

Pipenotes

Twin Cities American Guild of Organists



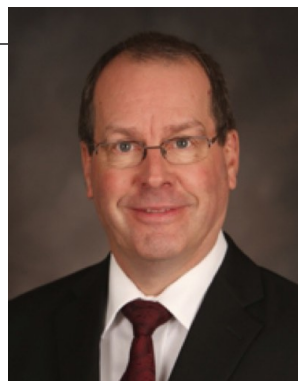
Vol. 25, No. 7

April 2020

Dean's Column

David Jenkins

I hope everyone is doing well, staying healthy and sane during this time of crisis! From what my family is going through, I have a bit of an idea of what others might be experiencing, but at least I know of no illness at this time among my family and friends. I know that everyone is praying for those affected even more seriously than they are: the ill and dying, the homeless, refugees, the unemployed, health care providers, emergency workers, and more.



Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on church musicians

The closure of churches has put a strain on our profession and our colleagues, especially around loss of employment. I know of one colleague who has been furloughed by her church, so that she can apply for unemployment benefits. I know of others, working as independent contractors, who now have no income. Some colleagues may be learning for the first time about their role in conducting online services, while other churches that already have a robust online presence are experiencing a less severe learning curve.

The strain on our church clergy, church staff members, and congregation members is tremendous. The national AGO is offering what resources they can to assist members during this time, including passing on some helpful links through a page called [Resources for Freelance Musicians](#). For my organ students I am using the [Educational Resources](#) web page. The [Pipedreams](#) web page is also an excellent online resource for students and teachers. Maybe the best thing we can do for each other is to stay in touch, reach out with a phone call to a colleague, especially checking on those who are feeling isolated at this time.

TCAGO events and meetings

Although our chapter's March events, and the young artists organ competition, have been cancelled, we have not yet made a determination about the Members Recital at Bethel University scheduled in June. We will be working with Bethel, and we will keep you informed. I canceled the March meeting of the executive board, and I will be working with the members to continue our work on chapter business through email and remote meetings. The good news is that we have received approval of our proposed program and budget for the 2021 Regional Convention. The convention program committee is prepared to move forward and has its next meeting set. (The latest update on the Atlanta National convention is that it is going ahead as planned!)

Chapter Events 2019-2020

Sunday, September 22

Opening Concert and Members Dinner
James D. Hicks, organist

Monday, September 30

Jean-Willy Kunz, jazz performance presenter

Tuesday, October 1

Jean-Willy Kunz, organist;
Branford Marsalis saxophonist

Thursday, October 10

Adam Brakel, organist

Paul Manz Centennial Commemoration

Friday, October 25

John Schwandt, organist

Saturday, October 26

Talks and Workshops – Paul Westermeyer,
David Cherwien, Mark Lawson, presenters

Saturday, November 2

Pipedreams Scholarships Auditions

Sunday, November 17

Chelsea Chen, organist, Rochester

Sunday, December 15

La Nativité du Seigneur

Raymond Johnston, organist

Friday, February 7

Eric Plutz plays Vierne

Saturday, February 22

Pipe Organ Discovery Day

Saturday, March 21 CANCELED

Bach's Birthday Bash

Friday/Saturday, March 27/28 CANCELED

Cameron Carpenter, organist

Minnesota Orchestra

Saturday, March 28 CANCELED

Student Competition

Tuesday, April 21 CANCELED

Dean Billmeyer, organist

Friday, April 24 CANCELED

Olivier Vernet and Cédric Meckler, organ duo

Sunday, June 7

Members Recital

In This Issue

2 Lockdown by Brother Richard

4 Calendar of Events

3 Slate of Candidates for TCAGO Board

5 TCAGO Board, Committees, etc.

Other TCAO business

The chapter election is proceeding according to our usual procedures. Voting members will receive ballots in the mail soon. I'm grateful to the Nominating Committee chair Mary Joy Rieder, Chapter Secretary Joyce Brown, Registrar Jayson Engquist, *Pipenotes* editor Merritt Nequette, and others for their help in taking care of the process. I'm also thankful to those who agreed to run for the board and offer their time and talents for our chapter. I expect that we will go to an online voting process starting with next year's election. Of course, for some members the technology will present a challenge, and we will certainly attend to anyone who will need assistance with the process. We will be sending news soon about our transition to OnCard membership registration through National headquarters.

A colleague at the seminary sent this poem around to the faculty, staff and seminarians. It is by an Irish Capuchin Friar. One way to think of COVID-19 is that it is God's way of putting us in "time out."

