

## George Wright Memorial Fellowship 2019 Report.

This year marked the completion of the preliminary steps for the revitalization of the George Wright Memorial Fellowship. The preliminary steps included gathering materials from previous years, as well as looking at other organization's applications for similar programs. In addition, colleagues in the organ world were consulted to get their insights for what they would expect to see in an application, and what kind of format would be most efficient.

The biggest change has been the removal of the essay requirement in lieu of directed short answers. These allow for us to more effectively gauge the interest of potential applicants, as well as allowing the applicant to more efficiently express their interests in order to be able to connect them with people who may be able to assist in whatever it is they are looking to do, whether technicians, or connecting them with people from the SYA program.

The updated application was launched, and two applications were received before COVID shutdowns happened. Due to the shutdown, information was not prepared for sending out to other organ-related organizations and schools with organ programs. We hope to see increased numbers of applicants when things return to normal and hope to have more engagement with the next generation of organists and technicians. My hope is to see more interest from college organ students, as many begin to explore theatre organ playing as part of their studies.