

PipeNotes

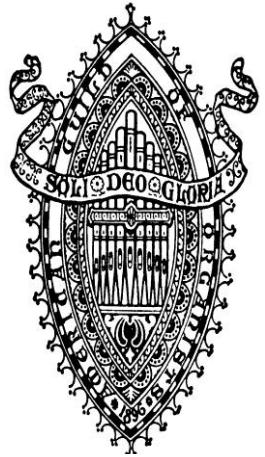
American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

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www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 66 – December 2019



God Jul och Gott Nytt År
Hyvää Joulua ja Onnellista Uutta Vuotta
Joyeuses Fêtes **Buone Feste**
Gåedelig Jul og Gott Nyttår
Season's Greetings
Frohe Feiertage
God Jul og Gott Nytt År
كل عام وانتم بخير
Linksmy Švenčią
Felices Fiestas **Prettige Feestdagen**
Bula Vinaka
تبریکات فصلی
Happy Holidays
From
The American Guild of Organists
Milwaukee Chapter

줄거운 연휴 되시길 바랍니다
メリークリスマス
Bula Vinaka
크리스마스
Boas Festas
Schöni Fäschttäg
Cräctun Fericit
祝圣诞节快乐
تبریکات فصلی
祝聖誕節快樂

Happy Holidays
From
The American Guild of Organists
Milwaukee Chapter

Chapter Directory
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Winter and Spring 2020

AGO Milwaukee Chapter Up-Coming Programs

March
Annual Organ Crawl
(watch PipeNotes and the website for more information)

May 17, 2020
2:00 Annual Meeting
3:00 Member's Recital
Sacred Heart Seminary and
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414-276-0499 (land line)

PipeNotes is published monthly, with the deadline for articles the 20th of the preceding month.
pneditor@agomilwaukee.org

December 2019

- 13 (Fri) 7:00 Joyful Witness Choir
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1010 Adams Ave
North Fond du Lac, WI
- 13 (Fri) 7:30 Christmas in the Basilica
Bel Canto Chorus
Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. Sixth St
Milwaukee, WI
- 14 (Sat) 12:00 Christmas in the Basilica
Bel Canto Chorus
Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. Sixth St
Milwaukee, WI
- 14 (Sat) 2:00 Joyful Witness Choir
Morningstar Lutheran Church
N171 W20131 Highland Rd
Jackson, WI

- 14 (Sat) 7:00 Nowell Christmas Concert
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
W156 N8131 Pilgrim Rd
Menomonee Falls, WI
- 14 (Sat) 7:30 Christmas in the Basilica
Bel Canto Chorus
Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. Sixth St
Milwaukee, WI
- 14 (Sat) 7:30 Chant Claire Chamber Choir
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI
- 15 (Sun) 4:00 Christmas in the Basilica
Bel Canto Chorus
Basilica of St. Josaphat
2333 S. Sixth St
Milwaukee, WI

18 (Wed) 12:15 Milwaukee Liederkranz
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

January 2020

- 1 (Wed) 2:00 French Organ Noels
Karen Beaumont, Organ
Salem Lutheran Church
2400 N. Cramer
Milwaukee, WI
- 5 (Sun) Epiphany Choral Vespers
Music at Historic Trinity
Luther Memorial Chapel
3833 N. Maryland Ave
Shorewood, WI
- 5 (Sun) 3:30 A Service of Lessons and
Carols for Epiphany
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
914 E. Knapp St
Milwaukee, WI

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FROM THE KEYBOARD
of Sheri Masiakowski

Ahhh..... Memories sweetly sentimental float through my mind.... I'm an eager 5th grader heading to my first piano lesson with Sr. Concessa in the convent at St. Matthias. The succeeding years brought different teachers—6th grade Sr. Stephen, 7th grade Sr. Victura, 8th grade Sr. Bernadelle. I'm laughing out loud. Did I wear them out one by one? As I think back to college days at Alverno (and the spunky person I was) Sr. Mary Jane Wagner must have perpetually rolled her eyes at my antics.

Thanksgiving brings these sentimental thoughts. Who began your musical lineage? There are many life lessons that I carry in the present from my mentors. Did you “stick to the page” or did you share other daily events as part of your lessons? Were your teachers an other significant adult in your life? I feel a need to thank these folks and if they have passed, to ask them to pray for and watch over me.

