



# THE PIPELINE

## DEAN'S COLUMN

Kathryn Sparks White

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Chapter Highlights

Technology is changing rapidly and the AGO is working hard to keep up! Here are just a few of the recent advancements that benefit our image, our members, and our bottom line:

- New members are being attracted by the Guild's seven regional online-only ("virtual") chapters for organists under 30.
- Convention check in will be expedited: Volunteers will scan the barcode you received when you registered online.
- We've developed a handy Convention app for your mobile device (more info in this issue).
- And, after this season, *The Pipeline* will be distributed as an electronic newsletter! As they've always been, new and archived issues are available on our Chapter website.

The 2015-2016 Chapter Directory is now available on the chapter website. This new edition is based solely on information you provided in ONCARD. I recommend that everyone logs onto the ONCARD website (<https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login>) and reviews his or her information. It is easy to log on; they have prompts to help you. In addition, please add your places of employment, positions, and certifications. Thanks to Andrew Bowen for his hard work in preparing the directory and monitoring ONCARD.

Our season began on September 20 with a brilliant and energetic concert by Patrick Scott at St. Philip. Many thanks to Tom Goetz, Matthew Dirst, and Dan Fenn for their work in presenting this concert! On October 20, we celebrated at the convention hotel and had a wonderful tour and tasting. Thanks to Scott Mouton for his help in coordinating the evening and to harpist Naomi Hoffmeyer for a beautiful program. I look forward to seeing everyone at Ralph Tamper's home on January 3!

Kathryn

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

At the September Chapter Board meeting, Peggy Wylie was unanimously elected as a Lifetime Honorary Member of our Houston Chapter. Peggy joined the Guild in 1974 and served our Chapter as Treasurer, Placement Coordinator, and Membership Chair. She was a tireless volunteer with the 1988 National and 2001 Regional Conventions, and still serves on the telephone committee. Peggy was organist in United Methodist Churches for almost 40 years. She is presently an active sub in The Woodlands and Spring. Congratulations, Peggy!

### CHAPTER OFFICERS AND INFORMATION

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 Anna Marie Flusche, Secretary [amflusche@yahoo.com](mailto:amflusche@yahoo.com)  
 Don Frank Hermanson, Treas. [hermansond@comcast.net](mailto:hermansond@comcast.net)  
 Sue Ofield and Kevin Clarke, Auditors  
 Members-at-Large:  
 2016 - Paul Butt, Cathy Hildreth, Sandi Ward  
 2017 - Andrew Bowen, Marsha Seale  
 2018 - Phyllis Harris, Dorry Shaddock, Ralph Tamper

All Music Event & Pipeline Submissions:

[AGOHoustonEvents@gmail.com](mailto:AGOHoustonEvents@gmail.com)

Deadline for Eblasts is Wednesday each week

Deadline for February/March *Pipeline* is Jan. 10

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American Guild of Organists

## 2016 HOUSTON CHAPTER EVENTS



### Epiphany Party

**Sunday, January 3, 2016 - 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

All Chapter members and significant others are invited to an Epiphany Party at the home of Ralph Tamper on Sunday, January 3, 2016, 6-8 pm. His address is 2726 Tudor Manor, Houston, TX 77082 in the Royal Oaks neighborhood located off of Westheimer, one mile west of Beltway 8. Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or beverage to share. RSVP by December 30 to Ralph at [ralphtamper@aol.com](mailto:ralphtamper@aol.com). Due to his gated community, the security personnel must have a list of all attendees.

### French Repertoire Workshop with George Baker at Rice – Saturday, February 6, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

RSVP by Wednesday, February 3 to receive a complimentary lunch

Shepherd School of Music, Old Edythe Bates Organ Hall – Fisk/Rosales Organ

Free and open to the public; includes light lunch at break

*Morning session (10:00-11:30 a.m.): George recollects his time studying with the French 'Greats' in the 1970s, and shares interesting anecdotes about their styles, how they taught, and what they taught.*

*Lunch (11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.)*

*Afternoon session (12:30-2:00 p.m.): Applied portion of categorizing 'essences' of various composers, which, if employed, help one emulate their compositional styles and musical language; materials provided for self-study.*



A native of Dallas, George Baker obtained his Bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University under Robert Anderson and traveled to Paris to study with Marie-Claire Alain, Pierre Cochereau, Jean Langlais, and André Marchal. During his time in France, Baker earned the Prix de Virtuosit  with Mention Maximum from the Schola Cantorum, under Langlais. He ultimately returned to the United States, earned a Master of Music degree on full scholarship from the University of Miami and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan, then began teaching at Catholic University in Washington D.C. before deciding to undertake the challenge of becoming a medical doctor. Although he obtained his M.D. and became a dermatologist, Dr. Baker never ceased performing, composing, teaching, and recording.

