Chapter Programming Ideas
Ideas for Chapter meetings, Concerts, Festivals, Recitals, Services & Workshops
Compiled by Dirk Lindner, Sub-Dean AGO Omaha Chapter, 2019

This list is meant to be a jumping-off point for chapter programming ideas, and certainly not a comprehensive list of ideas. Many of these ideas could be used in multiple ways - as a chapter meeting only (Advent/Christmas music - members play selections, bring repertoire lists to share) or as a public performance (Advent/Christmas music - members play a selection and also the hymn/carol for congregational singing), or as a workshop (someone presenting new and old literature for Advent/Christmas). Hopefully this list will help provide some innovative programming for your chapter. Happy planning!

Accompanying choirs, soloists, instrumentalists, etc.

Adapting Contemporary Worship songs to the Organ

Adapting Piano Accompaniments to the Organ

AGO Certification

Alternate Harmonization/Introduction Resources

The American Reed Organ

Beginning Organist
   Just Add Pedals? Organ Basics for the Pianist

Carillons

Chapter Anniversary Celebration

Children’s Choirs
   Children’s Choir Festival
   How to Recruit, Build & Sustain a Small Children’s Choir
   Working with Young Voices
   Youth Choir Festival

Choral & Organ Collaborative Concert

Church Choir
   Anthem accompanying at the organ
   Anthem Reading session
   Choir Festival
   Choral Rehearsal Techniques
   Invigorate Your Church Choir (and You) - pedagogical tips, ideas and perspectives to enliven rehearsals and thus your worship
   Vocal Techniques
   Working with Aging Voices
Clergy/Musician Relations, Luncheon

Commissioning new music

Composing for the organ

Conducting from the Console

Continuo Playing and Instruments

Creativity - A Look into the Creative Process

Denominational Musician Associations

Educational Concerns

Final Banquet: Installation of new officers, Performances by members with new certifications

Handbells

Harpsichord

History of the Organ, from Antiquity to the Present

Hybrid Organs

**Hymns**

  - Creative Hymnody
  - Hymn Festivals
    - Presented by a person with expertise in this area
    - Presented by chapter members
  - Hymn Introductions/Alternate Harmonizations
  - Hymn-Playing Workshop
  - Hymns of Isaac Watts
  - Leading Hymns and Liturgy
  - Shape Note Singing
  - Spirituals

Improvisation

  - Beginning Improvisation

January Jubilee

Joint Events with another AGO chapter

Low Pressure Public Performance Practice - performing for each other in a low-key, non-recital setting

Managing a Music Program, Organization
Masterclass

Meals
- Catered dinner
- Potluck dinner
- Coffee & treats after a meeting
- Coffee & breakfast food before a Saturday morning meeting

Music Exchange - bring unwanted scores, pickup others’ used scores

Music Sharing - old and new favorites - organ, choral, handbell

New Directions in Worship Services
- What Page are We On? Roundtable for Church Musicians: worship experiences, musical directions, what directions do we need to move in, vision for the church, resources available

Online Music & Liturgical Planning Resources

Organ and Instruments
- Member recital
- Organ Builder factory visit
- Organ Crawl
- Organ Demonstrators
- Organ Design Workshop

Organ Literature
- African-American Composers
- Composer Anniversary Years
- Compositions by local composers
- Early Music: Technique
- Free music available on the internet (IMSLP, etc.)
- Music for weddings, funerals
- Music for a Royal Occasion
- Music for a Small Instrument
- Music for Clockwork Organs
- Music of national schools
- New music to share with chapter
- Organ & Instruments
- Organ & Piano Duets
- Organ & Voice
- Organ Duet Literature
- Organ Transcriptions
- Practical Repertoire
- Seasonal Literature:
  - Advent/Christmas/Epiphany
  - Lent/Easter
  - Ascension/Pentecost/Trinity
- Fall Festivals
Women Composers
World Music

Organ Maintenance and Repair for Dummies

Organ Methods for teaching

Organ Registration

Organ to Piano Transcription Workshop

**Orgelkids** - demonstrates the inner workings of the organ

The Parish-based Music Conservatory

Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

Pipe Organ Encounter

Plainchant

**Play Reading**
  Play reading of humorous stage play *The Old Organist*, about an aging organist and his family

**Professional Concerns**
  Clergy/Musician Relations
  Clergy/Musician Luncheon & Panel Discussion
  Workplace Harmony: Tools for Collaborating in Ministry

**Part-Time Organist**
  Ideas & Help
  Accessible repertoire; Accompanying hymns, liturgy & choirs
  Use of instruments with organ

Performance Practice

Piano Music for Church Use

**Practicing**
  How to Practice
  Surefire Practice Techniques

**Praise Band**
  Using the Organ with a praise band, registration, arranging music, etc.

**Recitals**
  Mini-concerts, tying into a civic event or festival
Solo recitals:
  Professional recitalist
  Chapter member recitalist
  Chapter members recital series

Student/Rising Star Recitals
Benefit Concert

Choral Programs:
  Co-sponsoring events with other organizations
  Halloween/Pipescreams/Spooktacular Concert
  Themed concerts - Handel organ concertos, Mozart church sonatas

Regional Councillor presentations
Season Kickoff Program

Service & Program Planning

Services
  Advent Lessons & Carols
  Evensong/Vespers
  Service with combined choirs
  Twelfth Night Lessons & Carols Service

Service Music that Connects with Your Congregation

Sight-reading

Substitute Organists - Resources for Substitute Organists and People Hosting Them

Technology

Theater organs

Tips of the Trade
  Collaborative discussion regarding interludes, etc. - sharing of tips

Vocation of the Church Musician

Wellness at the Console
  Preventing Injuries

Workshops
  Gospel & Contemporary Music in Worship
  Organ to Piano Transcription