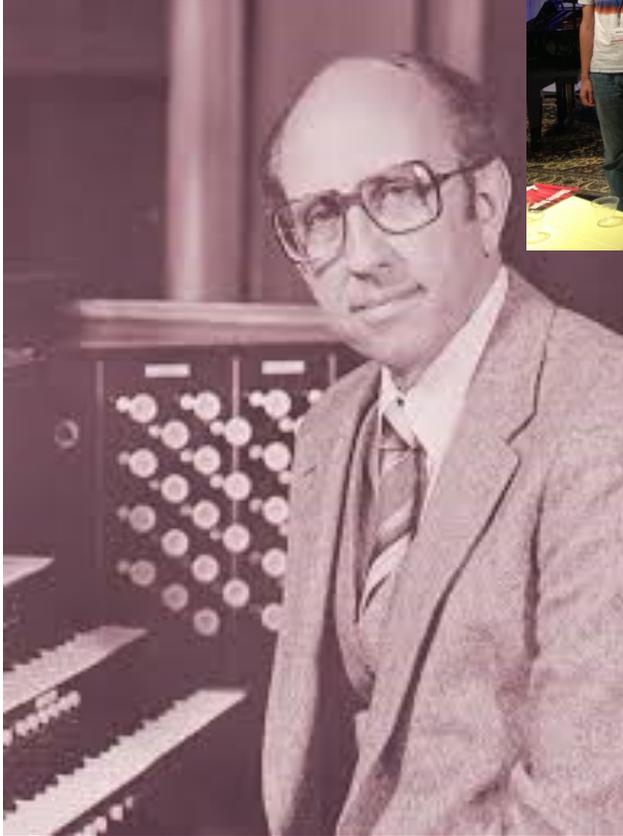


# Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



2020-2021



Excerpt from workshop video from the 2012 AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee

Tom Trenney  
Improvisation in Service Playing

Order the DVD online at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)

ARIEL MERIVIL  
ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF MUSIC

Dear friends and members of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists,

What an unusual time we live in! I am so thankful for AGO and each one of you doing so much work to help us find ways to stay connected, to worship, and to make music, even when we can't be together physically in ways we used to. Our amazing dean, Colt Ballou, is stepping down after a long tenure leading our chapter. Colt has recently had exciting family news he may want to share later as well as taken on additional responsibilities at his church. We are all so thankful for the amazing work he has done and the legacy of Sara Schott before him.



Our wonderful sub dean, Mark Miller, who does such amazing work with the treasures we have in our Lincoln Organ Showcase and the Bedient Pipe Organ Company, has asked if I would work with him by stepping up as Dean at this unusual and pivotal time in our history. I am looking forward to continuing working with him and our other wonderful board members during this time of being more "socially distant."

Thank you to members making these things possible!

-Scholarships - we have been entrusted with the generous gift of an amount of money to benefit students. We will get two scholarships established as soon as possible that will help benefit not only current students, including those at college, but also rural community pianists looking to take organ. What a gift that we as a chapter can ensure music can continue in the communities and churches in so much of our state. Thanks to the work of members Sinda Dux, Ryan Luckey, Laura Ross, Dr. Jeffrey Blersch, Lily Spader and others who have offered insight and helped things get going with this.

-Composition Competition - thanks to Ross Mosier who organized students and organists to join in the process of creating new music last year. Due to COVID19 the process and final recital had to be cancelled. He is working to get some of this going again and inviting others to join in. We hope that the final pieces could be livestreamed.

-Livestream program from UNL professor Dr. Marques Garrett - members of our chapter have donated to the Omaha AGO's online program with Dr. Garrett and the Omaha chapter has graciously invited our chapter to promote the event as "shared" or "co-sponsored." I am thankful for the amazing work the Omaha chapter has done on this. What a gift to hear from a Lincoln musician in our community doing so much at the University, an active church musician, and published organ composer.

