



American Guild of Organists

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475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE • SUITE 1260 • NEW YORK, NY 10115 • 212-870-2310
FAX 212-870-2163 • E-MAIL info@agohq.org • WEB SITE www.agohq.org

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Contact: F.Anthony.Thurman@agohq.org
212-870-2311, ext. 4308



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS AWARDED \$25,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

**NEA Funding Will Support Educational Programming in 2017 and New Music
Commissioned for the 2018 AGO National Convention in Kansas City, Mo.**

NEW YORK CITY — The **American Guild of Organists** (AGO) has been awarded a grant by the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) to support educational programs and career development for organists, choral conductors, and composers in 2017, including new music commissioned for the AGO National Convention in Kansas City, Mo., July 2–6, 2018. While the AGO has received regular support from the NEA since 2005, the \$25,000 “Art Works” award is the largest grant the arts endowment has ever given to the Guild.

“This grant covers the full breadth of the AGO’s educational activities for current and prospective members as well as our programs of outreach to the public,” stated AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “The NEA’s funding sends an uplifting message to the entire organ community: our instrument and its music are vitally important to the American people. The award validates the AGO’s ongoing efforts to ensure that music for the organ is created by talented composers, performed by skilled musicians, and appreciated by the widest audience possible. It is an honor for the Guild to be recognized by the NEA,

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the most prestigious independent federal agency in the United States responsible for funding and promoting artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation.”

In December, the NEA announced that it will award more than \$30 million to nonprofit organizations and individuals across the country in 2017. Nearly \$26 million of that will be for Art Works, the NEA’s largest funding category. Art Works focuses on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. The NEA will give 970 Art Works grants to organizations in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2017.

“The arts are for all of us, and by supporting these projects, the National Endowment for the Arts is providing more opportunities for the public to engage with the arts,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “Whether in a theater, a town square, a museum, or a hospital, the arts are everywhere and make our lives richer.”

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at Arts.gov. For further information about the AGO’s educational programming, please visit the AGO website at Agohq.org. ■

The **AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS** is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, it sets and maintains high musical standards and promotes the understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music. The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. The Guild currently serves approximately 15,000 members in more than 300 local chapters throughout the United States and abroad. *THE AMERICAN ORGANIST* Magazine, the official journal of the AGO and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America, reaches an audience of more than 20,000 each month. Visit the AGO online at Agohq.org.