

Slate of Candidates for TCAGO Chapter

Candidate for Dean

Laura Edman

The TCAGO uses its strengths to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles. The committee structure allows a separation of responsibilities that are interrelated. Every aspect of the organization is dependent on each area doing its job as well as possible. The program committee presents a variety of events and concerts throughout the year; the success of these meetings is dependent on the publicity committee's ability to promote the event. The hospitality committee creates a welcoming atmosphere with refreshments and food for all.

Every email, advertisement and communication tool should reflect the excellence of our organization. We must adapt to the changes in technology that affect communication and growth by extending our online presence. We must keep the people who struggle with technology actively engaged. We must unite the young, middle-aged and senior members in order to keep our organization both grounded and growing.

Please join the TCAGO board in creating a strong network of people who are willing to work to bring new members to the table and discover communication tools that connect young and old. Challenge yourself to invite friends to attend

recitals and events sponsored by the TCAGO so that friendships forged remain strong. Active members are the key to a healthy organization that is able to plan for the future and continue to grow and learn in our various roles as church musicians, students, teachers and performers.

Candidates for Secretary

Zachary Busch

I currently serve as Director of Music at Woodlake Lutheran Church in Richfield. I discovered my vocation in church music early in my life and have been employed as a church musician in some form since the age of fourteen. Though Lutheran by upbringing, I formerly served Presbyterian, Methodist, UCC and Catholic congregations. I was graduated from Luther College with a B.A. in Music in 2009, and completed the Master of Sacred Music degree at Luther Seminary in 2011. My former organ teachers include Gregory Peterson, John Ferguson, and the late Phyllis Stringham. I have played organs across the country and overseas on tour with the Nordic Choir of Luther College.

I am passionate and creative in my approach to music ministry, and am excited to potentially serve my fellow church musicians and organists as Secretary of the TCAGO.

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American Guild of Organists - Twin Cities Chapter

Pipermotes

Dean's Column

James Callahan

You will notice in the listings on the directory page of this publication there are a number of changes in personnel. While Barb Herzog retired from editorship of *Pipenotes* last summer, she agreed to stay on as Registrar until this past April 15. We all need to thank her for her many years of service in those two positions.



Photo: Roger Rich/University of St. Thomas

John Salvesson has agreed to take on the position of Registrar. He has spent the past six years as Secretary. Many thanks go to him for his work in that position. Priscilla Franken has agreed to be Secretary pro-tem, until July 1, when a newly elected secretary will be in place.

Other members have agreed to other positions and extra effort. Paul Lohman will become our contact person for ads in *Pipenotes*, the Directory and the Website. Andrew Hackett and Phil Radtke have initiated our Facebook page: www/twincitiesAGO. You might want to visit the postings and, as I understand it, respond by saying: "I like it!" "I like it!"

Because of the fiscal discipline of the past two years, the fact that all TCAGO positions are now all volunteers, and we are also being enriched by earnings from our endowment, the development of our 2012-13 budget will allow us to think imaginatively about the kinds of programs, educational experiences, and social encounters the TCAGO should develop. If you would like to contribute any ideas to be included in our deliberations, please contact me, or any member of the Board, ASAP.

By the time you read this our many events in March and April will be history, "March Madness" - in Celebration of the 30th anniversary of *Pipedreams*, five Bach Birthday concerts, and an Organ Crawl to St. Paul and Minneapolis to instruments slightly off the beaten path. Looking forward, there will an announcement about a winner of our Composition Contest, and decisions about funding from the Special Projects Committee. And finally, you are welcome to join the season Finale for our boat excursion up and down the Mississippi.

Be sure to vote for your TCAGO leadership when your ballot arrives. Also vote on our new Operating Procedures document. If it is approved, it then goes to the Regional Councilor for approval and finally to the AGO Vice President, John Walker. The Board hopes it can be operational by July 1.

Quiz No. 3

The question is:

Who was Harold Heeremans and why was he in the Twin Cities?

