

THE OPUS February 2025

Volume 41 Issue No. 5

Dean's Message

I write this message in the throes of a January freeze. Many people dread this particular month the "sixty-five days of January," as one acquaintance calls it. However, our St. Louis Chapter has a good deal of activity to brighten the winter months.

January began with a warm and convivial Epiphany party, hosted by Burnell and Kathy Hackman. Many thanks to them for sharing their love-

ly home on the bank of the Mississippi River - what a view, even at night! And further heating up are preparations for the February Flourish. By the time you read this, the Flourish will be well upon us. We applaud the committee, under Suzanne Chisum's initiative, for making this event a reality.

And, of course, those of us who serve congregations cannot just rest on our Christmas laurels. The Epiphany Season is a lengthy one this year, and planning for Lent and Easter is also underway. Perhaps we do need sixty-five days for January!

Blessings as we continue to bring warmth and light to this wintry season.

Suzanne Manelli Dean



Dean



Biff Hackman Sub-Dean

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings STL AGO,

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Annual Epiphany Party. It was a great kick off to 2025!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the February Flourish on the 16th and 17th of February. More information is included on pages three and four of this issue of The OPUS.

Our next Chapter program will be our Member's Recital on Monday, March 17 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. The recital will begin at 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 4712 Clifton Avenue, St. Louis,

MO 63109 and includes a delightful Juget-Sinclair (II/23) organ installed in 2009. There are still spots open to perform. If you are interested in performing please email me at <u>biffhack-man@yahoo.com</u> or call at 314-650-9413.

Here's to a great 2025!

Biff Hackman Sub Dean, St. Louis Chapter AGO

Some photos from the Epiphany Party.



February Flourish Update

Registrations for February Flourish are coming in. We anticipate a large crowd, so please get your registration in soon. Also, please share information about February Flourish with your organ students, colleagues and church musicians. Michael Burkhardt is phenomenal, and we are excited to be hosting him for this two-day event.

Remember that the Hymn Festival is free and open to all on Sunday. *Registration is not required*. Mark Lawson is currently recruiting choir members and needs to get packets of music to these volunteers in advance. If you or any of your choir are interested in participating in being part of the choir that will be performing on Sunday, February 16, please email Mark at mlawson@morningstarmusic.com.

Schedule

Sunday, February16

Choir rehearsal with Michael Burkhardt - 2:00 p.m. Hymn Festival - free and open to public - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, February 17

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. - Registration/Exhibits open
3:00 - 4:00 p.m. - New organ repertoire
4:00 - 4:15 p.m. - Break
4:15 - 5:30 p.m. - Enriching congregational singing
5:30 - 6:30 p.m. - Dinner/Exhibits
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Choral techniques and new choral repertoire



Registrations are being taken online through Eventbrite for Monday's Workshops and Dinner. Please go to <u>https://www.agostlouis.org/february-flourish/</u> or scan the QR code below. If you need to make payment by check, please make your check payable to the St. Louis Chapter AGO for \$25 per participant and mail to 2 Holly Ridge Ct., Swansea, IL 62226. Checks will also be accepted on the day of the event, but you need to make a reservation in advance by calling Suzanne Chisum at 314-366-1330 or sending a registration to <u>februaryflourish@agostlouis.org</u>. Please include your name, address, email and phone number when sending a check or making an email reservation.

We are looking forward to having a terrific event! Thank you for making it possible!



(Scan the code above to register.)



Restoration work from Wicks

Zion United Methodist - Gordonville, Missouri





The original stenciled design of this Jackson tracker organ was hidden under a layer of flaking, yellow varnish.

The pipes were stripped to bare metal, repainted and hand stenciled using copies of the original decorative patterns.



Repairs were made to all of the pipes, and new tuning slides were fabricated.



The organ was pitched to A=440, and given a thorough revoicing to achieve a more cohesive sound.

(618) 654-2191 wicksorgan.com

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2025 NOMINEES

The following slate of nominees has been presented by the duly appointed nominating committee. We thank Mark Scholtz, Stephen Jones and Cathy Bolduan for serving on that committee. Additional nominations may be made by petition if each petition is signed by five (5) Chapter members in good standing and submitted to the Chapter Secretary within thirty (30) days of the announcement of the slate to the Chapter membership but no later than March 15. The actual election will take place between March 15 and April 15. Instructions for voting will appear in the March issue of The OPUS.

