

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

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Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 70 – September 2023



AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS
MILWAUKEE
CHAPTER
AND
CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH



PRESENT

JAMES KEALEY

2022 NYACOP WINNER

Organ Concert

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

7:00 PM

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1750 N. CALHOUN RD
BROOKFIELD, WI



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AGO Milwaukee Chapter Upcoming Events

Friday, October 6, 2023 – 7:00 pm

National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance Winner

James Kealey

Calvary Lutheran Church

1750 N. Calhoun Rd

Brookfield, WI

Sunday, November 12, 2023 – 3:00 pm

OHS/AGO Recital

St. Francis of Assisi Church

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September 2023

12 (Tues) 7:30 David Jonies, Organ
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

16 (Sat) 7:00 Dr. Daniel Schwandt, Organ
Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church
11836 Hwy 42
Ellison Bay, WI

17 (Sun) 2:30 Milwaukee Episcopal Parish Organists Concert
All Saints Episcopal Cathedral
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, WI

October 2023

1 (Sun) 2:30 Choral Evensong
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
914 E. Knapp St
Milwaukee, WI

6 (Fri) 7:00 James Kealey, Organ
Chapter Event
2022 NYACOP Winner Concert
Calvary Lutheran Church
1750 N. Calhoun Rd
Brookfield, WI



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September 2023

For over thirty years the Milwaukee Chapter has made a commitment to hosting and supporting the first-place winner of the National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP). The first winner that the chapter hosted was the winner of the 1990 competition, Matthew Dirst. The competition is held every other year at the national convention of the American Guild of Organists. Dirst played the closing concert of the 1990 – 1991 year for the Chapter, and the concert was held at St. John's Cathedral on May 5, 1991. Over the past 32 years that means that we have hosted 15 young artists, soon to be 16, at the beginning of their career, many have gone on to have great careers in performing and teaching. The list of winners since 1990: Matthew Dirst, Martin Jean, Doug Cleveland, Heather Hinton, Ann Elise Smoot, Ji-yoen Choi, Timothy Olsen, Yun-mi Lim, Scott Montgomery, Michael Unger, Dongho Lee, Darryl Robinson, Jonathan Rudy, Katelyn Emerson, Aaron Tan, and now James Kealey.

On **Friday, October 6th at 7:00 pm** the Chapter will once again co-sponsor the NYACOP winner with Calvary Lutheran Church in Brookfield. James Kealey will play a varied program for us that includes works by Buxtehude, Whitlock, MacDowall, Bach, Langlais, Mendelssohn, Still, and Bossi. It is a great opportunity to come and hear a new, emerging, and talented young organist. Here is a brief biography of James Kealey:

Winner of the First Prize and Audience Prize at the 2022 American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition in Organ performance (NYACOP), James Kealey is a young artist of great distinction who has appeared in recital in England, the U.S.A., and in Europe.

Previous engagements include recitals at Westminster Abbey UK; Methuen Memorial Music Hall, MA; St John the Divine, NYC, the Spreckels Organ Pavilion; and recitals for many AGO chapters around the country. Upcoming engagements include two recitals in Hawaii, a recital at Butler Hall at The University of Dubuque, a solo organ recital at the 2024 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in San Francisco, and many other prominent venues across the U.S.A.

A native of Great Britain, James came to the U.S.A. having held positions at notable English Cathedrals. He received his undergraduate degree from Royal Holloway, University of London, and worked as Senior Organ Scholar to the Chapel Choir there in their series of live broadcasts, international tours, CD recordings, weekly services, and concerts.

In the spring of 2020, James completed his Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music in Organ Performance and Literature. In 2021 he was honored to be named one of The Diapason's "20 under 30", an accolade awarded to the most successful young artists in the field.

In the summer of 2023, his debut CD "Rhapsodic" was released on the Pro Organo recording label. Performed on the incredible E. & G. Hook & Hastings / Andover organ at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Buffalo NY, it features works by Whitlock, Delius, Price, Howells, Vierne, Still, and Franck. Currently, James serves as full time Interim Director of Music/Organist at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY. In this capacity he directs the Chancel Choir and the Third Church Choristers. Alongside this position, James is a candidate for the Doctor of Music Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY in the studio of Prof. David Higgs.

James is represented in North America by Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.

I hope to see many of you at this great event!