If you think you know the answer, email jpcallahan@stthomas.edu with your answer. If more than one correct answer is received and the prize cannot be divided, a drawing will be held to pick a winner. The answer for this month's question needs to be submitted by May 31.

The reward for the correct answer is coffee with Paul Lohman and a personal tour of several of the Schantz organs in town.

Answer to Quiz No. 1

The question was:

What TCAGO office did G.A. Thornton hold and in which year(s)?

There were two submissions with two different answers and both were correct.

Nils Halker responded that G.A. Thornton was appointed Librarian at the first TCAGO meeting in 1910.

Kirsten Uhlenberg responded that G.A. Thornton was Dean 1917 to 1918.

Congratulations.

The reward for these correct answers is coffee with *Pipedreams* host Michael Barone and a tour of the Minnesota Public Radio studios.

Candidate Statements continued from page 1

As a young person in the ages-old world of church music, it is my aim to constantly evaluate the relevance of what we do as organists, church musicians and leaders of the church in today's context while maintaining high standards of quality and integrity to our roots. As an organization committed to "advancing the cause of organ and choral music, elevating the status of church musicians, and fostering artistic excellence among organists and choral conductors" (from "About TCAGO" on the website), the TCAGO has done a fine job of exploring the continuing relevance of high quality, artistically presented music in today's context. It would be my aim as an elected leader of this organization to continue this cause and bring new energy to it. Furthermore, I feel the TCAGO would do well to continue exploring, in a positive, open-minded light, the church's contemporary music movement and how it relates to our mission as artistic musicians and servants of the church.

Kirsten Falc Uhlenberg

I earned my Master's degree in organ performance from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, studying with the late Michael Farris, and my Bachelor's degree from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, learning about church music and organ performance from William Kuhlman. Doctoral study includes teachers Robert Clark at Arizona State University and Dean Billmeyer at the University of Minnesota. I am actively involved in the TCAGO as a member of the Executive Board, the Education Committee, and was a member of the Workshops Committee for the 2008 National AGO Convention. I am both the accompanist for the fifty-voice Choir School and the director of the Adult Handbell Choir at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, St. Paul.

Candidates for Class of 2015 and one replacement for Class of 2014

Phil Asgian

I am currently serving the Twin Cities Chapter as chair of the Educational Outreach committee responsible for programs to educate audiences young and old about the pipe organ through our annual Pipe Organ Discovery Day and through programs with local schools and community organizations as part of the PipeWorks program, which I started in the Twin

Cities. I have also served on the board before as well as a member of the Audit Committee and worked on the national convention when we last hosted it. This year will mark 25 years that I have sponsored the second prize in the TCAGO young artists' competition for our chapter. My primary interest is developing programs to encourage interest in the pipe organ across generations.

Mary Dinesen

I studied organ with Charles Ore at Concordia College, Seward NE, and received my M.A. in organ performance from the University of Iowa in 1986. I am the organist and handbell choir director at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stillwater, and choir director at Grace of God Lutheran Church in Oakdale. I enjoy singing in the St. Catherine's Choral Society. I am married and have two children, and teach piano privately. Previously, I served churches in Sheboygan WI, St. Louis MO, and Minneapolis.

My vision for the TCAGO is to help provide opportunities to promote an interest in the historical instruments in the area, to promote greater networking through Facebook, to provide educational forums in the areas of technology (MIDI, music writing and recording software), organ repertoire for the church year, and excellence in choral literature for smaller choirs.

David Jenkins

I am liturgical music director at the Saint Paul Seminary, University of St. Thomas, and serve as adjunct organ instructor for the UST Department of Music. My seminary duties include directing the music ministry for the seminary liturgies, and teaching in the areas of liturgy and worship music. I also have taught organ and church music at St. John's University. I frequently assist as a substitute organist in churches of various denominations in the Twin Cities.

Since coming to the University of St. Thomas over twenty years ago, I have the privilege of serving on the UST Organ Artist Series which every year brings concert organists of international caliber to perform at the university. I have also served the TCAGO in various capacities, including the Professional Concerns committee, the Competition committee for the 2008 convention, planning and presenting at a Pipe Organ Discovery Day, and assisting with production of two of the annual Bach Birthday Bashes.

