

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 70 – April 2024



DEMONSTRATION AND
OPEN CONSOLE AT
ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC
CHURCH
603 OAK ST
WISCONSIN DELLS, WI
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024
10:00 AM



Join us at St. Cecilia's in Wisconsin Dells to explore their Johannes Monarche Organ. Chapter Member, Gary Wood, who was instrumental in the installation will give a demonstration/lecture then there will be an open console. If you would like to carpool, please meet at the Goerke's Corner Park and Ride off of Barker Rd in Brookfield at 8:00 am.



[TAO May 2017](#)

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

Chapter Officers

Dean

John Schubring
715-212-3078

dean@agomilwaukee.org

Sub Dean

Karel Suchy
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subdean@agomilwaukee.org

Secretary

Mike Keegan
414-225-1767

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Treasurer

Steven Jensen
414-688-7838

treasurer@agomilwaukee.org

Registrar

David Bahrke
414-232-6717

registrar@agomilwaukee.org

Executive Board

Class of 2024

Heide Hongsermeier
Paul Kasten
William Lieven
Dean Rosko

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

April 20, 2024 – 10 am

Trip to St. Cecilia Catholic Church

603 Oak St

Wisconsin Dells, WI

If you would like to carpool

Meet at Goerke's Corner park and ride at 8 am.

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

American Guild of Organists Milwaukee Chapter Nominating Committee
Report

April 14, 2024

Candidates for Fall 2024

The following AGO Milwaukee Chapter members in good standing have
agreed to serve as officers or board members.

Dean - John Schubring

Sub-dean – David Bahrke

Board Members: Class of 2026

Michael Batcho

Lee Erickson

Paul Kasten

Christian Rich

Nominating Committee Recommendation:

Considering the current active membership of the Milwaukee Chapter, the
Nominating Committee recommends the Board membership be reduced from
four members to three members for each election cycle beginning 2025.

Jim Burmeister

J. Craig Sproat

*Watch your email for a ballot and biographies of candidates!

April 2024

16 (Tues) 7:30 Paul Ayers, Organ
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

19 (Sat) 7:00 David Cherwien Hymn Festival
Luther Memorial Church
1021 University Ave
Madison, WI

**20 (Sat) 10:00 Chapter Event
Demonstration and Open Console
Johannus Organ
St. Cecilia Catholic Church
603 Oak St
Wisconsin Dells, WI**

20 (Sat) 7:30 Handbell Spring Ring
Chapel of Christ Triumphant
Concordia University- Wisconsin
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr
Mequon, WI

21 (Sun) 7:30 Kammerchor Concert
Chapel of Christ Triumphant
Concordia University – Wisconsin
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr
Mequon, WI

May 2024

**5(Sun) 1:30 Chapter Annual Meeting
3:00 Dr. Jan Kraybill, Organ
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
1100 N. Astor St
Milwaukee, WI**

5 (Sun) 2:30 Music for Trumpet and Organ
And "The Sepulcher" A Medieval Easter Play
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
914 E. Knapp St
Milwaukee, WI

12 (Sun) 3:00 The Dream of Gerontius
Bel Canto Chorus
Bradley Symphony Center
212 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI



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David Bahrke
Organist
Music and Choral Director

Funerals - Weddings
Substitute Musician
Music Events

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April 2024

Spring is finally here in southeastern Wisconsin. The weather is finally warming up, the flowers are starting to push through the ground and trees are starting to bud and there is sign of growth and life. The Chapter also has a couple of chances this spring to get together. This weekend we have a chance to travel to the Dells and learn about the installation of the Johannus organ at St. Cecilia Catholic Church. Come and learn and grow with each other. I know it is a little short notice, but you may just enjoy spending time with your colleagues.

The second chance I am very excited is actually happening. It has been in the works for almost 5 years already with Covid interfering several times, but this time it is actually going to happen. Dr. Jan Kraybill has a stellar program for us on May 5th, 2024, at 3:00 pm at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. You will not want to miss it! Her program is entitled The Breadth of our Breath, and it will be a truly inspiring program that you will not want to miss.

I have one last piece of business that we must cover before the annual meeting. Upon the recommendation of the nominating committee the executive board agreed that we need to amend our operating procedures. The nominating committee recommends that we reduce the size of the class of members at large by one going from 4 members to 3 members beginning next year, 2025. We would amend Article VI. Election Procedures.

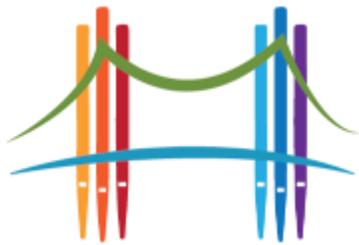
3. Election of Executive Committee Members. The duly elected members of the Executive Committee shall be divided into two [2] classes, each class having four [4] members. The members of both Class I and Class II shall be elected to hold office for a term of two [2] years. Elected members of the Executive Committee shall hold office only for the term for which they were elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and officially installed. After the initial election of Executive Committee members, these members at large shall serve a term of two [2] years, one half of the members at large being elected at each election.