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."

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.





NOMINEES CONTINUED

CLASS OF 2027

JOSEPH ARNDT

Joseph Arndt began as Organist and Director of Music at The Church of St. Michael & St. George in August 2024. At CSMSG he is leading the campaign for a new chancel organ, Opus 188 by Schoenstein & Co., to be installed in 2026. He directs a traditional Anglican music program including twice-monthly Choral Evensong and a renewed Choristers program for children and youth.

Before coming to St. Louis, he was Director of Music at St. John's Episcopal Church in Tulsa, where he led the campaign for the 2018 chancel organ, Opus 173 by Schoenstein & Co. His work in Tulsa included the founding of the Oklahoma Bach Choir, an ensemble dedicated to performing the sacred works of Johann Sebastian Bach with period instruments. He conducted a *Leipzig 300* series commemorating the 300th anniversary of Bach's appointment as Thomaskantor in Leipzig. This series included a lecture by author and Bach scholar Christoph Wolff. Prior to ten years in Tulsa, he was an assisting organist and continuo player at Trinity Wall Street and Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity in New York City.



A graduate of The Juilliard School (MM) and Westminster Choir College (BM), he is a former organ student of Paul Jacobs, Ken Cowan, and Diane Meredith Belcher. To celebrate the bicentennial of César Franck, he performed the composer's organ works with a tour including performances in Houston, Fort Worth, New York City, Seattle, Denver, and Tulsa. He has commissioned new organ works, most recently *Paean* by Rebecca Groom te Velde, published in 2023 by Oxford University Press.

Mr. Arndt has served the AGO throughout his career. He is a past Dean of the Tulsa Chapter and served as Fundraising Chair of the 2023 Southwest Regional Convention.



PHILLIP BRUNSWICK

Phillip has served Grace Episcopal Church - Kirkwood as Organist & Choir Master since 1992. During his tenure he has successfully developed choirs for children in *The Royal School of Church Music* tradition. In 1998 he founded the first RSCM Training Course west of the Mississippi and was the Executive Director for 15 years.

Brunswick is a native of Kirkwood, Missouri, and holds a Performance Certificate from the St. Louis Conservatory and School of the Arts. In addition, he is a graduate from Fontbonne University with a BM in Organ Performance.

In addition to his work at the parish, he has held many leadership roles with The American Guild of Organists – St. Louis and The Royal School of Church Music – America.

LUELLA FOSTER

Luella Foster has been immersed in music since birth. In high school, she played piano and baritone horn with her two trumpet brothers and continued the family tradition of accompanying and singing in choirs. Practice was as important as STEM homework.

At the University of Vermont, Luella concentrated in medical technology while summers on Cape Cod were where she was captivated by organ with Brian Jones. Upon graduation, lab work was accompanied with organ subbing and studies with Harriet Slack Richardson.

In the Peace Corps in West Africa, Luella was exposed to exciting drums, dance, acapella singing and patch percussion. It was three years of post graduation!!!

Upon returning to lab work in DC, Luella joined a worship praise band in the 70's. Charles Wesley Proctor joined with his banjo and theological expertise. Eventually he wooed her to Kirkwood UMC and classical choir and bells. Joy came; four years later, we adopted siblings Mindy and Jeremy. This brought discovery in the effectiveness of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and the calming effect of baroque music. Luella graduated in music ed K-12 from Meramec, STLCC with Robert Howard, then continued studies in church music at Webster U with Pat Partridge.

This led to organ, bell, and choir leadership, at Union UMC, St. Louis, 2001 to 2017. Currently, Luella loves being organist, bell and choir director at Carondelet UCC. She is looking forward to sharing experiences with the St. Louis AGO.