Most recently I have served on the newly formed Publicity committee. As a Board member I would be especially interested in advancing the publicity and outreach of the TCAGO to better promote the organ activities of the Twin Cities, and to reach out to more of the church musicians in the area. The future of the TCAGO depends on building our membership, and finding creative ways to make our activities and services more attractive and accessible to church musicians.

Cynthia Mortensen

I was graduated from the College of St. Catherine with a B.A. in Organ Performance in 1980. I studied organ with Robert Wolf, Dr. Paul Manz and Dr. James Callahan. I have served churches of many denominations throughout my career, (Lutheran, Catholic, Methodist, Episcopalian and United Church of Christ.) I taught choral music at Cretin-Derham Hall from 1990 - 2007. I am currently the Minister of Music at First Congregational Church of Minnesota, UCC. I teach private piano, organ, voice and guitar lessons. I have served as an adjudicator for the Minnesota State High School League in vocal large group and solo/ensemble contests for nearly ten years.

I am passionate about people experiencing the fullness of their own music making, at all levels, from beginner to professional. I have been an organist for most of my life – it was my first instrument, beginning at age nine. In the past twenty or so years, many couples I have met with to prepare music for their weddings have commented that they “didn’t want organ music” at their wedding. I am happy to say that for all of them, I’ve said, “How about if I just play a few things for you, and then you decide?” They leave our meetings with a different feeling about “organ music.” We are in a time, (and we all know this) where it is up to us to make sure our skills as organists reach those we serve. Not because of our particular individual talents, but for the instrument, how it has travelled with us through history in our collective experience of worship, and how it is now one of the only true facilitators of congregational singing. (My congregation sings when I play the piano, but not as well as when I play the organ!)

I would like to join my many colleagues in the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists to serve our mission in a more active way. You have all done so much, for so long. I thank you, and

hope I can be counted among you in continuing to facilitate awareness among our “folks in the pews” of the gift the organ is in our prayer and song.

Stephen Self

I am Professor of Music at Bethel University, with teaching responsibilities in music history, organ and piano. I am Minister of Music at Grace University Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and winner of S. Lewis Elmer Prize in 2000. My vision for the guild is that I will encourage greater participation of the membership in the Guild activities and continued support of organists in employment and performance matters.

Carsten Slostad

I joined the TCAGO in the fall of 1970, having just been graduated from St. Olaf College with a degree in Music Education and organ study with Theo Wee. In addition to teaching junior high music for the West St. Paul school system, I was organist and choir director at Augustana Lutheran Church for three years. I have been serving in church music positions ever since. They include: Salem Lutheran West St. Paul, St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, Trinity Lutheran Congregation at Augsburg College, Edina Community Lutheran, and for the past ten years at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in St. Louis Park.

During the 1970s I served as president of the Twin City Choirmasters and helped organize a chapter of the Choristers Guild in the Twin Cities. I volunteered to help with the Regional Convention and then landed on committees for the 1980 National Convention. I was elected Dean of the TCAGO in 1985 and served for three years through the next Regional Convention. After taking a decade plus off, I returned to help with the Hospitality Committee and got involved with the 2008 National Convention. Most recently I have served on the TCAGO Investment Committee.

I felt very welcome when I first got involved with TCAGO and now that I am semi-retired and concentrating on musical endeavors, I want to give some more time to the TCAGO and help position it as a welcoming and supportive organization for the next generation of church musicians and organists.

In addition to my church position, I conduct the Norwegian Glee Club, the Wells Fargo Employee Chorus and “7 Gifts” – a women’s sextet. I recently retired as an administrative assistant for the Min-

neapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program. Although I no longer work in the food and beverage industry, which even included working as a *sous chef* on a 12-week summer cruise in 1993, I still has a passion for good food and hospitality.

Ballots

Ballots will be mailed to the membership in early May.

Evensong for Eastertide – May 5, 4:00 p.m.