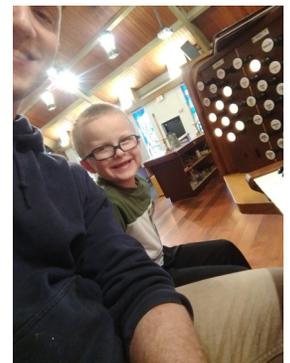
-Newsletters and other publications - you will receive another organ happenings shortly that I've enjoyed working on as a personal project. In addition to that, and the directory, I would like to have an email newsletter put together and sent out perhaps every other month when fewer in-person events are happening. All members are always welcome to submit anything for a newsletter or for a "Nebraska Organ Happenings."

When I look over our membership and community, I see multiple volunteers playing organ and piano for chapel services every week for at least 3 nursing homes/assisted living locations, I see retired and active music professors, I see at least two churches that have called me working on ways to celebrate their organ renovation projects even during times like this, I see people who say "I'm not an organist" but they faithfully play the few hymns they know by ear at their churches each and every week, I see so many organists frustrated and disappointed and not being able to lead the faithful in singing in-person at their churches but finding strength to find new ways of sharing music online, I see organists accompanying chants of psalms, hymns, jazz music, Hammond organs, or a keyboard for an outside communion service while they wait to return to the sanctuary. I called each of you at the beginning of the pandemic and plan on doing that again and will look forward to saying hello and hearing any ideas you might have for us. Thank you for making our community a better place and for sharing this love of music and the organ,

-Brent Shaw, Dean, Lincoln Chapter

American Guild of Organists

919-609-5362; organman77@gmail.com



**Meet our most recent new (or “new again”) members!**

Ariel Merivil



Sr. Mary Chiara



Paul Robinson



Morgan Cowell



Dr. Chelsea Vaught



Kaleb Wilkening



David Schmidt



Kimberly Pearce



Elizabeth Lemme



Fr. Troy Schweiger



Meet our new chaplain:

Please allow me to introduce myself as I begin my time as a member of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. I am a proud graduate of Pius X High School in Lincoln. I attended Catholic minor seminary at St. Philip Neri Seminary in Toronto, Canada and Catholic major seminary at St. Joseph Seminary in Younkers, New York. I was ordained a Catholic priest on May 27, 1995. I have served as Parochial Vicar at St. John in Lincoln and St. Cecilia in Hastings. I have also served as the pastor of St. Mary in Dawson, St. Anne in Shubert, St. Joseph in Colon, St. Mary in Cedar Bluffs, and St. James in Mead. In addition, I have taught at many of the Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Lincoln and served as the Guidance Counselor at Sacred Heart School in Falls City, Principal at Bishop Neumann Jr/Sr High School and Superintendent of the Hastings Catholic Schools. From 2011 to the present time I have had the honor of serving as Pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Lincoln. In 2015 the parish built a new spiritual home and we were honored to obtain an 1887 Pfeffer Organ from St. Mary Catholic Church in Muscatine, Iowa. This organ has been a wonderful addition to our worship space! While I do not have the skill of playing the organ myself, I am very supportive of the efforts to bring the unique beauty of the organ to our community. As we immerse ourselves in the beauty of this instrument I am convinced that we are able to encounter the beauty of Our Lord in that experience. I look forward to promoting this unique instrument with you.



***Fr. Troy Schweiger***

Pastor

St. Patrick Catholic Church

6111 Morrill AV

Lincoln, NE 68507

402-466-2752

<http://www.stpatricklincoln.com>

We are not the sum of our weaknesses and our failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us

## **Lincoln Chapter Mission Statement**

*The purpose of the Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is to ensure learning, connection, and inspiration for the organ community.*

Meet our wonderful volunteers  
who make up the executive committee!

