

The Stopt Diapason

Summer 2025

Whole Number 159

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Website: <https://www.cmwohs.org>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@cmwohs>



ABOVE: Greenstone United Methodist Church, Chicago
More information can be found on page 5 of this edition of *The Stopt Diapason*.

The Stopt Diapason, a journal devoted to the history of the organ in Chicago and the Midwest, is published quarterly by the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Organ Historical Society, Inc. The Chicago-Midwest Chapter is a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Illinois.

From the President:

I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing summer with some time to rejuvenate before everyone's Fall schedule resumes.

The board is finalizing details for the 2025-2026 program year that will include some events celebrating the centennial of the Casavant at St. John Cantius in Chicago. More details will be forthcoming in future editions of the *Stopt Diapason*. We will begin with an Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 28 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. *More details about this event will be forthcoming.*

Gratefully yours,
Derek E. Nickels
Chicago-Midwest Chapter OHS

CHICAGO-MIDWEST CHAPTER HONORARY MEMBERS

David McCain
Stephen J. Schnurr, Jr.
Julie Stephens*

**deceased*

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Welcome New Member!
Corrado Cavalli

BOARD MEMBERS

President:

Derek E. Nickels

Secretary:

Joyce Johnson Robinson

Treasurer:

Br. Benjamin Basile, C.P.P.S

Members at Large:

James Russell Brown

Bruce Carlson

Christine Kraemer

Eugene Mudra

For cyber security reasons, we do not list contact information for board members on the website version of our TSD issues.

Website visitors will find our chapter email address at the -Contact Us- link at the bottom of the Home Page of our website.

CALENDAR OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR 2025-2026

Sunday, September 28, 4:00 p.m., Annual Meeting via Zoom.

November 2025, Autumn Organ Tour, TBD

May 2026, Member's Recital, TBD

More details about these events will be forthcoming in the next issue of The Stopt Diapason.

CALENDAR OF AREA EVENTS FOR 2025-2026

Please notify Derek Nickels of events to be listed at denickels@holycorforter.org.

Sunday, September 21, 3:00 p.m. Loyola University Chicago presents Katie Gunn, Madonna della Strada Chapel, 1032 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL

Sunday, September 21, 3:00 p.m. St. John Cantius presents Corrado Cavalli, St. John Cantius Church, 825 N. Carpenter Street, Chicago, IL

Wednesday, September 24, 2:00 p.m., Gift of Music presents Noah Wynne-Morton and Eun Joo Ju, Elliott Chapel, Presbyterian Homes, 1 Calvin Circle, Evanston, IL

Friday, September 26, 12:10 p.m., Fourth Presbyterian presents Margaret Martin Kvamme, Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL

Sunday, September 28, 3:45 p.m., Grace Church presents Chelsea Chen, Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 Division Street, River Forest, IL

Tuesday, September 30, 7:30 p.m., Fox Valley Chapter AGO presents Douglas Cleveland, Armerding Concert Hall, Wheaton College, 520 Kenilworth Avenue, Wheaton, IL

Sunday, October 12, 4:00 p.m., North Shore Chapter AGO presents Jonathan Ryan, First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL

Friday, October 17, 7:30 p.m., St. Chrysostom's presents Olivier Latry, St. Chrysostom's Episcopal Church, 1424 N. Dearborn Parkway, Chicago, IL

Sunday, October 19, 2:00 p.m., Open House Chicago, Derek Nickels, Immaculate Conception Saint Joseph Parish, 1107 N. Orleans Street, Chicago, IL

Sunday, October 19, 3:00 p.m., Community Presbyterian presents David Jonies and Chicago Brass Quintet, Community Presbyterian Church, 39 N. Prospect, Avenue, Clarendon Hills, IL

Wednesday, October 22, 2:00 p.m., Gift of Music presents Paula Seo, Elliott Chapel, Presbyterian Homes, 1 Calvin Circle, Evanston, IL

Sunday, October 26, 2:30 p.m., Holy Family presents David Jonies, Holy Family Catholic Church, 4401 Highcrest Road, Rockford, IL

Sunday, November 16, 3:00 p.m. Loyola University Chicago presents Victoria Shorokhova, Madonna della Strada Chapel, 1032 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 p.m. Holy Comforter presents its Annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, Church of the Holy Comforter, 222 Kenilworth Avenue, Kenilworth, IL

CHICAGO-MIDWEST OHS DONORS LIST 2024-2025

(as of April 15, 2025)