James Frazier

The semi-professional choir of [St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church](#) in St. Paul will sing Evensong for Eastertide on May 5 at 4 pm. Dean Billmeyer, who heads the program of organ and harpsichord at the University of Minnesota, will assist at the organ. Graduating first in his class at Eastman School of Music, Dr. Billmeyer studied at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and at the *Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst* in Vienna as a Fulbright Scholar, then returned to Eastman where he completed his doctorate in 1982. The service will be conducted by James Frazier, organist and choir director at St. John's.

The service will include an Anglican chant setting of Psalm 67, the evening canticles by Herbert Murrill, and the anthem *Thanks Be To Thee*, by George Frederick Handel. Following the service, the choir will sing excerpts from the Easter portion of *Messiah* by Handel, accompanied by orchestra. The soloists will be Linda Zelig, soprano; Krista Palmquist, alto; Craig Lemming, tenor; and David Jacobson, baritone.

St. John's is located at 60 Kent Street in St. Paul, 55102. Off-street parking is available at Kent St. and Summit Ave., just one block east of Dale St. Handicap access to the church is available from Kent St. A free-will offering will be received to benefit the Evensong Fund in memory of Winifred Bean that was established by Howard Don Small. A festive reception will follow the service. For further information contact Jim Frazier at 651 228-1172 x38.

Mother of God – Cathedral of Saint Paul – May 5

Carolyn Will

The Cathedral Rector, Father Joseph Johnson, will lead a series of meditations on the Glorious Mysteries

of the Rosary accompanied by Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra violinist Michal Sobieski and Robert Ridgell, cathedral organist. The *Rosary Sonatas* of Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber will be featured. Freewill offering.

Saturday, May 5 at 5:30 p.m.

[Cathedral of Saint Paul](#)

Free parking is available in the Selby parking lot in addition to ample street parking. The venue is also handicapped accessible.

Strings, Pipes, and a Glorious Tenor – May 11

Carolyn Will

Cathedral of Saint Paul Cantor Nicholas Chalmers joins members of the Cathedral Chamber Orchestra and organist Lawrence Lawyer to present a musical offering in the chapel at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Saint Paul. Freewill offering.

[Little Sisters of the Poor](#)

330 Exchange Street South, Saint Paul

Friday, May 11, 6 p.m.

John Ferguson Retiring – June 2

Jeremy Haug

John Ferguson is the Elliot and Klara Stockdal Johnson Professor of Organ and Church Music and Minister of Music to the student congregation at St. Olaf College. His responsibilities include directing the church music-organ program, teaching organ, and conducting the St. Olaf Cantorei. Ferguson came to St. Olaf in 1983 from Minneapolis where he served Central Lutheran Church as Music Director and Organist, an appointment accepted in 1978 after a 15-year tenure on the music faculty at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. While at Kent State he also served as Organist/Choirmaster of the Kent United Church of Christ. A native of Cleveland, Ferguson's degrees are from Oberlin College, Kent State, and the Eastman School of Music where his doctoral study of organ was with Russell Saunders.

While he is respected as a fine teacher and performer, it is his work as a church musician, especially as an improviser and leader of congregational song that has received national acclaim. Each year he prepares and leads many hymn festivals across the country for both local congregations and professional gatherings. In addition, he is in constant demand as a speaker and clinician. He has served as visiting pro-

fessor at the University of Notre Dame and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

The St. Olaf Cantorei is one of seven co-curricular choral ensembles on campus. The Cantorei was established in the 1960s as the Campus Choir to provide opportunities for more students to participate in the St. Olaf choral tradition. In 1986, the choir assumed its present name, which comes from the German *Kantorei*. Like its historic prototype, the 105-voice ensemble is a relatively complete musical organization of instrumentalists and singers. It has become known for creative programming, blending the St. Olaf choral tradition with instrumental color, uniquely honed and focused to lead worship and provide a distinctive musical and spiritual experience. The Cantorei has been conducted by John Ferguson since his appointment to the St. Olaf faculty in 1983.

A Festival in Song

The St. Olaf Cantorei alumni will combine their voices for a Festival in Song on Saturday, June 2, 2012. This celebratory concert honors 30 years of song with Cantorei conductor John Ferguson and features music from the past and present.

