



MIXTURES Newsletter

Volume 94, Issue 1, Fall Edition, September 23, 2023

A periodic publication of the Fort Worth Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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From Dean Peggy Graff



Happy Fall, Colleagues and Friends!

As we begin a new chapter season, I hope you will consider attending some or all of the wonderful programs we have planned for you, beginning this Saturday, September 23 at 4 pm with the Jens Korndörfer organ recital at Broadway Baptist Church! From time to time, we organists need motivation to keep us going strong in our daily and weekly responsibilities. Making decisions for service repertoire such as preludes, postludes, offertories, communion music, anthem accompaniments, and hymns takes time, and practicing takes even more time! Fifty-two weeks of this, plus playing for multiple Christmas Eve services, Easter, and Holy Week (did I miss something?) can take a lot out of you, even though it is fulfilling. Have you taken a Sunday off lately? Well, if not, consider

doing it from time to time – and relish it! Our website includes an organ substitute list, and Dr. Beverly Howard, Placement and Substitute Coordinator, can help you in this area. So, make plans for that getaway and enjoy! No guilt!

“Before anything else, preparation is the key to success.” — Alexander Graham Bell

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” — Theodore Roosevelt

“You’ve got to get up every morning with determination if you’re going to go to bed with satisfaction.”
— George Lorimer

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

“However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at.” — Stephen Hawking

“We must all learn not only to not fear change, but to embrace it enthusiastically and, perhaps even more important, encourage and drive it.” — Tony Hsieh

“When you do something beautiful and nobody noticed, do not be sad. For the sun, every morning, is a beautiful spectacle, and yet most of the audience still sleeps.” — John Lennon

HAVE A WONDERFUL FALL, COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

DR. DEVON HOWARD

Greetings FWAGO Friends and Colleagues!

As a college professor I have the unique opportunity to be on the front line of the seemingly out-of-nowhere world of ChatGPT and various other AI advancements. I chose to address it head-on this semester by assigning every class, no matter the subject matter, a ChatGPT project in the first class period. My initial goal was to teach them about using it as a tool rather than a crutch, but I was surprised at how much unexpected learning and conversation was achieved through the experience.

And so, as I pondered this article for our Fall newsletter I decided to see what AI thought about the instrument we each love so dearly. Following is what ChatGPT 3.5 generated with this prompt: Explain why its great to be an organist

Being an organist can be a highly rewarding and fulfilling profession or hobby for many reasons. Here are some of the reasons why it's great to be an organist:

- 1. Musical Expression:** *Playing the organ allows for a wide range of musical expression. The organ is known for its versatility, capable of producing a vast array of sounds and tones. As an organist, you have the opportunity to explore different musical styles, from classical to contemporary, and create beautiful music.*
- 2. Spiritual Connection:** *Many organs are located in churches and religious institutions, and playing the organ can be a deeply spiritual experience. It allows you to contribute to the worship experience and connect with the congregation or audience on a spiritual level.*
- 3. Challenging Instrument:** *The organ is often considered one of the most challenging musical instruments to master. It requires precise coordination of hands and feet, as well as a deep understanding of music theory and composition. Overcoming these challenges can be highly satisfying.*
- 4. Preservation of Tradition:** *The organ has a rich history dating back centuries. By becoming an organist, you contribute to the preservation of a valuable musical tradition. You have the opportunity to perform pieces by famous composers from different eras and keep their music alive.*
- 5. Community Involvement:** *If you play in a church or community setting, you become an integral part of your local community. You provide music for special events, ceremonies, and celebrations, making a positive impact on the lives of others through your talent.*
- 6. Instrumental Mastery:** *Learning to play the organ can lead to a high level of instrumental mastery. You'll develop exceptional hand and foot coordination, which can also benefit your overall musical abilities if you play other instruments.*
- 7. Personal Fulfillment:** *Playing the organ can be a deeply satisfying and personally fulfilling experience. It allows you to express your creativity and emotions through music, which can be a source of joy and a means of stress relief.*

8. Career Opportunities: *If you choose to pursue a career as an organist, there are various opportunities available. You can work as a church organist, concert organist, or even become an organ teacher. Some organists also compose their own music.*

9. Continuous Learning: *The world of organ music is vast, and there is always something new to learn. Whether it's mastering a challenging piece, exploring different registrations (sound combinations), or delving into the history of the instrument, being an organist offers continuous opportunities for growth and learning.*

10. Impactful Performances: *Playing the organ in a concert setting can be incredibly impactful. The instrument's grandeur and power can leave a lasting impression on audiences, making your performances memorable and emotionally resonant.*

In conclusion, being an organist offers a unique and rewarding musical journey. It allows for personal growth, artistic expression, and the opportunity to connect with others through the beauty of music. Whether you play for personal enjoyment or as a profession, the world of organ music is rich and fulfilling.

