

J.S. Bach CCCXXX

The 330th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's birthday was celebrated in style on Saturday, March 21. TCAGO organists plus other instrumentalists, the National Lutheran Choir, and a church choir provided a day-long celebration at five churches in Minneapolis.



From the Nominating Committee of the Board

The Nominating Committee proposes the following list of candidates for officers in 2015-2016. The ballots, allowing for write-in candidates, will be sent out the first week in April.

Dean: Paul Westermeyer

Sub-Dean: David Jenkins

Treasurer: David Geslin

Secretary candidates:

Dee Ann Crosley

Geoff Olson

David Fienen

Board Class of 2018 candidates:

Linda Armstrong

Robert Bergford

Andrew Birling

Jayson Engquist

Margaret Gohman

Sean Vogt

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Pipemotes
American Guild of Organists - Twin Cities Chapter
www.tcago.org



Dean's Column

Paul Westermeyer

A week before *Bach's Birthday*

Bash hosted by Michael

Barone here in the Twin

Cities, the Bach Society of

Minnesota went to Central

Lutheran Church in Winona

and performed Bach's *St. John*

Passion. Central Lutheran and

Erik Floan – its Director of Worship, Music and Arts

– organized a dinner on Saturday evening, the day

before the Sunday afternoon performance. At the dinner

I was asked to speak about Bach and his setting of

the *St. John Passion*. On Sunday morning, between the

services, Erik and I led a follow-up forum.

One of the women at the Sunday forum asked about how Bach's music engages us. I said that Bach wrote music which engages us at a deep level. In our culture, virtually all music is regarded as a tool to sell things. Bach's music, however, is doing something else and reaches beyond that superficial patina to essence. I added that the music of the church, with Bach and the organ as chief representatives, is the music Erik and I regularly encounter as church musicians in our study and practice. It puts us at odds with music as sales technique and makes us – along with Bach – easy targets.



A week earlier I had conducted Bach's *Cantata 12* for a Vespers service at Christ Church in Minneapolis, living with that score and its profound interweaving of cross and crown. A few weeks before that I had corresponded with a bishop about our abuse of and systemic injustice against musicians. I pointed out that by avoiding the central issues we face, organists become scapegoats. Then I learned about yet another faithful church musician who had been summarily and unjustly dismissed years ago, with the divisive results still doing their damage. After that I heard David Weiss perceptively explain that we have to tell the painful yet joyful truth to a culture in denial about its death.

You probably have encountered in your life such a series of seemingly unrelated, but, with all their paradox, ultimately enlightening events. Organists are particularly alert to them because we are so easy to attack in our responsibility for music that tells the truth and refuses to treat people like slabs of flesh to be sold or manipulated by money changers in the temple. It treats people with honor and respect, but, because we all would prefer to accede to our addictions and avoid the constructively subversive health and life that Bach's music offers us, we are tilted toward resisting the offer.

Do not despair. Be of good cheer. If your vocation is like Bach's, you too are telling the truth for the common good and facing similar sorrows and joys.

From the Registrar

New Chapter Members

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www.cpainthecloud.com

David J Geslin CPA

612-868-7827

david@davidgcpa.com

Theodicy Jazz Collective in Residence

Saturday-Sunday, April 11-12
Gustavus Adolphus College

Are you interested in how Jazz and Worship go together? Come explore this combination with the Theodicy Jazz Collective, which will be in residence at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, April 11 & 12.

Saturday sessions include the Lefler Lecture at 4:30 p.m., and Jazz Vespers at 6:00 p.m. The Lefler Lecture will explore the relationship of jazz and spirituality in the context of liturgy, history, community, and theology, with demonstrations of the practical application of jazz in worship. The residency concludes Sunday with worship, utilizing portions of the *Canterbury Jazz Mass* at 10:30 a.m. All events are in Christ Chapel on the Gustavus campus in and are free and open to the public.

The mission of Theodicy is to make “justice real through the creative, spiritual power of music.” Comprised of professional musicians who formed the collective while at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, the group is led by jazz pianist Rev. Andrew Barnett, who holds the Bishop’s Chair for Environmental and Food Studies in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. See theodicyjazz.com for more information about the group.

For more information about the residency, visit gustavus.edu/chaplain/TheodicyJazzCollective.php or contact Chad Winterfeldt at cwinterf@gustavus.edu

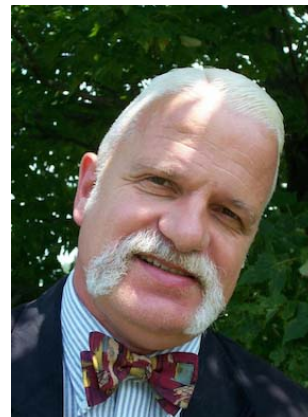
Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College,
 800 W. College Avenue, St. Peter.

