

June 2021

# The Guilder

The Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.agocolumbus.org



*The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.*

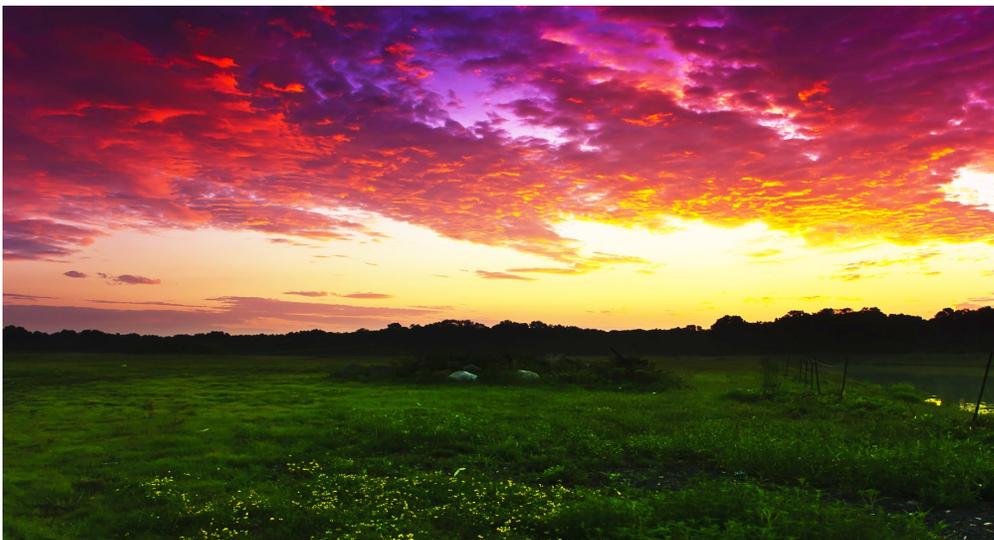
## Chapter Officer Election Results

Per the results of our recent election, Collin Davenport, Dennis Richardson, and Michael Snyder have been elected to the Class of 2024. Brent Nolte was elected Dean with 95% of the cast votes, while Mari Kay Dono was elected Subdean with 92% of the cast votes. Mark Meuser was elected as Treasurer with 95% of the cast votes. James Childs will remain as Chaplain and Nicholas Fink will continue as Secretary.

Out of one hundred fifty-six members listed in the 2020-2021 directory, sixty-two ballots were cast (39.7% of membership). All sixty-two ballots were sent by USPS.

The Chapter thanks everyone who ran for office and encourages those who were not elected this time to run again next year. We also thank our Nominating Committee: Leonard Napper, Jennifer Bell, and Mari Kay Dono.

Many thanks to our outgoing Executive Committee members: Jason Keefer, sub-dean; Thomas Gerke, treasurer; and Mari Kay Dono and Jennifer Bell, class of 2021. I missed our monthly potlucks once COVID hit, but you made my job as dean easy. Thank you for your good spirits and willingness to pitch in! --*Rebecca Abbott*



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Please submit events to the [online calendar](#) for publication in future *Guilders*. Non-calendar submissions may be sent to [guilder@agocolumbus.org](mailto:guilder@agocolumbus.org).



**Find us:**  
Columbus Chapter

### Officers

#### Dean

Rebecca Abbott  
[abbottmusiclab@gmail.com](mailto:abbottmusiclab@gmail.com)

#### Sub-Dean

Jason Keefer  
[jkeefer@pcj.edu](mailto:jkeefer@pcj.edu)

#### Secretary

Nicholas Fink  
[NLFink@hotmail.com](mailto:NLFink@hotmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Thomas Gerke  
[tagerke@yahoo.com](mailto:tagerke@yahoo.com)

#### Chaplain

James Childs  
[jmchilds39@gmail.com](mailto:jmchilds39@gmail.com)

