



*American Guild of*  
**ORGANISTS**  
Central Arkansas Chapter

# THE CLARION

## November 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!

In the blazing summer months, the tall crepe myrtles which skirt our patio were heavy with giant clumps of gleaming white blooms, their branches a chorus of buzzy bees. Singing myrtles these, frequented too by the darting zoom of fussy hummingbirds pointing adroitly assure for nectar among the drooping clusters. Today the myrtles stand quiet, flowers all spent, transformed into fruitful pods. The showy summertime mantle has yielded to fading green, yellow, and ocher leaves. Surrounding their peeling trunks, the dry fallen foliage piles up. Soon those branches once teeming with industry of countless winged visitors will hang bare, ready for new clumps of white: of winter snow and ice, heralded already in these interim days by thieving squirrels and persimmon spoons. As the earth continues along its course, tilting more slightly from the sun with each subsequent dawn, the year draws closer to its end.

While all creation slows and prepares for winter's sleep, the Liturgy directs our hearts and minds to similar things, to introspection, transformation, and ultimately to renewal and rebirth. We know from the third chapter of Wisdom that what seems to wither and die is not dead, but at peace. November is the month of stillness, and as such contains feasts and festivals that remind us of who we are and how we too are part of this changing, transforming creation, that we are indeed mortal and will at some time depart, but not entirely to vanish. Instead, to be consigned to the soil with hope to claim our place at last among the Church Triumphant.

All Saints and All Souls on the first two November days keep us mindful that we count among the Communion of Saints, that whole body of believers, living, suffering, and redeemed, the entire Kingdom of the God. The Gradual of November 9, the Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica St. John Lateran in Rome, recalls for us that the Church, and further, the entire Communion of Saints, created by God, is a holy sacrament, a treasure beyond price (*Locus iste a Deo factus...inestimabile Sacramentum*). And finally,

the culmination of the Liturgical Year, the majestic celebration of Christ as King of the Universe reveals whom we serve, whose we are, and indeed the sole reason we were created—to render praise to the Most High—and with whom we share in the creative Spirit. Just as he came to live as one of us and to serve, ours too is a life of service, sacrifice, and of gratitude.

As servants of the Liturgy, it is easy to be caught up in all the preparation for these important feasts: instrumental ensembles to train, choirs to prepare with an arsenal of seasonal motets and anthems, requiems to rehearse, organ repertoire to select and polish, and, in the midst of all of this, to find no time for one's own observance of this holy season.

Amidst the busyness of the year's final weeks ministering to others, it is important to step back and to allow others to minister to you, too. With all our responsibilities it is not uncommon to perceive ourselves on the periphery of the worship we are charged to shape, instead of being active members of the worshipping assembly. Transform the mechanics of preparation into opportunities for prayer and reflection. Allow the sacrifice of giving (teaching, shaping, mentoring), to become a sacrifice of grateful, soul-nurturing gift-receiving. Together, these dual modes of sacrifice form a mutual Sacrifice of Praise. And so, as Church musicians, the music we produce may not lead to fatigue and burn-out, but to renewal and blessing.

Take a lesson this November from the myrtles which are shedding their summer leaves: all beauty that is given is itself given to be returned as a gift. Autumn foliage falls and gathers to enrich the soil for next year's blooms.

As we continue in our seasonal preparations, may we come better to recognize the eternal reminders creation gives and to receive them with sacrificial gratitude as gifts that point us home.

Peace,  
Jason Saugey, CAGO

## Upcoming Newsletter

The December 2023 *Clarion* will be published Monday, December 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](mailto:adam@cacago.org). The deadline is Friday, December 1.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Alessandro Bianchi, *organist*

☉ **Friday, November 10, 2023**

6:00 P.M. – Punchbowl

6:30 P.M. – Dinner & Meeting

7:30 P.M. – Concert

📍 **Christ Episcopal Church**

509 Scott St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

**DINNER RESERVATIONS:** The cost for dinner is \$20.00. For dinner reservations, contact James Stanley via e-mail ([dinner@cacago.org](mailto:dinner@cacago.org)), or voice/text (229) 561-1177, 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, November 8!**

