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**Eugene Chapter Website**  
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www.agoHQ.org

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

As the daffodils and cherry blossoms burst into color, spring seems to be arriving early in our enviable climate. It's been a busy AGO calendar of events with March packed full showcasing the Lenten recitals and Regional Competition for Young Organists. Thanks go to Barbara Baird for bringing the idea of Lenten recitals to the Eugene Chapter along with playing a recital and to Julia Brown for playing the opening recital and working with Church of the Resurrection to ensure the team effort is successful. It's a tradition we hope will continue for many years in the words of Lucy Strandlien, Director of Music at the church.

To Julia Brown we owe so many thanks of gratitude for the huge amount of support and effort she gives to the chapter in countless ways. She provides the chapter with strong caring leadership and works tirelessly to organize the larger scaled events.

Barbara Baird walks right beside her in giving great strength to the chapter as well. They are highly trained performers but are right at the side of those needing registration or performance help along with advising on chapter matters. Chapter publicity has been outstanding since Julia took over this year. We know the posters, programs, printing, and communication will be done in a highly professional manner.

Thanks to Karen Williamson, Lindsey Rodgers, and Mary Roth for being 'the stuffing of envelopes for mailing' ladies. These little gatherings bring lots of talk and laughing. Julia wears many hats: Mom, performance artist, educator, accompanist, administrator, and a lady of Brazil. Bravo, JULIA. We give you our thanks.

If you've not looked recently at the Chapter website, do take a look. It's informative and artistically done. Richard Guy has spent the past three years developing it, a technology that is complex. This year he took a class on website design at Lane Community College. When my MAC wrestled unsuccessfully with the newsletter template, Richard agreed to put the newsletter together, if I'd write the material, a team effort for which I'm extremely grateful.

In April, we'll present ONCARD to the chapter in a way that we hope will be user friendly when the membership drive begins in May. Gail Goshert will keep us organized and be our link to National with regard to ONCARD.

Take time in March to reflect and help your neighbor in a way that speaks to integrity, generosity and compassion.

— Jane Knobel, Dean



## O B F ORGAN INSTITUTE

Dave Goudy, Interim Director of Education for the Oregon Bach Festival, reports that a generous grant from The Reed Foundation has been given to underwrite the organ programs of OBF including the Organ Institute and recitals. Beginning with the 2015 class, to ensure talented musicians have access to the six-day course (June 29-July 4) of master classes and performance with renowned American organist, Paul Jacobs, participants will be able to participate tuition free with no cost for housing. Participating organists are selected through recorded auditions due March 25, 2015, with no charge to apply.

## SENIOR ORGAN RECITAL

Alex Bean, U of O student of Barbara Baird, will be presenting his senior recital at First United Methodist Church in Eugene on March 12 at 8 pm. Selections will include works by J. S. Bach, Franck, Tournemiere and Boyvin. Let's support Alex by attending this recital.

## CONCERT & MASTERCLASS

Dr. John Hillebrandt, composer and pianist, and recently retired professor from California State University, Stanislaus, will present a concert entitled "Transcendental Hymn Fantasies" on Friday, March 6 at 7 pm, at Central Presbyterian Church, 555 East 15th Avenue, in Eugene. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted.

This will be a piano program of concert etudes based on traditional hymn melodies, re-imagined in the spirit of great Romantic piano virtuosos like Liszt, Chopin and Rachmaninoff. These pieces transform the original essence of the hymns into "brilliant new dimensions in the piano universe."

Saturday morning, March 7, at 11 pm, John will be holding a master class at Central Lutheran Church. Contact Susane Reis for details: (541) 852 - 8789.

## PETER BRADY SCHEESSELE

Peter is not the newest member of the Eugene AGO chapter, but at six and a half years of age he is still the youngest. So how does a child get to be interested in the organ? It has been a nexus of innate musicality and opportunities that foster and encourage a budding interest. It is also a story of generosity on the part of a community of musicians willing to share their enthusiasm and access to instruments.

