



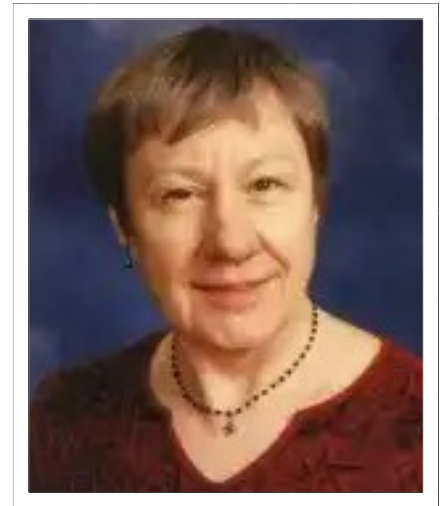
THE OPUS

Volume 41
Issue No. 6

March 2025

Dean's Message

A big round of applause to the February Flourish Committee for providing us with a wonderful pair of events - a hymn festival and a day of workshops. Special thanks to Mark Lawson and Jacob Weber, who made it possible for Michael Burkhardt to be our clinician. Thanks to Dawn Riske for coordinating refreshments. And kudos to Suzanne Chisum for following through on the February Flourish vision!



Dean

As we move into March, we transition to a season of reflection and renewal. Although not as exuberant as the last few months, this is a time when music ministry can touch hearts and spirits, and offer comfort. We may not see these effects directly, but how fortunate we are to share our talents in this way.

I hope to see you all at the Member's Recital on March 17!

Suzanne Manelli
Dean



Biff Hackman
Sub-Dean

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings STL AGO,

It's time for our annual Members' Recital. It will be held on Monday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Our Chapter is once again partnering with Pipes for Parkinson's for this recital. The church is located at 4714 Clifton Steet in South St. Louis City. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. for dinner prior to the recital. The cost of the meal is \$20.00 per person. Please RSVP to Cathy Bolduan at 314-853-5011 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com to make your dinner reservation.

Our final meeting for 2025 will be our Annual Closing Banquet on Monday, May 19. We will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in the city and will have several exciting items on the program for the evening. Stay tuned for further details! This will be a great finish to a wonderful year of programming.

Biff Hackman
Sub Dean, St. Louis Chapter AGO

Monday, March 17

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Members' Recital

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

4714 Clifton Street

St. Louis, MO 63109

Please RSVP to Cathy Bolduan at 314-853-5011 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com to make your dinner reservation.

Cost is \$20.00 per person.

February Flourish Update

As you read this, we have completed the 2025 February Flourish featuring Michael Burkhardt with a Hymn Festival on February 16 and Workshops on February 17.

The February Flourish Committee wants to know your thoughts about the event. Did you like Michael Burkhardt as the featured speaker? Did you think the events went well? What would you change? This is your opportunity to give your input for future events.

Please scan the QR code to the right, or go to <https://forms.gle/HCxkJqcV1hJJzCVF7> and complete the Evaluation Form. You may also email any comments you have to: februaryflourish@agostlouis.org

Thank you for your response.

February Flourish Evaluation



Please scan this QR Code and complete the evaluation form.



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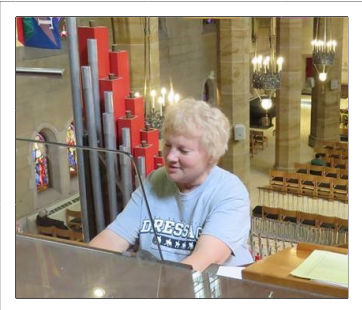
2025 NOMINEES

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 beginning April 1. Instructions for voting will appear in the April issue of The OPUS.

