



American Guild of Organists Southwest Suburban

The SW Suburban AGO Announces its 2009-2010 Season

After a few attempts in presenting a workshop in music notation software, our officers are pleased to kick off our season with Finale training session on Friday, October 2 at 7pm. It will take place at Lewis University's Fine Arts Building and led by Professor, Mike McFerron of the University's music department. Dr. McFerron will give a brief overview followed by some more intermediate level training. We invite all our members (new or experienced in Finale) and ask that you bring along any projects you may be working on.

Our other season's highlights include a recital of organ, brass and percussion with our own Richard Siegel on November 1st, a new music reading session led by Tom Secor and an organ crawl by Dr. Dennis Northway of not just one, but FOUR Oak Park churches! (Photos below, left to right – Grace Episcopal, 1st United Church, 1st United Methodist and First Baptist churches). This event will include lunch at Grace Episcopal Church along with a concert by Grace's Madrigal singers. You will want to save this date – MAY 22, 2010 !!! A full calendar of events can be found on pg 5 as well as our [web calendar](#).

2008-2009 Elected Officers and Board

George Tarasuk, Dean
Anne Madden, Sub-Dean
Richard Siegel, Treasurer
Roxanne Packer, Secretary

Mark Downey
Sharon Fisher
Richard Nicholas
Tom Secor



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Moving forward – discovering the past

During my lunch hour today, I was reading the book, [The Organ In France](#). I don't own it and I didn't take it out of the library. But in a web-search on French organ registration, I found it on [Google Books](#). At our last chapter meeting at the home of Dick Siegel, Dick, gave me a little demonstration on Baroque organs in his living room through the [Hauptwerk](#) program – a software package which brings the world's best pipe organs to musicians everywhere. Meanwhile, on the other side of the room, Mark Downey and Roxanne Packer were discussing the [Zoom H4](#) recording device. They use it to record choral parts and then put them up on [Musicpracticetracks.com](#) so that their choir members may listen - and learn their parts.

As you can see from our chapter's calendar, we have exiting year ahead of us. From our kick off "Finale" software workshop at Lewis University to our series of "Techno-Tyme" workshops, our chapter remains committed to the continued education of its members. The explosion of technological resources, has created an exciting, yet frightening landscape for church organists. While technology can certainly help us to become better organized musicinas, it is also important to remember that its use should not become an end in and of itself. Through our workshops we hope we are able to assist our members in demystifying all of this while presenting practical and useful information.

It is a goal of mine as dean to build a page on our [website](#) dedicated to sharing new technologies with our members. Stay tuned for this project's development. If there is something you would like to share, please feel free to contact me at either 312/814-3916 or gwtarasuk@gmail.com.

EVENT FOCUS

FINALE WORKSHOP, LEWIS UNIVERSITY, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND AT 7:00PM



If you are looking to improve your skills on Finale music notation software, this is the workshop for you! Lockport resident and Lewis University music professor, Mike McFerron will lead a workshop in Finale in Lewis University's Oremus Fine Arts Building on Friday, October 2nd at 7:00pm. If you have specific questions or topics you would like to discuss at our workshop, email them directly to George Tarasuk at gwtarasuk@gmail.com. **Space is limited, so please RSVP George by September 15, 2009.**

For a Lewis University Campus map Click [HERE](#). The Oremus Fine Arts Building is # 2 on the map with parking lots D & G conveniently located nearby. The computer lab is located on the 2nd floor, room F218.

Mike McFerron is a professor of music and composer-in-residence at Lewis University and he is founder and co-director of Electronic Music Midwest (<http://www.emmfestival.org>). A past fellow the MacDowell Colony, June in Buffalo, and the Chamber Music Conference of the East/Composers' Forum, honors include, among others, first prize in the Louisville Orchestra Composition Competition (2002).

first prize in the CANTUS commissioning/residency program (2002), recipient of the 2005 CCF Abelson Vocal Music Commission, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's "First Hearing" Program (2001). McFerron's music can be heard on numerous commercial CDs as well as on his website at <http://www.bigcomposer.com>.