### Executive Committee

#### Class of 2021

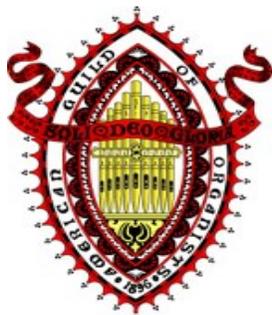
Alex Chacon  
Jennifer Bell  
Mari Kay Dono

#### Class of 2022

Carol Neff  
Anne Saylor  
Michael Schreffler

#### Class of 2023

Brent Nolte  
Stephen Trumbull  
Leonard Napper



## The Dean-Elect's Comments



*Brent Nolte*

Dear Columbus AGO,

Thank you for providing me with the privilege of serving as your Dean for the next two years!

The Executive Committee has been working to finalize our programming for the 2021-2022 season, and we look forward to the events listed below. Naturally, our hope is that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to ease and that we'll be able to gather in person for our chapter events.

**Monday, September 13:** Dinner, Convocation, and Member's Recital. Please see the article by Michael Schreffler on page 4 for more information about this event.

**Saturday, October 9:** Klaus Hermann-Anschütz will present to us about Singing Gregorian Chant. This will be a virtual event.

**November, Date TBA:** Organ Crawl. Stay tuned for more details! I thank Mari Kay Dono for coordinating this event.

**Sunday, February 19:** Student Recital, with a back-up date of February 26.

**TBA:** Ryan Boyle and Mike Lauffer will present to us about pipe organ maintenance.

**Saturday, April 30:** To honor the 200th anniversary of César Franck, publisher Wayne Leupold will join us in Columbus and present to us about Franck.

**Monday, May 9:** Spring Banquet and Members' Meeting.

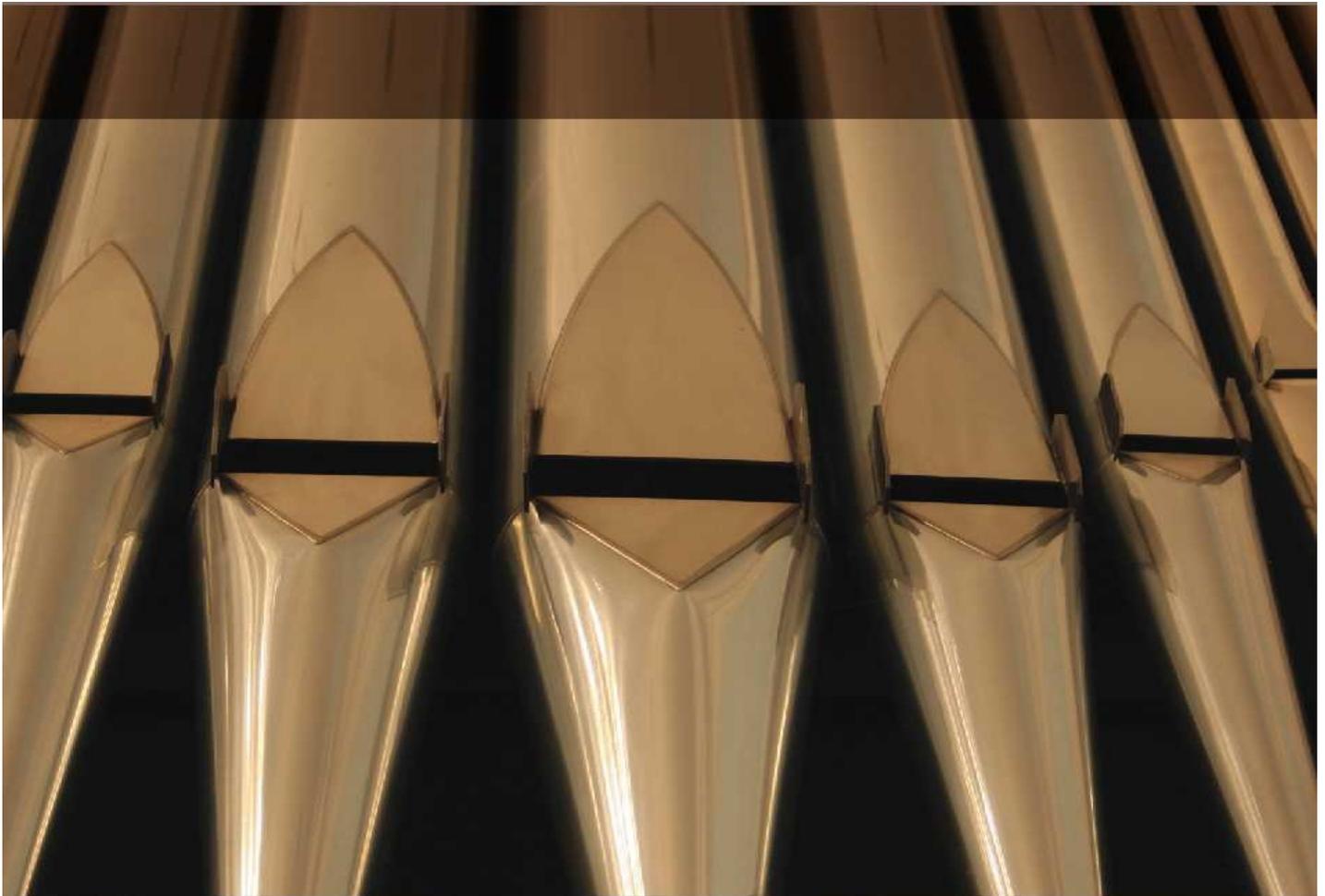
We'll provide further details on all of these events in our fall editions of the Guildler. For now, please mark these dates on your calendars and plan to join us!

