Dean’s Column

David Jenkins

Reflections on the past year

Two powerful video images from the past year have left a lasting imprint on me. The first is the final minutes of the live-streamed Easter Sunday mass celebrated at the Basilica of Saint Mary in 2020. Like most of you, we were at home, participating remotely in worship because the shutdown had prevented us from celebrating with our parish community on the most solemn day of the Christian calendar. To conclude the Mass, Archbishop Hebda processed down the center aisle carrying the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament, as a quartet sang Byrd’s motet *Ave Verum Corpus*. When he approached the open doors, you could see the rare April snowstorm swirling outside, obscuring the view of the city beyond. As he stepped through the doors, the camera view switched to facing him. With the snow eddying around him, he solemnly blessed the city. I had a sense of God’s benediction settling on the city, blanketing its people with peace like a gentle snow.

Who could predict that a little more than a month later we would all see the video of the murder of George Floyd, as he lay helpless, pinned under the knee of a police officer. In the next few days, we smelled the fires set by rioters, could feel the beating sound of military helicopters flying low overhead, and awoke every morning with new destruction in our neighborhoods. An acrid smoke of outrage, violence, division, and even nihilism shrouded the city.

Now as we emerge from the worst of the pandemic in this country, and we look forward to full reopening and resumption of everyday life, we are filled with hope and new energy. Certainly, we still grieve lost loved ones, and remember many who suffered in various ways during the difficult past year. Yet, it is a time for hope, and a time to reflect on what have we learned from the pandemic, and how have things changed.

The anniversary of the murder of George Floyd is another occasion to reflect on what we have learned from the past year, and how things have changed. The big question would be whether things have even changed at all. I think that many like me have spent some time reading, praying, learning about racism and discussing racial issues with colleagues and family. Ultimately, I am seeking a conversion of heart where I have failed, a new resolve to treat others with dignity, and the will to support all efforts to expose and uproot all forms of prejudice and injustice toward others. At the same time, it seems pretty clear that our country and our communities are even more divided than ever, and there is still a long way to go to achieve true justice and peace.

I believe that the pandemic and shutdown, and the George Floyd murder and its aftermath, teach us a common lesson: the vital importance of relationships and community. My family, like many, has intentionally drawn together more...
closely in the past year. It is too easy to take family and friends for granted. You all know firsthand how our churches and synagogues have worked mightily to maintain community and to build supporting relationships in the face of the shutdown. It is clearer than ever that our communities and country need to come together to raise up our God-given human dignity, in solidarity for the common good.

This is where the AGO comes in. I am not going to suggest that the AGO can solve the world’s problems. Yet our lives and our communities are a little better for the ties we share as musicians, for the music we make, and for the ways we serve our churches, synagogues, and schools. Our mission is to “foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.” Our local chapter has tried its best to foster our local community of musicians this past year, and I am grateful to all who have worked together in that effort. The AGO national staff and officers have labored diligently and effectively to help us thrive during the past year – with a virtual Organfest, with webinars and streamed concerts, with a new Employment Handbook, with the development of new educational and professional resources, and with creative new ways to communicate with and support each other.

For the second summer in a row, AGO members will not have the opportunity to gather as a body at a national or regional convention. Instead, we will once again enjoy a virtual gathering. The theme of the upcoming AGO OrganFest 2021 is Beauty Endures. I would rather say that our community endures, because of the beauty we enjoy and share together through the organ and its music.

TCAGO Board Election Results

Carolyn Diamond, Nominating Committee Chair

The new officers and board members will begin their terms this Fall, 2021. They are:

Officers
Jacob Benda, Dean
Jennifer Anderson, Sub Dean
David Geslin, Treasurer
Joyce Brown, Secretary

Board Members
Isaac Drewes
Kathrine Handford
Kristina Langlois

We thank Stacie Lightner and Scott Turkington for allowing their names to be put on the ballot, and will anticipate their participation as needs arise.

Congratulations to the newly-elected officers and Board members.

