



# The Tulsa Tracker

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

---

*Dear Chapter Members and Friends,*

Thanksgiving was unusual this year, wasn't it? It's just the latest holiday to be radically changed because of Covid-19. Despite the circumstances, I have found many reasons to give thanks.

I am particularly thankful to serve as Dean of the Tulsa AGO. Surely this must be one of the most vibrant chapters nationally. We have risen to the challenge of offering workshops online. We have stayed connected to each other via Zoom, phone calls, emails, and texts. I strongly believe that the musical and faith-based organizations that show resilience now will come out of the pandemic even stronger than they were before. My goal is that our chapter be among these organizations.

Our Program Committee has met to plan our Spring 2021 offerings. First of all, it is really exciting that everyone else on the committee is newer to the chapter than I am! **Jacob Drengler** (our Sub Dean), **Ann Boelzner**, **Nick Wilson**, and **Chris Winston** have all joined us within the last three years or so. I appreciate the energy and new ideas that each of them brings.

Later in this newsletter you will see a testimonial from Ann about her experience in taking AGO certification exams and the enrichment they afforded her. The Program Committee has identified continuing education, specifically certification, as a priority for 2021. We will announce more information after Christmas, but in the meantime I hope you will keep this on your radar. All of us enjoy the fellowship and support we get from our fellow AGO members. Yet I feel that especially during these pandemic times, when social distancing is an aspect of life, we can take more personal opportunities for musical growth. Our chapter can help provide this for all of us.

I wish you a blessed holiday season. See you soon, whether in-person or online!

Joseph Arndt  
*Dean*



Many thanks to Melissa Plamann, organist, and Joseph Wenda, oboist, for an outstanding recital at St. John's Episcopal Church, November 6.

If you missed it, please visit [www.tulsaago.org](http://www.tulsaago.org) and click on the livestream. This will take you to the Chapter's YouTube Channel and you can enjoy the entire evening! It is well worth your time, and you can also subscribe to our YouTube Channel!

# Calendar of Virtual and In-person Events:

## **Lessons and Carols for Advent • Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00pm**

Attend in person or livestream at [www.churchofsaintmary.com/live](http://www.churchofsaintmary.com/live)

Church of Saint Mary, 1347 E 49<sup>th</sup> Place, Tulsa

## **Tuesdays at Trinity • Streams at 12:05pm [www.facebook.com/trinitytulsa](http://www.facebook.com/trinitytulsa)**

Dec 1 – **David Lim**, Organist, University of Oklahoma

Dec 8 – **Brad Newcomb**, Organist, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ponca City

Dec 15 – **Terry Cast**, Organist, Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church

## **Christmas Concert • Sunday, December 6 at 9:00am, 11:00am and 5:00pm**

"How Great our Joy" will feature the Kirk Choir, strings, brass, handbells and soprano Sarah Coburn. In person with masks and social distancing, or livestreaming at [thekirk.online.church](http://thekirk.online.church) • Kirk of the Hills, 4102 E 61<sup>st</sup> Street

## **Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent • Sunday, December 6 at 5:00pm**

Trinity Episcopal Church • Streamed at [www.facebook.com/trinitytulsa](http://www.facebook.com/trinitytulsa)

## **Advent Lessons and Carols • Sunday, December 6 at 5:30pm**

St. John's Episcopal Church • Streamed on Facebook and at [sjtulsa.org](http://sjtulsa.org)

## **Christmas Carol Singalong • Sunday, December 6 at 6:00pm**

The evening will feature the Kingdom Keys, Asbury's 4-piano ensemble, Hart Morris directing a handbell choir, and much more • Sanctuary of Asbury UMC, 6767 S Mingo Road, Tulsa

## **Conversation with Nico Muhly • Monday, December 7 at 1:00pm**

Join **Joseph Arndt** on Zoom for a conversation with **Nico Muhly** with a special focus on his *O Antiphon Preludes* which will be featured in a recital on December 20. Muhly is one of the most active American composers today. His opera *Marnie* (2017), which premiered at the English National Opera, was staged by the Metropolitan Opera in the fall of 2018. His *Bright Mass with Canons* was composed for the late John Scott and the Choir of Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in 2005. Contact Diana Carter to register: [dcarter@sjtulsa.org](mailto:dcarter@sjtulsa.org)

## **Service of Remembrance • Sunday, December 13 at 5:00pm (Mason Chapel)**

All who have experienced grief due to the recent loss of a loved one are invited to a time of comfort and healing

## **Pianist Rick Fraley in Concert • Sunday, December 13 at 6:00pm (Sanctuary)**

Asbury UMC, 6767 S Mingo Road, Tulsa

## **Choral Evensong • Sunday, December 13 at 5:30pm**

St. John's Episcopal Church • Streamed on Facebook and at [sjtulsa.org](http://sjtulsa.org)

## **Christmas Concert • Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00pm**

Featuring soprano **Sara Coburn** • email [lmeyer@churchofsaintmary.com](mailto:lmeyer@churchofsaintmary.com) to reserve your spot or to get the livestream link • Church of Saint Mary, 1347 E 49<sup>th</sup> Place, Tulsa

## **Organ Recital • Sunday, December 20 at 5:00pm followed by Choral Evensong at 5:30pm**

Recital by **Joseph Arndt** featuring Nico Muhly's *O Antiphon Preludes* interspersed with Gregorian Chant sung by the men of the choir, conducted by **Adam Pajan** • Streamed on Facebook and at [sjtulsa.org](http://sjtulsa.org)

## **Christmas Eve Services • Wednesday, December 23 at 5:00pm and 7:00pm**

To provide a safe, socially distanced worship experience, Asbury will offer an extra evening of Christmas Eve services, identical to the traditional services on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sanctuary of Asbury UC, 6767 S Mingo Rd, Tulsa

## **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols • Sunday, December 27 at 5:30pm**

St. John's Episcopal Church • Streamed on Facebook and at [sjtulsa.org](http://sjtulsa.org)

## **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

Please check individual church websites for complete information about services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



---

My path to becoming a church musician has been unusual and unexpected. I first became Part Time Organist/Choir Director of a small Episcopal Church in 2005, more than 20 years after studying organ as a secondary instrument at the University of North Texas. At the time I was juggling church music with multiple family and occupational responsibilities. My "fit it in" approach to music continued for a number of years.