Have you carried on that tradition? Are or have you been that significant adult to your students or choir members? A musical parent and more... Begin a new litany. As you looked back in the previous paragraph to your personal formation dwell now on your influence in this rippling circle of relationships. With whom did you shoulder the load through heavy times? Who made you laugh, cry? :) Likewise, who cried or laughed because of you?

Our wheelbarrow has been the notes. The notes evolved to phrases, to A/B forms, to sonatas... and to postludes. Give thanks for your “note-worthy genealogy”.

* * * *

Our OHS/AGO concert at St. Francis Parish on November 3rd featured Susan DeMarco, director of liturgical music at St. Francis Borgia in Cedarburg. She shared some of her thesis work at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas.

As part of her MSM she is translating a doctoral dissertation on the Torres Organ Manuscript. Her master's thesis is “Spanish Chant in the Catholic Mass.” For the St. Francis program she played several Spanish compositions: *Tiento de Tiple de Séptimo Tono* of Francisco Correa de Arauxo (1584-1654), *Fuga, Obra de 7 Tono* and *Batalla de Torres* of the composer in her thesis—Joseph de Torres y Martínez Bravo (1670-1738). We wish Susan well as she finishes her degree. She studies organ with Dr. Jeong-Suk Bae. I apologize that I don't have a photo of Susan on hand. Watch upcoming issues of *The American Organist* to catch a glimpse of her in the North Central Region news section.

* * * *

As Christmas approaches I think of my Thanksgiving remarks above. We create and revive memories with the hymns, anthems and keyboard compositions we present. We may be annoyed after the umpteenth verse of a well-worn carol. Those who sing these pieces in the context of our churches find literal “comfort and joy” in their reappearance.

I love the message of the Wexford Carol

*Consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done in sending his beloved son
With Mary holy we should pray, to God with love this Christmas Day
In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.*

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL



May your Christmas be holy and joyous!
May you consume the beverage or confection of your choice.
And may Christmas conclude with a well-deserved nap.

I will hold all of you close to my heart...

Sheri



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Josaphat in Milwaukee, as an organ student
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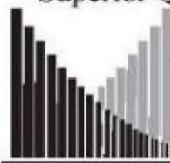
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From the Archives

Liz Walloch, Archivist/Historian, AGO Milwaukee Chapter

Unwrapping the Gift and Piping out 1969

As the Chapter wraps up celebrating 100 years, it is fitting to share highlights from the Chapter's 50th year, 1969. The Chapter hosted a National Mid-Winter Conclave of the American Guild of Organists on December 29-31, 1969. As 1969 and the decade are escorted to the archives, there is excitement to usher in the new decade. With the delay from the projected completion of the Milwaukee Performing Arts Center (PAC) from December 1968 to October 1969, the music scene has been waiting. They have been waiting for the installation of the 54 rank Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ in Uihlein Hall. Many Chapter members served on the Advisory Committee sharing their vision. If you served on this Advisory Committee, the Archives would like to hear from you, send me an email. Your insights on the selection process and installation of this instrument are of interest to us musicians. On October 18 and 19, 1969 E. Power Biggs played the new instrument for the first time as part of the opening concert of the Milwaukee Symphony Season.

The Conclave's program is sure to delight music lovers and musicians alike, just as our 100th did this past June. Let's fill our mug with our favorite beverage and get comfortable. May your experience following along during this Conclave be a welcomed vacation in the midst of a hectic schedule, and a source of musical inspiration.

Welcome to Milwaukee

"As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, the Milwaukee Chapter has planned a musically inspiring and stimulating Conclave. Each Conclave event will take you to one of our newest churches, organs or auditoriums. Every program has been planned to present music of wide interest with emphasis on the new and different."

For those members who attended this Conclave, you were witnessing chapter history and I know that you could share another dimension with your experience on this 50th anniversary celebration.

Let's join in--

December 29—At 3 pm Monday the Conclave Officially Opened at St. John's Cathedral and was led by Searle Wright, National President and Edward A. Wise, Conclave Chairman. The opening 3:15 pm recital was by Simon Preston at the console of the 74 rank Noehren Organ. His program was a mix of familiar composers of J.S. Bach, W.A. Mozart, Hindemith, Franck, Lennox Berkley, a new composer for me and he closed his program with Messiaen, Les Corps Glorieux.

