

THE MONTHLY MIXTURE



The Newsletter of the Austin Chapter American Guild of Organists

FEBRUARY 2016



ACAGO JANUARY RECITAL - MONICA CZAUSZ, ORGANIST

Many thanks to Grace Episcopal Church of Georgetown and Dr. David Polley for hosting the recital by Monica Czausz on January 15th. Monica was the First Prize Winner of the 2015 AGO Southwest Regional Competition for Young Organists.

Thanks also to Dr. Don McManus, FAGO, whose generous donation underwrote the recital. Don retired from Grace last year. Thanks also to Joy and Glenn Chandler for hosting the reception following the recital and to Dr. Jill Nennmann for creating the recital program.



Pictured at the Grace console (L-R): Jack Martin, Sub-Dean; Monica Czausz; and Dr. David Polley, host.

2015-2016 PROGRAM YEAR

AUSTIN CHAPTER, AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 27 at 11 AM

Alexander Technique workshop with Jameson James and Lucinda Meredith at Tarrytown United Methodist Church.

MARCH

Saturday, March 12 at 10:30 AM

American Organ Music Lecture by John Schmidt at St. Theresa Catholic Church.

APRIL

Tuesday, April 12 at 7:30 PM

Recital by Clive Driskill-Smith at Westlake Hills Presbyterian.

MAY

Date/Time TBA

Progressive Dinner and Election of Officers.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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If you have interest in serving on the Board in an open position, please contact Aaron Garcia at aaronmgarcia@sbcglobal.net

All newsletter submissions should be sent to monthlymixture@gmail.com

*Events, Concerts, Job Opportunities, Professional Development Milestones,
Church concert series (individual event listings or pdf flyers), Trivia,
Notes from the Bench (serious or humorous)*

LOCAL CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 6 at 7:30 PM

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Anton Armstrong, conductor

(more details beginning on page 4)

Noonday Lenten Organ Series

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church

Recital at NOON, lunch at 12:30 PM

February 17 Professor Matthias Maierhofer, University of Texas at Austin

February 24 Gregory Eaton, All Saints Episcopal Church, Austin

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Cave Road, Austin, 78746

MARCH

Friday, March 4 at 7:30 PM

Redeemer Presbyterian Church – Holbrook Organ series

Matthias Maierhofer, organist

Noonday Lenten Organ Series

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church

Recital at NOON, lunch at 12:30 PM

March 2 Keith Womer, First Presbyterian Church, Austin

March 9 Eric Wall, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin

March 16 Sheryl Sebo, Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas

March 23 Paul Keith, Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, Austin

Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, 7127 Bee Cave Road, Austin, 78746

APRIL

(No events submitted)

MAY

Friday, May 6 at 7:30 PM

Redeemer Presbyterian Church – Holbrook Organ series

Rick Erickson, organist



THE ST. OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG · CONDUCTOR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 7:30 P.M.

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
606 West 15th Street • Austin, Texas

Tickets: \$30 Adults, \$10 Students, 15% off groups of 10+
stolaf.edu/tickets • 800-363-5487

THE ST. OLAF CHOIR

ANTON ARMSTRONG, CONDUCTOR

JEAN PARISH, DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE RELATIONS FOR MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS

The St. Olaf Choir, the widely acclaimed ensemble and long-time creative influence behind the a cappella choral tradition, has toured annually since 1912, when it was founded by F. Melius Christiansen. The 1920 tour to the major music centers of the East Coast sowed the seeds of the ensemble's national reputation and established its unaccompanied style of singing as a significant force in American choral music.



ANTON ARMSTRONG '78

Anton Armstrong has served as conductor of the St. Olaf Choir since 1990. A 1978 bachelor of music graduate of St. Olaf College (where he was a member of the choir he now leads), Armstrong later earned a master of music degree in choral music from the University of Illinois and a doctor of musical arts degree in choral conducting from Michigan State University. He returned to St. Olaf after 10 years on the faculty at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Armstrong is well aware of the St. Olaf Choir's history and its place in American choral tradition. His D.M.A. thesis was devoted to "Celebrating 75 Years of Musical Excellence: The Evolution of the St. Olaf Choir."

Under the adept direction of Olaf C. Christiansen '25 (who succeeded his father in 1941), Kenneth Jennings '50 (who led the ensemble from 1968 to 1990), and Armstrong '78, the St. Olaf Choir has inspired and entertained audiences around the world. The St. Olaf Choir has performed under such notable conductors as Sir Neville Mariner, Osmo Vänskä, Neemi Järvi, Sir David Willcocks, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Helmuth Rilling, and the late Robert Shaw, and it continues to make frequent appearances with the Minnesota

Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

The St. Olaf Choir is acclaimed internationally, the result of 14 tours to Europe, Asia, and the Pacific Rim. In 1988 the ensemble was one of only five choirs in the world invited to participate in the Seoul Olympic Arts Festival in South Korea. In 1993 the choir completed a 21-day concert tour to New Zealand and Australia.