### **Officers**

Dean, Brent Shaw

Sub-dean and Lincoln Organ Showcase Chair, Mark Miller

Secretary, Sinda Dux

Treasurer, Ryan Luckey

### **Other Elected Board Members**

Nancy Anderson

Priscilla Kliewer

Brian Lew

Ross Mosier

David Schmidt

Lily Spader

### **Special Thanks to:**

Fr. Troy Schweiger, Chaplain

Sara Schott, Communications Director

Nancy Anderson, Directory Chair

Bill McClung, Website

Colt Ballou, Immediate Past Dean

## **Programs and Community Calendar**

2020-2021 Season

*Unless otherwise indicated, programs are primarily livestream or online this year due to restrictions on recitals and gatherings at many locations due to the pandemic.*

### **Originally Aired September 20 at 7p.m.—Bach Aria Soloists**

Presented by Arts for the Soul from First Presbyterian Church. Still available to watch online.

### **Friday, October 23 at 7p.m.—Sing from the Heart**

Presented by Arts for the Soul from First Presbyterian Church

### **Friday, October 30 at 7p.m. - Silent Movie with Organ Accompaniment**

Film: Phantom of the Opera. Organist: Tom Trenney

Presented by Abendmusik from First-Plymouth Church

### **Saturday, November 7 at 10a.m.—Dr. Garrett Presentation**

Co-sponsored with the Omaha AGO Chapter

UNL Professor Dr. Marques Garrett presenting on African-American Organ Music

### **Sunday, November 15 at 3p.m.—Union College Student Recital**

Though primarily a bassoonist and vocalist, graphic design major and student AGO member, Jovan Cross will also play the organ. Limited in-person attendance.

### **November 29 at 4p.m.-Handel's Messiah Sing-a-long**

To benefit People City Mission—Presented by Abendmusik from First-Plymouth Church

### **December 6-Student Organist and Members Recital**

Will be available online with possible limited in-person attendance TBA

### **Advent Concordia University (Seward) Students Recital**

With Dr. Jeffrey Blersch. Online Details TBA

### **January 15—Applications due for the AGO/RICOS competition**

### **January or February—Tour and mini-recital at St. Patrick Church Havelock**

Number limited to a few at a time. Signup will be ahead of the event

### **March 20—Program with special guest**

Organized by Lincoln Chapter member, Sinda Dux

A presentation featuring ancient instruments and how they relate to our present organ stops

### **April 11—Livestream of online Chapter AGO/RICOS competition**

### **May TBA—Recordings from Composition competition livestream**

## A Tribute to Lincoln AGO Member Sharon Johnson

### Who was shot and killed on a Lincoln City Bus July 2020



Sharon Johnson was tragically shot on a city bus and died Thursday. I am blessed to have called Sharon a friend, fellow church member, organ student.

You might know Sharon different ways....she rode the bus almost every day, she was in the organist community...she volunteered at multiple nursing home and assisted living facilities.

Always advertising and supporting local library fundraisers, playing piano various places, providing music for chapel services for various chaplains around town, playing flute, handbells, singing in choirs, active in multiple Bible studies, the Corinthians Sunday School class and her Covenant Discipleship group, and more at First United Methodist in Lincoln. Sharon had been a faithful volunteer at many places at various times, including Southlake Village and Lancaster Manor Rehabilitation....I would attend events at various churches when possible, and often there she would be - supporting and worshiping with others. Baptist....UCC....methodist....Sharon was a faithful Christian just glad to be with others. The early service at First church won't forget all the wonderful music she shared....playing piano, flute, faithfully singing in the early service choir with Rosemary Thornton. She faithfully helped served communion at that service for many, many years.

I will never forget the first Sunday that we visited the methodist church. Sharon came over and was one of the first people to welcome us and with a huge smile on her face say "Welcome, I am SO glad you are here!"

Though she struggled with some disabilities and financial difficulties, she was a selfless person, demonstrating the love of her Savior in ways that put others first.

One night in one of the musical groups Sharon was a part of, a young person shared a prayer request and how they were struggling. Sharon, who barely had enough \$ for her own expenses, handed me a donation/gift to anonymously give to that young student. I was so moved by her selflessness, taking the parable in the Bible, where the widow who has almost nothing, gives what little she has. I am reminded of Jesus' words that the woman had given more than others with all their riches.