Soli Deo Gloria!

*Brent Nolte*

Dean-Elect, Columbus Chapter AGO





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## Opening Event of the 2021-2022 Season

By Michael Schreffler

Please follow [this link](#) to listen to Pipedreams from American Public Media.

The Columbus AGO Executive Committee is pleased to announce the kick-off to our 2021–2022 season with a dinner, convocation ceremony, used music exchange, and members’ recital on **Monday, September 13**, hosted by First United Methodist Church of London, Ohio. As with all events being scheduled during these pandemic times, this one is subject to change; but we are hopeful that with increased vaccination rates and a continued decline in new infections overall, many of you may feel more comfortable attending some in-person offerings in the upcoming season.

The theme of our members’ recital this year is “All-American,” featuring selections by American composers in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. First UMC is home to a fine Johnson & Son/Muller pipe organ of three manuals and twenty-eight ranks, most recently renovated and expanded in 2010. The organ retains the seventeen ranks of the original 1894 instrument and, with judicious additions and modernized console (including multiple memory levels and a sequencer), has proven to be a most flexible vehicle for rendering a wide variety of literature. If you would like to perform a selection, please contact Michael Schreffler, the church’s organist, at (614) 572-5984 or by email at [mds8615@hotmail.com](mailto:mds8615@hotmail.com). Michael will also be happy to assist in arranging practice time for you. Details as to time and dinner will follow in a future issue of *The Guilder*.





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Columbus, Ohio  
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Dedicated November 22, 2019

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## Reciprocal International Workshops Established for the Columbus Chapter

*By Rebecca Abbott*

On March 6, 2021, I was delighted to present an online workshop entitled "American Church Musicians' Response to the Corona Crisis" to northern German church musicians--in German! It occurred because, twenty-five years ago, I lived in northern Germany for a couple months, cleaning house and accompanying music lessons in exchange for room and board with a German family. The family had encouraged me to take a free weekend to participate in a Musikalisches Wochenende--music weekend retreat--with Catholic youth. The man who had organized it, Klaus-Hermann Anschütz, was in charge of a region of Catholic church musicians and asked me spontaneously, at that time, to give a workshop on the American spiritual to his Catholic youth. I took a minute to jot down some notes--whatever I as an American college student could remember having learned about spirituals--and led the youth in some simple songs and explanations of musical style. All these years later, with some intermittent correspondence, Herr Anschütz asked me to encourage his adult church musicians through presenting an international workshop. He was prepared to supplement my German with explanations, if need be.

