



# The Tulsa Tracker

Newsletter of the Tulsa Chapter,  
American Guild of Organists  
February, 2023

## *From the Dean:*

Dear Ones,

As you read this, our chapter will have just had its January meeting at First Methodist Church. Many thanks to **Julia Leifeste** for hosting us and making us feel so welcome. The meeting centered on the upcoming regional convention which we are hosting in late June. We saw a wonderfully entertaining and informative promo video created by **Kathy Call, Bruce Wilkin** and **Karen Rich**, which will be included on our convention website. A link to the video is also included in this issue of the Tracker. Check it out if you missed it.

Steering committee chair Casey Cantwell then introduced each member of the committee, who in turn gave a brief progress report and made requests for volunteer assistance. We are well on our way to another stellar Tulsa convention!

Our next meeting is hot on the heels of this one. We will meet on Tuesday, February 7 at Christ the King Catholic Church for our annual Tulsa/Oklahoma City exchange recital featuring **Joseph Ripka**, Canon Musician at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Oklahoma City. Scroll down to find more information on this event.

If you have not done so, please register for the convention. Simply go to our website, [tulsaago.org](http://tulsaago.org), click on 2023 Southwest Regional Convention at the top of the page, then click on Registration. The process is easy to follow and should not take long to complete. Thank you to all our members and friends for your support and encouragement, and be well.

Soli Deo Gloria!

*Michael*

Michael Bedford, Dean

**REGISTER for the CONVENTION TODAY! Get the best price!**

[www.agotulsa2023.com](http://www.agotulsa2023.com)



On January 14, **Casey Cantwell** led a great group of visitors on a tour of the Möller Organ at Trinity Episcopal Church.

# Calendar of Events:

## Vocal Masterclass • Monday, January 30 from 3:00 to 5:00pm

Kyle Pfortmiller will conduct a Masterclass with TU students in Meinig Recital Hall

## Recital of Popular Songs and Arias • Tuesday, January 31 at 7:30pm

Baritone **Kyle Pfortmiller** of Metropolitan Opera fame and pianist **Cathy Venable** will present a concert of songs by John Ireland and Gustav Mahler as well as popular opera arias and musical theater selections. Kyle and Cathy worked together for many years at Light Opera Oklahoma, and they are thrilled to collaborate again!

Gussman Concert Hall, Lorton PAC at the University of Tulsa • Information at 918-631-2738

## Tuesdays at Trinity • Free 30-minute concerts at 12:05pm

Jan 31 – **Lyndon Meyer**, Organist – Church of St. Mary

Feb 7 – **Thomas Starnes**, Organist – Christ the King Catholic Church

Feb 14 – **Steve Fischer**, Organist

Feb 21 – Preview of Tulsa Opera's "Aida"

Feb 28 – **Vicki Smith**, Organist

Trinity Episcopal Church, 501 S Cincinnati, Tulsa

## Organ Recital • Sunday, February 5 at 4:30pm (preceding Evensong)

**Dr. Vicki Schaeffer**, Organist and Music Director, St. Joseph's Old Cathedral, Oklahoma City

Featuring music of Florence Price, Margaret Sandresky, Dan Locklair, and Joseph Rheinberger

## Choral Evensong • Sunday, February 5 at 5:00pm (following the recital)

Sung by the Trinity Choir: Richard Ayleward *Responses*; Herbert Howells (Collegium Regale) *Service Music*;

Blake Morgan "This is my song" • Reception following the service

Trinity Episcopal Church, 501 S Cincinnati, Tulsa

## CHAPTER Dinner and Meeting • Tuesday, February 7 at 6:00pm (Cost is \$15; dinner catered by Ludger's!)

## Oklahoma City-Tulsa Chapter Exchange Recital • Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30pm

Organist **Joseph Ripka** will represent the Oklahoma City Chapter in recital at

Christ the King Catholic Church, 1520 S Rockford Ave, Tulsa

Symphony No. 6 in G Minor, Op. 42, No. 2 (1880)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

I. Allegro

Douze Pièces pour grand orgue

Gaston Litaize (1909-1991)

III. Lied

Concerto in D minor, BWV 596

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) arr. J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

I. Allegro

II. Largo e spiccato

III. Allegro

Trois Préludes et Fugues, Op. 7

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

II. en fa mineur

Trois Chorals

César Franck (1822-1890)

III. en la mineur

Prélude et fugue sur le nom A-L-A-I-N, Opus 7

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)



**Joseph Ripka** is the Canon Musician at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Oklahoma City, and Diocesan Music Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. At St. Paul's he directs several adult ensembles as well as the Cathedral Chorister Program in the RSCM tradition. He also serves as adjunct instructor of harpsichord and director of the Early Music Ensemble at Oklahoma City University.

