PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter
P.O. Box 11731
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211
www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 73 – November 2026

Organ Concert
Alex Hodgkinson
Organist

Wm. Schuelke Organ, Opus 34, 1885
Freewill Offering Benefits
Pipe Organ Restoration Fund

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026
3:30 PM

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
1937 N. Vel R. Phillips Avenue
Milwaukee, WI
Parking Lot behind Parish Center
Enter from W. Brown Street

Music by Bach, Rheinberger, and Karg-Elert.

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Treasurer
Richard Ewert
treasurer@agomilwaukee.org

Registrar
David Bahrke
registrar@agomilwaukee.org

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J. Craig Sproat

Class of 2028

Michael Batcho
Lee Erickson
Kelly Kazik

North Central Regional Ambassador
Dr. Catherine Rodland
northcentralra@agohq.org

NATIONAL COUNCIL & REGIONAL AMBASSADOR ELECTIONS

Voting is open **Nov. 1–30**. All eligible members will receive an email containing a secure voting link. The invitation to vote will come from ElectionBuddy and will include "Vote now: American Guild of Organists" in the subject line. Paper ballots are being mailed to those eligible members without an email address on file. Candidate profiles are published in the November issue of *The American Organist*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2028 AGO COMPOSITION COMPETITION WINNERS

The AGO Committee on New Music recently announced three winners:

- **AGO/ECS Publishing Award (Choral): Robert Hamilton**
- **AGO/Marilyn Mason Award (Organ): Josh Ring**
- **Pogorzelski-Yankee Annual Competition (Organ): Anders Samuel Börjesson**

November 2026

6 (Fri) 6:30 pm Evening Prayer Service
With Milwaukee area Lutheran Schools
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church
1049 N. 9th St.
Milwaukee, WI

8 (Sun) 3:00 pm Michael Hoerig, Organ
Bethany Calvary United Methodist Church
7265 W. Center St.
Wauwatosa, WI

8 (Sun) 3:30 pm Alex Hodgkinson, Organ
OHS/AGO Organ Concert
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
1937 N. Vel R. Phillips Ave.
Milwaukee, WI

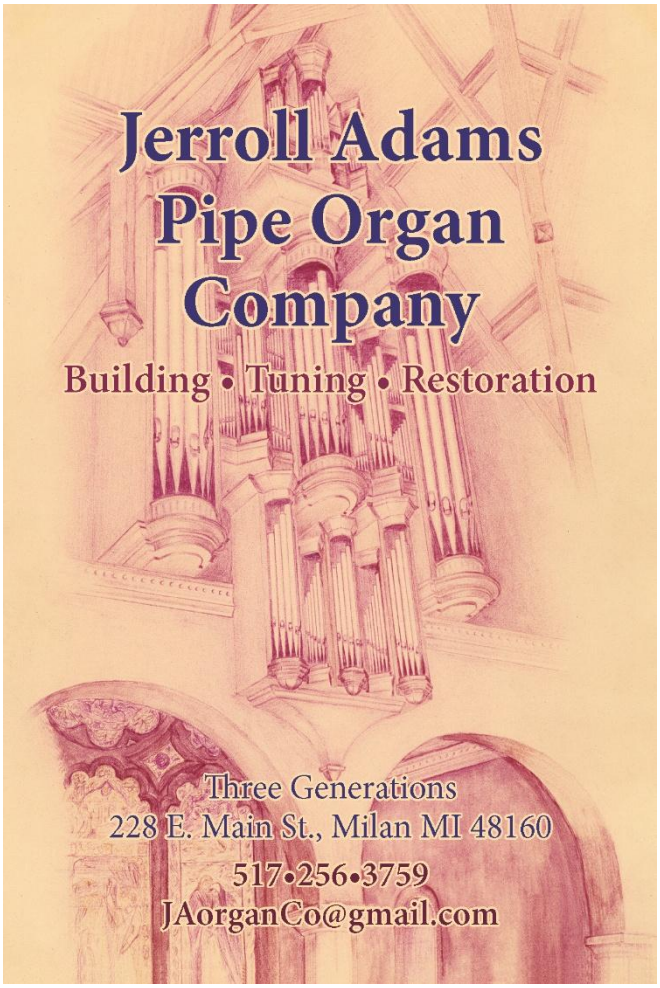
13 (Fri) 7:30 pm Felix Hell, Organ
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

