



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Chapter Leadership News

May 2022

May Is Member Care Month!

Dear Chapter Leaders,

Yes, it's that time again. The AGO has designated the month of May as **Member Care Month**. This initiative began in April 2020, when COVID forced many of us into lockdown. Many AGO members felt alone and isolated. The calls that you made strengthened connectivity among chapter members and made them feel special and cared for. As we approach the third year of this annual initiative, I know that many of you have become "member care experts" by now. However, for those who previously did not have an opportunity to participate, it will be a new and possibly profound experience. Not only does letting people know that you care about them touch the lives of those who receive the call; it can also provide the caller with a sense of purpose, joy, and fulfillment. Our goal is that every single member will receive a call and hear the words "thank you." You may ask, How will it be possible to reach 13,000-plus members over the next 31 days? It requires an all-team effort that involves AGO staff, members of the National Council, regional councillors, district conveners, and *you*. I encourage you to make this a team event by asking your chapter volunteers to make some calls. You might want to make this a contest, recognizing the volunteer who makes the most calls as "MVP of the Month." A graphic to use in your newsletter and a brief script with speaking points to use when calling or emailing a member can be found [here](#). To quote Maya Angelou, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget the way you made them feel." So, from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank each of you for steadfast leadership and passion in advocating for the vision of the AGO: to engage, support, and uplift every organist. You are all AGO rock stars!

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

- ✓ Leadership Profile: Raymond Trapp, Sub-Dean, Brooklyn Chapter
- ✓ Year of the Young Organist Recruitment Tip #11
- ✓ Twin Cities' *Before Bach's Birthday Bash*
- ✓ Visits with the Clearwater, St. Petersburg, and Tampa Chapters
- ✓ Save the Date: Chapter Town Hall Meeting, Monday, May 9
- ✓ Reminder: Upcoming IRS Deadlines
- ✓ Staff Announcements and Membership Milestones



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Profile of the Month: Raymond Trapp, Sub-Dean, Brooklyn Chapter



What's sitting on my desk right now:

The orchestral score for "At His Name" by Joel Raney, "Lotus" by Billy Strayhorn, arranged for the organ by Alec Wyton, and "Deep River" by Adolphus Hailstork.

If I weren't doing this, I'd . . .
be studying carpentry (ha!).

When I'm not at work,
it's all about family.

The best advice I ever got:

"Maturity doesn't come with age; it comes with the acceptance of responsibility." —A.R. Bernard

What keeps me motivated serving as chapter sub-

dean: The kindness and support that I have always received from the Brooklyn chapter and its members, and the importance of the organ in the world we live in.



The Year of the Young Organist Chapter Recruitment Contest Win \$1000 for your chapter!

Beginning 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. We've created a page on our website that will include each tip and additional resources: <https://www.agohq.org/year-of-the-young-organist-recruitment-contest-2/>.

Currently in the lead:

Small Chapter: Tampa, with a net growth of 10 new young organists.

Medium Chapter: Denver Rocky Mountain, with a net growth of 16 new young organists.

Large Chapter: Los Angeles, with a net growth of 15 new young organists.

TIP #11: Promote this upcoming workshop to prospective members and teachers.

Year of the Young Organist

CHORAL CONDUCTING WORKSHOP

featuring



ANTHONY BLAKE CLARK

Sunday, April 24 - 4:30 PM

Grace and St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Baltimore, MD

Call for Applications:

Please submit a resume/CV and a list of 3-4 pieces you would be interested in working on.

Submit materials to: agoyo@agohq.org

****Applicants must be under 30 and a member of the American Guild of Organists****



Cosponsored by:
AGO Year of the Young Organist and the Baltimore Chapter

Twin Cities Before Bach's Birthday Bash 2022



Michael Barone, host of Pipedreams, shared the following about this special annual program:

Despite the several unexpected twists and turns along the way (organ function issues and resulting venue adaptations), BBBB 2022 was efficiently accomplished and happily received.

We printed 300 programs and ran out by the beginning of 4:00 p.m. event. Our estimation is that over 500 people enjoyed the music of Bach and Reger in three different venues.

The morning broadcast went off without a hitch, thanks to my able MPR colleagues Evan Clark, Rachel Brees, Elizabeth Iverson, and Elizabeth Lyon. Clark and Brees were able to strike all of the equipment in the break between the 10:00 a.m. conclusion and 10:30 a.m. resumption of performances at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. What began as a rather gray day turned pleasantly sunny, just as our first concert was concluding, filling the interior of the St. Mary Chapel with added color.

Performers were on point, the occasional Reger interjections provided variety (and surprise, the movement from the Serenade for Flute, Violin, and Viola was particularly delightful—a side of this composer rarely encountered), and Dave Johnson's carillon preludes to both BBBB elements at the House of Hope made being outside even more delightful.

Thanks to all participants, hosts, promoters, and providers. The Before Bach Birthday Bashes have proven (again) to be a welcome element of the Twin Cities cultural landscape. TCAGO members, start thinking about what you'll play in the future!



[Click here](#) to listen to the live broadcast from Hour One on Minnesota Public Radio.

Visits with Clearwater, St. Petersburg, and Tampa Chapters

On April 1-4, I had the pleasure of traveling to the west coast of Florida to meet with leaders from the Clearwater, St. Petersburg, and Tampa chapters. On Saturday morning, I attended a wonderful masterclass hosted by the Clearwater and St. Petersburg chapters: "Success in Worship Services, Settings, and Concerts with Professional and Amateur Instrumentalists: An Organist and Instrumentalist Perspective,"



presented by Chuck Seipp and Randall Sheets, also known as the Seipp/Sheets Duo. The class shared best practices for rehearsing, the range and endurance of student and amateur performers, consideration of multi-pitch instruments and where to position them, and opportunities for creating your own descants; it was accompanied by some amusing graphics. I was extremely impressed with the demonstration of the super cool Dr. Beat metronome <https://www.boss.info/us/products/db-90/>.



The next day, Chuck and Randall played a beautiful concert, titled "Trumpet, Organ and Piano," that included works by Handel, Vivaldi, Bach, Widor, and Gershwin. It ended with a showing of the amusing and amazing 1902 silent film *A Trip to the Moon*, accompanied by organ and trumpet renditions of *Star Wars*, the theme from *Star Trek*, and famous Beatles tunes. The duo received many standing ovations. As you begin planning your year of

programs, I encourage you to consider booking their masterclass and/or concert. They are consummate artists with a great sense of humor! www.seippsheetsduo.com.

Sunday evening, I met with Sylvia Chai and Stephen Allen, dean and sub-dean of the Tampa chapter. Over a wonderful meal, Sylvia and Stephen shared how their membership has increased over the past year, going from 34 total members with one young organist in 2021 to 57 members and twelve young organists in 2022. As I write this newsletter, Tampa is leading in the small chapter category in the Year of the Young Organist recruitment contest, with a net growth of ten new young organists. Congratulations to the Tampa chapter!

I want to thank Shawn Thomas and Timothy Belk, dean and sub-dean of the Clearwater chapter, Michelle Thomas, dean of the St. Petersburg chapter, and Sylvia and Stephen for their strong leadership and wonderful hospitality.

Save the Date! May 9, 4:00 p.m. EDT Chapter Leader Town Hall Meeting



This town hall meeting is for both incoming and outgoing leadership. You will have the opportunity to network with the chapter leaders in your region at virtual tables and meet with new AGO staff, members of the National Council, and regional councillors. This is *your* opportunity to share any challenges you have been faced with, as well as some of your chapter's best practices. We encourage you to ask lots of questions—to get the answers you need!

Please use this link to join the meeting: <https://www.airmeet.com/e/159b4dd0-b77c-11ec-a194-1db19b96cf73>. Instructions can be found here: <https://www.agohq.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Town-Hall-Meeting-and-How-to-Use-Airmeet.pdf>

Upcoming Webinars

Monday, May 16, 8:00 p.m. EDT

Know Your Skill Set: Job Searches and Job Descriptions



**EMPLOYING MUSICIANS
IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS**

A Handbook for Committees and Candidates

Learn to read between the lines of posted job openings, to interpret job descriptions, and how to make sure expectations are clear between employer and musician.

Presented by the **Committee on Career Development and Support**. Please register [here](#).

Prepared by
American Guild of Organists
Committee on Career Development and Support
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Reminder: IRS Deadline for Chapters with a Fiscal Year Ending December 31

For those of you using the calendar year January 1 to December 31, you are required to file your 990-N e-postcard by **May 15**. If you can't locate your username and password, or if you are a newly elected chapter officer making a filing, you will need to create a new log-in for your chapter if your last filing was prior to that date. The web address to which you should go to start this process is <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/>. Click directly on that link to open a new browser. Click on "Sign Up" to create your new log-in and follow the instructions as they guide you through the process. There is helpful User Guide that has been provided for those who need help in setting up a 990-N e-postcard login: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5248.pdf>. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Eric Birk, executive assistant, at eric.birk@agohq.org.

Staff Announcements



Congratulations to Molly Davey as she assumes a new position as **education program manager**. Molly will be responsible for all of the AGO's competitions, scholarship programs, and educational resources.

Phylicia Ross, formerly member operations and database specialist, has been promoted to **manager of member engagement and chapter support**. pross@agohq.org

We are currently searching for a new member operations and database specialist. If you know someone in the greater New York metropolitan area who might be interested, please email Elizabeth George at elizabeth.george@agohq.org.



Membership Growth

The **March Membership Dashboard** has been uploaded to the Chapter Leadership Toolkits: <https://www.agohq.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/March-2022.pdf>. I encourage you to take a look at the accomplishments in member growth that have been achieved with *your* help. **This is the first time since June 2020 that our membership has been over 13,000!**

At this time last year, we had a net loss of 1,339 members. This year we have a net gain of **890** members. We attribute much of this to the year of free membership during the **Year of the Young Organist**. We have **175** more Regular members than we did in March 2021. This is incredible, considering that we had a net loss of 926 Regular members between March 2020 and March 2021. Each region has seen a net growth of members since last March, ranging from 25 in the North Central region to 191 in the West region. Most regions have over **100** new members. Lastly, we reinstated **101** members this month, including 29 people who haven't been members since 2018. Last March, we only reinstated 42 members. Chapter leaders, congratulations on your hard work to help us grow our membership! Let's keep the momentum going!