Events on Saturday, June 2, 2012

2:00-3:00 p.m. – Alumni Organ Recital

4:00 p.m. – Cantorei Reunion Concert: A Festival in Song

8:30 p.m. – Evensong Service

10:30 p.m. – Saturday at the Movies: “Buster Builds a Home” with Ferg at the organ

Planning Ahead With Imagination: Repertoire Ideas for the Coming Seasons

J Michael Barone

We organists surely do not lack for music to play. The list of available pieces goes back to the *Robertsbridge Codex* of 1360 and the *Buxheim Organ Book* of the 1460s, and continues on up to the present day...and tomorrow: composers still write for the instrument with great originality. Not surprisingly, some composers have been singled out for attention (Buxtehude, Couperin, Grigny, Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, Widor, Vierne, Mes-



siaen), though even quite a bit of the music by those ‘greats’ is not played as much as could be. Still, many other composers are almost totally overlooked. As example, who thought to learn Joseph Bonnet’s eloquent *In Memoriam: Titanic* to commemorate the tragic sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912?...a century of consequence, surely, and an appropriate and touching piece.

But with so much to explore, let’s get down to business. Appropriate to present (2012) and coming seasons, we find several composers whose significant ‘anniversaries’ should prove them worth your time and attention. Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck was born



450 years ago (April or May in 1562), and from the quantity and quality of his keyboard pieces there is no question why he was considered a ‘maker of organists’ amongst the many who studied with him. Tri-centennial celebrant Englishman John Stanley (b.

January 17, 1712) created one of the most substantial catalogs of English Baroque organ music, and his several volumes of *Voluntaries* are both easy to appreciate and (at least in some cases) not that difficult to play, even sight-read.



I’d also call attention to some others who might not easily come to mind when thinking about organ music. Both Frederick Delius (b. January 19, 1862) and Claude Debussy (b. August 22, 1862) rate sesquicentennial notice in 2012. On the proper instrument, their music (in transcriptions) works marvelously. Perhaps in preparing your upcoming Christmas-season program you’d consider Delius’s *Sleigh Ride: Winter Night* or, for general charm, Debussy’s *Petite Suite* (*Claire de lune* and *Girl with the flaxen hair* should not be overlooked, either).

Though the tendency might be to honor John Cage’s centenary (b. September 5, 1912) with an organ transcription of his famous 4:33 (the silent wonder), I’ve become quite attached to his lovely lit-

tle *Souvenir*, which is easy to play and truly charming in the proper context. How often do you get to make people smile?

Another centenarian, whose career was devoted to writing music intent on engaging and entertaining, Jean Francaix (b. May 23, 1912) created several

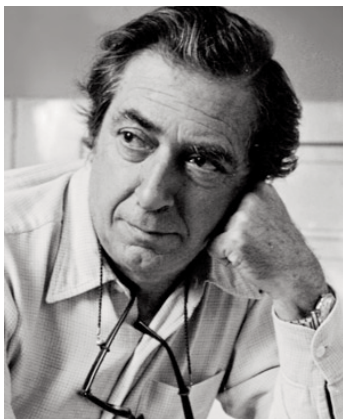


authentic organ works, including a *Carmelite Suite* (character portraits of some friendly nuns), a *Suite Profane*, a set of pieces appropriate for a wedding, and other interesting items.

And let's not forget Leon Boëllmann (b. September 25, 1862), whose *Suite Gothique* has been so popular as to displace his *Second Suite*, the earlier volume of *Douze Pièces*, the delightful miniatures in two volumes of *Les heures mystiques*, the large Franck-like *Fantasia*, the *Offertoire on Two Noël's*, and the (transcribed) *Rondo française*. Wouldn't it be fun to prepare a TCAGO Members Recital program that included much of this? Start practicing!

