

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

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www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 72 – May 2026



MAY 8, 2026 – 7:30 pm

All Saints Cathedral

818 E. Juneau Ave

Milwaukee, WI

National Competition in Organ Improvisation Winner

Jerrick 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.

Chapter Directory
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chapter@agomilwaukee.org

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Christian Rich

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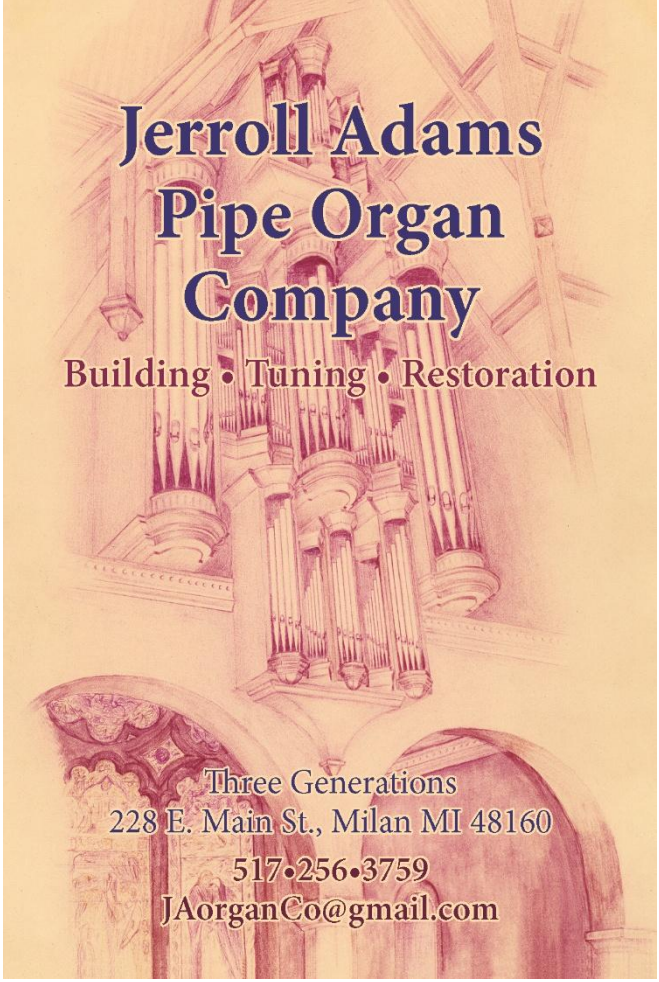
May 2026

8 (Fri) 6:00 Annual Meeting
All Saints' Cathedral
Guild Hall
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, WI

8 (Fri) 7:30 Jerriek Cavagnaro, Organ
All Saints' Cathedral
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, WI

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

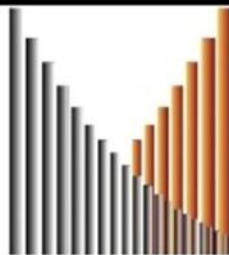
17 (Sun) 3:00 Mariachi Monarchas de
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Nominees for 2026

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.

May 2026

What a whirlwind of a year it has been for the AGO Milwaukee Chapter. Here we are time for the Annual Meeting again. The election for the chapter leadership for the next two years is currently underway. You may vote online, via the email that you were sent, or you may vote via paper ballot that will be available at the annual meeting. Please do take the time to vote if you are a current AGO Milwaukee Chapter member. It only takes a moment of your time to fill out the ballot. If you are not currently a Chapter member, we invite you to join us, you can join the AGO by visiting the national website, www.agohq.org, and selecting the membership tab.

The Annual meeting will take place Friday, May 8th at All Saints' Cathedral in the Guild Hall beginning at 6:00 pm. It will be followed by a spectacular concert at 7:30 pm given by the National Competition in Organ Improvisation Winner from 2024, Jerick Cavagnaro. You will find the program on the second page of PipeNotes. The biggest change and challenge this year have been the updating of all of the technology that the chapter uses. From the changing of the email system to Google workspace to getting a new website up and running. By the way, there is still a learning curve for all of the editing that goes on behind the scenes. It took time, but it was well worth the effort.

I look forward to seeing you all on Friday, May 8th at the annual meeting and concert!

John Schubring
Dean



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National News and Events:

HELP US THANK JAMES THOMASHOWER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE AGO

Executive Director **James Thomashower** will retire this summer after more than 28 years leading the AGO. We're compiling a very special memory book that will be presented to him at the National Convention.

[Click here](#) to share your stories about James, well wishes, and photos. Submissions must be received by May 15 for consideration.



CANDIDATES SOUGHT FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL, REGIONAL AMBASSADORS

The AGO is seeking strong, visionary leaders to serve on the National Council and Council of Regional Ambassadors for three-year terms beginning in July 2027. The National Nominating Committee is accepting applications through **Friday, May 29, 2026**, for Secretary, Councillor-at-Large, Councillor for Young Organists, and Mid-Atlantic and North Central Regional Ambassadors. [Click here](#) to learn more.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Salisbury Scholarships

Two \$10,000 scholarships, one each for a master's and doctoral student, studying sacred music, and demonstrating financial need. [Click here](#) for the 2026-27 application. Deadline is May 15.



American Guild of
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Milwaukee Chapter