Liz Walloch presented an idea to me for her November article. She is going to entitle it "Requiescant in Pace," a remembrance of members as we begin November with All Saints and All Souls days. Liz is looking to collect names of Milwaukee Chapter members who have passed, they could be recent members or members from some time ago. It will be a way remember and think about the musical heritage of the Milwaukee Chapter. Please contact Liz, archivist@agomilwaukee.org, with the names of members you would like to remember on or before October 15th.

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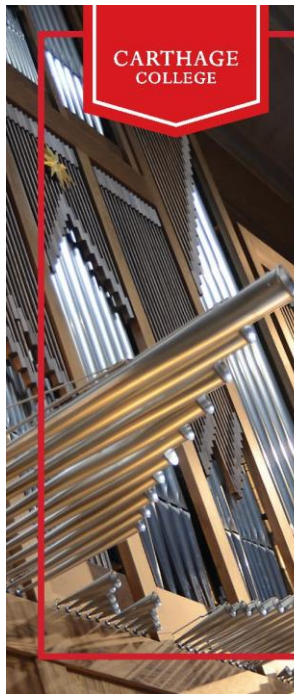
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FROM THE ARCHIVES
Liz Walloch, Historian/Archivist
archivist@agomilwaukee.org

This month's sharing continues with more interesting facts and finds on three organ events from the fall of 1997 and winter of 1998. Let's put on our organ shoes and join along.

Field Day Trip

Who doesn't like field day trip? Two neighborhood churches of Ascension Lutheran and St. Anthony's were the locations on October 21, 1997, for 46, sixth graders from Alexander Mitchell School. Students boarded their bus for an organ demonstration today. How fortunate that both churches are equidistant from each other and both church organists Leonhard Rose and Lee Erickson were present to give presentations on each church's organ. As each church has its own unique acoustic, both Leonhard and Lee presented the how "*in organ construction and basic registration.*" There was some "hands on time" at the organ for the youth as "*each played more notes than...thought possible.*" An additional perk was the students' interest "*in the different architectures of the two churches.*"

PipeNotes December 1997

Youth Outreach at Uihlein Hall

I came across an article in March 1998 PipeNotes that featured one of our members, Martha Stiehl. The article started with "*15,000 Milwaukee area youth saw and heard the Miller Organ in Uihlein Hall at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts during the month of January 1998.*" The open sentence hooked me to want to read on and I thought PipeNotes readers would also agree.

The featured soloist for this month-long series of Youth Concerts was Milwaukee Symphony Organist/Harpsichordist and chapter member Martha Stiehl. This concert series had a theme of acoustics and keyboard instruments demonstrating their appropriate use for the given space. For demonstrating acoustics, Martha played a tape she had recorded of the opening and first variation of Charles Ives' "*America*" on the Noehren organ at St. John's Cathedral. To show the difference use of acoustics, Martha presented a recording of the same composer's work played by Marian Ruhl Metson on an historic organ of Newburyport Massachusetts. Each listening experience was contrasted from the lively cathedral setting to the intimate New England church. Taking the listening experience to another level, the orchestra with Associate Conductor, Andrews Sills performed the Ives' piece in its entirety. This was followed by an explanation on how one instrument can be "*reworked to be played by different instruments.*" Continuing with the acoustics theme, Martha presented an introduction to the Miller organ explaining "*how the organ was used in a symphony orchestra primarily to blend and support orchestral sounds.*" A little historical background on the organ was shared by Martha with its "*auspicious beginnings as a military command instrument but now was most associated with worship music in churches and synagogues.*" To showcase Martha's skill on the bench, she had the organ console positioned "*so the youth could watch her feet and hands as she played.*" She played J.S. Bach's "*Prelude and Fugue in D*" demonstrating the acoustics of the solo organ. The youth were able to watch her footwork as an extension of her hands as she played the organ filling Uihlein Hall with chordal tones. From the organ bench Martha moved to the harpsichord and played the first movement of J.S. Bach's "*Harpsichord Concerto in f minor*" with the orchestra offering yet another listening experience of how acoustics relates to instrument and space. During this month-long series of concerts, Martha followed each concert with time to "meet with the youth" to talk about their musical experience. This youth concert series was very successful and informative not only for the youth, but for the ushers who assisted attendees at the concert.

A **sfz** Thank You!!

