



## Contact Us

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### Eugene Chapter Website

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www.agohq.org

## LETTER FROM YOUR DEAN

Greetings to you in the midst of this, the strangest of all summers. If you're like me, you're growing tired of the string of bad news surrounding in-person gatherings and congregational and choral singing, all of which seems to change by the day. You're growing tired of leading worship in empty sanctuaries, programming based on what will "broadcast well," and meetings that consist of nothing but contingency plans: "what if church is online until Advent...until 2021..."

In the midst of this, I hope you're also finding opportunities where they exist. At First Methodist where I play, we pre-record the music for our services on Facebook live. When I record a hymn in an empty room, I find energy in refocusing on a clear delivery that magnifies the text in a manner that serves both those who will sing along in their homes, and those who won't. I think a lot about how the organ might be called to new leadership of the church's song in this era. Incidentally, I'm able to watch myself critically in recordings on a regular basis now, and have a laundry list of technical things I'd like to fix (I hear a far-off "I told you so" from many of my former teachers as I write this).

Amidst the national conversation following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, I needed to reckon with the realization that I know embarrassingly little about music for the organ written by composers of color. So, on the music rack now are several volumes of Mickey Thomas Terry's edited collection, the *African-American Organ Music Anthology* (published in 8 volumes by MorningStar). If you've not availed yourself to the music of Thomas Kerr, Mark Fax or Ruth Norman (among countless others), Michael Barone has dedicated a few Pipedreams episodes to their work.

This summer, Concerts at First will shift to an online platform in a series of Facebook live concerts. Given Eric McCurdy's excellent work on the chapter website as of late, I think similar online possibilities exist for portions of our Eugene Chapter's fall programming. Mike and I are already in conversation about the possibility of a "Virtual PipeScreams" this year, which has the potential to reach an entirely new audience.

There will be much more to say about the 2020-21 programming year at a later date, but I want to hear from you first. Given the unique situation we find ourselves in, and given the unique opportunities and potential that exists, what can your local Guild do for you? Drop me a line, or a Zoom invite, and let me know what you think.

Wishing you all the best,  
Brad Schultz, Dean



## FROM THE SUB-DEAN

As we contemplate our collective return to the organ and piano benches in the churches we serve there are many considerations in store for us. Safety is paramount for all of us and not just we as church musicians but also the other musicians, choir and other coworkers at our institutions.

During the recent months we have been able to narrow down the list of risks for transmission of the disease. We are reasonably sure of the following:

1. The easiest way to transmit the disease is through close and continued contact with an infected person(s). The best transmission is through the air via talking, singing, strenuous exercise and just breathing.
  - 1a. An infected person is often indistinguishable from one who is not since the virus often carries no symptoms.
2. "Social Distance" is loosely defined as six feet or better
3. Transmission is possible through contact with an infected surface but more difficult.
4. Survival of the virus on contaminated surfaces is anywhere between a few hours to a few days depending upon the surface and conditions.
5. The virus is somewhat easily destroyed by quality hand washing and cleaning of surfaces with an appropriate cleaner.
6. DON'T touch your face!
7. WASH YOUR HANDS ( just like your Mother taught you to do!)

Many institutions are planning on a reopening in the fall with (likely) limited access to facilities.

Cleaning surfaces and keys:

DON'T use hand cleaner! Hand cleaners leave an unpleasant residue behind which can harm the keys. Use the hand cleaner on your hands not on the instruments.

Use instead a good surfactant (soap) with an anti-bacterial addition. Here is where it gets a bit fuzzy.

(Continued on page 2)

## AGO - BLACK LIVES MATTER

The following was sent to Chapter Deans on June 16, 2020:

The American Guild of Organists recognizes and affirms that Black Lives Matter. We call upon every chapter and all of our members to speak out against racial bias and take action to make the world a better, safer, and more secure place for the members of the Black community.

Now is the time for us to search our souls for ways to be more caring, to be better brothers and sisters to our Black colleagues, and to demonstrate our unwavering support for their professional advancement and success.

The tragic murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, the equally senseless killing of Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta on June 12, and the death and injury of so many others are heartbreaking and inexcusable. We extend our condolences to their families and friends, and we stand in solidarity with the countless thousands of people around the world who have marched to protest systemic racism against the African-American community.