In 2001 it embarked on a 21-day concert tour to France, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. In 2005 the St. Olaf Choir joined the St. Olaf Band and the St. Olaf Orchestra on a 21-day concert tour of Norway to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Norway's independence. In June 2009 the St. Olaf Choir made its first concert tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland. In June, 2013, the St. Olaf Choir re-created the 1913 Norwegian tour that was the first international trip under F. Melius Christiansen.

A television broadcast of the St. Olaf Choir's 2013 performance in the 950-year-old Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway, won two regional Emmy® awards. Produced by Twin Cities Public Television, PBS aired the one-hour television special, *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir*, as part of their 2013 holiday programming. The program was also included in the 2014 holiday schedule.

The choir's growing discography features more than 25 recordings, including *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir*, *Norge Mitt Norge*, *The Spirituals of William L. Dawson*, *Advance Australia Fair*; *Repertoire for Mixed Voices, Vol. I and II*; and the popular three volume series *Great Hymns of Faith*.



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THE
ST · OLAF
CHOIR
ANTON ARMSTRONG · CONDUCTOR

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The St. Olaf Choir and conductor Anton Armstrong embark on 17-city national winter tour, including concerts at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City and Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Jan. 23-Feb. 13, 2016

(Northfield, Minn.) – The world-renowned St. Olaf Choir and conductor Anton Armstrong launch their annual national tour on Jan. 23, 2016, presenting 17 concerts in 10 states across America’s midsection through Feb. 15, 2016. The tour includes performances at Kansas City’s Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas and churches across the heartland. Tickets are available at stolaf.edu/tickets.

The national tour itinerary begins with two weekend concerts in Colorado, Jan. 23 and 24, followed by the main tour that starts in Des Moines on Friday, Jan. 29. Armstrong and the St. Olaf Choir will travel as far south as Houston before making their way back north for a final concert two weeks later in Iowa City on Saturday, Feb. 13. (See itinerary on page 4.)

The tour program features sacred and secular masterpieces, as well as works for chorus and grand pipe organ. Traveling with Armstrong and the St. Olaf Choir is James E. Bobb, Assistant Professor Music — Organ and Church Music at St. Olaf College.

Founded 104 years ago by F. Melius Christiansen at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., the St. Olaf Choir is internationally recognized as a creative force behind America’s *a cappella* choral tradition, and for setting a high standard for choral performance, particularly its artistry and beauty of sound.

Only the fourth conductor in the ensemble’s history, Armstrong has led the ensemble since 1990. “Hearing the St. Olaf Choir is more than just a musical experience,” says Anton Armstrong. “What makes this ensemble distinctive is the way our singers perform at the highest artistic level and touch the hearts and souls of our listeners. Through body, mind, spirit and voice our audiences are transformed.”

Program highlights for the 2016 tour program include:

- Premiere performances of André Thomas’ *Credo*, a work that will also be performed at the Choirs of America Festival at Carnegie Hall in March by the 900-voice National Youth Choir led by Armstrong and featuring the composer at the piano. “André believes the time has come for another mass in the gospel style,” Armstrong says, “and *Credo* will be incorporated into the major work he envisions.”
- Kurt Weill’s *Kiddush*, a work that was written for Jewish worship services featuring cantor, chorus and grand pipe organ. “It’s a marvelous piece,” Armstrong says, “and I’m pleased to program a work featuring a composer who had typically composed in other genres outside choral music.”