Jay Joslyn of the Milwaukee Sentinel concert review dated Dec. 30 wrote "he (Simon Preston) proved himself a brilliant technician in a program that ranged from the organic grandeur of Bach's 'Fantasia in c minor'...his control, however was impeccable in the lightness and gaiety that marked 'Fantasia in f minor and major' by Mozart...and the lyrical, singing phrases of Hindemith's 'Sonata III.'" This afternoon's Cathedral concert attracted a very good audience of 500 persons and the first gift was unwrapped.

Upon returning to the hotel there was a reception for performing artists with time for dinner on your own. To bring the first day of the Conclave to a close, there was an 8 pm concert of Chamber music, Baroque and Modern. This concert was led by the faculty members of the Wisconsin-College-Conservatory of Milwaukee located on the campus of Alverno College, Alphonsa Hall. This concert wrapped up the first day and unwrapped the second gift.

December 30—Tuesday's program started at Trinity Presbyterian Church on North Sherman Blvd. with a 10 am recital with Patrick Wedd of Toronto Canada. This concert served as his United States debut for the young Canadian organist. He took command of the 48 rank Schantz (1967) with his program of J.S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, Max Reger, and Robert Schumann. After an intermission, the second half of the program included Saint-Saens, Widor and he also closed with a Messiaen piece, the L'Ascension. A review by Jay Joslyn from the Milwaukee Sentinel on Dec. 31 wrote "Wedd, a senior at Toronto University, is an understanding musician adept at the lyrical line complimentary to the French taste in music. The instrument is bright and light in sound and perfectly suited to the rather modern architecture of its setting." This morning's recital attracted 150 persons and the third gift was unwrapped.

From the morning Milwaukee location, the attendees traveled by bus to the campus of Carroll College for the afternoon recital in Shattuck Hall. Robert Lodine the recitalist, from our neighboring state of Illinois, offered a program on the 69 rank Schantz organ. He included 2 movements from Vierne's Symphonie No. 6 (1931), 2 pieces by Litaize of a Scherzo (1939) and Variations sur un Noel Angevin (1939) and closed with 3 pieces of Sowerby of Rhapsody (1949), Prelude on "Capel" (1956) and Passacaglia (Symphony in G major, 1932). Here are highlights from the Dec. 31 review by Jay Joslyn. "The performer was one of the Midwest's foremost organists. Robert Lodine, organist, choirmaster and carillonneur of St. Chrysostom's church, Chicago, and professor of organ at the American Conservatory in Chicago. A program of romantic 20th century works displayed the full panoply of the organ's potential and the sensitivity and skill of the performer." An audience of 200 persons was present for this afternoon recital and the fourth gift unwrapped.

With free time after the recital attendees took in the art exhibit and toured Shattuck Music Center. Then it was time to return to Milwaukee for a 7:30 pm evening event of choral works at Ascension Lutheran Church. This evening's program under the direction of Ray J. Dietrich included seasonal works of Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, arr. by Hugo Distler and Glory to God in the Highest by Randall Thompson. A brass ensemble joined for three pieces of In dulci Jublio by Praetorius, Christmas Cantata by Pinkham and Christmas Suite for Brass Choir and Organ arr. by Thomas Trimborn. This evening choral concert attracted 300 persons and the fifth gift was unwrapped.

So far, the statement in the Welcome of the Conclave that "every program has been planned to present music of wide interest with emphasis on the new and different" is true to their promise!

To wrap up the second day, the buses headed to Pabst Brewing Company on Juneau Avenue for some brew tasting in the Pabst Blue Ribbon Hall. It was a great way to socialize, meet and mingle the rest of the evening. No designated driver needed, they were riding the bus back to the hotel. I can imagine a very good time was had by all!

