



Vol. 26, No. 4

December 2020/January 2021

Dean's Column

David Jenkins

Members Survey

By now it is no news to you that the pandemic has affected our organization profoundly, just as it has affected our personal and family lives, our communities, our nation and the world community. As our local and national AGO members and leaders grapple with responses to the many challenges of the pandemic, it is time for our chapter board, officers, and committees to get concrete information about the effects of the pandemic on our members, and to



find out more about how we can address needs and continue to fulfill our mission.

To that end we will be sending out a *Members Survey* that will provide information that can help the TCAGO better serve you in the months ahead. Information on the employment and financial impacts of the pandemic will help us determine the necessity for future assistance to members, like the Dues Forgiveness Program and the Members Relief Fund. Information about how members' work has changed, especially with regard to use of technology and virtual programming, will inform us about ways we can assist members with training resources. Responses about members' interest in online events or meetings will guide us as we consider our programming. And finally, learning of shared experiences through our community challenges will build collegial understanding and empathy.

Please watch for an email with information about the survey and the link for completing it. All individual responses or personal information will be kept strictly confidential. We plan to publish the findings of the survey in the February *Pipenotes* newsletter. You are always welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns about this survey.

Members Relief Fund

I would like to encourage any members who are facing financial hardship going into the holiday season to apply for a \$500 Members Relief Fund grant. We still have plenty of funding available. The grants are intended for any current members who have suffered hardship from reduced income because of the pandemic. Please email me, David Jenkins, with your name, address, and a brief description of the cause of lost income and its impact for you. If your membership renewal comes due shortly after the first of the year, you may wish to mention that information as well, if it would be difficult for you to pay your dues. All applications and inquiries will be kept confidential. I am grateful for the generosity of all those members who donated to the Fund.

My sincere wishes for a joyful and safe holiday season!

Chapter Events 2020-2021

Saturday, April 17 Student Competition (Virtual)

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Meet Our Newest Board Members

Nils C. Halker II has been Parish Organist of Saint Clement's Episcopal Church since 2006. His musical formation began as a six-year-old treble singing in the Hancock Choir at Saint Mark's Cathedral, eventually working his way down to bass in the Saint Mark's Cathedral Choir.

When he was fourteen years old, he played his first church service on a reed organ at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church near Annandale, Minnesota. This led to organ lessons with Howard Don Small at Saint Mark's Cathedral. He later studied with William Kuhlman and Nicolay Apollyon at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa; Dean Billmeyer at the University of Minnesota; and Mark Venning at the University of Durham, England.



He is active in the Organ Historical Society, having served on the planning committee for the 2017 national convention held in Minnesota. Additionally, he is an editor of the Society's national journal, *The Tracker*.

He serves on the program planning committee for the newly restored Aeolian-Skinner organ in the University of Minnesota's Northrop Auditorium, and is on the board of the Young People's Symphony Concert Association of the Minnesota Orchestra. Aside from music-making, he is Professional Development Specialist at the Science Museum of Minnesota. In that role, he works with a wide range of audiences on issues of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. He and his family live in Saint Paul's Como Park neighborhood.

Laura Potratz, music educator, cantor, and organist, is passionate about the spiritual awareness that results from

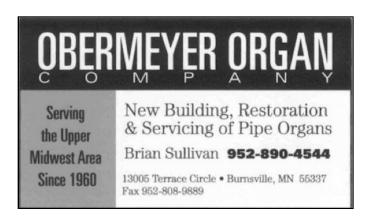


the study of performing arts, both personally and communally. She maintains a private studio of organ, piano, and voice students in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metro area and sings with the Bach Society of Minnesota and the Minnesota Chorale. She is a men-

tor with the Voices of Hope women's prison choir in Shakopee, and serves as Associate Cantor for the Lutheran Summer Music Program for middle school and high school students from across the nation.

She holds a Master of Music and Musicology from the Sorbonne and a *Diplôme d'études musicales* in organ from the conservatory in Saint-Maur-des-Fossés, France. She has worked for organbuilders Dalsbaek-Merklin, Goulding & Wood, and Grandall & Engen and has worked





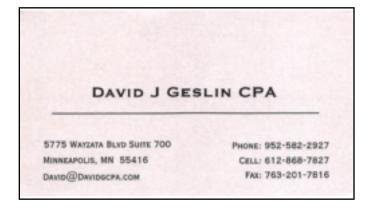
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in organist and choir director positions across various denominations.