(Continued from page 7)

MATTHEW GERHARDT

Matthew Gerhardt serves as Kantor (music director) at St. Paul's Lutheran in Des Peres, MO. Previously, Matt was Assistant Organist and Choir Director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Indianapolis, IN. He received his Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in the organ studio of Dr. Janette Fishell. During his time at IU, he studied improvisation with Bruce Neswick and Robert Nicholls. Matt received his Bachelor's degree in Parish (Sacred) Music from Concordia University Wisconsin, where he studied organ with Dr. John Behnke. Following his time at Concordia, Matt spent a year enrolled as a guest student at the Hochschule für Kirchenmusik in Herford, Germany. In Germany he studied organ and improvisation with Stefan Kagl and received the top score of 1,0 (excellent) on the MA-level organ performance exam.





With the Convention less than a year and a half away things are in full swing! We are busy locking down contacts for both facilities and performers.

We are planning to announce the entire Convention schedule at the May 2025 Annual Meeting of the Chapter.

In the meantime we are in fundraising mode. If you can support the Convention with any amount, it would be most appreciated. We hope to have a list of program events you can sponsor in the coming weeks.

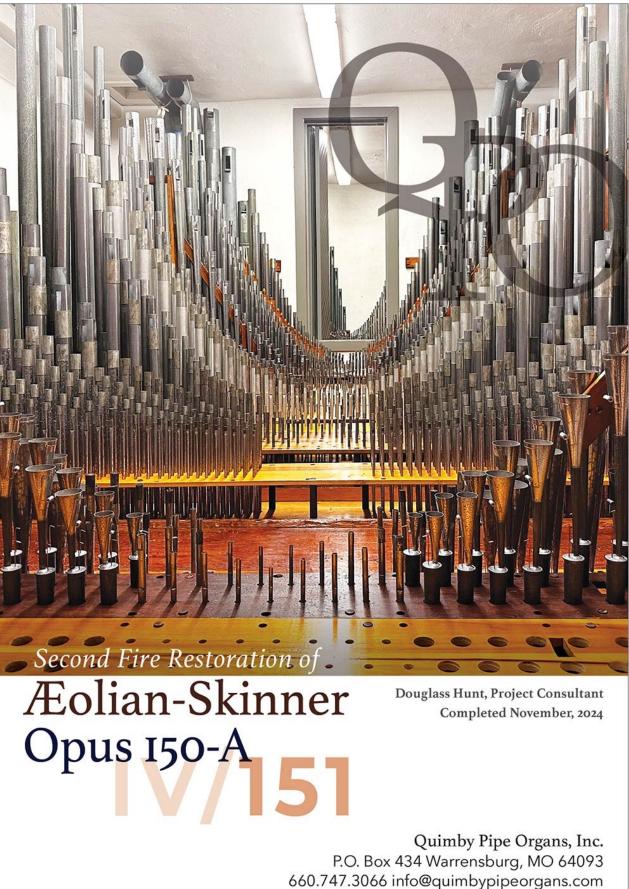
It's not to late to join the 2026 Club! In addition to being a supporter of the Convention, those who join the Club will be able to attend a 2026 Fourth of July party overlooking the Arch grounds at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Runell & Hart

Convention Coordinator 2026 National American Guild of Organist Convention Saint Louis, Missouri agostl2026@agostlouis.org 314-650-9415

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www.quimbypipeorgans.com

Concert Calendar

Check the Concerts and Events section of the Chapter website (<u>www.agostlouis.org</u>) 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.

February 2 - 3:00 p.m.

The IMI Chamber Players First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood 2024- 2025 Con Spirito Concert Series

This concert features the IMI Chamber Players' woodwind quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn) and will feature music composed by Black musicians in recognition of Black History Month. A retiring offering will be collected.

February 9 - 3:00 p.m.

Friends of Music Concerts Eliot Chapel in Kirkwood, MO Ed Jacobs (euphonium) and Robert Chamberlin (piano) will perform works by Antonio Vivaldi, Johannes Brahms, Gerald Finzi, Robert Chamberlin, and Herbert L. Clarke. Also featured on this concert will be Anton Arensky's String Quartet No. 2 in A Minor, Op. 35, performed by the Con Brio Ensemble. Members of the Con Brio Ensemble include: Wanda Becker (violin), Anna Lackschewitz (viola), Andrew Ruben (cello), and Beverly Field (cello). Free admission. For information, email: more please fomcrcc@gmail.com.