December 31—Wednesday, the final day of the Conclave started with the Dean's breakfast followed by a 10 am recital at St. John's Cathedral. But wait, stop the buses headed for the Cathedral, there is a location change. Since the program booklet was printed the Cathedral location has changed. "We are extremely happy to announce that since our brochure was printed, arrangements have been made for Marilyn Keiser to play her recital on the 54 rank Aeolian-Skinner organ in Uihlein in the new Center for the Performing Arts." This is an historical event for all attendees and the general public to witness this event. Ms. Keiser is the first to perform a solo organ recital on this pipe organ. Walter Monfried of the Journal Staff wrote "Miss Keiser is a leading New York organist and obviously a musician of virtuoso attainment. ...she achieved the most powerful and yet more delicate of effects and always with clean articulation and a refined feeling for the rhythm and the flexible phrase. The program was far out of the ordinary. The opening number was the Mendelssohn 'Prelude and Fugue in c minor,' typically Mendelssohn in its joyousness and immaculately set forth. A distinct novelty was 'Pentecost Sunday' by contemporary Richard Feliciano. This involved organ, a tape recorder and unison vocalizing by seven Milwaukee men. Alec Wyton, New York composer, was on hand to direct the proceedings. They began and ended with the men whispering 'alleluia.' Between were all the sounds associated with the electronic output from tinkle and chirp to volcanic eruption. Wyton enjoyed the work so much he repeated it." Of note for this historical recital is the price of admission-- \$2.50/adults and \$1.50/students. This venue attracted 1,500 persons for this 10 am concert and unwrapped the sixth gift.

After lunch, the church of St. Rita in West Allis was the location for the 1:30 pm concert. This concert was of special local interest as Sister Mary Theophane Hytrek will perform a premiere performance of her "Psalms for Organ and Instruments" on the 27 rank Reuter. She was accompanied by Ascension Lutheran brass ensemble and percussionist Joseph Laspisa. This work was commissioned by the Milwaukee Chapter in memory of Dr. O. M. J. Wehrley, Milwaukee music leader and past dean of the Chapter. From a concert review by Jay Joslyn, "the premier performance of Sister Mary Theophane Hytrek's 'Psalms for Organ and Instruments' Wednesday earned a standing ovation at a concert at St. Rita's Catholic Church. With the composer at the organ, Edward Zielinski conducting the brass and percussion ensemble and Anita McKnight at the harp, innovative instrumental textures were explored. The work is a setting of Psalms 62 and 118 and (36). It has a distinctive contemporary flavor that retains the grandeur of the Biblical inspiration. Most effective was the placement of the organ sound against harp figures accompanied by bell-like tones and tympani in the percussion." This concert attracted 700 persons and unwrapped the seventh gift.

The three day "festival" of organ music was concluded at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church with a 3:30 pm recital by Frederick Swann, organist at Riverside Church, New York City. Jay Joslyn wrote "This was a case of perfect match all around. The organ, one of the area's best, is perfectly suited to the church's architecture. Swann, one of the nation's leading organist's, was the perfect choice to show off its potential" on the 68 rank Casavant. "Here was majesty of Bach (Prelude and Fugue in C Major), Maurice Durufle (the chorale and variations on 'Veni Creator') and Leo Sowerby (the 1st movement of his G Major Symphony). An added excellence was the surrealistic 'Second Fantasy' by Jehan Alain that transcended the other limitations." This concluding concert attracted 300 persons and unwrapped the eighth gift bringing the Conclave to a close.

By now your mug is probably empty and your inspiration has been elevated to new heights. During the Conclave, there has been an octave of gifts unwrapped by the recitalists, choral groups and the premiere performance of a commissioned organ work. However, as musicians there is one more gift to unwrap. It is the gift of music. We musicians continue to unwrap this gift with every note we play. With our musical leadership as organists, choral directors, and much more, we lead our assemblies in Worship. Let us always remember for whom we play—"Soli Deo Gloria = Glory to God alone."

Happy Holidays and a Blessed New Year!

Sources for my article came from the 1969 Conclave Booklet and various music reviews from The Milwaukee Journal and The Milwaukee Sentinel newspapers, 1969.

WANTED

Historians

Since our AGO Milwaukee Chapter is 100 years old!

Liz Walloch has organized the archives and we are looking for individuals who may be interested in writing about topics of interest from the archives.

-or-

Maybe you would like to interview one of our members and share their story!

Bring your creativity to highlight the AGO Milwaukee Chapter!

Connect with:

Audrey Rhinehart, musicministry@stkiliancong.org or
John Schubring, john.schubring@gmail.com

WANTED

Grant Writers

Have a passion for helping to make great things happen? Know how to explore and connect with foundation/grant opportunities? Have the knowledge/skills to complete grant applications? Have time to see a project through to completion?

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