

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 70 – December 2023



Happy Holidays!

Wishing you joy and
warmth this holiday
season!

*The American Guild of Organists -
Milwaukee Chapter*

Chapter Directory
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William Lieven
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Class of 2025

Mike Jacklin
Kerri Kelly
Thomas Koester
J. Craig Sproat

Region VI Councilor

Dr. Mary Newton, CAGO
marynewton@yahoo.com

AGO Milwaukee Chapter Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 4, 2024 – 3:00
Lecture and Members' Recital
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Saturday, March 9, 2024
Organ Crawl
Watch for upcoming details!

April 2024
Trip to St. Cecilia Catholic Church
Wisconsin Dells

Sunday, May 5, 2024 – 1:30
Annual Meeting followed by
Dr. Jan Kraybill Recital
Immanuel Presbyterian Church

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414-276-0499 (land line)

December 2023

2 (Sat) 7:00 Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Christmas Concert
W156N8131 Pilgrim Rd
Menomonee Falls, WI

2 (Sat) 7:30 Christmas at St. Sava
Chant Claire and Stevan Sijaki choirs
St. Sava Orthodox Cathedral
3201 S. 51st St
Milwaukee, WI

8 (Fri) 7:30 Christmas in the Basilica
Bel Canto Chorus
Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. Sixth St
Milwaukee, WI

9 (Sat) 12:00 Christmas in the Basilica
Bel Canto Chorus
Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. Sixth St
Milwaukee, WI

9 (Sat) 7:30 Christmas in the Basilica
Bel Canto Chorus
Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. Sixth St
Milwaukee, WI

10 (Sun) 4:00 Christmas in the Basilica
Bel Canto Chorus
Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. Sixth St
Milwaukee, WI

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

17 (Sun) 3:00 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
914 E. Knapp St
Milwaukee, WI

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December 2023



I would like to start my column this month by thanking everyone who came out to the recital at St. Francis Church to hear Mark Edwards play the Schuelke organ. The organ is truly a gem in the Milwaukee area and a great example of the work of Milwaukee organ building that has lasted well over 100 years. Thank you for continuing to support the endeavor of keeping this organ playing and being heard. Thank you to the Wisconsin Chapter of the Organ Historical Society for continuing this annual concert.

I would also like to thank all of the Milwaukee Chapter members who come out and support our chapter events. Without your support we would not be able to continue offering lectures and educational opportunities, organ crawls, or recitals. It is only because of your membership and willingness to help sponsor events that we can continue to offer programs to you. As the cost-of-living expenses have increased significantly over the last couple of years, the cost of providing programs has also increased. Yet we continue to offer recitals with nationally known performers and recitalists.

This program year we featured the 2022 National Young Artist Competition in Organ Performance winner, James Kealy, and will end our program year with the long-awaited recital with Jan Kraybill. It is only through your generosity that we are able to offer programs and recitals like these. Please consider giving a year end gift to the patron appeal of the chapter. It makes no difference how large or small your gift may be, they all help the chapter offer meaningful programming to our members and the public.

If you would like to give via credit card, you may do so on our website by selecting [donate using a credit card](#). If you prefer sending a check you may send it to: American Guild of Organists, PO Box 11731, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

Thank you again for all of your support and willingness to help our chapter!

John Schubring

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
Liz Walloch, Historian/Archivist
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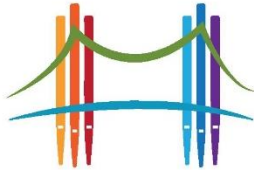
In these hectic December days between our professional and personal “to do lists,” scheduling a window of time for ourselves seems counterproductive. As we minister to others, we also need to minister to ourselves. So, take a pause and reflect on the season and count your blessings. To continue with the theme of blessings, I have compiled, from our 104 years of chapter history, a list of 23 blessings to close the year 2023.

Counting Our Chapter’s Blessings...

1. For May 5, 1919, the date the Wisconsin Chapter was chartered.
2. For all the Executive Boards through the decades for their dedication to support the *“Objects of the Guild to advance the cause of worthy church music, elevate the status of church musicians, to increase their appreciation of their responsibilities, duties and opportunities as conductors of worship.”* Source: Yearbook and Directory, 1958-1959
3. For the first co-sponsored AGO-Milwaukee Chapter recital with the Organ Historical Society Wisconsin Chapter. In 2009 at St. Francis Church Ms. Karen Beaumont was the first co-sponsored recitalist and today this event continues to be co-sponsored yearly.
4. For celebrating our 35th anniversary on May 22, 1955, with a musical program of chapter members and local musicians at Parkside Lutheran church, a new member’s reception, topping off the day with the annual meeting and supper.
5. For all the Milwaukee chapter members and friends.
6. For all the chapter members who offer assistance at events, contribute information to PipeNotes through ads and articles.
7. For Student Organ Contests that started in the 1940s to today of hosting the NYACOP winner each year since 1991.
8. For mentoring the youth with pipe organ experiences from Organist for a Day held on February 21, 1998. The Executive Board formed a Task Force to discern a Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) event in 1995 into 1996 receiving favorable responses from the members. The groundwork from the Task Force set in place became reality in July of 2010 when the chapter hosted a POE at Carroll University.
9. For celebrating our 40th anniversary on May 3, 1959, at Trinity Presbyterian Church with a mini organ recital before the guild prayer service, guided tours of the church’s facilities, dinner, and annual meeting.
10. For hosting regional conventions in 1946, 1957, 1981 and 2019 and a National Mid-Winter Conclave in 1969.
11. For the debut of the paper format of PipeNotes in November 1954 to today’s online format.
12. For hosting two International Music Festivals. 1) The French Romantic, 1984; and 2) The English Romantic, 1988.
13. For celebrating our 50th chapter anniversary in 1969 with a special banquet at the Boulevard Inn in September. A social event leading up to hosting the National Mid-Winter Conclave, a three-day event in December 29-31. The chapter commissioned Sr. Theophane to compose a composition for this anniversary. What a way to bring more sparkle to the 50th anniversary and usher in a new decade!
14. For the February 16, 1969, recital with recitalists Sr. Mary Jane Wagner and Trudy Stillman at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. This event drew an audience of 300 with 173 from outside the chapter and marked the beginning of member recitals being a yearly event.

15. For chapter support and input to have a pipe organ in the PAC (now the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts). The Miller Organ was played by E. Power Biggs in a concert with the Milwaukee Symphony in October 1969. On Sunday June 14, 1970, an open house was held, and the management of the PAC invited chapter member Phyllis Stringham to play and demonstrate the pipe organ giving the general public an inside look at the instrument and ask questions making this a “first” around the country.
16. For celebrating our 75th anniversary, the chapter started celebrating on March 13, 1994, with a Composers Festival of Music at the Grand Avenue Congregational church. This event linked the Milwaukee and Midwest Composers performing their works by chapter members and friends. Continuing with the celebration were two events for the diamond jubilee. A members’ recital was held at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist on Friday, April 29 and the annual meeting was held at the Oriental Theatre. The chapter joined with the Kimball Theatre Organ Society for a gala recital of popular and classic showtunes with Clark Wilson improvising to a silent comedy film, “The Music Box.” For members lucky enough to have ordered a commemorative 75th Anniversary tee shirt, you own a piece of chapter history!
17. For the completion of the digitization project of the chapter’s paper collection creating an Archive of chapter history. Over three years, the materials were sorted, organized then sent off for digitization. Next came uploading the files to our webpage for access and finally finding a permanent home for the paper materials. On July 19, 2021, the paper collection was delivered to its permanent location at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Archives Library.
18. For the inaugural printing of the yearbook and directory on September 17, 1945, for the program year 1945-46 on a budget of \$40.00 and a total of 21 pages. Through the years, the size grew from the size of a passport to 8 ½” x 11” as well as printing costs. In 2007, the print format migrated to the on-line membership directory. One final sharing, the launch of the printed version in 1945 didn’t exceed the amount budgeted, now that’s impressive!
19. For the original idea of an organ crawl which could have been influenced by the Student Chapter on the campus of UW-M in 1974. This group of students traveled to Chicago to tour pipe organs in the area. From an idea to today, the organ crawl has become an annual event each spring.
20. For the first produced organ book of member’s composed works entitled “The Milwaukee Organ Book,” c2014. From a sharing by Gene Traas on February 5, 2011, that his “Trumpet Tune in G” piece was unpublished, the idea took flight. With the input from members over the next 3 years, this collection was published.
21. For the chapter holding a Hymn Tune Competition in 1996 with the winning hymn tune named “Milwaukee AGO.”
22. For celebrating our 100th anniversary by hosting the North Central Region in Milwaukee with a theme “Great Music on a Great Lake” on June 16-19, 2019. We reached high and wide and hosted a gala that impressed our attendees. For all the planning, coordinating and follow through we, the various committees, were a team that kept the momentum moving. For the two proclamations the chapter received, the first from City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett making a Proclamation that June 16, 2019, to be “The American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter Day.” The second proclamation came from The Milwaukee County Historical Society awarding the chapter a Noteworthy Accomplishment for serving and supporting the professional activities of organists and church musicians for 100 years. We who attended became part of the living history of the chapter with our presence, musical gifts, and hospitality.
23. For our chapter taking part in the World’s Largest Town Hall Meeting (WoLTHaM) in February 1997 adding to the success of the AGO nationwide. This experience united our chapter with 351 other AGO chapters throughout the nation to take the first step in preparing for our future. —Think AGO -- Think Future.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!!



AGO 2024 SAN FRANCISCO

**JUNE 30
TO
JULY 4**



San Francisco is the place to be next summer.

Join us at the 2024 AGO National Convention, the world's largest gathering of organists and those who love the organ and its music. Our headquarters, the San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel, is the perfect location for exploring the city and meeting up with old and new friends who share a passion for the organ.



Attendees will experience a wide variety of performances, concert venues, and organs throughout the Bay Area. Programs will take place in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and at Stanford University. Registration includes bus transportation to convention venues.

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