

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

SECRETARY



Jason Hobratschk

Jason Hobratschk has served as Director of Music Ministry at Christ Church, Pensacola, Florida since August 2021 and has recently founded an RSCM-based chorister program there. Jason holds a B.A. degree in Environmental Science and Church Music from Concordia University, Austin; and an M.M. degree in Organ Performance from Portland State University (Oregon), where he studied with Lyn Loewi. He received a Ph.D. degree in Musicology from the Florida State University, having been awarded a Fulbright full grant to carry out research for his dissertation, *Werner Egk and Joan von Zarissa: Music as Politics and Propaganda under National Socialism*. Jason has served as Dean and Member-at-Large for American Guild of Organists chapters in Austin, Vero Beach, and Pensacola.

Jason writes:

I am honored to stand for the office of Secretary of the AAM.

I regard the AAM as the musical standard-bearer for the Episcopal/Anglican tradition in America, providing opportunity for inspiration, edification, and advocacy. Among the many things I admire about the AAM is its burgeoning pluralism, an attempt, at least, to live out our Baptismal Covenant to “respect the dignity of every human being.”

Should I be elected, I look forward to working with both board and membership to further “the elevation, stimulation, and support of music and the allied arts in all their aspects in the Episcopal Church and the larger Anglican tradition, and especially in their relationship to liturgy.”

Thank you kindly for your consideration.



Linda Morgan Stowe

Linda Morgan Stowe has been a member of AAM since 1995, serving on the Philadelphia 2012 Conference Executive Committee and a term as Director-at-Large on the AAM board. She was appointed Chair of Fine Arts and Organist/Choir Director at Saint James School, Hagerstown, Maryland in 2012. Previously, she also taught at St. Mark's School of Texas in Dallas and St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire. For a number of years, she worked in small Lutheran and Episcopal parishes in Madison, Wisconsin, was active in ALCM and chaired a regional convention in Madison, and taught for the Leadership for Parish Musicians certification program. The Saint James Chapel Choir is headed off on its third tour to England this March and she is the proud grandmother of two boys, one now a chorister at St. Thomas Choir School.

Linda writes:

Thank you for the opportunity to stand for election to the AAM board as Secretary. I owe much to the organization for relationships developed over the years, professional support, and the knowledge and skills so generously shared by its members. In that spirit of mutual collegiality, I would welcome the opportunity to once again serve on the board and assist current initiatives.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

TREASURER



Joseph Galema

Joe Galema currently serves as Organist at First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, one of the largest and most active congregations in the city. He has also been the organ instructor at the University of Denver Lamont School of Music since 2008. He retired in July 2014 as Music Director and Academy Organist at the United States Air Force Academy, having served there for almost 32 years.

Joe earned Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in organ performance from The University of Michigan. His performances for AAM events include an organ recital at the U.S. Naval Academy (Baltimore, 2005), organ voluntaries with brass (Hymn Festival, Los Angeles, 2009), and an organ and brass concert with The Denver Brass (Denver, 2013).

Joe is the current AAM Treasurer, was a Past AAM Treasurer (2015-2018), was Co-Treasurer for the AAM 2020 Conference in Richmond, and is a long-time Treasurer for the Colorado Springs chapter AGO. He has served as Treasurer for other AGO Regional and POE events plus was Co-Chair and Treasurer for the AAM 2013 Conference in Denver.

Joe writes:

I am deeply honored to be considered for a third term in the position of AAM Treasurer. My work on the Board during my previous terms was intensely satisfying and I've thoroughly enjoyed all the discussions and visions about AAM. During my first term, I was part of the team that helped AAM's finances through the merger of AMF with AAM and the establishment of 501(c)(3) status. During my second term, I've been privileged to help with a significant number of financial details associated with the transition to AAM's new Executive Director. AAM is the one professional organization I love the most, and if elected, I promise to keep the finances in order.



Alan Lewis

Alan Lewis is a native of California, and of the Episcopal Church. His training was at Pomona College, Oberlin College & Conservatory and at the University of California, Berkeley, where he did his doctoral work on Renaissance polyphony as a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities. An AAM member since 1995, he has been the Organist and Director of Music at Calvary Church, Pittsburgh, since 1997. Prior to that he was the Director of Music and Lecturer in Church Music at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, in Berkeley, California. He has previously served as the Association's Secretary, Vice-President, President, and Past-President; in addition to contributing a number of articles to the *AAM Journal*, over the years, he served as its choral reviewer from 2006-12, and is currently its book reviewer.

