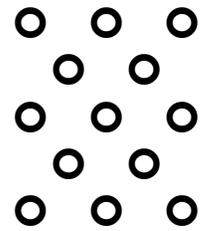


THE DRAWKNOB

Newsletter of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Guild of Organists

May 2020



The Dean's Mixture

In these uncertain times, it's hard to keep up with current developments. I've been in communication with chapter members in various denominations and with the Denver Mayor's office (as the representative of an arts organization), and all I can tell you right now is that there are many more questions than there are answers. Keep following the local and national news, and try to follow health guidelines as they are announced.

The national AGO has held several webinars on live-streaming audio and video production. A page on the national website, www.agohq.org/responding-to-covid-19, is constantly being updated with great resources, so you may want to bookmark that link on your computer.

As you know by now, our in-person annual meeting has been canceled. You can still read all the reports from our officers and coordinators, which are attached to this issue of *The Drawknob*. You can also participate in the annual chapter election by following the instructions listed with the ballot.

Stay safe, and try to have a good summer!

David Vogels, CAGO

Annual Reports

To enhance your summer reading enjoyment, and because we will not have an Annual Meeting at which to receive them, the Annual Reports of the Chapter are attached in pdf format. You can relive the highlights of the season, the many events of the Regional Convention, and study exciting financial reports.

Election

Due to the current situation, our chapter election will be conducted by United States Mail and e-mail. The ballot is enclosed with this issue of *The Drawknob*. There were no additional nominees by petition. Write-ins are permissible for any office. Ballots should be returned by June 30. You can mail your ballot to Denise Moore, 2078 S. Zenobia St., Denver, CO 80219, or you can scan the ballot and e-mail it to denise_moore@comcast.net. Do not write your name on your ballot, but make sure your name appears on the mailing envelope or e-mail so Denise can cross-check it against our membership roster. She will then remove the ballot from the envelope or print it out so that it is not associated with the name of the member. The results of voting will be announced by e-mail.

Candidates

Dean (two-year term):

Billie A. Busby Smith

Billie Busby Smith received a Bachelor of Music in organ performance from Salem College, Winston-Salem, N.C. and a Master of Music degree in organ performance from the University of Colorado-Boulder.



She currently serves as Director of Music Ministries at Park Hill Congregational Church and has served as musician for such churches as King of Glory Lutheran Church, Metropolitan Community Church of the Rockies, and

Macedonia Baptist Church. She has taught organ and piano at the college level and privately, as well as performing as an organist, harpsichordist and accompanist. Billie has served on the Boards of the American Guild of Organists in three different Colorado cities, Bennie L. Williams Spiritual Voices, Grand Design, Working Together Foundation and the Colorado Symphony Guild.

During her tenure as an AGO Board member for the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter, Billie has served as Registrar, coordinator for the chapter's Summer Organ Scholarship Program and as Workshop coordinator for the 2019 Regional Convention.

Billie is a retired hospital administrator and enjoys being a transplanted Southerner in Denver. She and her husband, Sid, love to hike, spend time with their four children and nine grandchildren and volunteering for a variety of non-profits.

Sub-Dean (two-year term):

Ricki L. Vorrath-Moyer

Ricki Vorrath-Moyer attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, then received her Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She went on to receive her Master of Music degree in



Organ Performance, with minor emphases in choral conducting and piano pedagogy. She is currently Organist/Accompanist at First Plymouth Congregational Church in Cherry Hills Village. Ricki serves as the Principal Accompanist for the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, as well as the Artistic Director for the summer choral group, the Metropolitan Choral Festival. She lives in northeast Denver and enjoys renovating her fixer-upper, bowling, reading and most recently, binge watching *The Blacklist*. She has three children - Hannah (Israel) in Austin, Nathan (Tori) in Denver and recently-graduated Rebecca, also in

Denver.

Registrar (two-year term):

Diane K. Gallagher, CAGO

Diane Gallagher received a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Kansas where she studied organ with Dr. James Moeser. She continued organ study with Dr. John Ditto at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Ms. Gallagher has



served as organist in churches in Kansas City and Denver including Wheat Ridge United Methodist and Trinity United Methodist in downtown Denver. Ms. Gallagher has been a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Guild of Organists since 1987. She has served as Registrar, Dean, and Chairperson of the Hospitality Committee for the 1998 National Convention in Denver. She presently serves as a substitute organist in the Denver area as well as being a piano teacher.

She and her husband have three adult children and six grandchildren—one family lives in Australia, one in New Jersey, and one in Denver.

The AGO has been an important part of Diane's musical life dating back to becoming a member of AGO in Kansas City at a time when a new member joined at the formal invitation or sponsorship of an active member.

Executive Committee Members-at-Large

Phil Bordeleau

Phil Bordeleau currently serves as the Director of Sacred Music and Organist at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver. Prior to that appointment he served in a similar capacity at the St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth, TX, (2010-2017) and The Cathedral of St. Andrew, in Little Rock, AR (1999-2010). He has held offices in the local chapters of those cities as both Sub Dean and Dean. His choirs has been presented on AGO conventions during the 2015

AGO regional in Fort Worth, and 2019 here in Denver. He has worked for both Protestant (Presbyterian) churches and Roman Catholic during his tenure as an organist/director. Prior to full time church work, he was employed as a staff organ technician and builder, at the Ross King Pipe Organ Company in Fort Worth, TX. His musical career spans that of an educator having been in ancillary and adjunct music education, teaching lessons at the organ and piano, presented organ concerts of both traditional and light organ classics, accompanied silent movies, created YouTube recordings and CDs of his cathedral musical ensembles, choral arrangement and orchestrations, as well as conducted choral and orchestra programming. He earned his BM in organ from the University of North Texas, and his Master of Music in choral conducting from Texas Christian University. When not making music his passions are building furniture and daily time in physical fitness.



