

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 72 – April 2026



SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 8, 2026 – 7:30 pm

All Saints Cathedral

818 E. Juneau Ave

Milwaukee, WI

National Competition in Organ Improvisation Winner

Jerick Cavagnaro

www.jerrickcavagnaro.com

www.agomilwaukee.org

A Night of Majestic Sound:

Jerrick Cavagnaro, Improvisatur and Organist

An Evening You Won't Soon Forget

There are few experiences in the world of live music, quite like the sound of a pipe organ filling every corner of the superb acoustics of All Saints' Cathedral in Milwaukee. On the evening of May 8, 2026, we invite you to set aside the noise of everyday life and step into something truly extraordinary — an unforgettable organ concert that promises to move you, body, and soul.

About the Event

Date: Friday, May 8, 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

Venue: All Saints' Cathedral | 818 E. Juneau Ave. | Milwaukee, WI 53202

Admission: Freewill Offering

This is not just a concert — it is a journey through centuries of musical brilliance, all channeled through one of Milwaukee's most powerful and expressive instruments.

What to Expect

The evening will feature a thoughtfully curated program of Organ Masterworks and Transcription showpieces, performed by acclaimed organist **Jerrick Cavagnaro**. His virtuosity and passion for organ improvisation earned him the First Prize in the 2024 Biennial AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation. Reviews by The American Organist Magazine describe him as an "...Incredibly gifted improviser... Registrations [that] bring out the full range of the organ... Performances that are 'paced to perfection'."

The program will consist of:

- **Jerrick Cavagnaro (b. 1996)** — Toccata and Fugue
- **Robert Schumann** — Canon in A-flat Major from 6 Studien in Kanonischer Form, Op. 56, No. 4 - Transcribed by Cavagnaro
- **Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** — Impromptu in B Minor - Transcribed by A. Eaglefield Hull
- **Florence Price** — II. Andantino from the First Sonata for Organ
- **Gustav Holst** — VI. Uranus, the Magician from The Planets, Op. 32 - arr. Peter Sykes
- **Edward Elgar** — I. Allegro Maestoso from Organ Sonata, Op. 28
- **Hymn** — "Come, labor on" TUNE: ORA LABORA - Thomas Tertius Noble - TEXT: Jane Laurie Borthwick
- **Improvised Organ Symphony of 4 Movements on a presented theme.**

Each piece has been selected to highlight the full expressive range of the cathedral's magnificent Pepper-Graves Memorial Organ, which features 47 ranks of pipes — from its deep, thunderous bass pedals to its most delicate, shimmering upper registers.

Why You Should Be There

The pipe organ is often called the "King of Instruments" — and for good reason. With thousands of pipes, multiple keyboards, and a sound that can shake the very foundations of a building, it's an instrument that must be experienced live. No recording can fully capture the feeling of sitting in a grand hall as the music washes over you.

Whether you're a lifelong classical music enthusiast or simply curious about what a pipe organ can do, this concert offers something rare and deeply rewarding in a cherished Milwaukee church listed on the Milwaukee Historic Landmarks Register and the U. S. National Register of Historic Places.

Plan Your Visit

All Saints' Cathedral is situated in Milwaukee's East Town, easily reachable by public transit and with plenty of parking nearby at Lincoln School Center for the Arts (E. Knapp St/No. Marshall St) or Immanuel Presbyterian Church (1100 N. Astor St.). Doors open at 7:00 PM. We recommend guests arrive early to find their seats and enjoy the venue's beauty before the performance starts.

Additional Information

Visit www.agomilwaukee.org or www.ascathedral.org. ADA Accessible Ramp on N. Marshall St.

Come for the music. Stay for the magic.

This concert is hosted by the American Guild of Organists - Milwaukee Chapter and All Saints' Cathedral. All proceeds benefit the programs and mission of the AGO Milwaukee Chapter, as well as the ongoing maintenance of the All-Saints' Cathedral Organ.

