



American Guild of
ORGANISTS
Central Arkansas Chapter

THE CLARION

December 2023

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!

On the final Sunday of the Church Year, the faith community whom I serve sang as its final hymn the long-beloved *Abide with me, fast falls the eventide*. To close the year after all the fanfare and pomp celebrating Christ, King of the Universe, I found it most fitting to have this hymn with its steadfast and comforting text to foreshadow *Ad te levavi*, the First Sunday of Advent. For throughout these purple weeks of preparation and penitence, we recall our ancestors' journey through darkness, longing for the light the Messiah would bring.

In the first Advent introit, we enter into Sacred Mystery with the hopeful words of Psalm 25: "I lift my soul to you...show me your ways...teach me your paths." The final stanza of *Eventide* captures this selfsame desire: "Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes. Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies." And what joy we find here, what our forebears saw only with the eyes of faith: the certainty

of that glorious and salvific dawn: "Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee." At journey's end we hope also to peer into the manger, and see there the brightness of the One who will disperse the darkness forever, by whose cross we are afforded an even more glorious new day.

May our work in Sacred Music, especially in this Advent season, always point to him for whom we long, and may the notes we play and the beautiful poetry we sing lift the souls of the faithful to the Lord, that we may come to know his ways and learn his paths.

The Board and Executive Committee of the Central Arkansas Chapter American Guild of Organists hope for you all a prayerful Advent and blessings for a merry Christmas and joyous New Year.

Christ's Peace
Jason Saugey, CAGO

Upcoming Newsletter

The January 2024 *Clarion* will be published Monday, January 1. 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, December 29.

Upcoming CACAGO Programs

Friday, February 9, 7:30 P.M.
Benjamin LaPrairie, organist
Cathedral of Saint Andrew
617 S. Louisiana St.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Friday, April 12, 7:30 P.M.
The Twentieth Annual Concert
Celebrating the Life of
Robert Young Ellis
Adam Chlebek, organist
Christ Episcopal Church
509 Scott St.
Little Rock, Arkansas

RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING: Looking to the Future

Jason Saugy

A few weeks ago four colleagues from around the United States and I served as panelists on a leadership webinar moderated by AGO Director of Membership Engagement and Chapter Development, Elizabeth George. Our topic: Chapter growth. Key to our presentations was to step away from the standard jargon of “member recruitment” and to embrace what Chapter growth really should mean: building relationships.

Everything we do regarding the Guild involves *people*. I’ve written before on the action verbs at the heart of our organization’s mission statement: *enrich, achieve, encourage, inspire, educate, offer, provide, promote, and engage*. Think about it: each of these doesn’t focus on the organization itself, but on the *people*. People who are members in the Guild, prospective members, as well as members of the community at large. People engaging, encouraging, educating *people*.

Now, we can write letters, send emails, run adverts, and create as many fabulous posters all we want. Most of us are church musicians, and we’re really good at doing that. It fits in well with how we typically prefer to operate: working in solitude at a keyboard, our desks, or both. Problem is, those preferred methods don’t always get the results we hope for. Honestly: how many new choir singers come to weeknight rehearsals for the first time having answered an ad in the bulletin? Granted, there may have been some who were zapped suddenly in the pew by the Holy Ghost and received a mystic vision of a choir box with their name on it, but in decades of church work,

I’m fairly confident most of us could count folks like that—the very blessed few—on one hand. New singers are typically the ones we see or hear (or whom choir members see) sitting in the congregation singing. And they join the choir because someone *approaches* them *personally* and *invites* them. Step one to relationship-building: saying hello and saying welcome.

Do you know the musicians serving the churches in your neighborhood, city, or town? If you don’t, why not? I challenge everyone to take time to find out who the music people are around you—the ones whom you may not know, but who undertake similar work as you. Go meet them and invite them to lunch or coffee. There are many musicians who work in isolation from their colleagues. Some may not realize they even have colleagues. It’s really up to all of us to bridge that gap.

Do you have students? Are there members in your choir(s) who particularly enjoy the organ and organ music? Do you know members in your congregation who are especially supportive of the music program where you serve? How about your clergy?

Reach out to these people. Engage them, invite them to join you for dinner and fellowship at AGO and to enjoy a program afterwards. The Organ Guild is a valuable professional resource and source of support. It’s a place to learn and find out more. It’s where members, colleagues, and friends engage, encourage, educate, and inspire *each other*. That’s what relationship-building is. And ultimately, that’s how growth works.