Then comes the New Year 2013, and right away (sharing the exact same day...January 2, 1913) we have the centenaries of Gardner Read and Robert Elmore, composers who could not be more dissimilar – Read with his sometimes thorny neo-classic modernisms and Elmore with his genial, yet challenging, virtuosity. But both wrote significantly for pipe organ. Only slightly later in the month (January 23), another centenarian, Norman Dello Joio who, though

he did not leave us much for the instrument, began his career as an organist. His *Five Lyric Pieces for the Young Organist* commend themselves, as does his *Antiphonal Fantasy for Organ, Brass and Strings*. Might someone be brave and explore his *Proud Music of the Storm* or his *Mass*, both for chorus, brass and organ, or the anthems *I dream of an Invincible City*



for chorus and organ, and *O Sing Unto the Lord* for male chorus and organ?

The year 2013 also marks the 450th birthday of Jehan Titelouze, whose music, on the proper instrument, can be quite compelling. It's the bicentennial of Richard Wagner, too (b. May 22, 1813), of whom it could be argued that his music (in transcription) is the most substantial of any 'not composed' for the organ. Wagner's *Meistersinger* Overture is but the tip of the iceberg, but you do need chops to play much of this.

Also for the truly adventuresome, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Francis Poulenc (b. 1899, d. January 30, 1963), how about



opting for the organ versions (replacing the orchestra parts) of his *Concert Champêtre* or the *Concerto for Two Pianos*. I've heard recordings of these arrangements, and they are spectacularly successful.

Perhaps we'll save some other 2013 anniversaries for the 2013-2014 season, as they fall in the later part of the year (August and beyond), but you might want to prepare ahead for the tri-centenary of Johann Ludwig Krebs (b. October 12, 1713), the bi-centennials of Giuseppe Verdi (b. October 10, 1813...he played organ as a young man, wrote some pieces for the instrument, too, but transcriptions of music from his operas are so much fun!) and Charles-Valentin Morhange Alkan (b. November 30, 1913, he inspired Franck in the composition of the first symphonic piece for organ, and his own organ scores and pieces for pedal piano are rather wonderful), the 150th anniversaries of Gabriel Pierné (b. August 16, 1863) and Horatio Parker (b. September 15, 1863), and the centenaries of Richard Purvis (b. August 25, 1913) and Benjamin Britten (b. November 22, 1913). Whew! That's a lot of music, without touching any of the 'old familiarities.' So much to look forward to hearing...how about it, folks?!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

May

Sun. May 5 Evensong for Eastertide 4:00 p.m.

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street, St. Paul

Sun. May 5 Mother of God 5:30 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Paul
239 Selby Avenue, St. Paul

Fri. May 11 Strings Pipes & Glorious Tenor 6:00 p.m.

Little Sisters of the Poor
330 Exchange Street South, Saint Paul

May 16-28 University of Kansas

Italian Organ Study Tour

June

Sat. June 2 John Ferguson Retires

St. Olaf College, Northfield MN
2:00 p.m. – Alumni Organ Recital
4:00 p.m. – Cantorei Reunion Concert:
A Festival in Song
8:30 p.m. – Evensong Service
10:30 p.m. – Saturday at the Movies:
“Buster Builds a Home”

Mon. June 11 Boat Cruise and Potluck Dinner

July

July 8 – 13 OHS 2012 National Convention

Chicago

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Deadline date

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Signed Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Please send, or e-mail letters to Merritt C Nequette, 2748 Lexington Ave N, St Paul, MN 55113

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MPR

Minnesota Public Radio encourages you to enter your classical music performance events in the MPR online calendar. In the box in the upper left corner of the MPR main page www.mpr.org, click on "Events Calendar"...then follow the instructions on the calendar page to "submit a new event."

This information will reach an audience different from the online TCAGO or *Pipedreams* calendars. It's free, and it's another way to let people know about your classical music concerts. By all means, continue to send information directly to Michael Barone too. mbarone@mpr.org

Pipedreams

For a listing of organ events statewide, access the *Pipedreams Organ Calendar*: www.pipedreams.org/ calendar. For both on-air and website listing of organ-related activities, send information to Michael Barone: 480 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101; e-mail to mbarone@mpr.org

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