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!)
Other TCAGO 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.
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.
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
2020 AGO National Convention
Atlanta, Georgia
**TCAGO Elected Board**

Dean: David Jenkins (h) 651-690-1398, (w) 651-962-5793  
Sub Dean: Jacob Benda (c) 612-298-9692, (w) 612-379-2259  
Treasurer: David Geslin (c) 612-866-7827, (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, Philip Radtke, Joseph Trucano  
Class of 2022: Lisaa Keränäinen, 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**

Audit: Philip Asgian (h) 651-293-9115, (c) 651-592-4505;  
Martin Stachnik  
Composition: Lawrence Lawyer (w) 651-357-1351; Philip Brunelle,  
Aaron David Miller  
Development: Dee Ann Crossley (h) 651-457-8994, (c) 612-801-1346;  
Jon Kietzer  
Education: Philip Asgian (h) 651-293-9115, (c) 651-592-4505;  
Richard Collman, Margaret Gohman, Philip Radtke, Kirsten Uhlenberg  
Historical Concerns: Nils Halker (h) 651-488-2157, (w) 651-221-4736;  
Michael Barone, Kyle Black, James Frazier, Francine Linhart,  
Lise Schmidt, Christopher Stroh, Robert Vickery  
Hospitality: Chair, (vacant); Mari Lyn Ampe, Charlie Johnson,  
Martin Stachnik  
Investment: James Hild, (h) 952-945-9840, (c) 952-807-3014;  
Jon Kietzer, Roger Burg  
Pipedreams Scholarship: Diana Lee Lucker (w) 952-473-8877 ext 247,  
(c) 952-237-0349; Karen Bartz, Steve Gentile  
Professional Development: Jeffrey Patry (w) 763-788-9653 ext. 109,  
(c) 612-871-7533; Christine Laughlin, Joshua Lindgren,  
Cynthia Mortensen, Sean Vogt  
Program: Jacob Benda (c) 612-298-9692, (w) 612-379-2259;  
Jennifer Anderson, Michael Barone, Kathrine Handford, Jeremy Haug  
Publicity and Social Media: Sarah Garmer (h) 952-938-5951,  
(c) 515-778-2302; Jeremy Haug  
Special Projects: James Callahan 651-224-3285; Leonard Danek,  
Andrew Hackett

**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,  
(c) 651-290-1539, (h) 651-228-9885  
Facebook & Communications Liaison: Jeremy Haug 612-578-8058  
Guild Examinations: Stephen Self (h) 651-481-3297, (c) 651-402-9043  
Membership Coordinator: Laura Edman (h) 651-439-1071,  
(c) 651-216-0277  
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:

Enjoy the gamut of the pipe organ experience...from ancient to modern, sacred to secular, classical to popular...with weekly broadcasts of Pipedreams from American Public Media. Broadcasts in the Twin Cities are heard Sunday mornings (6-8 a.m.) on KSJN-99.5FM and other stations in the Classical MPR network. For your convenience, Pipedreams also is globally available 24/7 at www.pipedreams.org or www.yourclassical.org/pipedreams.

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.