The workshop consisted of about fifteen minutes of introductions, then forty-five minutes of my presentation, which concluded with teaching the Germans a sung version of their own Memorial Acclamation ("Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again") that they could do with international sign language and musical accompaniment when the number of singers was legally limited to four. There followed about an hour of questions about American church music, especially about our systems of musical training and of continuing education for church musicians. I had reviewed many relevant vocabulary words in advance but was unprepared for so long a period of questioning. In the last fifteen minutes, my head was swimming, and I asked if I could speak more in English than in German, with Herr Anschütz and another attendee translating.

It was a rewarding challenge, made possible partly because Dr. Leo Riegert, a German professor at Kenyon College, offered to proof my PowerPoint script in advance and made probably sixty corrections to my German. Any presentation like this always depends on the invisible contributions of many people, musicians and non-musicians alike.

For the Columbus AGO, a very pleasant follow-up is that Herr Anschütz has offered to give our own chapter a reciprocal workshop. Dean-Elect Brent Nolte has been working with him to schedule an online workshop on Gregorian chant in October--in English! Herr Anschütz has also asked if I would be willing to return to his musicians for a workshop on an as yet unspecified topic. This international reciprocity is yielding benefits for both groups of church musicians.

## Audit Results

*By Laura Nolte, wife of Dean-Elect Brent Nolte*

On April 10, I met with Tom Gerke to review the Chapter's treasurer reports and financial records for the fiscal year of June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020. The record-keeping was very detailed and complete, and I found no discrepancies or irregularities. It is my evaluation that the Chapter's treasurer reports and related records present fairly the financial position of the Chapter.

## Dean's Committees

### Communications

Ryan Boyle  
[ryan@mullerpipeorgan.com](mailto:ryan@mullerpipeorgan.com)

### Education & Examinations

Robert Wisniewski  
[slw260@gmail.com](mailto:slw260@gmail.com)

### Guild Editor & Publisher

Brent Nolte  
[bnolte@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:bnolte@ohiochristian.edu)

### Professional Concerns, Placement & Substitutes

Chad Baker  
[bdb49@hotmail.com](mailto:bdb49@hotmail.com)

### Registrar

Stan Osborn  
[stanosborn@earthlink.net](mailto:stanosborn@earthlink.net)

### Webmaster

Anthony Fabro  
[anthony.fabro@outlook.com](mailto:anthony.fabro@outlook.com)

## AGO 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.

## Music Available

Richard Fitzgerald is making organ music available to us from the library of Dorothy Riley. Please contact Richard at [richardkfitzgerald@gmail.com](mailto:richardkfitzgerald@gmail.com) or 614-241-2526.

Nancy Holloway is offering another four boxes of free organ music to our chapter. Please text Nancy at (740) 703-3786. Nancy has also shared an opportunity to assist Canal Winchester High School with an organ donation, as detailed in this letter from Todd Phillips, Performing Arts Director at CWHS:

*As most of our Performing Arts families know, my mother passed away 2 months ago. She spent her entire adult life as a professional Music Educator, Performer, Piano Teacher and Church Organist.*

*After speaking with my 3 brothers, we have agreed to donate her Young Chang Grand Piano, valued around \$9,000, and her full-size Church Organ, valued around \$5,000, to the Canal Winchester Schools. These instruments will be kept at the Oley Speaks Auditorium and be available to any of our school ensembles and special event programs hosted at the Education Center.*

*My Mother lived about 90 minutes away in Southern Ohio (Greenfield). The instruments need to be moved to Canal Winchester, tuned and prepared for the coming Fall. I have an estimate of \$1,700 for the initial work and there'll be about \$1,000 more added to that for a new piano bench, heavy padded covers for both instruments and upgrades. The cost of \$2,700 is a small price for two quality instruments valued at around \$14,000.*