Guarantors (\$100+): Rev. George Hull, Rev. Thomas Lijewski, Derek Nickels and Joseph Poland, Joseph G. Roberts, Joyce Robinson, Mark Sudeith, David R. White, Robert Woodworth, Douglas Zimmer; **Sponsors (\$50-\$99):** Br. Benjamin S. Basile, C.P.P.S., Brian Berghaus, James R. Brown, Rev. Daniel Buck, Bruce Carlson, Joseph Gonzales, Elizabeth M. Naegel, Michael Shawgo, Robert Vanderschaaf; **Patrons (\$25 - \$49):** Peter Knippel and Thomas J. Samolinski, Michael Knuth, Eugene Mudra, Dennis Northway, Susan R. Reiser, Naomi Rowley; **Friends (\$5-\$24):** Br. Christopher Buck, FSC, Charlie D. Carpenter, George Dobie, David L. Hamblin, Jr., Jay Peterson; **Contributors to the Emergency Organ Rescue Fund:** Br. Christopher Buck, FSC, Rev. Daniel Buck, Rev. Thomas Lijewski, Joseph G. Roberts; **Underwriters of The Stopt Diapason:** Rev. Thomas Lijewski, and David R. White

CHICAGO-MIDWEST CHAPTER MEMBER'S RECITAL AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, EVANSTON

A REVIEW BY DEREK NICKELS

The Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Organ Historical Society gathered at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Evanston for a Member's Recital on Sunday, June 8, 2025 by chapter board member, and Immanuel organist Christine Kraemer on the 1981 Roderer organ. As the day happened to fall on the Feast of the Pentecost, the well-chosen and well-rounded program was specific for Pentecost in the wonderful acoustics of Immanuel that the enthusiastic audience enjoyed. Beginning with Wilber Held's *Come, Holy Ghost, Ours Souls Inspire*, the 8' foundation stops sang beautifully for presentation of the Gregorian chant *Veni Creator Spiritus*. Dieterich Buxtehude's *Ciacona in e, BuxWV 160* provided excellent opportunities to explore various flute and principal ensembles in this elegant dance. The six variations in Rebecca Groom te Velde's *Variations on Tempus Adest Floridum* (also known as "Good King Wenceslas") explored more charming sounds that made the organ seem larger than it really is. Hearing Christmas tunes in summer also the weather seem cooler. The gentle flutes heard in Alain's famous *Le Jardin Suspendu* fit the organ very well. Braithwaite's *Let Us Break Together* presented some intriguing harmonies in this well-known Communion hymn tune. Rheinberger's chromaticism and thick harmonies provided a sharp contrast to the concluding *Fantasia super Komm, heiliger Geist, BWV 651a* by J. S. Bach, which we heard on the full plenum.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Mary Gifford, a long time Chicago-Midwest OHS Chapter member died on March 10, 2025. Born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, June 28, 1950. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University Bloomington, a Master of Music from University of Louisiana at Lafayette, with Post-Graduate Studies in Organ Performance at Louisiana State University. She produced three CDs of organ music under the Giffitz label, a portmanteau of Gifford and Fitzer. She served as organist and choirmaster of several churches in Chicago, over the course of her time in the city. She was married to Joseph P. Fitzer (d. 2017). She is survived by her brother, Robert Walker, her daughter, Sarah (Richard Brandon) Hill, and grandsons Richard Byron and James Tiberius.

Joan Lippincott, one of America's preeminent concert organists and a revered teacher whose artistry and pedagogy shaped generations of performers and church musicians, died on May 31 in Newtown, Pennsylvania, at the age of 89, following complications from a spinal infection. A musician of extraordinary intellect, technical brilliance, and spiritual depth, she leaves a legacy of excellence that continues to resonate through concert halls, churches, and conservatories across the country. Born Joan Edna Hult in Kearny, New Jersey, on Christmas 1935, to parents Frank and Edna Hult, she studied piano and organ from an early age. She eventually was a pupil of the renowned Alexander McCurdy at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, where she earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees, and at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she received the Artist's Diploma. Dr. Lippincott quickly established herself as a formidable interpreter of the major organ repertoire, particularly the works of J.S. Bach, whose music remained central to her life's work. Dr. Lippincott was widely regarded as one of the foremost American organ teachers of the late twentieth century. For nearly four decades, she served with distinction on the faculty of Westminster Choir College, where she was Professor of Organ and Head of the Organ Department, the largest in the world at the time. With an unerring ear, a fierce dedication to musical integrity, and deep personal kindness, she was both a demanding teacher and a lifelong mentor to her many students, who became affectionately known as "Lippincott Kids." Beyond Princeton, Dr. Lippincott concertized widely. In 1967 she signed on with Lilian Murtagh Concert Management (which later became Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc) and remained with the management throughout her career. In more than 600 solo recitals throughout the United States and abroad, she appeared at major cathedrals, churches, universities, and international festivals. Her discography contains more than 20 recordings, many centered around the music of Bach, but also covering Mozart, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Widor, Duruflé, Alain, and Pinkham, among others. These recordings garnered acclaim for their clarity, expressiveness, and stylistic insight, in which scholarly rigor and vibrant musicality were always held in elegant balance. Her playing demonstrated her championship both of historical performance practice and the living American organ tradition. In addition to teaching, concertizing, and recording, Dr. Lippincott served from 1993 to 2000 as Principal University Organist at Princeton University, sat on the juries of several prominent organ competitions, and was active in the American Guild of Organists and other professional organizations. She served on the Advisory Board of The American Bach Society and was an honorary member of Sigma Alpha Iota. Her career saw a garland of honor. Westminster Choir

