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Eugene Chapter Website

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AGO National Headquarters

www.agohq.org

LETTER FROM YOUR DEAN

Dear Eugene AGO Members,

Our Chapter's April event was the Handbell Workshop at First United Methodist Church. The presenter was Beth Mays, the "Queen of Handbells" who came up from Anaheim to be with us. Thanks to Julia Brown for suggesting and publicizing the event, and for preparing handouts and set-up for the session. Thanks to Gail Goshert for writing the checks and being my sounding board and getting out early publicity. Thank you, Linda Gurney, who brought the bells over from Grace Lutheran so we would have enough for everyone. There were about 25 ringers and directors who attended from area churches. Several people expressed their appreciation to our chapter for offering this event.

Be sure to come to our *End-of-the Year Potluck and Meeting*. Location is the Song-Brook Clubhouse, 4055 Royal Avenue, Eugene 97402. Go straight on SongBrook Drive after passing through the gate and the first intersection. Counting the streets on the left, turn left at the second (Aspen Way). The Center will be directly in front of you. If you're like me, the details need to be on your calendar: **Sunday, June 4 - 5 p.m.** Thank you, Gail, for arranging the venue!

Our Board member Nancy Dunn has expressed her interest and concern over a recent settlement you may have read about in our magazine The American Organist. It has been on my radar too. It's about the AGO not being allowed to publish salary guidelines. This is just one thing we could discuss at our get-together in June. I wonder what your thoughts and feelings are about this. If you haven't read about the settlement yet, you can get more information online at: <https://www.agohq.org/salary-guidelines/>

One more thing: If you have any organ music you'd like to pass along to other organists, bring it with you to the potluck in June. See you then!

Karen Williamson, Dean



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome four new members to the Eugene Chapter. They joined after the organ workshop at the 18th Avenue LDS Church.

Marilyn Tobinsson, (541) 645-6617
marilyn.tobinsson@gmail.com
Marilyn is an experienced organist who plays in the Ashland - Medford area.

Rebekah Harnois
rebekaharnois@gmail.com
Rebekah is pianist / organist who is playing in the Central Point, Second Ward.

Cherie Gullerud, (541) 231-7294
artscherie@gmail.com
Cherie is a new organist who is playing in the Corvallis First Ward LDS Church.

Beth Strickling, (541) 905-2635
bethstrickling@gmail.com
Beth is an organist who is playing in the southwest Albany region.

Add their contact information to your AGO directory and welcome these new members to our group.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month the Member Spotlight is on Karen Williamson, Dean of the Eugene Chapter.

Q: What led you to becoming an organist?

A: I have a vivid memory from when I was a girl of around 11 or 12. Since I could read music, I had the job of turning pages for the nun who was organist. The organ was a large pipe organ housed at the back of the church up in the choir loft. The organist faced the back of the church with a mirror to see what was going on down below. As the page turner, I stood immediately in front of the largest pipes of the organ. Whenever Sister played a particular low bass pedal, one of the beautiful stained glass windows halfway across the building would rattle! This greatly impressed upon me a deep fascination with sound vibrations.



I remember hearing the organ at my older sister's high school graduation at the Cathedral. When it came time for the recessional, the music of the pipe organ sang forth and filled the space. All was joy -- the happy graduates, and the music to match! I experienced the power of the music inside my body.

When I was 13, my family moved to the suburbs and to a different church. The church was relatively new, but it had only a small Conn electronic organ. My Dad knew the priest, who was in need of an organist. So I was called upon to play for Mass every morning during that summer.

During high school I attended Notre Dame Academy for girls, where my mother and three sisters had attended before me. There was a lovely little chapel with a brand new, very nice electronic organ. My piano teacher, who was also the organist, arranged for me to play for chapel services a few times. She also encouraged me to study music in college, which I did. During my four years of college, I lived at home in Northern Kentucky and drove over the river to the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, graduating in 1970 with a Bachelor of Music degree.

During my 40's I studied organ here in Oregon with Dr. ElRay Stewart-Cook. He helped me tremendously in developing my organ skills, especially pedal. He was encouraging, and one time said "I like to hear you play..." and he would go downstairs to listen to me from the other end of the nave.

Q: What are you most proud of in your work, or what aspect do you enjoy the most?

My claim to fame has been my sight-reading ability. I'm also proud that I was able to learn to play the pedals. I didn't really start pedals until I was in college, then dropped it for several years. When I needed a church job, I determined to get my pedal skills back. The most important thing, I learned, was playing the hymns well. So, amazingly, I can play most any hymn with pedals. It seems like a miracle almost. Sadly, the skill doesn't translate so easily to other repertoire.

Q: What other creative expressions do you enjoy?

I am a child of the 60's and during high school I learned to play guitar so that I could sing like Joan Baez and John Denver. I still enjoy singing and am currently in a women's trio we call HeartSong. I am learning to play my Appalachian Mountain dulcimer that was handmade by a man in Creswell over two decades ago.

Q: What do you look for in being a member of the Guild?

It has always seemed important to me to be part of a professional association. I enjoy meeting the individuals in the Guild and expanding my knowledge of the organ world. I'd like to see more opportunities to get to know each other on a deeper level.

— Nancy Dunn

A LESSON IN BRONZE

On Saturday afternoon, April 29, handbell artist Elizabeth Mays of Los Angeles, CA enthusiastically presented a workshop that engaged the interest of novice and experienced handbell ringers alike.