Joseph is in demand as a concert organist and has performed recitals throughout the United States. As the first prize winner of the 2008 Dublin International Organ Competition, the 2008 Fort Wayne National Organ Competition and the 2008 San Marino/Elizabeth Elftman National Organ Competition, he earned national and international recognition as one of today's finest young organ talents.

**Concerts with Commentary • Thursday, February 9 at 7:30pm**

Kim Childs, Tenor and Brady McElligott, Piano will present Maurice Ravel's "Chansons Madécassas" and "Trois Mélodies" by Claude Debussy in concert. Meinig Recital Hall, Lorton PAC, TU Campus, 8<sup>th</sup> & S Harvard.

**Centennial Church Visit • Saturday, Feb 11 at 10:00am**

Discover the organ and the building – led by **Fred Elder** and **Ron Pearson**

Boston Avenue UMC, 1301 S Boston Avenue

Park in the North parking lot, and enter through the ground floor Accessible Entrance.

Downtown Tulsa is unique in the number of churches located within blocks of each other, featuring large pipe organs that have played important roles in the history of those buildings. You have the opportunity to visit these historic buildings and the pipe organs that make music in those spaces. The Tulsa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of its founding, will sponsor visits to seven downtown churches:

□ **Boston Avenue United Methodist Church (1301 S. Boston) – Sat., February 11, 2023**

□ **First Methodist Church (1115 S. Boulder) – Saturday, March 11, 2023**

All presentations will start at 10:00 am

There is no charge for these visits, and you will learn the history of the pipe organs in each church, as well as some of the history of the buildings. The organs will be demonstrated so that you can hear and see what makes each instrument unique to its space!

**Second Saturday Silents  
at the Circle Cinema**

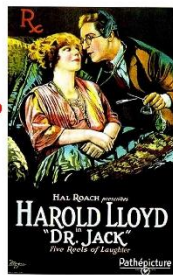
February 11th

11:00 AM

**Harold Lloyd**

in

**"Dr. Jack"**



(1922)

Saturday morning February 11th, we will be featuring **Harold Lloyd** in the 1922 silent comedy "Dr. Jack." Country Doctor Jack Jackson (Lloyd) shows up a quack's sanitarium. The movie will be accompanied by **Bill Rowland** on the Circle's original 95-year-old theatre pipe organ, along with "walk-in" music by **Phil Judkins**. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for ages 15 and under. Showtime is 11:00 AM. The historic Circle Cinema is located at 10 S. Lewis in Tulsa, OK.

Sponsored in part by the  
Sooner State Chapter of the  
American Theatre Organ Society, and



**Second Saturday Silents • Saturday, February 11 at 11:00am**

The 1922 Harold Lloyd silent comedy "Dr. Jack" directed by Hal Roach, will be accompanied by **Bill Rowland** on the 1928 theatre pipe organ. A "Felix the Cat" cartoon will also be offered, with "walk-in" music provided by **Phil Judkins**

Circle Cinema, 10 S Lewis Ave, Tulsa • Adults \$5; 16 and under \$2

**Gospel Music Program • Friday, February 17 at 7:00pm**

The Sooner State Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society will present its annual Gospel music program at the Tulsa Tech Broken Arrow campus conference center. Chapter members will perform various songs on both the 1928 3/15 Robert Morton theatre pipe organ and the 1901 Kimball grand piano. "Open Console" and tours of the pipe chambers will be available after the musical performance • Free

Tulsa Technology Center, 4000 W Florence Street, Broken Arrow

**Council Oak Men's Chorale Auditions • Saturday, February 18 at 11:00am**

In preparation for its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season of concerts, Council Oak will be holding auditions. The Chorale is open to male singers who are gay and gay-affirming, and those singers who identify as male. For more information, email Elizabeth Curtis at [jazzmezzo@me.com](mailto:jazzmezzo@me.com)

Fellowship Congregational Church Choir Room, 2900 S Harvard Ave, Tulsa

**Fred Elder Recital Series • Sunday, February 19 at 5:00pm**

Organist **Alcée Chriss** will be presented in concert continuing the celebration of the organ at Boston Avenue.

Boston Avenue UMC, 1301 S Boston Ave, Tulsa

**Choral Evensong • Sunday, February 19 at 5:00pm**

Sung by the St. Gregory Choir • Music will include William Byrd Responses; Herbert Sumsion in A Service Music; and Frederick Candlyn's "Christ, whose glory fills the skies"

Trinity Episcopal Church, 501 S Cincinnati Ave, Tulsa

**REGISTER for the CONVENTION TODAY! Get the best price!**

[www.agotulsa2023.com](http://www.agotulsa2023.com)

## In the Region:

### Organ Recital • Friday, February 10 at 7:30pm

The Oklahoma City Chapter of AGO will present organist **Michael Hey** in concert.