Organ Substitutes Needed!

We all need subs regularly—at least those of us who need to be away on vacation from time to time or for whatever reason. There’re also those instances when others might contact us for leads on someone we know who might be available to play a wedding or a funeral. Often when those calls come, it’s difficult to brainstorm names on the spot. In the past, the Chapter has maintained a current listing of colleagues willing to serve as subs or play weddings and funerals at various other venues other than one’s own. We’re currently in the process of revitalizing this list. If you are available as a Sunday sub, a holy day sub, or just for weddings and funerals, please contact John Alec Briggs, who will be compiling the list. You may contact him by email: jbriggs@stmargaretschurch.org.

Christmas Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 17 • 4:00 P.M.

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

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral will offer its annual service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. Nine biblical readings will be interspersed with choir anthems by Philip Ledger, Christopher Robinson, Simon Lindley, Tomás Luis de Victoria, Mack Wilberg, and David Willcocks, and beloved Christmas hymns such as “Once in royal David’s city,” “God rest you merry, gentlemen,” “O come, all ye faithful,” and “Hark! the herald angels sing.” A reception will follow the service.

Madrigal Dinner

Friday, January 5 • 6:00 P.M.

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

This will be a multi course dinner prepared by Fr. Shaun Welsey. Tickets are on sale by contacting Beau Baldwin, Cathedral Organist, (501) 374-2794 or music@csalr.org.

Treasurer’s Report

INCOME		EXPENSES	
REVENUE		ADMINISTRATIVE	
Dues	\$2,225.00	Dues to National	
Ad Sales		Catering/Reception	\$1,338.56
Meals	\$985.00	Marketing/Public Relations	
Carry Over (FY23)	\$4,614.91	Remaining Expenses	<u> </u>
Other/Mail	<u> </u>		\$1,338.56
	\$7,824.91		
SUPPORT		ARTISTIC	
Individuals	\$2,650.00	Artist Fees/Housing	\$5,138.91
Corporate/Church	\$1,500.00	Remaining Expenses (ACH)	
Endowment	\$1,304.03	Tech/Production	<u> </u>
	<u>\$5,454.03</u>		\$5,138.91
TOTAL INCOME	\$13,278.94	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,477.47
		BALANCE	\$6,801.47

Arts Calendar

Monday, December 4 – 7:00 P.M.

River City Men's Chorus
St. James United Methodist Church
Little Rock, AR

Tuesday, December 5 – 7:00 P.M.

Conway Men's Chorus Christmas Concert
UCA Reynolds Hall
Conway, AR

Thursday, December 7 – 7:00 P.M.

River City Men's Chorus
St. James United Methodist 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

Friday, December 8 – 7:00 P.M.

Arkansas Chamber Singers
Old State House
Little Rock, AR

Saturday, December 9 – 3:00 P.M.

Arkansas Chamber Singers
Old State House
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, December 10 – 3:00 P.M.

Arkansas Chamber Singers
Old State House
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, December 10 – 6:30 P.M.

Lessons and Carols
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
Conway, AR

Friday, December 15 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO Pops: Home for the Holidays
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Saturday, December 16 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO Pops: Home for the Holidays
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, December 17 – 11:00 A.M.

Advent Lessons and Carols
First United Methodist Church
Conway, AR

Sunday, December 17 – 3:00 P.M.

ASO Pops: Home for the Holidays
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, December 17 – 4:00 P.M.

Christmas Lessons and Carols
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Little Rock, AR

Friday, January 5 – 6:00 P.M.

Madrigal Dinner
Cathedral of Saint Andrew the Apostle
Little Rock, AR

Tuesday, January 16 – 7:00 P.M.

ASO Chamber: Rochberg & Khachaturian
Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock, AR

Saturday, January 27 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO Masterworks: Saint-Saens Organ Symphony
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, January 28 – 3:00 P.M.

ASO Masterworks: Saint-Saens Organ Symphony
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Friday, February 9 – 7:30 P.M.

CACAGO: Benjamin LaPrairie, organist
Cathedral of Saint Andrew the Apostle
Little Rock, AR

Saturday, February 10 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO Pops: Bond & Beyond
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, February 11 – 3:00 P.M.

ASO Pops: Bond & Beyond
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Thursday, February 22 – 7:30 P.M.

LR Winds: Hobbits and Sax
Second Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, AR

Saturday, February 24 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO Masterworks: Beethoven
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR