless you have unsubscribed) comes directly from the [Concerts and Events](#) on the AGO St. Louis Chapter website. If you or your church has an organ/musical event that you would like to have included in the calendar, please send an email to David Sinden at events@agostlouis.org. You are also advised to "cc" Brent Johnson at brent@brentmjohnson.net.

If you are NOT getting these email blasts, please "Subscribe" on the Events page of the Chapter Website at <https://www.agostlouis.org/events/>. You must scroll to the bottom of the calendar listings to see the "Subscribe" option.

With all the holiday concerts coming up in the next few months, be sure to take a few minutes and let the Chapter membership know what you are planning!

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH 2023

2:00PM



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October Chapter Event!

ORGAN RECITAL

Bruce Neswick, Organ

Sunday, October 15

3:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

110 N. Warson Road

Ladue, MO

IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP

Bruce Neswick, Clinician

Monday, October 16

6:30 p.m.—Dinner

7:30 p.m.—Workshop

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

David Sinden, Host

Please submit your reservation for the October 16 dinner in a timely manner out of consideration for the caterer who needs to be able to plan for the proper number of meals. To do so, please contact Cathy Bolduan at Kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com or 314-853-5011. Thank you!

Bruce Neswick Canon for Cathedral Music (retired)

Bruce Neswick served as the Canon for Music at Trinity Cathedral from 2015-2022. Prior to coming to Oregon, he was Associate Professor of Music in Organ and Sacred Music at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and Assistant Organist of St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church, Louisville, Kentucky. Before moving to Indiana, he was the Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where he directed the Cathedral Choir of Girls, Boys and Adults and had oversight of the musical life of that historic Cathedral. He was the first director of the Washington Cathedral Girl Choristers and has also been music director of the Episcopal cathedrals in Buffalo, Lexington and Atlanta.



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Christ the King

Music Festival

A NEW FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 2



SATURDAY, OCT 28

3:00PM – BAROQUE MUSIC CONCERT FEATURING KINGSBURY ENSEMBLE –
MARYSE CARLIN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

6:00PM – ROYAL BALL

SUNDAY, OCT 29

10:30AM – FRANZ XAVER BRIXI: MISSA BREVIS IN C

WEDNESDAY, NOV 1

6:30PM – ALEXANDRE GUILMANT: MESSE BREVE, Op. 9

THURSDAY, NOV 2

6:30PM – W.A. MOZART: REQUIEM IN D MINOR, K626

WHERE

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SCAN ME

Chapter Yearbook

The 2023-2024 issue of the Chapter Yearbook is in the process of being prepared and will hopefully be available soon. You will receive your copy via USPS mail.

Pardon the oversight!

The time listed in the September OPUS for the Dennis Bergan recital was incorrect. The correct time is 7:00 p.m. as listed on page three and on the Chapter website. Our apologies for any confusion.

Some photos from the September event.



Serving up a great dinner.



A delicious \$20 meal.



Organ loft of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



Bob Raymond at the console.



Nave of St. Paul's Church.

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By Suzanne Chisum

Looking for Photos of Your Instruments

If you have any photos of your organ, pipes or console, please consider sharing them with me so that I may post them to Instagram or Facebook. Please send photos to suzchisum@gmail.com. Thank you to those who have shared photos.

Have you joined the STL AGO Member Group yet?

If you are interested in joining a dynamic group of other organists of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, you may message me on Facebook at Suzanne Olszewski Chisum, or scan the QR Code to the right. This is a place that you can share information as well as questions with other AGO members. Hope to see you there!



Check out our presence on Facebook

Don't forget to check out our Chapter Facebook page—a place where current events are shared along with other fun information. Click on the link to the left or search for AGO St. Louis Members on Facebook.

Being Yourself in the Spotlight of Public Ministry

Sarah Bereza, guest speaker
Monday, October 2, 6:00 p.m.

As congregational leaders, we live our professional lives within the spotlight of ministry. While aiming to be the truest versions of ourselves, we can struggle to do so with integrity given the constraints of our jobs.

If you have ever felt like you were working under a microscope or that you've been put on a pedestal you don't want or deserve, then you are not alone. This workshop considers the foundational aspects of our jobs, including how to evaluate potential employers, and the intersection of personal values with workplace dynamics.

Sarah Bereza is a lifelong church musician and currently serves as Director of Music at St. Grace United Methodist Church in St. Louis, Mo. She holds a bachelor's degree in organ performance, multiple masters degrees, and a Ph.D. in musicology. Sarah chairs the New Music Committee for the 2026 AGO National Convention. She is the author of *Professional Christian: Being Fully Yourself in the Spotlight of Christian Ministry*.



[Click here](#) to register.

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Officers of the Convention and program chairs are putting final touches on the Convention schedule, venues and artists. In February our plans will be submitted to a Trio from the National Office for suggestions and approval. With all the fantastic venues in St. Louis and all the phenomenal organists in the world this is not an easy task! I have confidence in our planners to arrange the best possible Convention in St. Louis.

As we ponder our Convention, we must first look to San Francisco which will host the 2024 National Convention. Most of our Steering Committee members will attend this Convention to gain insight on how to run a successful convention. One highlight is that we will have a booth in the Exhibits area to promote our 2026 Convention. In the past this has included photos of organs we will visit, a sampling of what St. Louis has to offer and some giveaways. If you have any suggestions for the exhibit, please let me know as we want an inspiring display which will encourage people to come to St. Louis, visit our wonderful city and take part in the BEST CONVENTION EVER!!

Dates to Remember:

June 30 – July 4, 2024 – San Francisco National Convention

July 6 – 10, 2026 – St. Louis National Convention

In the coming months we will have additional ways in which you can support the Convention when the organ world will “Meet Us In St. Louis!”

Have a great October!

Burnell Hackman
Convention Coordinator



2023-2024 Chapter Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

Dean - Jeff White
Sub-Dean - Mary Beth Wittry
Secretary - Gaye Anderson
Treasurer - Mike Kaberline
Past Dean - Rick Burk

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Class of 2024

Sarah Bereza
Chuck Chauvin
Jill Griffin

Class of 2025

Suzanne Chisum
Bob Raymond
David Sinden

Class of 2026

Stephen Jones
Mark Lawson
Sharon Whitlock

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

2026 Convention Coordinator

Burnell Hackman

Auditor

Denis J. Doelling

Certification Coordinator

Brent Johnson

Dinner Reservations

Dr. Cathy Bolduan

Directory Editors

Jeff White & Regina Morris

Educational Resources

Dr. Barbara Raedeke

Historian

Randy Zerkel

Membership Coordinator

Mary Beth Wittry

OPUS Editor

Rick Burk

Photographer

Simeon A. Layne, Jr.

Placement

Denis J. Doelling

Professional Concerns Liaison

Shawn Portell

Programs

Mary Beth Wittry

Publicity Liaison

Dawn Riske

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Regina Morris

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THE OPUS

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You are invited to submit material for publication consideration.
Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to newsletter@agostlouis.org.

Copy deadline for the November issue is October 15.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

Regina Morris
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St. Louis MO 63143-4209