

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 73 – October 2026



Registration Organ Bus Tour to Madison

Saturday, October 24, 2026

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM | \$60.00

**Advance Paid Registration DUE by
September 20th**

Scan QR Code to Register

Includes Bus Ride

Saint Stephen's Lutheran
Rosales/Parsons Organ
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Schoenstein Organ
Luther Memorial Church
Taylor & Boody | J.W. Steer & Son | Fisk Organs
Saint Paul's Catholic Student Center Chapel
Taylor and Boody Organ

CANCELED



Dear AGO Members,

We have regretfully had to make the decision to cancel the organ tour to Madison on Saturday, October 24th. We did not receive enough registrations to make the tour and bus viable for the chapter. Those who registered should have received an email from Sub Dean, David Bahrke, with instructions on how to receive a refund of your registration fee. If you did not receive the email, please contact the treasurer, Rick Ewert, treasurer@agomilwaukee.org, and he will facilitate getting your refund to you.

Thank You for your understanding.

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Upcoming AGO Milwaukee Chapter Event

Sunday, November 22, 2026

3:30 pm

Celebrating St. Cecilia's Day

With the music of

Sr. Theophane Hytrek

And

Johann Sebastian Bach

St. Joseph Center Chapel

1501 S. Layton Blvd

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October 2026

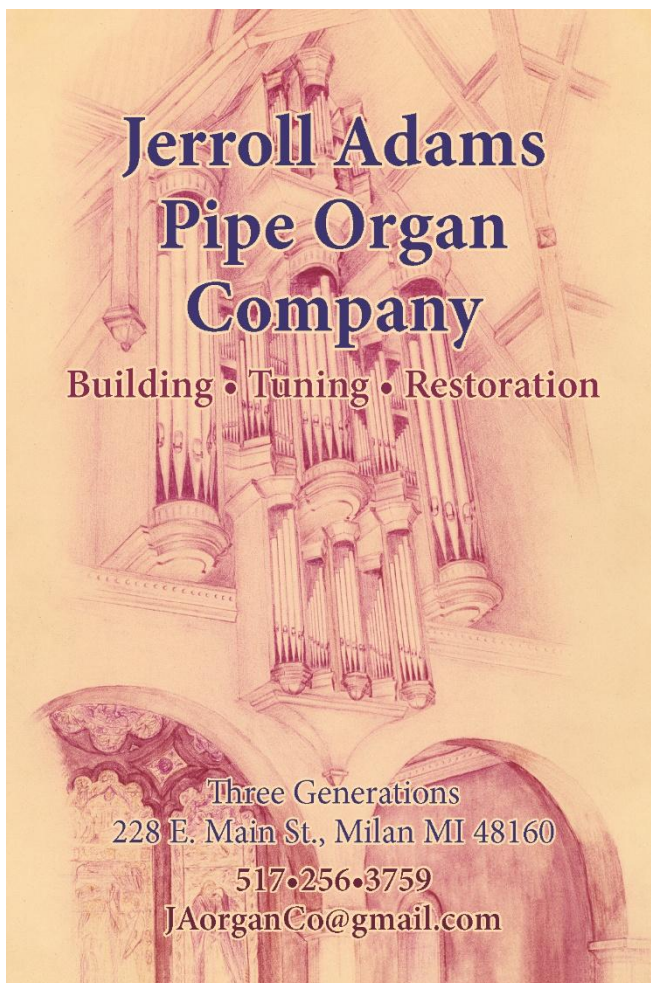
10 (Sat) 10:30 am -Madison AGO/ACM trip to
Nolte Organ Building
5242 W. Electric Ave
West Allis, WI

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

18 (Sun) 3:00 pm Eastwinds Chamber Ensemble
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3515 E. Van Norman Ave
Cudahy, WI

18 (Sun) 7:00 pm Schola Chicago-
James Grzadzinski, Conductor; David Jonies Organist
Featuring Durufle's Requiem
Brookfield Congregational UCC
16350 Gebhardt Rd
Brookfield, WI

21 (Wed) 12:15 Tyler Pimm, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI



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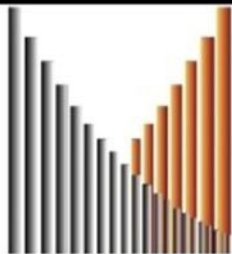
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch/Archivist
archivist@agomilwaukee.org

