



Dean's Column

David Jenkins

The Current Situation

I do not presume to speak on behalf of the chapter concerning the death of George Floyd and the ensuing protests and violent unrest. However, I can say personally that I am horrified by Floyd's death, and can only begin to understand the pain it inflames in the black community, and in all who are marginalized and feel unheard. I pray that our cities will be peaceful, all citizens will be safe, and that our society – leaders, and all people – will work relentlessly for an end to racial injustices and a conversion of hearts.



My column this month takes the form of a report regarding various chapter news and happenings. I apologize for the delay in publishing this *Pipenotes* issue. A lot has developed in just the past few days!

Dues Forgiveness Program

As I previously announced, the TCAGO board has approved a plan to pay all chapter members' renewals for one year, and to establish a Members Relief Fund. Because of some canceled events, we had funds left over from this year's budget that otherwise would have gone to program and publicity costs. In addition, for most of the past several years, we have been able to set aside some excess money into a reserve fund that the Board could spend at its discretion. Our chapter is in a very secure financial position because of excellent leadership and careful stewardship of chapter resources over many years. This initiative will not draw from the funds we have invested long-term, including the *Pipedreams* Scholarship Fund and the profits from past conventions.

We are in the process now of working with the national membership coordinator to determine the exact amount to be sent for the national portion of dues for our members. When that portion is paid, all members will have their renewal date pushed forward by one full year. For example, if you just renewed your membership on January 1, 2020, your membership would now be paid through January 1, 2022.

Members Relief Fund

The TCAGO [website](#) home page has information about how to donate to the Relief Fund, and how to apply for a grant if you find yourself in need. Some of our members have lost their regular church employment or suffered a reduction in pay. Others face significant financial impact due to lost contract work, or to the loss of other employment. The board's target for the fund is \$6000, which

Chapter Events 2019-2020

Sunday, September 22

Opening Concert and Members Dinner
James D. Hicks, organist

Monday, September 30

Jean-Willy Kunz, jazz performance presenter

Tuesday, October 1

Jean-Willy Kunz, organist;
Branford Marsalis saxophonist

Thursday, October 10

Adam Brakel, organist

Paul Manz Centennial Commemoration

Friday, October 25

John Schwandt, organist

Saturday, October 26

Talks and Workshops – Paul Westermeyer,
David Cherwien, Mark Lawson, presenters

Saturday, November 2

Pipedreams Scholarships Auditions

Sunday, November 17

Chelsea Chen, organist, Rochester

Sunday, December 15

La Nativité du Seigneur
Raymond Johnston, organist

Friday, February 7

Eric Plutz plays Vierne

Saturday, February 22

Pipe Organ Discovery Day

Saturday, March 21 CANCELED

Bach's Birthday Bash

Friday/Saturday, March 27/28 CANCELED

Cameron Carpenter, organist
Minnesota Orchestra

Saturday, March 28 CANCELED

Student Competition

Tuesday, April 21 CANCELED

Dean Billmeyer, organist

Friday, April 24 CANCELED

Olivier Vernet and Cédric Meckler, organ duo

Sunday, June 7 POSTPONED

Members Recital

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will provide grants to twelve members. We know that the amount of the grant is small, but I know we would like to help take care of others however we can. Of course, donations of any amount will be welcome. You can give electronically through selecting "Giving" on the web page main menu, or you can mail a check, made out to the TCAGO, to:

TCAGO
c/o David Geslin
5775 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 700
Minneapolis, MN 55416.

If you have any questions about the Relief Fund, or are unable to access the TCAGO web page, please feel free to call me or send an email.

New Registrar

Jeffrey Patry has agreed to serve as our new registrar. Jeffrey, a long-time chapter member, has served on the board, and has helped in other leadership positions. The registrar position combines several functions: technical work on the member database, service to new or renewing members, and member engagement by working with our Membership Coordinator to strengthen our chapter. I am grateful to Jeffrey for generously lending his service. I would also again like to thank Jayson Engquist for his excellent work as registrar since the fall of 2018.

When the member dues forgiveness payment is completed and processed, we will be officially switching to the national membership system, *Oncard*, for all renewals in the future. This means that from now on, we will renew our membership through the national system, rather than through our local WildApricot service. We will be sending more information soon about this change.

