

[View this email in your browser](#)



© 2018 Gus Kons Design



Dear friends & colleagues,

As you are enjoying the beautiful (and occasionally rainy) fall weather, I wanted to share with you something that the Marketing Committee compiled from a survey we all took last year. You might have seen this in the TAO or on the various AGO websites, but someone asked to me the other day, "what value are our members getting from being part of the AGO?" Well, my friend, I'm very glad you asked!

As a member of the American Guild of Organists you can:

- **connect** with other organists
- **enhance** your skills as an organist and choral conductor
- **celebrate** the organ in historic and evolving contexts
- **discover** news of the organ and choral world online and in *The American Organist*
- **nurture** new organists of all ages
- **share** knowledge and expertise
- **enjoy** camaraderie at chapter events and conventions
- **find** inspiration and challenge
- **receive** encouragement from colleagues
- **experience** great organs and organists
- **access** career opportunities and job listings

- **earn** professional credentials through AGO certification

Now, I know the on-the-ground chapter experience varies widely... I don't want to gloss over that. I don't want to pretend that things are perfect! In the world we're all living in, it would be naïve to do so. But please know that I (and many other people, besides!) am here to add my drop of good to the bucket of who we are as an organization. I look for your help in making the AGO a place of even more welcoming hospitality, wonderful conversations, and mutual support. I am continually encouraged by each person I speak that we have so much potential in our organization. Thank you for your time, effort, and care! I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a stress-free preparation for the holidays.

Yours in music,  
Leslie

**Please take a moment and answer the survey below- I would appreciate your feedback!**



I have received a few requests to create an events calendar for the region. This would be a big undertaking, so I'd like to get your feedback on this idea!

How valuable to you would it be have a regional-wide event calendar? Please use the poll below to rate 1-10 (1 being "no thanks" and 10 being "do it!")

**lowest** [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) **highest**

Sorry, voting is closed.

---



*Madeleine Woodsworth, AGOYO board member*

#### Audition Season

Seasons greetings from the Northeast AGOYO! I know it's a busy time in the semester for all of us (when is it not?), and I just wanted send out the friendly reminder that you are loved and cared about amidst the Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Season. I wish you luck for those of you working on college and graduate school applications. Don't forget to work on it in bite size amounts of time as December 1 can sneak up on you quickly. Here are some tips that helped me with applications and auditions:

- There are many ways to write a great personal essay, but remember that the school wants to get to know you at your depth. This application is their only chance for them to get an idea of who you truly are without meeting you in person, so when you ask your friends to proofread, the most important thing in your personal statement is to sound like yourself.
- Potential over perfection. I feel as though most colleges look for your best effort at a piece. Obviously, do the best that you can, but take criticisms gracefully and show that you've listened and learned.
- Treat everything as an audition. Visiting churches in an area? Meeting with a professor for lunch? A masterclass? Make sure they remember you in a good way! Play a little bit of rep you're working on from memory, dress up nicely and be polite. Show an interest in learning as well as your own interests outside of music. If you have a lesson prior to your audition, make sure you're able to incorporate what

they suggested last time you worked with them into your next performance for them.

- Try your best to stay calm. They understand everyone is nervous. Staying as calm and collected as possible will reflect in your writing and/or your audition. Allow your professional composure to show through.
- Don't forget to breathe! It helps you, promise! :)

To help you keep track of some of these things, here's a little checklist to help you get organized:

- If you're applying to colleges, there's plenty of things to keep track of. Here are some of the main ones listed here for your benefit: recommendation letters, application fee, personal statement, filling out name and address etc., audition video, practicing repertoire, repertoire list, resume, etc.
- Planner: I use Google Calendar for timed events, and usually post-its for reminders I have to do.
- Are you still breathing? Yoga, meditation, sleeping, drinking water are also all good things to improve your mental health and clarity of thought.

I hope these little bullet points have helped, and I wish you the very best as you complete your applications and are heading into audition season!

Cheers,  
Madeleine

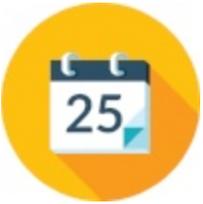




[How to talk to strangers](#)



[Where joy hides and how to find it!](#)



[20 time management tips from Forbes](#)



[Tips for asking for a raise](#)



Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

