American Guild of Organists

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AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
AWARDED $25,000 GRANT FROM THE
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NEA Funding Will Support Educational Programming in 2017 and New Music
Commissioned for the 2018 AGO National Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) has been awarded a grant
by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support educational programs and
career development for organists, choral conductors, and composers in 2017, including new

While the AGO has received regular support from the NEA since 2005, the $25,000 “Art
Works” award is the largest grant the arts endowment has ever given to the Guild.

“This grant covers the full breadth of the AGO’s educational activities for current and
prospective members as well as our programs of outreach to the public,” stated AGO
Executive Director James Thomashower. “The NEA’s funding sends an uplifting message
to the entire organ community: our instrument and its music are vitally important to the
American people. The award validates the AGO’s ongoing efforts to ensure that music for
the organ is created by talented composers, performed by skilled musicians, and appreciated
by the widest audience possible. It is an honor for the Guild to be recognized by the NEA,
the most prestigious independent federal agency in the United States responsible for funding and promoting artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation.”

In December, the NEA announced that it will award more than $30 million to nonprofit organizations and individuals across the country in 2017. Nearly $26 million of that will be for Art Works, the NEA’s largest funding category. Art Works focuses on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. The NEA will give 970 Art Works grants to organizations in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2017.

“The arts are for all of us, and by supporting these projects, the National Endowment for the Arts is providing more opportunities for the public to engage with the arts,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Whether in a theater, a town square, a museum, or a hospital, the arts are everywhere and make our lives richer.”

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at Arts.gov. For further information about the AGO’s educational programming, please visit the AGO website at Agohq.org.

The AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, it sets and maintains high musical standards and promotes the understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music. The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. The Guild currently serves approximately 15,000 members in more than 300 local chapters throughout the United States and abroad. THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine, the official journal of the AGO and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America, reaches an audience of more than 20,000 each month. Visit the AGO online at Agohq.org.