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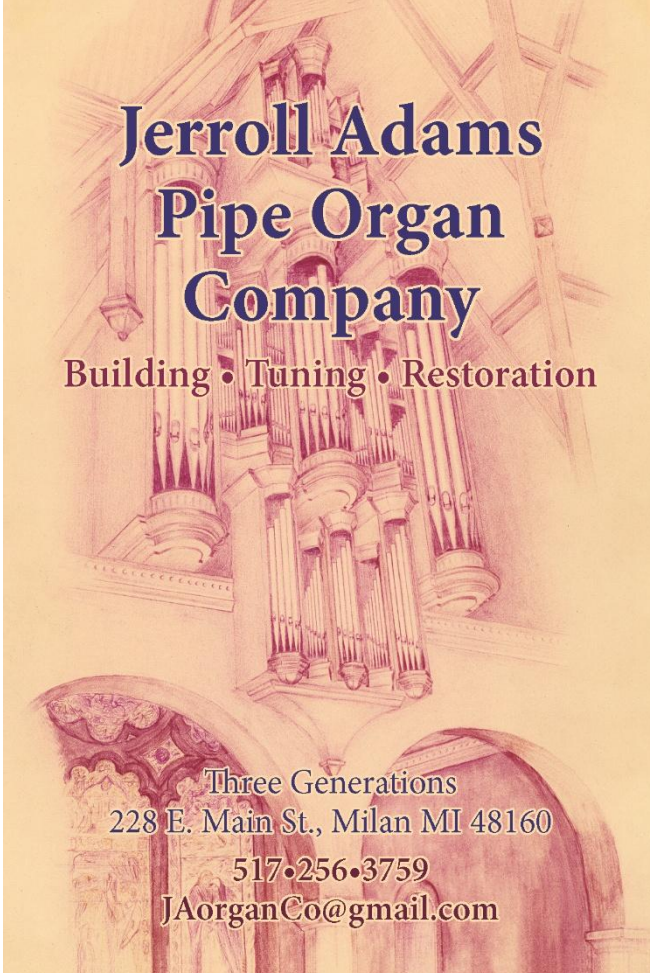
April 2026

12 (Sun) 3:00 Brass Quintet and Organ
Wisconsin Conservatory of Music Brass
Quintet and Lee Erickson, Organ
All Saints' Cathedral
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, WI

19 (Sun) 12:00 Organ and Voice,
James Grzadzinski, Organ
Rachel Grzadzinski, Soprano
Gary McWithey Concert Series
Brookfield Congregational UCC
16350 Gebhardt Rd
Brookfield, WI

19 (Sun) 1:30 Karen Beaumont, Organ
St. Hedwig's Church
1702 N. Humboldt
Milwaukee, WI

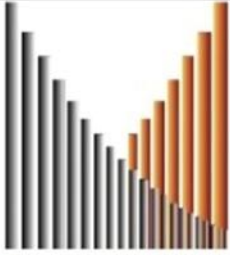
26 (Sun) 2:00 Keri Kelly, Organ
First English Lutheran Church
400 W. Main St.
Whitewater, WI



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch, Archivist/Historian

archivist@agomilwaukee.org

It has been a while since I shared interesting facts and finds from the Archive files. In fact, I found a hidden gem of a piece in our early history which shows how well organized the leaders of those early days of the Wisconsin Chapter were in the 1920's.

Did You Know This About Our Chapter?

To lead off in the 100+ years of our chapter, there have been a handful of members who have served as the Chapter's "Historian." The earliest evidence I found began in 1952 with Mrs. Leona Whelan King. She was listed as "Historian" from 1952-1966. I would have really enjoyed having a cup of coffee with her to gain from her experience of what her duties all included. Could she be the individual who had forethought to save and document correspondence, meeting minutes, committee reports, program booklets from events, printed reviews from the major and local papers of recitals and workshops? The Chapter's broader connection to the world of music and arts was with reviews of events from the Chapter published in the journal "*The Diapason*." This is before the AGO had their own official publication "*The American Organist*" which was established in 1956. More on "*The Diapason*" later. From Mrs. King, the first Chapter's "Historian," Miss Caroline Bersch followed from 1966-1976. The years that followed didn't mention the "Historian" position at all and I also discovered that we have a Chapter Yearbook missing for 1981-82. The third member to step into the "Historian" position was Alice Leisman. To the best of what I could piece together she began in 1982-2001. I will assume Alice was in the position even though, again, there are missing Chapter Yearbooks from 1988-1989, 1989-1990, 1991-1995, 1997-1998, 2001-2002. With no mention of the "Historian" in the Chapter Yearbooks for 2002-2003, Roger Meyer became the fourth member following Alice in 2003 through the best of data available until 2006. From data in the Archives, the position of "Historian" paused after Roger's time in the position until I started to organize the papers of the chapter. If anyone knows of other members who were "Historian" for the chapter, send me an email, my address is found at the beginning of the article. Sources: Chapter Years books 1952 – 1976, 1982-2001, 2003-2006.

