

# PipeNotes

**American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter**

**P.O. Box 11731**

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211**

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**Volume 70 – March 2024**



## MARCH 9, 2024 ORGAN CRAWL

THE AMERICAN GUILD OF  
ORGANISTS

MILWAUKEE CHAPTER  
[WWW.AGOMILWAUKEE.ORG](http://WWW.AGOMILWAUKEE.ORG)

**9:00 am Ascension Lutheran Church**

1236 S. Layton Blvd  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
Eminent/Verdin Digital Organ

**10:30 am St. Josaphat's Basilica**

2333 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
Upper Church: Wicks/Broskowski Organ  
Lower Church: Kimball Boxcar Organ

**Lunch on Your Own**

**1:15 pm Ss Cyril and Methodius**

2427 S. 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
1926 Moller Organ

**2:45 pm St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran**

648 E. Dover St  
Milwaukee, WI 53207  
2005 Sipe Organ

Please register at [www.agomilwaukee.org](http://www.agomilwaukee.org)

The American Guild of Organists - Milwaukee Chapter was chartered on May 5, 1919, to serve and support the professional activities of organists and church musicians in the Milwaukee area. Persons who participate in our chapter are organists, choir directors, organ builders, technicians, clergy, students, and those who appreciate organ and sacred music. The Chapter is open to those of all levels of playing proficiency. Members especially appreciate the participation of those who simply listen and support organ and choral concerts.



Chapter Directory  
[www.agomilwaukee.org](http://www.agomilwaukee.org)  
[chapter@agomilwaukee.org](mailto:chapter@agomilwaukee.org)

#### Chapter Officers

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#### Executive Board

##### Class of 2024

Heide Hongsermeier  
Paul Kasten  
William Lieven  
Dean Rosko

##### Class of 2025

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Kerri Kelly  
Thomas Koester  
J. Craig Sproat

##### Region VI Councilor

Dr. Mary Newton, CAGO  
[marynewton@yahoo.com](mailto:marynewton@yahoo.com)

## AGO Milwaukee Chapter Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Organ Crawl South Side of Milwaukee  
See the front page for times and locations

April 20, 2024 – 10 am

Trip to St. Cecilia Catholic Church  
Wisconsin Dells

Sunday, May 5, 2024 – 1:30 pm

Annual Meeting followed by  
3:00 pm Dr. Jan Kraybill Recital  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
1100 N. Astor St  
Milwaukee, WI



## March 2024

1 (Fri) 5:00 Giogio Revelli, Organ  
Grace Lutheran Church  
1209 N. Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI

3 (Sun) 2:30 Prelude  
3:00 Evensong  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
914 E. Knapp St  
Milwaukee, WI

**9 (Sat) Chapter Organ Crawl**  
**9:00 am Ascension Lutheran**  
**10:30 am St. Josaphat**  
**1:15 Ss. Cyril & Methodius**  
**2:45 St. Lucas Lutheran**  
**For addresses, please see the first page**  
**Or visit the website: [gomilwaukee.org](http://gomilwaukee.org)**


17 (Sun) 3:00 Eternal Light  
Bel Canto Chorus  
St. Monica Parish  
5681 N. Santa Monica Dr  
Whitefish Bay, WI

17 (Sun) 3:30 Dr. Craig Sproat, Organ  
Concordia University Wisconsin  
Chapel of Christ Triumphant  
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr  
Mequon, WI

19 (Tues) 7:00 Bach Chorale Sing-along  
MSO Bachfest and Fine Arts at St. Marcus  
St. Marcus Lutheran Church  
2215 N. Palmer St  
Milwaukee, WI

19 (Tues) 7:00 Just Bach  
MSO Bachfest and Music at Historic Trinity  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1046 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St  
Milwaukee, WI

20 (Wed) 12:00 Bach's Birthday Bash  
Dr. Curt Sather, Organist with  
John Paradowski, Organ, and Piano  
MSO Bachfest and St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave  
Wauwatosa, WI



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March 2024

As I sit down to write this month's column we are approaching the end of February and the windows are open and the temperature is nearing the mid 70's, only to be rudely reminded that it is still winter the next day with snow and temperatures in the 20s and windchills in the single digits. Mother nature maybe a bit confused about which season it actually is, but we know that spring is certainly on the way and soon we will be enjoying the warmer temperatures and the new green life and new breath that spring brings.