Kris Rizzotto has played concerts in Argentina, Brazil,

Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, and in 20 American states. Kris was named a member of *The Diapason's 20-Under-30* Class of 2017, which recognizes young leaders in the fields of organ, harpsichord, carillon, and church music. Dr. Rizzotto is the Director of Music at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.



She is a self-published composer for organ, choir, and piano, with emphasis in sacred repertoire for religious services. Several original hymn introductions and re-harmonizations are available for free download.

She was previously the organist at the Benedictine Abbey of Rio de Janeiro, built in 1590 and owner of one of the oldest organs in South America. Kris achieved the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance at the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma, with a dissertation about the importance of music in the formation of the national identity of the Latvian people, focusing on organ compositions by Aivars Kalejs, which represent the values and spirit of the Latvian heritage.

Lise Schmidt is not a church organist, but as the partner/spouse of Michael Barone for many years, she has



attended and/or participated in innumerable church and synagogue services, organ concerts, master classes, and pipe organ tours, with almost daily listening to recordings of organ repertoire. She joined the TCAGO several years ago and has participated in many

AGO, TCAGO, and Organ Historical Society events and conventions. She is currently a member of the TCAGO Pipe Organ Heritage Committee (POHC).

She plays the piano and has sung in choirs for much of her life. She began her organ playing experience with Dee Ann Crossley, who helped her with short organ pieces a pianist could play. She took formal organ lessons for 4-1/2 years with Kris Langlois at Augustana Lutheran Church.





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Student Virtual Organ Competition

Saturday, April 17

Submissions due January 15

TCAGO is pleased to announce that it will host a chapter competition in conjunction with the National AGO Quimby competition. The date for the Twin Cities competition is Saturday, April 17, 2021. The first prize of \$2,000 is provided by the Schubert Club and the second prize of \$1,000 is sponsored by TCAGO member Phil Asgian.

Due to the pandemic, this competition will be a virtual competition, with competitors submitting recordings. Below are more details taken from the national website:

Competitors will submit an initial online application. The deadline of submission is January 15, 2021.

Each competitor will subsequently create a recording of their RCYO repertoire with the aid of a proctor.

The proctor will upload the recorded performance into a special "Add Your RCYO Recording" online application. The proctor can also create CDs to be submitted via USPS.

To find out repertoire requirements, more detailed information about the new procedures, and FAQ, please consult the national AGO website. Go to the Competition/Performance section or click directly here.

For other questions, please feel free to contact the competition coordinator, Dr. Mary Newton.

Welcome Christmas Concert

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Sunday, December 6, 4:00 p.m.

VocalEssence on Demand

The annual *Welcome Christmas* Concert is a beloved tradition, and one the choral nonprofit will continue this year, through its new VocalEssence On Demand website. The 2020 *Welcome Christmas* concert, an online-only event, will release for viewing at 4 p.m. on December 6.

This year, the concert will also be televised across Minnesota on Twin Cities PBS (TPT) three times during the peak of the holiday season, and it will also be available to stream on their family of platforms. Relevant dates include:

December 19: becomes available to stream on Tpt.org, PBS.org, and the PBS video app.

December 19: broadcast at 7:00 p.m. on TPT Life December 20: broadcast at 8:00 p.m. on TPT MN December 24: broadcast at 10:00 p.m. on TPT 2

The Incarnation:

For the Healing of the World

National Lutheran Choir 2020 Christmas Festival Friday, December 11, 8:00 p.m.

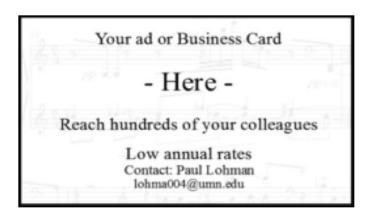
National Lutheran Choir.

A free concert with music of peace, love, and joy will be presented online.

Bach Seminar Cancellation

The seminar on Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* scheduled for January-February has been canceled due to pandemic restrictions. Professor Westermeyer and Chaplain Setterlund regret this change in plans and hope for the possibility of a future presentation.





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The Chester E. and Marion D. Groth Scholarship

Music Scholarship Opportunity at Richfield United Methodist Church Application deadline: February 26

Scholarships will be awarded for tuition for the 2021-2022 school year. Previous recipients are eligible to reapply for the scholarship for up to three additional years or until a Bachelor degree is earned, whichever occurs first.

The purpose of this Fund is to award annual post-secondary scholarships for qualified students desiring to matriculate and pursue careers in music education, performance, or music therapy.

These scholarships are made possible by the generous gift of Marion Groth on behalf of her husband, Chester. To be eligible to receive this scholarship, an applicant must:

be a graduating high school senior from a Minnesota high school;

be entering college as a freshman.

Applications must be received in the church office no later than noon, Friday, February 26, 2021. Applicants will be notified if they are invited to a finalist audition on March 20, 2021.

For more information and an application form, go to the Church website and click "scholarships" to print the information and forms. Last year 10 scholarships of \$3,200 were gifted.

Richfield United Methodist Church 5835 Lyndale Ave. South, Minneapolis

The Saint John's Holtkamp-Pasi Pipe Organ Concerts

Saint John's Abbey and University Church, Collegeville

The Holtkamp-Pasi Pipe Organ is completed and in frequent use for Saint John's liturgies. Finishing adjustments were made on the instrument throughout the summer as it adapted to the heat and humidity. KC Marrin did some fixing and tuning, and Fathers Lew Grobe and Nick Kleespie climbed around the pipes repairing some leaks and unusual sounds as Martin Pasi instructed them through their phones using FaceTime and Zoom!



Current social distancing and other requirements limit numbers in the Abbey Church, but plans are moving ahead to offer opportunities for presentations. Following is a list of events currently planned. Please watch the abbey website for confirmation of dates/times.

Sunday, March 14, 3:00 p.m. Kim Kasling, organist

Friday, March 26, 8:00 p.m. Canadian Brass with Greg Zelek, organist

Saturday, April 10, time TBD

Afternoon blessing of the Abbey Church Organ with abbey and university musicians presenting the world premiere of *Three Intermezzi* by William Bolcom, commissioned by Jeff and Jamie Barnett

Sunday, April 11, 2:00 p.m.
Organ presentation with Michael Barone and
Fr. Bob Koopmann, OSB

Sunday, April 11, 3:00 p.m. Inaugural Dedication Organ Recital Stephen Tharp, organist

Sunday, May 2, 3:00 p.m. Rachel Laurin, organist

> World premiere of an organ piece, commissioned by Michael Barone, will be performed by Laurin Saint John's Abbey and University Church

Collegeville, Minnesota

Sounds of the Organ

Over the recent months, our experiences with music concerts, specifically pipe organ music, has drastically changed, and is ever evolving and innovating during this pandemic.

In an effort to continue with our TCAGO mission to enrich lives through organ and choral music, as outlined in our website, the chapter offers a series called *Sounds of the Organ*, which will periodically highlight various recordings that many of us might enjoy.

If you have an event to share as part of this series, please send the link and a brief description to: Jeremy Haug, David Jenkins, or Michael Barone.

The first highlight in the series is *Music in the Americas*, an organ concert in the Pinnacle Concert Series.

Composition Competition at L'Eglise Saint-Sulpice In Paris

Pierre-François Dub-Attenti, President of the Association pour le rayonnement des orgues Cavaillé-Coll de l'église Saint-Sulpice à Paris (France)

A composition competition has been organized to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Association pour le rayonnement des orgues Aristide Cavaillé-Coll de l'église Saint-Sulpice, à Paris (AROSS). The competition, entitled #SaintSulpice2021, is intended to promote musical creation, youth and the instrumental heritage of the Saint-Sulpice church.

Call for Applications Timeline

In September 2020, a call was made for applications internationally, inviting composers to compose a work for the great organ. In January 2021, and subject to the funding obtained by that date, a call for applications may be made internationally, inviting composers to compose a work for organ and voices.

Category #1: Work for Great Organ

The work will be a new creation composed by taking into account the specifics of the great organ of Saint-Sulpice: instrument's composition, sonorities, balance, registration system. Duration: 5 to 7 minutes.