It is our turn to step up to the challenge. We must listen to diverse voices in crafting solutions to our problems. We must reach out to find new partners to help us chart the best path forward. We must engage.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Bedford, AGO, ChM

President

James E. Thomashower, CAE

Executive Director



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:

		Corvallis 92.9
Bend 98.9	Cottage Grove 101.9	Salem 92.9
Newport 91.3	Reedsport 90.9	Roseburg 97.9
Sunriver 90.9	Sutherlin-Oakland 107.1	Glide 105.3

## FROM SUB-DEAN, CONTINUED

Yamaha recommends the following:

For the keys and case parts, use a mild soap with surfactant, let it sit for 5 minutes and wipe dry. DON'T do this with ivory as you can corrupt the glue joint that holds down the ivory. Don't use alcohol on plastic keys as they can crack. Both bleach (peroxide for instance) and alcohol can be used (not together please!) on the polyester surface (shiny black and satin black but NOT on lacquered surfaces). But as always test on a surface first to confirm compatibility. Make sure the moisture does not go beyond the surface you are cleaning.

Going further, let the surface/instrument rest for a few days to ensure that the virus is no longer active. This is pretty easy to do in the church setting as most of us are single players on one instrument. Keep a log of players when multiple players are present. Wash your hands going in and wash going out and DON'T LICK YOUR fingers to turn pages!

While we can't know if ANYTHING is 100% effective the above will increase our chances for success.

Mike Reiter, Sub-Dean

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## 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.

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## ONCARD MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal reminders have been e-mailed from our national office in New York. Check your e-mail for the letter in case you missed it. The procedure for payment is clearly explained in the e-mail. Payment can be made by credit or debit card online. If you have questions, or need assistance, you can call (212) 870 - 2310 and they will help you with the process.

If you are more comfortable sending a check, it can be sent by mail to:  
American Guild of Organists  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260  
New York, NY 10115

Please note that the check should be made out to the American Guild of Organists, NOT the Eugene Chapter.

Current member categories are: Regular Member (\$105), Young Organists (\$50), Special, 65 and older (\$80). Chapter Friends are \$35. All members receive The American Organist magazine by default. If you wish to opt out of receiving the paper copy by mail, you can do so by indicating ... and save \$8. The magazine can be read on-line at: <https://www.agohq.org/current-issue/>

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## 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](http://www.pipedreams.publicradio.org).



# AGO ORGANFEST 2020

*beauty in the  
midst of chaos*

**JULY 20-24, 8 PM EASTERN**



*American Guild of*  
**ORGANISTS**

The American Guild of Organists is thrilled to announce the first online OrganFest, which will take place July 20-24. Each evening's broadcast will premiere a new work which had been commissioned for the 2020 National Convention in Atlanta, accompanied by interviews with the composers.

The daily YouTube premiere (8pm Eastern/5pm Pacific) and accompanying Festival website will be available at no charge.

OrganFest 2020 promises to be an exciting way to showcase our beloved instrument and the great work of the AGO. While we are saddened by the cancellation of many musical events this spring and summer, including the National Convention in Atlanta, we look forward to celebrating the future of organ music together online.

For more information, visit: <https://agoorganfest2020.org/>

Monday, July 21

June Nixon; **Intrada-St Anne**

Jens Korndörfer, organ

Stuart Stephenson and Michael Tiscoine, trumpet

First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta

Tuesday, July 22

Brenda Portman; **Prelude and Tarantelle**

Amanda Mole, organ

St Malachy's (The Actor's Chapel), New York City

Wednesday, July 23

David Briggs; **Passacaglia Chromatique**

Thomas Ospital, organ

Église Saint-Eustache, Paris

Thursday, July 24

Joel Peters; **Eine Wolke Nahm Ihn Weg**

Catherine Rodland, organ

Boe Memorial Chapel, St Olaf College, Northfield MN

Friday, July 25

Rachel Laurin; **Mr. Mistoffelees Overture**

Alan Morrison, organ

2020 St. Cecilia Recitalist

St Mark's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia