

# Central Arkansas Chapter *American Guild of Organists*

# The *Clarion* March 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 wonder how the years 2020-2022 will read in the history books of the future. Will we be remembered for COVID? Political upheaval? Social change? So many things have bombarded us these past two years. It's hard to be cheerful or upbeat sometimes. But we are resilient, and we are seeing signs of hope and life as the season of Lent approaches—not only in reduced numbers of COVID infections but, also, in the return to some normalcy in our lives. As I mentioned in last month's *Clarion*, we, as church musicians, have made a difference in the lives of those we serve. We have kept music alive during times of darkness and fear. We have led many through a period of despair and sadness. You have given so much of yourself. This year, instead of giving something up for Lent, why not take something on for *you*? Something to bolster *your* spirit. Something to help *you* through the season. I look forward to hearing how *you* are doing.

We received many compliments on the Choral Reading Session at FUMC/Conway. The attendance was good, the leadership was amazing, and we really had a good time singing together! My thanks to Jason Saugey, Janet Gingerich, Rev. DeDe Roberts, and the staff of FUMC for hosting a wonderful experience! In visiting with some of the participants it

became very clear that more of this type of event is appreciated and needed. Thanks to our presenters, Joshua Brown, Janet Gingerich, John Alec Briggs, and Charles Russell; and accompanists, Dr. Jane Gamble, Leann Jones, Robert Clark, and Jason Saugey. Special thanks to all who attended!

On March 15 we will join forces with *The Festival of the Senses Concert Series* of St. Luke's Episcopal Church/North Little Rock in presenting Rees Roberts in a recital of organ works by women composers. Rees is "one of our own" and we are so excited to bring him "home" for this event. More information below.

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 Charles Russell and Colin MacKnight.

I hope to see you soon. We have three amazing events to finish out our year. Join us!

Wishing you peace during the Season of Lent.

Bob

## Upcoming Newsletter

The April 2022 *Clarion* will be published Monday, April 4. 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 1.

## Upcoming CACAGO Programs

**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, 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

# MARCH MEETING

Rees Roberts, *organist*

🕒 **Tuesday, March 15, 2022**  
7:00 P.M.

📍 **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
4106 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
North Little Rock, Arkansas

## Festival of the Senses Concert Honoring International Women's History Month

Composers Ethel Smyth, Florence Price, Nadia Boulanger, Jeanne Demessieux, and Fanny Hensel will be featured in "Written by Women," a Festival of the Senses organ concert by Rees Roberts at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 4106 JFK Boulevard in North Little Rock. The event, highlighting organ music written by women in recognition of International Women's History Month, is free and open to the public and is being cosponsored by the Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Little Rock native Rees Roberts was music director, organist and choirmaster at St. Luke's for two and a half years before leaving to complete his Bachelor's degree at Arizona State University in Tempe, where he studied with Kimberly Marshall. He is now studying organ performance with Janette Fishell at the University of Indiana's Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington. After graduation from Little Rock's Central High School, he also studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio with Jonathan Moyer and W. Webb Wiggins, and has played in master classes with Wilma Jensen in Memphis and Marie-Louise Langlais in Paris, France. He was a 2022 finalist in the National Competition in Organ Accompaniment sponsored by the Washington, D.C., chapter of the American Guild of Organists, of which he is a member.

The concert will be livestreamed at [www.facebook.com/frcarey](https://www.facebook.com/frcarey) and will be available online afterward. Attendees at the live performance are asked to wear masks throughout the performance and to observe social distancing protocols.

Festival of the Senses is a performing arts series created by St. Luke's Episcopal Church in 2011 as a gift of the arts to the community to entertain, enlighten, and inspire. All events are free and open to the public, pandemic concerns permitting, and are livestreamed and posted afterward on St. Luke's Facebook website. Festival of the Senses performances are made possible by the generosity of audience members, donors, sponsors, and grants from the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

# Nominating Committee Report

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

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

The Election of Officers will be done via US Postal Service in April. Election guidelines will be posted in the April *Clarion* and included in the ballot mailing.

**Nominating Committee:** Stephen Bullock, Jason Saugey

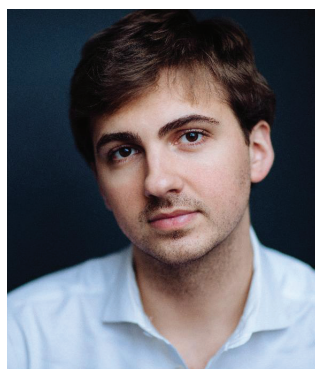
## Year of the Young Organist



### Charles Russell

Charles Russell serves as Director of Parish Music at Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR, where he directs the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir, assists in worship planning and preparation of service materials, works with instrumentalists, and serves as organist.

