

# PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

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Volume 66 – March 2020



## *AGO Milwaukee Chapter Organ Crawl Organs in the Chicago Area*

*March 14, 2020*



8:45 am St. Luke's Episcopal  
939 Hinman Ave  
Evanston, IL  
1922 Skinner Organ

10:30 am Shop of JL Weiler  
329 W. 18<sup>th</sup> ST  
Chicago, IL

(Lunch on your own)

1:00 pm Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows  
3121 W. Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL  
1902 Lyon and Healy Organ



2:15 pm St. John Cantius Church  
825 N. Carpenter St  
Chicago, IL  
1926 Casavant organ and  
Oblinger Continuo organ

If you would like to carpool, please gather at Greenfield Ave. Presbyterian Church, 1455 S. 97<sup>th</sup> St., West Allis,  
At 7 am and we will carpool from there.

Chapter Directory  
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**Winter and Spring  
2020**

**AGO Milwaukee Chapter  
Up-Coming Programs**

**March 14, 2020**

**Annual Organ Crawl  
Organs of the Chicago Area**

**Venues:**

St. Luke's Episcopal – Evanston  
JL Weiler Shop – Chicago  
Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows – Chicago  
St. John Cantius - Chicago

**May 17, 2020**

**2:00 Annual Meeting  
3:00 Member's Recital  
Sacred Heart Seminary and  
School of Theology  
7335 S. Lovers Lane Rd  
Franklin, WI**

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**JOHANNUS**



PipeNotes is published monthly, with the deadline for articles the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

[pneditor@agomilwaukee.org](mailto:pneditor@agomilwaukee.org)

## March 2020

### 14 (Sat) Chapter Organ Crawl Historic Chicago Evanston & Chicago IL

14 (Sat) 7:30 Mother and Child  
Chant Claire & Aperi Animam  
St. Jude The Apostle Parish  
734 Glenview Ave  
Wauwatosa, WI

15 (Sun) 2:00 Karen Beaumont, Organ  
St. Hedwig's Church  
1702 N. Humboldt  
Milwaukee, WI

16 (Mon) 9:30 Introduction to the  
Alexander Technique  
Milwaukee Music Teachers Association  
The Steinway Gallery of Milwaukee  
11550 W. North Ave  
Wauwatosa, WI

18 (Wed) 12:15 Matt Annin, Horn  
Christine Annin, Violin & Steven Ayers,  
Piano  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI

19 (Thurs) 12:15 Music from Around the  
World  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
7809 Harwood Ave  
Wauwatosa, WI

20 (Fri) 7:00 Mark Davidson, Organ  
St. Marcus Lutheran Church  
2215 N. Palmer St  
Milwaukee, WI

21 (Sat) 8:30 Gospel Music Workshop  
St. Francis of Assisi Church  
1927 Vel R. Phillips Ave  
(4<sup>th</sup> & Brown Sts)  
Milwaukee, WI

25 (Wed) 12:15 Susan DeMarco, Organ  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI

(27) (Fri) 8:00 Grand Music for a Grand  
Space  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI

## April 2020

1 (Wed) 12:15 Michael Thiele, Piano  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI

15 (Wed) 12:15 Adrien Zitoun, Cello  
& Chi Li, Violin  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
812 N. Jackson St  
Milwaukee, WI



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## From the Keyboard of Sheri Masiakowski

What a joy to hear Chapter Member Matt Lawrenz play a concert after the Taizé Service at St. Joseph Chapel last evening! Matt has dealt with severe health issues over the last few years. The challenges have deepened him as person and musician. He has a special kinship with the music of Hans-Andre Stamm. He played Stamm's *Mandala* with finesse and registration that were mesmerizing on the Chapel's Casavant. You can sample this Stamm work at <https://youtu.be/p7hVTdNrfcU>.

