



THE OPUS

Volume 41
Holiday Issue

December 2024

As has been our custom for many years, there will be no print issue of The OPUS for the month of December. However, this year we are providing a special Holiday Issue in digital format only. Many of the regular features and ads will not appear, but this does give us the opportunity to share some timely news such as events scheduled for December and January, and, sadly, several obituaries.





Biff Hackman
Sub-Dean

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings STL AGO,

I would like to take a moment to thank Dr. Alyson Moore and the St. Louis Children's Choirs for taking time out of their busy holiday schedule and allowing us to observe one of their rehearsals. It was refreshing to see so many young people dedicated to the art of music performance and, who knows, perhaps there is a future organist or two in their midst.

Our next Chapter event will be our annual Epiphany Party on Friday January 3 from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Burnell and Kathy Hackman have graciously offered to host us this year. Food and beverages will be provided. A donation to offset the cost will be appreciated.

The Hackman residence is located in the Pleasant Hill neighborhood of south St. Louis City. Please RSVP to Biff Hackman via email at biffhackman@yahoo.com by December 29. We will email a gate code to attendees on January 2. If you cannot find the email please call or text me at 314-650-9413 and I will give you the code. I hope to see you there!

**Hackman Residence
5104 Chouteau's Bluff Drive
St. Louis, MO 63111**

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Biff Hackman
Sub Dean, St. Louis Chapter AGO

We received the following note from Dr. Alyson Moore following our November Chapter event:

Thank you so much for inviting us into your community. Our students were delighted to perform for you and also treasured the opportunity to share some community connection moments with your folks.

Thank you again for giving us this opportunity!

*Sincerely,
Alyson*

Alyson Moore, DMA | Artistic Director
The St. Louis Children's Choirs
2842 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131
O: 314-993-9626 | alyson@slccsing.org



February Flourish 2025

The St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) is thrilled to announce its upcoming event, **February Flourish 2025** with clinician, **Michael Burkhardt**. This two-day musical celebration will take place on **February 16 and 17, 2025**, at the beautiful Kirkwood Baptist Church in Kirkwood, Missouri.

Event Highlights:

Sunday, February 16th: A free Hymn Festival open to the public, featuring a volunteer choir led by renowned clinician Michael Burkhardt.

Monday, February 17th: A full day of workshops and presentations for organists and choral enthusiasts, culminating in an evening concert.

Featured Clinician:

We are honored to welcome **Michael Burkhardt**, a celebrated composer, organist, and conductor, as our clinician for February Flourish. His compositions include numerous organ improvisations, choral octavos, and handbell compositions. Mr. Burkhardt's expertise and engaging teaching style promise an inspiring and enriching experience for all.

Registration and Cost:

Sunday's Hymn Festival: Free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Monday's Workshops and Concert: Registration is \$25 per person. (More details will be available in coming weeks.)

Sponsorship:

The St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is delighted to host this exciting event, generously supported by Morning Star Music Publishers, Concordia Publishing House, and Midwest Sheet Music. We are also pleased to have the St. Louis Chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians and the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis as partners in this celebration. With these esteemed organizations and talented musicians joining us, we are sure to present a vibrant celebration of music to our community!

Stay Tuned for More Details:

We will share additional information about the schedule, repertoire, and registration process in the coming weeks. Please mark your calendars and join us for this exceptional musical event!

Contact:

For inquiries, please contact Suzanne Chisum at suzchisum@gmail.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to February Flourish 2025!

In Memoriam

Sadly we share with you the following recent obituaries.

Patricia Pruden Partridge, 86, of Webster Groves, Missouri, passed away in the early hours of Saturday, November 16, 2024. Trish was born in Washington, D.C. on July 7, 1938. A graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, Trish went on to attend the University of Richmond, followed by Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. As a skilled pianist, Trish was certified in the Suzuki method of piano teaching and taught for many years, first at the Preparatory School of Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, and privately for more than forty years. Many of her students both in Baltimore and St. Louis, would remember Trish's distinctive approach to shaping young musicians. In addition to teaching piano, Trish was a Coordinator of Volunteers for Bethesda Dilworth and then served as Office Administrator at Stages St. Louis. Trish is survived by her husband of 63 years, William "Pat" Partridge; and three children, Philip Partridge (Steven), Christopher Partridge (Susan), and Elizabeth Perkins. Trish was a most beloved grandmother to Will Partridge-Walsh, Stefaun Partridge-Walsh (Grace), Avery Partridge, Lily Partridge, Elena Perkins, and Andrew Perkins. In addition, she was a great-grandmother to Andre Partridge-Walsh. Trish leaves behind a brother, Edward Hughes Pruden Jr. (Peggy) of Richmond, Virginia; two nieces, a nephew, and many beloved cousins. A celebration of life will be held for Trish at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at The Piper Palm House located in Tower Grove Park, with a reception immediately following.

