



Fort Worth Chapter American Guild of Organists

6450 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, TX 76116

June 24, 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am pleased to inform you that the national headquarters of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) has bestowed the following certification award:

**Michael T. Lively, Phd, SPC
Choirmaster Certification**

Dr. Lively is now authorized and entitled to bear the post nominal of "CHM." Since he previously has been awarded the Service Playing Certification, he may continue to carry "SPC" after his name to indicate his full professional status: **Michael T. Lively, Phd, SPC, CHM.**

The certificate was earned by successful completion of comprehensive and difficult examinations including: (1) rehearsing and conducting a choir (one that Dr. Lively had never conducted previously) for four choral anthems with one in Latin, (2) performing various keyboard performance exams such as sight-reading a hymn, harmonizing a tune, and various exercises to determine his understanding of music theory, (3) transcribing scores on music notation manuscript after listening to passages played on a piano, and (4) completing a three hour written examination requiring harmonic analyses of scores and response to numerous questions on choral conducting, instrumental and choral ensembles, religious music, and music history. The examination was juried by a national panel of jurors esteemed as some of the top choirmasters and organists in our country. This distinction bears witness to Dr. Lively's superior knowledge and talent, and to his skill in applying his gifts to his work as both choral conductor and accompanist on the piano and organ.

Dr. Lively will be receiving from our national headquarters an engraved certificate that confirms his achievement. Only a minor population of our country's choirmasters is certified, so I want to stress that certification awards represent an important achievement in Dr. Lively's music career field.

The AGO was chartered in 1896 by the Board of Regents, University of the State of New York, to administer a comprehensive series of examinations for professional certification of organists and choirmasters. AGO's certification program is comparable to license and accreditation board standards in other fields, such as accounting (*e.g.*, CPA), education, medicine law, and other professions.

I know that you will want to join me in congratulating Dr. Lively on the achievement of this professional distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale".

DALE BENCH, SPC, CAGO
Dean