- Please pray for Chapter Friends—Gary McWithey and Gary Hanson. Both suffered recent health challenges and are currently doing better. We look forward to a Fall concert at McWithey's church (Brookfield Congregational) with Nicholas Schmelter and Tyler Kivel.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS — Change to On-line voting:

1. All members who are eligible to vote (dues are paid) and receive the PipeNotes link through email **will vote on-line at the Chapter web-site**.
  2. Those who receive PipeNotes through the US Postal Service will continue to receive a paper ballot unless we have communicated about their comfort to vote on-line.
  3. **All** eligible members will receive a postcard in the US mail about this change in procedure.
  4. In addition those who read Pipenotes on-line will receive an email when the voting process begins.
  5. Final day to vote is the Annual Meeting May 17th at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners,
- Steve Jensen (Treasurer) and David Beyer (Registrar: [registrar@agomilwaukee.org](mailto:registrar@agomilwaukee.org)) have served the Chapter for many years and would like to step down from their roles. Please consider your own future service as either treasurer or registrar. Contact me ([seasonsoftheheart@wi.rr.com](mailto:seasonsoftheheart@wi.rr.com)) **ASAP** if you have an interest. David will be happy to fill you in on the duties of the registrar at his email above.
  - The 2020 National Convention is coming soon to Atlanta in July (5-10). It is always a full week of great concerts and workshops. There is still time to register, but the price will go up on April 1. <https://www.agoatlanta2020.com> It is always a significant commitment of \$\$ to attend conventions but I am grateful for the wealth of music, relationships and support that I experience at these gatherings. I return to Milwaukee with golden nuggets to apply to my own church work.

LOL - the view from my recliner this morning as I write to you.  
It makes me smile.

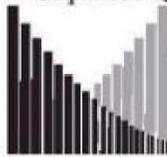
As the weather improves I am cheered and motivated to dig into my musical prep for Lent and Easter. May the sun/Son give all of us heart to accomplish that which makes these intense days worthy of our calling.

;) )

*Sheri*



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# The Archives presents. . .

Liz Walloch  
Milwaukee Chapter Archivist/Historian

## A Great Hall, a Great Organ, a Great Series... Miller Organ Concert Series

Member Alice Leisman penned a condensed history of the Milwaukee Chapter, which has appeared in many of the program booklets for recitals and workshops. Here is what Alice wrote on the Miller Organ.

*"The Milwaukee Chapter urged for many years that a pipe organ should be included in the Performing Arts Center. In 1969 this goal was realized with the installation of a 54 rank Aeolian-Skinner organ in Uihlein Hall, donated by the Miller Brewing Company. Organist E. Power Biggs played the Miller Organ in a concert with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra on Oct. 17-19, 1969. Since 1984, the Milwaukee Chapter has been a sponsor of the Miller Organ Series which has presented renowned recitalists including Jean Guillou, Thomas Murray, Frederick Swann, Thomas Trotter, John Tuttle, Gillian Weir, Anne and Todd Wilson, and the late Keith Chapman."*

Searching through the archive materials on the Miller Organ, I came across some interesting material related to the Miller Organ, the Miller Organ Concert Series (MOCS) and Association (MOCSA). It was amazing to read through the materials. There were countless hours of input, discussions, decisions and lots of problem solving in the process. For members of the Chapter who were involved in this endeavor, "sound the pipes and let them sing" our thanks. This was a huge project to accomplish! From the public's vantage point, the installation in Uihlein Hall was another addition to the music and arts scene for Milwaukee patrons to enjoy. However, with any project there is the behind the scenes activities that never see the light of day. Well, I will bring some winter sunshine to highlight this instrument's premier and more.

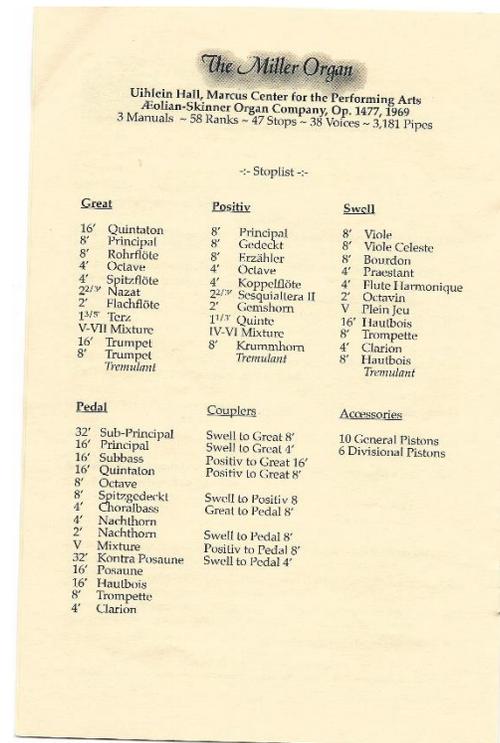
The Aeolian Skinner instrument, Op. 1477 from 1969 is 3 manuals, 58 ranks, 47 stops, 38 voices, 3,181 pipes. As this instrument can be positioned anywhere on stage, the Miller organ is believed to be the largest object located on one elevator platform. This requires special considerations for its storage and maintenance. I was fascinated to learn the unique location as the instrument is stored beneath the stage in a specially-constructed chamber. When the instrument is in use, the floor is taken up and the organ is lifted to stage-level by a single-piston hydraulic lift. Due to the height considerations under the stage, the 32' Principal was haskelled (in effect, folded inside upon itself) and is believed to be the only haskelled rank of that pitch in existence.

E. Power Biggs played the instrument with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in October 1969 and in December of that same year; Marilyn Keiser played a 10 am solo organ recital as part of the Mid-Winter Conclave. Since 1969 organ has been played as a solo instrument over the years, hosted a few choral groups, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, an occasional Christmas program and only three (3) times for major recitalists.

Maintenance through the years showed signs of deterioration and this led to the Austin Organ Company being called upon in 1984 to clean and revoice the Great, Positiv, and Pedal divisions. Years-worth of dust falling through the stage floor as well as moisture from the adjacent Milwaukee River had taken its toll on the action and pipe work and a major cleaning was necessary. With the consultation of Organist, James Burmeister together with the late Calvin Hampton, some revoicing was carried-out at that time and the 32' Sub-Principal was loudened. With all of the work completed, the PAC initiated an organ concert series in the fall of 1984 and continued through the 1989 season.

On October 10, 1984, the Milwaukee Performing Arts Center with the Milwaukee AGO Chapter cosponsored the MOCS with Simon Preston at the newly refurbished organ along with the Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Stephen Colburn. This concert drew an amazing audience of 1,000 to experience this performance.

Through the years Milwaukee County's funding tightened and at the end of the 1985-1986 season the PAC dropped sponsoring the organ and dance series concerts. With this news of no funding available, a group of concerned people took action to see that the organ series moved forward. Formed in 1986 the MOCSA was incorporated as a non-profit organization.



The purpose of this Association was to continue and encourage the use of the Miller Organ in every way possible. In a January 31, 1986 letter to Mr. Obrie Smith of Miller Brewing Company Corporate from Archie A. Sarazin Managing Director of the PAC, he recaps the instrument's timeline since 1983 to present. From the generous financial support of Miller Brewing Company to the establishment of the MOCS, the past two years of cosponsored seasons with our AGO-Milwaukee Chapter, the series had received national recognition. The September 28, 1987 Thomas Trotter concert was recorded for broadcast on American Public Radio's program "Pipe Dreams." With a firm foundation established for the MOCS, the PAC transferred management of the series to a group led by Jim Burmeister, former Dean of our Milwaukee Chapter. This led to the creation of the MOCSA in 1986. "The transfer of the concert sponsorship exemplifies the PAC's commitment to stimulating broad-based involvement in the arts." This made it possible for our organization to take an active role in the artistic process. "Although the PAC will no longer be directly involved in the presentation of these concerts...the contribution of Miller Brewing will continue to be recognized and the series will continue to be known as the Miller Organ Concerts."

MOCSA's belief was that a series of organ concerts will arouse public awareness of the pipe organ as a cultural asset for the greater Milwaukee area. Added to that was their hope with more use the Miller Organ would never reach an unplayable condition which it had fallen to before the refurbishing in 1984.

I was surprised to read that with the launch of our MOCS this led the way for the cities of Chicago, Boston and San Francisco to begin an organ series also. The Milwaukee Chapter started a trend and was worthy of an article in the June 1985 issue of the *The American Organist* written by Paul Kasten and Rose Marie Thale.

As listed in Alice's history of the Milwaukee Chapter, there have been world eminent organists featured. The 1985-86 series welcomed Jean Guillou, Frederick Swann and Cherry Rhodes. Lawrence B. Johnson of the Milwaukee Sentinel wrote "...the Miller Organ filled the hall with tidal waves of sound, all in tune, subtly contoured, splendorous as only the roar of this lion of instruments can be."

The 1986-87 series brought international soloists of Todd and Anne Wilson and Gillian Weir. The Wilson's program incorporated the Miller organ and the Performing Arts Center's nine foot Steinway grand piano to round out their program. Gillian "Weir's performance on organ is dazzling" as written by music critic Lawrence B. Johnson of the Milwaukee Sentinel. "She tossed off the feverish technical demands of Messiaen's 'Alleluias Sereins' (from L'Ascension) and 'Dieu parmi nous' (from La Nativite)...the organist revealed the elusive spiritual core of each...she elicited colors, textures—a stunning electricity—from the Miller Organ that never had been known before." Tom Strini, Journal Music critic wrote "Weir didn't do things to the music; she allowed the music to do what it had to do. Her astounding virtuosity did not run away with the music, it delivered it."