Nominating Committee
Laura Edman, Jeremy Haug, Lise Schmidt, Bob Vickery
TCAGO 2020-2021
Year End Event Summary:
Recording and Links to Performances

Thank you to all who could attend the TCAGO 2020-2021 Year End Event on Sunday, May 2. The meeting included an opening welcome and brief update by David Jenkins, a promontional video teaser of a Northrop organ documentary for the Fall 2021 Opening Event; show-and-tell 'spotlights' from members showcasing what they have been up to the past twelve months; and insights into questions asked during the meeting registration process.

A recording of the Zoom meeting is posted on the TCAGO YouTube channel, available only on this direct link. Portions of the presentations by members were condensed. You will find direct links to the TCAGO Competition winners’ performances below.

Fall Opening Event, October 17, 2021
The Event will showcase our Northrop Organ Documentary, and will include a concert performance (in-person, live-streaming) by Hector Olivera. Ticketed item, open to the public. More details to come.

Performances by TCAGO Competition winners
1st Place, Sarah Palmer
Marcel Dupré, Prelude and Fugue in B Major, Op. 7, No. 1 (starts at 36:00 minutes)
2nd place, Katie Gunn
James Woodman, Sonata in Sea: Cape Cod

Regional Quimby 2021 Competition Winner
Mary Newton
The North Central AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists was held virtually on Saturday, May 8. Sarah Palmer (the April 17 Twin Cities chapter winner) was awarded first prize. As the regional winner, Sarah will receive $1,000 from the National AGO, and will be a Rising Star performer at the 2022 National Convention in Seattle. Sarah is a student at St. Olaf College and studies organ with Catherine Rodland.

The judges for this round of competition were Kris Langlois, Concordia University, Saint Paul; Greg Peterson, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa; and Eileen Hunt, former Vice President of the AGO/Councilor for Competitions and New Music. Congratulations, Sarah!
Fiftieth Anniversary Season

Stephen Hamilton

2021-2022 is the Fiftieth Anniversary Season for concert organist Stephen Hamilton. Hamilton’s first event of this new season is the inaugural concert for the new 70-stop Dobson pipe organ at the University of Dubuque, in Dubuque, Iowa, on Sunday, October 10, at 3:00 p.m. Other concerts booked for 2022 include a Dupré Le Chemin de la Croix at the Saint Paul Cathedral in Saint Paul, with Michael Barone narrating the Paul Claudel poetry.

Hamilton’s name has been synonymous with “touring concert organist” for fifty years. He is distinguished as a thoroughly engaging and popular personality and a much sought-after virtuoso. Hundreds of international solo recitals include Paris’ Notre Dame, Saint-Sulpice and Saint-Clotilde; London’s Westminster Abbey and St. Paul’s Cathedral; San Francisco’s Grace Cathedral; Washington’s National Cathedral; and New York’s St. John the Divine and St. Ignatius Loyola. His moving Dupré Le Chemin de la Croix has received over sixty performances around the globe.

A champion of American composer Kenton Coe, Hamilton premiered Concerto for Organ, Strings and Percussion in France and commissioned and recorded Fantasy for B&V records. Featured on radio broadcasts including Pipedreams, he frequently collaborates with solo artists and orchestras.

Hamilton is Minister of Music Emeritus at New York City’s Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal) and served the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music, Hunter College and Queens College. His church music repertoire classes have been popular presentations at seven National Conventions of the American Guild of Organists and countless AGO chapters.

An Iowa native now residing in Minneapolis, Hamilton enjoyed rigorous private studies with legendary organists Russell Saunders, Arthur Poister, and Marie-Claire Alain. He earned a DMA at the Manhattan School of Music with John Walker.

TCAGO Organists Legacy Project and Technicians Resource Pages

Two new documents were recently posted to our website by TCAGO chapter members. Contributions were made by J. Michael Barone, Philip Brunelle, Roger Burg, Helen Garvey, David Jensen, Nils Halker, Sharon Kleckner, Michael P. LuBrant, Martin Stachnik, Kirsten Uhlenberg, David Engen, and Jayson Rodovsky Engquist.

