

# CNCC NEWSLETTER

*Oldest Chapter in the Carolinas*

*Chartered November 23, 1922*

Central North Carolina Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Raleigh, North Carolina

June 2020

## The Dean's Column

**D**ear Chapter Friends,

As we all consider how we go about beginning to worship together in the future, I have noticed that many churches have moved to offering video services on line. We have done this at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lumberton and it has garnered some real interest that has stretched outside our group of direct members. We are now considering continuing this practice even after we begin to meet in person again because of the fine response each week.

One of the things I know is on all our minds as church musicians is the subject of singing. Even after we return to in-person worship many experts feel that it will not be safe to sing publicly for a while to come. I thought I would share this study on the subject:

The Scientific Journal article below is reprinted by permission of Reuters News Service:

No singing in church for the time being — They are words the Rev. John Witvliet, an expert on Christian worship, never thought he would hear himself say.

“Based on the science that we are learning about this week, we are urging and I am personally urging extreme caution,” said Witvliet, director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in a Wednesday (May 13) interview.

“Singing together in congregations is a practice that we dearly love and are eager to promote, but loving our neighbor is job one here and so the time for fasting from this wonderful practice may be longer than any of us would like.”

His unprecedented words of warning come as religious leaders have received jarring predictions from scientists well-versed in virology as well as vocal practices. Webinars, videos and texts are circulating across the globe as scientists reveal their studies, and clergy must consider what to do with the results of those reports. Some church leaders aren't yet sure what to do when they reopen, others are designing multiphase plans, and still others are moving ahead with their traditional practices of praise.

But, more than halfway across the country, Dr. Howard Leibrand, public health officer for Skagit County, Washington, appears to be in Witvliet's amen corner.

“I would recommend that until we get a vaccine, we don't do congregational singing,” he said, adding that it is “the safest recommendation.”

Leibrand was one of the investigators of the coronavirus outbreak that spread through a local chorale that had been meeting in a Presbyterian church. He is an author of a report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that tracked the 61 people who attended the March 10 rehearsal with one symptomatic person. The report found that 87% of the group was confirmed to have COVID-19. Three members were hospitalized, and two of them died.

The report noted that, in addition to sitting next to each other, snack sharing, and stacking chairs after the rehearsal, the singing by chorale members could have led to infection via the transmitting of droplets.

(cont. pg. 3)

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## IN THIS ISSUE

The Dean's Column.....	1
Chapter Communications.....	2
Reciprocal Agreement with RCO.....	3
Hymn Society Conference.....	4
Scherzo Sketch.....	5
Available Positions.....	6



Our chapter has two funds to which you may donate: a chapter operating fund and a scholarship fund. All contributions beyond dues are tax-deductible.

We gratefully acknowledge the recent contributions from Jim Haynie, Tamara Lewis, Mac Pannill, and Jay Regenritter to the operating fund as well as contributions by Jim Haynie, Tamara Lewis, Lorraine Magnuson, and Mac Pannill to the Cooper-Miller Scholarship Fund.



## CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

*Newsletter* published monthly by the Central North Carolina Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Submission Deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> of preceding month. Submit items by email (preferred), phone, or mail to the Newsletter Editor.

Chapter Website: <http://cnccago.org/> Contact webmaster Andy Liepins (av8npa@gmail.com) for the members-only section password.

<https://www.facebook.com/cnccago/>

(Dean's Letter cont. from pg. 1)

"The act of singing, itself, contributed to transmission through emission of aerosols, which is affected by loudness of vocalization," it says.

"He also revealed to us that singing is right up there with coughing and sneezing in spreading this disease," he said in a May 1 video. "So I think it's very important for us, as different states and different governors are opening up society again, to be very careful and very deliberate in the way we go about reintroducing in-person worship."

For the time being at Trinity we can use soloists because our choir loft is far away enough from the congregation and faces away from congregational direct contact. I imagine that will be our answer for the short term. Soloists instead of choir. We are not looking at returning to in-person worship though until at least September depending upon the Covid-19 infection numbers. I suspect we may not sing together again until at least after Christmas this year.

