



MIXTURES Newsletter

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The Dean's Corner – Peggy Graff, Dean

It's that time of year again! I hope you are doing well, staying healthy, and looking forward to a new year of possibilities. With that in mind, here are some quotes to consider for the coming year:

“Every year you make a resolution to change yourself. This year, make a resolution to be yourself!”

“I hope you realize that every day is a fresh start for you – that every sunrise is a new chapter waiting to be written.”

“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year.”

“Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each day.”

“You can get excited about the future – the past won't mind.”

The future **IS** an exciting time for our chapter! In this newsletter, you will hear from our Sub-Dean, Dr. Devon Howard, about the upcoming programs being planned. In addition to those offerings, FW-AGO has been invited to host the 2023 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists (RCYO) on Saturday, April 15, 2023. Young organists ages 18-22 (born after December 31, 2000) will compete in this competition. Our members will be encouraged to attend this competition to hear the various organ repertoire being performed and to serve as singers in the “audience” as a hymn is introduced and led by each organist. More information about this competition will be given soon. The future of the organ world looks hopeful with young people stepping up with the support and encouragement of their organ instructors and people like us.

All the best to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

DR. DEVON HOWARD

Greetings FWAGO Friends and Colleagues!

We find ourselves in another busy Christmas season with perhaps more than we bargained for lined-up this month. I hope that amidst all your own busy music making you'll have the opportunity to listen and enjoy someone else's musical offering as well. Being moved by music is a wonderful experience that is easily missed when you are the one usually making it!

As you look forward into the new year, please keep our upcoming chapter events in mind and on your calendars!

To start off the new year we are partnering with **Dr. Joseph Butler** and TCU to welcome **Richard Elliot** to town for a concert on **Friday, January 20th at 7:00 pm**. Elliot is the Principal Organist for the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah. His program features music of Bach, Franck, Duruflé and Widor, and will fully demonstrate the scope of the **Ed Landreth Auditorium** instrument. There will also be a reception following the program, and more information is available on the chapter website.

In February we have a wonderful opportunity to once again hear an outstanding local musician. **Dr. Eldred Marshall** will be presenting an concert of piano and organ music on the instruments of **St. Stephen Presbyterian** on **Friday, February 3rd at 7:00 pm**. The program will include music for organ by Black American composers as well as the stunning Beethoven Diabelli Variations on St. Stephen's recently restored concert Bösendorfer. You won't want to miss this unique and compelling program.

March is Women's History Month and our event will reflect this focus with a concert in partnership with the Boulanger Initiative and it's co-founder, **Joy-Leilani Garbutt**. This event will be **at 7:00 pm, Friday, March 10th at University Christian Church** on the campus of TCU. Joy will present a varied and interesting concert focused on the heritage of female composers for the organ. Learn more about Joy and the organization at <https://www.boulangerinitiative.org/>

I'm also very excited about our April and May events as well. On **Monday, April 17 at 7:00 pm Janet Pummill, Amy Stewart, and Sallie Pollack** will present a program titled "Aspire.... Respire....Inspire" at **Broadway Baptist Church**, in which they will share what has inspired them to become organists, share ideas about self-care which allows them to continue in healthy states of mind, body, and spirit, and share some music that inspires them.

Finally we will wrap up the year on **Friday, May 5th at 7:00 pm** with **Peter Conte** in recital at **First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth**. Conte is an organist whose nearly unparalleled technical facility, brilliant ear for lush tonal color, and innovative programming style have made him one of the most sought-after "orchestral" organists of this era. We are excited to finally welcome him to Fort Worth after having to postpone this concert planned last year.

These concerts and events are designed for you! It's always a joy to spend time enjoying music with colleagues and friends, so please plan to attend. I'd also like to encourage you to bring friends, colleagues and family members along with you. There is something for everyone this season, and every opportunity is a good opportunity to introduce new listeners to the instrument we love!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Devon Howard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

As of December 14, 2022, we have 149 paid members in our chapter (32 of these members have dual membership). Break-down by membership category as follows:

- 4 Chapter Friends
- 62 Regular Members (32 dual memberships)
- 62 Special Members (8 dual memberships)
- 21 Young Organists (6 dual memberships)

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBER, GABRIEL SEQUEIRA-BACHER!