This month the Archives is taking a short road trip to a “golden” anniversary. We will need to hop on the AGO-MKE shuttle van for a short ride. I will give you a few hints which direction we are traveling for those who like to ask, “are we there yet?” The first hint is we are traveling south on I-94; we will not be crossing the border into Illinois today; we are staying in Wisconsin. The second hint is our off ramp is coming up soon, Exit 339 for County Highway E. Our travels continue east on Highway E for 6.8 miles, then a right turn, heading south onto Sheriden Road, also known as Highway 32. Anyone guess our location yet? We are about one mile from our final destination. Okay, the suspense is now revealed. Our “golden” anniversary celebration is on the campus of Carthage College. To be exact, it is located in the A. F. Siebert Chapel in Kenosha WI. Yes, the pipe organ in Siebert Chapel, the Casavant, Opus 3276 is 50 years old and this calls for a “golden” sharing from the Archives.

A Bit of History...

Before we get into the celebrating, I share a brief history of Carthage College. Being born and raised in Wisconsin, I learned that the original campus for Carthage was located across the border in Illinois. Here is a distilled version of how Kenosha became the home to the college.

Carthage College was founded in 1847 in Hillsboro Illinois as The Literary and Theological Institute of the Lutheran Church in the Far West. The name was soon shortened to Hillsboro College.

In 1852, the College relocated to the larger town of Springfield Illinois and assumed the new name of Illinois State University. Financial struggles and religious disagreements eventually caused the college to close its doors in Springfield.

In 1870, the College moved again, this time to the rural, west-central city of Carthage Illinois, where the College acquired its current name. By 1927, enrollment in the College had reached nearly 300 students.

The Great Depression and World War II lowered enrollment to 131 students in 1943. Ten years later, the Board of Trustees agreed to consider relocating Carthage College once again. By 1962, Carthage had established its lakeshore campus in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and the College launched an era of growth. Since 1962 Carthage has settled into the community as the campus has been built up to the present time.

Source: www.historypin.org – collections



A.F. Siebert Chapel...

As the campus chapel building was under construction in 1971 and completed in 1975, there was also a key faculty member who was part of the design team for a chapel pipe organ. That faculty member was organ Professor William Roth, who migrated from the Illinois campus to Kenosha Wisconsin. I found a wonderful article written by chapter member Mark Edwards on this pipe organ installation. Here is a picture of the pipe organ and the Edwards’ article.

Casavant Pipe Organ

Source: Carthage College website: www.carthage.edu

BACH'S ROYAL INSTRUMENT

-By Mark Edwards-

The new four-manual tracker organ installed by Casavant in 1976 in Siebert Chapel on the campus of Carthage College (in northern Kenosha) merits our full consideration. It is the largest tracker in the state and, although not within the city of Milwaukee, is within easy driving distance.

Let's consider for a moment the resources of this organ. (Refer to stop list) First, there's the grand Hauptwerk principal chorus, replete with a double principal at 16' and capped by a flexible array of two mixtures, each at different pitch levels. This is balanced by a slightly less grand and useful Oberwerk principal chorus, starting at 8' pitch. In the Swellwerk, Oberwerk and Brustwerk a number of flutes are available, including their proper mutations, all yielding a variety of piquant colors. And certainly one could never forget the sound of the Spanische Trompete combined with the 16' Trompete to produce a truly grand reed chorus.

Now let's look at specific features. As the only flue stop at 16' in the pedal, the 16' Praestant (a principal) sits equally well under the quietest of chorale preludes, yet adequately supports a full ensemble. The 16' Posaune is one of the best my ears have heard.

Other manual reeds speak eloquently. The Dulzian (in this instance a full-length one) is identical in character to a krummhorn. The Regal, with short resonators, has a rich set of overtones that can be heard even against full organ! Balancing these two classic reeds is an oboe, useful in both classic and romantic repertoire. And definitely not to be missed: the sparkle of the Brustwerk Zimbel, the warmth of the Oberwerk Gedackt; the breadth of the Swell Querflöte; etc.

Presenting an awesome physical appearance, the instrument stands 35 ft. high with a case of solid oak. Mechanical stop action on this organ requires the services of two registrants when performing music from the 19th Century. However, it is possible to play organ music from many periods on this design. The design of the organ was by Mr. & Mrs. John W. Fritsch of Libertyville, IL. We are thankful that all of these people have combined their resources to give us this beautiful and worthwhile musical instrument. But no written description is really adequate. Seeing and hearing is believing!