College awarded her its Alumni Merit Award, Distinguished Merit Award, Williamson Medal, and an Honorary Doctorate. In 2013, the Organ Historical Society published a festschrift, *Joan Lippincott: The Gift of Music*, with Larry G. Biser editing contributions from students and colleagues. Rider University awarded her its Sesquicentennial Medal of Excellence in 2015. She was the honoree for the American Guild of Organists Endowment Fund Distinguished Artist Award Recital and Gala Benefit Reception in 2017 and was named International Performer of the Year by the Guild's New York City Chapter in 2019. Beyond her public accomplishments, Joan was a person of grace, humility, and quiet strength. Her students remember her not merely for her precision and high standards, but for her nurturing of the entire student, person and artist combined. She took deep care with each student's voice and vocation, guiding both with patience, insight, and love. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Curtis, to whom she was married 58 years. She is survived by countless former students, friends, colleagues, and admirers. A service of thanksgiving for her life will be held at 11:00 on Saturday, October 4 at the Princeton University Chapel.

Karen Elizabeth (McFarlane) Holtkamp died on June 3, 2025, at the age of 83 following a two-year battle with cancer. A towering figure in classical music, and specifically the organ and choral world, Karen was head of Murtagh/McFarlane Artists Management (eventually Karen McFarlane Artists) from 1976 to 2000 where she represented the world's finest concert organists from the U.S.A. and abroad, along with choirs in the English choral tradition. Her devotion to mentoring young concert organists in their career development was profound and was highlighted by her work with the American Guild of Organists' NYACOP competition. A devoted church musician throughout her life, she also served as organist and conductor at many churches, including The Riverside Church in New York City where she was an assistant to Frederick Swann, Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City where she was Director of Music, and at Church of the Covenant in Cleveland, Ohio where she served as Associate Choirmaster to Todd Wilson. Personally, Karen was a beloved friend and mentor to countless musicians around the world, concert presenters, fellow parishioners, and all those who sang in her choirs.

ORGAN NEWS

Since 1882, Greenstone United Methodist Church has anchored the Pullman community and is an important part of Pullman National Historic Park. Designed by Solon S. Beman and featuring a striking green Serpentine stone façade, it is truly one of a kind. Over the years, Landmarks Illinois has supported the preservation of Greenstone by facilitating pro bono engineering assessments and providing financial support through the Timuel D. Black, Jr. Grant Fund for Chicago's South Side. The church now faces a new and urgent challenge: thousands of dollars in unexpected utility bills caused by a faulty gas meter. A GoFundMe has been set up to raise money to get the heat turned back on and prevent additional weather damage to the church's historic features including its historic 1882 Steere & Turner organ. On May 9, 2025, the Chicago-Sun Times reported that a \$1.2 million grant was unanimously approved by the Commission of Chicago Landmarks to restore the aged 92-foot bell tower of Pullman's historic Greenstone United Methodist Church was unanimously approved Thursday by the Commission of Chicago Landmarks. Made under the city's Adopt-a-Landmark program, the grant (if approved by City Council) would cover a virtual rebuild of the 143-year-old church's tower, reusing as much of the building's distinctive original green Serpentine stone as possible. Work could begin this year.

Trinity International University's Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS) will be moving to its new location in Langley, British Columbia at the end of the 2025-2026 academic year and closing the Bannockburn campus. The two-manual, twenty-five rank Casavant Freres organ, opus 3464, was built in 1980 housed in the Olsen Chapel and will need a new home. The Chicago-Midwest Chapter visited the Chapel in November 2005. More information about this instrument and Chapel can be found in *The Stopt Diapason*, Whole Issue 89, pp. 21-22.



