



# Central Arkansas Chapter *American Guild of Organists*

*The*  
*Clarion*  
October 2023

[www.cacago.org](http://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.

## 2023-2024 Officers

Jason Saugey, *dean*  
Beau Baldwin, *sub-dean*  
Jess Anthony, *treasurer*  
James Stanley, *secretary*

## Executive Committee

Colin MacKnight (2024)  
John Alec Briggs (2025)  
Patrick Jennings (2026)

## From the Dean

Greetings Friends!

A hearty and collegial thank you to Colin MacKnight, Celina Kobetitsch, and the singers of the Trinity Cathedral Evensong Choir for a resplendent service September 17 to mark our 2023 Installation of Officers. What a treat it was to hear Herbert Howells's splendid Gloucester Service to start off our Chapter's program year. Thank you also to Betty Cohen and Bob Bidewell for hosting the lovely gathering in Morrison Hall which followed—a chance to visit and catch up with friends and colleagues we've long known as well as to meet and get to know several folks new to our ranks: Welcome back, and Welcome!

At the installation service, when it came time for the Board and Executive Committee to come forward, Mother Lisa Corey met us at the chancel steps. Before she began reading the AGO mission statement as part of the ceremony, she paused and reminded us to pay close attention and to listen closely to its words. Here's the text:

*At the heart of the formation and continuing life of the American Guild of Organists is its mission: 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.*

The first half of the paragraph has to do with all of us as organists and choral directors, that we should maintain a high standard in all that we do, and to that end, we should endeavor to become more knowledgeable and to collect more experience within our fields always, and also we should work to promote the education of and to educate others in music and organ playing.

The second half of the mission text has to do with our relationship to others in the community as regards what it is we do. Two verbs stand out: *promote* and *engage*. It's clear that the AGO is much more than an entity to provide a context for organists and choir directors to gather and talk shop. Far beyond that, we are called by our mission statement to promote what it is we do—in talking, explaining, and teaching, and inspiring others in and with music and in particular organ music.

Also, we are charged to engage persons of the community at large with organ music, which engagement simultaneously connects persons with

the organ-playing community. Such engagement includes spreading the word about what the AGO does, not only locally, but also both nationally and in cooperation with similar organizations worldwide (the first half of the paragraph above). Further, the more we engage, the more people we can bring to taking part in those efforts too, whether or not they are active organists. A love for music and a love for organ music are sufficient.

So here's my challenge to all of you based on the words of the AGO's installation service: extend an invitation to friends, neighbors, students, choir members, co-workers, your clergy person(s), and anyone else you might know to attend regular monthly chapter dinners and meetings with you. In fact, *each time* you attend, bring a guest! Our best advertisers are you, our own members. It may not occur to a person to learn more about the AGO, unless first having been invited to a function as a guest. If you teach organ students, or students of any instrument, mention the AGO to them, how we support music learning and music careers for young people—that's exactly how I became a member many decades ago. Treat a friend of music or two to dinner and introduce them to the AGO.

Also, be sure to keep your own memberships active and attend our chapter meeting and events regularly. From month to month, I am notified by national whose memberships are about to lapse. I reach out and encourage to renew, and also to remind what the benefits are of staying in the AGO.

The action verbs of the AGO mission statement describe in plain and positive terms why membership is important and why we can't afford to keep the AGO a secret. Read them: *Enrich, Achieve, Encourage, Inspire, Educate, Offer, Provide, Promote, and Engage*. It's time now more than ever to put these action verbs into action!

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, October 7 at First Presbyterian Church, 8th and Scott Streets, Little Rock. And I look doubly forward to meeting your guests this Saturday and welcoming them among us.

Peace,  
Jason Saugey, CAGO  
CACAGO Dean

# OCTOBER MEETING

Laura Ellis, *organist*

🕒 **Saturday, October 7, 2023**

6:00 P.M. – Punchbowl

6:30 P.M. – Dinner & Meeting

7:30 P.M. – Concert

📍 **First Presbyterian Church**

800 Scott St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

**DINNER RESERVATIONS:** The cost for dinner is \$20.00. For dinner reservations, contact James Stanley via e-mail ([dinner@cacago.org](mailto:dinner@cacago.org)), or voice/text (229) 561-1177, or complete the dinner reservation form on the chapter website. *Please provide the names of your guests so that nametags may be printed for them.*

**Dinner reservations are due by  
noon, Wednesday, October 4!**

## Upcoming Newsletter

The November 2023 *Clarion* will be published Monday, October 30. 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](mailto:adam@cacago.org). The deadline is Friday, October 27.

## Upcoming CACAGO Programs

**Saturday, October 7, 7:30 P.M.**

**Laura Ellis, *organist***

First Presbyterian Church

800 Scott St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

**Friday, November 10, 7:30 P.M.**

**Alessandro Bianchi, *organist***

Christ Episcopal Church

509 Scott St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

**Friday, February 9, 7:30 P.M.**

**Benjamin LaPrairie, *organist***

Cathedral of Saint Andrew

617 S. Louisiana St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

## Biography of Laura Ellis

Laura Ellis is Associate Director and Professor in the School of Music at the University of Florida. She teaches graduate courses in Sacred Music and applied lessons in organ, harpsichord, and carillon. Ellis holds the DMA in organ performance from the University of Kansas. A carillonneur member of The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA), Ellis recently served two years as President of the organization and is director of the Music and Publications Committee. Ellis is also active in the American Guild of Organists (AGO) where she was elected to three terms as Regional Councillor for the Southeast.

Ellis has performed organ and carillon recitals throughout the US, Canada, The Netherlands, and Australia. Her double-CD organ recording *Music for the Testaments Old and New* was released under the Raven label; her recording *Legacy: Laura Ellis Plays Organ Works of Jeanne Demessieux* is available on Spotify, Pandora, and Apple Music. Her recording of carillon works of Alice Gomez is in production.

## October Program

Laura Ellis, *organist*

### Prelude and Trumpetings

Myron Roberts (1912-2004)

### Inspired by Chant

*Advent*—Rorate Caeli (Choral orné)

*Christmas*—Adeste Fideles (Musette)

*Lent*—Hosanna Filio David (Choral fugue)

*Easter*—Répons pour le temps de Pâques

*Pentecost*—Veni Creator

Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)

### Organ Symphony No. 3, “Portals”

1. One Teacher

2. With Thanksgiving

3. Humble Yourselves

4. Speak, and Do Not Be Silent

5. Sing Joyfully

Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

### Three Inspirational Settings

A Little More Faith in Jesus, arr. John W. Work, III

Wade in duh Wadduh!, arr. William Farley Smith

Lift Every Voice and Sing, arr. Calvin Taylor

### A Bit of Fun

#### Key West Calypso

James Johnson (1942-2022)

#### Hornpipe Humoresque

Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

Connor Liddell, baritone

Friday, October 13 • 7:00 P.M.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
310 W 17th St  
Little Rock, AR 72206-1461

Award-winning baritone Connor Lidell is in demand as both a performer and teacher. As a performer, Connor regularly performs opera, musical theater, and in recital. As a teacher, he serves as Assistant Adjunct Professor of Voice at the University of Texas, Arlington and maintains a private voice studio with students across the country.

Buster Keaton's The Navigator

Friday, October 27 • 7:00 P.M.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
310 W 17th St  
Little Rock, AR 72206-1461

The Navigator, Buster Keaton's most successful film, tells the comical story of two people abandoned on a luxury liner and their adventures at sea. Winner of the American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Improvisation, Jason Roberts will improvise organ accompaniment to this silent film. Roberts is currently the Director of Music at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in NYC and keeps an active recital schedule, especially as a silent film improviser.

Trinity Vesper Concert

Saturday, October 28 • 5:00 P.M.

Trinity United Methodist Church  
1101 N Mississippi St  
Little Rock, AR 72207-5903

Halloween-themed Concert for Families & Community. Dance of the Goblins, Danse Macabre for Two Pianos, Violin, and Two Percussions, Queen of the Night, Dry Bones, Tango de la muerte del Angel, Phantom of the Opera, and Thou Art Holy. Free Admission.

All Saints' Mass

Wednesday, November 1 • 7:00 P.M.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
310 W 17th St  
Little Rock, AR 72206-1461

With members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

Durufié Requiem

Thursday, November 2 • 7:30 P.M.

Cathedral of Saint Andrew  
617 Louisiana St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201-4203

The Cathedral of Saint Andrew Choir will sing Maurice Durufle's Requiem on All Souls' Day. Beau Baldwin will conduct the choir, Colin MacKnight will play the organ, and Maria Fasciano will be the soprano soloist. A reception will follow.

Remembrance Day Fauré Requiem

Sunday, November 12 • 4:00 P.M.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
310 W 17th St  
Little Rock, AR 72206-1461

The Trinity Choir will sing Gabriel Fauré's beloved Requiem, Op. 48 in the context of a Remembrance Day Requiem mass. Remembrance Day is observed on the Sunday closest to Veteran's Day and memorializes those who have given their lives in service of their country. A reception will follow.