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Wolfgang Rübsam Concert

Sunday, April 12, 2:00 p.m.
University of St. Thomas

German-born American organist Wolfgang Rübsam will perform a free concert on Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas, University of St. Thomas, Cleveland Avenue at Laurel in Saint Paul. The concert on the Gabriel Kney pipe organ is sponsored by the UST Department of Music and the Sacred Arts Festival. A reception honoring the artist will follow.



The program, featuring works by J.S. Bach and Max Reger, also includes Rübsam’s own compositions, to be heard in concert for the first time.

Rübsam first studied organ with Erich Ackermann in Fulda. He earned an MM at Southern Methodist University, studying with Robert T. Anderson. He continued studies with Helmut Walcha and completed organ examinations in Frankfurt. As a pupil of Marie-Claire Alain in Paris, he was successful in a number of competitions, including winning the *Grand Prix d’Interpretation* at Chartres in 1973.

For sixteen years, he was professor of Church Music and Organ at Northwestern University. Since 1997, he has been professor of organ at the *Hochschule für Musik Saar* in Saarbrücken, Germany.

Rübsam is internationally known through his highly acclaimed recordings of organ works from the Baroque and Romantic periods, many of which are available from Naxos. He has published more than 130 recordings, including two recordings of the complete organ works by Johann Sebastian Bach, the complete organ works of Dietrich Buxtehude, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, César Franck, Louis Vierne, and Jehan Alain, plus recordings of Franz Liszt, Johann Pachelbel, Max Reger, and Josef Rheinberger. In addition, he has recorded a major part of the keyboard works of J.S. Bach on modern Bösendorfer pianos. In 2011 he recorded the first two volumes of the chorale preludes by his teacher Helmut Walcha.

In addition to his musical career, Rübsam is working as a licensed barber with barber shops in Saarbrücken, Germany, and Valparaiso, Indiana.

Philip Brisson recital

Saturday, April 25, 1:00 p.m.
St. Olaf Catholic Church

Philip Brisson is Director of Music and Organist at the Catholic Cathedral of the Assumption in downtown Louisville, Kentucky. In the summer of 2011, he was Organist in Residence at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, England.



In addition to his duties at the Cathedral, Dr. Brisson is also Organist and Associate Director of the Louisville Master Chorale, a new premier chorale ensemble which performs the great choral literature

with orchestra in its new home at the Cathedral of the Assumption. Prior to his work with the LMC, he was Chorusmaster for the Kentucky Opera and prepared choruses for performances.

As an organ soloist, he has given recitals in 35 states and has appeared with the Louisville Orchestra as guest soloist performing the Saint-Saëns *Organ Symphony* with Raymond Leppard conducting. He was a featured performer for the Region V AGO Convention in Lexington, KY and the NPM National Convention in Louisville. He has also presented workshops to the American Guild of Organists and to the National Association of Pastoral Musicians at both the regional and national level.

Originally from New York City, Brisson received his BM in Organ Performance from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, CUNY, a Masters in Sacred Music from Westminster Choir College, and a Doctorate in Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music where he studied with David Higgs.

Brisson is active in the American Guild of Organists, has served on the Louisville Chapter's Executive Committee and has been both the Sub-Dean and Dean. In addition, he is the National Association of Pastoral Musicians Organist Liaison for the Louisville Archdiocese, has served as Membership Chairman of the Roman Catholic Conference of Cathedral Musicians, and is a member of The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels.

Dr. Brisson also founded the concert artist cooperative EastWestOrganists.com, which represents sever-

al prominent young American organists in the United States.

Dr. Brisson's recital on the 2001 Lively-Fulcher organ at St. Olaf Catholic Church will include works by J.S. Bach, Dan Locklair, César Franck, Charles-Marie Widor, and J. Christopher Pardini.

A free will offering will be taken and a reception will follow the recital.

St. Olaf Catholic Church

215 S Eighth Street, downtown Minneapolis.

Free parking is available in the Energy Ramp at Ninth Street and Third Avenue.

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VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! concert

Thursday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

VocalEssence invites families to cross the border to a Mexican musical celebration in the ¡Cantaré! (I Will Sing!) community concert on May 21. As the finale to the choral ensemble's annual ¡Cantaré! program, the concert series will take place at St. Paul's Ordway Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.vocalessence.org.

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Southern Plains POEA and POETech

June 14-19

University of Oklahoma

The Southern Plains Chapter is hosting the concurrent conventions of the Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced (POEA) and Pipe Organ Encounter Technical (POETech) in mid-June. Members of the chapter

will welcome up to forty students to Norman churches and the University of Oklahoma campus for a week of lessons, performances, and camaraderie.

Internationally-acclaimed concert organist Stephen Tharp will present the guest artist concert, which in addition to an opening hymn festival, faculty recital, silent film, and student recitals will synthesize the many educational experiences provided throughout the week.

By hosting both a POEA and POETech concurrently, it will be

possible to create and foster dialogue between performers and technicians, an essential skill within our profession. Joint lectures will ensure that students in both areas understand the intersection between technology and musicality, how the two interact, how they have shaped the organ's past, and how each side can respond to make the art of the instrument relevant, exciting, and engaging for the future.

For further information on the week's activities, go to poe.southernplainsago.org.

For specific questions in either area – or to offer financial support – please contact Ada Pajan, director of POEA adam.pajan@gmail.com, or John Riester, director of POETech at jriester@ou.edu

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North Central Regional Convention

June 22-24

St. Louis

The American Guild of Organists will call Saint Louis, Missouri home for the 2015 North Central Regional Convention. For complete information on the convention, visit the website at ago2015.org. You can register for the convention and pay signup fees on the website as well.

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Calendar of Events

April

- Thursday, April 9, 12:30 p.m.
Lunchtime Organ Recital
Mark Fideldy, organist
St. Barnabas Lutheran Church
15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth
- Saturday-Sunday, April 11-12
Theodicy Jazz Collective
Gustavus Adolphus College
800 W. College Avenue, St. Peter
- Sunday, April 12, 2:00 p.m.
Wolfgang Rübsam concert
University of St. Thomas Chapel
Cleveland and Laurel Aves., St. Paul
- Sunday, April 12, 4:30 p.m.
National Lutheran Choir 2015 Gala
Telling the Story – an annual friend-raising event
DoubleTree by Hilton
7800 Normandale Blvd., Minneapolis
- Saturday, April 25, 1:00 p.m.
Philip Brisson recital
St. Olaf Catholic Church
815 S. Eighth Street, Minneapolis

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May

- Friday, May 1
Deadline for Composition Competition 2015
TCAGO Event
Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.
Concert by TCAGO members
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
9201 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington

- Saturday, May 9, 1:00 p.m.
Concert for the Common Good
A benefit for Twin Cities Catholic Charities
Lynn Trapp, organist
St. Olaf Catholic Church
215 S. Eighth Street, Minneapolis
- Thursday, May 14, 12:30 p.m.
Lunchtime Organ Recital
Allan Mahnke, organist
St. Barnabas Lutheran Church
15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth
- Sunday, May 17, 4:00 p.m.
Evensong and Concert
Choirs of St. Clement Episcopal
and St. John the Evangelist Churches
Jayson Engquist, organist
St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street, St. Paul
- Thursday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.
VocalEssence ; *Cantaré!* concert
Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

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June

- Monday, June 1, 7:00 p.m.
We Contemplate the Mystery:
A Hymn Festival with Michael Joncas
Richard Clarke, organist
St. Bartholomew Catholic Church
630 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata
- June 10-22
Pipedreams Tour – Historic Organs of Poland
- June 14-19
Southern Plains POEA and POETech
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

June 22-24

North Central Regional AGO Convention

St. Louis, Missouri

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September

September 7-14

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Lynn Trapp, contact person

St. Olaf Catholic Church, Minneapolis

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October

October 23 - November 3

Pilgrimage of Faith, Heritage and Music

Jim Hild, contact person

All Saints Lutheran Church, Minnetonka

TCAGO Elected Board

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Sub Dean: [David Jenkins](#) (h) 651-690-1398, (w) 651-962-5793
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Class of 2016: Sarah Garner, James Hild, Jungjoo Park
Class of 2017: Jennifer Anderson, Pam Carlson, Jon Kietzer

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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 are combined.

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](#).

Pipedreams

For a listing of organ events statewide, access the *Pipedreams Organ Calendar*. For both on-air and website listing of organ-related activities, send information to [Michael Barone](#), 480 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

MPR

Minnesota Public Radio encourages you to enter your classical music performance events in the MPR online calendar.

The top bar of the Classical MPR [main page](#) features an "Events" tab. Click on it to see a listing of current cultural events. Follow the instructions on the [calendar page](#) to "Submit a New Event."

This information will reach a different audience than the online TCAGO/*Pipedreams* calendars. It's a free self-service feature, another way to let people (including the Classical MPR program hosts) know about your classical music concerts.

By all means, continue to send information directly to [Michael Barone](#) too.

And we encourage you to regularly request organ selections on *Friday Favorites* with Steve Staruch. Promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR's programming!

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