



Central Arkansas Chapter *American Guild of Organists*

The
Clarion
February 2020

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.

2019-2020 Officers

Beau Baldwin, *dean*
Thomas Alexander, *sub-dean*
Jess Anthony, *treasurer*
Robert Lindley, *secretary*

Executive Committee

Charles Russell (2020)
Betty Cohen (2022)

Committee Chairs

PROGRAM

Beau Baldwin
Thomas Alexander

EDITOR

Adam Savacool

REPORTER

Betty Cohen

PUBLICITY

Betty Cohen

TELEPHONE

Thomas Alexander
James Cathey

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Robert Lindley

From the Dean

Greetings!

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying winter in central Arkansas. For me, the post-Christmas winter season is a nice time to reflect and relax a bit; Christmas and the holiday season are complete and there is a decent amount of time before Lent, Holy Week, and Easter begin. As church musicians, we are all especially busy at certain times of the year, and I think we should use the less frenzied times to reflect on the wonderful vocation we are all called to. Hopefully the winter weather will not be too extreme and mess up travel plans!

On that note, in early January I attended the annual meeting of the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians (CRCCM) in Oakland and San Francisco. I had planned to return in time to hear Nathan Laube play at Christ Church, but my flight was impacted by heavy storms in Dallas and eventually Little Rock. I heard that Nathan did a fabulous job and played a top-notch program. I want to thank Steve Bullock and Thomas Alexander for hosting Mr. Laube at Christ Church. I also want to especially thank Dr. Richard Hixson for his sponsorship of this program! I was sorry to miss such a fantastic program; thanks to all who helped in my absence.

We have three upcoming recitals in Little Rock in the next few months. On Friday, February 7, please come to First Presbyterian Church to hear Robert McCormick in recital. Robert is the Organist and Choirmaster at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. He is playing a great program and it should be a magnificent evening of music. On Friday, March 20, organist Alden Wright, a student of Nathan Laube at the Eastman School of Music, is playing a recital at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew; this recital is for the annual celebration of the life of Robert Young Ellis. On Thursday, April 23, we are headed to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral to hear British organist David Hirst in recital; please look for more details of this recital in future newsletters.

In conclusion, I would like to thank so many individuals who make CACAGO events happen. Thanks to all the sponsors who make our wonderful monthly recitals happen. We are truly lucky to have such an active AGO Chapter. I hope everyone has a wonderful February and I hope to see you all!

Cheers!

Beau Baldwin

Upcoming Newsletter

The March 2020 *Clarion* will be published Monday, March 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, February 28.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Organ Concert

Robert McCormick, *organist*

🕒 **Friday, February 7, 2020**

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 \$15.00. For dinner reservations, contact Robert Lindley via e-mail (dinner@cacago.org), or phone (501) 217-6735, 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, February 5!**

Upcoming CACAGO Programs

Friday, February 7

Robert McCormick, *organist*

First Presbyterian Church

800 Scott St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

Thursday, April 23

David Hirst, *organist*

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

310 W. 17th St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

Friday, March 20

The Seventeenth Annual Concert

Celebrating the Life of

Robert Young Ellis

Alden Wright, *organist*

Cathedral of Saint Andrew

617 Louisiana St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

May 2020

End of the Year Party

Home of Beau Baldwin

Little Rock, Arkansas

Biography of Robert McCormick

Described by *Choir & Organ* as “indomitable and immensely gifted” and by *The Macon Telegraph* as “an artist of rare sensitivity and passion”, Robert McCormick is widely heralded by his colleagues as one of the finest concert and church musicians of this era. Known for his creative and unique abilities in organ improvisation, Mr. McCormick was a semi-finalist in the 2005 St. Albans International Organ Festival Improvisation Competition. Concert appearances across the United States include the Summer Organ Festival at the Riverside Church (New York), the Pittsburgh Organ Artists Series, the East Texas Organ Festival, Basically Bach Festival at St. Peter’s Lutheran (New York), the Great Organists series at St. John’s Cathedral in Albuquerque (New Mexico), the Atlanta Summer Organ Festival, a concerto performance with the Macon (Georgia) Symphony, and recitals and workshops for numerous American Guild of Organists chapters. He has been a featured artist and clinician at numerous conventions and conferences of the AGO, the

Association of Anglican Musicians, and the Royal School of Church Music in America, playing recitals and services, and presenting workshops on church music and choral training.

His recording from St. Paul’s, K Street, *We Sing of God*, was released on the Pro Organo label. *Choir & Organ’s* review of the disc describes the choir as “one of the most responsive and adaptable choirs on the Eastern seaboard” and that “[McCormick] also shines at the organ.”