Jill Dodds

Jill Dodds grew up in St. Louis where she began piano studies at age five and later studied with Robert Wallenborn and Gail Delante. She received a BA from Indiana University in French but also studied piano there and played piano accompaniment for several students in the School of Music. After graduation she elected to pursue a more practical career path and attended the University of Michigan where she received an MBA. Her career as a finance professional included positions in international banking with CoBank, corporate banking with Citibank and



financial analysis with the National Park Service where she retired in 2015. One of her goals in retirement was to focus again on music and learn to play the organ. She studied with Cindy Lindeen-Martin for two years and later with Joyce Kull and Denise Lanning. For eight months in 2017 she played at Our Merciful Savior Episcopal Church. She passed the AGO Service Playing Exam in March 2019. She has served as Treasurer of her HOA Board and was appointed board member at large of the Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter of the AGO during 2017-18. She has been Publicity Coordinator since 2017 and was a member of the Program Committee from 2019-2020. When she is not practicing organ she enjoys biking, traveling, jazz piano and discussing weather with her meteorologist daughter.

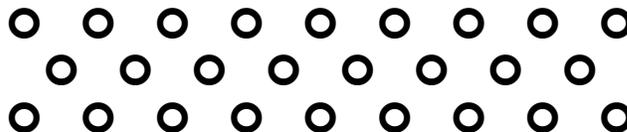
Lara Jean O'Connor

Lara Jean O'Connor holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and Oboe Performance from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. After graduate work at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she returned to Denver to pursue her music career. She has been a staff accompanist at Metropolitan State University of Denver since 2009. Lara Jean is the principal accompanist for University Treble Choir and University Basso Choir. She is also the coach accompanist for MSU Denver's BFA students. She is the organist/pianist at Broomfield United Methodist Church and is a freelance accompanist in the Denver area.



New Member

During this quiet time in the life of our chapter, we are pleased to welcome new member, Julian Tay, who has transferred from the Singapore chapter. Julian lives in Broomfield.



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All items for publication must be submitted by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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Members at Large:
Billie Busby Smith, Susan Carl, Kris Harris (2020)
Dan Dufford, Stephen Lockwood, Charles Nolen (2021)
Carole Hedrick, Daniel Romero, Michael J. Zehnder (2022)

Chapter address, **New website address**, and Facebook
P.O. Box 101448, Denver, CO 80250-1448
www.agodrmc.org
www.facebook.com/agodenver

In Sympathy

Two Chapter members have suffered recent losses. Please hold them in your thoughts and prayers.

William “Bill” Rogers, husband of Jim Steinborn, died in April. An obituary appears below.

Garrett Heyns, husband of Martha Sandford-Heyns died in May.

*May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

William Rogers

William Rogers, 1939-2020, husband of Jim Steinborn since 1991, died in home hospice care 19 April from advanced-stage lung cancer. A graduate of the University of Portland (Oregon), Bill was a Petroleum Engineer at Shell Oil Company, where he did groundbreaking work in reservoir simulation and



visualization—using custom-built computer graphics hardware and software. Bill and Jim met at Dignity in Houston, moving to Fort Collins in the early 1990s. They worked together on several organ projects, including the cleaning of the Visser-Rowland organ at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Cheyenne, and the relocation and restoration of the former Colorado Women’s College Hammer organ to CSU.

The last several years of Bill’s life were devoted to model railroading. Having built his own large layout in Fort Collins, he ventured into model railroad videography, including the use of small railcar-mounted cameras. He was also a volunteer at the Colorado Model Railroad Museum in Greeley. There, he brought his videography skills to a much higher level, posting many videos on his YouTube channel to further promote the museum. Partly through his 15,000 YouTube followers and 5 million views, the museum’s layout is famous around the world, and is now a self-supporting operation. Bill also shot and produced several DVDs of model railroad building techniques as well as the museum’s trains that are for sale in the museum gift shop.

Bill and Jim were members of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Fort Collins, where they had their relationship blessed in 2012. They were legally married in Connecticut under Yale University Organ Professor Thomas Murray’s backyard tree in 2013. A Service of Remembrance was held 2 May 2020 through St. Paul’s via Zoom. An in-person memorial service will follow when it is appropriate.

Organs Wanted

Practice organs are needed for young students. From time to time, organs are offered through *The Drawknob*. Gwen Blumenschein currently has students needing an instrument to practice on. Do you know of an unused one that could benefit a young musician? It should have two manuals (at least) and an AGO specification pedalboard. Contact Gwen at gwenblumen@gmail.com.



Introducing The AGO Achievement Awards

A new way for early-level organists of any age to improve their skills with the help of their AGO chapter

The AGO Achievement Awards are a great way to learn basic organ-playing skills, to fill in your existing skillset, to start on the road to AGO Certification, to structure organ teaching, and to get involved in your AGO chapter.

Current Achievement Awards:

- The Organ Console
- Organ Registration I
- Manual and Pedal Technique
- Transposition
- Harmony I

Choose an Achievement Award that interests you and then contact your chapter. The chapter then appoints a qualified mentor who volunteers his/her time and energy to help you throughout the process. You will prepare a single-page list of requirements on your own or with the help of the mentor, a teacher, a chapter member, or friend. The requirements can be completed at any time during one or more appointments with the mentor, who keeps track as each item is completed. After all requirements are met, you are recognized and presented with the certificate during a chapter event.



Choose one, contact your chapter, and start learning!

For more information, visit agohq.org/new-organist