*Donations can be made to the **CWHS Choirs** and sent directly to the school. We need to have all of our funding in place by the end of May. Please let me know if you have any questions. I hope you'll consider helping and reaching out to others to provide this incredible opportunity to our students.*

*Todd Phillips  
[tphillips@cwls.us](mailto:tphillips@cwls.us)  
 Canal Winchester Performing Arts*

## Hammond Organ Available for Young Organist

I have a two manual Hammond organ with a full pedalboard and Leslie speaker. It is in working condition and comes with oil and a manual. It also has an expandable chime rack, but the rack has been damaged and not all the chime keys work. It was a gift to me and I used it to practice at home. I am willing to give it to another young organist in Ohio and help them move it from my home in Delaware, Ohio. It is VERY heavy and would require rollers and at least five people to move it. If you are interested, please contact me. I plan on moving before late July this year so I need it gone before then.

Michael Cherup  
[scoutguy318@gmail.com](mailto:scoutguy318@gmail.com)  
 740-971-1741

## Sacred Music Institute Summer Classes

The Sacred Music Institute of America is proud to announce its Summer 2021 class schedule. We are highlighting our own AGO Columbus Dean Rebecca Abbott, who will be presenting "Introduction to Hymnology." Dr. Abbott brings many years of knowledge and experience in this area. This course will explore the history, theological themes, and literary structure of hymns, especially focusing on the interaction of text and tune.

The Institute is also offering "Gregorian Chant for Beginners," taught by Emily Lapisardi, Dr. William Mahrt, and Dr. Jason Keefer; "History of Sacred Music," taught by Emily Lapisardi; and "Conducting and Vocal Pedagogy Intensive," taught by Dr. Jason Hiester.

If you are interested in the Hymnology, Chant, or History of Sacred Music classes and are looking to work independently and at your own pace without direct contact with an instructor, you may prefer to audit these classes. For detailed class descriptions or more information, please visit our website at [www.sacredmusicinstitute.org](http://www.sacredmusicinstitute.org) or call 614-395-7783.

## Oregon Bach Festival Institute

The Oregon Bach Festival Organ Institute led by Grammy-winning organist Paul Jacobs is now accepting applications for the 2021 Season. For those who are comfortable living with the current procedures for protection from COVID-19, this could be the right opportunity for you. **The deadline for auditions is May 21, 2021.** Now in its eighth season, the Institute features organ study through master classes and education sessions within a classical music festival.

*Highlights of this summer's program include:*

- Live in-residence with other musicians of the Organ Institute from July 5-9, 2021
- Daily master classes with the revered Paul Jacobs, Director of the Organ Institute
- Seminars in organ technique and performance on two superb instruments, the Hochhalter 1999 at First United Methodist and the Brombaugh Op. 19 at Central Lutheran Church in Eugene
- A final recital featuring Institute participants on July 9<sup>th</sup>
- Note, this season, the Institute will be limited to participants 18 and older

Participants are selected through auditions -- **deadline for applications is Friday, May 21.**

A generous grant from The Reed Foundation provides these talented musicians **tuition-free access** to the five-day course of master classes and performances, with **no cost for lodging**. More information can be found on our website. Contact us with any questions at [obforgan@uoregon.edu](mailto:obforgan@uoregon.edu).

We look forward to seeing you here this summer!

Dave Goudy,  
Director of Education Programs

Barbara Harris  
Education and Operations Coordinator

## Positions Available

The following positions were posted on the chapter's web site in the last twelve months. Please see <http://www.agocolumbus.org/index.php/forum/positions-available> for fuller descriptions, as well as for positions posted longer than twelve months ago.

Pianist/Organist, Trinity United Methodist, Mount Gilead, OH  
Organist, Lebanon Presbyterian, Lebanon, OH  
Director of Music Ministries, Grace Lutheran, Westerville, OH  
Organist/Pianist, Epworth United Methodist Church, Columbus