



**Low Country Chapter
Officers**

Dr. Jason A. Wright
Dean

Dr. Pamela Kane
Sub-Dean

Greg Hollinger
Secretary & Treasurer

Gil Campbell
Member at Large, '21

Geoff Borgelt
Member at Large, '22

Jeffrey Harbin
Member at Large, '23

**The Rev. Denise A.
Trodon**
Chaplain

Nicholas Ruden
Director of Media
& Publication

Beth Corry
Director of Marketing

July 2020 Pipings



from the Dean, Dr. Jason A. Wright

Dear Colleagues & Friends,

As I was contemplating on what to write about in this month's newsletter, a friend of mine reposted an article from June 2018 entitled, *Music: The Great Unifier* by Paul Pellingier. The article, even though written in 2018, is still valid today. Paul speaks to the current political climate, deep-rooted cultural differences, and a variety of other factors that force

us to pick sides. Even though our country and the world seem divided as musicians we know that music has the power to unify. Music is both everywhere and for everyone. For centuries music has the ability to cross political and cultural boundaries. If we look back into music history, many compositions were written in response to current events. Music has the power to uplift, to bring joy in times of sorrow, to aid in celebrating something new or old, the power to heal, and the power to cause us to think. As musicians, as organists, may our music bring about and promote unification of all people, regardless of what all that divides us. And, as we celebrate Independence Day, let us always be thankful for the freedoms we have that others do not.

Stay well & safe!
JAW

Chapter Business:

Your Chapter Officers have been working hard to create an engaging series of programs and events for 2020/2021. Once we gain venue permissions, we will publish all of our program in our August Pipings and on our website and Facebook account. As we prepare for this coming season, please know that as a Guild we are fully committed to following the guidelines put forth by the CDC, SC-DHEC, the Hilton Head, Bluffton, and Beaufort Chamber of Commerce, and the individual policies of each venue we will use as they relate to COVID-19. We have devised our fall programming to be either in-person or easily moved online. Safety and health are key to all.

A task that I have taken on for July is to reach out to each member who is new, has a lapsed membership, or who is still a member but has become inactive. The board and I want to encourage non-organists who love the instrument to join our Guild as well. Additionally, the Chaplain and I will work together to encourage clergy in our region to support their musician by joining the Guild.



from the Sub-Dean, Dr. Pamela Kane

If you haven't yet done so, I strongly recommend that you watch the PBS documentary "Pipe Dreams" in which 5 young organists are shadowed in their quest to win the grand prize at the Canadian International Organ Competition (<https://www.pbs.org/video/pipe-dreams-jwxf1q/>). While I don't want to be a spoiler by telling you who won the competition I will say that the winner's story is most remarkable in that he grew up without financial means to take organ lessons but was so inspired by watching Hazel Wright play in the *Hour of Power* that he would pull out his little portable keyboard and start playing along. He ultimately called around to all of the local churches to ask if their organists would take him on as a student.

Having myself made it to the semi-final round of an international organ competition (University of Michigan International Organ Competition in the 1980's) I not only watched the program, but relived the rigorous practice schedule, exercise/diet routine, and anxiety that these young people were enduring. Without a goal of a recital, competition, or even a reason to practice a challenging postlude for these past months of co-vid, the PBS special served as the fire I so desperately needed to get back on track. Seeing that I am way over the age of a competition candidate and not scheduled to do a major recital in the near future, I decided that it was my time to step into the role of mentor and teacher and hopefully be "Hazel Wright" to a youngster who in the future will win an international organ competition. Who knows? Maybe this youngster will come from our Lowcountry Chapter!

This morning I completed my first installment of a four-part mini-series on my Youtube channel called "Get 'Organ'ized With Dr. Kane" in which I tell the audience about rudimentary aspects of the instrument and then play Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D minor." I had such fun doing it and look forward to the next three installments. Let me know your thoughts on topics/repertoire that you think would be interesting for lay people and email them to me: pkane@sgg.cc. I would also enjoy discussing "Pipe Dreams" with you.

Pam Kane, Sub-Dean



from the Director of Publication, Nicholas Ruden

Website:

Check out our website www.lccago.org. There you will find a new welcome video from our Dean and updated pictures of organs throughout our Chapter.

Community Music Event Calendar:

If you are a member of the Guild, you may advertise music events at your church for free on this calendar <https://www.lccago.org/community-calendar>. Please send those listings to lowcountryago@gmail.com.

Facebook & Instagram:

We are in the process of revamping our entire online presence including a fresh new Facebook page and an Instagram account. Look for more information in our August Pipings.