<u>HAUPTWERK</u>	<u>SCHWELLWERK</u>	<u>OBERWERK</u>	<u>BRUSTWERK</u>
Praestant 16	Gedackt 16	Praestant 8	Holzgedackt 8
Oktave 8	Rohrflöte 8	Gedackt 8	Rohrflöte 4
Hohlflöte 8	Spitzgamba 8	Oktave 4	Oktave 2
Oktave 4	Querflöte 4	Spitzflöte 4	Nasat 1-1/3
Quint 2-2/3	Flachflöte 2	Nasat 2-2/3	Zimbel II
Oktave 2	Kornett III	Flöte 2	Regal 8
Mixtur V	Mixtur V	Terz 1-3/5	
Scharf IV	Oboe 8	Scharf IV	<u>PEDAL</u>
Trompete 16		Dulzian 8	Praestant 16
Spanische	Tremulant		Oktave 8
Trompete 8		Tremulant	Gedacktfloete 8
Zimbelstern			Oktave 4
(star)			Mixtur VI
			Posaune 16
			Trompete 8
			Trompete 4

Source: PipeNotes March 1977, vol. 25, no. 7, Page 15.

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CORRECTION: The article on page 2 of the March issue of PIPE NOTES regarding the new Casavant tracker organ at Carthage College erroneously stated that the design of the organ was by Mr. & Mrs. John W. Fritsch of Libertyville, IL. The design of the organ was by Gerhard Brunzema of Casavant in consultation with Prof. Wm. Roth of Carthage College. The organ was donated to the college by Mr. & Mrs. John W. Fritsch of Libertyville, IL.

Source: PipeNotes April 1979, vol. 25, no. 8, Page 24.

Field Trip Planned...

In March of 1977, our Chapter arranged for a trip to Carthage to see, play and experience the beauty of this pipe organ. Sunday, March 13, starting at 2 pm, there was a demonstration by Professor Roth of the pipe organ, which followed. with a coffee break and a tour of the five other pipe organs on campus. At 3 pm to 5 pm was an open bench opportunity for those desiring to play the Casavant organ.

Source: PipeNotes February 1977, vol. 23, no. 7, Page 4.

Comment from Visiting Recitalist...

I found an interesting connection to this pipe organ from a visiting recitalist Dr. Fabrikant, who was in town to play a Friday, November 13, 1981, recital at St. Joseph's Convent Chapel. PipeNotes Editor, Gertrude Stillman, drove Dr. Fabrikant to Kenosha to visit the organ at Carthage. *"He 'tried out' the instrument with a cover-to-cover, nearly flawless reading of the 18 Chorales of Bach!!"*

Source: PipeNotes December 1981, vol. 28, no. 4, Pages 30 & 31.

Since the installation of this pipe organ, the list of recitalists is quite impressive who have performed on this tracker instrument:

Margaret Kemper, Oct. 10, 1976
William Roth, November 21, 1976
Richard Enright, February 6, 1977
Edward Mondello, October 2, 1977
William Roth, November 13, 1977
Paul Manz, February 12, 1978
Mark Edwards, March 15, 1978
Phyllis Stringham, April 16, 1978
Elisabeth Roloff, October 1, 1978
William Roth, November 19, 1978
Carol and James Hawkinson, February 4, 1979
Wolfgang Rubsam, April 22, 1979
Margot Ann Greenlimb Woolard, November 16, 1980
William Roth, February 15, 1981
Anne Parks, February 21, 1982
William Roth, March 21, 1982
Jacques Desroches, April 25, 1982
Sr. Theophane Hytrek, November 14, 1982
Matthias Kern, February 20, 1983
Marilyn Kay Stulken, April 17, 1983
Delbert Disselhorst, February 22, 1998
David Schrader, February 13, 2000
Gary Verkade, March 4, 2000
Ludwig Kaiser, March 26, 2000

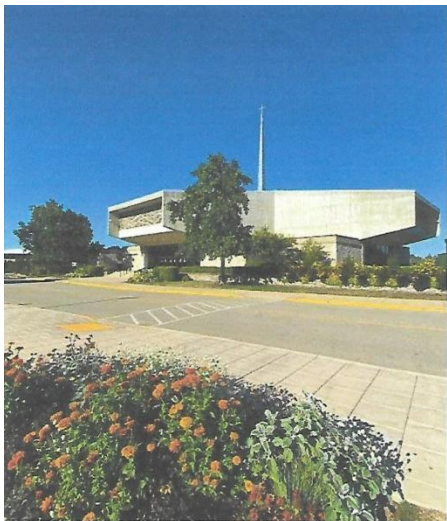
Source: All from PipeNotes years 1976-2000.