15 (Sun) 1:00 pm Karen Beaumont, Organ
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
1937 N. Vel R. Phillips Ave.
Milwaukee, WI

15 (Sun) 3 :00 pm Charlie Rasmussen, Cello
And James Grzadzinski, Organ/Piano
Brookfield Congregational UCC
16350 Gebhardt Rd.
Brookfield, WI

15 (Sun) 3:00 pm Eastwinds Chamber Ensemble
Music for Oboe and Other Instruments
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3515 E. Van Norman Ave.
Cudahy, WI

22 (Sun) 3:30 pm Celebrating St. Cecelia's Day
Music of Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF and J. S. Bach
St. Joseph Center Chapel
1501 S. Layton Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI



Karen Beaumont

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liz Walloch/Archivist
archivist@agomilwaukee.org

November, the church observes All Saints and All Souls. It's a time for us to pause, reflect, remember, and honor the saints and all souls from our Milwaukee Chapter. These members offered support, guidance, encouragement, instruction, and mentored growth to the chapter. As you read the names offer a prayer of thanks for their presence in our musical circle.

MEMORIAL ROSTER

Keep Lois and Thomas Toeppner in your prayers as we mourn their death.

Lois was a former Milwaukee Chapter member, Chapter Dean in 1973 - 1974, prior to serving as dean of the Milwaukee Chapter she served as treasurer. In addition to serving on the board of the Milwaukee Chapter, she served on the advisory board to the PAC for the installation of a Pipe Organ, which resulted in the installation of the Miller organ at the now Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Lois also served as the National Secretary for the Guild. While in Milwaukee Lois was organist at Redeemer Lutheran, at 19th and Wisconsin. Lois and her husband, Thomas had since relocated to Massachusetts, where Lois remained an active church musician. Lois passed away on August 14th, and her husband, Thomas passed away July 28th.

Keep Leonard Rose in your prayers as we mourn his death.

Leonhard Sebastian Rose (Len)

Len joined his wife Colleen, parents Matilda and William, and baby sister Barbara Ann, in Heaven on Monday October 20, 2025, at age 94. Len was married to Colleen, his college sweetheart and loving wife of 66 years, and cared for her throughout their lives. He was best friends with Rev. Charles (Chuck) Freuden, from 2nd grade through the end of his life.

Len was a graduate of the Milwaukee State Teachers College, now the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. After serving as a Sargent in the Army, he received his Masters of Music degree from the University of Michigan. Music education was central to his life. He was a musician, conductor and composer who also excelled as an organist, pianist, and trombonist. Len performed with the Milwaukee and Waukesha Symphonies. Len was a teacher for over forty years, and taught band, choir and orchestra at South Division and Bay View High Schools in Milwaukee. He taught trombone and low brass students at Carroll College and privately. Len was the church organist at Ascension Lutheran Church from 1970 -2010. He was a brass coach for Music for Youth, now the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestras, and a strong supporter of youth music programs in Milwaukee.

Len served as the Milwaukee Co. Cultural Activities Supervisor, and assistant to Music Director John Anello for many years of the Music Under the Stars Programs in the many fantastic Milwaukee County Parks. Len was a Milwaukee Civic Music Association Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. In his free time, he was also an avid golfer, golfing with the same foursome for fifty years.

Len was an amazing person who brought joy and support to an extraordinarily wide circle of students, colleagues, family, and friends throughout his life. He was a true renaissance man, who in addition to his music, loved home, garden, and cooking projects. What couldn't he do? Len was not very good at driving a tractor, a fact his farming relatives reminisced about frequently at numerous Christmas gatherings. He always welcomed new experiences, new people and was there for his family and friends.

Keep Marilyn Schräder in your prayers as we mourn her death.

Marilyn began her church organist career during high school at The First Reformed Church, Waupun and served as organist at The Christian Science Church, Kingo Lutheran Church, Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurum and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Her serving at St. Luke's was over 40 years and the church honored her for her 44 years of service shortly before her passing.

Not only was Marilyn a member of the Milwaukee Chapter, she served as our Chapter's Dean and on the Executive Committee, attending many national conventions. Her love for Welsh music was close to her heart and was a member of The Welsh Gymanfa Ganu Association of Wisconsin, Inc. and the North American Festival of Wales. Her travels took her many times to Wales, the Netherlands, Europe, Norway and three visits to the British Virgin Islands.