Peter was fascinated by music even as an infant. That probably led us to sit as close as possible to the little Bond tracker at our church where Peter's father sings in the choir, First Congregational UCC in Corvallis. Myles Criss was in heavy rotation on the organ bench, and Peter literally had a front row seat to observe Myles' mastery over the instrument. Peter, not yet two, was especially intrigued that Myles could cause the swell shutters to swivel by pushing on a pedal with his feet. We constructed an organ at home: Scheessele Opus 1, one manual, Little Tikes xylophone pedal board. Later upgrades included drawknobs and Peter's own swiveling hand motions mimicked the swell shutters.

When your child shows interest in something, you research your options and resources.



Peter on Scheessele Opus 1, age 22 months, and on the FCUCC Bond organ,

One gem we found early on was an interview with Alan Morrison by Mister Rogers, filmed in 1994. On a visit in 2011 to Peter's grandfathers' church, Third Baptist in St Louis, Peter had a nearly identical organ encounter as the one Alan Morrison gave Mister Rogers: time at the console followed by a trip up into the pipe cabinets, complete with being allowed to blow on one of the pipes. To this day, we continue to get a kick out of finding Mr. Morrison's head-shot in each issue of *The American Organist*.

A second gem is Peter's organ teacher. November 2010 was our first venture to our local monthly Amore Concert hosted by Craig Hanson. As the organist entered down the aisle his stride seemed to falter when he perceived two moms with two infants plus two 2 year olds in his audience. Peter was 2.5 years old. -- next column

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### WITH HEART AND VOICE ON KWAX – FM

*With Heart and Voice* is a radio program that spans the full range of Western classical music from the Gothic period through the 21st. Century. There are occasional surprises from the non-western tradition. The program is hosted by Peter DuBois, an organist who teaches at the Eastman School of Music.

This program originates from Rochester, New York, and is broadcast Sundays, 11 am and 7 pm on KWAX-FM.

Inevitably, we did not make through the entire performance. We waited one more year before attending Amore again (sans younger brother). Craig graciously invited Peter to explore the Noack organ afterwards. Peter was probably toting his copy of AGO's "A Young Person's Guide to the Pipe Organ." This post-concert monthly organ encounter continued until, just shy of Peter's 4th birthday, Craig agreed to take Peter on as a student, once a month, first thing in the morning (when a four year old is perkier).

A third gem we stumbled upon is this very organization. I distinctly remember hearing Julia Brown's voice advertising the "Introduction to the King of Instruments" concert on KWAX in January 2012. I stopped the car to jot down the details. Peter would have been 3.5 years old. We drove down from Corvallis. Peter sat transfixed through the concert, motivated especially by Julia's promise to the audience that they could come up and touch the organ afterwards. He shot forward even before the final applause subsided.

Peter joined the Eugene chapter soon afterwards and was invited to play in the King of Instruments the following year.

The overall generosity and accommodation in the organ world continued during our recent trip to New York City in October 2014. I reached out to the NYC AGO chapter via their Facebook page. The organ lofts at both the Cathedral of St. John the Divine & the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola were opened to Peter. He preferred the Mander.

We just hope this generosity holds up as we plan on visiting our alma mater, Duke University, over spring break. Will Peter be granted access to Brombaugh's Opus 34? Craig is helping Peter add an appropriate piece to his repertoire, just in case.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We're delighted to welcome Sarah Massie to the Eugene Chapter. She's been studying with Julia Brown since last fall. Living in Corvallis and 14 years old, Sarah says that she's really having fun with organ. She's been playing at her church most Sundays and enjoyed playing for *King of Instruments*.

How exciting it is to have a new *young organist* member.  
sarah.massie@comcast.net



The Organ Loft is a radio program about choral and organ music, particularly music of the Pacific Northwest. The program is hosted by Roger Sherman, the Associate Organist of

St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle. The Organ Loft features music of Pacific Northwest choirs, organs, composers and organ builders. The programming is half organ, and half choral music.

This program is underwritten and sponsored by your Eugene AGO Chapter on KWAX-FM and the University of Oregon radio network (webcast: KWAX-FM Homepage) on Sundays at 8 AM and 6 PM.