AGO MEMBERSHIP ENJOYS NEW GROWTH

18,409 Individuals Renewed Membership or Joined the American Guild of Organists During the 2008–2009 Membership Year

June 9, 2009

NEW YORK CITY — The **American Guild of Organists** (AGO), the largest organization in the world dedicated to organ and choral music, is pleased to announce the first increase in membership in more than a decade, as reported by AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. At the close of the 2008–2009 membership year, AGO membership totaled 18,409 voting members, an increase of 167 over the 2007–2008 membership year. "Independent Membership is our fastest growing category," declared Thomashower, "while chapter membership remains our largest and most vital membership segment."

AGO Director of Membership and Administration Jennifer Madden noted that the membership increase resulted from three initiatives: a chapter-based phonathon designed to renew lapsed members; a solicitation to lapsed members prepared by AGO National Headquarters; and restricting access to portions of the AGO Web site to members only. "Because of this three-phased approach, we had a surge in renewals and new independent memberships, ending the year with over 700 Independent Members." While Independent Members have no local chapter affiliation and receive no local chapter benefits, they receive all other voting membership benefits and privileges.

Founded in 1896, the American Guild of Organists has more than 300 local chapters throughout the United States and abroad. The Independent Membership category was created in 2003 in response to individuals living in remote geographic areas not otherwise served by a local AGO chapter. Although independent members have no chapter affiliation, they are served by their district convener, regional coordinators for education and professional development, and their regional councillor. Independent members receive full membership benefits, including eligibility for all health and insurance plans offered through the AGO, national election voting privileges, a subscription to *The American Organist Magazine*, and discounts on AGO convention registration fees and education resources from the AGO Bookstore. "While Independent Membership is available to all, even to those living where a local chapter exists, it is the AGO's hope that individuals joining the Guild for the first time as independent members will soon discover the many additional benefits and programs available through chapter affiliation, and will choose to join their local chapter, if one exists, at the time of membership renewal," noted Herbert Buffington, director of the AGO Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support.

AGO membership is open to all and includes working professionals—organists, choir directors, teachers, organbuilders, technicians, and suppliers to the field—as well as students, clergy, amateur musicians, and dedicated supporters. Individuals wishing to join the AGO for the 2009–2010 membership year can find a local chapter online at www.agohq.org or by contacting AGO National Headquarters at 212-870-2310. For further information or to request a membership brochure, please contact Jin Kang at 212-870-2311 (ext. 7512) or e-mail jkk@agohq.org.

Tidbits....

Where's it come from?

If you think they call it "Plainchant" because the music is boring – consider this: the term derives from the old French "*plein chant*" meaning "full singing".

Chiropractors of the soul

Sharon Fisher shares this story of retailer, J.C. Penney who was thrown into crisis during the Great Depression. He became increasingly depressed and medicine only exacerbated his pain. One day, he heard the hymn "God Will Take Care of You" coming from the little hospital chapel and something moved him almost instantly from darkness and depression back to health.

How Music Works, an article by Karl Paulnack in this month's copy of TAO beautifully ties in to this image of the musician as a "healer". He writes that the musician's purpose is not to entertain. Rather, he says, we are "here to become a sort of therapist for the human soul, a spiritual version of a chiropractor..."

Aisle, Altar, Hymn

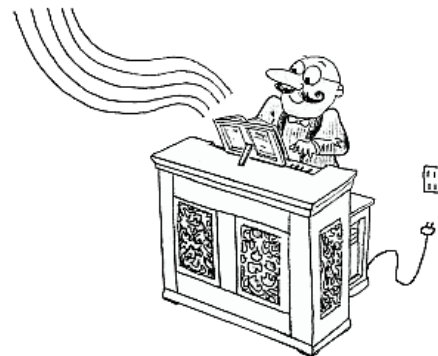
Throughout the ages, men have been trying to unlock the mystery as to why their wives who accepted them as they were before, they got their behavior and life-style changed once their vows were exchanged.