We are thrilled to welcome Young Organist, Gabriel Sequeira-Bacher who transferred his membership from Vermont and joined us in September.



Gabriel Sequeira-Bacher joined the Vermont chapter of the AGO in 2022. A native of Montpelier, Vermont, he grew up immersed in the arts. While studying at Berklee College of Music for guitar, he discovered the Chopin Etudes and shifted his focus to piano. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Castleton University, where he majored in Music Performance (piano). He began studying organ with Vaughn Watson in 2020. In December of 2021, he became the organist at St. John's in the Mountains Episcopal church in Stowe, VT. He remained in this role until leaving the state in August 2022. He wants to become a Software Engineer and hopes to continue playing the organ in church. He moved to Texas in August 2022 and intends to join the Fort Worth chapter of the American Guild of Organists and stay involved.

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

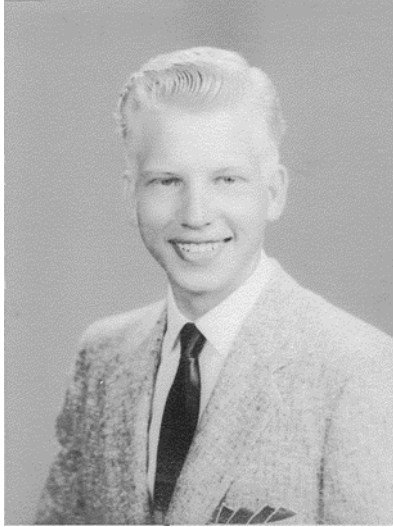
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

On the Third Sunday of Advent (December 11th), one of our organ scholars, **Thatcher Nelson**, performed his first prelude in church. He played a piece on the tune *Psalm 42* at All Saints Episcopal Church (Crestline), where **Josh Lang** is organist and his teacher. The FWAGO is proud to see how he is progressing at the console of the king of instruments. Great job Thatcher!

Joshua Lang, Scholarship Administrator



CHANGES IN APPOINTED CHAPTER STAFF POSTIONS



Fort Worth AGO chapter member **Ed Ackerman, CAGO**, has served our chapter tirelessly in many areas of leadership for well over a decade. He has become *THE FACE of the FWAGO* with his knowledge of “all things Guild,” his resourcefulness, enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to helping people.

Ed has decided to retire from three of his Executive Committee positions, but he will continue to serve as Deputy Treasurer and act as an advisor for our Executive Team. He plans to enjoy more time for painting and creating other visual artwork - and for learning new organ repertoire. Please join me in thanking Ed for his years of service and dedication to our chapter!

Applause, applause!

These chapter members have agreed to serve in the following positions held previously by Ed (shown above at the age of 18):

Echo Wilson, SPC – Communications Committee Chair

Echo Wilson, SPC – Email Administrator

Captain Dana Chavarria, CAGO – Membership Chair and ONCARD Administrator

Another newly filled vacancy is **Placement and Substitutes Administrator. Dale Bench, CAGO**, former Fort Worth AGO Dean, and **Dr. Linton Powell** have faithfully worked in this capacity for years, and they are also to be acknowledged for their good work. **Dr. Beverly Howard** will now assume that responsibility.

Thank you to all who have stepped up in leadership - you are appreciated beyond words!