Newsletters:

To read both current and past Pipings newsletters, please click on this link.

<https://www.lccago.org/newsletter>

Member Login Area:

Under the Membership login area, you will find both the 2020/2019 Directory & each month's board minutes. The member password is 20AGO20.

Read the TAO Online



The American Organist Magazine (TAO), published monthly by the AGO, is the most widely read journal devoted to organ and choral music in the world. It is the official journal of the American Guild of Organists and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America.

Only current AGO members and subscribers can read TAO online. Click on a cover below and when prompted, enter the same username and password that you use to log into ONCARD.

New: Click on the title of the article you would like to read. A large-type version of the article will appear next to the article.

You can also download the issue as a PDF. After logging in, move your cursor to the top of the screen to reveal a blue banner. Click the downward arrow in the blue banner to save the issue as a pdf. Then use the + or - signs in the lower right corner to adjust the font size.

New: [Read TAO without Adobe Flash](#) (not all issues are

Membership

If you have questions about your membership, need to renew your membership, or change information as it is listed on ONCARD, please click one of the links below to be directed to the AGO National website.

[Do you have a question about your membership?](#)

[Membership Overview](#)

[Compare Membership Types](#)

[Renew Your Dues \(ONCARD Login\)](#)

[Join as a Chapter member](#)

[Join as an Independent Member](#)

[Join as a Subscriber](#)

AGO OrganFest 2020

A yellow banner for AGO OrganFest 2020. On the left is a colorful fan-shaped graphic of overlapping petals in shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. The text 'AGO ORGANFEST 2020' is in large, bold, multi-colored letters. Below it is the tagline 'beauty in the midst of chaos' in a gold script font. At the bottom left of the banner is the date and time 'JULY 20-24, 8 PM EASTERN'. On the right side of the banner is the AGO logo, which features a shield with a keyboard and the text 'AGO American Guild of ORGANISTS'. In the top right corner of the banner, there is a small Facebook icon and the website address 'agoorganfest2020.org'.

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.

Featured performers will be Jens Korndörfer, Amanda Mole, Alan Morrison, Thomas Ospital, and Catherine Rodland. Additional recorded performances by recent international organ competition winners will be presented, and short presentations will share exciting news and updates from the AGO.

The daily YouTube premiere (8pm Eastern) 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. Please share this information widely with your music-loving friends.

While we are saddened by the cancellation of many musical events this spring and summer, including our National Convention in Atlanta, we look forward to celebrating the future of organ music together online next month.

AGO Codes & Procedures

The AGO has issued a statement with regard to Black Lives Matters, it can be found at <https://www.agohq.org/ago-affirms-that-black-lives-matter/>. The AGO calls each of its members to review the Code of Ethics and Procedures policies as they relate to ethics, professional standards, discipline, dispute, harassment, and sexual harassment. By clicking on the PDF tap, it will take you to an online PDF document for each.



Code of Ethics



Code of Professional Standards



Discipline



Alternate Dispute Resolution



American Guild of Organists' Policy Against Harassment



AGO Discipline in Cases Regarding Sexual Harassment

Singing & COVID-19

Currently, researchers at the University of Colorado and the University of Maryland are studying the rate of aerosol transmission through singing, playing instruments, and acting, and are measuring the effects of such transmissions on the spread of COVID-19. The study is the first of its kind and is financially supported by numerous arts organizations throughout the world.

Our national counterparts, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), have contributed to the study that will provide much needed

insight for those participating and teaching in the performing arts. The results from this study will be released in late July. Until then, we recommend the included response papers, position papers, and support resources provided by our organizations to help prepare and inform choral directors, K-12 school administrators, collegiate and professional conductors and administrators, community choirs, and places of worship.

Resources for Choral Music During COVID-19

[ACDA Advocacy page](#) issued by ACDA, as well as information on the University of Colorado and the University of Maryland study on aerosol rates.

[ACDA COVID-19 Response Committee Webinar](#) A review of the resources and guidelines in the [COVID-19 Response Committee Report](#), which outlines in-person, hybrid and online instructional models for classroom, community choirs, music in worship and collegiate settings. The document contains many resources, guidelines, and sample lesson plans.

ChorAmor <https://www.choramor.com> A coalition of conductors, teachers, and singers founded in the opening days of the 2020 COVID-19 epidemic in order to:

1. Continue rehearsing and performing together,
2. Provide resources and training for choral conductors, and
3. Provide advocacy for choral music.

This coalition opens the door to singing in the midst of difficult circumstances and provides resources for conductors, teachers, and students who need help finding their way in this new and challenging environment.