After she and I had only done organ lessons for a few weeks, she took part in an OLLI organ class where she played for other retired individuals. I'll never forget the huge smile and joy on her face when she share her music with others. It inspired a few others to take an interest in taking some organ lessons. Sharon loved music and loved sharing it with others.

One of my favorite memories of my time of full-time church ministry was an "anybody, everybody" worship time that my friends Cindy Newsham and Ben Leypoldt helped me put together. We had a wide diversity of people involved. Some who came included those who had disabilities in the church. Sharon faithfully came every week, played piano, helped set up chairs/other things as needed. If a new person came in to the room, Sharon would make sure to go over and greet them. She was a hugger....even if you had just met, she was going to give a hug, sharing that immense joy and love of people she had right away!

Sharon loved children, though she didn't have any of her own. She was a faithful volunteer every year I led, or was a part of, vacation Bible school. There she would be, doing the motions to the songs right along with the children, laughing and singing, reminding all the adults....these children were the reason we did what we did. I know the Lord brought Sharon into my life to prepare me for a new ministry with rearing children. She taught me patience, love, compassion, selflessness, friendship, and so much more.

"Whoever has done this for the least of these my brothers and sisters has done it for me." Few people exemplify this more than my friend Sharon.

Well done Thou good and faithful servant Sharon - enter into the joy of the Lord! You have "fought the fight" and "finished the race" well!

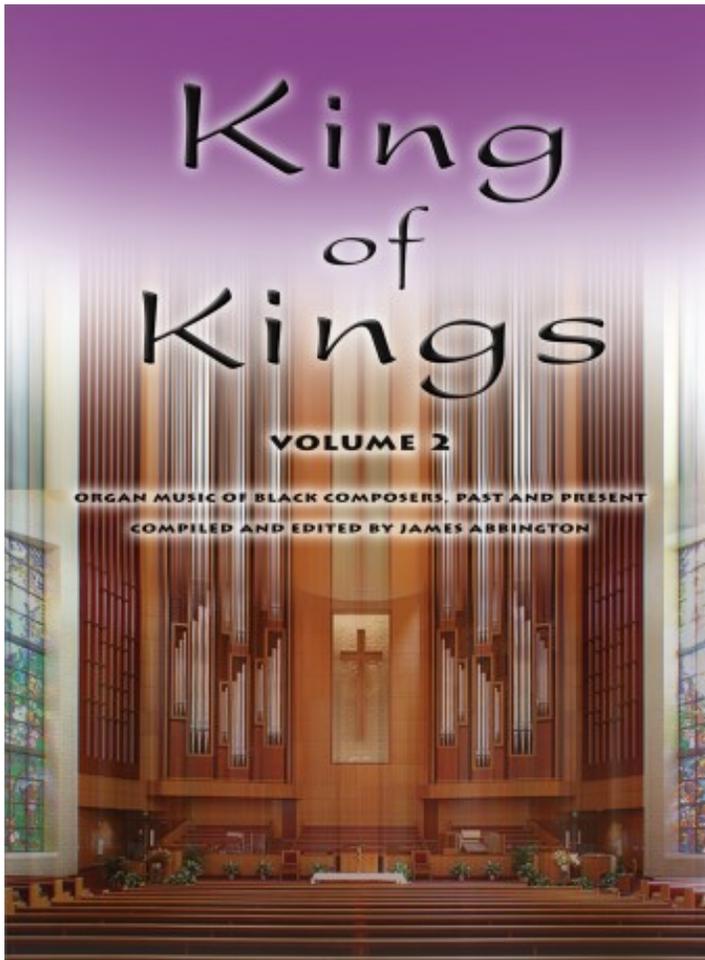
I look forward to the day we get to sing in that heavenly choir together (and if there's a hand bell part, I know you will be the first to volunteer!)

In Christ,

-Brent Shaw, July 2020

"For God so loved the world..."