In his early years as a musician, George Baker won first prizes by unanimous jury decisions in several major organ competitions including the American Guild of Organists (Buffalo, 1970), the Grand Prix de Chartres (Chartres, France, 1974), and the International Improvisation Competition (Lyon, France, 1979). His recording credits include the complete organ works of J. S. Bach (1979) and the complete organ works of Louis Vierne (world premiere recording, released in 1994, a project he shared with Pierre Cochereau). He has been awarded three French Grand Prix du Disque, two of which were for The Complete Organ Works of Darius Milhaud. In 1995, the eight-CD Vierne set won the coveted Grand Prix Sp cial du Jury from the Nouvelle Acad mie du Disque Fran ais. In 2000, the same recording won a critic's choice award from American Record Guide. Dr. Baker is represented by Karen McFarlane Artists and is a lecturer in improvisation at Rice University.

### Area University Student Organ Concert at Trinity Lutheran, Klein – Sunday, April 17 at 4 p.m.

Martin Ott Opus 68; 39 Stops 50 ranks 4 extensions, Tracker action, 3 manual – 56 note

18926 Klein Church Rd, Spring, TX 77379

Area university students and younger students perform a joint concert with reception

## **“Bringing Innovation to the AGO 2016 Convention Experience” By Andrew Bowen, Program Book Chair**

To start, what do we mean by “innovation”? Let’s take the wristwatch as an example. People have long used clocks to tell time. The Swiss, seeing a need for innovation to make the clock portable and accessible, created the pocket watch in the 16th century. But even the pocket watch was not up to the task in World War I, the first mechanized war where large-scale coordination of human forces was necessary. As time became less flexible and soldiers did not have the luxury of being able to fish a pocket watch out of a jacket, the wristwatch was born.



Now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we find ourselves with less and less time to fish around for anything – especially information. Anyone remember doing your grade school research by leafing through an encyclopedia?

The Program Book Committee is stepping one foot into the world of technology by adding a mobile application (app) to the Convention experience. At the same time, the other foot remains planted to ensure that the experience that draws members to these special events is not lost. Our hope is that this innovation will keep you from having to leaf through hundreds of pages of a book to find the information you need during the 2016 Convention.

Using the app from your smart phone or tablet, a tap or two will allow you to

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| view the Convention schedule;                                       | customize your own schedule;          |
| create “To Do” reminders for meeting an exhibitor/performer/others; | take notes in a workshop;             |
| read bios for performers and workshop presenters;                   | view concert programs;                |
| access a map of the area around the hotel or the city;              | read the daily Convention newsletter; |
| check updates from the Convention committee;                        | review workshop handouts;             |
| and much more!  |                                       |

The themes of simplicity and mobility are guiding our work to help you manage the Convention information you need, and connect with the people and services you want. Look for blog posts on the Convention website for more details, as well as live and recorded app demonstrations in 2016.

### **CHAPTER MEMBER RECEIVES THE AGO EDWARD HANSON LEADERSHIP AWARD**

The National Council of the AGO recently bestowed on Houston Chapter Lifetime Honorary Member Robert Bennett the AGO’s Edward Hanson Leadership Award. Bob has served our profession and the chapter faithfully for seven decades. At age 11, he was playing the organ at church! Two years later, he was elected Treasurer of the Houston Chapter of the AGO (1946-47). Bob served as chair of multiple committees over the years, was Chapter Auditor for multiple terms, and held the position of Dean of the Chapter for two terms (1959-61, 1981-83). At age 20, Bob accepted the position of Organist at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, where he designed its four-manual, 69-rank organ, the largest pipe organ in Houston at that time. The 77-rank descendant of this instrument will be heard during the 2016 AGO National Convention. Bob’s 42 years of service to St. Luke’s expanded to Organist/Choirmaster, and ultimately to Diaconal Minister of Music and Fine Arts of St. Luke’s 8,000-member congregation. At the same time, his AGO service at the national and regional levels continued.