Concert organist Michael Hey has been increasingly visible on U.S. and international concert stages. Michael has performed solo organ recitals at Lincoln Center, the Kimmel Center, the Kennedy Center, and Davies Hall. He graduated in 2014 from The Juilliard School where he received both his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in organ performance under Paul Jacobs. Within one year of his graduation, he was appointed Associate Director of Music and Organist of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Our Lady's Cathedral, 3214 N Lake Avenue, Oklahoma City • \$10 donation at the door • Reception follows

### Choral Evensong • Sunday, February 12 at 5:00pm

Sung by the Cathedral Choir & Choristers. Music includes responses by Gerre Hancock, "*Blessed be the God and Father*" by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, and canticles by Charles Stanford in G major.

St. Paul's Cathedral, 127 NW 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City • Reception following

### The Ripka Duo • Friday, February 24 at 7:00pm

Violinist **Erin Ripka** and pianist **Joseph Ripka** will present a program of works for violin and piano, including sonatas by Mozart and Beethoven. It will feature César Franck's monumental sonata for violin and piano in A Major. Suggested donation is \$20 at the door and all proceeds benefit the Cathedral Choir and Choristers' residency at the National Cathedral this summer. Reception follows. St. Paul's Cathedral, 127 NW 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City



### Joint Organ Faculty Recital • Friday, February 24 at 8:00pm

**Damin Spritzer** and **Adam Pajan** will be featured in a recital celebrating the newly-cleaned Fisk Opus 111. Gothic Hall, Catlett Music Center, University of Oklahoma, 500 W Boyd, Norman

## Coming Events:

### Degree Recitals at the University of Oklahoma

Thursday, March 9 at 8:00pm – Daniel Gauger, Senior Recital

Friday, March 10 at 6:00pm – Noah Smith, Senior Recital

Friday, March 10 at 8:00pm – Jacob Drengler, DMA Recital

### James O'Donnell in Residence • March 10 and 12

Organ Professor at Yale University and former Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey **James O'Donnell** will be in residence

Friday, March 10 at 7:00pm – Lecture with free reception following

Friday, March 10 at 5:30pm – Pre-lecture wine reception with Mr. O'Donnell and reserved priority seating during the lecture for \$150

Sunday, March 12 at 10:30am – James O'Donnell conducts Choral Eucharist

Sunday, March 12 at 4:00pm – Mr. O'Donnell conducts Choral Evensong with reception following • Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 310 W 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Little Rock

[www.trinitylittlerock.org](http://www.trinitylittlerock.org)



### Classics of Rodgers and Hammerstein • Saturday, March 25 at 7:30pm/Sunday, March 26 at 2:30pm

Enjoy Broadway classics performed by orchestra, chorus, and soloists. The newly-installed Allen theatre organ (III/32) will be used as part of the orchestra. Featured performers will include **Brad Henderson, Kelly Ford, Susannah Brooks, Cathy Venable, and Elliott Wulff.**

Tickets will go on sale February 1 and are only available online. Prices range from \$35, \$50, to \$75.

Tulsa Chapter members will receive a 10% by using the code AGO, and special pricing is available for audience members in wheelchairs. Visit [www.willrogersstage.com](http://www.willrogersstage.com) for more information

Will Rogers High School Auditorium, 3909 E 5<sup>th</sup> Place, Tulsa

## Chapter News:

On January 20, the three Oklahoma Chapters of the AGO participated in a Tri-Chapter Recital at First Christian Church in Stillwater.

Pictured Left to Right are the recitalists:

Rebecca te Velde – Cimarron Chapter  
Joseph Ripka – Oklahoma City Chapter  
Karen Rich – Tulsa Chapter  
Gerald Frank – Cimarron Chapter  
Vicki Smith – Tulsa Chapter  
Alvez Barkoskie IV – Oklahoma City Chapter  
Micheal Crockett – Cimarron Chapter  
Michael Bedford – Tulsa Chapter



### Prayers for:

**Cheryl LeSturgeon**, recovering from foot surgery.

**Susan Panciera**, diagnosed with ALS and currently unable to play the organ.



**Fellowship Lutheran Church** seeks a soprano section leader for its Chancel Choir. Rehearsals are most Wednesday evenings (7:00 - 8:30 pm) September - May. The Chancel Choir sings three Sundays per month, with the warmup beginning at 8am for the 8:30 am service. We are looking for a voice that will blend with and lend confidence to our current sopranos. For more information, please contact Ann Boelzner, Minister of Music, at [ann@fictulsa.org](mailto:ann@fictulsa.org)