In the mean time, I'm looking into many different types of programs for us as a chapter that will allow us to safely enjoy our instruments and our craft.

Thank all for the words of encouragement I've received.

Best,

Mark Andersen, Dean

## HANDS ACROSS THE POND

posted on May 27, 2020 by Tony Thurman AGO Director of Development and Communication

### AGO AND RCO ESTABLISH RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT--RCO PROVIDES FREE ACCESS TO iRCO WEB SITE

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the Royal College of Organists (RCO) have entered into a new reciprocal agreement that will benefit organists on both sides of the Atlantic. This expands membership benefits for both organizations by providing additional online resources during the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders.

During the UK's lockdown period, and at least until the end of June, the Royal College of Organists is generously giving everyone free access to iRCO, its outstanding website. The RCO, which operates without a national office, describes iRCO as, "the College's virtual campus – an online environment where members and guest users can explore and engage with a wide range of resources."

Launched in 2016 under the banner "the first stop for every organist," iRCO encompasses a broad mix of material and services. In a recent conversation with AGO Executive Director James Thomashower, RCO Chief Executive Andrew Parmley enumerated the range of resources available at the iRCO site which include educational materials, examination materials, films, "lockdown learning," webinars, and the RCO Journal. Many more such resources are currently being developed as part of the response to the lockdown.

Access to the iRCO is normally available only to dues paying members of the RCO. However, the RCO has offered to make available to all AGO members full access to the iRCO at a special discounted rate of £25 per year (approximately \$31) when the RCO reintroduces its pay wall. The AGO National Council warmly embraced this offer and in exchange will provide RCO members with access to the online edition of TAO for the same rate. The logistics necessary to achieve this collaboration are currently being studied pursuant to their implementation.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please renew your membership at <https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login/> or give the AGO office a call at 212-870-2310 to renew by phone. During this difficult time the AGO has extended a three-month grace period beyond your membership expiration to assist those whose livelihood has been impacted by COVID-19.

## FROM OUR TREASURER

Members who cannot or do not want to renew dues online, may call the main AGO line at 212-870-2310. If there is no one at that time answering the phone in the office, then they may call 212-870-2311 to reach a staff member working from home. The menu will list the extension to dial. Then renewal by credit card may be done by verbally giving the information over the phone.

*LEE HARRIS*

## THE HYMN SOCIETY'S ALL-DIGITAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Hymn Society in the US and Canada will hold their annual conference digitally this summer, July 12 - 16. Four evening song events during the conference will be free and open to the public through live streaming. In keeping with long-standing custom of The Hymn Society, these four events will celebrate the breadth and diversity of congregational song. Those will be available live on: Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thehymnsociety.org/>

or the YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiqQURBWQL8qGpvi-v\\_2clQ/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiqQURBWQL8qGpvi-v_2clQ/featured)

The Hymn Society gladly welcomes non-members to join in this exciting event. For more information and conference schedule, visit <https://thehymnsociety.org/event/>.

*LORRAINE MAGNUSON*

## SCHERZO SKETCH BY LEE HARRIS

(A LIGHT-HEARTED SNAPSHOT OF A MEMBER IN ANSWER TO  
RANDOM PROMPTS AND QUESTIONS, BOTH MUSICAL AND  
OTHERWISE)

Growing up in the mountain town of Bluefield, West Virginia, we seemed to find much to do besides hiking the mountains. I began my music studies with private piano in the 4th grade and by the 7th grade was playing violin, too. I was teased unmercifully carrying my violin to school since I had lessons right after dismissal at a nearby home. Being raised in a musical family, my siblings were always fussing with me about playing their assigned (and otherwise) piano music. I was bored, so I tackled theirs, too.

By Grade 10 I sang in the church choir, took private voice, still continued with piano at a nearby college and endured violin lessons. I was introduced to the organ in the 11th grade (age 16) by our Minister of Music and in the winter of my senior year had successfully auditioned for the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati.

The King of Instruments has captivated me ever since. I have the entire orchestra under my fingers!

There is such a wealth of wonderful music to explore and learn and among all the great hymns, "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended" is among my top favorite. That one will be at my memorial service.