Finally, the riddle was solved. A social-scientist arrived at a simple and logical conclusion.

When the bride, accompanied by her father, starts to walk slowly down the long aisle, she sees the altar at the end and hears the choir singing a hymn. Walking down the aisle, the conditioning process where the brain absorbs these three stimuli: aisle, altar, hymn, begins. She becomes mesmerized as she continually reinforces these perceptions: aisle, altar, hymn . . . aisle, altar, hymn . . . aisle, altar, hymn

Then finally, as she stops beside the groom, the conditioning process is completed.

She looks up at him lovingly, smiling sweetly and thinks, "I'll alter him."



AGO PLACEMENT LIST, SEPTEMBER, 2009

Federated Church
612 West State
Sycamore, IL 60178
Tel: 1-815-895-6754
E-mail: mattincurtain50@aol.com

Organist/Pianist. Part time, immediate need. One service Sunday mornings, Wednesday evening rehearsal required to accompany the choir. Church is a combination of UCC and UU; service is less formal than many, and the church is a "fun place to be," considered by some as theologically liberal. Current organist reluctantly accepted a full time church position with medical benefits that are not offered. 1981 Wicks, 21 rank pipe organ. Salary \$175.00 per week. Contact Gary Mattin to apply or for more information.

Minooka United Methodist Church
205 Church St.
Minooka, IL. 60447
Tel: 1-815-476-2322
E-mail: MUMC2322@aol.com

Organist/choir director (Music Director). Part time. 2 Sunday services, 1 adult choir, choir rehearsal. Welcoming Church seeks a music director to lead the music ministry and enhance the worship experience. The music assists worship in answering the call to make disciples. Instruments include, 12 rank Berghaus pipe organ, Yamaha upright piano, Yamaha Clavinova. We offer a competitive salary and vacation. Position is open now. Please send resumes to Eddie Eddy by e-mail or at the church address.

Community Presbyterian Church
1111 E. Madison Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148
Tel: 1-630-627-0306
E-mail: music@cpclombard.org

Website: <http://www.cpclombard.org/organist.html>
Organist/Pianist. Part time, average 10-15 hours per week. Principal focus of the position: Provide quality worship music leadership on the organ and/or piano in worship services of Community Presbyterian Church. Reports to: Senior Pastor. Instruments: Rodgers 3-manual 908, 2005; Grand piano, Kawai. An active, growing congregation, seeking an experienced, versatile part-time organist to assist the music ministry. Main duties include selecting and playing organ music for weekly Traditional services, and special services as they arise, in coordination with the Pastor and Director of Choirs. We value biblically based worship that invites people into God's presence and speaks to their everyday life. As such, our goal is to provide opportunities to commune with God through prayer, music and the sacraments of the church. Music itself is an essential element of worship. We incorporate a wide variety of musical expressions and seek a high level of quality in our music programs. An applicant should thus be not only a skilled musician but also have a committed relationship with Christ. Proficiency in organ and piano is essential. Degree in music, organ or sacred music with an organ focus and/or AGO certification is preferred but candidates with equivalent amount of independent training and/or experience will be considered. 3 to 5 years experience as church organist is preferred but candidates with lesser experience will also be considered. We seek a

versatile performer willing this individual would become an integral part of the Worship team. See website for full position description. Submit letter of interest and resume to Eric Morgan by e-mail.