The arts were a part of Marilyn life as she enjoyed being a season ticket patron to the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, The Milwaukee Rep, the Milwaukee Opera, and the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Services were held on Friday, August 14 at All Saints Cathedral with Visitation at 9:30 am and Funeral Service at 11 am.

Keep Stephen Wolff in your prayers as we mourn his death.

Stephen was formerly of Milwaukee and worked at All Saints' Cathedral and St. Mark's Episcopal.

Keep Stanton Peters in your prayers as we mourn his death.

Stanton was the owner of Peters, Weiland and Co. and the caretaker of many pipe organs here in the Milwaukee area.

Keep Joanne Strommen in your prayers as we mourn her death.

Services were held at Kingo Lutheran Church, 1225 East Olive Street, Shorewood, Wisconsin on April 18, 2026, with visitation at 12:00 PM, followed by a Memorial Service at 2:00 PM.

*Keep the Family of Rick Ewert in your prayers as we mourn the death of his Father, Ch*arles *Richard Ewert.*

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at Elm Grove Ev. Lutheran Church, 945 Terrace Drive, Elm Grove, WI with Visitation from 10:00 am until the time of service at 12:00 noon.

Keep the Family of Paul Kasten in your prayers as we mourn the death of his mother, Joyce Kasten.

Services were held at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 5301 W. Washington Blvd., Milwaukee, at 2:00 PM on Friday, February 6, and on Saturday, February 7, at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 84th & Center, Milwaukee, at 2:00 PM, with Visitation from 1:00-2:00 PM.

"To live in hearts, we leave behind is not to die."

"Requiescant in Pace"

Quote Source: February PipeNotes 1958

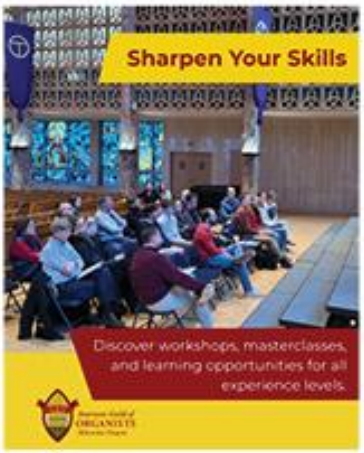
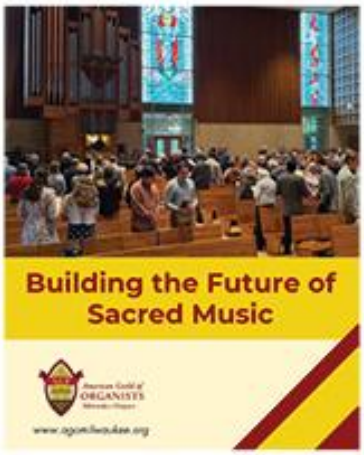
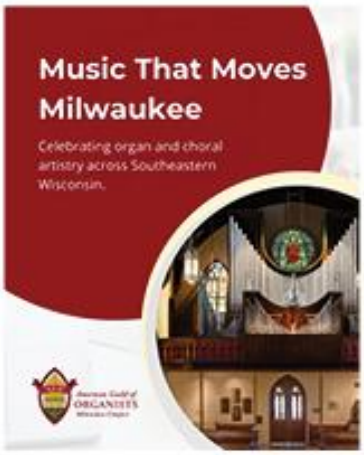
AGO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS RECOGNIZES THE AGO MILWAUKEE CHAPTER

SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT: MILWAUKEE CHAPTER

These fantastic Facebook posts from the Milwaukee Chapter recently caught our eye. The chapter board recently engaged a local agency to help them create social media campaigns. Here are several helpful tips you can take from their posts:

Consistency – These ads use the chapter logo and AGO color palette in a consistent manner, as well as clean, easy to read fonts. If you work from a template, you should be able to easily adjust the colors and insert a logo. If you use AI as a design aide, make sure that the app renders the AGO or chapter logo accurately.

Clear Message – Several of these ads feature an aspirational message about the benefits of membership ("Sharpen Your Skills," "Building the Future of Sacred Music") or serve a functional purpose ("Registration: Organ Bus Tour"). The most effective posts have a clear objective.

Call to Action – Because your graphics can often be forwarded, downloaded, or separated from the post text in the app, it's always good to include a website URL or, as in the case of the Bus Tour message, a QR code to encourage registration.

Click here **to see more creative posts. Congratulations to the Milwaukee Chapter on a job well done!**