

## **SPOKANE CHAPTER AGO NEWSLETTER**

**December, 2017**

Advent is here! And with the coming of Advent, Christmas is not far away. It's a busy season for us all, but perhaps we can take some time away from all of our activities to relax and breathe deeply and ponder the true significance of this time for us. And hopefully we also can take some time to participate in a couple of AGO seasonal activities.

### **CHRISTMAS CAROL WALK**

On December 26 this year we will be offering the fourth annual Christmas Carol Walk. This has been a popular thing in the past and gives us a chance to perhaps sing some carols we had to play for or were too busy to enjoy and also to hear and sing some new carols. It will start at the New Community Church (formerly Central United Methodist) at 2:00 p.m. on the 26th. Free parking has been arranged for under the freeway behind McDonald's. From there we move to Westminster Congregational at 2:45 and then end up at Central Lutheran at 3:30, followed by holiday refreshments. These are all within walking distance; so the parking under the freeway is a great place to be centrally parked for all three churches.

We need people to bring Christmas cookies for our refreshment time at Central Lutheran. If you can do so, we'd appreciate your bringing them with you, plated and ready to serve, when you come to Central Lutheran between 3:15 and 3:30 that day.

If any of you would like to play for a carol or two or provide a Christmas prelude at one of these churches, please give Carolyn Payne a call (509-535-7145) by Monday, December 11. We have some organists lined up already, but we can certainly accommodate additional persons who would like to play.

### **EPIPHANY PARTY**

Carla and Vince Roland have once again graciously invited us to their home for our annual Epiphany Party. It will be on Friday evening, January 5, starting at 6:30 p.m. Their address is 4019 S. Suncrest Dr., Veradale, 99037. It will be a potluck, and Vince asks that we bring the food we usually bring because it always works out. If you've never attended before, bring something to share and it will be fine. If you need directions, you can call Vince or Carla at 509-927-8365 or email Vince at vince\_roland@WVandCWroland.com and Vince has printed-out directions he can send you. Our Epiphany Party has always been a lot of good fun and fellowship in the past, and we look forward to seeing everybody on January 5 for more of the same.

**ORGAN ACADEMY** (submitted by Carolyn Payne)

OUR AGO CHAPTER HAS AN EXCITING CHALLENGE! GET ON BOARD OR, MORE ACCURATELY, "GET ON THE BENCH!"

PROBLEM FACING THE AGO: HOW DO WE FIND ORGAN STUDENTS TO KEEP THE ORGAN DIVISION OF MUSICFEST NORTHWEST GOING?

One of the goals of the American Guild of Organists has always been to promote the organ and to support students in their study of the organ. Each year this goal has been reviewed by the Board when programs are planned, and we always come up against the "missing link" of how to reach prospective organ students. What program or project could we use? We had some money left over from the Regional Convention hosted here in 1999 which was earmarked for scholarships or some other project for students. We have used some of that for bringing recitalists here to play and have given some scholarship money to students in the past, but the REALITY is that we just don't have many organ students who are interested.

WE HAVE BEEN GIFTED WITH A SOLUTION. Raney Close, a Musicfest board member and former homeschool mother/teacher, is offering to promote, organize, coordinate, and serve as registrar for what she is calling a Winter Organ Academy. With her connections to other homeschool parents and students and active promotion with music teachers, churches, and others, she is proposing that an eight-lesson introduction to the organ be offered to interested students ages 12-20 who have some piano proficiency. We hope they will "get hooked" and want to continue lessons. If not, they will have learned something wonderful about organs and tried it out.

THIS IS HOW IT WILL WORK: Registration will be from now through January 20, 2018. On some Saturday morning on or following January 20, registered students, their parents, teachers, and volunteers who will assist with practice sessions will attend an orientation -- a casual time to welcome the students, let them listen, observe, and maybe try out the organ, themselves. Lesson and practice times will be worked out between the students and teachers. Each student will pay a total of \$75, and \$50 will be added by the Registrar, if the teacher requests. This will be somewhat a volunteer project for those who are willing to take it on. The immediate goal is to prepare these students to play in Musicfest this May, if they wish. Prior to Musicfest they will be presented in a recital. Raney already has two interested students from Deer Park and one from Coeur d'Alene.

WHAT OUR AGO CHAPTER IS BEING ASKED TO DO: We will need to provide teachers, volunteers who could assist at group practice sessions, and churches with organs where lessons and practice times are available. Homeschoolers are available during the day. Kids have crazy schedules these days; so flexible times may need to be arranged. Strict expectations regarding time for practice may also need some flexibility. The AGO Board has tried to ask good questions and look at this from every angle. We feel very excited about trying this as an ambitious but very doable project for winter/spring. John Bodinger has agreed to help at the recital, and Janet Ahrend has agreed to teach and to prepare teaching materials for others who will be teaching so that there will be some consistency. The Board has begun making lists of possible churches for lessons/practice, teachers, and volunteers to assist at practice. Questions? Call a Board member.