Amend to:

3. Election of Executive Committee Members. The duly elected members of the Executive Committee shall be divided into two [2] classes, each class having three [3] members. The members of both Class I and Class II shall be elected to hold office for a term of two [2] years. Elected members of the Executive Committee shall hold office only for the term for which they were elected and shall serve until their successors are elected and officially installed. After the initial election of Executive Committee members, these members at large shall serve a term of two [2] years, one half of the members at large being elected at each election.

Thank you for your membership in the Milwaukee Chapter!

John



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch, Archivist and Historian archivist@agomilwaukee.org

One thing you probably know about me by now is that I spend a lot of time surfing the Archives. Always seeking to uncover ideas, discussions, events, historical facts and finds to share in PipeNotes. Well, this month I start with promoting an upcoming event; it being the Annual Meeting on May 5 at 1:30 pm and the 3 pm concert by Dr. Jan Kraybill at Immanuel Presbyterian Church. This first weekend of May actually was my inspiration to take a deeper surf into the Archives. So come along and relive a few of the creative programs hosted by the Chapter.

THE FIRST WEEKEND OF MAY

The Sunday of May 7, 1967, was a full ensemble of musical delights with a recital of the Student Contest Winners, the Spring Meeting, Election of Officers, and Honoring Past Deans. The afternoon began at 4:00 pm with the Student Contest Winners' recital at Wauwatosa Congregational Church. The chapter has supported these deserving young organists by advertising this recital to family, friends, church leaders and the general public to come hear the talents of these young organists in our local communities.

"Immediately after the recital the Spring Dinner Meeting was held in the church hall." A decision by the Executive Board of the chapter at the March meeting *"decided to pay special tribute to our Past Deans by awarding each a Past Dean's Pin at the Spring meeting. It is the intention of the board that a Past Dean's Pin be given to the retiring Dean at the conclusion of his [her] term of office. Those who have served as Dean of the Milwaukee Chapter have given hours of their time and much energy to fulfilling the goals and upholding the principles of the American Guild of Organists."* Nine of the Past Deans were present to be honored and receive their pins, five Past Deans were unable to attend, and their pins were sent to them. I have written on these Past Dean pins in a previous column, but sharing a second time is a gesture for us to express gratitude for their leadership and guiding the chapter forward.

PipeNotes June 1967, Vol. 13, No. 8

The weekend of May 5 & 6, 1979 was a must attend chapter event, and hopefully both days! Ms. Marilyn Mason was in town to lead a master class and recital. There was also a rummage sale, the Annual Meeting and Banquet with a guest speaker. There was something for everyone to partake in at the Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church. The day started at 10 am on May 5 with the masterclass. These chapter members played for Ms. Mason.

Mariann Landa playing Pageant by Leo Sowerby
Scott Ridell playing "Piece #2" and "Piece #6" from Short Preludes and Interludes by Herman Schroeder
Mary Ann Lackovich playing Te Deum by Jean Langlais
Rev. Thomas Lijewski playing Prelude, Fugue and Variations by César Franck
Barbara Stone playing Prelude and Fugue in a minor by J.S. Bach

If members who participated in this masterclass would like to relive the experience, send me an email with your thoughts and comments. I'll share your story in one of my articles.

That same morning, a rummage sale was held with a special presale window of time for members of 8:30 am-10:00 am and opening the doors to the general public at 11:30 am-3:00 pm. This sale was well organized with drop off location at these three churches— Wauwatosa United Methodist, Ascension Lutheran, and Our Lady of Lourdes. Each site welcomed items for sale of organ/piano music, choral anthems, popular or instrumental music, hymnals, books on music, records, yes vinyl, magazines, and nostalgic items. Two members were co-chairs for this event, Jan Heins and Sheri Masiakowski. Might the chapter tap Sheri for her tips for planning another successful sale?

PipeNotes January 1979, Vol. 25, No. 5; May 1979, Vol. 25, No. 8

The following day, Sunday, May 6, Marilyn Mason's recital was held at the same location of the Methodist church in Wauwatosa at 3:30 pm. Members admission was free with non-members \$5.00 and students and seniors \$3.00. Here is the program Ms. Mason performed.

