"The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ."
From the Dean’s Corner . . .

Happy New Year, Everyone. May it be healthy and prosperous! Celebrate the New Year, as well as Epiphany, at our annual Epiphany Party. Since church musicians are extremely busy at Christmas, we eliminate a December program, and celebrate together in January. This year our original plan needed to be changed, and so I have invited you to our home for the party.

Let me tell you a bit about our home organ. It began its life in 1954 in the Kilgen Organ factory, which is now defunct, and was built for a church in Pleasant Hills, which is a suburb of Pittsburgh. When our sons were in college, we no longer needed our 5 bedroom home with small rooms. We began a search for a home with space for a pipe organ. (Am I lucky or what! Bob suggested it!) We found the right house, AND the right organ—at about the same time.

Once we moved to Charlotte, we ultimately bought a fixer-upper, since in an exhaustive search we could not find an existing house with high ceilings and a wall without windows or fireplaces. After several years we decided to add a music room, plus a laundry room, and a full bath to the “fixed up” home we had bought. (We had painted everything, updated the kitchen, refinished hard woods, etc.)

Before moving to Charlotte, I had befriended the Bunn-Minnick Organ Company from Columbus, Ohio. They had renovated the organ I had been playing in the church where I had been music director in Moon Township PA. They transported my organ to their facility, and stored it until we had our home ready for it. While it was there, they re-leathered it, made a very quiet string stop (Quintaten), a celeste, added an electronic 16’ pedal stop (for more boom) and provided me with a better console that had pistons. The organ has 4 ranks—principle, flute, string, and celeste. All ranks are available as 16’, 8’, 4’, 2’, 1’, 2 2/3, 1 3/5 (mostly) on the 2 manuals. It’s all enclosed in an 8’3” case, which is quite lovely.

So, come see it, play it, enjoy visiting with your colleagues, have a chef prepared meal, and enjoy hearing Linda Liberty play my grand piano. (Bring a prepared organ piece with you. With the limited stops, you will have no problem registering just about anything. The only restriction is that it has 2 manuals.)

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BY JANUARY 5!
AGO Programs for 2019-2020

December 2019: No meeting

Friday January 10, 2020 6:30 PM **Note change of venue!**
- The Watson Home
  7201 Terrace Drive, Charlotte, NC 28211
  Annual Epiphany Dinner

Saturday and Sunday February 8-9, 2020:
- Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1000 E Morehead St, Charlotte, NC 28204
- Peek Weekend
- Robert Hobby, guest clinician
- Saturday workshop from 10:00 to Noon, on Service Playing
- Sunday Hymn Sing at 3:00 PM

Monday March 9, 2020: 7:30 PM
- Providence Baptist Church, 4921 Randolph Rd, Charlotte, NC 2821
- Introducing our new Orgelkids Kit, which demonstrates the inner workings of the organ. We will be able to see and explore this instrument for teaching anyone, young and old, about the organ.

April 2020: No meeting

Monday May 18, 2020: 6:30/7:15 PM
- Myers Park Baptist Church, 1900 Queens Rd, Charlotte, NC 28207
- Dinner (6:30) and Installation Service (7:15)

Your Board at work . . . .

The board of the Charlotte AGO Chapter does not meet in the month of December due to the busy Christmas season. We will meet again in January.
PEEK MUSIC WEEKEND

Bob Hobby

Workshop: Saturday, Feb. 8, 9 a.m. to noon
Hymn Festival: Sunday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Presented by Charlotte AGO and Covenant
Concerts and More

**Sunday, January 5 at 3:30PM**, the Christ Church Choir of Charlotte under the direction of Ben Outen will perform Choral Eveningsong including music by Richard Ayleward, Henry Purcell, and William Byrd. Christ Episcopal Church, 1412 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC. Admission is free. For more information, visit [https://www.choralevensongclt.org/](https://www.choralevensongclt.org/).

**Monday, January 13 at 7:30PM**, Jonathan Dimmock, international concert artist, will perform an organ recital including a brother-sister duet with Jane Dimmock Cain, Davidson College Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, 100 North Main Street, Davidson, NC. Free admission; Freewill offering received. For more information, visit [www.dcpc.org](http://www.dcpc.org).

**Sunday, January 19 at 5:00PM**, the choirs of Christ Church and Holy Comforter under the direction of Bruce Neswick will perform Choral Eveningsong including music by William Smith and Charles Villiers Stanford. Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 2701 Park Road, Charlotte, NC. Admission is free. For more information, visit [https://www.choralevensongclt.org/](https://www.choralevensongclt.org/).

**January 31 to February 2, 2020**, The Piedmont NC Chapter is the proud co-sponsor with Salem College and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts of the annual High School Organ Festival & Competition. Cash and Scholarship prizes for first, second, and third place performances as well as a hymn playing prize. For more information, see [http://www.piedmontncago.org/uncsa-high-school-competition.html](http://www.piedmontncago.org/uncsa-high-school-competition.html).

**The Charlotte AGO Summer Recital Series**

The 2019 Charlotte AGO Summer Recital Series will be held on the Sundays in June, July, and August 2019. Performers are needed for Sunday evening recitals, and there are still openings, particularly in July. Performers will prepare a one-hour recital with an intermission, and secure a venue in the Charlotte region to host your recital.

Please email your preferred recital date and the location which you have secured to Mark Johanson, Summer Recital Series coordinator: [markwjohanson@gmail.com](mailto:markwjohanson@gmail.com)

**Welcome New Member**

Tedd Roseberry

Email: teddroseberry@gmail.com
Support the Charlotte AGO!