WHAT WILL YOU OFFER TO DO TO HELP? Please call or email Carolyn at 509-535-7145 or [the.paynes@comcast.net](mailto:the.paynes@comcast.net).

Flyer for the Academy is attached at the end of the newsletter.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We have a number of new members that we would like to welcome to our chapter. They are Mark Bassett, Spokane; Stan McDaniel, Spokane; Ian Northcott, Hamilton, MT; Drew Olsen, Spokane Valley; Elizabeth Robinson, Spokane Valley; and Deanne Stevenson, Medical Lake. We are glad you have decided to be a part of us and hope you will find it rewarding. We also hope to see you at the Christmas Carol Walk and the Epiphany Party so we can personally welcome you and put faces with names.

**LET US KNOW**

If you're involved in some type of musical program at your church or otherwise, if you'd let me know (idbyrlc@gmail.com) I can include notice of that in our newsletter. We need to support other members in their endeavors, and we can do that only if we know about them.

**BOARD MEETINGS**

I have been remiss in not informing the membership about Board meetings, and I apologize for that. All members are invited to attend our Board meetings, whether for just information purposes or to bring a concern before the Board. We have been having potluck brunch meetings on Saturday mornings at Carolyn Payne's home. The next one is scheduled for January 27, 9:00 a.m. All are invited.

**POSITION AVAILABLE**

Christ the King Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) in Coeur d'Alene has an organist position available. It involves playing at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. and the Sunday 8:30 a.m. services, both traditional. It is an electronic organ. Contact Darryl Anderson at music@ctkcda.com or 208-774-3669 for further information.

Wishing you a most fruitful and meaningful Advent and Christmas season.

Byrl Cinnamon, Dean



American Guild of Organists Spokane Chapter Presents  
**2018 Winter Organ Academy**

for Students Ages 12-20

Quality Organ Instruction for Students of Piano

**Program Highlights:**

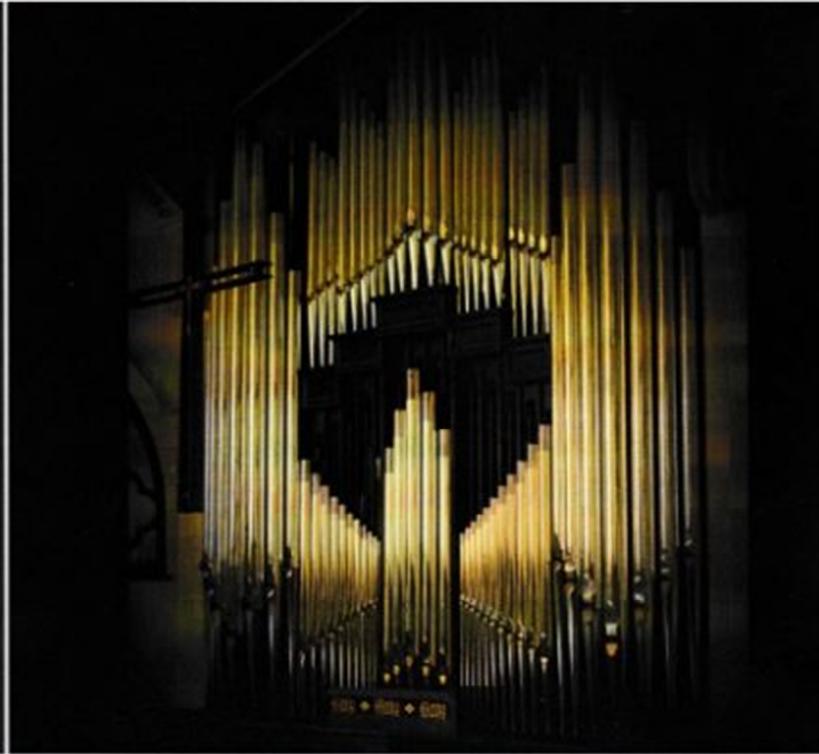
- 8 flexible, private lessons
- Culminating student and faculty recital
- Opportunity to perform in MusicFest at St. John's Cathedral, May 15, 2018 featuring Dr. Gordon Turk, Adjudicator

**Academy Requirements:**

Piano students must be playing at the level of Anna Magdalena Bach or above and must be between the ages of 12-20.

Space is limited!

**Organ Academy  
Cost: \$75.00**



**Guest Faculty Include:**



Dr. Janet Satre Ahrend



Dr. John Bodinger

Underwritten in part by:

*Musicfest*  
NORTHWEST

**Open Registration Dec. 1, 2017 - Jan. 20, 2018**

Call or email Academy Registrar, Raney Close  
at 509-624-2980 or [williamclose@comcast.net](mailto:williamclose@comcast.net)