



# Central Arkansas Chapter *American Guild of Organists*

*The*  
*Clarion*  
September 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!

It is with a spirit of gratitude that I assume the duty of serving you all as the incoming Dean of the Central Arkansas Chapter American Guild of Organists.

Many thanks to you all for extending me this honor as together we continue our mission to foster enthusiasm and support—both among our ranks and in the central Arkansas community—for organ music and organ playing, not only by offering regular concert events to the general public, but also by making available opportunities for continuing education in our field and by outreach education to inspire the hearts of young people to discover the joy of making music at the organ.

We are not members of the Guild to celebrate ourselves and our own achievements, or to boast of our musical pedigrees. As the pendulum of worship in all faith traditions swings, we face significant challenges in many places to the survival of our art and of our vocation in service to God, God's people, and the liturgy. It is crucial then that we use the tools we have been entrusted by our teachers, mentors, and spiritual leaders to ensure that what we do every day as organists continues for generations to come, that the heritage of hundreds of years of accompanying worship—of which we are the current custodians—does not vanish, when, inevitably, we ourselves must leave.

That we are an endangered species—primarily on the parish level—is not news. Neither is the fact, although we may be reluctant to admit it, that much of our situation is a product of our own making.

AGO national is also aware of this, and, serving now in my second year on the AGO national marketing committee, I can tell you that there is on-going, real-time, and active discussion and planning in strategies to transform our public perception to make our organization more appealing, open, and welcoming to new members, especially to young musicians and a diverse host of supporters of organ music and the arts in general—after all, it is our supporters (parishioners) whom

we serve, to whom we owe our gratitude, truly, for the privilege of sitting on our benches. To borrow the metaphor made famous by Pope John XXIII, our organization wishes to “open the windows and let the fresh air of the Spirit blow through.”

This is particularly vital to us now, the Guild of the post-pandemic era, when by circumstance, so much has changed and transformed. I am grateful for the leadership, new ideas, and forwardly directed outlook of my predecessor, Dean Bob Bidewell, who navigated us adroitly through the years of lockdown with the clear message that Guild membership matters and most especially that collegial cooperation and collaboration, mutual encouragement, kindness, and inclusion matter. And friends, these are the same qualities I will continue to foster moving forward. And I am confident our new officers and executive committee—most of them new faces in chapter leadership—share in the same. For these *are* the qualities that will ensure that the AGO remains relevant in the years ahead.

Sub-Dean Beau Baldwin introduces our 2023 program year in more depth in this edition of the *Clarion*, but I encourage you all to attend our first event: the Installation of Officers, this year at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock, on Sunday, September 17, at 4:00 p.m., couched within the Service of Choral Evensong. We are grateful to the generosity of cathedral Director of Music and CACAGO executive committee member, Dr. Colin MacKnight, for offering us this opportunity to begin our year with worship in the beauty of holiness. Following Evensong, all are invited to enjoy a reception in Morrison Hall of Trinity Cathedral hosted by past Deans Betty Cohen and Bob Bidewell, at which you will be able to meet our new officers and executive committee and share with us in person your ideas and hopes for the chapter as we embark on another exciting year of organ music, education, and outreach. I wish you all—

Christ's Peace,  
Jason A. Saugey, CAGO

# SEPTEMBER MEETING

## Installation of Officers Choral Evensong

☉ **Sunday, September 17, 2023**  
4:00 P.M. – Choral Evensong  
Reception after Evensong

📍 **Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**  
310 W. 17th St.  
Little Rock, Arkansas

### Upcoming Newsletter

The October 2023 *Clarion* will be published Monday, October 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](mailto:adam@cacago.org). The deadline is Friday, September 29.

### Upcoming CACAGO Programs

**Sunday, September 17, 4:00 P.M.**  
**Installation of Officers**  
**Choral Evensong**  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
310 W. 17th St.  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**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

### From the Sub-Dean

Greetings!