2021 Regional Convention

This news will probably come as no surprise – the National Committee on Conventions has canceled the regional conventions for 2021, after consulting with all five hosting chapters. Our steering committee, under the leadership of Jacob Benda, has offered for us to host the convention in 2023. I thank Jacob, the steering committee members, the program committee and others for all their work to this point. We will certainly be able to hit the ground running for 2023!

Some New Links

In the May issue of *Pipenotes*, I listed a series of links addressing the ongoing problems associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. I received some positive feedback on the page of links that I offered. This month, I found a series of links addressing the current situation.

If you are thinking about philanthropy in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd and the unrest in the Twin Cities, here are two of my favorite organizations:

[Second Harvest Heartland](#)
[Neighborhood House](#)

STEPHEN HAMILTON
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"Hamilton gave a stunning performance of Franck's Choral No.1 in E, its long melodic lines soaring appropriately, its intimate moments and its grandiose moments equally inspiring."

—Goeffrey Simon Arts Journal in Raleigh, North Carolina

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Community-based organizations that are supporting rebuilding destroyed or damaged areas in Minneapolis and Saint Paul:

- [Hamline Midway Coalition](#)
- [Lake Street Council](#)

A Foundation that is promoting efforts at systemic change and community building:

- [Minneapolis Foundation](#)

Here is a fascinating organization that provides a variety of educational events and resources around creative expression in teaching. The home page has a link to a statement on the death of George Floyd, with more links to all manner of resources and organizations involved in rebuilding, advocacy, support for homeless and the needy, and more.

- [Compas](#)

Finally, provided by Michael Barone, some great organ music for inspiration:

- Astounding historic Dutch organ at Martinikerk, Groningen
 - [Organ demonstration](#)
 - [Organ in Concert](#)
- Classic recording of Messiaen [La Nativité](#)
- The sonorous [Johann Gottfried Mülhel](#)

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RENAISSANCE QUANTUM BY ALLEN

The Pipe Organ Heritage Committee

Nils Halker

This past November, a group of TCAGO members, who had been involved in organizing the 2017 national convention of the Organ Historical Society in the Twin Cities, convened the first meeting of the TCAGO Pipe Organ Heritage Committee. Because of the success of the 2017 convention, we were interested in keeping that energy and interest in historic pipe organs going. To that end, the purpose of The Pipe Organ Heritage Committee (POHC) is to celebrate, preserve, and study the pipe organ in the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota, and adjacent regions in all its historic styles, through research, education, advocacy, and music.

The POHC will provide members of the TCAGO and the larger community with opportunities for events in venues with pipe organs of particular interest and merit, for discussions about and demonstrations of these instruments. We had two programs planned for this spring: an organ crawl in Saint Paul, and a recital in Hudson, Wisconsin. Both have been put on hold until we can gather in large groups once again. We have begun planning for a Minneapolis crawl, originally for this coming autumn. We look forward to presenting these instruments to the wider community in the not-too-distant future.

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Until we can see one another and hear live organ music again, be watching for articles in *Pipenotes* about extant and lost instruments of interest in our region. We are assisting David Engen with the TCAGO Organ List as well as working to update the OHS Database. And we will be compiling and maintaining a list of organs in the region of particular interest or that might be in danger of falling silent.

Ultimately, we hope to expand interest in the pipe organ beyond organists to include all who love the instrument and its music.

The Pipe Organ Heritage Committee and additional TCAGO members who have begun this work include Nils Halker (chair), Michael Barone, Lise Schmidt, Bob Vickery, Chris Stroh, Fran Linhart, Jim Frazier, and Jayson Engquist.

An Update on the TCAGO Organ List

Jayson Engquist

David Engen, with the help of Lise Schmidt (who has undertaken the Wisconsin conversion), has been updating our Organ List [database](#), which is maintained on the chapter's website. This is a work in progress. Information is constantly being added and revised.

Check out new additions (many residences, theaters/auditoriums, and unusual venues have been added).

Check out instruments/venues with which you are familiar to see if you can add more information, photographs, etc.

The database includes five states (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota) and is dependent upon members submitting information about these places/instruments.

This chapter resource is an enormous undertaking and labor of love. Originally begun by chapter member Dick Greene, it is now coordinated by [David Engen](#).



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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 Nequette](#).

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 KJSN-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.

Unfortunately, the former Classical MPR Online Calendar has been terminated, though you can send non-organ-related church music series information directly to your favorite Classical MPR host and cross your fingers.