



Central Arkansas Chapter *American Guild of Organists*

The
Clarion
February 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

Well, we certainly aren't where I would like for us to be as we wearily complete our second year of this wretched pandemic. Arts communities, businesses, restaurants, churches are all suffering the outcome of something that none of us saw coming. The effects on us personally have been tough, to say the least. I pray every day that people who refuse to be vaccinated do so. I pray that people continue to follow all guidelines, including masking, distancing, and taking actions to be safe. I commend all the individuals who have remained resilient and have kept things alive so that we can worship, whether safely in person or online. I am thankful for those with technological skills who know how to set up ZOOM and online meetings. I am thankful for our brave artists who have forged ahead with our programming this year. I'm most thankful for our church musicians for being creative and resourceful during such difficult times. As someone so wisely said, "it takes a village."

Speaking of forging ahead, our next Chapter Event is this Saturday, February 5—a Choral Reading Workshop lead by an amazing lineup of area church musicians! Jason Saugey, Organist at First United Methodist Church in Conway, has put together an exceptional blend of music

for Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. No matter your denomination you will enjoy singing and learning from these fine clinicians. As we've stated over and over, we will be completely spread out in the sanctuary for safety. There will be a social time before hand—I know the tendency will be to hug and greet each other but please honor others by perhaps fist or elbow bumps if possible.

In this issue of the *Clarion*, I continue a feature of our members who identify as "Young Organists." This being YOYO (Year of the Young Organist), a celebration of the American Guild of Organists, I thought it would be a great honor to introduce these fine people to our Chapter Members and Friends. This issue features Rosemarie Ochoa and Barton Stapleton. This monthly feature will continue through our final newsletter of the year. We are planning a recital of these young musicians sometime soon.

Finally, I'm putting in to place a committee to select our slate of officers for the next year. I hope you might prayerfully consider serving if asked.

Peace to you all,
Bob

Upcoming Newsletter

The March 2022 *Clarion* will be published Monday, February 28. 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 25.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Choral Reading Session
Anthems for Lent/Easter/Pentecost

🕒 **Saturday, February 5, 2022**
10:00 A.M.

📍 **First United Methodist Church**
1610 Prince St.
Conway, Arkansas

You're not imagining it, nobody seems to want to talk right now.

Messages are brief and replies late.

Talk of catch ups on ZOOM are perpetually put on hold.

Group chats are no longer pinging all night long.

It's not you.

It's everyone.

We are spent.

We have nothing left to say.

We are tired of saying 'I miss you' and 'I cant wait for this to end'.

So we mostly say nothing, put our heads down and get through each day.

You're not imagining it.

This is a state of being like no other we have ever known because we are
all going through it together but so very far apart.

Hang in there my friend.

When the mood strikes, send out all those messages and don't feel you
have to apologize for being quiet.

This is hard.

No one is judging.

— *Donna Ashworth*

Upcoming CACAGO Programs

Saturday, February 5, 10:00 A.M.

Choral Reading Session
Anthems for Lent/Easter/Pentecost
First United Methodist Church
1610 Prince St.
Conway, Arkansas

Friday, April T.B.A., 7:30 P.M.

Scott Montgomery, organist
First Presbyterian Church
800 Scott St.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 P.M.

Rees Roberts, organist
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
4106 John F. Kennedy Blvd.
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Friday, May 13, 7:30 P.M.

Kevin Kwan, organist
Cathedral of St. Andrew
617 Louisiana St.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Year of the Young Organist



Rosemarie Ochoa

Rosemarie Ochoa serves as the Assistant Organist at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in Little Rock. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Hendrix College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Music and Spanish. At Hendrix, she studied organ, voice, and conducting. Her teachers include Beau Baldwin, Sarah Stankiewicz Dailey, Andrew Morgan, and Gretchen Renshaw James.



Barton Stapleton

Barton Stapleton, a native of Benton, Arkansas, is a freshman at Arkansas State University studying plant and soil science. Although not an organist he does have a musical background having played bassoon for six years. It was during this time he discovered his love of classical music, especially the organ. Barton was delighted to find out there was an American Guild of Organist Chapter so close to home. He has a strong love of music and the arts and felt it would be a great idea to support his local chapter by becoming a member.

Organ Concert
Charles Russell

Sunday, February 20 • 3:00 P.M.

Grace Lutheran Church
5124 Hillcrest Ave
Little Rock, AR 72205-1802

Featuring works by Mulet, Widor, Bruhns, Reger, Bach and Zimmermann. Face coverings are required.

Lenten Choral Evening Prayer
Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Friday, March 11 • 7:00 P.M.

Grace Lutheran Church
5124 Hillcrest Ave
Little Rock, AR 72205-1802

The Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne, Indiana, an auditioned choir of seminarians, will lead a Lenten Choral Evening Prayer service. A freewill door offering will be collected. The Kantorei is under the direction of Kantor Kevin Hildebrand and assisted by Kantor Matthew Macheimer.

Treasurer's Report

INCOME	EXPENSES																																																				
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