The 1987-1988 series brought Thomas Trotter and Nicholas Kynaston to the MOCS. To a crowd of 600 at the PAC, Thomas Trotter's 90-minute program showed his virtuosity in his economy of motion. "He never disrupted the music with shuffle of changing registrations or labored footwork even when Guillou's arrangement required him to practically tap-dance through the pedal passages in Prokofiev's 'Toccata'" --Tina Maples, Journal entertainment critic wrote. Nancy Miller of the Milwaukee Sentinel wrote "those who consider the organ suitable for use only in a restrained churchly surroundings would have found their views radically altered" with this concert. "Armed with the stunningly broad tonal, timbral and dynamic spectrum of the handsomely refurbished Miller Organ, Kynaston spared no effort in his imaginative exploration of the instrument's resources...Kynaston pushed both technique and creativity to the limit and emerged triumphant at every turn." His concert attracted an audience of 1,200+.

The 1988-1989 series was the last flyer I found in the archives on the MOCS. The international soloists featured were Thomas Murray and Keith John. Jay Joslyn of the Sentinel summed up the Murray concert in one word—"awesome." "The Yale University-based virtuoso not only demonstrated his complete technical control of the empress of instruments but also arranged a program for the Miller Organ Concert Series that showcased the range of expressionistic styles the organ has inspired." James Auer of the Journal staff wrote "still it was, without question, an evening for confirmed organ lovers to savor, and this highly specialized public—whose dead-silent intentness more than made up for its lack of numbers—seemed delighted by the gift of knowledge and the versatility that Murray had brought to it." The archives did not have music reviews on British recitalist Keith John's concert. The concert flyer showed that he included one of his original works entitled "Rhythmic Energy" and his transcription arrangement of Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition (complete) on the concert program. Since the 1988-1989 series, further archive material is lacking. However, during the 2008-2009 program year, the American Guild of Organists proclaimed it the "International Year of the Organ." On May 3, 2009, Peter Richard Conte, the Grand Court Organist of Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia's Macy's played a 3 pm concert. "Today's program is made possible by the Miller Organ Fund, given to the American Guild of Organist-Milwaukee Chapter by an anonymous patron." The Miller Organ certainly has had an historical presence in Milwaukee since 1969. From the recitalists who shared their musical talents to the Chapter cosponsoring concerts, all of these events are a part of our Chapter's 100 years of history. Could the time be right to refresh the interest in the Miller Organ for "A Great Hall, a Great Organ, a Great Series?"

## Nominees for Class of 2022



**Tabitha Moldenhauer** is the Music Director and Organist at St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church in Greendale. She moved to the Milwaukee area in 2018 after two decades of church music work in Indiana, Wisconsin, and most recently Illinois. She began formal organ training at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN and is currently enrolled in the Master of Church Music program at Concordia University Wisconsin. She is currently a member of the Chicago AGO Chapter board and looks forward to working with the Milwaukee Chapter in the future.



**Mary Utzerath** serves as a volunteer organist at Gesu, often playing a twenty-minute prelude prior to the Saturday evening Mass. She is a regular cantor at Gesu. Over the past several years Mary has served as a substitute organist in various venues. Since retiring in 2015 after thirty-four years of full-time teaching at Marquette University, Mary has been studying organ with Dr. Simone Gheller. She has also studied voice with Phillip Pearl at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music for the past twenty years. She served as a liturgical musician at St. Bruno Parish, Dousman, WI during the 1980s and 1990s. During the 1990s Mary was a substitute organist at St. Francis Seminary, St. Francis, WI where she received a M.Div. in 2000. Mary received a Ph.D. in religious studies from Marquette University in 2011.



**Caroline Senn** is Music Director, Organist and Choir Director at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Watertown, Wisconsin. She has a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance and Composition from the Canberra School of Music at the Australian National University where she majored in piano and composition under the tutelage of Professors John Luxton, Head of Keyboard, and Larry Sitsky, Head of Composition.