Alan writes:

I am honored to have been asked to stand for election as AAM's Treasurer. As members should be aware, AAM's by-laws require us to hold contested elections (that is, to have more than a single candidate) for all offices save the Presidency, to which the Vice-President automatically rises after a one-year introductory term, and the Past-Presidency, which is self-evident. My willing presence on the ballot serves to fulfill this by-law, but it in no way diminishes the fervor of my support for the sitting Treasurer, Joe Galema, or of my hope that we will re-elect him for another term of exemplary service. I am confident of the superiority of his administrative gifts to my own, and urgently commend him to your favorable consideration.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE



Zachary Hemenway

Zachary Hemenway is Director of Music at Epiphany Parish in Seattle, WA, a post he has held since July 2018. At Epiphany, Zach serves as primary organist and oversees a large choral program that provides music for four weekly choral services, including twice-weekly choral evensong. Prior to his appointment at Epiphany, he was Director of Music at Saint Paul's Church, Chestnut Hill Philadelphia for ten years, where he founded an RSCM-based chorister program.

Zach holds degrees in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music as a student of David Higgs and the Institute for Sacred Music at Yale University as a student of Thomas Murray. Zach's passion for church music lies in hymn playing, liturgical improvisation, and helping singers of all levels achieve excellence.

Zachary writes:

AAM has provided me with so much to be grateful for over the course of my life in Anglican Church music. I have learned and grown as a result of attending conferences, conversing with colleagues, reading the journal, and relying on our close community for advice, support, and encouragement. In reflecting on all AAM has given me, I would be honored to give back by standing for re-election and continuing as Director at Large. The work of AAM is of key importance for the future of our profession, and I would happily lend my energy to that mission.



Gregory Deane Smith

Gregory Dean Smith, a native of Brooklyn, NY, has been a member of the Association since 2004. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Syracuse University and a Master's Degree in Sacred Music and Conducting from Westminster Choir College. He served for ten years as a staff singer and choral librarian for the choirs of Trinity Episcopal Church, Princeton during the tenure of John Bertalot. For 18 years, Greg was Director of Music at Grace Episcopal Church, Pemberton, NJ. He has been employed for over 30 years at Princeton University and his current position is in the Department of Music as the Academic Programs Administrator. He has sung professionally in churches and choral ensembles in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He is currently a staff singer in the choir of St. Clement's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia.

Gregory writes:

The first AAM Conference I attended was in 2003 in Atlanta. Many of my closest friends and musical colleagues I met through attending annual conferences. I would be honored to serve as a director at large. If elected, I would draw upon my experience in both the Episcopal denomination and in higher education. My hope is that AAM continues to broaden the diversity of its membership by encouraging a variety of musicians and clergy in all parts of the United States and beyond to apply and recommend new members.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE



Damini Spritzer

Damini Spritzer is Area Chair and Associate Professor of Organ at the University of Oklahoma and continues to work with the Cathedral Church of Saint Matthew in Dallas as Artist-in-Residence for Cathedral Arts. For the Association of Anglican Musicians, she has previously served on the committee for the Gerre Hancock Internship and is currently serving on the Editorial Board for the JAAM. Formerly an Adjunct Professor at the University of North Texas, she received her doctorate from the University of North Texas, her Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music, and her Bachelor of Music from the Oberlin Conservatory. In addition to her deep commitment to teaching, she has performed at historic churches and instruments in Iceland, Germany, France, Brazil, Italy, Israel, England, Norway, and Belgium. She has performed and lectured for the Organ Historical Society, the American Guild of Organists, and the Association of Anglican Musicians. Her research and performances focus heavily on underrepresented composers and diversity.

Damini writes:

Thank you for the honor of standing for election for the role of Director-at-Large. The Association of Anglican Musicians has meant a great deal to me these past years. The conferences offer liturgies and interactions I cherish, and the friendships and mentorships throughout our ranks have sustained me and inspire me daily. Though this role needfully encompasses an awareness of the many areas that represent all our membership, one area I would hope to continue to enlarge and strengthen is that of developing increased opportunities through AAM for student mentorship and formation in both church and the academy. It would be an honor to serve AAM in this capacity. We are poised at a wonderful point of inclusivity, visibility, and outreach, with many years of preparation and effort for greater diversity and equity. It would be profound to contribute in any way. Thank you for your consideration.



T. J. Thomas

T. J. Thomas has served St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes, Delaware as full-time Minister of Music since 2010. At St. Peter's he oversees a comprehensive music program including multiple choirs, handbells, and the St. Cecilia Music Guild concert series. During his undergraduate career T.J. served on the music staff at St. Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral (Wilkes-Barre, PA) under the direction of his organ teacher and mentor, Canon Mark Laubach while pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Music from Marywood University (Scranton, PA). An active member of the Royal School of Church Music in America, T.J. has been on the staff of the King's College choir training course since 2007. He is a member of the Southern Delaware chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Association of Anglican Musicians.

T. J. writes:

I am grateful to Jessica Nelson and the AAM board for the invitation to stand for election as Director-at-Large. I joined AAM in 2007 as an undergraduate and attended my first conference in 2010. Like many of us I continue to return to our conferences and periodic smaller gatherings for their supportive relationships and excellent worship. Serving a rural parish, AAM has been integral to remaining connected to colleagues in all corners of the church. If elected I look forward to giving back to this organization that has given so much to me. I am particularly eager to help potential members navigate the application process and welcome them into the fold.