- Other works featuring the grand pipe organ with chorus: David N. Childs' *Magnificat*, commissioned for Armstrong and the Oregon Bach Festival's Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy in 2014; Herbert Howells' *Like As the Hart*, which Armstrong calls one of the top five gems of the 20th Century Anglican tradition; Johann Sebastian Bach's *Ich Lasse Dich Nicht*, a double chorus motet with organ continuo; Kenneth Jennings' *All You Works of the Lord*; and *When the Morning Stars Together* arranged by John Ferguson. "When we travel with an organist, I like to invite the audience to sing with us," Armstrong says, "and John's arrangement is based on an established hymn tune that many in our audiences will know."
- Honoring the memory of the St. Olaf Choir's third conductor, who died in August. "In Thanksgiving for the Life and Artistry of Kenneth L. Jennings" features three works by the conductor and composer: *The Call (Spiritual Songs)*, *The Lord Is the Everlasting God*, and *All You Works of the Lord*. Jennings was conductor of the St. Olaf Choir from 1968 until his retirement in 1990.
- Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the prolific Latin American composer Alberto Ginastera with performances of his *O Vos Omnes (The Lamentations of Jeremiah)*.
- Hymns of faith including a setting by Terre Johnson of Samuel Webbe Sr.'s *Come, Ye Disconsolate*, and an arrangement by Taiwanese composer Yu-Shan Tsai of Philip P. Bliss' *It is Well with My Soul*.
- Spirituals including Moses Hogan, Jr.'s *Ride On, King Jesus*, and William Bradley Roberts' *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen*, which is a new setting Armstrong found this summer. "This is not the version people think it is," Armstrong says. "This arrangement takes a more poignant approach with stirring melodies. People can over cook spirituals, but Roberts has kept simplicity in writing." Spirituals are regularly featured in St. Olaf Choir concerts. "People ask me if this is because I am a Black man," Armstrong says. "Partially. However, I think Spirituals are an acknowledgment that we all have pain in our lives. These songs come from a time when African Americans' existence was intolerable, yet they had the fortitude to live in dignity and receive strength in the belief that God would give them liberty. No one can pull you down when you have faith, strength, hope and courage."
- Another new work on the program is *And You Will Sleep* by St. Olaf College student Philip Biedenbender. "Philip is a senior in the St. Olaf Choir," Armstrong says, "and he approached me last year about composing this piece. I told him 'you write it and I will see if I like it.' The result is a work our singers and I enjoy performing."
- *Deo Dicamus Gratias* by Gottfried August Homilius, "who was, in his time, one of the most highly regarded composers after Johann Sebastian Bach," Armstrong says, followed by Mendelssohn's *Lift Thine Eyes (Elijah)*.
- Contemporary work including *The Worlds Above* by Des Moines composer, church musician, and St. Olaf alumnus Ben Allaway '81, and Minnesota composer Jake Runestad's *I Will Lift Mine Eyes*.
- F. Melius Christiansen's *Glorification (Celestial Spring)*, a celebratory tour de force by the founder and first conductor of the St. Olaf Choir.

ST. OLAF: A TRANSFORMATIONAL CHOIR

“When they opened their mouths to sing, an even wall of sound emerged: words clear, notes true. But more than that, the notes were felt ... (The St. Olaf Choir is) good because of its remarkable balance and mellow tone ... It’s good because of its dynamic shadings: its ability to sustain, then build from, nearly inaudible pianos, or to distinguish between a forte and a fortissimo ... Dr. Anton Armstrong, the group’s leader since 1990, is clearly a gifted choral director – and a teacher to the core.” ~ The New York Times

After F. Melius Christiansen founded the St. Olaf Choir in 1912, he was credited with contributing to the transformation of American choral music. He and the St. Olaf Choir transcended America’s limited early 20th century choral tradition with the introduction of a *cappella* singing of the highest level, creating a model for the widespread choral growth that followed.

“F. Melius opened a whole new paradigm that never existed before,” Anton Armstrong says. “Prior to the St. Olaf Choir, glee clubs and oratorio societies were the choirs of the day. A *cappella* singing in America was new for its time. The St. Olaf Choir helped establish what we know today as the parish choirs that are now a regular part of many worship services across the nation.”

The St. Olaf Choir has a long history of innovation. It became one of the first to tour the nation regularly starting in 1920. The St. Olaf Choir also began recording in the 1920s and performed on air when radio was in its infancy. The annual “St. Olaf Christmas Festival” has aired on national and international radio and television for more than 30 years, and continues to serve as a prototype for these types of holiday broadcasts. On Dec. 23, 2013 PBS premiered *Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir*, which was filmed at the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway in June 2013, and won two regional Emmy® Awards in 2014.

In 2007 the St. Olaf choral ensembles achieved another major milestone when *Christmas at St. Olaf: Where Peace and Love and Hope Abide* was simulcast to more than 180 movie theaters across the United States on Dec. 2, 2007. The PBS premiere of the one-hour highlights program produced by Twin Cities Public Television aired on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007, and reached 2.5 million people. Four years later the 100th St. Olaf Christmas Festival was simulcast to 372 movie theaters across America.

The singers commit to balancing full course loads with rehearsals five days a week; choir members perform concerts entirely from memory. Anton Armstrong has conducted the St. Olaf Choir since 1990. There have been only three conductors of the St. Olaf Choir before Armstrong: Kenneth Jennings, Olaf Christiansen and the founder and first conductor F. Melius Christiansen.

The St. Olaf Choir has also been featured in a number of symphonic collaborations including, most recently, performances of Maurice Duruflé’s *Requiem for Voices, Orchestra and Organ, Opus 9*, with the Minnesota Orchestra under the baton of Osmo Vänskä in April 2010 at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. The St. Olaf Choir has also performed with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and under the direction of Sir Neville Marriner, Neemi Jarvi, Sir David Willcocks, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Andreas Delfs, Helmuth Rilling and the late Robert Shaw.