SECRETARY

GAYE ANDERSON

Gay is the organist/choirmaster at the Episcopal Parish of Alton in Illinois. She holds an Organ Performance from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri and a Bachelor of Music with an emphasis in Piano Performance from Greenville College (now Greenville University) in Illinois. She studied private organ with Canon Precentor William Partridge (retired) in St. Louis for 10 years. Private piano professors included Renato Premezzi (retired) in Wisconsin), Dr. Richard Strassberg (Ohio Wesleyan in Delaware, Ohio) and Mark Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville). Gay is active in the St. Louis Chapter of Organists, currently serving as Chapter secretary. She is married to attorney Roy Anderson, blessed with two children: son, David (organist/music director St. Peter's UCC in Ferguson, Missouri) and daughter Lauren (3 D graphic artist in Carey, North Carolina). She also is an Equestrian instructor at the family-owned dressage and hunter/jumper stable Brier Bank Farm and operates Livery Haus Music studio, both located in Marine, Illinois. Spare time interests include arranging scores for her church choirs and organ, antiques, and historical building renovations of their 1853 Law Office and the 1860 Music Studio.



TREASURER

MIKE KABERLINE

Mike began serving as Treasurer for the 2015 AGO Regional Convention in St. Louis and then for the St. Louis Chapter shortly after. He has held positions in finance and financial management for non-profit and political organizations – on national, state-wide, and local levels. In his current role at Healthcare Informatics company, he is also the Product Manager for three medical software products for eMDs/CompuGroup Medical. Although not an organist, he has a deep 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 *Paeon* 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 on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

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.



Mark your calendar!

The 2026 National AGO Convention is planning a fund raiser for the Convention. The event location (TBD) will feature a recital and reception with Gift Baskets available at a silent auction.

The National AGO Council will be in town for a meeting that weekend so we hope many of them will stay over on Friday evening and join us!

However, we do need your help in preparing and serving food.

Please visit the convention website (www.agostl2026.org) and click the October Fund Raiser tab to volunteer.

Thanks for your consideration.

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

Restoration work from Wicks

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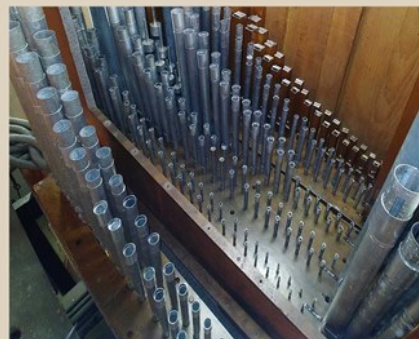


The original stenciled design of this Jackson tracker organ was hidden under a layer of flaking, yellow varnish.

◀ 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
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Concert 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, March 2 - 3:00 p.m.

Early Music Missouri presents:

Darkness in Paris: Tenebrae Lessons by Charpentier and Clérambault

Arianna Aerie, Samantha Arten, and Olivia Roland, vocalists

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

110 North Warson Road, Ladue, MO

Friday, March 7 - 12:00 p.m.

Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series

Chamber Project St. Louis

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

100 E Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO

Friday, March 14 - 12:00 p.m.

Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series

St. Louis Irish Arts

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

100 E Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO

Sunday, March 16 - 3:00 p.m.

Con Spirito Concert Series

No-Name Chorale

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

100 E Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO

Sunday, March 23 - 4:00 p.m.

Organ Recital: John S. Dixon

Dardenne Presbyterian Church

7400 S Outer 364, Dardenne Prairie, MO

Friday, March 28 - 12:00 p.m.

Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series

Perseid String Quartet

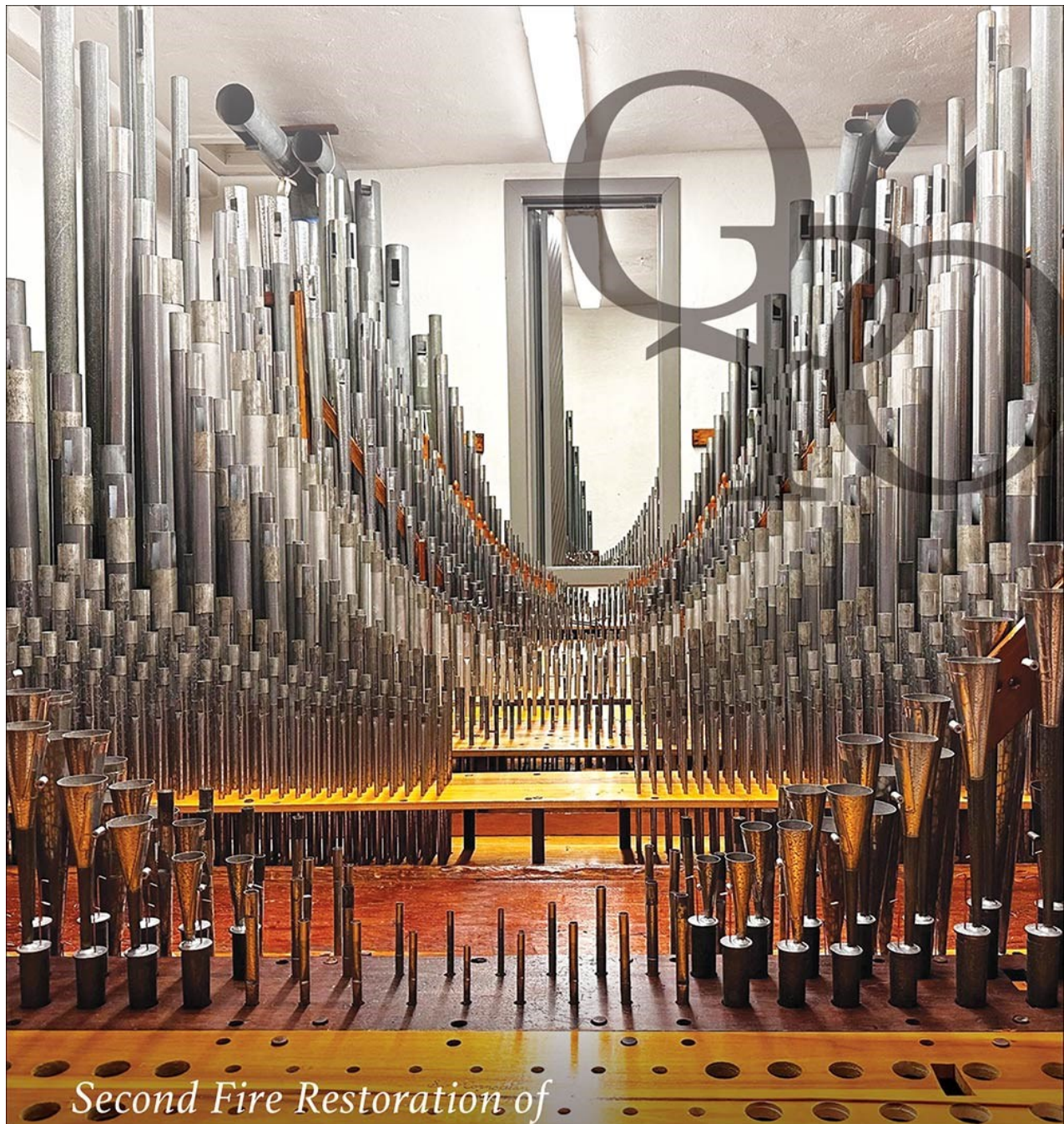
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

100 E Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO

If you or your church or organization 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.

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

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Suzanne Chisum
 Bob Raymond
 David Sinden

Class of 2026

Stephen Jones
 Mark Lawson
 Sharon Whitlock

Class of 2027

Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart
 Earl Naylor
 Spencer Smith

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

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Denis J. Doelling

Certification Coordinator

Brent Johnson

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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 “[AGO St. Louis Members](#)” 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 suzchisum@gmail.com.

THE OPUS

American Guild of Organists

St. Louis Chapter

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Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to newsletter@agostlouis.org.

Copy deadline for the April issue is March 15.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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