After her formal musical studies, Caroline pursued a business career becoming a Certified Practicing Accountant and held many senior finance roles including General Manager of Tax at Ernst & Young, Chief Financial Officer of a number of private technology corporations and Chief Financial Officer of a large publicly listed Financial Services corporation. Caroline's work included many years focusing on Mergers and

Acquisitions as well as Financial and Investment Analysis.

Since emigrating to Wisconsin, Caroline has returned to the world of music as a piano teacher, accompanist, recorder player and church organist where her repertoire now includes organ works of Bach, Buxtehude, Bohm, Krebs, Walther, Lubeck, Pachelbel, Mendelssohn and others. Caroline has taken lessons with Jared Stellmacher while studying organ repertoire of the North German School to build a good technique and works suited to church services.

Caroline is Treasurer at Saint Paul's and has previously served on the Church Vestry.

**Joe Dominic** - Like many organists, I first learned to play the piano as a kid. I grew up in church music: singing in choirs and occasionally accompanying. In 1987, I obtained a Bachelor of Music degree in Theory and Composition from Illinois State University. While I first played the organ at the church where I grew up, it was not until adulthood, that I began to study organ formally with private instructors. Then, for four years, I studied organ at the graduate level at Saint Joseph College, Rensselaer, Indiana, in their summer program. For over a decade, I served as a full-time church musician. In 2005, I went back to school and earned my certification in special education and earned a master's degree in education. Since then, I teach elementary special education in Milwaukee Public Schools fulltime. Currently, I serve Covenant Presbyterian Church (PC-USA) in Milwaukee part time as Music Director, which includes playing the organ and directing both the choir and the bell choir.



**Richard Ewert** is Head Organist at Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elm Grove, WI. He studied under Professor Phyllis J. Stringham at Carroll College, Waukesha, WI where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Music – Organ Performance. During his college years he was a finalist in the Bach-a-thon scholarship competition (receiving the Keyboard Award) and played for a number of master classes at the University of Wisconsin and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists (AGO).

He has been a member of the Milwaukee Chapter of the AGO since 1976 and serves as guest organist on festival occasions in the Milwaukee area. In 1990 and 1992 he, together with Reverend Doctor Harold L. Senkbeil, led Hymn Heritage tours which included devotional services utilizing many of the historic organs of Europe.

Mr. Ewert is known for excellence in hymn improvisation and sensitive tonal interpretation of the nuances of the church's song. He is currently enrolled at Concordia University Wisconsin pursuing a Master of Church Music degree studying organ with Dr. John A. Behnke and Dr. James W. Freese. In 2016, he taught organ, led worship, and played a recital at the Uhuru Highway Lutheran Cathedral of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya (ELCK), Luther Plaza in Nairobi, Kenya.



**David Porth** currently serves Pilgrim Lutheran Church & School in Menomonee Falls as Grades 7-8 Teacher and Music Director. As Music Director, David is responsible for planning worship with the pastor, playing organ for services, directing three choirs, and scheduling organists/cantors. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education/Music from Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN. While living in Minnesota, David served on the Executive Committee for the AGO - Sioux Trails Chapter.

## Former Milwaukee Chapter Dean Running for National President of the American Guild of Organists!

Many of you may remember **Lois Toepfner**. She was a longtime member of the Milwaukee Chapter and a past Dean of the Chapter. She currently resides in the greater Boston area. She is running on the national ballot for National President. Please consider giving your support to her as you vote in the national AGO election.

*AGO Milwaukee Chapter Presents:*  
**The Great Eighteen Choral Preludes**  
*“Leipzig Chorales”*  
J.S. Bach

1. BWV 651 - Derek Nickels
2. BWV 652 - Derek Nickels
3. BWV 653 - David Beyer
4. BWV 654 - Matt Lawrenz
5. BWV 655 - Mary Seboldt
6. BWV 656 - Christian Rich
7. BWV 657 - David Beyer
8. BWV 658 - Larry Wheelock
9. BWV 659 - Mary Jane Wagner
10. BWV 660 - Mary Jane Wagner
11. BWV 661 - Mary Jane Wagner
12. BWV 662 - Matt Lawrenz
13. BWV 663 - Matt Lawrenz
14. BWV 664 - Mary Seboldt
15. BWV 665 - John Seboldt
16. BWV 666 - John Seboldt
17. BWV 667 - Michael Hoerig
18. BWV 668 - Larry Wheelock



*In Concert*

**Sunday, May 17, 2020**

Annual Meeting: 2 pm    Recital: 3 pm

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