Summer Programs...

Besides the recitals performed on the organ, Carthage offered Summer Study in 1992 and 1993 for area organists/pianists. The summer study included six lessons on the Casavant organ and built upon pedal techniques, performance practice, registration, repertoire, and hymn playing. Class size was kept to a manageable 20 participants.

Source: PipeNotes May-June 1993, vol. 39, no. 10, Page 30.

As I was searching for interesting material, I came across the names of two-chapter members who studied at Carthage with Professor Roth. They are Steve Jensen and William Lieven. William Lieven was first place tie winner for the Intermediate Division in the AGO Student Organ Competition in 1983. Both have accepted my invitation to share highlights for PipeNotes of their time at Carthage.



Student Reflections...

I contacted William (Bill) Lieven and what follows is a summary of our phone call. Bill came to Carthage as a transfer student in 1982 for his sophomore year from UW-Whitewater. I was surprised to learn that he wasn't an organ major, but an education major who declared organ as his principal instrument. He studied with Professor Roth from 1982 until he retired in 1984. During Bill's last year he studied with Marilyn Stulken. He shared he spent many hours day and night practicing on the Casavant preparing for various events during his course of study. Bill spoke of Professor Roth's input on the design of the chapel pipe organ and his influences with the final design. With an organ teacher with "perfect pitch" Bill knew his practice time was worth every minute of his time on the bench preparing for organ lessons and his junior and senior recitals. This Casavant organ was great for playing the works of J.S. Bach, but when programming a recital program that included Romantic or 20th Century music, it added a new level of thinking

with registration and/or piston settings. The work of a dedicated teacher is not only to instruct but to challenge students to develop their music skills. Professor Roth was that teacher for Bill who taught him to "improvise" at the organ using hymn scores as the source. Linked with hymn playing Professor Roth shared how to incorporate improvising into service playing. These are skills one can't learn from reading a book alone, so all of Professor Roth's shared skills were building blocks for Bill in his church ministry. One bonus experience for Bill was he was called upon to be stop puller for a recitalist, one that we all know and still admire today, Sr. Theophane Hytrek. Bill shared learning the scores away from the keyboard was key to preparing for being ready to add or take off stops manually. This and many rehearsals with Sr. Theophane fine-tuned the performance leading up to the actual recital date. He learned invaluable first-hand experiences through this opportunity working with recitalist Sr. Theophane Hytrek. One final sharing from Bill, the students nicknamed the Siebert Chapel the "Spaceship Chapel" because of its design and shape. The picture does have a very modern design for the 1970s.

Source: Carthage College website: www.carthage.edu

Source: PipeNotes April 1983, vol. 29, no. 8, Page 26.

Source: Phone call with Bill Lieven, September 23, 2026

Steve Jensen sent this sharing of his time at Carthage.

"Carthage – 50 years later

Upon arriving on campus in September – Siebert Chapel was complete except for the installation of the Casavant. There was component pieces spread throughout the main floor of the chapel. Final construction started and I was able to listen to a lot of the tonal finishing by the Casavant team.

My first lesson with Bill Roth was in Wartburg Auditorium on a very underwhelming Temple Organ. It suffered from poor placement, heavy unification, and poor acoustics.

Professor Roth brought the Casavant Specifications to every lesson – so we could plan how to register it when we were allowed access. Bill was a kind man – full of energy and a solid teacher. Together we expanded my repertoire and had fun doing it.

We had several road trips to area churches to play the organs, visited the Wicks factory, and built a small organ for a church in Michigan built by the organ students in his studio. Bill also recommended me every substitute job that came across his desk.

Both Prof Roth and Casavant are fond memories of my time at Carthage. I became chapel organist – playing for the Wednesday chapel services – A first for a non-music major! Thanks to Bill."

Source: Word document from Steve September 30, 2026

As I wrap up this "golden" article, I extend my sincere "thank you" to both contributors of Steve and Bill for adding to the "living history." As the first 50 years of this pipe organ's history has been written, this chapel and instrument have become more than a building named A. F. Siebert Chapel. The variety of events in this chapel in these first 50 years has been impressive. From being a place of prayer and worship; performance, organ lessons, and master classes; to a place of meditation, this sacred space will continue to feed souls on their life's journey. Here's to many more years, Soli Deo Gloria!