ABOVE: Two views of the Arnold T. Olson Chapel at Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL. Left, a view looking toward the front of the chapel and right, a view of the two-manual console.



ABOVE: The 1882 Steere & Turner Op. 170 in Greenstone United Methodist, Chicago, IL

THE STOPT DIAPASON
AN INDEX OF WHOLE ISSUES 141 (AUTUMN 2019) – 150 (AUTUMN 2022)

Legend:

xx/xx: Whole Issue number/page

s: Specification

p: Dedication program

i: Illustration

The following are not included:

non-chapter events, donors lists, board members (every issue), president's letter (every issue)

AUTHOR

Nickels, Derek—148/4-5

ORGANISTS

Nickels, Derek—149/5

CHAPTER EVENTS

November 9, 2016: Autumn Organ Crawl, Forest Park, River Forest, Oak Park, Illinois—141/5-7 (preview)
March 21, 2020: Eighth Annual Organ Experience with Chicago AGO, Western Suburbs, Illinois—142/1, 4-8 (preview)
November 7, 2020: Autumn Organ Crawl with North Shore AGO, Northern Chicago Suburbs, Illinois—144/4-8 (preview)
June 6, 2021: Members' Recital, Saint Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois—146/1i (preview)
October 24, 2021: Autumn Open Console, Epworth United Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois—147/1i, 5i, 9i
June 12, 2022: Member's Recital, Immaculate Conception and Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois—149/4-5 (preview)
November 19, 2022: Autumn Organ Crawl with North Shore AGO, Northern Chicago Suburbs, Illinois—150/3-7 (preview)

GENERAL

Chicago-Midwest Chapter OHS Website—147/4
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Gehring, Philip Klepfer—145/3 (obituary)
Habermaas, Jon Charles—149/6 (obituary)
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Index of Issues 111-120—143/5-8
Index of Issues 121-130—147/7-9
Meyer, Lee C.—150/8 (obituary)
Nelson, Leon ("Lee")—148/6 (obituary)
Organ News—141/5, 142/4, 146/3, 147/4-5, 148/5, 149/6, 150/8
Sanfilippo, Jasper—143/3 (obituary)
Scribner, David—143/3 (obituary)
Simmons, Mary—148/6 (obituary)
Treasurer's Report (fiscal year 2019-2020)—144/4
Treasurer's Report (fiscal year 2020-2021)—147/10
Treasurer's Report (fiscal year 2021-2022)—150/10
Vogt, Alvin W.—148/6 (obituary)

INSTRUMENTS – by Builder

Aeolian-Skinner, 1950 (opus 1212); revoiced by Kurt Roderer, 1967: Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Illinois—141/6s, 7i
Aeolian-Skinner, 1954 (opus 1235): Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Forest Park, Illinois—141/1i, 5s
Aeolian-Skinner, 1961 (opus 1359): Edgebrook Community Church, Chicago, Illinois—145/7-8si
Aeolian-Skinner, 1962 (opus 1390): First Presbyterian Church, La Grange, Illinois—142/7si
Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, 2001 (opus 24): North Shore United Methodist Church, Glencoe, Illinois—150/6si
Casavant Frères Limitée, 1922 (opus 940): Grace Episcopal Church, Oak Park, Illinois—141/6s
Casavant Frères Limitée, 1970 (opus 3062): Emmanuel Episcopal Church, La Grange, Illinois—142/1i, 8s
Casavant Frères Limitée, 1980 (opus 3465): Glencoe Union Church, Glencoe, Illinois—150/5si
Hutchings, Geo. S., 1892 (opus 269): Immaculate Conception and Saint Joseph Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois (relocated and refurbished by Bradford Organ Company, 1998)—143/1i, 149/1i, 4-5s
Kilgen, Geo. & Son, 1924 (opus 3319): Saint Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois—146/4-8si
Kilgen, Geo. & Son, 1929 (opus 4572): Saint Peter's Catholic Church, Antioch, Illinois (refurbished by Fabry, Inc., 1993)—148/5s, 8i
Möller, M. P., 1930 (opus 5881): Epworth United Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois—147/1i, 5i, 149/6
Möller, M. P., 1951 (opus 8264); refurbished by Berghaus Pipe Organ Builders, 2017: First United Methodist Church, La Grange, Illinois—142/6si
Möller, M. P., 1959 (opus 9284): Saint Mark Lutheran Church, Lindenhurst, Illinois (relocated from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois by Fabry, Inc., 1991)—148/4s, 7i
Möller, M. P., 1962 (opus 9656): Bethany Korean Presbyterian Church (formerly Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church), Lincolnwood, Illinois—145/5-6si
Möller, M. P., 1965 (opus 10012): Saint Elisabeth Episcopal Church, Glencoe, Illinois—150/4si, 8i
Möller, M. P., 1981 (opus 8264): Saint Peter's United Church of Christ, Skokie, Illinois—145/1i, 4si
Phelps & Associates, Lawrence, 1974: Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Skokie, Illinois—145/6-7si
Reuter Organ Company, 1965 (opus 1477): First Congregational Church (Chapel of the Beatitudes), La Grange, Illinois—142/5s
Roosevelt, Frank, 1891 (opus 494): Saint James Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois—142/4
Schlicker Organ Company, 1958: Concordia University Chicago, Kretzmann Choir Room, River Forest, Illinois—141/6s, 7i
Van Daalen, Jan, 1978: First Congregational Church, La Grange, Illinois—142/5s
Wicks Organ Company, 1959 (opus 3958): Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Winnetka, Illinois—150/1i, 7si
Zimmer, W. and Sons, 1980; revoiced by Berghaus Pipe Organ Builders, 2004—Chapel of Our Lord, Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Illinois—141/7si