We have three programs coming up over the next three months. They are

Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Organ Crawl  
Southeast Side of Milwaukee  
You can see the locations on the front page of PipeNotes!  
This is always a popular event.

We ask that you register on the website so that we have enough handouts for everyone.

Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
10 am  
St. Cecilia Catholic Church  
Wisconsin Dells, WI  
Gary Wood will give a presentation on the Johannus organ then there will be time to try it out.

Finally! After many years of planning and postponing during COVID we found a date and time that works for all of us! We are excited to present Grammy Nominated Organist –

**Dr. Jan Kraybill!**

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 pm Dr. Jan Kraybill  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church  
1100 N. Astor St.  
Milwaukee, WI

You will not want to miss this program! It will be an exceptional recital!

Blessings as you finish rehearsals and planning for Holy Week and Easter, and I hope to see you at the upcoming programs this spring!

John Schubring



# AGO 2024

## SAN FRANCISCO

[www.sfago2024.org](http://www.sfago2024.org)

**Early bird Rate Ends March 15<sup>th</sup>!**



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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch, Archivist and Historian [archivist@agomilwaukee.org](mailto:archivist@agomilwaukee.org)

Well, the month of March is a twin to the month of February. With Easter early this year, the Lenten journey to Holy Week to Resurrection Sunday is sure to keep our schedules quite full!

The February and March issues of *The American Organist* periodical has been showcasing women composers and their contributions to the discipline of music. To shine upon women's contributions in music, Sunday, March 10, 2024, has been named Woman Composer Sunday. Within the pages of the March issue, I saw a full-page ad of pictures highlighting Wilma Jensen's contributions through the decades. She is a well-renowned organist, choral director, concert organist, church musician, composer, lecturer, clinician, recording artist, teacher, and author. Wow, she is a very gifted person sharing her musical skills with the world! Her long and musically active career has spanned many decades, but she centers her talents in three specific areas. They are Church Music, Teaching and Performance. I was curious if our Chapter had the pleasure of hosting Wilma Jensen on one or more of her many concert tours. The answer is "yes." So, enjoy reading about the Milwaukee Chapter's concert tours with Ms. Wilma Jensen.

### Milwaukee Chapter hosts Ms. Wilma Hoyle Jensen

Our recital tour begins in April of 1959. The Milwaukee Chapter has been coordinating events leading up to the May celebration of the Chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. One of the programs being finalized is an organ recital by Dr. Nita Akin on Sunday, April 5 at 4 pm. The location for this recital is Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Astor Street. Member Mrs. Gertrude Loos Barr, resident organist of Immanuel has been coordinating the events at the church leading up to this recital. With the organ having been "completely rebuilt...it will be good to be back in their Sanctuary for a recital."

The featured recitalist, Dr. Nita Akin has been acclaimed in the states and abroad as one of the finest women organists. "We deem it a privilege to present her to Milwaukee music lovers." *PipeNotes Volume 5, Number 7 March 1959.*

There is a saying: best laid plans, go astray. Well, they did for this recital. Dr. Akin was unable to keep the date and was very disappointed as she had a case of pneumonia. With some quick connecting with other available recitalists, Ms. Wilma Jensen was offered the opportunity to play in Dr. Akin's place. Her debut in Milwaukee left quite the musical mark! Ms. Wilma Jensen is "remembered for the excellent recital she presented for us in April 1959 at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. All who heard her at that time were most favorably impressed with her artistry." *PipeNotes Volume 9, Number 6, 1963.*

I searched the Archives for the program Ms. Jensen played but had no luck. She had a very small window of time to prepare for this April recital as she was also preparing for another recital on May 4 at St. James Cathedral in Chicago. The May recital was sponsored by the Chicago Club of Women Organists. Accepting our offer was a true labor of musical love for our Chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year!

We tour ahead to March of 1963. Ms. Wilma Jensen is making a return to Milwaukee as the second artist recital of the season. Her recital was on "Monday, March 4 at 8:15 pm at the Community Methodist Church in Whitefish Bay."

"Mrs. Jensen is recognized as one of the outstanding organists of the day and was a feature attraction at the American Guild of Organists National Convention in Detroit in 1960."

Here is the program she played.