He received the Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Parish Music and in History from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, WI (2017). In December 2021, he completed the coursework to receive the Master of Church Music degree with a concentration in organ from Concordia University Wisconsin. He has studied organ with Dr. James Freese, Dr. Jess Anthony and Mr. Keith Williams.



### Colin MacKnight

Colin MacKnight, called “a stunning player of exceptional ability” by composer and conductor Bob Chilcott, is Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock, Arkansas. Prior to Trinity, Colin was Associate Organist at Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, Long Island; Assistant Organist and Music Theory Teacher at St. Thomas Fifth Avenue; and Assistant Organist at Church of the Resurrection, NYC.

Colin received his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from The Juilliard School, studying organ performance with Paul Jacobs. For his dissertation “Ex Uno Plures: A Proposed Completion of Bach’s Art of Fugue,” Colin received the Richard F. French Doctoral Prize.

A frequent competition prize-winner, Colin’s first prizes include the 2019 Paris Music Competition, 2017 West Chester University International Organ Competition, 2016 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition, 2016 Arthur Poister Competition, 2015 NYC and Northeast Regional AGO competitions, M. Louise Miller Scholarship, 2013 Rodgers North American Classical Organ Competition, and Ruth and Paul Manz Organ Scholarship. Colin was also a laureate in the 2016 and 2019 Longwood Gardens International Organ Competitions.

Colin holds the Fellow and Choirmaster Certifications from the AGO, receiving the prize for top Choirmaster score, and was one of The Diapason’s “20 Under 30” in 2019. For more information, media, and a calendar of performances, please visit [www.colinmacknight.com](http://www.colinmacknight.com).

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 Macherer.

Voice Recital  
 Alan Rackley, baritone

Friday, March 18 • 7:00 P.M.

First United Methodist Church  
 1610 Prince St  
 Conway, AR 72205-1802

The program, entitled "A Thousand Thousand Sighs", will include Cantata 82, "Ich habe genug", of J.S. Bach, the Finzi song cycle "Let us garlands bring", and selected songs by Stephen Sondheim. Jason Saugey, organ and piano; Elizabeth Wheeler, oboe. Admission is free.

## Treasurer's Report

INCOME	EXPENSES
<p><b>REVENUE</b></p> <p>Dues                      \$1,643.00</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;">\$4,170.88</p> <p><b>SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Individuals             \$3,916.45</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;">\$5,179.45</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p><b>TOTAL INCOME</b>     \$9,350.33</p>	<p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b></p> <p>Dues to National</p> <p>Catering/Reception     \$14.41</p> <p>Marketing/Public Relations</p> <p>Remaining Expenses     \$698.57</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$712.98</p> <p><b>ARTISTIC</b></p> <p>Artist Fees/Housing     \$2,025.12</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;">\$2,025.12</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> <p><b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>     \$2,738.10</p> <p><b>BALANCE</b>                 \$6,612.23</p>

## CACAGO Minutes

Having postponed the original meeting date of February 5 because of inclement weather, the Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists met Saturday, February 19 at First United Methodist Church, Conway for “Journeying in Word and Song”, a morning session of reading through new anthems and enjoying fellowship together. Our host was Jason Saugey, Organist at FUMC.

The morning began with refreshments and conversation, then proceeded to the Sanctuary, where we were welcomed by Dean Bob Bidewell. A service of Morning Prayer was led by the Rev. Dede Roberts, Minister at FUMC. Following the service, the anthem reading session offered eleven choral anthems to sing through and evaluate for possible use by our choirs. The anthems were selected by Presenters Dr. Joshua Brown, Janet Gingerich, John Alec Briggs, and Charles Russell. The presenters led the group in singing each anthem, and added interest by commenting on the style and level of difficulty of the anthems, and various ways of using instruments and vocal combinations in performance. Accompaniments on piano or organ were provided by Collaborative Musicians Robert Clark, Jane Gamble, Leann Jones, and Jason Saugey. The morning’s activities closed with prayer offered by Rev. Roberts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Gamble, Secretary

## 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](http://phumc.com).

Please send applications to: Rev. Jay Clark, [jclark@phumc.com](mailto:jclark@phumc.com)