Eugene, 91.1 KWAX-FM      Redmond, 88.5 KWRX-FM  
Florence, 91.5 KWVZ-FM      Canyonville, 92.3 KWRZ-FM

and on these translators:

Bend 98.9      Cottage Grove 101.9      Salem 92.9  
Newport 91.3      Reedsport 90.9      Roseburg 105.3  
Sunriver 90.9      Sutherlin-Oakland 107.1

# AGO EUGENE CHAPTER

## 2014-2015 Schedule

- Saturday, March 7 - 4:30 to 5 p.m.  
**Lenten Organ series on the Brombaugh**  
Organist Barbara Baird performs.  
Church of the Resurrection, 3923 Hilyard St.
- Sunday, March 8 - 3 p.m.  
**Regional Competition for Young Organists**  
First United Methodist Church,  
1376 Olive Street, Eugene
- Saturday, March 14 - 4:30 to 5 p.m.  
**Lenten Organ series on the Brombaugh**  
Organist Karen Williamson performs  
Church of the Resurrection, 3923 Hilyard St.
- Saturday, March 21 - 4:30 to 5 p.m.  
**Lenten Organ series on the Brombaugh**  
Organist John Jantzi performs.  
Church of the Resurrection, 3923 Hilyard St.
- Saturday, March 28 - 4:30 to 5 p.m.  
**Lenten Organ series on the Brombaugh**  
Organist Lindsey Rodgers performs.  
Church of the Resurrection, 3923 Hilyard St.
- Friday, May 1 - time t. b. a.  
Olivier Latry, **Organ Concert**  
Central Lutheran Church  
1857 Potter St. - Eugene
- Monday, June 1 - 6 p.m.  
End of year Potluck and election of officers  
At the home of Jane Knobel.

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## PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS

The Southern Plains AGO Chapter will host this year's **Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced** and **Pipe Organ Encounter Tech** in Norman, Oklahoma, where up to 40 students will fill Norman churches and the University of Oklahoma's campus for a week of lessons, lectures on the intersection between technology and musicality and also performances.

The university faculty represents the nation's finest pedagogues and world-class organ builders.

More information and registration are available through the chapter website: [poe.southerplainsago.org](http://poe.southerplainsago.org)

**Registration:** Early Bird (until March 15): \$400. Regular price (after March 15): \$425.

Alternatively, phone Jane Knobel (541) 683 - 0826 for an application form.

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

Monday, March 2 – 7:30 pm  
**Alexandre Dossin, Piano with Oregon String Quartet, Brahms:** Piano Quartet in c minor and the Piano Quintet in f minor. Beall Hall, U of Oregon.

Friday, March 6 - 7:00 pm  
**John Hillerandt** presents "Transcendental Hymn Fantasies," a collection of concert etudes based on traditional hymn melodies. Central Presbyterian Church, 555 East 15th Avenue, Eugene. Concert is free, donations accepted.

Saturday, March 7 – 8:00 pm  
Sunday, March 15 – 4:00 pm  
**University Symphony Orchestra:** David M. Jacobs, conductor. Beall Hall, U of Oregon.

Friday, March 13 – 7:30 pm and Sunday, March 15 – 2:30  
**Eugene Opera:** Sweeney Todd: *The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. This production will be dedicated to the memory of Mark Lewis, beloved performer and teacher in the arts community of Eugene. Andrew Bisantz, Music Director. Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center.

Sunday, March 15 – 4:00 pm  
**The Oregon Guitar Trio,** David Kelley, Matt Gwinup and David Rogers perform an eclectic program of Brazilian, African, Minimalistic, Baroque, Jazz and Video Game theme music. First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street, Eugene. Suggested donation: \$10.

Thursday, March 19 – 8:00 pm  
**Eugene Symphony and Eugene Symphony Chorus: Verdi:** Triumphal March from Aida, **Haydn:** Symphony No.100, Military, **Prokofiev:** *Alexander Nevsky*. Danial Rachev, conductor and Sharon Paul, chorus director. Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center.

Friday, April 10 - 7:30 pm  
**Eugene Vocal Arts** presents Eastern Voices. Romantic and sensuous expressions of nature, adventure, and music of the East. Beall Concert Hall, University of Oregon. Tickets at Hult Center Box Office.

**Events Calendar** - Please send us the information on your concerts so we can include it in our newsletters. We love to support each other's concerts by helping to get the news out and by attending your programs. Let us know!

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## NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Announcements, articles or any news of interest should be sent to [janeknobel@gmail.com](mailto:janeknobel@gmail.com). The deadline for the next newsletter is March 27.