**Immanuel Lutheran Church** needs a Soprano section leader. Wednesday rehearsals at 7:15 pm, one service 10am Sundays. Pay commensurate with experience. Contact Chris Winston for information [chris.winston@gmail.com](mailto:chris.winston@gmail.com)

**Boston Avenue UMC** is seeking an organist who demonstrates significant performance skill and professional experience both in worship and concert settings. This person should exhibit a passion for the organ: 1) with an interest in a diverse range of organ literature; 2) through an ability to bring the liturgy to life; 3) by demonstrating excellence as an accompanist and ensemble member; and 4) by effectively building appreciation and understanding of the organ within our community. This person must also demonstrate command of the piano as an accompanying instrument within a variety of musical styles and settings. Part time, salaried, exempt, with rich benefits package, including medical, dental, vision, life insurance, accidental death & dismemberment, long term care, pension plan with employer matching, paid vacation, sick leave, and holidays, as well as other paid days unique to Boston Avenue. \$34,000 to \$36,000.

Contact [angelyndale@bostonavenue.org](mailto:angelyndale@bostonavenue.org) for further information.



## REGISTER TODAY!

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ends January 31, 2023

Regular Discount Rate: \$290.00

Special Rate (65+ or disabled): \$250.00

Tulsa Chapter Member: \$200.00

Take advantage of these great rates, and please consider making a donation!

Visit [www.agotulsa2023.com](http://www.agotulsa2023.com) to register and donate!!

Click on this link for the Tulsa AGO Centennial and Regional Convention promotional video that will take you on a tour of downtown Tulsa – courtesy of **Kathy Call** and **Bruce Wilkin**!

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/8vgwndjngxpn1d7/Organ\\_v3.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/8vgwndjngxpn1d7/Organ_v3.mp4?dl=0)



## *Centennial Moment*



### *Boston Avenue UMC*

The first organ at Boston Avenue Church was built by the Kilgen Organ Company in 1929 at a cost of \$40,000. This 48-rank instrument was playable from an electric-action, four-manual console. The organ was dedicated on June 12 of that year by Albert Riemenschneider.

In 1961, Boston Avenue purchased a new pipe organ, Op. 9580, from the M. P. Möller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland. It featured 72 ranks of pipes playable from a four-manual console. In 1962, the Möller Company installed a 32' Bourdon and three years later a 32' Posaune was added. The organ was dedicated on February 20, 1962 by Robert Glasgow.

In 1986, the church approved a major organ expansion by the Möller Company. Exposed pipes were added in the sanctuary and a new four-manual console featured electro-pneumatic action and a solid state combination action. The organ was enlarged to 105 ranks encompassing seven different organ chambers. It also included a new Trompette-en-Chamade located in the ceiling above the balcony. This instrument was dedicated on February 28, 1988 by Fred Elder.

In 1995 a tonal revision project was begun with Daniel Angerstein of Grand Rapids, Michigan. This project was completed in 1999 with the addition of a new Trompette-en-Chamade.

In 2014, the electrical system of the organ was replaced with the Peterson ICS-4000, complete with 256 memory levels, midi control, sequencer, and many other features.

In 2017, the church contracted with the Foley-Baker Company of Tolland, Connecticut to rebuild the organ. This new, versatile instrument reflects a modern American tonal sensibility. Special emphasis was placed on adding richness and tonal depth to the foundational 8' stops. In addition, the organ includes a colorful and diverse collection of reed choruses. The instrument also features beautifully distinctive solo stops such as a French Horn, two Harmonic Flutes, and an English Tuba. Approximately one half of the ranks are refurbished, revoiced Möller pipes, with the balance of the ranks being brand new.