Organists Legacy Project
This document includes many organists (now deceased) from our past who are remembered with brief accounts (active dates, where they were employed, etc.). If you know of organists who should be added to this list or if you have additional updates or corrections, please send them to David Engen.

Technicians Resource
Organ tuners, technicians, and builders from Minnesota are listed on this document, including many from our past. As one of our members points out, “without these folks taking care of our delicate instruments, we wouldn’t want to listen to them!!” Again, if you see information that needs to be adjusted, added, or corrected, please be in touch with David Engen.

We hope you will visit these pages and remember some of our important predecessors. As many of you know, the Twin Cities Chapter was founded in 1910 with the first meeting in Saint Paul. Information about previous Deans of TCAGO is listed in the printed Directory and on the Chapter website.

To find these resources, open the TCAGO website; Go to “Resources” (near the bottom of the list); Find links to these documents on the “Resources” page in the section titled, “Organists Legacy Project & Technicians Resource.”
Summer Recital Series

Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester

June 8  Carolyn Diamond
Organist and Piano Recitalist
Guest musician/Wayzata Community Church, Minneapolis

June 15 Emily Roth
Masters Student of Organ Performance
University of Minnesota, Rochester

June 22 Daniel Lewis
Director of Music
St. Martins Lutheran Church/School, Winona

June 29 James Bobb
Associate Professor of Music
St. Olaf College, Northfield

July 13 Nathan Elsbernd
Student, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa
Hometown – Mason City, Iowa

July 20 Stephen Distad
Artist-in-Residence
Memorial Drive United Methodist, Houston, Texas

July 27 Meghan Maloy Ness
Director of Music Ministries
Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Aug. 3 Gregory Peterson
Professor of Music & College Organist
Luther College, Decorah, Iowa

Aug. 10 Lee Afdahl
Director of Music, Emeritus
First Presbyterian Church, Rochester

Aug. 17 Zachariah Hastings
Director of Music
Pacific Hills Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska

Aug. 24 Sam Backman
Director of Sacred Music
Holy Cross Catholic Church, Minneapolis

Aug. 31 Ryan Hulshizer
Agent/Financial Planner
Farm Bureau Financial Services, Northwood, Iowa

The Series is open to the public. Free parking. Free-will offering. All guests will be required to follow current mask and distancing guidelines.

Trinity Lutheran Church
222 6th Avenue SW., Rochester

Summer Noontime Organ Recitals

Tuesdays, 12:10 p.m.
Mankato

Live in-person pipe organ recitals return to Mankato! The Sioux Trails Chapter of the AGO is happy to present its annual Summer Noontime Organ Recitals each Tuesday. Admission is free; a free-will donation will be accepted. Visit the website for information about specific locations and performers.

This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council from funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature from its general fund.

June 8  Thomas Andrews
June 15 Chad Winterfeldt
June 22 David Fienen
  Grace Lutheran Church
  110 N. 4th Street, Mankato

July 6  David Mertesdorf
July 13 Grace Kunkel
July 20 Sean Connolly
  Christ the King Lutheran Church
  222 Pfau Street, Mankato

July 27 Wayne Wagner and Craig Hirschmann
Aug. 3  Kraig Windschitl
Aug. 10 Christine Schulz
  Bethlehem Lutheran Church
  720 S. 2nd Street, Mankato

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lohman004@umn.edu
**TCAGO Elected Board**

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Class of 2023: Nils Halker, Kris Rizzotto, Lise Schmidt

**Registrar** Jeffrey Patry (w) 763-788-9653, ext. 109, (c) 612-327-9894  
111 Marquette Avenue S., Apt. 2704  
Minneapolis, MN 55401-2036

**Chaplain** The Rev. John Setterlund 217-828-1038

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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](http://www.tcago.org)  
Website Administrators: David Engen (c) 612-801-8662;  
Kirsten Uhltenberg 651-646-8120  
Facebook - [facebook.com/twincitiesAGO](http://facebook.com/twincitiesAGO)

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**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](http://www.pipedreams.org) or [www.yourclassical.org/pipedreams](http://www.yourclassical.org/pipedreams).

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.

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