

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 69 – June 2023



2023 Regional Conventions *Great Lakes and North Central Regions*



North Shore Chapter

Evanston, Illinois

Hotel: Holiday Inn Chicago

North-Evanston

June 25-28, 2023

<https://nsago2023.org/>

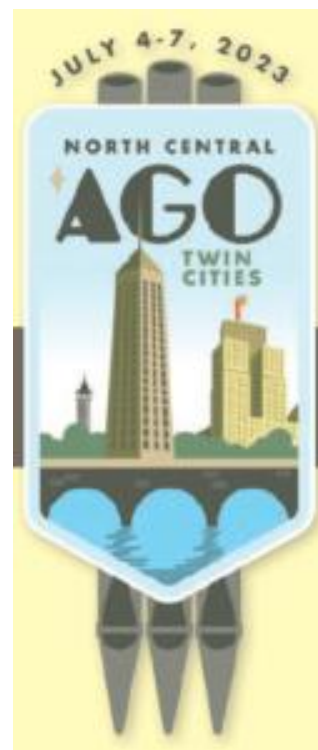
Twin Cities Chapter

Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota

Hotel: Hilton Minneapolis

July 4-7, 2023

<https://www.northcentralago2023.org/>



Chapter Directory
www.agomilwaukee.org
chapter@agomilwaukee.org

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715-212-3078

dean@agomilwaukee.org

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subdean@agomilwaukee.org

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Mike Keegan
414-225-1767

secretary@agomilwaukee.org

Treasurer

Steven Jensen
414-688-7838

treasurer@agomilwaukee.org

Registrar

David Bahrke
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registrar@agomilwaukee.org

Executive Board

Class of 2023

Tom Koester
Fr. Tom Lijewski
Ingrid Pierson
Keri Kelly

Class of 2024

Heide Hongsermeier
Paul Kasten
William Lieven
Dean Rosko

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Professional Development

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mrc@chase3000.com

Wisconsin District Convener

Larry Wheelock
lwheels@icloud.com

AGO Milwaukee Chapter Upcoming Events

Friday, October 6, 2023

National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance Winner

James Kealey

Calvary Lutheran Church

1750 N. Calhoun Rd

Brookfield, WI

Sunday, November 12, 2023

OHS/AGO Recital

St. Francis of Assisi Church

1927 Vel R. Phillips Ave

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June 2023

3 (Sat) 2:00 & 7:00 Duck Soup Cinema
Silent Movie
Ten Nights in a Bar Room
Jelani Eddington, Organ
Capital Theater
201 State St
Madison, WI

4 (Sun) 3:00 Hunter Erickson, Organ
St. Paul's UCC
426 Washington St
Wausau, WI

7 (Wed) 12:15 Dr. Derek Nickels, Organ
First Congregational UCC
724 E. South River St
Appleton, WI

13 (Tues) 7:30 Ingrid Pierson &
Steve Jensen, Organists
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee

14 (Wed) 12:15 Jared Stellmacher, Organ
St. Thomas Church
226 Washington St
Menasha, WI

15 (Thurs) 7:30 Tyler Pimm, Organ
Holy Name Oratory
702 S. High Point Rd
Madison, WI

17 (Sat) Pipes Pedals and Pizza
Madison Chapter
First English Lutheran
401 W. Main St
Whitewater, WI

21 (Wed) 12:15 Bruce Bengtson, Organ
Holy Cross Catholic Church
309 Desnoyer St
Kaukauna, WI

23(Thurs) 7:00 David Cherwien
Hymn Festival
St. Marcus Lutheran Church
2215 N. Palmer St
Milwaukee, WI

28 (Wed) 12:15 Ryan Mueller, Organ
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
200 N. Commercial St
Neenah, WI



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June 2023

Thank you to everyone who came to First Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedarburg for the Annual Meeting and Members' Recital. It is great to be able to have meetings once again in person and be able to see each other's faces and voices. I would like to thank First Immanuel Lutheran, Kaethe Grabenhofer, and John Meyer for the use of the meeting room and the sanctuary, and the members of the Milwaukee Chapter who agreed to perform, Mike Keegan, Keri Kelly, Karel Suchy with members of the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble, and J. Craig Sproat. Thank you for being willing to perform. I would also like to thank the outgoing board members, Ingrid Pierson, and Fr. Tom Lijewski for fulfilling their terms and all the work that they have done on behalf of the Milwaukee Chapter. The other chapter member I would like to thank is Larry Wheelock, who has served our chapter and the state of Wisconsin as the District Convenor. The District Convenors are being replaced by Chapter Specialist Support Teams. New board members, Mike Jacklin, Tom Koester, Keri Kelly, and J. Craig Sproat, I look forward to working with you during the coming year.