## MASTER CLASS

Alessandro Bianchi, *clinician*

☉ **Saturday, November 11, 2023**

10:00 A.M. – Master Class

📍 **Christ Episcopal Church**

509 Scott St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

Alessandro Bianchi will present a master class: “Marco Enrico Bossi and the Italian Organ during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.” The class will include discussions of the 19th and 20th century Italian organ, Italian organ repertoire during the nineteenth century, the reform of sacred music in Italy, and Marco Enrico Bossi and his contemporaries in Italy and abroad. Mr. Bianchi will perform examples of this historic music.

## Upcoming CACAGO Programs

**Friday, November 10, 7:30 P.M.**

**Alessandro Bianchi, *organist***

Christ Episcopal Church

509 Scott St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

**Friday, February 9, 7:30 P.M.**

**Benjamin LaPrairie, *organist***

Cathedral of Saint Andrew

617 S. Louisiana St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

## Biography of Alessandro Bianchi

Alessandro Bianchi was born in Como, Italy, and studied in the Piacenza Conservatoire where he was awarded Diplomas in Organ and Organ Composition. He is Artistic Director of the Musical Association “Amici dell’Organo di Cantu” and Organist of St. Edward the Confessor Anglican Church in Lugano.

Mr. Bianchi has performed as a soloist in over 2000 recitals in Italy, the Vatican, Switzerland, Germany, France, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Belgium, Holland, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Russia, Israel,

the USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, and South Africa.

He has given master classes and lectures on Italian music in Italy, England, Germany, Spain, the Czech Republic, Singapore, the USA, and Mexico, and has made several CD and radio/TV recordings and broadcasts in Europe, the USA, and Brazil.

Mr. Bianchi has been an adjudicator in organ competitions, and many composers have dedicated new organ works to him.

In 2014, the City of Cantu awarded him the title of “Honorable Citizen” for his work in Art and Culture.

## November Program

Alessandro Bianchi, *organist*

### Sonata for Organ

I. Allegro moderato  
II. Andante semplice  
III. Allegro  
Frigyes Hidas (1928-2007)

### Tre Momenti Francescani, Op. 140

III. Beatitudine  
Marco Enrico Bossi (1861-1925)

### Toccata

Bonaventura Somma (1893-1960)

### Symphonie pour orgue № 5, Op. 42, No. 1

I. Allegro vivace  
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

### Zephyrs

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

### Ninna Nanna

Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone (1885-1938)

### Tuba Tune

Reginald Porter Brown (1910-1982)

### Perpetuum Mobile

Aivars Kalējs (b. 1951)

### Esquisses byzantines

X. Tu es petra et portæ inferi non  
prævalebunt adversus te  
Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

## A New Look for the AGO

The national AGO marketing committee has been busy for quite a while now—especially post-pandemic—in renewing our organization on all levels. This involves both a focus on diversity, inclusion, and generally being welcoming, especially in necessary efforts to attract young organists to the Guild, and also in our branding image. An overall new look for the AGO. Two major projects have been the hallmark of this house-cleaning.

First, the new AGO website is currently being tested after a long and tedious process of streamlining for ease of use and good organization. It's set to roll out in early 2024.

Second, as part of our grass roots level new look, the Guild has been issuing updated colorful branding for every Chapter. All of you are already familiar with the new logo used in TAO and elsewhere. Over the past months, as they've been made ready, new Chapter-specific branding has been mailed out in batches, and we've just received ours. This means the former black and white woodcut crest is being phased out permanently for official publications. You'll see the change in this newsletter, on event programs, and in any other print and digital media.

I know some may not welcome this new look, but it is an outward reflection of necessary change and updating. But take encouragement from the ancient Greek Heraclitus with his wise observation: "Πάντα ρεῖ", all things flow. The stream you step in twice is never the same, as the water and the stream bed are in constant flux. And so, that movement of water across the filtering bed is both refreshing and cleansing.