Touring, recording and broadcasts are all major components in the artistic life of the St. Olaf Choir. The St. Olaf Choir has performed for capacity audiences in major concert halls across the nation and overseas since 1920. Annual tours attract audiences totaling 25,000. Recent tours have included a 2013 tour to Norway, a 2009 tour to England, Wales and Ireland, a 2005 tour of Norway, a 2001 European tour including Paris, Prague, Vienna and Berlin, and a 1997 tour to Australia and New Zealand.

For more info visit: stolafchoir.com.

St. Olaf Choir 2016 National Winter Tour Itinerary

Weekend Tour:

Saturday, January 23, 7 p.m.

Cherry Hills Village, Colorado
Bethany Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 24, 2:30 p.m.

Denver, Colorado
Augustana Lutheran Church

Main Tour:

Friday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.

Des Moines, Iowa
First Christian Church

Saturday, January 30, 7 p.m.

Lincoln, Nebraska
First-Plymouth Congregational Church

Sunday, January 31, 3 p.m.

Topeka, Kansas
Grace Cathedral

Monday, February 1, 7:30 p.m.

Kansas City, Missouri
Helzberg Hall
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts

Tuesday, February 2, 7 p.m.

Wichita, Kansas
East Heights United Methodist Church

Wednesday, February 3, 7 p.m.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
First Presbyterian Church

Thursday, February 4, 7:30 p.m.

Waco, Texas
Jones Concert Hall
Baylor University

Friday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

San Antonio, Texas
University United Methodist Church

Saturday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.

Austin, Texas
St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Monday, February 8, 7:30 p.m.

Dallas, Texas
Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center

Tuesday, February 9, 7 p.m.

Houston, Texas
Grace Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, February 10, 7:30 p.m.

Little Rock, Arkansas
Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church

Thursday, February 11, 7:30 p.m.

Bartlett, Tennessee
Bartlett United Methodist Church

Friday, February 12, 7 p.m.

Manchester, Missouri
Manchester United Methodist Church

Saturday, February 13, 7:30 p.m.

Iowa City, Iowa
St. Patrick Catholic Church

Home Concert:

Sunday, February 14, 3:30 p.m.

Northfield, Minnesota
Boe Memorial Chapel
St. Olaf College

Tickets are now available for all tour concerts online at stolaf.edu/tickets.

St. Olaf Choir 2016 National Tour Program

I.

Deo Dicamus Gratias

Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains (Elijah)

Ich Lasse Dich Nicht (BWV Anhang 159)

Gottfried August Homilius (1714-85)

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-47)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

II.

Magnificat

And You Will Sleep

Kiddush

I Will Lift Mine Eyes

Glorification (Celestial Spring)

David N. Childs (b. 1969)

Philip Biedenbender '16 (b. 1992)

Kurt Weill (1900-50)

Jake Runestad (b. 1986)

Kenneth Jennings (b. 1925)

III.

(In Thanksgiving for the Life and Artistry of Kenneth L. Jennings: 1925-2015)

The Call (Spiritual Songs)

The Lord Is the Everlasting God

All You Works of the Lord, Bless the Lord

Kenneth L. Jennings

Kenneth L. Jennings

Kenneth L. Jennings

INTERMISSION

IV.

When the Morning Stars Together

The Worlds Above

Like As the Hart

O Vos Omnes (The Lamentations of Jeremiah)

setting by John Ferguson

Ben Allaway (b. 1958)

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Alberto Ginastera (1916-83)

V.

Credo

Come, Ye Disconsolate

Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen

It Is Well with My Soul

Ride On, King Jesus

Andre J. Thomas (b. 1952)

Samuel Webbe Sr. (1740-1816)

setting Terre Johnson

Philip P. Bliss (1838-76)

arr. Yu-Shan Tsai

arr. William Bradley Roberts

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Moses G. Hogan Jr.

Optional Selections:

Beautiful Savior

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

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Holbrook Organ Series

2015-2016 Season



By Edwin L. Holbrook, 1862

☞ Friday, September 25, 2015, 7:30 p.m. ☞

Gregory Eaton

☞ Friday, November 13, 2015, 7:30 p.m. ☞

Eric Mellenbruch / St. David's Compline Choir

☞ Friday, January 22, 2016, 7:30 p.m. ☞

Jean Farris Fuller

☞ Friday, March 4, 2016, 7:30 p.m. ☞

Matthias Maierhofer

☞ Friday, May 6, 2016, 7:30 p.m. ☞

Rick Erickson

(no tickets required - donations accepted)



RedeemerArtes

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RedeemerPres.org