In 2016, the rhythm of my life shifted and I had more discretionary time. I made a commitment to several areas of self-improvement, one of them being to raise the bar with respect to the church music I was performing and directing. I looked into attending graduate school in organ performance, but the nearest program was 200 miles away from where I was living. About this time, a fellow organist suggested that I look into the AGO certification program. This was great advice!

I had a relatively easy time passing the Service Playing exam in early 2017, and soon after set my sites on the Colleague Exam. Some of the requirements for the Colleague Exam were not parts of my regular church routine and stretched my skill set considerably. The most challenging parts for me were organ accompaniment of vocal repertoire, hymn transposition, and structured modulation. Additionally, it was a requirement that the actual exam be performed on an organ other than my home church, and I had very little experience on organs other than the basic tracker-action instrument at my home church.

Several months of preparation paid off for me, and I was successful at passing the Colleague Exam in November of 2018. Feeling rather "full of myself," I decided to apply for a few full-time music positions. I was honestly very surprised to hear from my current employer, Fellowship Lutheran Church, within a few days, and I credit the Colleague Exam certification as what prompted that first interview.

The Choirmaster certification material is on my desk. It includes a lot of Music History that seems daunting to me right now, but I am going to push myself to prepare for this exam once COVID has passed.

The AGO certification program does a great job of considering the whole musician. I would recommend the program to anyone who is interested in continuing education and improvement.

- Ann Boelzner, Fellowship Lutheran Church, Tulsa

---



### **Harpsichord for Sale.**

Bentside Spinet built in the shop of Keith Hill and Philip Tyre. In excellent shape. Resonant sound, comfortable playing action, one manual. Size and weight make it easy to transport. Located in Stillwater. Please contact Gerry Frank at [gerald.frank@suddenlink.net](mailto:gerald.frank@suddenlink.net) or 405-372-4844



**The Tulsa Chapter Directory will be mailed very soon to all Tulsa Chapter Members and Friends!**

**Thanks to Bruce Wilkin for all the hard work required to produce this directory!**

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

**BOMBARDE (\$200 and above)**

Michael Bedford  
Fred Elder  
Red River Organ Company  
Karen Rich  
Bruce Wilkin  
Nick Wilson

**GREAT (\$100 - \$199)**

Gerald Frank

**SWELL (\$50 - \$99)**

Bruce Carrico  
Ferne Howell  
Stephen Kucera  
Michael McCrary  
Susan Panciera  
Elmer Schmall  
Ruth Tatroe  
Richard and Peggy Ziglar

**CHOIR (Up to \$49)**

Joseph Arndt  
John Brobston  
Kathy Callill  
Terry Cast  
Michele Cowen  
Jon Grigson  
Joyce Hatchett  
Rocky Kollmeyer  
Carolyn McCright  
Gay Miller  
Ron Pearson  
Teresa Petray  
Paul Pinkosky  
William Shambaugh  
Tom Starnes  
Chris Winston

*Add your name to this list! Donate to the Tulsa Chapter AGO!*

**Available to substitute:**

CARRICO, Bruce 918-461-1376  
COWEN, Michele 918-430-4235  
HILLER, Karen 918-660-0506  
KUCERA, Stephen [skkansas@gmail.com](mailto:skkansas@gmail.com)  
PETRAY, Teresa 918-521-6556  
SMITH, Vicki 918-607-3170  
[vickis2@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:skkansas@gmail.com)  
PEARSON, Ron 918-584-4701  
SMITH, Vicki\* 918-607-3170

\*Instruction in Harp also available

**Visit our website: [www.tulsaago.org](http://www.tulsaago.org)**

**Joseph Arndt, Dean**

[jarndt@sjtulsa.org](mailto:jarndt@sjtulsa.org)

609.618.2911

**Jacob Dregler, Sub-Dean**

[jpdregler@gmail.com](mailto:jpdregler@gmail.com)

919.741.7685

**Lyndon Meyer, Webmaster**

[lmeyer@churchofsaintmary.com](mailto:lmeyer@churchofsaintmary.com)

**Members-at-Large**

Stephen Kucera (2022)

Nick Wilson (2024)

Paul Pinkosky (2026)

**Fr Lee Domenick, Chaplain**

[LDomenick@trinitytulsa.org](mailto:LDomenick@trinitytulsa.org)

**Fred Elder, Treasurer**

[fredelder@cox.net](mailto:fredelder@cox.net)

**Karen Rich, Secretary/Historian**

[karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com](mailto:karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com)

**Mike McCrary, Auditor**

[michael-mccrary@utulsa.edu](mailto:michael-mccrary@utulsa.edu)

Send items for inclusion in the January issue of the TRACKER by Tuesday, December 29 to [Karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com)

**With all best wishes for the holidays and the new year!**