Long time former member of our Chapter, **Ric Jaeggi**, died after a long bout with cancer. He was the Director of Music/Organist of Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Myers, FL. Ric studied with William Memmott at Memorial Presbyterian Church. He also studied at Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

It is with the greatest sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend **Al Haker**. Al was a member of the St. Louis Theater Organ Society because of his interest in pipe organs and not specifically because of theatre organs. He retired from the Postal Service giving him free time to volunteer and work on the Fox Theater lobby organ with Joe Barnes. Al was selected by Stan Kann to take care of the "Big Organ" and he did so, lovingly for over 25 years. It was his baby. Al was conscripted into service by Steve Crowe to put together an organ for the City Museum. Little did he know that the City Museum would become his second home and workshop, fostering unexpected friendships and recognition not only in the organ world but also by many people working at and visiting the museum. The museum organ has exposed hundreds of thousands of people to the theatre organ and much of that thanks is due to Al. Unable to let an important organ die, he took on creating a group of friends to rebuild the Scottish Rite Organ. He was so proud of its 100th anniversary celebration this past month.

Events Calendar

Check the Concerts and Events section of the Chapter website (www.agostlouis.org) for the most current list of upcoming events. When visiting that page, be sure to click on the heading of each concert listing for full details, including contact information, driving directions, etc.

Sunday, December 1 - 5:00 p.m.

Advent Lessons and Carols
The Church of St. Michael & St. George
6345 Wydown Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63105
Joseph Arndt, conductor
David Sinden, organ

Monday, December 2 - 6:45 p.m.

ReBbellion Handbell Ensemble
Friendship Village Sunset Hills
12563 Village Circle Dr., St. Louis, MO 63127
Website: rebellionhandbells.org
Email contact: rebellionhandbells@gmail.com

Monday, December 9 - 7:00 p.m.

ReBbellion Handbell Ensemble
Nazareth Living Center
2 Nazareth Lane, St. Louis, MO 63129
Website: rebellionhandbells.org
Email contact: rebellionhandbells@gmail.com

Friday, December 13 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

ReBbellion Handbell Ensemble
Jingle! Holiday (requires a ticket to the event)
CarShield Field in O'Fallon, MO 63366
Website: rebellionhandbells.org
Email contact: rebellionhandbells@gmail.com

Saturday, December 14 - 4:00 p.m.

ReBbellion Handbell Ensemble
with the St. Louis Wind Symphony
Kirkwood United Methodist Church
201 W. Adams Ave., St. Louis, MO 63122
Our website is: rebellionhandbells.org
Email contact: rebellionhandbells@gmail.com

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December 14 - 7:30 p.m.

Gateway Ringers
Holiday Concert "Stories of Christmas"
Hannibal LaGrange University Roland Fine Arts Center
2800 Palmyra Rd., Hannibal, MO

Sunday, December 15 – 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Concert: Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 East Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122

December 15 - 4:00 p.m.

Gateway Ringers
Holiday Concert "Stories of Christmas"
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway, O'Fallon MO 63366

December 22 - 5:00 p.m.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
The Church of St. Michael & St. George
6345 Wydown Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63105
Pre-Service Organ Recital at 4:30 p.m.
Joseph Arndt, conductor
David Sinden, organ

January 12, 2025 - 3:00 p.m.

Brian Woods, piano
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood
100 East Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122
A retiring offering will be collected.

JANUARY CHAPTER EVENT

Epiphany Party

Friday, January 3, 2025

7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Hackman Residence
5104 Chouteau's Bluff Drive
St. Louis, MO 63111

Please RSVP to Sub-Dean, Biff Hackman by Sunday, December 29 via email at biffhackman@yahoo.com. "Plus ones" welcome.

If you were not able to join us for our October or November Chapter Events here are a few photos of what you missed!



Earl Naylor and Dr. Rose Whitmore at the Martin Ott organ in the chapel at Principia College.



Some of the attendees at our October visit to Principia College.



Dr. Alyson Moore conducting members of the St. Louis Children's Concert Choir at Parkway United Church of Christ.



Dr. Alyson Moore, Artistic Director of the St. Louis Children's Choirs.



Members of the St. Louis Children's Concert Choir performing as they surround the audience.



The Choir often include handbells as an addition at their concerts.

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Dec 22	Gaston Dethier
Dec 29	Mark and Bill's Favorites

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ST. LOUIS
2026 AGO National Convention

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THE OPUS

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 3526 Oxford Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63143-4209
 Special Holiday Issue

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 January issue is December 15.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

**Regina Morris
 3526 Oxford Blvd
 St. Louis MO 63143-4209**