Peace Memorial Church
10300 W 131st St.
Palos Park, IL 60464
(708) 448-7833
sjohnson@pmcucc.org
www.pmcucc.org

Peace Memorial Church is a medium-sized United Church of Christ congregation in a south-west suburb of Chicago. Peace Memorial Church has a long history of a strong music ministry which has included special concert series, tours with its choirs and even professional recordings. Currently we are moving towards a blended worship service that would include both traditional music as well as praise and worship music. We are looking for person of deep faith to share their love of music with us and help us grow our music ministry to include people of all ages, abilities and musical tastes. To learn more about this exciting ministry opportunity or to send a resume, please contact Rev. Shana Johnson.

Repeat Performances – August, 2009

St. Paul's UCC
Downers Grove, IL
E-mail: leeanner@stpaulsuccdg.org
Organist/Director of Youth Music Ministry. Contact Lee Anne Rockershousen for information about the position.

Edison Park United Methodist Church
6740 N. Oliphant
Chicago, IL 60631
Tel: 1-773-426-1168
E-mail: gaev5@comcast.net
Website: www.edisonparkumc.com
Organist/Pianist. Part time, Sunday mornings, 9:30 am-12:00 noon beginning in August. Call Jerry Miller, or e-mail resume; pay approximately \$150.00 per Sunday.

The Church of St. Benedict (Episcopal)
909 Lily Cache Lane
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
Tel: 1-630-759-5955
E-mail: revheidi@stbenedict.ws
Website: www.stbenedict.ws
Music Minister. Part time. Contact the vicar, Rev. Heidi Haverkamp by e-mail for job description and more information.

St. Martin's Episcopal Church
1095 Thacker Street
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Tel: 1-847-824-2043
E-mail: steve@saintmartinschurch.com
Music Director. Part time. Contact the Rev. Steve Godfrey by e-mail.

Submitted by Sunny Stiklius, AGO Placement Coordinator
E-mail: voix_celeste@comcast.net
Phone: 1-630-408-3341



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.

OUR GOAL

To restore the glory of the "King of Instruments" throughout our society.

BROADCASTS

PIPEDREAMS -
Sunday, 5:30 p.m. –
WFMT 98.7

WITH HEART AND VOICE – Sunday 6:00 a.m. WFMT 98.7

MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD –
Sunday 7:30 a.m.
WTMX 101.9 F.M.

RELATED EVENTS

Sunday, October 11, 4pm
Michael Unger (2008 NYACOP winner) performs in an organ recital at First Presbyterian Church, Arlington Hts. Presented by the North Shore Chapter, AGO.

Sunday, October 25, 4:00pm
Michael Burkhardt Hymn Festival with Choir – St. John's Lutheran Church, Lombard. Presented by the Fox Valley Chapter, AGO.

Friday, November 20, 8pm
Luke Mayernik (Cathedral organist, Pittsburgh, PA) in recital at Glenview Community Church. Presented by the North Shore Chapter, AGO.

Sunday, November 22, 4:00pm
Music for Organ and Brass, by The Gargoyle Brass and Michael Surratt – Union Church of Hinsdale. Presented by the Fox Valley Chapter, AGO.

SW Suburban AGO Calendar

Friday, October 2nd @ 7:00pm
Finale Music Notation Software Workshop led by Mike McFerron, Lewis University.

Sunday, November 1st @ 3:00pm
SW AGO member, Dick Siegel in a recital with Brass and percussion, St. Raymond Cathedral, Joliet.

Sunday, January 17th @ 3:00pm
New Music Reading session with member, Tom Secor, St. John the Evangelist, Episcopal, Lockport.

Sunday, February 7th, at 6:30pm
"Techno Tyme" workshop featuring organists' web resources, led by George Tarasuk, All Saints Anglican Church, Bolingbrook.

Sunday, March 7th, @ 3:00pm
Members Recital at St. John the Evangelist, Episcopal, Lockport.

Saturday, May 22, @ 9:00am
Oak Park Organ Crawl Spectacular led by Dr. Dennis Northway - Grace Episcopal, Oak Park.

Stay current on all events by visiting our chapter's website:
<http://sites.google.com/site/swsuburbanago/home>