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If you or your church or organization has an organ/musical event that you would like to have included in the calendar, <u>please</u> send an email to David Sinden at <u>events@agostlouis.org</u>. You are also advised to "cc" Brent Johnson at <u>brent@brentmjohnson.net</u>.

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News from the National Office

HAVE YOU LOGGED IN TO OUR NEW WEBSITE AND MEMBER DATABASE?

The new AGO <u>website</u> and membership database, iMIS, launched in October. More than half of all AGO members have created logins and are beginning to explore the new features. If you haven't set up your new login and updated your member profile, <u>click here</u> for an easy, step-by-step guide. Chapter leaders can <u>click here</u> to download an FAQ guide to the Chapter Management module.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SUMMER PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS

Click the links below for downloadable brochures:

June 15 – 20 – <u>Twin Cities, Minn.</u>

June 22 – 27 – <u>Harrisburg, Pa.</u>

July 06 – 11 – <u>Worcester, Mass.</u> (POE Advanced)

July 20 – 25 – <u>Houston, Tex.</u>

<u>Click here</u> to register for POE locations. <u>Click here</u> to register for POE Advanced.

In Memoriam

Roy Stillwell, born and raised in Alton, Illinois, and long time member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, died last November at the age of 85. Roy attended MacMurray College and Eastman School of Music. He played in the U.S. Army band for two years. He was a dedicated teacher and organist at Minot State College, Tougaloo College, Belhaven College, and Lewis and Clarke Community College. He also served as a substitute organist at church services. A kind, gentle, quiet person he was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Marie Stillwell. He is survived by his wife, Pauline, his sister Carol Fritz of Godfrey, his brother Raymond and his wife Peggy Stillwell of Brighton, numerous nephews and nieces, and friends.

Roy D. Kroezen, 57, of Centralia, passed away peacefully Monday, December 9, 2024, at Salem Township Hospital. Roy was born May 16, 1967 in Enschede, Netherlands, the son of Dick Kroezen and Janne (Korterink) Kroezen. He married Cynthia Spencer in the Netherlands and she survives him in Centralia. In addition to his wife Cynthia, he is survived by his father, Dick Kroezen of the Netherlands; sister, Berdine Kroezen of the Netherlands; three stepchildren, Nick Sugitani of St. Louis, Mayumi Sugitani of St. Louis, and Jun Sugitani of Victoria British Columbia; two nephews, Paschal Binnenkamp and Julian Binnenkamp of the Netherlands; one granddaughter, Lucy Kindt of St. Louis. Roy was preceded in death by his mother: Janne Kroezen. Roy was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Centralia for several years. He was known for being the organist at St. Mary Church and playing the Carillon for the Centralia Foundation. He was a full-time musician and was a world renowned guest carillon musician.

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January 2025

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(Please note that some positions may no longer be available past the time of going to press.)

These listings below are only a <u>brief</u> synopsis of the job descriptions. For more details on these job opportunities, please visit the "Open Positions" section of our website at <u>https://www.agostlouis.org/job-openings/</u>.

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND ORGNAIST

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove is seeking a part-time Music Director and Organist for our Sunday services. St. John's is a progressive, open and affirming congregation in the City of St. Louis. Please contact Bob Emert, Parish Administrator at office@towergrovechurch.org for a full job description or to apply to the position.

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Parkway United Church of Christ seeks a part-time choir director. If you feel that we could be a good fit for you and your gifts, please send a cover letter and resume to employment@parkwayucc.org. Please indicate that you are applying for the choir director position.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Parkway United Church of Christ seeks a part-time organist/pianist who is dynamic, flexible and eclectic. If you feel that we could be a good fit for you and your gifts, please send a cover letter and resume to employment@parkwayucc.org. Please indicate that you are applying for the organist/pianist position.

SALES/MARKETING

Steinway Piano Gallery, Maryland Heights, MO is expanding their staff to include an additional associate in sales and marketing. The position will offer a career path to someone who would like to represent the world's finest pianos. For more information contact Gerry Malzone at 314-344-1133.