INSTRUMENTS – by Location

Antioch, Illinois: Saint Peter Catholic Church, 1929 Geo. Kilgen & Son (opus 4572); refurbished by Fabry, Inc., 1993—148/5s, 8i
Chicago, Illinois: Edgebrook Community Church, 1961 Aeolian-Skinner (opus 1359)—145/7-8si
Chicago, Illinois: Epworth United Methodist Church, 1930 M. P. Möller (opus 5881)—147/1i, 5i, 149/6
Chicago, Illinois: Immaculate Conception and Saint Joseph Catholic Church, 1892 Geo. S. Hutchings (opus 269); relocated and refurbished by Bradford Organ Company, 1998—143/1i, 149/1i, 4-5s
Chicago, Illinois: Saint Ignatius Roman Catholic Church, 1924 Geo. Kilgen & Son (opus 3319)—146/4-8si
Chicago, Illinois: Saint James Catholic Church, 1891 Frank Roosevelt (opus 494)—142/4
Forest Park, Illinois: Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1954 Aeolian-Skinner (opus 1235)—141/1i, 5s
Glencoe, Illinois: Glencoe Union Church, 1980 Casavant Frères Limitée (opus 3465)—150/5si
Glencoe, Illinois: North Shore United Methodist Church, 2001 Buzard Pipe Organ Builders (opus 24)—150/6si
Glencoe, Illinois: Saint Elisabeth Episcopal Church, 1965 M. P. Möller (opus 10012)—150/4si, 8i
La Grange, Illinois: Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1970 Casavant Frères Limitée (opus 3062)—142/1i, 8s
La Grange, Illinois: First Congregational Church (Chapel of the Beatitudes), 1965 Reuter Organ Company (opus 1477)—142/5s
La Grange, Illinois: First Congregational Church, 1978 Jan van Daalen—142/5s
La Grange, Illinois: First Presbyterian Church, 1962 Aeolian-Skinner (opus 1390)—142/7si
La Grange, Illinois: First United Methodist Church, 1951 M. P. Möller (opus 8264); refurbished by Berghaus Pipe Organ Builders, 2017,—142/6si
Lincolnwood, Illinois: Bethany Korean Presbyterian Church (formerly Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church), 1962 M. P. Möller (opus 9656)—145/5-6si
Lindenhurst, Illinois: Saint Mark Lutheran Church, 1959 M. P. Möller (opus 9284); rebuilt and relocated from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois by Fabry Inc., 1991—148/4s, 7i
Oak Park, Illinois: Grace Episcopal Church, 1922 Casavant Frères Limitée (opus 940)—141/6s
River Forest, Illinois: Chapel of Our Lord, Concordia University Chicago, 1980 W. Zimmer and Sons (revoiced by Berghaus Pipe Organ Builders, 2004)—141/7si
River Forest, Illinois: Concordia University Chicago, 1950 Aeolian-Skinner (opus 1212); revoiced by Kurt Roderer, 1967—141/6s, 7i
River Forest: Concordia University Chicago, Kretzmann Choir Room, 1958, Schlicker Organ Company—141/6s, 7i
Skokie, Illinois: Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1974 Lawrence Phelps & Associates—145/6-7si
Skokie, Illinois: Saint Peter's United Church of Christ, 1981 M. P. Möller (opus 8264)—145/1i, 4si
Winnetka, Illinois: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1959 Wicks Organ Company (opus 3958)—150/1i, 7si