**Composition by Nebraska composer Dr. Marques Garrett featured in volume 2 of the popular collection of organ music “King of Kings” published by GIA publications!**

**Description:**

Encompassing the late-19th century to the present, the works of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Florence B. Price, Calvin Fuller, Marques L. A. Garrett, and Fela Sowande are represented, as well as others. You will also find two spiritual arrangements by William Farley Smith that, until now, have been out of print. Brief biographical sketches of the composers are provided. The 12 compositions included in Volume 2 are as varied as the musicians who created them. Compiled and edited by James Abbington.

**Categories:** [African American Resources](#), [Keyboard](#), [Organ](#) **Number of Pages:** 60 **Format:** [Spiral](#) **Order:** <https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/king-of-kings-volume-2-print-g7489>

University of Nebraska-Lincoln ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC IN CHORAL ACTIVITIES AREA OF FOCUS: CONDUCTING, VOICE

PhD, Florida State University, 2018 MM, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2010 BA, Hampton University, 2006

A Virginia native, Marques L. A. Garrett (he/him/his) is an Assistant Professor of Music in Choral Activities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Glenn Korff School of Music. His responsibilities include conducting the auditioned Chamber Singers and non-auditioned University Chorale (soprano-alto) as well as teaching graduate choral literature. Before earning his PhD in Music Education (Choral Conducting) at Florida State University, he was the Director of Choral Activities at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, he holds an MM from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a BA from Hampton University. An active conductor, Dr. Garrett serves as a guest conductor or clinician with school, church, community, and festival/honor choirs throughout the country. In addition to his conducting classes at UNL, he leads conducting workshops at other universities and conferences. His formal conducting studies were with Dr. André J. Thomas, Dr. Carole J. Ott, Dr. Carl G. Harris, Jr., and Mr. Royzell Dillard.

A versatile voice that performs both as a baritone and countertenor, Dr. Garrett has sung with several community, church, and university groups as both a chorister and soloist. He was the baritone soloist for the Germantown Concert Chorus's performance of Haydn's *Missa in Augustiis*. His premiere as a countertenor in Dan Forrest's *Jubilate Deo* served as the work's European premiere in Limerick, Ireland. Additionally, he performed the role of Lil Lud in Bernstein's *White House Cantata* with the Tallahassee Community Chorus. Currently, he sings with First-Plymouth Congregational Church (NE) and Festival Singers of Florida. Dr. Garrett is an avid composer of choral and solo-vocal music whose compositions have been performed to acclaim by high school all-state, collegiate, and professional choirs including Seraphic Fire and the Oakwood University Aeolians. GIA Publications, Walton Music, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Hinshaw Music, G. Schirmer, Beckenhorst Press, and Carus-Verlag have published several of his compositions. As a researcher, his most advantageous topic is the non-idiomatic choral music of black composers. His lectures at state and regional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and at other local and national venues afford him the opportunity to showcase this underrepresented area of music. Dr. Garrett holds membership in the American Choral Directors Association; American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers; National Collegiate Choral Organization; and Pi Kappa Lambda. With the National Association of Negro Musicians, he currently serves as the national scholarship chair.





Pre-COVID ORGANIST SIGHTINGS! Chase Crispin (Eastridge Presbyterian Church Children's Music Director); Loretta Love (Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Music Director, playing organ at another church for an AGO program). Rebekah Steward (Union College organ student sharing music at Piedmont SDA Church); David Campbell (playing organ at Piedmont SDA Church); David Schmidt (playing organ at Cathedral of the Risen Christ).



## ORGANIST SIGHTINGS

ROSS MOSIER

**Organist, Music Director and Media Director at First Presbyterian Church of Wahoo**

Where he oversees a diverse and vibrant music program, plays organ for worship, directs the choirs, helps with various programs, and currently helps develop their online ministry for church members, including filming and editing worship services. Ross is a student at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Ross is overseeing a renovation project for the organ where the console at the church will be getting a full gutting and be renovated to be fully digital as well as adding more pistons.





