



# CHIFF CHAT

## NOVEMBER 2020

THE LINCOLN CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

*A tale of three bell towers and two pipe organs...*

A few weeks ago I was driving across town with the kids in the back of the car and we drove by Cathedral of the Risen Christ. A wedding was just ending and the bells atop the cathedral were ringing out joyfully as people left the church! I'm sure Cathedral organist and music director David Schmidt was inside playing beautiful organ music as people celebrated the momentous occasion.

Across town just after that, we drove by First-Plymouth Congregational Church and at just about the same time, the carillon (bell tower) rang out beautifully with Kathie Johnson's music and the pipe organ sounding out as people left another wedding with organ music from Tom Trenney or Ariel Merivil. Again, people finding joy in a new beginning!

A few days before this, I had gotten a call asking me to come play the carillon at University of Nebraska-Omaha for a wedding proposal! An alumni would be proposing to his girlfriend and he would love to hear joyful music ring out when she said yes. (And She DID!) Again, there was music surrounding a joyous new beginning!

I hope you are finding ways to make or share music and to celebrate joy even in the midst of darkness around us at this time.

God bless,  
Brent Shaw  
Dean, Lincoln Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

## FROM OUR CHAPLAIN...

“Music, that is the science or the sense of proper modulation, is likewise given by God’s generosity to mortals having rational souls in order to lead them to higher things.”

Saint Augustine, Epis. 161. *De origine animae hominis*.

What is it about great music, especially that of the majestic organ, that can transport us out of ourselves into a beautiful encounter with the Lord? Many reflections have been written on this topic, so I don’t claim to write anything new, but it is good to remind ourselves of the gift of music. The complexity and yet, at times, simplicity of the organ only magnifies what St. Augustine says above. The interplay of notes and sounds, so richly possible with the organ, can be arranged in a seemingly endless variety to evoke a multitude of sentiments in our heart and soul. Music carries us. When we had our concert for the blessing of the organ at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Lincoln I was lifted up in my heart and spirit. You are a member of the American Guild of Organists because you know this – I encourage you to invite someone else to experience the joy and beauty of music, especially the organ. Take some time during the “chaos” that surrounds us in this upside down COVID world to experience organ music that can “lead them to higher things”. Perhaps those moments of being lifted up will strengthen you in your day to day experiences.

In Christ’s love,

Fr. Troy Schweiger



# OCTOBER 25th PIPE ORGAN “CRAWL” and ORGAN/CHURCH TOUR

Wahoo Presbyterian Church—Thanks to host Ross Mosier who serves as Director of Music and Media Ministries and Organist.

Thanks to those who just came to listen and for Jovan Cross, Ross Mosier, Brian Lew, Brent Shaw (and 4 year old Octavia) for sharing music!



Stay tuned to announcements for organ crawls/tours later in November from Daniell Driscoll at Saint Patrick Catholic Church and David Schmidt at Cathedral of the Risen Christ





## **STUDENTS AND MEMBERS RECITAL**

Sign-up for our Students and Members' Recital the first Sunday of December at 4p.m.

at First United Methodist Church of Lincoln next to Nebraska Wesleyan University.

For those not wanting to perform live, video submissions will be accepted for the livestream.

Thanks to Morgan Cowell for hosting us!

## **FROM LINCOLN AGO MEMBER ERMAL COLLISTER**

### **THE WESLEYAN HYMN**



Paul Lebar served as a professor of music and organist at Nebraska Wesleyan University and wrote the still used Wesleyan Hymn in 1957. Paul earned a F.A.G.O. certificate and served many churches and enjoyed playing silent films. Paul was a native of Franklin and, after living in New York for many years as an active musician, returned to Nebraska and served as organist at Saint Paul UMC in Lincoln and Tifereth Israel. Paul taught organ and theory at Wesleyan and played organ for Ermal and Richard Collister's wedding and was Ermal's son Paul's godfather. (Hymn on next page).

## **NEW ORGAN AT ST. THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Congratulations to Jason Horner, Dual member of the Lincoln and Omaha AGO chapters and Director of Music Ministries at St. Thomas and Artistic Director of the Lincoln Choral Artists Choir on their new Allen organ!



# NEBRASKA WESLEYAN HYMN

Maestoso

(Words and music by Paul W. LeBar)

1. All Hail, Ne-bras-ka Wes-ley-an, Thy light shines far and wide, A  
 2. Be strong Ne-bras-ka Wes-ley-an, our her-i-tage in sure, That  
 3. Long live, Ne-bras-ka Wes-ley-an, move for-ward with a will, To

bea-con high of faith and love be ev-er more our guide, Fru-  
 aims of chris-tian in-tel-lect and spir-it may en-dure. We  
 min-is-ter to God and men, thy des-ti-ny ful-fill, That

i-tion of Thy found-er's dreams their love and sa-cri-fice, Thy  
 lift our song in grate-ful prayer and pledge our faith a-new In  
 fu-ture aims of men shall merge in one e-ter-nal plan, The

chris-tian ben-e-dic-tion now per-vades our dai-ly life. A-men  
 Thee Ne-bras-ka Wes-ley-an, to God, be ev-er true.  
 be-nign fa-ther-hood of God and bro-ther-hood of man.



