



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

## Chapter Leadership News

August 2021

### Curtain Up!

### Planning, Promoting, and Presenting Your 2021–22 Programs

Dear Chapter Leaders,

It has been so exciting to receive your recent newsletters and read about the plans you are working on for chapter programs and events that will commence this fall. I recently received a question regarding whether National was mandating that chapters produce virtual events. We are not mandating virtual events; however, I would encourage you to consider incorporating some virtual programs into your year of education. If there has been one silver lining to COVID-19, it's that technology gave chapters the ability to reach a wider audience, especially older members who can no longer drive or are geographically challenged. I recently heard from the Los Angeles chapter that all in-person events will now be livestreamed as well. I realize that this may not be feasible for everyone; however, many churches now have the capability to livestream and record. As you plan your in-person recitals, I hope you will consider contacting the church or venue to see if they have the technology to host a virtual event. Beginning in September, I will be planning some chapter visits. I look forward to meeting many new chapter officers and having the opportunity to experience some sensational chapter programs!

This issue of **Chapter Leadership News** will cover the following:

- ✓ Profile of the Month: Miranda Wilcox, Dean, Utah Valley Chapter
- ✓ Upcoming Webinars
- ✓ The Annapolis Chapter's "In Remembrance"
- ✓ The Sacramento Valley Chapter's Promotional Organ Crawl Trailer
- ✓ The Year of the Young Organist Recruitment Contest: Tip #2
- ✓ Deadline for Chapter Officer Listings in *The American Organist* Magazine
- ✓ AGO Salary Guidelines Must Be Removed from Chapter Websites
- ✓ Year of the Young Organist Organ Scholar Program – We Need Your Help!
- ✓ Leadership Spotlight: Peter Bates



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**Profile of the Month: Miranda Wilcox**  
**Dean of the Utah Valley Chapter**

**What's sitting on my desk right now:** stacks and stacks of books for research projects. I teach medieval literature at Brigham Young University.

**If I weren't doing this I'd** play the organ; however, I am not a performer or a professional, so I happily volunteer in the congregations I'm worshipping with and expand my repertoire through lessons. Learning music composed by women has become a passion.



**When I'm not at work** I'm practicing on my Johannes Studio 370 or running with my dog.

**The best advice I ever got:** Creativity is generated from tension. I am very proud of the way our chapter creatively and generously devised ways to connect with each other during the pandemic. Our technical skills have definitely been challenged and stretched.

**What keeps me motivated serving as chapter dean:** I've developed wonderful friendships with fellow organ lovers who are dedicated to supporting local organists and introducing youth to the instrument.

## Upcoming Chapter Leader Webinars

Monday, August 9, 4:00 p.m. EDT: Officer Training Webinar

Presented by Molly Davey,  
Membership Coordinator,  
and  
Eric Birk, Executive Assistant,  
AGO National Headquarters



This webinar, targeted to **chapter treasurers, registrars, and membership coordinators**, will cover how to access membership and treasurer reports in ONCARD, present an overview of the remittance process, and highlight the importance of record keeping. Please register [here](#).

Monday, August 16, 4:00 p.m. EDT: Officer Training



### **Chapter Program Ideas for the Upcoming Year**

Join chapter leaders representing small, medium, and large chapters in a panel discussion about the programs and events they are planning for their upcoming year of education. This webinar, targeted to **sub-deans and those in charge of chapter programming**, will be highly interactive. Come be part of the conversation and share what you have planned for your year of education! Register [here](#).

## **The Annapolis (MD) Chapter Presents** ***Grief, Comfort, Hope: When Words Fail, Music Speaks***

On May 30th, the Annapolis (MD) chapter released a video consisting of organ music, Scripture, and prayer to bring comfort to those who had lost loved ones or suffered during the pandemic:

<https://annapolisago.org/events/>.

Dean Betsy Lord shared the following:

*This was a huge group project which involved many people. We first discussed this at our February 1st executive committee meeting, after I got the idea that we should be responding to the pandemic with our music. At that meeting we formed a planning committee and set a date to gather via Zoom and map out our strategy. We sent an email to chapter members asking for volunteer performers. We requested that all videos be submitted by May 1st, so that the project could be completed by May 30th.*

*Performers included Jim Douglas, Eleanor Timberlake, Henry Wroblewski, HyeSung Hwang, Carolene Winter, Michael Clarke, Monte Maxwell, and me. Cindy Carlton, Jim Douglas, and Isaac Borocz served as readers, along with clergy participation. Sub-dean Henry Wroblewski combined all of the videos into the final product, added text and photos, and then made seemingly countless changes as we all made suggestions for improvement. Member Cindy Carlton signed our chapter up for a OneLicense.net podcast/streaming license, and Jennifer Lewis, our chapter's webmaster, took care of linking the YouTube video and program to our website.*



Thank you to everyone who contributed to this powerful recording, which truly supports the vision of the AGO: to engage, support, and uplift every organist.