## **Local organist spotlight:**

### **Paul Robinson, Director of Music and Worship at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Lincoln**

[https://journalstar.com/st-paul-umc-hires-director-of-music-and-worship-arts/article\\_059b33e8-0079-55ed-8361-6ea1c2cf6c2e.html](https://journalstar.com/st-paul-umc-hires-director-of-music-and-worship-arts/article_059b33e8-0079-55ed-8361-6ea1c2cf6c2e.html)

A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music in New York City (vocal performance), Robinson took a six-year detour managing health clubs in Southern California and running a personal training studio in his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri before being drawn back to his musical roots. During his time in St. Louis, he frequently performed with the St. Louis Symphony, the Bach Society of St. Louis and Union Avenue Opera.

In 2013, Robinson felt called to the music ministry and shortly thereafter, he and his family were on their way to First Presbyterian Church in Rapid City, South Dakota. He directed the Chancel Choir and Praise Team and served as the organist for Sunday services.

An avid composer, Robinson's choral and instrumental pieces are regularly presented as a part worship. He has recently been engaged as a featured soloist or directed performances with the Dakota Choral Union, Black Hills Community Theater, Black Hills Playhouse and Black Hills Symphony Orchestra.

He is married to Martha, and they have two daughters – Emsley and Astoria.

Robinson succeeds Dr. William Wyman, who led St. Paul's choral music program for 41 years. Wyman, an internationally recognized choral leader, recently retired from St. Paul and his position as director of choral activities at Nebraska Wesleyan University.



## How Nancy Faust and Her Organ Set the Tone for America's Pastime

By Tonya Malinowsky From August 30, 2020 on ESPN. [https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/\\_/id/29705268/how-nancy-faust-organ-set-tone-baseball?platform=amp](https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/29705268/how-nancy-faust-organ-set-tone-baseball?platform=amp)

"I loved the name 'Bell,'" she said. "There were a couple of ballplayers with that last name and they'd strike out and I could play 'One Less Bell to Answer' or 'Ring My Bell' or 'Tubular Bells' [from the horror movie 'The Exorcist']. That's why it was always fun to play for visiting players, because the names always changed." "Har-old, Har-old." Hall of Famer

Baines has Nancy Faust to thank for that intro. She mostly changed up the song for each at-bat, but some players earned their own personal anthem. For Dick Allen's seemingly unlimited home run production in 1972 (he hit 37 for the White Sox that year), Nancy bestowed upon him the overture to "Jesus Christ Superstar." This would become, as we know it today, walk-up music. "She did her own thing. Like Dick Allen's 'Superstar,'" said Bill Melton, a White Sox third baseman in the 1970s. "If she couldn't think of anything, she'd ask you for your particular song, but most of the time we left it up to her. She had such a good mind for that stuff." In its infancy, the walk-up soundtrack wasn't always music, per se. Take right fielder and DH Harold Baines, who mentioned Nancy in his 2019 Hall of Fame induction speech because ahead of each at-bat, she led the crowd in a chant of his name -- like a childhood dream come to life. "It'd be late in the ballgame and there'd be a whole stand of people saying your name over and over with her playing to it. It'd be a tight ballgame, eighth or ninth inning, I'm coming up and 70% of the time I end up getting a hit to win the game, and that became the famous 'Har-old, Har-old,'" Baines said. "As the years went on, I'd see some of the players I'd play against and they'd say, 'Har-old, Har-old!'" Nancy Faust stepped up to the plate and gave Rosita a home. Today she has Mandy and Gigi to keep her company. ANY STORY ABOUT Nancy wouldn't be complete without a mention of the day she came to work to play the organ like every other day before, but on this day she left with a new pet. See, the door prize that night was an advanced-age swaybacked donkey that went unclaimed. In the winner's defense, the options for where one could feasibly keep a pet donkey in the Chicago metro area are presumably limited. Nancy didn't want to see her shipped back to the amusement park, so she took her in, named her Rosita and gave her a loving home for the remainder of her years. After 41 seasons, 2010 was Nancy's last behind the keyboard. Her final sign-off? Madonna's "This Used to Be My Playground."