With the Archive and digitization project that I offered to sort, sift and categorize, there were quite a few years gap with no individual being mentioned to lead the chapter as "Historian." This 100-year project took the paper files from various organized and unorganized approaches and preserved our 100 years of chapter history for life well into the next millennium. At first, I was using the title of "Historian" but as I started to write about our wealth of chapter history, my title shifted to "Archivist." My first article for PipeNotes in September 2018 was a springboard from Alice Leisman's style of bringing to light facts and events to PipeNotes members and friends. Source: All the available Chapter Yearbooks.

We are all familiar with the History of the Chapter that was crafted by Alice Leisman and is printed in all of our program booklets. It has had additional information added in the years Alice gave us this concise history. In my researching the Archives. I believe I have found the first official history of the chapter written by member Mrs. C.E. McLenegan back in 1920.

This information was included in the minutes of September 28, 1947, board meeting minutes. It's worth a read through on all that has been established and programs offered with the thirty-two active members of the Wisconsin Chapter.



The State of Wisconsin

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

MILWAUKEE 11, WISCONSIN

July 17, 1947

Mrs. Chester C. Muth,
828 N. 64th Street,
Milwaukee 13, Wisconsin

Dear Mrs. Muth:

Enclosed you will find an extract from the April, 1920, edition of the Wisconsin Music Teacher, official publication of the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association, which gives the beginning history of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

As you will notice, the first year I was Sub-Dean; the second year Mr. Mills withdrew and I was made Dean.

I thought this data about the beginning history of the Wisconsin Chapter might be of interest to you.

Cordially,

Lewis A. Vantine

Lewis A. Vantine

LAV:PH

Mrs. C. E. McLenegan

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, which was inaugurated in May, has already developed into a thoroughly active organization of thirty-two members. At the first regular meeting held in Milwaukee, On November 9th, and Executive Committee was elected as follows: Dean, Dr. Chas. H. Mills, Madison; Sub-Dean, Mr. Lewis Vantine, Milwaukee; Secretary, Miss Irene Eastman, Madison; Treasurer, Mr. Carl Mueller, Milwaukee; Librarian, Perry Williams, Milwaukee; also a Program Committee consisting of Mr. Chas. Forester, Miss Winogene Hewitt, Mr. W. J. L. Meyer. Monthly meetings are held, following a luncheon or dinner, and at each of these a prominent church singer presents a group of songs representing the best type of church music; this being followed by a paper and discussion on some subject connected with the organ. These meetings are social and informal in character, and the happy spirit that prevails shows that the members are worthy of their craft, having perfect harmony among themselves.

The first public program was given at Wesley M. E. Church, Milwaukee, on December 18th. On this occasion, Mr. Arthur B. Arneke was the soloist, and the choir of the church presented a Christmas cantata, with Mr. Burleigh Jacobs directing and Mr. Victor Mapes at the organ.

The next service of this kind was held at the German Reformed Church, Milwaukee, on Sunday afternoon, February 20th. Mr. Robert Nethercut, organist of Wauwatosa Congregational Church was the soloist, and the choir of the church, under the directorship of Mr. Carl Haase, sang a cantata by Schaecker. The next regular monthly meeting occurred at Madison, on March 10th, at which time Bonnet made his second appearance in a recital in that city.

The members of the Wisconsin Chapter are enthusiastic, and hope to make their organization increasingly effective in promoting interest in, and raising it to the standard of organ music throughout the state. Organists from all parts of the state are urged to apply to the secretary, Miss Eastman, for information as to the requirements for admission.

Source: Binder 3 Correspondence, Reports, 1940-1959, pgs. 210-211.

Here are some interesting facts about our Chapter.

In the Chapter Yearbook for 1946, the headcount of total members for The Wisconsin Chapter was 103. Of these 103 total members, 46 were naming Milwaukee as their location within the Wisconsin Chapter. Give a read through the list, you just might know a name or two on the list.

Source: Binder 3 Correspondence, Reports, 1940-1959, pg. 175.

I found this interesting that the idea of wearing a name tag was the idea of Dean, Mrs. Chester Muth's husband and an auxiliary member from September 28, 1947, meeting minutes. Now that is an idea that has had lasting power. The Executive Board to this day wear name pins as a means of identification at an event for easy access to members and guests present.