What an incredibly comprehensive and concise expression of exactly the things I love about the organ and being an organist!

As we head into the Fall and the various upcoming programs, I especially resonate with the conclusion in the following regard: our chapter is blessed with many interesting and vibrant opportunities to experience great music and community with people that love the organ as much as you do. This season is no exception! I believe you will find each of the events to be rich and fulfilling experiences!

***Plan to attend, plan to invite, plan to enjoy!
See you each soon!***

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS
FORT WORTH CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
2023-2024

JENS KORNDÖRFER
4 PM | BROADWAY BAPTIST
SEP 23

HYMN FESTIVAL
WITH DR. KAREN KENASTON-FRENCH
3 PM | FUMC DOWNTOWN
OCT 08

SILENT MOVIE
WITH PETER EDWIN KRASINSKI
7 PM | FIRST PRES DOWNTOWN
NOV 17

DAVID HIGGS
7 PM | ED LANDRETH AUDITORIUM
JAN 26

OPEN CONSOLE
7 PM | ST STEPHEN PRES
FEB 09

MARSHALL JOOS
7 PM | ST STEPHEN PRES
MAY 03

For more info visit
www.fortworthago.org

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT



Organ in the Night

Friday, November 10, 8 pm

St. Stephen Presbyterian Church

Bring a blanket, pillow, or beanbag and find a place to sit back or lay down, and relax for a while. Jordan Smith will perform an eclectic program of recently composed repertoire, including music from the movie *Interstellar*, and organ covers of other familiar songs. Sit back and enjoy the sky projections on the ceiling and tower, and hear and feel the sanctuary organ in its final concert until its rededication in the spring.

\$10 Suggested Donation

A Note from the Chapter's Webmaster....

Greetings!

I was asked by our Dean, Peggy Graff, to write an introduction to our chapter website (**fortworthago.org**) for those who have not used it, or may not even be aware that it exists!

The **Home** page features a slideshow of instruments in and around Fort Worth, basic information about joining the Guild, and the next few upcoming chapter-sponsored events.

About Us lists members of our Executive Committee, and their email addresses.

FWAGO Sponsored Events is where you will find detailed information (dates, times, locations, descriptions) on our complete concert season. When we are asked to publicize event information for external organizations, those appear on a separate **Community Music Events** page.

William E. Hayes Scholarship Program contains information about our organ scholar program, which was created in 2017 in memory of chapter member and former treasurer, Will Hayes. Scholarship procedures and application forms can be found here.

Archived issues of our chapter newsletter can be found on the **Mixtures Newsletter** page.

Under the **Resources** tab are several pages, including:

- A link to **AGOHQ.org**
- Information on the AGO Certification program
- Our current list of chapter-approved substitute organists and choir directors
- Area job vacancies which the chapter has been asked to publicize
- A list of instruments played by chapter members
- Information on Fort Worth pipe organ builders and service companies
- Electronic organ resources

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you as you navigate our site.

Andy Rose
Director (Class of '22 - '26)
Webmaster



THANK YOU, DONORS !!!

With grateful thanks to our donors who support the mission of the Fort Worth Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. *(This list is for donations received for the calendar year 2023 as of September 18, 2023.)*

2025 SW AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION DONORS

(Listed alphabetically; donation tier levels not yet available.)

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Distinguished Benefactors (\$1000+): *Put your name here!*

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Sponsors (\$100-\$149): Peggy Graff, AAGO; Kyla Rosenberger, CAGO

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DONATIONS FOR CONCERT PROGRAMS

Distinguished Benefactors (\$1000+): Peggy Graff, AAGO; Anonymous Donor contributed a memorial gift of \$20,000

Benefactors (\$500-\$999): Dr. Burton H. Patterson, SPC

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MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

As of September 19, 2023, we have 138 paid members in our chapter (29 of these members have dual membership). Breakdown by membership category as follows:

- 58 Regular Members (17 dual membership)
- 63 Special Members (9 dual membership)
- 13 Young Organists (3 dual membership)
- 4 Chapter Friends

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please welcome our new members, we are happy to have them join our chapter!