*"Magnificat du Huitieme Ton En Sol Majeur "by LeClerc
"St. Anne" Prelude and Fugue and other selections from the Clavieruebung,
Pt. III, by Bach
Variations on 'Ein Feste Burg'" by Reger
"Concert Variations on 'The Austrian Hymn'" by John Paine
PipeNotes May 1979, Vol. 25, No. 8*

Ms. Mason's achievements in the music world are impressive. She held a number of "firsts" for women in the field of music. She was the University Organist and Chair of the Organ Department at the University of Michigan. Her doctorate is from Union Theological Seminary having studied with Nadia Boulanger and Maurice Duruflé. Ms. Mason was the first American woman to play in Westminster Abbey, the first woman organist to play in Latin America and the first American organist to play in Egypt. Her recitals span the five continents, and she has served as a judge at every major organ competition. The British newspapers hailed Ms. Mason's performances as "brilliance," and "artistic genius." The chapter was very fortunate to bring Ms. Mason to Milwaukee for this two-day event. The annual AGO banquet followed the recital with guest speaker of the evening, Archbishop Weakland. His topic shared was, "An Old Refrain: Pastor, Congregation, Professional Musician." For me, his sharing on this topic is timeless and was worth being present to hear!
PipeNotes May 1979, Vol. 25, No. 8

In 1990, the Chapter "decided to try a new idea." "The Milwaukee Chapter and St. Anthony's Catholic Church" "co-sponsored Gerre Hancock in a workshop entitled 'Introduction to Basic Improvisation.'" This was a combining of efforts on many levels with a "workshop and the annual meeting for a fun time, serious time, learning time session." The weekend started on Saturday, May 5 with a luncheon served at noon in the Parish Hall after the Annual Meeting with election of officers. The group then reassembled at St. Anthony's Church for Gerre Hancock's Introduction to Basic Improvisation from 1-3 pm. "Technics that enable everyone to learn to improvise" were "presented—from the most-simple to the most complex." "Mr. Hancock's skill as a teacher of this craft combined with his invigorating presence" was "sure to get even the most inhibited organist improvising." He held a teaching position at The Juilliard School of Music in New York City where he taught courses in improvisation and "frequently" gave "masterclasses or lecture-demonstrations for AGO Chapters." On Sunday, May 6, he presented a Hymn and Improvisation Festival at 7:30 pm at St. Anthony's Church playing the 1890 William Schuelke organ, rebuilt and enlarged to 45 ranks in 1982. Mr. Hancock's program opened with

--"Chorale No. 2 in a minor by César Franck

--Hymn singing led by Gerre Hancock used creative ways, including descants and splendid improvisation by him comprised a large part of his program

Tune: *Rendez a Dieu/New Songs of Celebration Render*

Tune: *Wondrous Love/What Wondrous Love is This*

Tune: *Valet will ich dir geben/All Glory, Laud and Honor*

Tune: *Were You There/Afro-American Spiritual*

Tune: *Salzburg/At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

Tune: *O filii et filiae/O Sons and Daughters*

Tune: *Lasst uns Erfreuen/A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

Tune: *Veni Creator Spiritus/O Holy Spirit*

Tune: *Hyfrydol/Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"*

The St. Anthony parish choir also participated in the festival.

"The finale to the evening was the 'knock 'em dead' improvisation on *Te Deum Laudamus*."

This sure was an extravaganza weekend for music enthusiasts. Gerre Hancock was a consummate musician who possessed excellence in hymn improvisation. "Often, the word 'improvise' sends chills up and down our spine and immediately, our inhibitions are at their greatest." This weekend in the hands of Gerre Hancock was a delight for those present who heard new and fresh approaches to hymn improvisation. I can't imagine not being delighted and renewed in creative hymn playing after this hymn improvisation festival.

PipeNotes January 1990, Vol. 36, No. 5 and

Correspondence Binder 6, 1986-1989, Pg. 356

PipeNotes 1990 Special Edition April-May

Let's spread the word for our upcoming May 5, 2024, annual meeting and concert with Dr. Jan Kraybill at Immanuel Church. Talk it up! Email invites family, friends, pastors, deacons, music teachers, and musician friends who don't play the organ! All who attend will be in for a grand finale of our season. Be there to be part of the Chapter's history!

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
MILWAUKEE CHAPTER AND
IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESENT



GRAMMY NOMINATED ORGANIST

Dr. Jan Kraybill

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

3:00 PM

THE BREADTH OF OUR BREATH

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COME WITH ME TO EXPLORE THE WORKS OF
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SHARE IN SONG WITH THE PIPES AND PEOPLE WHO
SURROUND YOU. INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
(RUACH, THE HEBREW WORD MEANING
"AIR IN MOTION"), WE CAN BREATHE IN NEW LIFE,
CAN CON-SPIRE ("BREATHE TOGETHER"),
AND CAN CREATE MUSIC THAT TRANSFORMS
OURSELVES AND OUR WORLD.



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THE MILWAUKEE CHAPTER
CELEBRATES IT'S 105TH
ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEKEND.
FOUNDED MAY 5, 1919