Now 73, she still plays for special occasions here and there and makes an appearance or two at spring training, as she lives part time in Arizona. Prior to this season, her arrangement of the national anthem was still played at stadiums around the country. Although Rosita died, Nancy has two other pet donkeys, Mandy and Gigi. She tunes in to a game here and there on the radio, this season listening closely for how the manufactured crowd noise and the music sound. If she didn't know better, she says, she'd think it was a real crowd -- but knowing better is the strange part. When asked about some current players, she lights up at the possibilities of songs to go with their names. We talk about Aaron Judge (the "Law & Order" theme song, "I Fought the Law"), Mike Trout ("Under the Sea," "Baby Shark") and Mookie Betts ("Viva Las Vegas," "The Gambler"). On the walls of her music room at home in the Chicago suburbs, memorabilia abounds. There is a gold record from Mercury Records, presented to her for repopularizing "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye." There is a letter from President Barack Obama, a longtime White Sox fan, congratulating her on retirement that reads, in part: "Over the course of your career, you have demonstrated the ability of music to harness the energy of a crowd, capture the excitement of a moment and leave a lasting mark on our memories." It's hard to overstate just how understated Nancy is about the whole thing. The lens of humility through which she views her career is so sharp that she doesn't really see what all the fuss is about. It isn't apathy or meekness masquerading as modesty, just a true, deep gratitude for the 41 seasons she had at the park. As we spend this season at home, re-creating the ballpark in our minds one sensation at a time, the sound of the organ rises over the din of the crowd as a signal to cheer, a talisman of a time and a place to which we can't wait to return. "Nancy, you could arguably say, really helped the entertainment of the game and helped evolve how music is in today's game," said Jeff Szyal, a White Sox scoreboard operator who worked with Nancy from the early '80s through her retirement. "She kept the organ alive, a huge part of baseball history. I just think her legacy is the best organist the game has ever seen."

Thank you to our own Jerry Pawlek, Lincoln resident and officer for the River City Theatre Organ Society, for all his wonderful music many years as organist for the College World Series in Omaha. Check out <http://www.rctos.com/> for theatre organ videos and more!



**Organist Sightings!**

**Marcia Wiebers at St. Mark's UMC in Lincoln  
Iesha Finney Clanton ringing the carillon for  
Juneteenth**

**Future organist! (daughter of Danielle Driscoll at  
St. Patrick's Catholic in Havelock)**

**Kaleb Wilkening, organist at St. Andrew's Lutheran  
in Lincoln**



Congratulations to **DAVID CAMPBELL** on his performances of one of the Handel organ concertos with members of the Union College orchestra at various churches, including pictured here Northeast SDA Church. David is pictured right with his long time friend and mentor Keith Riese who has served as one of the volunteer organists at College View SDA church. David's teachers have included Marcia Wiebers on piano and Brent Shaw on organ.





**Thank you to University  
of Nebraska-Lincoln  
professors  
Dr. Christopher Marks  
and Dr. Clark Potter for  
their amazingly  
beautiful recital of viola  
and organ music shared  
at First-Presbyterian  
Church in Lincoln at the  
beginning of the year!**

**Dr. Brian Lew, Director of Music Ministries at Eastridge Presbyterian, will travel to First Presbyterian in Dubuque, IA in November. The 19<sup>th</sup> C. Hinners & Albertsen organ will be played for the first time during the new appointment of the Rev. Stephanie Ells. Lincoln cellist Dr. Elizabeth Grunin will be accompanied on the organ with works from the Baroque and Renaissance.**





**Church Spotlight:  
THE WAY OF HOLINESS  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**

**Pastor Peter Ebbens**

**Organist Cheryl Ebbens**

Services (check for correct information due to COVID) are Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings.

We give thanks to God for the long time and continuing music ministry of organ Cheryl, leading her people in the singing of beloved hymns from Just a Closer Walk with Thee, to I'll Fly Away, and It is Well With My Soul. Cheryl answered the call of God to play the organ one Sunday when the former organist was sick and the pastor, Peter's father, went down the aisle to where she was sitting and asked her to play! Nervously, she said "yes!" to the Spirit's call.