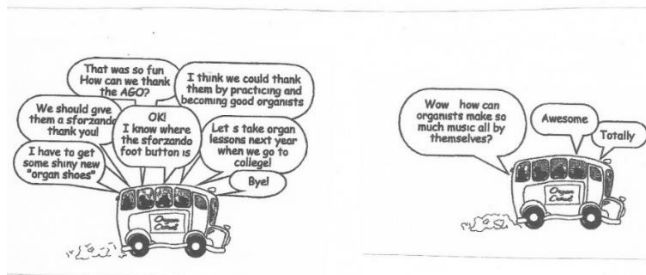
Organist for a Day a Great Success!!

Dean Scott Eakins wrote a wonderful wrap up on the "Organist for a Day" event in March 1998 PipeNotes.

"I cannot say enough about how successful 'Organist for a Day' was, and how the Milwaukee Chapter pulled together to make it so. Ten students and ten auditors (observers) participated in this educational event.

I would like to congratulate Kevin Becker, Milwaukee, Courtney Destal, Franklin, Kyle Oliver, Milwaukee, Emily Peck, Hartford, Dan Piessens, New Berlin, Joe Ruka, Milwaukee, Adam Schall, Pewaukee, Karrissa Schmaling, Delavan, Christopher Schroeder, Plover and Brian Wray, Mequon, on their participation.” Recitalist of the evening, Erik Wm. Suter acknowledged these ten participants congratulating them along with parents, siblings and/or teachers who walked with these students during the day.

The article shared the following institutions, parishes and individuals who assisted to make this such a successful day. The churches of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa Avenue Methodist Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa, St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) and all the guild members for getting the brochures for this day’s program to interested or potential students. The day had mentors who shared their knowledge of the organ to students opening up a new world for these inquisitive budding organists. Chapter members Marilyn Stulken and David Beyer led information sessions for the participants. With all the visible involvement there was equal behind-the-scenes work with registration and coordination with set up to CUW’s food service for attendees to advertising for this event with brochures. There were PipeNotes articles in the three issues leading up to the day of the program with bus information and details that answered many questions in advance. The evening recitalist, Erik Wm. Suter joined in the walking tour of the campus of CUW with the participants. Wow, this program shows how working together to present a unified program is possible with many hands supporting and mentoring future organists. I can’t help but wonder if the seed of interest in studying the organ was planted in any of those ten students that February day. If any members can share an update on any one of these ten student’s music careers, send me an email. I will include the sharing in a future monthly Archives article.



Before I close this month’s article, I am sharing, in advance, the topic for November PipeNotes, “Requiescant in Pace.” During November the church celebrates “All Souls” as a way to pause, reflect and remember those who have gone before us marked with the sign of their faith. All chapter members and friends are invited to have their deceased chapter member’s names added to a remembrance roster which will be published in the November PipeNotes. Start thinking of those you would like to remember from our extended musical family, those who have mentored and supported you on your musical path. Your names can be emailed to me for the remembrance roster starting now through October 15.

From Fr. Tom’s Computer

For a very long time, I have planned the dinner after the November recital at St. Francis Church at Mader’s. Because of a problem at the restaurant last year, I need to limit the number of people invited to this event. So, this year I need to limit the number to only present board members of the AGO and OHS Chapters.



MILWAUKEE EPISCOPAL PARISH ORGANISTS CONCERT

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Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 2:30 PM

All Saints' Cathedral, 818 E Juneau Ave, Milwaukee

P R O G R A M

Marilyn Schröder
St. Luke's Church – Bayview
Lemmens: *Sortie*

Scott Riedel
Christ Church – Whitefish Bay
Bergmann: *Arioso*

Tom Koester
Trinity Church – Wauwatosa | Three Holy Women Parish – Milwaukee
Cook: *Fanfare* | Vierne: *Scherzetto*

David Bahrke
St. Peter's Church – West Allis
Howells: *Master Tallis's Testament* | Bruhns: *Praeludium in E Minor (Great)*

C. Christian Rich
St. Christopher's Church – River Hills
Rich: *Variations on the Hymn-Tune 'SOUTHWELL'*

Michael Batcho
St. Mark's Church – Milwaukee
Jongen: *Prière from Quatre Pièces pour Orgue* | Mushel: *Toccata*

Lee Erickson
All Saints' Cathedral – Milwaukee
Locklair: *Rubrics – No. 4 "The Peace May be Exchanged."*
J. S. Bach: *Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf, BWV 617*
Guilmant: *March upon Handel's 'Lift Up Your Heads', Op. 15 No. 2*



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