He chaired the 1958 AGO National Convention in Houston and co-chaired the 1988 AGO National Convention. His service as chief coordinator of a national convention came with additional service on the Committee on Conventions at the national level. He also led the 1973 AGO Mid-Winter Conclave, and co-chaired the 2001 Regional Convention (all in Houston), with a six-year tenure as AGO Region VII Chair (1975-81). Even today, Bob serves as Adviser to the 2016 AGO National Convention.

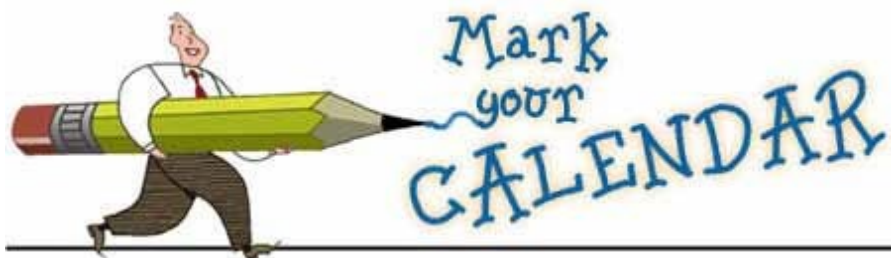
Bob received the Fellow of Trinity College, London, diploma in the Art of Organ Playing and was ordained Diaconal Minister in the United Methodist Church in 1977. In recognition of his accomplishments in church and professional circles through elected and appointed offices of leadership, concert and recital performance, and teaching and scholarship, Southwestern University conferred upon Bob the degree of Doctor of Music in 1979.

Dr. Bennett was appointed to the Hymnal Committee of the United Methodist Church, where he served as Chair of the Subcommittee on Tunes. This appointment resulted in the 1988 publication of the United Methodist Hymnal that is still in use today. He was subsequently named Editor of the Music Supplement II for the United Methodist Hymnal, published in 1993. To offer your personal congratulations, you can send mail to Dr. Robert Bennett, c/o Clarewood House, 7400 Clarewood Dr, Houston, TX 77036, or call him at 713-822-0625.

## HOUSTON CHAPTER—AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



Houston Chapter  
American Guild of Organists  
5773 Woodway, PMB 263  
Houston, TX 77057  
[www.ago-houston.org](http://www.ago-houston.org)



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RSVP by February 3 to receive a complimentary lunch

**AGO Houston**  
**2016 National Convention**  
**June 19-23, 2016**  
**By Rhonda Furr, Convention Coordinator**



It's time to REGISTER for the AGO 2016 National Convention! Simply go to the Convention homepage, scroll down, and click the Registration button to access RegOnline. You will find easy to follow directions and be *first in line* to reserve your seat at fabulous performances, worship services, and other special sign-up events. Early registration for Chapter members is just \$350. Don't forget to reserve your room at the Hilton at the greatly discounted rate of \$145 per night! Rooms are limited, so use the links at [agohouston2016.com](http://agohouston2016.com) to reserve now.

The Registration Committee prepared the RegOnline platform to accommodate the many offerings of the Convention. Thanks to Steve Newberry, Chair, and John Meier, Deputy, the registration program has been tailored to our Convention. Special thanks to John who spent many hours loading information and finding creative ways to make RegOnline serve our needs! Few organists have the skill set needed to build a complex registration platform, especially one that operates so efficiently. Thanks, John!

Have you wondered who designed the website, developed the Convention logo, created those beautiful TAO ads, and is managing Convention social media communications? Kudos to Carol Nave, Chair; Jerry Caliendo, Deputy; and the entire Promotion/IT Committee. Carol already has invested untold hours in the website, and her work continues as the website develops. Through their work, our Convention has a classy, elegant, and professional "look" that is being praised across the U.S.

