



## Dean's Column

David Jenkins

### What are you doing to take care of yourself now?

We are all familiar with the default exchange of greetings with others these days: "So, how are you doing now?" Answered by, "Oh, ok I guess, hanging in there." I've been inspired by Elizabeth Weingarten's article in the *Quartz at Work* newsletter that examines strategies for meaningful engagement with our friends and coworkers during the pandemic. The author proposes questions we might ask others in order to connect more deeply with them, in a way that moves from a rote or superficial exchange to one that builds relationships. The article, "[Twenty Questions to ask instead of 'How are you doing right now?'](#)" challenges us to develop skills as listeners, promotes a mindset of genuine concern for others, and invites us to ask questions of others and ourselves that can help us embrace the uncertainty of our lives.



This truly is an uncertain time for us AGO members, personally and professionally. We mourn the loss of our friend and colleague David Goulette, who was organist at Trinity Lutheran in Stillwater for many years. I have talked to a member who was furloughed from her church position, and who is not eligible for state unemployment insurance because her church did not participate in the program. I have heard from a dedicated church musician whose church has dealt her a deep salary cut. I know of other musicians – organists, singers, instrumentalists – who work as independent contractors or subs, and now have few or no gigs. Others, with some degree or another of gracefulness, are responding to the challenge to produce music for streamed or recorded worship, or trying to figure out how to manage meetings and lessons via Zoom. Some medically-vulnerable chapter members are isolated in home sequester, while others of us are dealing with sick parents, helping out family members who are unemployed, dealing with the stresses and dangers of working in essential jobs, or are just struggling to make online school "normal" for their kids. The ability of the AGO to fulfill its mission has been seriously crippled by cancelation of the national convention and other summer events.

My 89-year-old mother asks me every day, "When is this all going to end?" The stress of uncertainty, the discomfort we are feeling when we don't know what the future holds, is a kind of anticipatory grief. Scott Berinato writes in the [Harvard Business Review](#) that understanding grief, its stages, and accepting the

### 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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grief can give us a certain power over the uncertainty. The grief with the virus is confusing because we know something bad is happening, but we can't see it. We have lost our individual and collective sense of safety. Bernato advises us to find balance, come into the present, let go of what we can't control and stock up on compassion. This brings me back to the idea of connecting with people, allowing ourselves to name our grief, let the feeling go through us, and keep going.

In a *Time* magazine [article](#), Anglican bishop and biblical scholar N.T. Wright argues that Christianity offers no answers about the Coronavirus and is not even supposed to. He proposes that we need to recover the biblical tradition of lament, which is what happens when we ask "Why?" and don't get an answer. It's where we get when we look beyond our own small sufferings and inconveniences, and look more broadly at the suffering of others, in our neighborhoods and around the world. The psalms almost always move toward light and thanksgiving at the end, even after plumbing the depths. "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" In crying out to God we don't get an explanation, but we are reassured and renewed by God's presence. Even more importantly, the mystery of the biblical narrative is that God also laments. Story after story shows God grieving over his creatures' wickedness, Jesus weeping at Lazarus' tomb, the Holy Spirit groaning within the pain of the whole creation. Wright says:

As the Spirit laments within us, so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities, new acts of kindness, new scientific understanding, new hope. New wisdom for our leaders? Now there's a thought.

Which brings me back to my question: what are you doing to take care of yourself now? I believe that for us musicians the more relevant question should be "What are you doing to take care of others now?" The manifold ways our members have jumped in to serve their congregations with recording and streaming musical liturgy under very restrictive conditions, the ways they have struggled to learn new technologies, have reached out to others as best they can with the gift of music, have discovered new depths of commitment to their vocation as ministers even when facing family difficulties, financial challenges, and even unjust professional treatment – all deserve our thanks and praise. I believe that music itself provides a sense of permanence in times of uncertainty. But, remembering our Guild's motto, *Soli Deo Gloria*, the musical work of God we are doing connects us to God's transcendent presence, and renews us for mission. For that work, all of you deserve a great debt of gratitude, and have my profound appreciation.

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## Easter Reflections – 2020

*Rev. John Setterlund, Chaplain TCAGO*

It's Easter Sunday. The churches are closed, to avoid infection, and the snow is swirling around the neighborhood, with more predicted. The opening sounds of Handel's *Messiah* make me feel like Christmas. What, dear God, is happening to us? Cantata texts from Holy Saturday echo in my ears: "My weak heart indeed feels fear, care, pain: Where shall my body find rest? By whom shall my soul be freed and released? And where shall my loved ones be driven?"

Then come the oratorio's words: "But thou didst not leave his soul in hell ... Lift up your heads, O ye gates ... and the King of Glory shall come in, the Lord strong and mighty, he is the King of Glory." Easter is still a day to proclaim *Hallelujah!* Whatever we have seen or suffered, whatever the future holds for us, our churches, communities, and nations – a new day is here!

We see the causes of our struggles in forces beyond our control, or maybe as results of our carelessness and neglect. Blaming ourselves or others for current problems finds few solutions. What Easter tells us is that God has embraced humanity in a new way – forgiveness or redemption or salvation – that sets us free to overcome evil with good, disease with health, and despair with hope. And fortunately for us Christians, Easter continues for seven weeks, giving us time to heal, grow, and rise up to a great vision of restoration and promise for our world. Peace to you all!