Beth gave a brief history of English handbells and reinforced basic maintenance of bronze bells. She demonstrated the three S's of basic ringing: Stance, optimum body position to avoid fatigue or injury; Seat, the balanced placement of a bell in the ringer's hand; and Stroke, carrying out a ring. Beth further explained that the stroke actually includes three components: preparation, strike, and

follow through. Beth skillfully demonstrated her teachings by performing two solo compositions, accompanied by Julia Brown, Organist and Music Director at the host church, First United Methodist.

AGO Chapter members, guests, and handbell ringers from Grace Lutheran Church and First United Methodist in Eugene and Ebbert Memorial United Methodist Church in Springfield were able to try ringing bells and hand chimes, and perform specialized techniques that make ringing handbells exciting, fascinating and fun.



— Gail Goshert



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 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	Corvallis 92.9
Newport 91.3	Reedsport 90.9	Salem 92.9
Sunriver 90.9	Sutherlin-Oakland 107.1	Roseburg 97.9
		Glide 105.3

AGO EUGENE CHAPTER

2016-2017 Schedule

Sunday, June 4 - 5 p.m.

End of the year Meeting / Potluck / Election
SongBrook Clubhouse, 4055 Royal Avenue

PIPE DREAMS ON KWAX-FM

Michael Barone, host of Pipe Dreams is heard on KWAX-FM on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and at 8 pm. This program's presentation on KWAX-FM is underwritten by the Eugene Chapter of the AGO. The program can also be heard anytime streaming on the world-wide web. More details at: www.pipedreams.publicradio.org.

WITH HEART AND VOICE

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 active 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.

ONCARD MEMBERSHIP

To join AGO / or pay dues: go to www.agohq.org/oncard
See membership top left. Invite friends and colleagues to join as members of the guild, or as Friends which is only \$37.00

Wednesday, May 24 – 12:30 pm

Forgotten Clefs, a Renaissance wind band, will demonstrate instrumental improvisation in three and four-part polyphonic pieces based on monophonic tunes. Part of the 2nd Annual Musicking Conference celebrating early music. Free. Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

Wednesday, May 24 – 6:30 pm

Lecture and Concert on a work of Claudio Monteverdi. Part of the Musicking Conference celebrating early music. Free. Central Lutheran Church

Tuesday, May 30 – 7:30 pm

UO Campus Orchestra Concert. Free admission. Beall Hall

Friday, June 2 – 7:30 pm

UO Chamber Choir and University Singers Concert. \$7 general admission, \$5 students and seniors. Tickets are available at the door or in advance from the UO Ticket Office, 541-346-4363. Beall Hall

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Friday, May 5 – 8 pm

Tai Hei Ensemble. Part of the biannual Music Today Festival. This music ensemble, formed with the goal of exploring and enacting international dialogues between Western and non-Western traditions of music, will present works and improvisations from UO composers, as well as composers from around the world. Free Admission. Aasen-Hull Hall, 961 East 18th Avenue, Eugene

Saturday, May 6 – 8 pm

Eugene Contemporary Chamber Ensemble (ECCE). Part of the biannual Music Today Festival. The concert will feature three premieres. Free Admission. Aasen-Hull Hall, 961 East 18th Avenue, Eugene

Saturday, May 6 – 7:30 pm

Oregon Mozart Players: Young Soloist Showcase features Avery Hsieh, piano and Claire Ku, piano – winners of the Young Soloist Competition. For ticket information, contact UO Ticket Office, 541-346-4363. Beall Hall

Tuesday, May 9 – 7 pm

Poetry in Song. Performances by the vocal performance studios. Free Admission. Beall Hall

Thursday, May 11 – 8 pm

Eugene Symphony. Farewell to Danail Rachev as he leads his final concert after eight years as Music Director of the Eugene Symphony. The majesty of Beethoven gives way to violin brilliance by Bruch, performed by Ryu Goto. Then, as the capstone, scale the heights of Richard Strauss's musical depiction of ascending a summit in *An Alpine Symphony*. For ticket information, call (541) 682-5000. Hult Center

Friday, May 12 – 7:30 pm

Oregon Wind Ensemble. \$7 general admission, \$5 students and seniors. Tickets are available at the door or in advance from the UO Ticket Office, 541-346-4363. Beall Hall

Friday, May 19 – 3:15 pm

Ellen Exner Lecture: Felix Mendelssohn's famous Berlin performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion in 1829 has been described as "miraculous" and "groundbreaking." It is considered the kindling spark behind the Bach Revival, a defining moment in western music's history. The lecture is free. Collier House on UO campus

Saturday, May 20 – 3 pm

Women's Choral Society Spring Concert: Sail Away! London! Paris! New York! An exploration of the ecstatic highs and poignant lows of romance. Prices online: Adult -- \$18, Senior and Student -- \$15, Child -- \$6. Tickets cost \$2 more at the door. Beall Hall

Saturday, May 20 – 7 pm

University Spring Concert at the Hult. Three of the UO's premier musical ensembles join forces: University Symphony Orchestra, Oregon Wind Ensemble and University Singers and Chamber Choir. \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors, \$5 students. Tickets are available at the door or in advance from the UO Ticket Office, 541-346-4363. Soreng Theatre, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

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