



Chiff Chat

Newsletter of the
Lincoln Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

September 2022

Welcome Back!

Welcome to a new season of events sponsored by *your* chapter of the American Guild of Organists! As you may know, I was asked in December to assume the role of Dean of our chapter. I am grateful to Brent Shaw for his work as Dean and for his wisdom and guidance during our transition period. Thank you, Brent! I am happy to report that vacancies on our board have been filled and we now have a full and energetic board, one that is comprised of both familiar *and* new faces.

We will be hosting a welcome back potluck dinner and music swap on Monday, September 19 at St. Mark's on the Campus (see announcement below). This is a great opportunity to come and network with fellow colleagues, meet some new friends, and come home with some new music to try. We hope to see you there!

Our meetings during this past winter and spring have been largely centered on the question of how best to resume chapter programming and activities following the disruption to our usual course of events caused by the pandemic. Can there even be a return to the "usual course of events" in a post-pandemic world? Or has COVID provided us with the opportunity to rethink how we serve our members and act as advocates for the organ? We have many ideas, but, we aren't sure we have concrete answers to all the questions. So, I would *love* to hear from you! The word "your" in the first sentence of the newsletter is italicized for a reason – to emphasize that the board is here to serve you and this chapter. Please feel free to email me at jeff.blersch@gmail.com and let me know how the chapter might best help you, be it in your role as an organist or as a lover of the organ.

One of the things that I intend to do is to resume the monthly chapter newsletter. So, look for *Chiff Chat* in your email inboxes around the first of every month so that you can stay up to date with chapter events and other musical opportunities in and around our area. If you have events that you would like the chapter to know about, please send them to me and I will be happy to include them in the newsletter.

Happy practicing!

Jeff Blersch

Meet Your Board

Our board is made up of ten members of the chapter (four officers and six members at large) who have agreed to assist with tasks associated with chapter programming and the Lincoln Organ Showcase. Our current board members are:

Dean	Jeff Blersch
Sub-Dean	Mark Miller
Secretary	Kaleb Wilkening
Treasurer	Ryan Luckey
At Large	Nancy Anderson
	Priscilla Kliewer
	Brian Lew
	Carol McDaniel
	Ross Mosier
	Paul Soulek

Chapter Pot-Luck Dinner and Music Swap

Monday, September 19, St. Mark's on the Campus

1309 R Street, Lincoln

6:00 pm dinner; 7:00 pm music swap

What is better than a good old potluck to give us the opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces and meet some new colleagues and friends? Come join us at St. Mark's on September 19! Bring a favorite dish of yours to share. Beverages (lemonade, iced tea, coffee, and water) and table settings will be provided thanks to Ross Mosier and St. Mark's.

If you have some organ music that you no longer use (or that you have duplicate copies of!), bring them along. In return, feel free to take some new-to-you music home with you. If you don't have any music that you're looking to divest of, come anyway! Several of our board members have a lot of music that they will bring, so there will be plenty of music to look through and take home.

Parking is available on the streets surrounding the church in metered spots surrounding the church. Metered parking (you don't need to pay after 6:00 pm) is also available in the parking lot directly to the EAST of the church. Additional parking is also available in the parking garage on 13th and Q (Larson Building.) The event will take place in the Parish Hall, which is the room on the WEST side of the courtyard.

Coming Soon - Scholarships Available!

The Lincoln Chapter of the AGO very excited to begin offering scholarships in the amount of \$500 per year to organists of any age, beginning or advanced, who will study with a teacher who is a current member of our chapter. The scholarship money should primarily be used to assist with the cost of lessons but may also be used to purchase organ shoes and music. Please note that the student does not need to be a member of the AGO to receive a scholarship. A simple application form will appear on our website soon. When it is ready, you will be notified through an email blast.

These scholarships are a wonderful and exciting way to encourage young people in their study of the organ! Do you know anyone who would benefit from this program? Please tell them about this great opportunity.