# Treasurer's Report

INCOME	EXPENSES
<p><b>REVENUE</b></p> <p>Dues \$1,950.00</p> <p>Ad Sales</p> <p>Meals</p> <p>Carry Over (FY23) \$4,614.91</p> <p>Other/Mail _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$6,564.91</p> <p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Individuals</p> <p>Corporate/Church</p> <p>Endowment \$1,304.03</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$1,304.03</p> <p style="text-align: right;">=====</p> <p><b>TOTAL INCOME</b> \$7,868.94</p>	<p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b></p> <p>Dues to National</p> <p>Catering/Reception</p> <p>Marketing/Public Relations</p> <p>Remaining Expenses _____</p> <p><b>ARTISTIC</b></p> <p>Artist Fees/Housing</p> <p>Remaining Expenses (ACH)</p> <p>Tech/Production _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">=====</p> <p><b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b></p> <p><b>BALANCE</b> \$7,868.94</p>

## Position Available

### **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church North Little Rock, Arkansas**

**Position:** Full-time Music Director

**Compensation:** Commensurate with education and experience

**Job Description:** Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is seeking a talented and dedicated full time Music Director to join our parish community. The position offers a fulfilling opportunity to share your musical talents and faith in our parish. If you are passionate about liturgical music and possess the necessary skills and dedication, we invite you to apply for this position. The Music Director will provide organ and piano music and musical leadership for regular weekend Parish services, Holy Day Masses and special events as requested by the Pastor. Position recruits, trains, schedules, and rehearses all choirs, ensembles, cantors, and parish musicians and participates in planning religious services in conjunction with the pastor and church staff.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to Carmen Sellinger,  
parishmanager@iccnlr.org

# Arts Calendar

**Tuesday, October 3 – 7:00 P.M.**

ASO Chamber: Beethoven & Poulenc  
Clinton Presidential Center  
Little Rock, AR

**Thursday, October 5 – 7:30 P.M.**

CMSLR: Aizuri Quartet  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Saturday, October 7 – 7:30 P.M.**

CACAGO: Laura Ellis, organist  
First Presbyterian Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Thursday, October 12 – 7:30 P.M.**

LR Winds: Kilts and Crown  
Second Presbyterian Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Friday, October 13 – 7:00 P.M.**

Connor Liddell, baritone  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
Little Rock, AR

**Friday, October 13 – 7:30 P.M.**

Arkansas Chamber Singers  
St. James United Methodist Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Sunday, October 15 – 3:00 P.M.**

Arkansas Chamber Singers  
St. James United Methodist Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Sunday, October 15 – 3:00 P.M.**

Hymn Festival  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Saturday, October 21 – 7:30 P.M.**

ASO Pops: Star Wars  
Robinson Center Music Hall  
Little Rock, AR

**Sunday, October 22 – 3:00 P.M.**

ASO Pops: Star Wars  
Robinson Center Music Hall  
Little Rock, AR

**Friday, October 27 – 7:00 P.M.**

Buster Keaton's The Navigator  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
Little Rock, AR

**Saturday, October 28 – 5:00 P.M.**

Trinity Vesper Concert  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Wednesday, November 1 – 7:00 P.M.**

All Saints' Mass  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
Little Rock, AR

**Thursday, November 2 – 7:30 P.M.**

Durufle Requiem  
Cathedral of Saint Andrew the Apostle  
Little Rock, AR

**Friday, November 3 – 7:30 P.M.**

CMSLR: Fourth Wall  
Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts  
Little Rock, AR

**Friday, November 10 – 7:30 P.M.**

CACAGO: Alessandro Bianchi, organist  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Saturday, November 11 – 7:30 P.M.**

ASO Masterworks: Rachmaninoff 3rd  
Robinson Center Music Hall  
Little Rock, AR

**Sunday, November 12 – 3:00 P.M.**

ASO Masterworks: Rachmaninoff 3rd  
Robinson Center Music Hall  
Little Rock, AR

**Sunday, November 12 – 4:00 P.M.**

Remembrance Day Requiem  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
Little Rock, AR

**Tuesday, November 14 – 7:00 P.M.**

ASO Chamber: Conrad Tao, piano  
Clinton Presidential Center  
Little Rock, AR

**Friday, December 1 – 7:30 P.M.**

ACS: Handel's Messiah  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Thursday, December 7 – 7:30 P.M.**

LR Winds: A Merry Big Christmas  
UA-Pulaski Tech CHARTS Theater  
North Little Rock, AR