Speaking of praise: Eighteen members of the National Council met in Houston on October 1-3, and enthusiastic praise of the work being done by our committees was a typical part of conversations. In addition to their own meetings, they heard a report on our Convention, had dinner with the Executive Team, and hosted the entire Steering Committee for a thank-you dinner. During their stay, they experienced the Convention hotel and heard the instruments at the Co-Cathedral, St. Paul's Methodist, and Palmer Episcopal. Several also heard the Rice organ. Special thanks to Crista Miller, Paolo Bordignon, and Ken Cowan for showcasing these instruments in stunning performances!

**Register on-line today: [AGOHouston2016.com](http://AGOHouston2016.com)**

**UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS – All events free or free will offering unless otherwise indicated.**

**Choral Evensong celebrating All Saints offered by the Trinity Choir**

**Sunday, November 1, 4:00 p.m.**

**Featuring music of Lehman, Howells, and Schütz**

**Reception following**

**Trinity Episcopal Church, 1015 Holman at Main**

**All Saints Choral Evensong offered by The St. Paul's Choir and Treble Choir, Paolo Bordignon, director**

**Sunday, November 1, 4:00 p.m.**

**Service includes Fauré's Requiem**

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main**

**Solemn Vespers for All Saints offered by Sola Stella**

**Felipe M. L. Gasper, Director of Music and Organist**

**Sunday, November 1, 7:00 p.m.**

**Music of Bach, Pärt, Gregorian chant, and Anglican chant**

**Annunciation Catholic Church, 1618 Texas**

**First Friday Organ Series at the Co-Cathedral**

**Dorothy VanDine, organist**

**Friday, November 6, 12:45 p.m. (Approximate time - immediately follows 12:10 Mass)**

**First Friday recitals are 30 minutes in length**

**Featuring current and former students of Moores School of Music, University of Houston**

**Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1701 San Jacinto**

**Houston Baroque - Megan Stapleton, soprano; Nick Garza, countertenor; Jordan Witherspoon, viola da gamba;**

**Bruce Brogdon, theorbo; Patrick Zelezik, director/organ**

**Saturday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.**

**Includes excerpts from Schütz's Kleine geistliche Konzerte**

**Pre-concert organ recital 6:15-6:45 p.m., Works of Buxtehude**

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1311 Holman at Caroline**

**A Concert in Honor of St. Cecilia, Patroness of Musicians**

**Offered by the choirs of CtR, Bridget Kelly Wenk, director**

**Sunday, November 8, 2:00 p.m.**

**Mass in G by Franz Schubert, other works by Copland, M. Haydn, Bassi**

**Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, 11507 Huffmeister**

**Brass & Organ Concert - ROCO Brass (River Oaks Chamber Orchestra) and Organist Kirk Rich**

**Sunday, November 8, 5:00 p.m.**

**Grace Presbyterian Church, 10221 Ella Lee**

**Festival Choral Eucharist offered by the choirs of St. Martin's and St. Thomas'**

**Sunday, November 8, 6:00 p.m.**

**Also featuring the brass principals from the Houston Symphony**

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage**

**All Saints Choral Evensong offered by the Chorale of St. John the Divine**

**Sunday, November 8, 6:00 p.m.**

**Works by Sumsion, Briggs, and Hallock**

**The Church of St. John the Divine, 2450 River Oaks Blvd**

**Advent Lessons & Carols offered by Sola Stella**

**Felipe M. L. Gasper, Director of Music and Organist**

**Saturday, November 28, 7:00 p.m.**

**Annunciation Catholic Church, 1618 Texas**

**First Friday Organ Series at the Co-Cathedral**

**Chris Holman, organist**

**Friday, December 4, 12:45 p.m. (Approximate time - immediately follows 12:10 mass)**

**First Friday recitals are 30 minutes in length**

**Featuring current and former students of Moores School of Music, University of Houston**

**Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1701 San Jacinto**

**Lessons and Carols Service offered by the St. Martin's Choir**

**Sunday, December 6, 11:15 a.m.**

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage**

**John Rutter's Magnificat and Randol Bass' Glad Tidings**

**MDPC Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra**

**Sunday, December 6, 6:00 p.m.**

**Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, 11612 Memorial at Blalock**

**Houston Civic Symphony Concert**

**Brian Runnels, Music Director; Michael Ging, Organ Soloist**

**Friday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.**

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Rd.**