Upcoming Events

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| Sunday, September 18 | Lauren Jelencovich, soprano
Art for the Soul Music & Fine Arts Series
First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, 7:00 pm
www.fpclincoln.org |
| Monday, September 19 | AGO Potluck Dinner and Music Swap
St. Mark's on the Campus, 6:00 pm dinner
1309 R Street, Lincoln |
| Sunday, September 25 | Abendmusik: We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace
First-Plymouth Congregational Church, 4:00 pm
www.abendmusik.org |
| Sunday, September 25 | Peter Sykes, organist
St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha, 3:00 pm
<i>A creation-themed concert, including movements of his own transcription of Gustav Holst's The Planets.</i>
https://www.cathedralartsproject.org/calendar |
| Monday, September 26 | Peter Sykes presents: "Preparation at the Keyboard to play Early music with a historically informed performance practice"
St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha, 6:30 pm
<i>Park in the south lot, enter through the south door with the ramp, and come to the loft</i> |
| Saturday, October 1 | Wesleyan Weekend Music Showcase Concert
O'Donnell Auditorium, 4:30 pm
www.nebrwesleyan.edu/performances |

Lincoln Organ Showcase is Back!

The Lincoln AGO is excited to announce the return of the long-running Lincoln Organ Showcase concert series. Thanks to generous sponsors and gifts, we will now offer these concerts free of charge as a gift to the community. Please help us promote this series in your own parishes, communities, and on social media!

James Kealey

Sunday, November 13, 2022
4:00 pm
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
6001 A Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

First Prize winner of the 2022 American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, James Kealey opens the LOS series on the Three manual Reuter organ at Holy Trinity Episcopal. He has been honored as one of the '20 under 30' by *The Diapason*, an accolade awarded to some of the most successful artists in the field and has performed extensively in England, the United States, and Europe.

Alexander Meszler

Sunday, March 19, 2023
4:00 pm
St. Mark's on the Campus
1309 R Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

Recently appointed College Organist at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, Meszler is an organist named of the *The Diapason's* '20 under 30.' His performances and research aim to inspire new perspectives on the organ and its capabilities beyond the liturgy. With Kimberly Marshall, he co-created "Walls of Sound: The Ecology of the Borderlands" which brought together collaborators from across the disciplines of music, science, theater, art, and activism.

Adam Pajan

Sunday, April 23, 2023
4:00 pm
Southwood Lutheran Church
4301 Wilderness Hills Blvd.
Lincoln, Nebraska

Adam Pajan serves on the organ faculty at the University of Oklahoma and is Artist in Residence at Saint John's Episcopal Church in Tulsa. He has been a prize winner at multiple prestigious organ competitions and his performing career has taken him across the United States and to tours of Germany, England, and Switzerland.

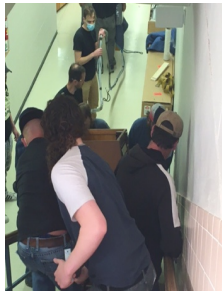
Introducing the new Music Building at Concordia University



In April 2021, Concordia University in Seward broke ground on a new 46,000 square foot facility which will be home to Concordia's music department. To meet current building, fire, and accessibility codes, the plans included demolishing and replacing the east wing of the 1966 structure and renovating the remaining west wing. After many delays, the department is expected to move into the

facility during Christmas break. Concordia looks forward to inviting the chapter to Seward when the building is completed for tours and events!

To prepare to empty the building before demolition, Mark, Ryan, and the crew from Bedient Pipe Organ Company spent several months disassembling and packing each of Concordia's 10 practice organs and taking copious notes on repairs to be made to each instrument. A 14-man crew from Bedient and Nebraskaland Moving then spent two days moving pipe trays, consoles, and windchests around tight corners, up a narrow staircase and out of the building after making a tight 90-degree turn on a small stairwell landing. These crews did amazing work and the instruments have been stored in an unfinished science classroom in the Dunklau Center right next to the music building. The console for the Casavant recital hall organ was removed and the chests covered, sealed, and protected from dust with a negative pressure, filtered blower. The crews from Bedient and Nebraskaland Moving will meet again on November 1 and 2 to move the organs back into the music building, but they are thankful for the new hospital-sized elevator that will eliminate the need for the steps.



Above: A Moeller pipe organ is taken down the hall, up the stairs, and finally out the side door.

Below: The storage room neatly packed by the Bedient crew and the Casavant recital hall organ is being prepared for hibernation.