ORGANIST

First Church of Christ, Scientist Town and Country, Missouri, is seeking an organist for our Sunday and Wednesday church services. If you are interested in auditioning or have any questions, please contact Bruce Bollinger, Music Committee Chair, at 314-971-2258 or bb3340@aol.com.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester, is looking for a Director of Music. Contact Kevin@stjohnmanchester.org for a complete position description.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1211 W. Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey IL is seeking an organist or pianist. For more information or to apply please contact Neal at 618-433-1611 or Pastor Jan at 618-250-1608.

ORGANIST

Memorial United Methodist Church, a growing and welcoming faith community in Farmington, MO, is looking for someone to play our pipe organ for our 10:30 .m. Sunday morning service. Resumes should be sent to Shannon Davis, the senior pastor, at Shannon.davis@memorialumc.church or Memorial United Methodist Church, 425 North Street, Farmington, MO, 63640.

ORGANIST

First Unitarian Church of St Louis, a liberal faith community in the Central West End neighborhood, is seeking an organist/accompanist. To apply, send cover letter and resume to <u>musicsearch1@firstuustlouis.org</u>. (Continued from page 13)

ORGANIST

First Church of Christ, Scientist in Clarkson Valley, Missouri, is seeking a talented organist for our Sunday and Wednesday church services. If you are interested in auditioning or have any questions, please contact Heather Tibbetts, Music Committee Chairman, at 314-320-6194 or <u>hmstibbetts@gmail.com</u>.

ORGANIST

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Sullivan, MO is seeking a part-time organist or organist/choir master to begin leading us in music at our Sunday Liturgy as soon as possible. For questions or to apply please call Pastor Fr. Noah Waldman directly at (636) 688-0900.

TENOR SECTION LEADER

Third Baptist Church, St. Louis is seeking application for a Tenor section leader. Contact the Director of Music for information about this paid position, its responsibilities and expectations: <u>pbarnes@third-baptist.org</u>.

ORGANIST OR PIANIST

Eldon United Methodist Church, Eldon, MO, is seeking organist or pianist to accompany our Sunday 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please contact <u>pastoramanda@eldonumc.org</u> for more information or to apply.

ORGANIST

Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa, IL is seeking a part-time organist. To apply or for more information please contact Rev. Brett Palmer at <u>marissafriedens@gmail.com</u> or call the church office at 618-295-2004.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

New Baden (IL) Zion UCC is seeking a part time musician to fill several different roles. To apply or for additional information, please contact council president Rodney Washburn at <u>rodneywashburn1@gmail.com</u>.

ORGANIST

First Presbyterian Church of Alton, Illinois is seeking a part-time organist. Contact Vickie Oberlink 618-791-2562 or email First Presbyterian Church of Alton at <u>firstpres1831@gmail.com</u>.

ORGANIST (OR ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER)

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, O'Fallon IL is seeking to find a part-time organist or organist/choir master to begin leading us in music as soon as possible. For questions or to apply please call Fr. Gregory Wilde at the church office (618-632-6168).

Visit and Like the 2026 Convention Facebook page at: AGO National Convention - St. Louis 2026

Visit the 2026 Convention website at:

https://www.agostl2026.org/

BOARD OFFICERS

2024-2025 Chapter Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

Dean - Suzanne Manelli Sub-Dean - Biff Hackman Secretary - Gaye Anderson Treasurer - Mike Kaberline Past Dean - Jeffrey White

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

<u>Class of 2025</u> Suzanne Chisum Bob Raymond David Sinden <u>Class of 2026</u> Stephen Jones Mark Lawson Sharon Whitlock <u>Class of 2027</u> Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart Earl Naylor Spencer Smith

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 Cathy Cassy **OPUS Editor Rick Burk**

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Check out our presence on Facebook

Consider following our "Saint Louis Chapter AGO American Guild of Organists" Facebook Page. View photos from the AGO Events and Meetings. Stay abreast of all the organ happenings in the St. Louis area.

Have you joined the STL AGO Member Group yet?

Our "<u>AGO St. Louis Members</u>" Group is a private group where you can find humor, post questions and ask questions of others in the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

For more information on either, please contact Suzanne Chisum at <u>suzchisum@gmail.com</u>.



THE OPUS

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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 <u>newsletter@agostlouis.org</u>.

Copy deadline for the March issue is February 15.

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