



Central Arkansas Chapter *American Guild of Organists*

The
Clarion
April 2022

www.cacago.org

Mission Statement

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this, we encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors; provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support; nurture future generations of organists; promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

2021-2022 Officers

Bob Bidewell, *dean*
Charles Russell, *sub-dean*
Jess Anthony, *treasurer*
Jane Gamble, *secretary*

Executive Committee

Betty Cohen (2022)
Karen Horton (2023)
Jason Saugey (2024)

From the Dean

I am so thankful to the folks of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, North Little Rock, and their concert series *Festival of the Senses* for allowing our chapter to join forces in presenting Rees Roberts' recital this past month. Due to a rescheduled Little Rock Winds concert (thank you, February ice storm), I was not able to be present. I heard it was a magnificent program and very well attended.

This month we welcome organist Scott Montgomery, Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, as our guest recitalist! The program looks fantastic, and I can't wait to hear it. More information below. I hope you'll join us at First Presbyterian Church, downtown Little Rock, April 22!

I'm so thankful to our Secretary, Dr. Jane Gamble, for her article on Guild Certification found below. I, for one, can vouch for the validity and sense of accomplishment the Service Playing Exam gave me! I'm going to take the Colleague Exam this next year. Join me!

To close out our presenting year, I'm thrilled to announce that, with COVID numbers very low and following CDC guidelines, we *will* have a dinner/meeting before and a gala reception following our May program, with organist Kevin Kwan, at the Cathedral of St. Andrew! We'll

have more information on dinner reservations in next month's *Clarion*.

In the next few weeks, all Chapter Members will receive a ballot in the mail for voting on our slate of officers for 2022-2023. Instructions and a return stamped envelope will be included. I hope you will participate in this major function of our Chapter.

May your Holy Week be peaceful and meaningful. I would imagine that, considering what we've been through the past two years, Easter Alleluias will ring and sing forth from every church in Central Arkansas as never before! Alleluia, indeed!

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

— The Book of Common Prayer

Bob

Upcoming Newsletter

The May 2022 *Clarion* will be published Monday, May 2. If you have any items to submit (news, events, announcements, job postings, personal ads, opinion pieces, prayer requests) please send them to adam@cacago.org. The deadline is Friday, April 29.

Upcoming CACAGO Programs

Friday, April 22, 7:30 P.M.
Scott Montgomery, organist
First Presbyterian Church
800 Scott St.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Friday, May 13, 7:30 P.M.
Kevin Kwan, organist
Cathedral of St. Andrew
617 Louisiana St.
Little Rock, Arkansas

APRIL MEETING

Scott Montgomery, *organist*

🕒 **Friday, April 22, 2022**

7:30 P.M.

📍 **First Presbyterian Church**

800 Scott St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

April Program

Scott Montgomery, *organist*

Concert Overture No. 1 in C Major

Alfred Hollins (1865-1942)

Fantasia in F minor, KV 608

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Psalm Prelude

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

Finlandia, Op. 26

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

arr. Herbert A. Fricker

Intermission

Arabesque No. 2

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

arr. Friedemann Becker

Choral No. 1 in E major

César Franck (1822-1890)

Sonata in E flat minor, Op. 65

II. Allegretto

Horatio Parker (1863-1919)

Fantasia on a Theme by Gustav Holst

Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

Biography of Scott Montgomery

Scott Montgomery is the Associate Director of Music and Organist of Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas, a private instructor of piano and organ, and a widely respected concert organist.

Mr. Montgomery became nationally recognized in 2006 by winning both the Lilian Murtagh Memorial Award (first-prize) and the Audience Prize of the prestigious American Guild of Organists' National Young Artist Competition in Organ Playing (NYACOP), the first person to win both prizes in the history of the competition. Scott has been a prize winner in several other notable competitions including first-prize in the American Guild of Organists' Region V Competition in Evansville, Indiana (1997), second-prize in the Arthur Poister National Organ Competition in Syracuse, New York (2002), and was also the first recipient of the M. Louise Miller Scholarship (2002) sponsored by the Greater Bridgeport Chapter of the American Guild of organists. Scott is a member of the Concert Artist Cooperative, a roster of national and international concert artists.

He is widely active as a concert organist throughout the country and abroad. Notable performance venues have included Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Philadelphia, PA), Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA), Ball State University (Muncie, IN), and Heinz Chapel

at the University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA). He has performed for both regional and national conventions for the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the Organ Historical Society (OHS), National Pastoral Musician Conferences (NPM), and for Pipe Organ Encounters (POE) in the Midwest for both youth and adults. His performances have been broadcast on nationally syndicated radio programs *Pipedreams* and *With Heart and Voice*.

Mr. Montgomery has produced three critically acclaimed compact disc recordings. *Water and Light*, released in 2008 by the Pro Organo label, features the tonally resourceful Mander organ at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. His second CD, *Inspirations From England*, was released in 2009 by the Regent Record label, and features the two Mander organs at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Most recently, Scott released his third CD, *Organo Plano: Music for a Joyous Occasion*, on the Raven label, showcasing the large Reuter organ at Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas.

He received his formal training at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, earning his undergraduate and graduate degrees in organ performance, studying with Dr. Dana Robinson.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of nominees for 2022-2023.

Dean: Bob Bidewell	Executive Committee (2025)
Sub-Dean: Charlie Russell	John Alec Briggs
Secretary: Jane Gamble	
Treasurer: Jess Anthony	

The Election of Officers will be done via US Postal Service in April.