Category #2: Work for Choir Organ & Voices

The terms and conditions of this category will be defined in January 2021. The final number of singers will directly depend on the funds raised as of January 2021.

Pre-selections

After registration and submission of the works and a period of analysis and deliberation, the jury will select four works in each of the two categories. Each member of the jury receives anonymous scores. The list of finalists will be publicly announced to allow performers to work with composers. The Final will take place on November 21, 2021 at Saint-Sulpice, Paris.

Jurv

A prestigious international jury composed of: Philippe Hersant, President of the jury, composer (France) Martina Batic, Music Director of the Radio France Choir

Estelle Lowry, Director of the *Maison de la musique* contemporaine (France)

Kaija Saariaho, composer (Finland)

(Slovenia/France)

Yves Castagnet, organist (France)

Bernard Foccroulle, organist and composer (Belgium)

Thomas Lacôte, organist and composer (France)

Performers of the works during the Final -

Confirmed artists & emerging talents

Category 1: work for great organ Shin-Young Lee

Yoann Tardivel

Category 2: work for choir organ & voices (depending on funding)
Sequenza 9.3 vocal ensemble,
directed by Catherine Simonpietri

Prizes

For each of the two categories, the following prizes will be awarded:

First Prize: €4,000 Second Prize: €2,000 Audience Prize: €1,000

Internet users Prize: according to the donations made by

Internet users during the Final.

The First Prize winner in Category 1 will be offered a publishing contract by Gérard Billaudot Editeur SA, provided that the candidate is free of any editorial commitments.

Like our concerts, the performer's performance will be broadcast on a large screen in the nave and live on the Internet. Sequenza 9.3, Shin-Young Lee and Yoann Tardivel may perform the winning works in future concerts.

Further information is available here, and email here.



Calendar of Events

December

Sunday, December 6, 4:00 p.m.

Welcome Christmas Concert

VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble VocalEssence on Demand

Friday, December 11, 8:00 p.m.

The Incarnation: For the Healing of the World
National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival
online at National Lutheran Choir

Wednesday, December 16, 12:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Organ Series

John Varona, Christ United Methodist Church, Rochester

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

February

Wednesday, February 24, 12:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Organ Series

Kris Rizzotto, Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

March

Sunday, March 14, 3:00 p.m.

Saint John's Organ Concerts

Kim Kasling, organist

Saint John's Abbey and University Church Collegeville, Minnesota

Wednesday, March 24, 12:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Organ Series

Richard Gray, St. John the Evangelist

Episcopal Church, Saint Paul

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Friday, March 26, 8:00 p.m

Saint John's Organ Concerts

Canadian Brass with Greg Zelek, organist

Saint John's Abbey and University Church Collegeville, Minnesota

April

Saturday, April 10, time tbd

Saint John's Organ Concerts

Abbey and university musicians

World premiere of William Bolcom's Three Intermezzi

Saint John's Abbey and University Church

Collegeville, Minnesota

Sunday, April 11, 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Saint John's Organ Concerts

Organ presentation with Michael Barone and

Fr. Bob Koopmann, OSB

Inaugural Dedication Recital

Stephen Tharp, organist

Saint John's Abbey and University Church

Collegeville, Minnesota

Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Symphonic Bach

Paul Jacobs, organist

Northrop Auditorium, University of Minnesota

84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

Saturday, April 17 (TCAGO Event)

Student Virtual Organ Competition

online

Wednesday, April 21, 12:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Organ Series

Dean Billmeyer, University Organist and

Professor of Music, University of Minnesota

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

May

Sunday, May 2, 3:00 p.m.

Saint John's Organ Concerts

Rachel Laurin, organist

World premiere of organ piece commissioned by

Michael Barone

Saint John's Abbey and University Church

Collegeville, Minnesota

Wednesday, May 19, 12:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Organ Series

Jessica Park, Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas,

University of St. Thomas

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

TCAGO Elected Board

Dean: David Jenkins (h) 651-690-1398. (w) 651-962-5793 Sub Dean: Jacob Benda (c) 612-298-9692, (w) 612-379-2259 Treasurer: David Geslin (c) 612-868-7827, (w) 952-582-2927 Secretary: Joyce Brown (h, w) 651-489-5092, (c) 651-329-6615 Class of 2021: Jessica Park, Phillip Radtke, Joseph Trucano Class of 2022: Liisa Keränen, Laura Potratz, John Varona Class of 2023: Nils Halker, Kris Rizzotto, Lise Schmidt