Source: Binder 3 Correspondence, Reports, 1940-1959, pg. 206.

Besides being a member of our chapter, a teacher, a recitalist, served on the Executive Board and numerous committees our Sister Theophane Hytrek, FAGO, served as a National Officer as National's Registrar for the years 1971-1975.

Source: Chapter Yearbooks, 1971-1972, pg. 5; 1972-1973, pg. 5; 1973-1974, pg. 6; 1974-1975, pg. 4.

MILWAUKEE MEMBERS IN 1946

Mrs. Margaret Balkman	Nashota, Wisc.
Selden Bernauer	1256 S. 36th St. (4)
Roberta Best	1725 E. Park Place
Mrs. Anne Bonin	1504 N. 57th St. (8)
Calvin Brickell	2500 N. 58th St. (10)
Annette DeBoer	3226 N. Cambridge (11)
Rose Deutsch	1559 N. Prospect (2)
Gloria Feix	529 E. Capitol Dr. Hartland, Wis.
Mrs. Anne Geisenfeld	1926 E. Hartford Ave. (11)
Mrs. Gladys Hewitt	4450 N. Bartlett (11)
Ember Hollitz	1821 N. 71st St. Wauwatosa 13
Eileen Holmes	4135 N. 16th St. (9)
Mrs. Anita Holthusen	1545 E. 57th St. West Allis 14
Mrs. Agnes Kenney	4857 N. Oakland (11)
Mr. A. Helmut Koepke	2200 N. 3rd St. (12)
Mrs. Esther Knutsen	2507 N. 57th St. (10)
Mrs. Evelyn Laubach	1835 N. 39th St. (8)
Bulda Lange	1500 N. 35th St. (8)
Mrs. Wm. Moeller	3955 N. 17th St. (6)
Mrs. Linda Mohr	2902 N. 41st St. (10)
Mrs. J.C. Mortenson	2511 E. Menlo Blvd. (11)
Mrs. Alex Nikora	127 N. 91st Pl. (14)
Mrs. Elsa Oesterlein	6922 Cedar St., Wauwatosa 13
Edna Pietsch	3522 W. Kilbourn Ave. (8)
Dolores Polewczynski	3160 S. Quincy Ave. (7)
Mrs. Georgia Hall-Quick	2709 E. Bellevue Place (11)
Catherine Rice	4319 W. Garfield (8)
Mrs. Eveline Richter	Union Grove, Wis.
Allen Ringenoldus	2771 N. 19th St. (6)
Mrs. H. P. Ringler	Terrace Dr., Elm Grove, Wis.
Mrs. Lothar Rudolph	R. 5, Box 83A, Waukesha, Wis.
Mrs. R.H. Rybold	4081 N. Maryland (11)
Miss Elsa Seidel	Route 8, Box 848R, Wauwatosa 13
Mrs. Mildred Stanke	2551 E. Johnson, Madison, Wis. (4)
Robert Stich	1608 W. Clarke (6)
Norma Suemich	2723 N. 6th St. (12)
Mrs. Elsie Thomas	5804 N. 22nd Ave. Kenosha, Wis.
LeRoy Umbs	1120 S. 16th St. (4)
Erna Villmow	2537 N. 1st St. (12)
Louise Walters	3355 N. Douglas (12)
Mrs. Ralph C. Wangerin	2435 N. 63rd St. (13)
Eugene Wecker	2779 S. Howell Ave.
Ruth Weckmuller	1857 N. 70th St. (13)
Evelyn Wentland	929 N. 15th St. (3)
Edward Wojtkowski	1801 S. 12th St. (4)
Mrs. Wm. Wolf, Jr.	2774 N. 70th St. (10)
Irma Wulff	Grant Park, South Milwaukee, Wis.
Werner Zenow	3157 W. Kilbourn
G. Oscar Riegl	2374 N. 33rd St. (10)
Dorothy Heath (Miss)	902 W. Locust (6)

"The Diapason" journal was the location for news about the chapter and much more. Here is a milestone story on one of the Wisconsin's charter members from the December 1, 1953, issue.