There are several changes that the national office has implemented beginning now and some that will be happening. The most important is that there is no longer a grace period for renewals. If you do not renew your membership by your renewal date, you will not receive the next TAO, be able to access the national member's section on the national website or on our own chapter website. Please be aware of these changes and when your renewal date is. You can renew your membership by either calling the national office, 212-870-2310, or by login into the national website, www.agohq.org. If you are considering giving a donation to the Milwaukee Chapter at the same time as renewing, please note that you must donate on our website, www.agomilwaukee.org, or send a check to AGO Milwaukee Chapter, PO Box 11731, Milwaukee, WI 53211. If you donate on the national website that gift stays with the national office and does not return to the local chapter.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and we will see you at our events in the fall.



Karel Suchy with the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble



J. Craig Sproat, Mike Keegan,
Keri Kelly, and Karel Suchy

John Schubring

Association of Church Musicians – Madison Chapter AGO

HANDS-ON PIPE ORGAN EXPERIENCE

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Saturday, June 17, 2023

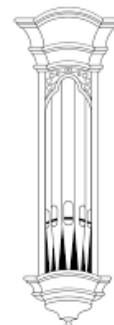
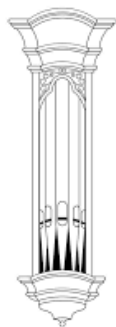
8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

First English Lutheran Church

401 West Main Street

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Questions may be directed to coordinator Ken Stancer
at 608.628.7031 (preferred) or (music@standrews-madison.org)



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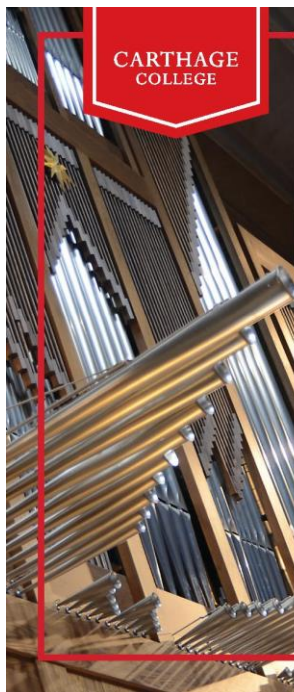


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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch, Historian/Archivist - walloch1952@att.net

This month's topic, Pipe Organ Encounter, (POE) has been on my radar for quite some time. The Executive Board is in discussion and a working committee has been formed to discern hosting another POE in the next 2 plus years. Searching the Archives for background information I found a variety of programs that offered mentoring to young organists. My simple search netted me more information than I envisioned, so this article is Part 1 of 2 on Mentoring Young Organists.

Part 1: Chapter's Mentoring of Young Organists

From the Chapter Yearbook 1983/84: a program held at Alverno College offered organ instruction under a program entitled "Young People's Arts Program." A pre-collegiate division existed under this program for high school students. The two instructors were two of our Chapter members of James Burmeister and Lee E. Erickson respectively. Courses and instruction for adults were also available as a non-credit basis through the umbrella of Continuing Education Division of Alverno College.

On November 5, 1995, under New Business, the topic of hosting a Pipe Organ Encounter, POE, was on the agenda. What started the discussion came in the form of a letter from Sr. Mary Jane Wagner requesting the Executive Board to consider hosting a POE during the summer of 1997. I spoke with Sr. Mary Jane, and she shared that "*she had students who would benefit from the event*" and felt strongly to request the board's input. The board was concerned about the amount of time and financial expenses that would be incurred to host such an event. A POE study Task Force was formed called the Pipe Organ Encounter Task Force, POETF. This task Force was to report back at the January 14, 1996, meeting, but it seems the committee needed more data gathering time and reported their findings at the March 10, 1996, meeting. As the POETF continued to discern hosting, they took it to the Chapter members by way of a POE survey which had favorable responses from 30 members. A motion was made for the POETF to continue to meet with the objective to complete the application for a POE no sooner than the summer of 1998. The motion was carried, and the Executive Board was greatly appreciative of the survey responses from members keeping their names on file for future use. There will be more on this program in Part 2. Board minutes November 5, 1995, March 10, 1996, and PipeNotes January & June 1996