I hope you are doing well! I am looking forward to fall weather and the many exciting musical events planned. CACAGO has several interesting programs planned for this autumn. On Sunday, September 17, the chapter will gather at Trinity Cathedral for Evensong with Installation of Officers; there will be a festive reception following Evensong. Thanks to Colin MacKnight and Celina Kobetitsch for hosting us! On Saturday, October 7, we will hear Laura Ellis in recital at First Presbyterian Church. Laura is Professor of Organ at the University of Florida and was previously the

professor at the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville. In November, CACAGO and Christ Episcopal Church will host organist Alessandro Bianchi in a recital and a masterclass. Alessandro is the Artistic Director of the Musical Association “Amici dell’Organo di Cantu” and Organist of St. Edward the Confessor Anglican Church in Lugano. We are excited to welcome him to Little Rock. I hope you will be able to attend these wonderful programs this fall. Our spring season will be finalized soon! Thanks, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Beau Baldwin

## Welcome Back!

We welcome back to his home city one of our newest members of CACAGO, Mr. Benjamin T. Vise (alias “Tom” or more likely “Tommy” as he is still known by his former Henderson State College classmates such as Victoria Mathis Harden, Kay (Roberts) McAfee, Harry Scher and Charlie Rigsby). He grew up here on Kavanaugh Blvd. and traces his early musical roots most especially to his early organ study with the state’s best preparatory teacher, John H. Summers at First Methodist Church downtown, after which he received his B.M. degree from Henderson under the tutelage of the late Robert Y. Ellis.

He went on to earn his M.M. degree from former Arthur Poister student as well as Little

Rock native Warren Hutton at the University of Alabama.

Ben “Tom” is eager to become active again on the sub-organist circuit and is available to help in any way needed since he played his last church service in the Hudson Valley region of New York on July 16th! Ben has over 50 years of experience as a church organist and choirmaster as well as extensive experience as an accompanist (both choral and solo voice). He is very much looking forward to meeting up with everyone at the upcoming first meeting in September! Feel free to contact him any time.

## Treasurer’s Report

INCOME		EXPENSES	
<b>REVENUE</b>		<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	
Dues	\$1,720.00	Dues to National	
Ad Sales		Catering/Reception	
Meals		Marketing/Public Relations	
Carry Over (FY23)	\$4,614.91	Remaining Expenses	_____
Other/Mail			
	_____		
	\$6,334.91		
<b>SUPPORT</b>		<b>ARTISTIC</b>	
Individuals		Artist Fees/Housing	
Corporate/Church		Remaining Expenses (ACH)	
Endowment		Tech/Production	_____
	_____		_____
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$6,334.91	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	
		<b>BALANCE</b>	\$6,334.91

TUMC Chamber Series: Mozart & Dvořák

Thursday, September 21 • 7:00 P.M.

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

Piano Quintets by Mozart & Dvořák: Charlotte Crosmer, violin; Katherine Williamson, violin; Ryan Mooney, viola; David Gerstein, cello; Hee-Kyung Juhn, piano

Trinitas Ensemble

Saturday, September 23 • 7:00 P.M.

St. Edward Catholic Church  
801 Sherman St  
Little Rock, AR 72202-3936

A cappella works spanning 400 years. \$15 admission, \$10 for students.

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. Danse Macabre for 2 pianos, violin, and 2 percussionists, Dry Bones for children's choir, Queen of the Night, and much more.

# Arts Calendar

**Sunday, September 17 – 4:00 P.M.**

CACAGO: Installation of Officers  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
Little Rock, AR

**Thursday, September 21 – 7:00 P.M.**

TUMC Chamber: Mozart & Dvorak  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Saturday, September 23 – 7:00 P.M.**

Trinitas Ensemble  
St. Edward Catholic Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Saturday, September 30 – 7:30 P.M.**

ASO Masterworks: Pines of Rome  
Robinson Center Music Hall  
Little Rock, AR

**Sunday, October 1 – 3:00 P.M.**

ASO Masterworks: Pines of Rome  
Robinson Center Music Hall  
Little Rock, AR

**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

**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.**

Hymn Festival  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Little Rock, AR

**Sunday, October 15 – 3:00 P.M.**

Arkansas Chamber Singers  
St. James United Methodist 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

**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