



The Tulsa Tracker

Newsletter of the Tulsa Chapter,
American Guild of Organists
August, 2020

From the Dean...

Dear Chapter Members and Friends,

Several of you have contacted me over the past few weeks with the same basic question: Are we going to have a 2020-2021 season? Fortunately, I have been able to answer "yes."

While we might not always be able to gather in our usual group sizes, we will continue to have events that are at least streamed. These will include two workshops by chapter member **Adam Pajan**. Dr. Pajan is continuing as an organ faculty member at the University of Oklahoma teaching both applied organ and organ technology. He will offer workshops for us on hymn-playing and organ tonal design. Both of his workshops will be made available to other chapters by the AGO National Office. I will share more information as soon as it is available. We do need a few people to play a hymn in-person at the first workshop to be held at First Presbyterian Church. If this interests you, please contact me!

We will also offer the traditional Tulsa/OKC exchange recital. We will welcome Melissa Plamann, dean of the OKC AGO, for a recital streamed from Saint John's Episcopal Church.

You can find more information on these three events further ahead in this newsletter. Due to the circumstances of the pandemic, we are waiting to make plans for winter and spring 2021 until we know what conditions we will be facing.

On behalf of the chapter I would like to offer condolences to Fred Elder on the loss of his wife Barbara. Barbara gave so much to the chapter over the years. She will be missed and I hope you will join me in reaching out to Fred in the coming days.

Finally, I want you to know that despite the challenges we are all facing now, I am trying to keep a heart of gratitude. I feel gratitude for the resources our chapter has - both financial and personal. I am grateful for the ability I have had to continue to make streamed music for my congregation. And I am grateful for the resilience of so many of you in our chapter.

See you all this fall: either in-person or digitally!

Joseph

Joseph Arndt, Dean



From the Sub-Dean...

Dear friends,

For my first column as Sub-Dean of the Tulsa Chapter, AGO, I have been asked to briefly introduce myself, particularly to those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting in person.

I joined the Tulsa chapter in August 2018 when I moved to the area to begin working as the Director of Music and Organist at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. In addition to my position at Christ the Redeemer I also serve as Organ Scholar at Saint John's Episcopal Church. Prior to moving to Oklahoma, I held positions at churches in North Carolina and Virginia. I received a Bachelor's degree in piano and sacred music from Appalachian State University and a Master's degree in organ from Concordia University Wisconsin.

While our Chapter events this fall will undoubtedly take on a different format than they have in the past due to the ongoing pandemic, I am very pleased that we will be able to offer live-streams of the workshops and recitals that the Chapter offers going forward. I look forward to the day when we are all able to gather together in person again, but in the meantime stay healthy and safe.

Regards,

Jacob

Jacob Drenkler, Sub-Dean



Sheryl Sebo, Southwest Regional Councillor

Thank you for welcoming me into your chapter via this article! I am humbled and excited to serve as your newly elected Regional Councillor for Southwest Region! I was so sorry our Regionals had to be canceled for 2021, as I had to miss the last Tulsa Regional due to a broken foot! I love your beautiful city! This September will begin my 8th year as full-time Organist/ Associate Director of Music at Lovers Lane United Methodist

Church in Dallas, Texas. You can find my Bio elsewhere, but I will share a bit it may not say. I was born in Tyler, raised in Dallas, Houston, then Midland for high school. My love of organ began in Midland with lessons from the organist at First Presbyterian Church. I am indebted to all of my music teachers, but my first inspiration came from parents grounded in ministry + music, with a father as minister (Disciples of Christ), and my mother was a private and later, college piano teacher, active in guild as a judge, brilliant solo- and collaborative-pianist, and Alto, sometimes soloist in church choir. I have 2 brothers still living, one a professional bass player of New York who toured with *Elton John's Aida* and *The Who's Tommy*, and the other brother a great lover of jazz and politics. From family, I learned to accept and respect diversity, both personally, in music, and in other cultures and races.

I am married to Eric Sebo, retired Information Technology manager from Capital One Auto Finance, who is actually the published one of us both - 2 articles in TAO on being an organist's spouse. ☺ We have 2 grown sons: Jeff, PhD, who founded, administers and teaches for the Animal Studies Initiative in Environmental Studies and teaches philosophy at New York University; and Marc, a Staff Attorney for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Austin, Texas. Both are married, with a few pets. Besides classical music, I love swimming, gardening, reading, and hiking in Colorado mountains.

I have been a member of AGO since 1971 as a college student. I was Dean of both Colorado Springs and Dallas chapters, have given recitals and workshops, served on many committees, have helped with 5 Regionals, taught at POE, and have run 2 Pedals, Pipes & Pizza events. One of my passions is Certification/Education, having served 7 years as SW Coordinator for Education and 4 years as Dallas Chapter Certification and Education Coordinator. I believe the Guild is made through mutual collegial support and education, both foundations of AGO from its inception. I very much look forward to getting to know all of you! You can reach me at: ssebo@verizon.net - please share your life stories and ideas as we together help grow our Southwest Region of AGO!

- Sheryl Sebo

AGO Membership Renewal:

Many chapter members have already renewed their membership, and your support is greatly appreciated. If you haven't done this yet, please take a moment to renew!

We are pleased to welcome two new members:



Adam Pajan, who is a member of the organ faculty at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Rebecca Groom te Velde, the organist and director of music at First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, is a Dual Member with the Cimarron Chapter.





Please subscribe today!

We have recently created a YouTube channel, which the chapter will use to stream chapter-sponsored events. **We have an immediate goal of reaching 100 subscribers**, so that we can customize the URL for the account, and make it easier for our members and the public to find our content. If you have a YouTube or Google account, please go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzZrCylmiL71r9c4NFs_Vhg and click the red **SUBSCRIBE** button. Currently the channel has no content, but once we start having events again, that will change! Thank you! - Lyndon Meyer, Tulsa Chapter Webmaster

On Sunday, July 19, the Southwest Regional Meeting happened via Zoom! This is the meeting that would have taken place at the National Convention in Atlanta. Several members of the Tulsa Chapter participated, as well as friends from all over the region. We had such a good time "seeing" friends that we didn't get to see in Atlanta. The meeting was led by our intrepid Regional Councillor, Vicki Schaeffer, and we got to hear from Michael Bedford, James Thomashower, our new Regional Councillor Sheryl Sebo, and many more. The winner of the 2019 AGO/Quimby RCYO in Denver, Martin Jones, played on the Noack at St. Paul's Chapel, New York City. Martin is a rising senior at Rice University, studying with Ken Cowan, and his playing was impeccable.



The OrganFest that was offered during the week of July 20-24 was a wonderful taste of what the convention in Atlanta would have been. AND, the performances are all archived at the OrganFest website, or you can find the link at AGO's website. There were some amazing performances and you can listen to them at your convenience! Invest a little time and enjoy the fruits of a lot of labor!
And it's all free, thanks to many sponsors and friends of the AGO!

agoorganfest2020.org

Nunc dimittis

Long-time chapter member and former Chaplain of the chapter, Justus Edmondson, died on June 27.

In honor of the members who died in the past month, the Executive Committee voted to donate memorials:

- ♪ to St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in honor of Eliot Glaser*
- ♪ to the Douglas Nelson Memorial Concert Series Fund in honor of Barbara Elder*
- ♪ to the Douglas Nelson Memorial Concert Series Fund in honor of Justus Edmondson*



Tulsa Chapter Programs - Fall, 2020

HYMN PLAYING WORKSHOP presented by **Adam Pajan**
Saturday, September 12 from 10:00am to 12:00noon at First Presbyterian Church

Hymn Playing 101 ... and 102!

Even though hymn playing is the bread and butter of most professional organists' lives, intentional, elegant hymn playing often takes a back seat to repertoire in the academy. Vierne's *Sixth Symphony* is surely a masterwork, but most of us will find ourselves playing Nicaea, Hyfrydol, Duke Street, and Lobe den Herren 50 times to 1 over the fabulously difficult Finale. This workshop will rewind to the basics of hymn playing, seeking to articulate those things already commonly practiced and clearly define an approach to hymnody that places the organist at the forefront of musical leadership. Basic reharmonization techniques and registrational schemes oriented towards making the music come to life will ensure that those who have been playing hymns for five or fifty years will have something new to take home and share with their congregations.

ORGAN TONAL DESIGN WORKSHOP by **Adam Pajan**
Saturday, October 17 from 10:00am to 12:00noon at St. John's Episcopal Church

"But I need a Rohrschalmei!" - Understanding Tonal Design in Mainstream Traditional Church Music Instruments
How often do we see or hear of a scenario where an organist insists on having their one favorite stop on an instrument before supplying it with something more practical? Worse yet, how often have organs been removed or neglected because the organist at the time of design insisted on having a specific style of organ that may or may not be sympathetic to the congregation it serves? In this hour, we will take a survey of tonal design in organs in mainstream traditional music programs from 1900 to the present, tracing changes in aesthetic trends and noting the necessities of a service-playing instrument. After a review of what "belongs" in specific divisions and why, we will design an organ of 30 stops jointly by committee, seeing where our collective knowledge, experience, and preferences take us.

OKLAHOMA CITY - TULSA CHAPTER EXCHANGE RECITAL
Friday, November 6 at 7:00pm

Melissa Plamann, organ and **Joseph Wenda**, Oboe
St. John's Episcopal Church

All programs will be live-streamed – mark your calendar to “be there” with friends.

All are welcome!!