"Mrs. Rees Powell Honored on Sixtieth Anniversary

The morning service Oct. 11"1953 "at the First Methodist Church in Milwaukee took the form of a tribute to Mrs. Rees Powell, who on that day marked her sixtieth anniversary as organist there. The choir sang one of her favorite anthems, an arrangement of 'Jesus Call Us O'er the Tumult,' and the topic of the sermon was 'Sixty Years.' The congregation presented a watch to Mrs. Powell, replacing one given on her fiftieth anniversary, which she had lost. Flowers from the choir, family and the Wisconsin Chapter of the A.G.O. adorned the interior of the church.

At the age of 77, Mrs. Powell is active not only as an organist but in many other ways long since given up by younger people. Not long ago she and her husband joined a group of young people in square dancing. She is still a board member of the Y.W.C.A. and a charter member of the Travelers' Aid Society, having served the former organization for fifty years. Mrs. Powell says that she is not ready to retire.

Mabel Greenwood," now known as Mrs. Rees Powell, "was only 17 when she became organist of the First Methodist church, then situated where the large Schroeder Hotel now stands. When she was 19, she was married to Rees Powell, who began his courtship by waiting at the church for her while she practiced and after services. 'He has been waiting ever since,' she laughed. At that time, she practiced at least four hours a day. Mr. Powell, who retired fifteen years ago from the Northwestern Life Insurance Company, was honored in 1945 for forty years as treasurer of the church.

Mrs. Powell was one of the charter members of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Guild and served as dean from 1924-1926.

Among experiences which Mrs. Powell related to a reporter of the Milwaukee Journal was the story of the time she was practicing and heard 'the most pitiful little cries.' She found the caretaker and together they went inside the organ. In the back of the chamber was a mother cat with four kittens. Rather than being annoyed, Mrs. Powell's main concern was getting food in for them." Source: Binder 1 News clippings, Events and Print, 1920-1953, pg. 608.

Mabel sure was dedicated to the ministry of service beyond her music with caring for all of God's creatures!

This brings me to the close of April's article with some words for all of us church musicians from Dean Landa.

Dean's column

My children, although they are certainly at an age to know better, insist on believing in Santa Claus. I wish I could share their belief! I would begin my letter to Santa Claus this way:

Dear Santa Claus,

For all the church musicians in the Milwaukee area, please send the following:

Respect for our work.

Adequate salaries.

Mariann Landa, Dean

Source: PipeNotes, December 1979, pg. 4.

It's that time of the year; this Archivist will be taking a pause from writing monthly articles until September. I wish all a Happy Easter season, an enjoyable spring and summer making music serving the Lord in ministry and taking some time away, like a vacation or staycation, to re-energize your body, mind, and spirit.

Until September...

Nominees for 2026

Dean - John Schubring serves as director of music and organist at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Greendale. Where he directs the Senior Choir and the Handbell Choirs. John currently is serving the Milwaukee Chapter as Dean, PipeNotes Editor, and webmaster. He has also previously served the chapter as Dean and Sub-Dean and has served on the faculty of the POE held by the Chapter at Carroll University. John holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Carthage College, studying with Susan Klotzbach and Gary Verkade. He also holds a MA degree from the University of Iowa where he studied organ with Delbert Disselhorst.



Sub-Dean - David Bahrke is the Director of Music and Organist of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church—West Allis. He is also a piano, voice, and organ instructor and a freelance organist, choral director, and pianist. David's musical journey has taken him to various denominations, where he has served as a music director. His talent as an organist is recognized through his performances for the Milwaukee Episcopal Parish Organists Concert in conjunction with All Saints' Cathedral 150th Anniversary and the John Weissrock Organ Concert Series at Church of the Gesu-Milwaukee.

David has served as Registrar, Dean, and Subdean of the American Guild of Organists-Milwaukee Chapter and as a member of the Development and Finance Committee of the AGO National Council. He was Chorus Manager and Artist Liaison in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Operations Department for seventeen years. David's career integrates computer and internet technology for video and live-stream production, data management, event production, website, print, and social media engagement.

David has enjoyed working with an active and engaged Program Committee over the past two years. Together, they will maintain a focused effort on programs that serve and support the membership, promote pipe organ and choral music, engage multiple age groups, and collaborate with the metropolitan fine arts community. The 2027-2028 Chapter Program is in the planning stages. David offers a strong skill set and experience in organization, attention to detail, and effective implementation and planning strategies.