Matthew McNeill who joined in July and is a dual member with the Dallas Chapter.

Felix Ping, who is the recipient of the William E. Hayes Scholarship

Shina Heo, who joined our chapter this month.

(Reported by Dana Chavarria, CAGO, Membership Committee Chair/ONCARD Database Administrator)

Chapter Financial Report as of August 31, 2023

Total Assets: \$98,884.48

Total Liabilities \$1,450.00

Net Worth: \$97,434.48

A BIG thank you to members for their generous donations. (See list of donors toward the end of this newsletter.) As of September 18, 2023, the donations for calendar year 2023 totaled:

\$23,588.00 Chapter Events (includes a non-member memorial gift of \$20,000.00)

\$3,255.00 2025 SW AGO Regional Convention

\$495.00 William E. Hayes Scholarship Project

\$27,338.00 TOTAL DONATIONS (January 1, 2023- September 18, 2023)

(Respectively submitted by Elizabeth A. Kutz, CAGO, Treasurer)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Elected Positions as of July 1, 2022)

OFFICERS (2-year term expire June 30, 2024)

Dean	Peggy Graff, AAGO	pgraff@myfumc.org
Sub-Dean	Dr. Devon Howard	devonhoward@mac.com
Interim Recording Secretary	Dana Chavarria, CAGO	romans10dmr@gmail.com
Interim Editorial Secretary	Dana Chavarria, CAGO	romans10dmr@gmail.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Kutz, CAGO	flutepipe@gmail.com

DIRECTORS (MEMBERS AT LARGE) Divided into 2 classes on staggered 4 year terms

CLASS A (4-year term expire June 30, 2024)

Director Position	Dana Chavarria, CAGO	romans10dmr@gmail.com
Director Position	Echo Wilson, SPC	fwagocomms1ewilson@gmail.com
Director Position	Dennis Opferman	dcopferman@yahoo.com

CLASS B (4-year term expires June 30, 2026)

Director Position	Joshua Lang	joshua.lang@tcu.edu
Director Position	Aaron Walton, SPC	theaaron.walton@gmail.com
Director Position	Andy Rose	arose@myfumc.org

STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES - Appointed Committee Chairs and Appointed Members

Chaplain	The Rev. Raymond McDaniel	raymcd07@yahoo.com
Communications	Echo Wilson, SPC	fwagocomms1ewilson@gmail.com
Email Administrator	Echo Wilson, SPC	fwagocomms1ewilson@gmail.com
Social Media Coordinator	Alissa Brewer, SPC	alissad74@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Andy Rose	arose@myfumc.org
Courtesy	Glenda Robinson, CAGO	glendaprobinsont@sbcglobal.net
Finance	Elizabeth Kutz, CAGO	flutepipe@gmail.com
Deputy Treasurer	Ed Ackermann, CAGO	ackermannstudio@sbcglobal.net
Historian	Ed Ackermann, CAGO	ackermannstudio@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Dana Chavarria, CAGO	romans10dmr@gmail.com
ONCARD Chapter Administrator	Dana Chavarria, CAGO	romans10dmr@gmail.com
Placement & Substitutes	Dr. Beverly Howard	hymneditor@aol.com
Professional Development	Peggy Graff, AAGO	pgraff@myfumc.org
Certification Exam Coordinator	Peggy Graff, AAGO	pgraff@myfumc.org
Scholarship Administrator	Joshua Lang	joshua.lang@tcu.edu
Program	Dr. Devon Howard	devonhoward@mac.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chapter Website:	www.fortworthago.org
Chapter Facebook page:	Fort Worth Chapter, American Guild of Organists
AGO HQ website:	www.ago.org
Southwest AGO Region Facebook page:	AGO Southwest Region

Update your email contact list to make sure emails from the following are sent to your inbox and not your junk mail box:

AGO HQ:	renewals@agohq.org
Fort Worth Chapter:	fwagocomms1ewilson@gmail.com