

Dean's Column

David Jenkins

Blithely Breezing Along

The other day I was looking through the *Pipenotes* editions from spring 2020. In the March issue there was no mention of the pandemic. We were “blithely breezing along,” getting ready for the *Bach Birthday Bash*, anticipating the *Student Competition*, calling for performers for the annual *Members Recital*, and working hard on planning for the 2021 Regional Convention. Then...it all broke loose. By the April 2020 issue, we had already cancelled the *Bach Birthday Bash*, and along with church and music venue closings, we were all facing severe restrictions on activities, shopping, school, and for some – layoffs and economic hardship.



Even then, we had little inkling of what was ahead of us, including civil unrest in May, a tumultuous election that seemed to never end, witnessing the ongoing toll of deaths and illness, and the hardships caused by isolation and fear. How all the more wonderful it is to feel the springtime now, with the rollout of the vaccines, gradual re-openings, and the prospect of returning to normal life. Very early in the pandemic, we lost one of our own beloved AGO members, Dave Goulette. On behalf of our whole TCAGO community, I would like to extend my condolences to all those who lost loved ones during the pandemic. I also wish good health and peace to all who have been affected in any way.

Before Bach's Birthday Bash

One pandemic silver lining for our chapter was how we increased our use of online tools to carry out our mission, to hold meetings, to present programs, and to bring us together. With the 2021 *Before Bach's Birthday Bash*, we made the most of the opportunity to use the power of the internet to engage members, and the wider community, in what is always one of our most keenly-anticipated and best-attended annual events. My salute and thanks to all who worked hard to make it possible: the Program Committee under Jacob Benda, who wrestled with setting up the best possible format; Michael Barone, who recruited players, lent his thoughtful, articulate, inviting voice to the introductions, and who provided “nightcap” selections; Jeremy Haug, who spent countless hours compiling, editing, posting, taking it all on as cheerful service and professional challenge; the performers, from young students to seasoned hands, with their generosity and inspiring playing. Through the power of sharing on Facebook and Instagram, the reach of our chapter and the *BBBB* has extended nationally and internationally. Recording, streaming, “YouTubing,” all will certainly be among our program and communication tools going forward.

Know Your Value: TCAGO Virtual Meeting

I was also very pleased with the participation in the March 8 virtual meeting on professional concerns. Thirty-three of our members joined Carolyn Diamond and me for a meeting focused on the new AGO Handbook, *Employing Musi-*

Chapter Events 2020-2021

- Monday, March 8
TCAGO Virtual Meeting
on Professional Concerns
- Sunday through Sunday, March 14-21
Bach Birthday Bash (Virtual)
- Saturday, April 17
Student Competition (Virtual)

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cians in Religious Institutions. I think we all enjoyed the opportunity to gather with friends and colleagues. I am grateful to my collaborator Carolyn, and to our tech guru Jeremy, for making it all work.

The *Handbook* grew out of the need to provide resources to committees, candidates for positions, and current employees in the new era after the AGO's 2017 agreement with the FTC. The AGO agreed to stop publishing salary guidelines, and to desist from promoting policies that may be seen to restrict professional or economic competition between organists. To some, it might seem a loss that we can no longer publish salary guidelines, and that we can no longer have grievance processes connected with employment difficulties. The settlement with the FTC actually affords us the opportunity to promote collaboration between organists and religious institutions, rather than to emphasize an adversarial relationship.

Members' discussion included how we can become better advocates for the value of our work, how we can find ways to disseminate the *Handbook* to religious institutions for their use as a resource in hiring and determining fair compensation, and in general, how the AGO can promote healthy and fruitful employment environments for its members.

The Zoom recording of the meeting is available on the TCAGO YouTube page. However, you will not be able to "search" for it. It is only accessible at this direct [link](#).

Slate of Candidates for TCAGO Board

Carolyn Diamond, Nominating Committee Chair

The nominating committee proposes the following slate of candidates for board members in the 2021 election:

Officers

Dean: Jacob Benda

Sub-dean: Jennifer Anderson

Treasurer: David Geslin

Secretary: Joyce Brown

Members-at-Large (choose three)

Isaac Drewes

Kathrine Handford

Kristina Langlois

Stacie Lightner

Scott Turkington

The ballot will allow write-in candidates in all areas.

Ballots, including biographies of candidates, 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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TCAGO Webinar

Remember Well the Future:

Preparing a New Generation of Church Musicians Monday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.

Conversations in the church about change often make assumptions about the wants or needs of younger generations, but seldom are their voices present in such dialogue.

This Webinar – via Zoom – will feature a panel of young church musicians. Moderated by Lutheran Summer Music church music faculty Laura Potratz and Chad Fothergill, these church musicians in their 20s, from various denominations, will discuss some of the pressing cultural, stylistic, and vocational concerns of our time from their perspectives. Together, they will consider such questions as:

- What do younger generations seek from the church and its liturgy?
- What is helpful or unhelpful about assumptions made on their behalf?
- Do words like “traditional,” “contemporary,” or “authentic” matter?
- Are there discrepancies between the aspirations of young leaders and what they feel is expected of them, or between their training and experience?
- How can educational organizations and institutions better equip and support new generations of leaders in changing cultural and technological contexts, especially in a post-pandemic paradigm?

Attendees will be able to submit their own questions as well.

[Registration](#) is free.

Northrop Presents Paul Jacobs

Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Carlson Family Stage, Northrop Auditorium

Grammy-winning organist Paul Jacobs returns to Northrop in a solo recital showcasing his expressive playing talents as well as the symphonic possibilities of works by Bach and Handel, and the historic Aeolian-Skinner Opus 892 pipe organ.

Jacobs thrilled Northrop audiences with the debut of a commissioned piece in 2018 when he appeared with the Minnesota Orchestra for an inaugural performance celebrating the restoration of the organ.

On-Demand Streaming will be available through Sunday, April 18, 11:59 p.m.

This event will be captioned, with other [accessibility services](#) available upon request.

[Cyrus Northrop Memorial Auditorium](#)
University of Minnesota
84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis



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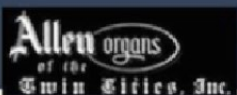
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Check Out Your Instrument!

The TCAGO Organ List resource has been updated over the summer. David Engen, Lise Schmidt, and Jayson Engquist have been adding information from a variety of sources. Many instruments have been identified and added to the list! Remember, this project is ongoing and considered a "work in progress."

Please check out any instruments you play (or are associated with) to see if the information is accurate and current.

Our [database](#) covers the five states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Any information you have is of value.

Please email updates directly to [David Engen](#).

Calendar of Events

April

Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Symphonic Bach

Paul Jacobs, organist

Northrop Auditorium, University of Minnesota
84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

Saturday, April 17 (TCAGO Event)

Student Virtual Organ Competition
online

Saturday, April 17, 7:30 p.m, [livestream](#)

Jessica Park, organist

Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas
University of St. Thomas

Wednesday, April 21, 12:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Organ Series

Dean Billmeyer, University Organist and
Professor of Music, University of Minnesota
St. Olaf Catholic Church
215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Sunday, April 25, 2:00 p.m.

Westminster Streaming Recital Series

Catherine Rodland, organist
Colonial Church, Edina

May

Sunday, May 16

WITNESS! Concert

VocalEssence

[VocalEssence on Demand](#)

Wednesday, May 19, 12:30 p.m.

St. Olaf Organ Series

Jessica Park, Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas,
University of St. Thomas
St. Olaf Catholic Church
215 South Eighth Street, Minneapolis

Sunday, May 23, 2:00 p.m.

Westminster Streaming Recital Series

Christopher Ganza, organist

Cathedral of Saint Paul, Saint Paul

Tuesday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.

Dean Billmeyer, organist

Northrop Auditorium, University of Minnesota
84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis



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TCAGO Organ Database: [David Engen](#) (c) 612-801-8662

Chapter Website - www.tcago.org

Website Administrators: [David Engen](#) (c) 612-801-8662;
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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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The [Organ Calendar](#) is accessible online and is read in week-appropriate summaries beginning at 7:00 a.m. during each Sunday morning *Pipedreams* broadcast.

Additional note from Michael:

In these Covid-complicated days, mail is better sent to me at my home address: 456 Cherokee Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55107. The office phone still works, and I get emails of messages left there.