Mr. McCormick is Organist and Choirmaster of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. This follows eight years as Director of Music at St. Paul’s Parish, K Street, Washington, D.C. and seven years as Organist and Music Director at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, New York.

He holds the Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance from Westminster Choir College. During his time at Westminster he was also Assistant Organist at Trinity Church, Princeton. His teachers include McNeil Robinson and Robert Carwithen.

February Program

Robert McCormick, *organist*

Tuba Tune

Norman Cocker (1889-1953)

Hymne: Ave Maris Stella (Premier livre d’orgue, 1699)

Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703)

Hommage à Messiaen

McNeil Robinson (1943-2015)

Voluntary on ENGELBERG

Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

Toccata et fugue en sol majeur (Trois pièces, Opus 31/2)

Rachel Laurin (b. 1961)

Two Hymn Settings

I love thee, my Lord

There is a happy land

arr. Sir George Shearing (1919-2011)

Hymn: Draw us in the Spirit’s tether (UNION SEMINARY)

Prelude and Fugue on UNION SEMINARY

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Improvisation on Submitted Themes

A Day of Music

Sunday, February 9 • 9:00 & 11:15 A.M., 5:00 P.M.

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

New York City organist William K. Trafka will join the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral musicians for a day of music at the Cathedral Sunday, February 9. At the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services, Mr. Trafka will accompany Ned Rorem's *Psalm 146 - Praise the Lord*, an anthem which he performed with the composer at its New York premier. Then at Evensong, that day at 5:00 p.m., he will conduct some of his own anthems and service music. Immediately following Evensong (5:45 p.m.), Mr. Trafka will play a short recital. All are invited to these events and to the tea in his honor in Morrison Hall which will follow the recital. For more information e-mail victoria@trinitylittlerock.org.

Organ Recital

Friday, March 6 • 7:30 P.M.

Christ Episcopal Church
509 Scott St
Little Rock, AR 72201-3807

In the fourth concert of our season celebrating 30 years of the Christ Church organ, Associate Organist and Choirmaster Thomas Alexander will perform a concert of organ works by Dietrich Buxtehude, Johann Sebastian Bach, Arvo Pärt, Louis Vierne, Jeanne Demessieux, and Josef Rheinberger. The concert is free and open to the public, and a festive reception in the gallery will follow.

Mozart's Requiem

Sunday, March 8 • 5:00 P.M.

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

Mozart's *Requiem* will be presented by the Cathedral Choir with soloists Eli McCormack, Stephanie Smittle, and Peter Hine, this performance will be accompanied by Daniel Beckwith, Principal Organist at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in New York City and directed by Victoria Harden, organist-choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. The event will be free and open to the public.

Arts Calendar

Tuesday, January 28 – 7:00 P.M.

ASO: Musical Images
Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock, AR

Friday, February 7 – 7:30 P.M.

CACAGO: Robert McCormick, organist
First Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, AR

Saturday, February 8 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO: Sondheim & Lloyd Webber Celebration
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, February 9 – 3:00 P.M.

ASO: Sondheim & Lloyd Webber Celebration
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Thursday, February 20 – 7:30 P.M.

LRCMS: Poulenc Trio
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
Little Rock, AR

Thursday, February 27 – 7:30 P.M.

Little Rock Winds
Second Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, AR

Saturday, February 29 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO: Sibelius & Debussy
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, March 1 – 3:00 P.M.

ASO: Sibelius & Debussy
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Tuesday, March 3 – 7:00 P.M.

ASO: Brahms & Schumann
Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock, AR

Saturday, March 14 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO: Tribute to Aretha Franklin
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, March 15 – 3:00 P.M.

ASO: Tribute to Aretha Franklin
Robinson Center Music Hall
Little Rock, AR

Thursday, March 19 – 7:30 P.M.

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

Treasurer's Report

INCOME		EXPENSES	
REVENUE		ADMINISTRATIVE	
Dues	\$1,867.00	Dues to National	\$121.00
Ad Sales		Catering/Reception	\$1,906.00
Meals	\$1,732.00	Marketing/Public Relations	
Carry Over (FY19)	\$3,433.43	Remaining Expenses	\$92.00
Other/Mail			\$2,119.00
	<u>\$7,032.43</u>		
SUPPORT		ARTISTIC	
Individuals	\$1,417.00	Artist Fees/Housing	\$6,853.78
Foundation Accounts	\$1,179.00	Remaining Expenses (ACH)	
Endowment		Tech/Production	
	<u>\$2,596.00</u>		<u>\$6,853.78</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$9,628.43	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,972.78
		BALANCE	\$655.65