## Lenten Organ Recital I

We are pleased to highlight the first of the 2015 Lenten Recital series presented by the Eugene Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Eugene. DR. JULIA BROWN gave the first of the 6 recitals. Eugene is fortunate to have such an accomplished concert organist. Julia has appeared in concert in North and South America and in Europe as well as performing in the Oregon Bach Festival, Astoria Music Festival, Chico Bach Festival, American Guild of Organists Regional and National Conventions, Organ Historical Conventions, Latin American Organist Conventions, and National Public Radio.

From a young age, she has enjoyed chamber music having worked as an accompanist for chamber music groups from a young age; she currently performs for several early music ensembles in the northwest and also is the accompanist for the Eugene Concert Choir. Born in Rio de Janeiro, Julia studied piano, harpsichord and organ in Brazil before receiving her MM and DMA from Northwestern University as a student of Wolfgang Rubsam.

As a Naxos recording artist, her releases of Scheidemann and Buxtehude on Brombaugh and Pasi organs and keyboard works of Wilhelm Friedemann Bach have received high critical acclaim. Julia is currently Director of Music and Organist at First United Methodist Church in Eugene along with teaching, performing and recording. Her Lenten Recital included works of Dietrich Buxtehude, Jose Jesus Estrada, Amaral Vieira, Heinrich Scheidemann and Johann Sebastian Bach warmly received by those in attendance.

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## Exciting Competition News

The Eugene AGO Chapter will be hosting the **Eugene AGO Regional Competition for Young Organists** to be held March 8, 3:00 pm, at the First United Methodist Church, Eugene. Professor Barbara Baird will lead this event and is in the planning stages at this time.

Along with invited judges, members will be needed to monitor, to be assistants (page-turning, registration changes and general help) and to be hymn-singers. Please offer to help by contacting Dr. Baird or Jane Knobel.

It will be a chance for you to give support and won't be time-consuming. It will be easy and enjoyable. We're proud to be offering an event to showcase organists of the future.

## Lenten Organ Recital II

Once again university student organist and AGO member, Alex Bean, has participated in a chapter event by playing a Lenten recital on the Brombaugh instrument Op. 38A. It's always exciting to follow the developing and improving organ skills shown by students. Alex (b. 1993 in McMinnville, OR) is also preparing his senior organ recital. Along with several composition teachers, his composition studies have included a term at the Darmstadt Summer Institute for New Music. His organ professor is Barbara Baird. The program included: Fantasie und Fuge in g moll BWV 542-Johann Sebastian Bach; Prelude, Fugue and Variation-Cesar Franck; Variations on an Old American Hymn Tune-Zachary Wadsworth. We wish Alex well, as he pursues further studies following undergraduate

## New Organ Music

Composer and organist Norberto Guinaldo has recently launched a website containing 58 compositions he's written for both services and concert work. His music is only available through this website: [www.guinaldopublications.com](http://www.guinaldopublications.com) Mr. Guinaldo was born and educated in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He has a Master's Degree in Theory and Composition from the University of California at Riverside and a Diplome Superieure d'Orgue from the Schola Cantorium in Paris, France, where he studied with Jean Langlais. Since 1965 he has been organist at the United Methodist Church in Garden Grove, California, and has performed in the US, Europe, Argentina and Mexico. Take a look at the website from which you can buy his music. You may find new and useful organ compositions.

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## Summer Studies in Europe

On Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, at the First Congregational Church, members were treated to a presentation by two U of Oregon organ students, Alex Bean, a double major in organ performance and composition, and Chuning Zhang, a journalism major and music minor, both seniors.

Alex spoke of his recent summer experiences in Frankfurt, Germany, where he was able to experience live performances of contemporary compositions along with seeing and playing German pipe organs.

Chuning spent 6 weeks in Vienna, Austria, visiting universities and churches where she enlisted professors and two talented university students to demonstrate large-scaled pipe organs in ancient churches and in three difference spaces at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts established in 1817 and the largest institution of its kind in the world. She condensed many hours of videotaping to a fascinating 45-minute tape of European organ music beautifully played on a variety of instruments.

Thank you Professor Baird for guiding these capable young musicians, as they pursue further studies following their undergraduate studies.