***You can visit, hear, and learn more about this instrument  
on Saturday, February 11 at 10:00am!***



# The Tulsa Chapter is hosting the 2023 Southwest Regional Convention!

## ARTISTS:

Michael Boney at Boston Avenue UMC (Foley-Baker organ)  
Colin MacKnight at First Methodist Church (Schantz organ)  
Ahreum Han Congdon at Trinity Episcopal Church (Moeller organ)  
Brent te Velde at Holy Family Cathedral (Austin organ)  
premiering a commissioned work by Rebecca Groom te Velde  
RCYO Winner in Recital at Southminster Presbyterian Church (Schantz organ)  
Nathan Laube at St. John's Episcopal Church (Schoenstein organ)  
Melissa Plamann at Trinity Episcopal Church (Moeller organ)  
Jonathan Ryan at Boston Avenue UMC (Foley-Baker organ)  
Crista Miller at Christ the King Catholic Church (Reuter organ)  
Ken Cowan and Bradley Welch Duo Organ Recital at  
First Presbyterian Church (Austin organ rebuilt by Foley-Baker)

## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS:

"Code Songs and the Underground Railroad" – Eileen Guenther  
"The Organ at Boston Avenue" – Mike Foley  
"Training Young Voices" – Shannon Gallier and Joseph Ripka  
"Practical Improvisation Skills for the Liturgical Organist" – Adam Pajan  
at First Baptist Church (Aeolian-Skinner organ)  
"The Power of Spirituals" – Eileen Guenther  
"Guild Exams for Everyone" – Michael Conrady and Michael Bedford  
"Choral Reading Session" – Vicki Schaeffer  
"Planning the Liturgical Year" – Charlotte Kroeker  
"What Can the AGO Do for You?" – Elizabeth George  
"AGO Member Forum – Bring Your Questions!" – Sheryl Sebo  
"Rebuilding a Music Program after a Pandemic" – Cindy Lindeen-Martin  
"Using the Church Music Institute Organ Libraries" – Rene Schmidt

## WORSHIP SERVICES AND CHORAL CONCERTS

Opening worship service led by Eileen Guenther and Michael Boney  
at Boston Avenue UMC

Choral Evensong at St. John's Episcopal Church  
Oklahoma Bach Choir at Holy Family Cathedral

There are opportunities to: advertise in the program book or on the convention website; have an insert in the convention tote bag; be an exhibitor; or sponsor an event – look at the MEDIA KIT!

<https://agotulsa2023.com/media-kit/>

Included in the Registration Fee: 1 Lunch, 2 Dinners, Regional Meeting Breakfast, Closing Banquet  
Visit to one: Greenwood Rising Museum OR Philbrook Museum of Art OR Gathering Place

**REGISTER for the CONVENTION TODAY! Get the best price!**

[www.agotulsa2023.com](http://www.agotulsa2023.com)

## FRIENDS OF THE TULSA AGO

### BOMBARDE (\$200 and above)

Michael Bedford  
Casey Cantwell  
Micheal Crockett  
Fred Elder  
Gerald Frank  
Shelia and Tom Harrington  
Red River Pipe Organ Company  
Karen Rich  
Bruce Wilkin

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

Bruce Carrico  
Richard Doverspike  
Marjoleine Gravley  
Mike Huffman  
Julia Leifeste  
Michael McCrary  
Susan Panciera



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

Ineta Bebb  
Kathy Call  
Joyce Hatchett  
Ferne Howell  
Peggy Millikin  
Richard and Peggy Ziglar

### CHOIR (Up to \$49)

Jon Grigson  
Rocky Kollmeyer  
Gay Miller  
Ron Pearson  
Teresa Petray  
Paul Pinkosky  
Lynda Ramsey  
Carteena Robohm  
Tom Starnes  
Rebecca te Velde  
Chris Winston

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

### Available to substitute:

GRAVLEY, Marjoleine 918-841-1951  
HILLER, Karen 918-660-0506  
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  
CANTWELL, Casey 918-809-9162  
FRANK, Dr. Gerald 405-372-3357  
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)

Please send information to be included in the March issue to [karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com](mailto:karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com) by February 23.

**Michael Bedford**, Dean  
[mbed51349@yahoo.com](mailto:mbed51349@yahoo.com)  
918.346.8104

**Ann Boelzner**, Sub-Dean  
[ann@flectulsa.org](mailto:ann@flectulsa.org)  
804.301.8127

**Lyndon Meyer**, Webmaster  
[lmeyer@churchofsaintmary.com](mailto:lmeyer@churchofsaintmary.com)

**Members-at-Large**  
Nick Wilson  
Paul Pinkosky  
Cathy Venable

**Fr Lee Domenick**, Chaplain  
[L Domenick@trinitytulsa.org](mailto:L Domenick@trinitytulsa.org)

**Mike McCrary**, Treasurer  
[michael-mccrary@outlook.com](mailto:michael-mccrary@outlook.com)

**Karen Rich**, Secretary/Historian  
[karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com](mailto:karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com)

**Dale LeSturgeon**, Auditor  
[dlesturgeon@cox.net](mailto:dlesturgeon@cox.net)

**Steve Fischer**, Auditor  
[steve.fischer@hotmail.com](mailto:steve.fischer@hotmail.com)