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Development: Dee Ann Crossley (h) 651-457-8994, (c) 612-801-1346; Jon Kietzer

Education: Philip Asgian (h) 651-293-9115, (c) 651-592-4505; Richard Collman, Margaret Gohman, Philip Radtke, Kirsten Uhlenberg Historical Concerns: Nils Halker (h) 651-488-2157, (w) 651-221-4736; Michael Barone, Kyle Black, James Frazier, Francine Linhart, Lise Schmidt, Christopher Stroh, Robert Vickery Hospitality: Chair, (vacant); Mari Lyn Ampe, Charlie Johnson,

Martin Stachnik

Investment: James Hild (h) 952-945-9840, (c) 952-807-3014;

Jon Kietzer, Roger Burg

Pipedreams Scholarship: Diana Lee Lucker (w) 952-473-8877, ext 247, (c) 952-237-0349; Karen Bartz, Steve Gentile

Professional Development: Jeffrey Patry (w) 763-788-9653, ext. 109, (c) 612-327-9894; Christine Laughlin, Joshua Lindgren, Cynthia Mortensen, Sean Vogt

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(c) 515-778-2302; Jeremy Haug

Special Projects: James Callahan 651-224-3285; Leonard Danek, Andrew Hackett

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Advertising: Paul Lohman 800-326-7426 Archives: Joshua Lindgren (c) 785-906-0418, (h) 952-476-0662

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Facebook & Communications Liaison: Jeremy Haug 612-578-8058 Guild Examinations: Stephen Self (h) 651-481-3297, (c) 651-402-9043 Membership Coordinator: Laura Edman (h) 651-439-1071,

(c) 651-216-0277

Pipenotes Editor: Merritt Nequette 651-484-0451

Placement: Jeffrey Patry (w) 763-788-9653, ext. 109, (c) 612-327-9894 Student Competition: Mary Newton (h) 763-546-1307, (c) 612-581-3106

TCAGO Organ Database: David Engen (c) 612-801-8662

Chapter Website - www.tcago.org

Website Administrators: David Engen (c) 612-801-8662;

Kirsten Uhlenberg 651-646-8120 Facebook - facebook.com/twincitiesAGO

Pipenotes

Pipenotes is the official publication of the Twin Cities Chapter, American Guild of Organists, and is published nine times a year, September through June. December and January is a combined issue.

Deadline date

Information for Pipenotes should be received no later than the fifteenth of the month preceding publication.

Materials may be sent to Merritt Nequette, editor.

Letters to the Editor

Signed Letters to the Editor are always welcome.

Mail letters to Merritt Neguette.

2748 Lexington Avenue N., Saint Paul MN 55113

TCAGO Event Promotion via Pipedreams

A comprehensive listing of organ events statewide is available online via the Pipedreams Organ Calendar. Information there is only as good as the information provided to it, so you are encouraged to send event listings for inclusion at the earliest possible time.

For both on-air and website listings of organ-related activities, please send information to Pipedreams host (and longtime TCAGO member) Michael Barone, or by mail to: Pipedreams Calendar, 480 Cedar St., Saint Paul, MN 55101. In a pinch, you may call 651-290-1539.

You are also encouraged to regularly request organ selections on the Friday Favorites show with Steven Staruch. Help promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR's programming.

NOTE: It is requested that you include this text in printed programs for any local organ concerts you play or present:

Enjoy the gamut of the pipe organ experience...from ancient to modern, sacred to secular, classical to popular...with weekly broadcasts of Pipedreams from American Public Media. Broadcasts in the Twin Cities are heard Sunday mornings (6-8 a.m.) on KSJN-99.5FM and other stations in the Classical MPR network. For your convenience, Pipedreams also is globally available 24/7 at www.pipedreams.org or www.yourclassical.org/pipedreams.

The Organ Calendar is accessible online and is read in week-appropriate summaries beginning at 7:00 a.m. during each Sunday morning Pipedreams broadcast.

Additional note from Michael:

In these Covid-complicated days, mail is better sent to me at my home address: 456 Cherokee Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55107. The office phone still works, and I get emails of messages left there.