Seems there was to be a Student POE scheduled at the Uihlein Hall on November 27, 1997, with the Miller organ but my Archive sources say the event was cancelled. From the board meeting minutes of January 19, 1998, there is mention of rescheduling the Student POE with the Miller Organ in Uihlein Hall. Will have to do a deeper search to find if this event was rescheduled for inclusion in Part 2. However, "Organist for a Day" was introduced in December 1997. Could this event be the rescheduled Student POE? Sub-Dean Scott Eakins shared in PipeNotes this program is an opportunity to assist and introduce the pipe organ to 12-18-year-old piano students and their teachers. The mechanics of the instrument, technique, registration and actual "*time for students to let their hands and feet experience the instrument*" was part of the day "*with the help from a mentor from the Guild.*" The Guild looked to all the members to promote and assist to have a successful event. Several members stayed after the board meeting on February 1, 1998, to view "Close Encounters" a video produced by National Headquarters about the pipe organ and POE opportunities. A decision was made after viewing the video that it should be included during the upcoming "Organist for a Day" event. The schedule of events was set for Saturday, February 21, 1998, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa. Guild members Marilyn Stulken and David Beyer did presentations of Technique/Registration and Mechanical Action of the Pipe Organ respectfully. The attendees got to take part in an Organ Crawl to Grace Lutheran Church in downtown Milwaukee and then took a ride to Mequon to Concordia University to Chapel of Christ Triumphant. The day kept pace with dinner on campus of Concordia and then an evening recital by Erik Suter. Mr. Suter, an accomplished young organist, studied with Thomas Murray at Yale University and was first place winner in the Conrad Sulzer Young Performer's Piano Competition in 1991 and first prize winner in 1993 of the Chicago American Guild of Organists Young Organist's Competition. His musical genius continued with first prize in 1995 at the National Undergraduate Organ Competition in Ottumwa Iowa and International Organ Competition in Musashino Tokyo in Japan in 1996. Back at his Alma Mater he won first prize in 1997 at Yale's Biennial Organ Competition. What a wonderful inspiration for these young organists attending

this event. The Guild worked on advertising “to get the word out” for this event by sending out 1700 brochures to area Guild members, churches, synagogues, interested individuals and piano teachers.

Board minutes February 1, 1998, and PipeNotes January and February 1998

On Saturday, March 6, 1999, at 10 am a master class was scheduled with Alan Morrison at Christ Church in Whitefish Bay. Registration was open to students aged 12 to adult. Reported in the March 7 Board meeting minutes by J. Doenges, there were three students who played for Alan Morrison with ten attendees for his master class.

Chapter Yearbook 1998/1999 and PipeNotes May & June 1999

In 2010 the chapter hosted a week-long POE at Carroll University in Waukesha. This will be the focus of my Part 2 in the fall. Before I wrap up this article, I want to share a personal testimony from Chapter member Keri Kelly on her experience attending POEs.

Keri wrote:

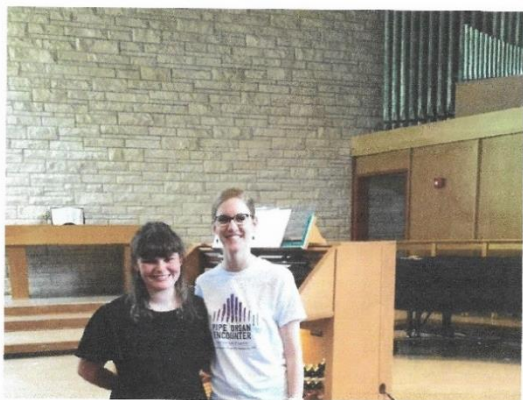
“Pipe organ was not my first instrument, but when my church needed an organist for Mass, I knew I’d like to do it since I played piano and I thought the transition wouldn’t be difficult.

I looked around online for summer camps that would help me learn more about the organ, and I came across the POE that was being held in Manhattan, Kansas in 2021. I eagerly signed up to attend, even though I never heard of ‘the American Guild of Organists.’