To be specific about the organ itself, the stop I love is a well-voiced oboe. One that isn't sweet is an oboe that sounds like someone is dying in the chamber.

One one occasion when readying myself to play an organ/orchestra piece, I had a wardrobe malfunction. My sister had driven down from VA to visit and noticed I was in a panic. It was 20 minutes before the concert was to begin and the organ console was very visible on stage with the organist's back to the audience. Well, the wardrobe malfunction was a broken zipper in

the back of my slacks which would give those in attendance a full view of my undies and stand out like an elephant in a bathtub with black dress pants against a lighter background! You get the picture. My sister rushed to the department store nearby to see what she could find. She made it back with only 4 minutes to spare, dress slacks in hand!

Now, you'd suggest I could've pinned the pants! Yeah, right! Can you just imagine if one of those pins came undone and poked me in the rear? That would've been a thunderous organ concerto..... The concert went well although I was a little on edge.

This experience reminds me of the bat I spotted under the pedalboard in the middle of a funeral. Funny part was when the minister prayed for strength and lack of fear. In my head I was shouting, "Lord, hear my prayer!" Turns out it was a dead issue. . . .thank the Lord.

One of the nicest comments I have received about my playing was, "Wow, that was exciting and moved me to tears." Well, it moved me to tears, too, but for a different reason...(did you hear that g# on measure 34 . . . it was awful!)

In full-time music ministry and after a long day directing choirs and accompanying, I found the greatest stress reliever was to leave the bonds of earth and take to the skies in my plane. It's especially beautiful and calm at night. The first thing to disappear as you climb out are people, then vehicles, etc. It always gave me a godly perspective and helped me turn my anxious thoughts over to the One who knew my thoughts and concerns.

People develop pet peeves in life and I have two. The first is people who drive with super-bright fog lights on (day or night) and there is no fog within a 500 mile radius! The other is those who must have had driver's training in England. Picture a 4-lane highway, few cars on the road and this person is in the left lane. There are no cars in front nor in the right lane for miles. Okay, so I know what you'd do. (cont. pg. 6)



(cont. from pg. 5)

I think I'll end that story here.

Music lives on in and through us. My life's philosophy is "Live for something that will outlive you."

Make your life count so that the legacy you leave one day will outlive you. (And, by the way, if you happen to pass away at the organ, please cancel the stops!)

*TUNEFULLY,*

*LEE*

## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) provides a professional opportunities service to its members by sharing information about Positions Available. This includes both permanent "open benches" and also one-time "substitute dates." The Guild cannot endorse or recommend any person for a job or substitute date. Membership in the AGO is open to all who pay dues, regardless of education, experience, ability and/or skills. The AGO Professional Relations Director passes along information, which may include salaries offered by institutions and specifics about jobs/dates, as information is received from an institution. AGO members are encouraged to negotiate salaries and explore options with each offered position. The Central North Carolina Chapter, AGO does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of material provided for these listings, nor does inclusion of information in the listings imply endorsement by the chapter.

It has come to the attention of the Professional Relations Director that we have churches that do not understand that resumes are for the purview of the appropriate search committee. If confidentiality is critical to you, please make it clear in your cover letter that this is a requirement for you, at least in the initial stages of inquiry and dialogue.

If you are seeking a supply organist, the fastest method is to contact the Professional Relations Director with all the pertinent information. When sent to all members by email, many requests are filled within one hour. This method has saved a lot of time otherwise spent in calling an ever-changing list of names. Contact information is listed below.

If you are aware that a church/synagogue position is becoming available, (i.e., you are making a change), please advise the Professional Relations Director as soon as possible for listing and distribution. Contact:

Elizabeth Goldstein-Epstein  
3710 Exchange Glenwood Pl, Apt 401  
Raleigh, NC 27612  
(C) 941-928-0176  
elizabethgoldstein@yahoo.com

The Professional Relations Director will neither recommend anyone for a position nor serve as an agent for any member. The Professional Relations Director is always available to members and to hiring institutions for the purpose of answering questions.

# JOHANNUS



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