

# *PipeNotes*

**American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter**

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Please note the AGO 2020 National Convention that was to take place in Atlanta in July has been cancelled for the health and safety of the performers and participants.

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Fr. Tom Lijewski  
Joel Schwartz

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Roger Meyer  
Gary Wood

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Spring 2020  
AGO Milwaukee Chapter  
Up-Coming Programs

The Members Recital has been postponed until next  
Spring (May 2021)  
Watch Pipenotes and the Webiste  
For upcoming information!

May 2021

2:00 Annual Meeting  
3:00 Member's Recital  
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preceding month.  
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**THE EVENTS CALENDAR WILL RETURN  
WHEN IT IS SAFE FOR ALL OF US  
TO GATHER TOGETHER AGAIN.**

**IF YOU ARE STREAMING ANY CONCERTS  
OR EVENTS PLEASE LET US KNOW  
AND WE WILL LIST THEM.**

**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!**



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- With common sense and respect for our welfare the Program Committe/Chapter Board has cancelled our Members' Recital and Annual Meeting scheduled for May 17th. It is our intention to present the program of Leipzig chorales next year (2021) in May. Sacred Heart School of Theology is closed at this time. We will confirm the date and location when we are able to communicate with the Seminary.

I would like to express my gratitude to Christian Rich for organizing this program and to all performers sadness that we cannot proceed as planned. May all your diligent preparation come to fruition next season. We look forward to gathering in the beauty of the Sacred Heart worship space to experience the fine Berghaus instrument next year.

- We intend to stay in touch via phone. Don't be surprised if you receive a call from an officer or board member. We will leave messages as our phone numbers may not be recognized by you. Do return the call. We now have time to connect with each other.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS and DUES RENEWAL — Recommend on-line voting and renewal:

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**. National AGO has extended their window of late dues to 3 months (previously 2 months) and we will honor that extra month for local voting eligibility.
  2. Those who receive PipeNotes through the US Postal Service will continue to receive a paper ballot unless we have communicated about your comfort to vote on-line. National AGO will receive national election snail-mailed ballots through a 3rd party agency. **Dues renewal** hard-copy will be held up at National headquarters as the office does not have on-site staff until the pandemic is over.
  3. At this time we are **unable to print/mail postcards to alert you to the election and its changes in procedure**.
  4. Those who read Pipenotes on-line will receive an email when the voting process begins.
  5. **Voting will remain open for the month of May**. We will re-evaluate the response at the end of that time. We want to insure that your vote can be counted.
- John Schubring (Sub-Dean), Steve Jensen (Treasurer) and David Beyer (Registrar) have agreed to continue in their roles. Write-in votes are acceptable if you desire. The option to "not vote for this office" was a software challenge. Each office required two candidate choices and our incumbants presented a single option. Larry Wheelock created this category in place of the second candidate.
  - David Beyer shared notice of the death of Elfred Bloedel, a retired former AGO-Milwaukee member who presided at the Martin Ott organ in Trinity Ev. Lutheran WELS-Waukesha. He was at Grace WELS (downtown Milw) prior to taking the Waukesha cantorship. RIP Elfred Bloedel, good and faithful servant.
  - Stay tuned: the 2020 National Convention is coming soon to Atlanta in July (5-10). If you have registered as I have, we await confirmation or cancellation. Will it be an internet convention? To be determined...

My thoughts and prayer are with you during this Holy Week. Its scriptural journey mirrors our current experience:

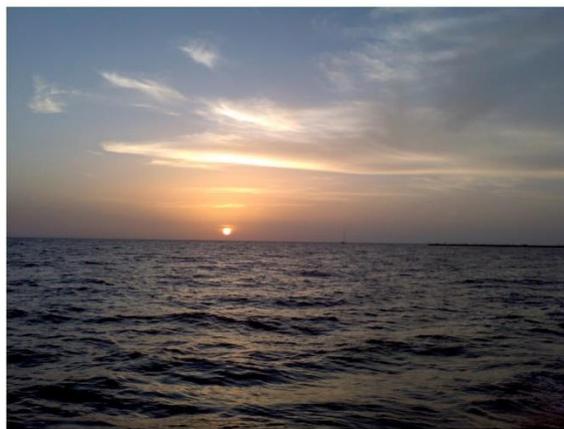
from that of Good Friday—

Psalm 137 Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord  
to Easter Sunday as I prepare my on-line postlude—

*The Strife Is O'er* by Alfred Fedak.

When shall we emerge from the tomb or is it of more comfort to call it womb?

In closing I share this photo of a Florida sunset (4/9/2020) as viewed by colleague John Behnke. May it give you peace during this struggle.

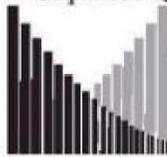


Be well. Until we meet again and sing *Alleluia* together,



Sheri

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## 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.

## Nominees for Officers 2020 - 2022

### Dean – Audrey Rhinehart



Audrey has served the past four years as Milwaukee Chapter AGO Sub-Dean sharing the most recent term with John Schubring. Other AGO service includes serving on the executive board from 2012-2016 and coordinating four successful Pedals, Pipes and Pizza events. As Organist/Director of Music Ministry at St. Kilian Congregation in Hartford she leads a comprehensive music program encompassing opportunities for children's choirs, bell choir, youth and adult instrumental ensembles, adult choir and cantors. She also accompanies the Hartford Community Chorus and teaches privately.

Building relationships through professional endeavors including integrated programming and member opportunities along with strong recruitment efforts that put value on what the AGO has to offer are paramount to the continued success of the organization. Personal interaction including inviting others to join us at programs and getting together to discuss aspects of our ministries are also ways to help build camaraderie. I look forward to continuing to meet many of you and to strive to serve well the Milwaukee Chapter AGO community!



**Secretary – Mike Keegan** is a freelance horn player in the Milwaukee area. As the the Founder, Executive, Musical, and Artistic Director of Eastwinds Chamber Ensemble, Mike promotes new music for horn, solo and chamber as a frequent recitalist and soloist. He is also an Artist-In-Residence at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Milwaukee. Mike currently performs with St. Mark's Brass, Prata Duo, as an active studio musician, and has performed with the Milwaukee Choirsters, and Ozaukee Chorus, and other area bands and orchestras. Solo appearances include the Philharmonia Orchestra of Racine and International Horn Competition of America. Mike is a member of Delta Omicron, MacDowell Club of Milwaukee, International Horn Society, and the American Guild of Organists, Milwaukee Chapter. Mike also plays organ for different congregations in the Milwaukee area, mainly at Summerfield United Methodist Church in Milwaukee. As an organist performer, Mike presents occasional solo concerts at different churches in the

Milwaukee area. Past and present performances include the Concert Series at St. Casimir, Concerts on Cramer at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Milwaukee, Music on the Hill, Port Washington, and other congregations. As a composer, Mike self-publishes his own compositions, arrangements, and transcriptions of other composer's works through Eastwinds Music, his own music publishing business, and is also published by Imagine Music. In addition to his musical activities, Mike is a member of the National Stuttering Association.

**Sub-Dean – John Schubring\***

**Treasurer – Steve Jensen\***

**Registrar – David Beyer\***

\*Currently serving the chapter in these positions and have agreed to continue in their offices.

# 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. While in Milwaukee Lois served as Dean and as the Chair of the 1981 Regional Convention. She has continued to serve the AGO being involved in local chapters in Boston and Worcester, and in the National organization on various committees and as National Secretary. You can see a complete bio in the April 2020 TAO. Please consider giving your support to her as you vote in the national AGO election.