Nominating Committee: Stephen Bullock, Jason Saugey

How About Adding Some Letters After Your Name?

Dr. Jane Gamble, FAGO

As a member of the American Guild of Organists, you have an unparalleled opportunity to study, learn, and advance in your church music profession, and in the process earn certification in one of five levels: Service Playing (SPC), Colleague (CAGO), Choirmaster (ChM), Associate (AAGO), and Fellow (FAGO). Each of these certificates is considered an academic achievement, and entitles you to add its initials after your name, just as you can add the letters signifying the higher education degrees you hold.

Here is a bit of the history of AGO certification. One of the main objectives of the founders of the American Guild of Organists was to offer educational opportunities for the skills needed by church musicians. Their organization was chartered in 1896 by the Board of Regents, University of the State of New York, to administer a series of examinations for professional certification. This aspect of the AGO has grown over the years, and many of our members nationwide proudly hold one or more of the certificates. Originally only the AAGO and the FAGO certificates were offered, and the other three were added gradually over time. You are not required to hold a college degree in music or any other field to become a certified member of the AGO—passing the AGO examinations is the only requirement.

For your information, here is a brief summary of the areas covered in the examinations for the various certificates. You will notice that many of the requirements carry forward from level to level, increasing in difficulty as you move up the ladder of achievement. Requirements for keyboard tests for Service Playing, Colleague, Associate, and Fellow include: playing pieces chosen by the candidate from various AGO lists, hymn playing, accompaniment, sight reading, transposition, harmonization, and improvisation. Written tests are also required for Associate and Fellow certificates, and cover areas such as composition, general musical knowledge, and ear tests. In addition, candidates for the FAGO certificate must pass written tests in counterpoint, fugue, and orchestration. As you would expect, the Choirmaster certificate covers skills needed by a person working with choirs and choral music. Candidates are required to rehearse and direct a choir in the performance of three given selections, and show keyboard skills by harmonizing a melody, playing harmonic progressions, and playing a hymn. Written tests for Choirmaster candidates include ear tests, ability to analyze musical theory found in an example of choral music, choral training and repertoire, hymnody and liturgy, and general musical knowledge.

You can prepare to take these tests, which are offered once a year, on your own or with help from a teacher. The national AGO offers materials on the various areas of the exams which will help with preparation. My recommendation is to work with a teacher who will guide you through the challenges of readying yourself for your examinations. If you take this road, be sure to work with someone who has already earned one or more of the certificates at or beyond the level you wish to work towards, and who knows what is involved in preparing for the exams. This person may also have additional materials for your use in addition to those offered through the national AGO. The encouragement and support of a teacher can be one of the most valuable assets you can have while you are undertaking preparation for these exams!

What are the benefits of preparing for and taking the exams? First of all, you will expand your musical horizons greatly. Many candidates comment on the breadth of knowledge they had to explore for the exams which was not covered in college or university courses of study. This knowledge is specifically designed for persons working in the field of church music, who desire to expand their abilities in choral and organ work. Second, you will acquire the respect of your peers. Most persons in the church music field, and especially members of the AGO, have heard of these certificates and the level of preparation necessary to take the exams. You yourself will also acquire a great sense of personal achievement as your study broadens your abilities and increases your skills. Third, you may improve your employment options, as these certificates are known and recognized by many search committees. You will have an extra qualification that not everyone has! Personally, I am extremely proud to put the letters FAGO behind my name, and extremely appreciative of the study and experiences the AGO offered as I prepared for the Associate and Fellow examinations.

The Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is fortunate to include five certificate holders in its membership: Bob Bidewell, SPC, Betty Cohen, SPC, Jason Saugey, CAGO, Jane Gamble, FAGO, and Colin MacKnight, FAGO, ChM. If you would like more information about the certificates and exams, go to the national AGO website (www.agohq.org/certification), see the July issue of *The American Organist*, or contact Bob Bidewell or Jane Gamble. We'd be delighted to help you as you consider undertaking this challenge!

Treasurer's Report

INCOME	EXPENSES
<p>REVENUE</p> <p>Dues \$1,847.00</p> <p>Ad Sales</p> <p>Meals</p> <p>Carry Over (FY20) \$2,527.88</p> <p>Other/Mail</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$4,374.88</p> <p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Individuals \$3,997.36</p> <p>Other (ACH)</p> <p>Endowment \$1,263.00</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$5,260.36</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p>TOTAL INCOME \$9,635.24</p>	<p>ADMINISTRATIVE</p> <p>Dues to National</p> <p>Catering/Reception</p> <p>Marketing/Public Relations</p> <p>Remaining Expenses \$799.48</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$799.48</p> <p>ARTISTIC</p> <p>Artist Fees/Housing \$2,955.12</p> <p>Remaining Expenses (ACH)</p> <p>Tech/Production</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$2,955.12</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p>TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,754.60</p> <p>BALANCE \$5,880.64</p>

Position Available

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church Little Rock, Arkansas

Position: Associate Director of Music/Organist

Compensation: Negotiable

Job Description: Pulaski Heights UMC is seeking a full-time Associate Director of Music/Organist. This position is 40 hours work per week with a negotiable salary, with health, dental, eye insurance, a 6% pension contribution, continuing ed and moving allowance if necessary. Vacation is granted in coordination with the policies stated in the employee handbook. Applications should include a letter of inquiry, résumé and unedited recordings of solo and hymn playing, choral accompaniment. For more information, visit phumc.com.

Please send applications to: Rev. Jay Clark, jclark@phumc.com