



Janet (Jan) K. Kraybill was honored as Fellow of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada (THS) at its Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in July 2024. This award, the highest honor given by the organization, is being conferred in recognition of her tireless efforts to provide enthusiastic leadership for the music of the church, as a concert organist, pianist, harpsichordist, dynamic speaker and clinician, church musician, and consultant.

Originally from Colby, Kansas, Jan holds the Bachelor of Music Education and the Master of Music (piano performance) degrees from Kansas State University and earned the Doctor of Musical Arts (organ performance) from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. She has concertized as both pianist and organist throughout the world. She has served in many local, regional, and national roles in the American Guild of

Organists (AGO) and the Master Teacher Institute. In 2010, she achieved the distinction of Fellow of the AGO, the highest certification level available for organists. Jan is a member of Mensa and served as Executive Director of The Hymn Society for two years.

In addition to a very active concert schedule, Jan is organ conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, and organist-in-residence at the international headquarters of Community of Christ in Independence, Missouri. In these roles, she plays and oversees the care of three of the Kansas City metro area's largest pipe organs: the 113-rank Aeolian-Skinner (1959) and 102-rank Casavant (1993) at Community of Christ's Auditorium and Temple, and the Kauffman Center's 102-rank Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant (2012).

Jan's recording of the *Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 "Organ"* with the Kansas City Symphony in 2015 was GRAMMY-nominated. Her solo recording, *The Orchestral Organ* (2019), received GRAMMY nominations in three categories, including Best Solo Instrumental Classical album. Music reviewer, Patrick Neas, said of this recording:

*The Orchestral Organ* is a stunner ... Kraybill is a one-woman orchestra whose renditions of Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, and Sibelius will leave you slack-jawed. ... *The Orchestral Organ* will knock the socks off any music lover, even those who claim they don't like organ music.

Jan has been heard on many broadcasts of American Public Media's national program *Pipedreams*.

Jan Kraybill is a blessing wherever she ministers. There is a sensitivity and intentionality to her registering and playing for worship. She is ever mindful of the singers and worship participants in a way that not only supports them but leads them into transcendent experiences. Jan's hymn festivals are works of art. Since 1998, she has led international hymn festivals of over 5,000 voices at Community of Christ's tri-annual World Conference from the massive Aeolian-Skinner 113-rank organ.

Jan lent her considerable talents as part of the team that developed *Community of Christ Sings*, a hymnal released in 2013 and showcased at the 2014 Hymn Society Conference.

Jan is convinced of the power of music to change lives for the better. During the recent pandemic, she provided online recordings in hopes of encouraging those who were struggling. Amazingly, she taught herself how to use the software to create, edit, and publish these recordings—a lifelong learner!

Jan brings a sense of calling and mission to her music ministry and provides a beacon of musical leadership, artistry, and excellence. You can explore <https://iankraybill.com> for more information about Jan's recordings, arrangements, and concert schedule.

Submitted by Jane M. Gardner, presiding evangelist, Community of Christ, Independence, Missouri, and team lead for *Community of Christ Sings* released in 2013.