And, on the topic of renewal: be sure to invite a guest to join you for our dinner and meeting at Christ Church November 10!

Peace,  
Jason Saugey, CAGO

**All Saints' Mass**

Wednesday, November 1 • 7:00 P.M.

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

The Trinity Choir and members of the Arkansas Symphony will perform Haydn's *Kleine Orgelmesse* in the context of an All Saints' Day mass. The choir will also sing *Give us the wings of faith* by Ernest Bullock.

**Durufié Requiem**

Thursday, November 2 • 7:30 P.M.

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

The Cathedral of Saint Andrew Choir will sing Maurice Durufié's Requiem on All Souls' Day. Beau Baldwin will conduct the choir, Colin MacKnight will play the organ, and Maria Fasciano will be the soprano soloist. A reception will follow.

**Remembrance Day Fauré Requiem**

Sunday, November 12 • 4:00 P.M.

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

The Trinity Choir will sing Gabriel Fauré's beloved *Requiem, Op. 48* in the context of a Remembrance Day Requiem mass. Remembrance Day is observed on the Sunday closest to Veteran's Day and memorializes those who have given their lives in service of their country. A reception will follow.

**Advent Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, December 3 • 4:00 P.M.

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

In this service, eight biblical readings will be interspersed with choral anthems and beloved Advent hymns, such as "O come, o come, Emmanuel," "People, look East," and "Lo! he comes with clouds descending." A highlight will be William Harris's *Strengthen ye the weak hands*, one of the greatest works by this important composer of church music. A reception will follow.

## Treasurer's Report

INCOME	EXPENSES
<b>REVENUE</b> Dues \$2,055.00 Ad Sales Meals \$305.00 Carry Over (FY23) \$4,614.91 Other/Mail <hr style="width: 100%;"/> \$6,974.91  <b>SUPPORT</b> Individuals \$2,400.00 Corporate/Church Endowment \$1,304.03 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> \$3,704.03 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <b>TOTAL INCOME</b> \$10,678.94	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b> Dues to National Catering/Reception \$500.63 Marketing/Public Relations Remaining Expenses <hr style="width: 100%;"/> \$500.63  <b>ARTISTIC</b> Artist Fees/Housing \$2,138.91 Remaining Expenses (ACH) Tech/Production <hr style="width: 100%;"/> \$2,138.91 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> \$2,639.54  <b>BALANCE</b> \$8,039.40

### Position Available

## Immaculate Conception Catholic Church North Little Rock, Arkansas

**Position:** Full-time Music Director

**Compensation:** Commensurate with education and experience

**Job Description:** Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is seeking a talented and dedicated full time Music Director to join our parish community. The position offers a fulfilling opportunity to share your musical talents and faith in our parish. If you are passionate about liturgical music and possess the necessary skills and dedication, we invite you to apply for this position. The Music Director will provide organ and piano music and musical leadership for regular weekend Parish services, Holy Day Masses and special events as requested by the Pastor. Position recruits, trains, schedules, and rehearses all choirs, ensembles, cantors, and parish musicians and participates in planning religious services in conjunction with the pastor and church staff.

Please submit your resume and cover letter to Carmen Sellinger,  
parishmanager@iccnlr.org

# Arts Calendar

## Wednesday, November 1 – 7:00 P.M.

All Saints' Mass  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
Little Rock, AR

## Thursday, November 2 – 7:30 P.M.

Durufle Requiem  
Cathedral of Saint Andrew the Apostle  
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

## Sunday, November 12 – 4:00 P.M.

Remembrance Day Requiem  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
Little Rock, AR

## Tuesday, November 14 – 7:00 P.M.

ASO Chamber: Conrad Tao, piano  
Clinton Presidential Center  
Little Rock, AR

## Friday, December 1 – 7:30 P.M.

ACS: Handel's Messiah  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Little Rock, AR

## Saturday, December 2 – 4:00 P.M.

Advent Lessons & Carols  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
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

## 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 – 3:00 P.M.

ASO Pops: Home for the Holidays  
Robinson Center Music Hall  
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

## 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