Peace,
David

Lockdown

by Brother Richard

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
you can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
the sky is no longer thick with fumes
but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi
people are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighborhood
so that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors
in a new way.
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.

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To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul.
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again,
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
and though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing

Slate of Candidates for TCAGO Board

Mary Joy Rieder, Nominating Committee Chair

The nominating committee proposes the following slate of candidates for board members in the 2020 election:

- Nils Halker
- Laura Potratz
- Kris Rizzotto
- Lise Schmidt

The slate of officers remains the same, and each runs unopposed:

- David Jenkins, Dean
- Jacob Benda, Sub-dean
- Joyce Brown, Secretary
- David Geslin, Treasurer

Ballots will be mailed to chapter members in early April, and counted by May 1. The results will be published in the June issue of *Pipenotes*.



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Calendar of Events

April

Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. (TCAGO Event) CANCELED

Organ Concert

Dean Billmeyer, organist

Cyrus Northrop Memorial Auditorium

University of Minnesota

84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. (TCAGO Event) CANCELED

Organ duets

Olivier Vernet and Cédric Meckler, organ duo

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

May

Sunday, May 3, 5:00 p.m. CANCELED

Festival Choral Evensong

St. John the Evangelist Parish Choir

Christopher Stroh, guest organist

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

June

Sunday, June 7, 3:00 p.m. (TCAGO Event)

Members Recital

Benson Great Hall, Bethel University

3900 Bethel Drive, Arden Hills

July

Monday-Friday, July 6-10

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 Sub Dean: [Jacob Benda](#) (c) 612-298-9692, (w) 612-379-2259
 Treasurer: [David Geslin](#) (c) 612-868-7827, (w) 952-582-2927
 Secretary: [Joyce Brown](#) (h, w) 651-489-5092, (c) 651-329-6615
 Class of 2020: Tom Ferry, Diana Lee Lucker, Chris Stroh
 Class of 2021: Jessica Park, Phillip Radtke, Joseph Trucano
 Class of 2022: Liisa Keränen, Andrew Paulson, John Varona

Registrar [Jayson Rodovsky Engquist](#) (c) 914-649-0844
 P.O. Box 16252, Saint Paul, MN, 55116

Chaplain [The Rev. John Setterlund](#) 217-828-1038

Standing Committees

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 Aaron David Miller
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 Lise Schmidt, Christopher Stroh, Robert Vickery
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 (c) 952-237-0349; Karen Bartz, Steve Gentile
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Other Committees and Appointments

Advertising: [Paul Lohman](#) 800-326-7426
Archives: [Joshua Lindgren](#) (c) 785-906-0418, (h) 952-476-0662
Calendar Coordination / Events Scheduling: [Michael Barone](#),
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Facebook & Communications Liaison: [Jeremy Haug](#) 612-578-8058
Guild Examinations: [Stephen Self](#) (h) 651-481-3297, (c) 651-402-9043
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Pipenotes Editor: [Merritt Nequette](#) 651-484-0451
Placement: [Jeffrey Patry](#) (w) 763-788-9653, ext. 109, (h) 612-871-7533
Student Competition: [Mary Newton](#) (h) 763-546-1307, (c) 612-581-3106
TCAGO Organ Database: [David Engen](#) (c) 612-801-8662

Chapter Website - www.tcago.org

Website Administrators: [David Engen](#) (c) 612-801-8662;
[Kirsten Uhlenberg](#) 651-646-8120

Facebook - facebook.com/twincitiesAGO

Pipenotes

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 is a combined issue.

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](#).

2748 Lexington Avenue N., Saint Paul MN 55113

TCAGO Event Promotion via Pipedreams

A comprehensive listing of organ events statewide is available online via the *Pipedreams Organ Calendar*. Information there is only as good as the information provided to it, so you are encouraged to send event listings for inclusion at the earliest possible time.

For both on-air and website listings of organ-related activities, *please send information to Pipedreams* host (and longtime TCAGO member) [Michael Barone](#), or by mail to: *Pipedreams* Calendar, 480 Cedar St., Saint Paul, MN 55101. In a pinch, you may call 651-290-1539.

You are also encouraged to regularly request organ selections on the *Friday Favorites* show with [Steven Staruch](#). Help promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR's programming.

NOTE: It is requested that you include this text in printed programs for any local organ concerts you play or present:

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Unfortunately, the former Classical MPR Online Calendar has been terminated, though you can send non-organ-related church music series information directly to your favorite Classical MPR host and cross your fingers.