Peggy Graff, Dean

TREASURER’S REPORT

As of close of bookkeeping on November 30, 2022, the chapter’s cash assets were:

Bank Checking Account	
- Unrestricted Funds	26,483.51
- Restricted Funds for Scholarship Program use only	10,337.35
(Currently supporting two scholars: Peter Gresser and Thatcher Nelson)	
Bank Savings Account	47,730.31
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	84,951.17

New Church, New Organ for our Chapter Chaplain St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, Flower Mound



(Photograph compliments of www.stphilipcc.org)

(Photograph compliments of www.stphilipcc.org)

Fr. Raymond McDaniel, (also an organist), who serves as our chapter’s chaplain, has a new church campus and a new Casavant pipe organ on the way! The Fort Worth Catholic diocese set the wheels in motion some years ago to expand St. Philip’s parish based in Lewisville by authorizing purchase of 40 acres of land in Flower Mound for a campus large enough to serve the growing Catholic population in the area. Now a magnificent cathedral-like building dominates the countryside as the first phase of a multiphase campus construction project. The photo above shows the existing building with its bell tower (cast bronze bells planned). The present nave will be doubled in length when the construction plan is completed.

Dr. Katherine Schmitz, a member of our chapter, is the organist and music director. Fr. Ray and Katherine recently visited the Casavant Frères factory in Canada to view the progress of the new instrument. Phase 1 of the installation begins in January, 2023, and will include a two-manual console and the Grand Orgue/Recit/Pedale divisions (49 ranks). When the nave is expanded, the organ will also be expanded with additional pipes and will have a four-manual console.

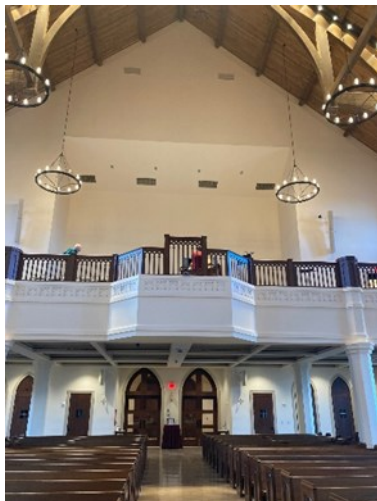


Fr. McDaniel and Dr. Schmitz at the Casavant factory

Currently the expansive choir loft houses an electronic organ using Hauptwerk as its operating platform with a virtual Casavant pipe organ (a sample set containing a recording of every pipe in an existing Casavant installation). Danny Brooke, owner of Voce Instruments, LLC (www.voceinstruments.com), in Austin, Texas, installed the instrument under a rental agreement. The cavernous sanctuary makes that temporary installation sound very convincing, so all are excited about how great the “real” Casavant will sound.

Shown below are photographs taken during a recent visit with Dr. Schmitz by chapter members **Ed Ackermann, CAGO** (organist & music director for St. Barnabas Anglican Church in north Fort Worth), **Dale Bench, CAGO** (organist at Ridglea Presbyterian Church in southwest Fort Worth), and **Daniel Mang** (assistant organist at St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic Church).

The huge rear gallery



Temporary terra cotta wall pending extending the nave



Dr. Schmitz at the Hauptwerk organ

(Article and photographs of church interior by Ed Ackermann, CAGO.)



Thank you, Donors!

With grateful thanks to our donors who support the mission of the Fort Worth Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Membership dues only partially fund the chapter's year, so donations are much appreciated. (This list is for donations received for calendar year 2022 as documented in the AGO ONCARD national membership database on December 13, 2022. Donations made through ONCARD after December 1, 2022 may not yet be processed and documented.) To donate, log on to ONCARD and on menu select "Contributions;" scroll down to Fort Worth Chapter and select Concert Programs or Scholarship, or both! Or mail a check payable to Fort Worth AGO Chapter to our treasurer, Elizabeth Kutz, CAGO, 1201 Calico Lane #2012, Arlington, TX 76011-8812.

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

OFFICERS (2 year terms expire 30 Jun 2024)

Dean	Peggy Graff, AAGO	pgraff@myfumc.org
Sub-Dean	Devon Howard, DMA	devonhoward@mac.com
Secretary	Ken Surley, CAGO	kensurley@aol.com
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Director Position	Dennis Opferman	dcopferman@yahoo.com

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

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