*Toccata and Fugue in D minor*  
*Three Noels*  
*'Ach Bleib Mit Deiner Gnade'*  
*Divertissement*  
*Carol Prelude on Greensleeves*  
*Carillon*  
*Suite for Organ*  
*Fourth Symphony*  
*Scherzo*  
*Andante Cantabile*  
*Gargoyles*

*Bach*  
*Daquin*  
*Karg-Elert*  
*Vierne*  
*Wright*  
*Sowerby*  
*Haines*  
*Widor*

*Edmundson*

I found some interesting highlights from the PipeNotes bio on Ms. Wilma Jensen. Her first music lessons came from her mother starting at age 5 and by 11 she was the regular organist of the Methodist church where her father was the minister. The French organist, Joseph Bonnett, heard Wilma play at the young age of 12 and complimented *“her on ‘her gift and the accuracy and control of her hands, unusual in one so young.’”* What sealed her decision to become a concert organist was hearing Marcel Dupre in a recital. She progressed with her organ studies with Catherine Crozier and Harold Gleason at Eastman School of Music. She was awarded the George Eastman Honorary Scholarship for four years and received the Performer’s Certificate in Organ and graduated with distinction. Her music skills led her to a position on the faculty of Oklahoma City University which led her to be named “head” of the organ department on campus as well as organist at First Presbyterian Church.

A closing note on this March 4th recital. A welcome back to Milwaukee for Ms. Jensen was greeted with a nasty March storm but her recital soared above it for the 100 attendees that evening.

*PipeNotes Volume 9, Number 7 & 8, 1963*

It seems history was repeating itself with Ms. Wilma Jensen’s third return to Milwaukee in 1974. The scheduled organist, Anton Heiller, suffered a stroke in early July and his United States tour had been cancelled. Instead of presenting an organ solo recital, Ms. Jensen teamed up with K. Dean Walker to present an organ and percussion duo. The date the duo performed was a Friday in September, the 13<sup>th</sup> to be exact, at 8:00 pm on the campus of Carroll College in Shattuck Auditorium in Waukesha. This was a unique program of 20<sup>th</sup> century music for organ and various percussion instruments that included timpani, marimba, xylophone, orchestra bells, vibraphone, snare drum, tom toms, and other smaller instruments.

This duo first performed together in April of 1969 as part of the Organ Dedication of the new Holtkamp organ in the Bishop Angie Smith Chapel at Oklahoma City University. With limited literature for organ and timpani, these two commissioned and encouraged musicians to compose for the organ and percussion. Their program on that Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> included some recently composed pieces.

*Part 1*

*Introduction and Passacaglia (organ solo)*

*Max Reger*

*Introit for Solo Chimes and Organ*

*Vaclav Nelhybel, c1971*

*Three for Marimba and Organ*

*Myron Roberts*

*Four Dialogues for Organ and Percussion*

*Ray Luke, c1970*

*Part 2*

*Prelude and Fugue on B A C H (organ solo)*

*Franz Liszt*

*Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra*

*Paul Creston*

*Calm Movement*

*Three Variations on the Theme of Love*

*Yvonne Desportes*

*Written for Jensen and Walker*

*PipeNotes Volume 21, No. 1 August 1974*

This program was a very unique twist from a solo organ recital. It blended contemporary organ with worked out details between the percussion instruments, coordinating the dynamic levels making the ensemble a model of precision. I hope the weather and the date of this program brought luck in the highest order!

Here is a Coda from the March 1959 PipeNotes. The Dean’s Column message continues to echo true for us in music ministry.

*“Alice Freeman Palmer once said, ‘For I remember it is Easter Morn, and life and love and peace are all new born.’ It is most gratifying that we, church musicians, are privileged to play such an important part and contribute so greatly to the Lenten period, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and finally, the Resurrection Morn known the world over as Easter. No doubt many of us had additional rehearsals with multiple services. We trust your efforts were not in vain and may you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed to the life, love and peace of this, our busy world.” Dean Arnold Mueller*



**Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra BachFest**  
**March 17 - 24, 2024**

**<https://www.mso.org/concerts/bach-festival/>**

Did You know several area churches and organists are part of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Bachfest?  
*(These events are free and open to the public with a suggested goodwill offering)*

**Sunday, March 17, 2024**  
**Bach Birthday Organ Recital**  
4:00 pm Dr. Curt Sather  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
1717 Church St.  
Wauwatosa, WI

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**  
7:00 pm Just Bach  
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church  
1046 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, WI

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**  
7:00 pm Bach Chorale Sing Along  
St. Marcus Lutheran Church  
2215 N. Palmer St.  
Milwaukee, WI

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024**  
12:00 pm Bach Birthday Lecture and Concert  
John Paradowski & Curt Sather  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave.  
Wauwatosa, WI