## UPCOMING SEASONAL EVENTS—ONLINE!



### CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHRISTMAS

In Seward, NE

from AGO member Dr. Jeffrey Blersch

<https://www.cune.edu/christmas-concordia>

#### Christmas at Concordia Concert Package

We are excited to continue our tradition of celebrating our Savior's birth together in fellowship, singing along with our talented Concordia music students as they perform a special Christmas concert.

This year, Concordia's music students will deliver Christmas joy and blessings directly to you and your family through a pre-recorded concert that replaces the traditional four concerts performed at St. John Lutheran Church for Christmas at Concordia.

This special virtual event is part of the Christmas at Concordia Concert Package that includes a video of recorded performances by the Cantamus Women's Choir, Concordia Handbell Choir, Male Chorus, University A Cappella Choir, University Brass Ensemble and University Symphonic Band, that have been compiled to provide a similar experience of watching the concerts in person. You will also receive printed keepsake programs and special Christmas gifts to help bring the Christmas spirit from our campus to your home.

*Concert packages are \$50 and may be purchased Oct. 16 through Nov. 30. All proceeds from sales go to the Music Department.*

A private concert link will be provided to those who purchased the Christmas at Concordia Concert Package on Saturday, Dec. 12. Although we'll be watching the concert at different times in different locations, our Concordia family will make our voices heard as we sing along with our students and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you again for continuous support for Concordia's students and our music program. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family always, and especially throughout this Christmas season.



### HANDEL'S MESSIAH: A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SING

TO BENEFIT PEOPLE'S CITY MISSION

SUN | NOVEMBER 29 | 4:00 PM | ONLINE

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Begin the holiday season singing the world's most beloved choral/orchestral masterwork. This online sing-along will culminate with a city-wide virtual performance of the "Hallelujah!" chorus.

Sponsored by Susan Sehnert Stuart to benefit People's City Mission

“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and he shall gather the lambs with his arm.”

# PLAYLISTS

Thanks to our Communications Director and Past Dean Sara Schott for a wonderful idea! We would love to feature some “organ favorites” from Youtube, on Facebook, or maybe some recordings you love in the Chiff Chat!

## YOUTUBE PLAYLIST



Our first playlist comes from AGO member Jim Hejduk with some Youtube videos to enjoy some organ music at home.

Jean Guillou (playing Prokofiev "Toccata")

Monica Czausz (playing Manari "Salve Regina")

Jan Kraybill (whatever pops up)

Olivier Latry (whatever pops up)

or any other favorite organist or piece and just see what comes up.

Another ploy is to type in Composer or Title of a favorite work or favorite organist and see what pops up. You never know what you may find!

## RADIO PLAYLIST



CHOIR ROOM RADIO on KZUM 89.3fm

Thursday Evenings with Drew Duncan

October 22 playlist

1. Craig Hella Johnson: Conspirare Messa di Requiem: Dies Irae from Requiem
2. Diego Fasolis, Francesco Cera & Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana - Requiem, Op. 54: II. Dies Irae- from Saint-Saëns: Requiem & Partsongs
3. Neville Marriner: Academy Of St. Martin In The Fields & Chorus - 3. Sequentia: Dies Irae from Mozart: Requiem
4. Neville Marriner: Academy Of St. Martin In The Fields & Chorus - 7. Sequentia: Confutatis Maledictis from Mozart: Requiem
5. Sir Georg Solti, Chicago Symphony Chorus & Chicago Symphony Orchestra - Requiem: II. Dies Irae - Dies Irae from Verdi: Requiem
6. Sir Georg Solti, Chicago Symphony Chorus & Chicago Symphony Orchestra - Requiem: II. Dies Irae - Tuba Mirum from Verdi: Requiem

## FROM OUR MEMORY BOX...

*Thanks to Joy Maag for hosting this wonderful Lincoln Organ Showcase recital in 2012 and Dr. Christopher Marks, who directed LOS at that time.*

John Schwandt, Organist  
Vine Congregational Church, UCC  
Lincoln, NE  
Sunday, April 15, 2012, 3:00 p.m.



Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 541

At Twilight

Canon in B Minor

Toccata in G

Three Hymn Improvisations on Welsh Tunes: St. Denio, Ar hyd y nos, Aberstwyth

Sonata in F Minor, Op. 65, No. 1

Allegro moderato e serio

Adagio

Andante recitativo

Allegro assai vivace

Improvisation on submitted themes

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

J. Frank Frysinger (1878-1954)

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)



### 2012-2013 Participating Organizations

Each organization listed below has contributed significantly toward the cost of hosting a recital. Without the support and cooperation of these institutions, Lincoln Organ Showcase concerts would not be possible. We thank them for their generosity!

### 2012-2013

St. Mark's on the Campus Episcopal Church

First-Plymouth Congregational Church

Grace Lutheran Church

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church



# **2020 Lincoln Area Student Pipe Organ Composition Competition**

Open to students of all ages in the Lincoln area, students of Lincoln area teachers, and students of members of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Deadline: December 1, 2020

Requirements: Compositions should be submitted in pdf format to [organman77@gmail.com](mailto:organman77@gmail.com)

Time Length: All compositions should be 5 minutes or less in performance length

Instrument: All compositions should be for classical or traditional pipe organ

Winners will be announced in February 2021

The first place entry will receive \$400

*Competition committee members:*

*Ross Mosier, coordinator*

*Director of Music Ministries, Wahoo Presbyterian Church and Lincoln AGO Executive  
Committee Member*

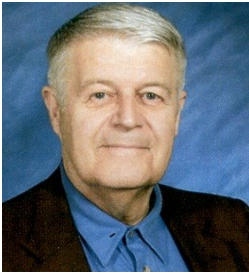
*Brian Lew*

*Director of Music Ministries, Eastridge Presbyterian Church and Lincoln AGO  
Executive Committee Member*

*Brent Shaw*

*Organist, Eastridge Presbyterian Church and Lincoln AGO Dean*

# COMPOSITION COMPETITION JUDGES



**Michael McCabe**

Organist and Published composer with Paraclete publishing, ECS publishing

Michael McCabe had his early training in piano with Arthur Weinhardt, and organ with Elizabeth Karl. As a student at Creighton University, he was appointed the university organist and choir director. During a 20 year military career, various assignments provided McCabe with unique learning opportunities such as study with such notable musicians as Leo Sowerby, David McK. Williams, John McCreary, Florence White and Dale Wood. As a published composer, McCabe was elected to

ASCAP in 1972 and ASCAP credits include NBC Television, foreign and domestic recordings, and the Stockholm and Stuttgart Music Festivals.

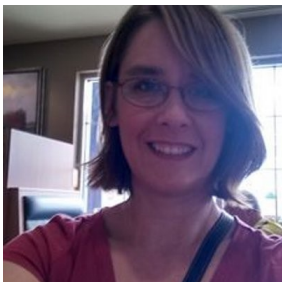


**Masako Bacon**

Director of Music/Organist and University Organist

Adjunct Organ Instructor and University Organist, Nebraska Wesleyan University. Dr. Masako Bacon received her DMA from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before moving to First Lutheran, she served at Westminster Presbyterian Church for 18 years – the longest-serving musician along with Boyd Bacon in Westminster's history. When Masako first came to Westminster, she was the interim. As a graduate student, the laws about international students meant the church could not

pay her for months. So she volunteered out of her good heart! When she received her doctorate, she came on as a full-time staff member. She now serves at First Lutheran church. She has distinguished herself as one of only a handful of people in the state to have been honored with the Associate status in the American Guild of Organists.



**Sara Schott**

Organist, Meadowlark Music owner, AGO communications director, past dean of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Sara Schott is the owner of Meadowlark Music Academy. She grew up on the farm right next to the one she currently lives on southwest of Scotland, South Dakota. She began taking piano lessons in the 4th grade, studying with Glee Deutscher. At the age of 16, she became organist for Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland, and began studying pipe organ with Eugene Brinkmeyer, organ professor for Mount Marty and Yankton colleges. After graduation from Scotland High School, Sara earned bachelor's degrees in journalism and music from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. At the Glenn Korff School of Music, she majored in organ performance, studying with George Ritchie. She pursued courses in church music, studying with Quentin Faulkner, and earned a minor in piano performance, studying with Mark Clinton. She served as Director of Music for American Lutheran Church (6 years) and Grace Lutheran Church (20 years), where she directed vocal and handbell choirs, a brass ensemble and other instrumentalists, and played the church's two pipe organs. In August 2018, Sara and her family moved back to the Scotland area. She is a member of the Music Teachers National Association, AGO, and the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.



**Colt Ballou**

Director of Music and Organist at Christ United Methodist Church

Dr. Ballou has served as Dean of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and music director at multiple area churches. Ballou has led several dynamic choral and orchestral community performances including Hadyn's Little Organ Mass in Lincoln and Langlais's choral compositions at Boys Town in Omaha.