Class of 2028



Michael Batcho is the Organist/Choirmaster at Christ Church Episcopal, Whitefish Bay. For 26 years he served as Director of Music for the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, downtown Milwaukee. Additionally, Michael held interim positions at St. Mark's Episcopal and St. Jude Catholic Churches. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree (music education), Magna Cum Laude, from West Virginia University and a Master of Music degree with a choral conducting emphasis from Virginia Commonwealth University. Michael also studied liturgy and theology at the University of Notre Dame and Washington Theological Union. He has held various church and diocesan posts in West Virginia, Maine, and Virginia as well as faculty positions in the public school system in Maine and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, VA. In addition to his church work Michael was an adjunct faculty member in the religious studies and music departments at Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee.



Lee Erickson having studied at UWM and the Wisconsin College Conservatory of Music, Lee is well known for his prowess as an organist and choral director. Currently, he serves as organist at All Saints' Cathedral; a position he has held since 2019. In his position as Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, Lee was the holder of the Margaret Hawkins Chorus Director Chair. He was appointed the Associate Conductor of the chorus in 1978 and assumed the position of Director in 1994 after founder Margaret Hawkins' death in 1993. He retired from the position at the end of the 2015-2016 season. He has served on the choral panel of the National Endowment of the Arts, is past Subdean and Dean of the Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and served as Music Director at St. Anthony's Church in Milwaukee for 35 years. Lee was the winner of the 1977 Milwaukee Chapter AGO Student Organ Competition. In 2007, Lee was named Artist of the Year

by the Milwaukee Arts Board and in January 2008, he was honored by the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music for his contribution to the Greater Milwaukee community. In 2011 he was named a Distinguished Citizen by the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee. As organist at All Saints' Cathedral, Lee has contributed significant amounts of time, expertise, and resources in maintaining and improving the Cathedral organ and is overseeing upgrades starting in 2020. He has a 31-rank organ in his basement instead of a muscle car or boat. As a member of the board Lee would like to encourage members to get to know one another. Years ago, this was a rather active and fun chapter. He would also like to increase opportunities for members to hone their service playing skills in the areas of organ registration and leading congregational singing. Understanding phrasing, breathing, tempo and reflecting the character of the music and text are so important to good service playing.



Dr. Kelly Kazik has been exploring a diverse career as a performer, teacher, historian, movement specialist, herbalist, and poultry keeper.

Kelly began playing organ at the age of 14. However, through a series of clerical errors and other fated twists and turns, the flute became her primary instrument. She has had the privilege of participating in symphonic, pop, and chamber orchestras, chamber ensembles, and solo work. She is the founder of Washington's Camerata, a period chamber ensemble dedicated to 17th and 18th century flutes. The Camerata has performed on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage as well as in historic houses and churches in Virginia and Maryland.

Even while performing on flute, Kelly found the time to continue studying and working with the organ. She has had the privilege of playing the historic Hebden organ at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Oak Grove Virginia, (St. Peter's is the home parish of the Washington, Monroe, and Lee Families), as well as the giant Parson's tracker organ at St. George's Episcopal in Fredericksburg, VA. (St. George's is the boyhood parish of George Washington).

Through her teaching, Kelly has helped students both with and without disabilities by incorporating Alexander Technique principles into traditional lessons. Backstage, Kelly has always been willing to help a colleague work through a stiff shoulder or hand.

She hopes that through her unique and diverse background she can support the AGO's mission statement to "foster a thriving community of musicians, promote the appreciation of organ and choral music, and maintain high musical standards." Currently, Kelly lives with her husband, James on their 10 acre hobby farm in Hartford where she practices Alexander Technique with her chickens, (she has delivered more stuck eggs than her vet has!), and is working on the next level of her herbalism journey by establishing her 3600 square foot herb garden. Her teaching focus has shifted from working with children to working with adults through workshops with American Recorder Society (ARS) affiliated groups and ensembles and being available as a substitute organist through the Milwaukee chapter AGO.

National Webinar Events:

UPCOMING ONLINE EVENTS: LOG IN AND LEARN WITH THE AGO



IDEA SERIES:
"Where are the Women?"
with Boulanger Initiative
April 13, 7 p.m. ET / 4 p.m. PT

[Click here](#) to register.



PEDAGOGY SERIES:
"The Alexander Technique and the Organ"
with Dr. Tim Pyper
April 21, 7 p.m. ET / 4 p.m. PT

[Click here](#) to register.



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