Virtual and In-person Worship:

Please check websites for the most current information about worship schedules:

All Souls Unitarian Church www.allsoulschurch.org

Asbury United Methodist Church www.asburytulsa.org In-person worship at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00am Sundays

Boston Avenue United Methodist Church www.bostonavenue.org

Christ United Methodist Church www.cumctulsa.com

Church of Saint Mary www.churchofsaintmary.com

Fellowship Lutheran Church www.flctulsa.org

First Baptist Church www.tulsafbc.org

First Presbyterian Church www.firstchurchtulsa.org

First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater www.stillwaterfpc.org

First United Methodist Church www.fumctulsa.org

Holy Family Cathedral www.tulsacathedral.com

Kirk of the Hills www.thekirk.com

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church www.stduntulsa.org

St. John's Episcopal Church www.sjtulsa.org

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church www.saint-patricks.com

Trinity Episcopal Church www.trinitytulsa.org

Other Virtual Opportunities:

Weekly Recitals • Every Friday at 7:00pm

Broc Hite is continuing his bite-sized "Weekly Acorn" series, now counting over a dozen programs. The solo recitals are typically 5 to 10 minutes long and are presented via Facebook Premiere. In August, enjoy one of the four Chopin Scherzos each Friday evening. You can find the archives on his Website: brochite.com/weekly-acorn or on Facebook: facebook.com/BrocKeysPedals

Second Saturday Silents • Saturday, August 8 at 11:00am

livestreamed www.circlecinema.org and click on Events. The 1921 Paramount Pictures release of *White Oak* starring William S Hart, plus a funny Felix the Cat silent cartoon, will be accompanied by Bill Rowland on the 1928 theatre pipe organ.

Coming soon:

Fall Concert • Sunday, October 11 at 4:00pm

Featuring the TU Symphony Orchestra performing Rheinberger Concerto No. 1 and Handel Concerto No. 4
First Presbyterian Church, 709 S Boston Avenue, Tulsa



Organist/Accompanist needed at Centenary United Methodist Church of Tulsa. Includes one Sunday service plus a choir rehearsal on Wednesdays. Instruments include a Rodgers 905 organ, an older model but in great condition, plus a Yamaha Clavinova which is fairly new and has many features.

For details about the position, contact pastor Keith McArtor at: keith@mcartorlaw.com.



THE
HYECHKA
CLUB TULSA
promoting the culture of musical arts

Hyechka Club of Tulsa
2020–2021

Hyechka is taking a sabbatical.

The executive board and program committee of Hyechka Club of Tulsa announce, after extensive research and deliberation, **that Hyechka will take a sabbatical from musicales for the time being** because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of Hyechka performers and audience members are the main priority during this unprecedented and uncertain situation in our country.

Hyechka's grants for music education in Tulsa Public Schools and its scholarships for high school and collegiate musicians **will continue** during this academic year.

Hyechka's musicales will resume when public health conditions have improved. Please watch the Hyechka website for updates.



Looking for a good home: spinet-size Kimball piano in fair condition. Looks beautiful on the outside but hasn't been tuned in several years, one key sticks, one leg was previously broken but has been reattached, and the lid is off due to one slightly bent hinge. It has been inside the house, so no spiders or dust from storage.

Contact Christina Ancira at pisces81@gmail.com or call/text 918-886-5883. The family is moving and would like to donate the piano in the next few weeks.

Do you know anyone who would be interested?





Thursday, July 30
 on the 10:00 pm news program
 Channel 6 Tulsa
 will have a feature on the Theatre Organ
 at Circle Cinema!

Thank you, Channel 6!!

FRIENDS OF THE TULSA AGO – Thank you for your support!

BOMBARDE (\$200 and above)

GREAT (\$100 - \$199)

SWELL (\$50 - \$99)

CHOIR (Up to \$49)

*The Friends of the Tulsa AGO list will be updated in the September issue of the newsletter
 Add your name – if you haven't done so, please donate today!*

Available to substitute:

CAFFEY, Carol 918-747-1714
 CARRICO, Bruce 918-461-1376
 COWEN, Michele 918-430-4235
 HILLER, Karen 918-660-0506
 KUCERA, Stephen skkansas@gmail.com
 MEYER, Colette 918-252-2561
 SMITH, Vicki 918-607-3170
vickis2@cox.net

Teacher List:

BEDFORD, Dr. Michael 918-346-8104
 BIGHLEY, Dr. Mark 918-269-4320
 CANTWELL, Casey 918-809-9162
 FRANK, Dr. Gerald 405-372-3357
 KUCERA, Stephen skkansas@gmail.com
 PEARSON, Ron 918-584-4701
 SMITH, Vicki* 918-607-3170

*Instruction in Harp also available

Visit our website: www.tulsaago.org

Joseph Arndt, Dean

jarndt@situlsa.org

609.618.2911

Jacob Drenghler, Sub-Dean

jpdrenghler@gmail.com

919.741.7685

Members-at-Large

Stephen Kucera (2022)

Nick Wilson (2024)

Paul Pinkosky (2026)

Fred Elder, Treasurer

fredelder@cox.net

Karen Rich, Secretary/Historian

karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com

Lyndon Meyer, Webmaster

lmeyer@churchofsaintmary.com

Mike McCrary, Auditor

michael-mccrary@utulsa.edu

Send items for inclusion in the September issue of the TRACKER by Tuesday, August 25 to Karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com