

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 70 – October 2023



AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS
MILWAUKEE
CHAPTER
AND
CALVARY
LUTHERAN CHURCH



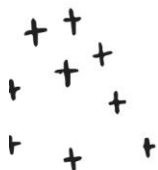
PRESENT

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

1927 Vel R. Phillips Ave

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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

10 (Tues) 7:30 Simone Gheller, Organ
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

15 (Sun) 3:00 Jazz meets Bach
Bel Canto Chorus
Helen Zalzo Center for the Performing Arts
2419 E. Kenwood Blvd
Milwaukee, WI

November 2023

12 (Sun) 3:00 Mark Edwards, Organ
OHS/AGO Concert
St. Francis of Assisi Church
1927 N. Vel R. Phillips
Milwaukee, WI

12 (Sun) 3:00 Michael Hoerig, Organ
Bethany-Calvary UMC
7265 W. Center St
Milwaukee, WI

12 (Sun) 4:00 Greg Zelek, Organ
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
6101 S. 51st St
Greendale, WI

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October 2023

My inspiration for the column this month comes from Archivist Liz Walloch's article and repurposing of Tom Koester's article from 1996. What do we do as an individual and as chapter to help grow, encourage, and support each other?

Last month I wrote about the history the Milwaukee Chapter has in hosting the NYACOP winner. The Milwaukee chapter has hosted the NYACOP winner since 1991. That is thirty-two years of hosting a young and emerging artist at the beginning of their career. This year is no different. This year, actually this week, our chapter will host James Kealey, the 2022 NYACOP winner, and currently a student at the Eastman school of music. I hope that we continue to support these young artists as a chapter as they continue their education and begin their careers.

As long as we are talking about young organists, the chapter has hosted PPP's (Pipes Pedals and Pizza) event in the past that has allowed us to introduce younger children and students to the pipe organ. Along with PPPs the chapter also hosted a POE (Pipe Organ Encounter) for teenaged students that continued introducing the organ to younger students.

What about adults then? How do we help grow, educate, encourage, and support each other as adult members? Through the chapter program committee, we have hosted various workshops on improvisation, led by some of our own members, most recently hosted by chapter member Christian Rich at St. Christopher's in River Hills, earlier improvisation workshops had been held with Charles Ore and Karel Paukert. We have held master classes by Doug Cleveland, Del Disselhorst, Jon Gillock, just to name a few. The chapter has held church music workshops and reading sessions for both choral directors and bell ringers and directors, all to help improve, maintain, and educate.

In 2019 we hosted the North Central Regional convention. It had recitals, workshops, a student competition, a hymn festival, a display hall with music to browse and purchase, and not to mention that it was our 100th anniversary as a chapter. There was something for everyone to attend grow with. It had been nearly 30 years since the Milwaukee chapter had hosted a convention and the organ seminars.

Not to forget all of the great recitalists our Chapter has hosted that play to inspire and cause us to learn and expand our repertoire each and every year.

Most of all we can be there to listen, to support, to give ideas, and to encourage each other as friends and colleagues as we are all in this business together. We can look back for ideas, but also look forward and encourage and support each other.

One last item. Liz Walloch is looking forward to November where the church season celebrates All Souls and All Saints. She would like for us to look back in our memories of who in the Milwaukee Chapter that is no longer with us, that inspired, helped us, encouraged us to grow and become who we are as a chapter and as a musician. She would like to publish the names of people that are no longer with us but have inspired us through time. Please send her the names of individuals who you would like remembered, archivist@agomilwaukee.org. The cut off date is October 15th.

See you Friday, October 6th for the NYACOP winner, James Kealey, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Brookfield. Come be inspired and filled with great music.

John Schubring

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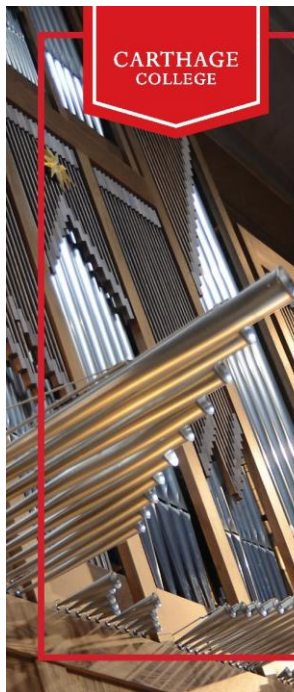
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch, Historian/Archivist

archivist@agomilwaukee.org

A Time of Re-Creation for Guild Members by Sub-Dean Thomas Koester

As I was searching the Archives, this article title caught my eye. Tom wrote about the Chapter's events and successes as he concluded his first busy year as Sub-Dean. He shared all the "*marvelous efforts of so many involved, enthusiastic and talented members. Membership numbers have never been stronger, this past year's annual patron appeal surpassed its goal, attendance at programs...has been exceptionally good...PipeNotes has never been more readable or looked so professional, we've just completed an exciting Centennial year...commissioned an excellent hymntune bearing the title MILWAUKEE AGO...gained recognition from National Headquarters due to our vitality as a chapter.*" Wow, that sure was a year! With all the successes within the year, Tom tapped the "pause button" to reflect on how we (chapter members) "*might continue to strive to improve our effectiveness, gain greater appreciation for the organ and quality church music and to better serve our membership.*" The following are Tom's thoughts for continuing the momentum.

"Building Audiences and New Organists"

**Create avenues for attracting audiences by contacting or befriending piano teachers or music teachers in your area. Present them with a poster of our events.*" Today the web page shared with teachers and friends offers all the current chapter information and upcoming events.

**If you actively attend many of our programs, why not offer to drive someone you know who appreciates fine music but rarely attends organ recitals? How about getting to know the AGO members in your area (check the Chapter Yearbook) and offer to give them a lift? Now logging into the member's directory on the web page is a good starting point.*

**Offer an information session on the organ for youth.*

**If you teach music in the schools or have regular contact with youth, consider showing the newly produced video 'Pulling Out All the Stops.' How about a classroom visit to the music students with an overview of the pipe organ? Or a field trip for the class to experience the pipe organ in a live setting?*

**Offer your time in helping with chapter projects that might even include a Pipe Organ Encounter in 1998. I believe there has been some discussion for one in a few years, many hands will be welcome.*

**Take the opportunity to write something about your association with the Guild or perhaps something...in your church bulletin?*

**Consider volunteering to help out with welcoming or ushering at concerts?*

**Do you bake? Could you volunteer to make something for our occasional receptions?*

"Continue Growth"

**Check out the many continuing educational resources available. Check out the webpages of area universities, colleges, for in person, online and summer courses.*

**Interest in music of other cultures is growing. Why not learn more about the music of African American composers, especially those who may be organists? Why not attend our African American Music festival and member's recital next spring?*

**One member of the Guild suggested that it would be wonderful if members could, in a collegial way, share their ideas and approaches to playing some of the standard repertoire. Adding to this idea, invite piano students along with their teachers and parents.*

**Learn about the increasing role of music technology in our jobs as church musicians. Attend the fall workshops...learn how you can get started with computer generated music notation.*

**Stretch yourself, consider taking an AGO exam this year?*

**We who are on the serving end of ministry week after week, need to be personally recharged and refreshed. How about reading a book on worship in your church's tradition, perhaps, one that challenges you a bit?"*

With further brainstorming from Tom's ideas, we would be challenged in a good way. Tom hoped that his list would "gets some ideas churning in your own minds." Using the technology available, we will be surprised by the wealth of endless possibilities.

Source: July/August PipeNotes 1996

"Requiescant in Pace"

The church celebrates "All Saints" and "All Souls" in November with a time 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 in the November PipeNotes. Start thinking of those you would like to remember from our extended musical family. Reflect on those members who have mentored and supported you on your musical path. You can send your names to me via email for the remembrance roster through October 15.

NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATES



It's not too early to begin planning your trip to San Francisco for the 2024 National Convention! The AGO has secured a deeply discounted rate of \$169 per night (plus taxes) at the National Convention headquarters hotel, the San Francisco Marriott Marquis in the SoMa (South of Market) district. The hotel is now accepting [reservations](#).

Registration for the convention will open in November. Click the banner above to learn more about the exciting schedule of recitals, concerts, worship services, and other events.

Notes from the National Office

WORKSHOP EXPLORES CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC MINISTRY



Being Yourself in the Spotlight of Public Ministry
Sarah Bereza, guest speaker
Monday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m. ET / 4 p.m. PT

As congregational leaders, we live our professional lives within the spotlight of ministry. While aiming to be the truest versions of ourselves, we can struggle to do so with integrity, given the constraints of our jobs.

If you have ever felt like you were working under a microscope or that you've been put on a pedestal you don't want or deserve, then you are not alone. This workshop considers the foundational aspects of our jobs, including how to evaluate potential employers, and the intersection of personal values with workplace dynamics.

Sarah Bereza is a lifelong church musician and currently serves as director of music at St. Grace United Methodist Church in St. Louis, Mo. She holds a bachelor's degree in organ performance, multiple master's degrees, and a PhD in musicology. Sarah chairs the New Music Committee for the 2026 AGO National Convention. She is the author of *Professional Christian: Being Fully Yourself in the Spotlight of Public Ministry*.

[Click here](#) to register.

COMPETITION WINNERS FEATURED IN NEW RECORDINGS

Two new recordings by the winners of the 2022 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP) and National Competition in Organ Improvisation (NCOI), **James Kealey** and **Robert Horton**, are now available for purchase from **Pro Organo**. The recordings were part of the prize packages for each competition, held in Seattle at the 2022 National Convention.

For more information and to purchase, click the links below each video.



[**Rhapsodic**](#)
James Kealey, 2022 NYACOP Winner



[**On Impulse**](#)
Robert Horton, 2022 NCOI Winner