While attending this POE, I learned so much from the teachers and from the other participants. It was so fun to see other young people interested in pipe organ, and the teachers were all so inspiring. We got to visit some fantastic organs, as well as playing a recital for our friends and family at the end of the week. I had the same experiences at the other POE I attended in Hartford, CT last year.

I believe that these outreach ‘programs’ by the AGO are extremely important because it helps young musicians connect with and meet other young people and teachers. I made some of my best friends at the POEs, and I still keep in contact with my teachers I met while attending. I don’t think I’d be the musician I am today if I didn’t attend the POEs.”

Keri with teacher Jody Weis after her final participant recital POE 2021



Thanks, Keri, for sharing your POE experiences with Chapter members and friends. In 1998, Dean Thomas Koester wrote in his dean’s column of February PipeNotes words from past Dean David Bahrke that are worth reprinting.

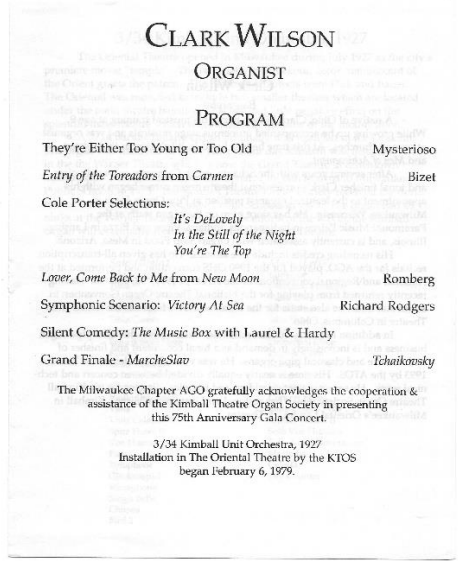
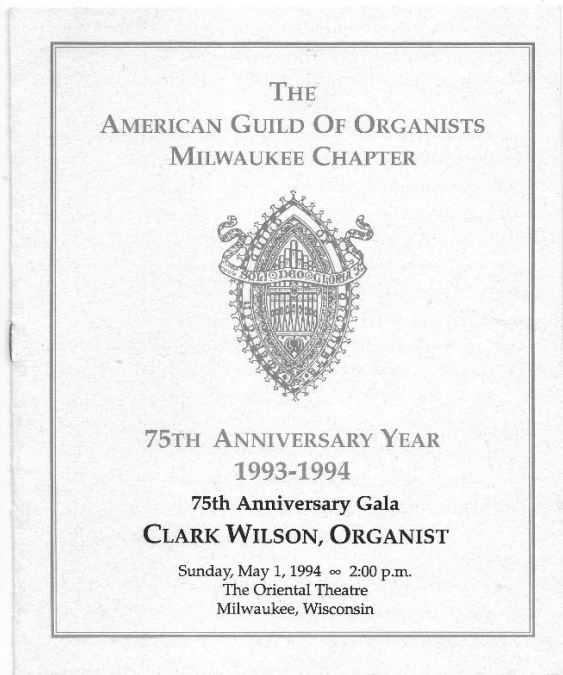
“Our past dean David Bahrke once reminded us that it was important for the AGO members to take a proactive role in promoting interest in the organ and our profession. Who will promote our interests if we don’t? Who would care enough to offer this city the quality of recitalists, educational opportunities, and workshops for all levels of church musicians that we have come to enjoy if not the Milwaukee AGO? This is why it is so important for

us to remain healthy, collegial, and active regarding promotion of our work and art.”

End of Part 1

I am taking the summer off; Archive articles will return in September.

Bonus update from last month's article on the 75th Anniversary of the Chapter. Well, Fr. Tom came through with the program from the Clark Wilson Gala concert at the Oriental Theatre. Gee, wouldn't it be great to have another cooperative concert with the Kimball Theatre Organ Society for our 110th Anniversary?



**Congratulations and welcome
To the new and returning
Board members**

**Steve Jensen, Treasurer
Mike Keegan, Secretary**

Class of 2025

**Mike Jacklin
Keri Kelly**

**Tom Koester
J. Craig Sproat**

**Thank you outgoing board members:
Fr. Tom Lijewski and Ingrid Pierson**