The American Guild of Organists
Milwaukee Chapter

Wishes You A
Blessed Holiday Season
January Jubilee 2017

Great Lakes Region
Fox Valley (IL) and Southwest Suburban Chapters
Saturday, January 28, 2017 | 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Northern Illinois January Jubilee
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
203 South Kensington Avenue
LaGrange, IL 60525
Director: Karl Bruhn

Email: karl.bruhn.ago@gmail.com

www.foxvalleyago.org

North Central Region
Wichita Chapter
Saturday, January 28, 2017 | 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
525 N. Broadway St.
Wichita, KS 67214
Director: Christopher Shaw

Email: shawcm@gmail.com

www.agowichita.org

PipeNotes is Published Monthly submit information to the editor via email at, pneditor@agomilwaukee.org.
The Deadline is the 20th of the preceding month
**STRESS** and **Relaxation**

'Tis the merry month of December and I'm sure the accent is on the first syllable topic title, stress. All plans are in serious motion. Octaves in folders, choirs warming up, woodwind reeds soaking and children and brass mouth-pieces are a-buzz. We know the process (been there from a few up to many times), we try to prune the plans for our own energy and time. In our congregations who is willing, available and able? Cantors, ensembles — who will cover the Advent Evenprayer, the carols at a social gathering, the staff Christmas luncheon? Are the accompanists/choral director in place and briefed for all rehearsals? As this comes together the tension piles up. Possible material for an octavo? *My Lord, What a Season* . . .

There is a direct parallel with all the music we present. None of it has interest unless there is both tension and relaxation. What would a simple tune be without a V7 before the tonic chord and the magnetic force of the leading tone? Bland — a baked potato with no salt and pepper, butter, sour cream, cheese, scallions. Okay, okay - enough. Spice in right proportion enhances flavor as that half-step “ti” presses us onward to “do” in music. Spice (good, creative tension) is the zip in life.

Creative tension opens the door for sensitivity to the elements that make music come alive. The question is — how can our minds influence our feelings to interpret this as energy, not panic? The opposite is also a danger. When we become lackadaceous because this is the 20th verse of *Amazing Grace* for the weekend, communicating joy in the resurrection is a tough challenge.

Tension or stress can be energy/interest or panic. Boredom is reflected in dulled response.

Music through the centuries has applied tension like jalapeños, so that resolving on a V7 has become whimpy. Our tolerance (or appreciation) for dissonance is at ever-expanding highs. It’s not likely that we offer many of the challenging pieces to our congregations. On the interpersonal level abrasive challenges appear whether we want them or not. There comes a breaking point when patience is thin and the best-laid plans are on crash-course, both musically and personally.

In the midst of this how do you relax?

What rests your mind, body, spirit?

... ...

So that with peace in your soul

you want to return

This Advent, during your intensive preparation, leave room for God to walk with you . . .

Have a Blessed Christmas,

Sheri

Watch the web-site for information on January’s *Cavaille-Coll DVD Series Socials.* Gather for an evening or two—watch these magnificent DVD’s; bring something edible to share and reconnect with friends during the doldrums of winter.
December 2016

4 (Sun) 3:30 A Procession of Lessons and Carols for Advent
The Cathedral Church of All Saints
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, WI

7 (Wed) 12:15 Pius High School Madrigals
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

11 (Sun) 2:00 Karen Beaumont, Organ
St. John’s Lutheran Church
804 W. Vliet St
Milwaukee, WI

11 (Sun) 5:15 “Veni Emmanuel” Lessons and Carols
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

13 (Tues) 7:30 Gail Archer, Organ
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI

14 (Wed) 12:15 Steve Joyal, Piano
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

17 (Sat) 7:00 An evening of Readings and Carols
The Cathedral Church of All Saints
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, WI

21 (Wed) 12:15 Gino De Luca, Baritone
Micha Batcho, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI
2333 S. Sixth St.
Milwaukee, WI
+++Karen Beaumont+++  
++experienced++  
Organ Recitalist  
Church Musician  
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A Note from the Sub-Dean

With Thanksgiving just past and a blessed Advent upon us we awake to the promise of Emmanuel, “God with us”, salvation come into the world!

With our American Guild of Organists chapter formed and active we look to the opportunity of garnering your thoughts, ideas and talents. You have so much to offer!

Planning has begun for the 2017-2018 program year. Two main themes for performance events have come forward; a fall 2017 Reformation event and a spring 2018 peace/justice/unity event. When you hear these two ideas what comes to mind: performers, venues, art, literature, dance, multi-media? Do these themes inspire you to want to share the excitement with your colleagues, community, friends and family?

When my extended family gathers together for big events, we often all bring our own “special” dishes. There are expectations. It wouldn’t be the same without mom’s meatballs, aunt Roxie’s cheesy potato hashbrown casserole, and grandma’s sour cream raisin pie. The first year my new sister-in-law came she brought crock-pot mushrooms. What? Hmmm - new, delicious, yummy. Thanks for bringing something different! Thanks for not worrying about what you “should” bring or what we might think about your offering. Thanks for creating a new tradition!

We want you to bring your ideas to the table! There is much to share. We all have different backgrounds, traditions and experience to draw from.

So, what do you think? Reformation. Peace/unity/justice. Where could these ideas lead? With your help we hope to produce a program that is beyond our initial thoughts and that can incorporate the perspectives and talents of many.

May these blessed seasons of Advent and Christmas bring you much peace and joy!
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AUDITION DATES:
Feb. 4    Feb. 11
Feb. 18   Feb. 25

Sign up for your audition online at CARTHAGE.EDU/MUSIC

For more information, contact the Fine Arts Office at:
262-351-5859 or email finearts@carthage.edu
River Valley Chapter
Iowa City, IA
June 19-22, 2017
Dr. Mark Baumann, CAGO
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