## Election Results for the TCAGO Board

The officers and board members chosen in the April 2020 election are:

*Dean:* David Jenkins  
*Sub-Dean:* Jacob Benda  
*Treasurer:* David Geslin  
*Secretary:* Joyce Brown

The new members-at-large – Class of 2023:

Nils Halker  
 Kris Rizzotto  
 Lise Schmidt

The Board has appointed Laura Potratz to fill the remaining two years of Andrew Paulson's term as member-at-large, effective July 1. Andrew is relocating to Philadelphia this summer.

## Directory Update

### **New Member**

John C. MacInnis, CAGO, Ph.D.



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## Helpful Links for the Covid-19 Pandemic

*Assembled by David Jenkins*

The AGO national website has updated and added [resources](#) for musicians, teachers, and artists, especially focused on employment and teaching issues.

The Hymn Society has published a [web page](#) with a wide range of useful links to resources for worship leadership and worship planning during the crisis.

Fairview EAP has provided a range of useful links around emotional wellness, coping with lockdown, working from home, and more:

[Canceled by COVID-19 – managing disappointment](#)

[Maintaining composure during COVID-19](#)

[Managing anxiety while in quarantine](#)

*Morning Brew Newsletter:*

[Guide to living your best quarantined life](#)

*Science Magazine:*

[Working from home because of COVID-19](#)

[Activities for kids in quarantine](#)

[Quarantined survival with kids](#)

[Couples and COVID-19 confinement](#)

[Helping seniors navigate COVID-19](#)

[How to talk to children about COVID-19](#)

*Consumer Finance:*

[A Guide to COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Relief](#)

*FBI:*

[Protect your wallet – and your health – from pandemic scammers](#)

## New Associate Director at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Isaac Drewes has been appointed Associate Director for Music and Worship at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. He will share in service playing, accompany the



Central Choir, and direct the Choristers and bell choirs. The semi-professional adult choir comprises 70 voices with a repertoire spanning multiple centuries, and the Chorister program is poised for development and growth. Central is known for its robust hymn singing in the Lutheran tradition, while at the same time embracing hymnody from many different global styles.

Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Isaac is a graduate of St. Olaf College and the Eastman School of Music. His principal teachers were Catherine Rodland and David Higgs. He holds the 2019-2020 AAM Gerre Hancock Fel-

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lowship at St. James Cathedral in Chicago, where he is the principal accompanist, and assists in service playing and chorister training.

Isaac is no stranger to the Twin Cities, having served as Organ Scholar at St. Louis, King of France Catholic Church in Saint Paul. He performed at the 2017 Twin Cities OHS convention, as well as multiple AGO member recitals. Isaac will begin at Central Lutheran in August.

## Cancelations Announced from National AGO

### National Convention in Atlanta

The AGO National Convention in Atlanta has been canceled. If you have questions, please call 404-981-7210. The AGO National Council and convention steering committee are considering alternatives including the possibility of a virtual convention or organ festival. Plans are being developed for a virtual Annual Business Meeting.

### POEs in 2020

All 2020 Pipe Organ Encounters have been canceled. Many will be rescheduled in 2021. Updates will be posted [online](#).

## Calendar of Events

### May

Sunday, May 3, 5:00 p.m. **CANCELED**  
 Festival Choral Evensong  
 St. John the Evangelist Parish Choir  
 Christopher Stroh, guest organist  
 Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral  
 519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

### June

Sunday, June 7, 3:00 p.m. (TCAGO Event) **POSTPONED**  
 Members Recital  
 Benson Great Hall, Bethel University  
 3900 Bethel Drive, Arden Hills

### July

Monday-Friday, July 6-10 **CANCELED**  
 2020 AGO National Convention  
 Atlanta, Georgia

## 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 2020: Tom Ferry, Diana Lee Lucker, Chris Stroh  
 Class of 2021: Jessica Park, Phillip Radtke, Joseph Trucano  
 Class of 2022: Liisa Keränen, Andrew Paulson, John Varona

**Registrar** [Jayson Rodovsky Engquist](#) (c) 914-649-0844  
 P.O. Box 16252, Saint Paul, MN, 55116  
**Chaplain** [The Rev. John Setterlund](#) 217-828-1038

## Standing Committees

**Audit:** [Philip Asgian](#) (h) 651-293-9115, (c) 651-592-4505;  
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**Special Projects:** [James Callahan](#) 651-224-3285; Leonard Danek,  
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## Other Committees and Appointments

**Advertising:** [Paul Lohman](#) 800-326-7426  
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**Calendar Coordination / Events Scheduling:** [Michael Barone](#),  
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**Guild Examinations:** [Stephen Self](#) (h) 651-481-3297, (c) 651-402-9043  
**Membership Coordinator:** [Laura Edman](#) (h) 651-439-1071,  
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**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](http://www.tcago.org)

Website Administrators: [David Engen](#) (c) 612-801-8662;  
[Kirsten Uhlenberg](#) 651-646-8120

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