## **Sacramento Valley Chapter's Promotional Trailer**



Kudos to the Sacramento Valley (CA) chapter's immediate past sub-dean, Rexphil Rallanka, for producing a truly innovative and captivating trailer promoting their 2021 Virtual Organ Crawl, which took place on June 21st. This one-minute video makes you feel like you are watching the coming attractions from your seat in a movie theater!

The trailer can be reviewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw9bRoiT8g0>

and the performance here: <https://youtu.be/jxeOP5Z-8eA>



# YEAR OF THE YOUNG ORGANIST

*“Investing in the Future”*

July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022



**The Year of the Young Organist**

**Chapter Recruitment Contest**

**Win \$1000 for Your Chapter!**

The game is on! Starting July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, how many young organists can you recruit? Each month, we will be sending you a **new recruitment tip** to help your chapter recruit as many young organists as possible.



**August, Tip #2:** To help you promote the **Year of the Young Organist** we have created a QR code that links directly to the registration page

(<https://www.agohq.org/free-membership/>) where young organists can join or renew. Feel free to add this QR code to your website and Facebook page, or take a photo of it on your smartphone so that you can easily share it with prospective members. As a reminder, nonmembers, as well as renewing

members, must fill out the form on this page. Headquarters will be emailing young organists with the above link as their memberships come up for renewal. We’ve created a special webpage that will include each monthly tip and additional resources: <https://www.agohq.org/year-of-the-young-organist-recruitment-contest-2/>.

At the end of the **Year of the Young Organist**, we will run a report to see how many new members you have recruited over the past twelve months. The AGO will award one small (up to 60 members), one medium (61–125 members), and one large (126+ members) chapter with \$1000, each, based on the net increase of *primary* young organists they have recruited (dual memberships will not be counted, so no double dipping!). The number of members you have recruited will be based on the net gain. This means that if you recruited fifteen young organists but lost five, your net gain would be ten, so keeping your current young organists as members is equally important!

**On your mark . . . get set . . . go!**

## Last Call! Please Update Your New Officer Roster Now!

As I write this newsletter, there are several chapters which were late in holding their chapter elections. Each year in the November issue of *The American Organist*, all chapter deans are listed. As of June 30, if you did not update your new officer roster in ONCARD, you no longer have access to it. If you have a new officer roster, please call AGO Headquarters, 212-870-2310, and we will assist you in updating your list. The deadline to update your roster so that you may be included in November's TAO is **August 23**.

## AGO Salary Guidelines Found on Chapter Websites

The AGO recently learned that some of our chapters still have salary guidelines posted on their websites. Per our agreement in 2017 with the FTC, the AGO and its chapters cannot share salary guidelines anywhere, be they on websites, in newsletters, or as a topic for a monthly program. Chapter webmasters, please do a quick check to make sure that none of this information is still on your websites, and please remove any remaining guidelines immediately! Many chapter websites are now including information about AGO's newly published *Employing Musicians in Religious Institutions* (<https://www.agohq.org/employing-musicians-handbook/>). This handbook is a great resource for understanding the components of and determining equitable compensation when interviewing for a position in a house of worship.

## Year of the Young Organist Organ Scholar Program

The AGOYO Committee has been working hard to create a year of programming that supports professional development as a young organist begins her or his career. One of the most exciting initiatives planned is the AGO Organ Scholar Program, which will offer two young people the opportunity to experience a one-year internship at a significant music ministry program somewhere in the United States. This gap year program will take place during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 program years (one recipient per year for a total of two recipients in two different locations).

The program model is designed to include combined investments from AGO National Headquarters, a local AGO chapter, and a host church: \$10,000 each, for a total of \$30,000. In addition, the host church is expected to provide housing and healthcare for the organ scholar.

We need your assistance in helping us move forward with this incredible opportunity. Across the United States, there are model church music programs that would provide an enriching, positive, and challenging environment for a young organ scholar, and we would like to identify these great institutions. Now more than ever, our young people need great training and experience in church music. We appreciate any assistance you can give in helping us identify these mentors. Information about the organ scholar program and link to the application can be found here: <https://www.agohq.org/organ-scholar-program/>. The deadline for institutions to apply is **October 15<sup>th</sup>**.