Give a gift for Christmas!
Or, purchase an advertisement.

Business Cards: $8/mnth, $40/yr
¼-page ad: $10/mnth, $60/yr
½-page ad: $12/mnth, $85/yr
Full-page ad: $18/mnth, $110/yr

For more information, contact any board member!

Website Refresh on the Horizon — Photos Requested

We are about to embark on a refresh of our chapter website, and would like to include photographs of organs in the Charlotte area. If you have photographs, past or present, of Charlotte-area organ facades, consoles, recitals, or similar, please send them to Mark Johanson: markwjohanson@gmail.com. Thank you very much!
Member Recommendations: CDs of Note

**In Paradisum: The Healing Power of Heaven/South Dakota Chorale**

Winner: Grammy for Best Classical Producer, Blanton Alspaugh. In their debut recording, the South Dakota Chorale performs the rarely recorded “organ version” of Duruflé’s Requiem, using the French-influenced Bedient organ of First Congregational Church in Sioux Falls, SD.

**Pilgrim Psalms, by Ross Lee Finney**  
**Performed by**  
**the Choirs of Harvard University**  
**Directed by Andrew Clark**

Pilgrim Psalms by Ross Lee Finney is a collection of choral and organ works based on the Ainsworth Psalter, brought by the pilgrims to Plymouth in 1620. These melodies are among America's greatest folk heritage and have influenced sacred singing through the centuries. Finney's sympathetic settings retain the Psalter's appealing tunes and incorporate the Psalter's seventeenth-century English text. The Harvard Choruses are directed by Andrew Clark in this first recording of Finney's important work. Produced by Gothic Recordings. Price: $18.99.

**The Orgelbüchlein,**  
**by Johann Sebastian Bach**  
**Performed by Dana Robinson, Professor of Organ at the University of Illinois**

Dr. Robinson’s historical and yet timely interpretation of Bach’s *Orgelbüchlein* is a must-have. Robinson’s clear articulation emphasizes the musical line in the music. His registrations are creative, historical, clear, and appropriate, and therefore enhance the interpretation of each chorale prelude. Produced by Arsis. Price: $15.99.
JOIN THE CHARLOTTE CHILDREN’S CHOIR IN 2020

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FEBRUARY 2020

SAVE THE DATE

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a cappella artistry with a purpose

An A Cappella Christmas
November 24, 2019 —7pm. Christ Episcopal Church, Charlotte
Featuring music of the season by Poulenc, Britten, Dove, Howells, Gjeilo, Sandstrom, Culloten, Forrest, Vaughan Williams and others
Our professional CD recording will be available.

Dan Locklair: Sing to the World
A Choral Cycle in Celebration of Music
May 3, 2020—7pm. Christ Episcopal Church, Charlotte
Don’t miss the World Premiere of this new commission!

TICKETS: CarolinaTix.org 704-372-1000

Cathy Youngblood, Artistic Director
www.caritasacappella.org

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Seaside United Methodist Church
Sunset Beach, North Carolina

A beautiful beach and retirement area is the home of Seaside United Methodist Church. Replacing an Allen Organ from 1994, the new Rodgers 599 was installed in the fall of 2019. The organ search committee, headed by Kathy Parker, Director of Music and Organist, began their search for a new organ by visiting some Rodgers and Allen installations. The incomparable Rodgers Sound, features, and advanced technology won out over the competition. The decision was to purchase a new Rodgers Artist 599, with 16 channels of audio. The organs diverse specification thrilled the committee and is serving all of the worship needs of the congregation.

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Choral Evensong

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Service dates and details:
www.choralevensongclt.org

Christ Church Charlotte
1412 Providence Road
www.christchurchcharlotte.org

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter
2701 Park Road
www.holycomfortercharlotte.org

St. John’s Episcopal Church
1623 Carmel Road
www.stje.org

St. Martin’s Episcopal Church
1510 E. Seventh Street
www.stmartins-charlotte.org

St. Peter’s Episcopal Church
115 W. Seventh Street
www.st-peters.org
Thank You.

St. Peter’s Basilica, Vatican, is the largest church in the world. Its size creates special challenges for an organ. Large scaling of an instrument creates excessive volume near the organ, but still not enough to fill the entire sanctuary. The Vatican chose an Allen Organ with a flexible audio solution to resolve this challenge. During the 2017 Christmas Eve celebration, a new Allen GenSys™ Organ was used throughout the Mass, as heard worldwide in a live telecast.

Allen Organ Company has installed organs in many prestigious institutions. Now, including the Vatican on top of this list is humbling.

I offer a huge “thank you” and congratulations to all involved in the many efforts and events over the years that led to this amazing story.

Sincerely,
Steven A. Markowitz, President
Allen Organ Company

As the local Allen Organ representative, A.P. Farmer Music has been honored with many notable installations throughout the Diocese of Charlotte. Please contact us to learn how we can serve your Parish.

Gus Farmer, President
A.P. Farmer Music

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Organ at Davidson

September 16
Andrew Scanlon
Professor of Sacred Music and Organ Performance, East Carolina University

October 14
N.C. Baroque Orchestra Chamber Players
David Wilson, Martin Perry, violins, Barbara Knodell, cello, Barbara Weiss, chamber organ

November 11
Clara Gerdes
Graduate student at Yale School of Sacred Music, AGO Rising Star

January 13
Jonathan Dimmock
International concert organist with solo organ duct

February 10
Choral Arts Society of Davidson
Christopher Gilliam, director
Featured organists: Tom Rotok and Jane Cahn
Repertoire: The Lamb and Festival Te Deum

March 16
Bach Birthday Bash: Joe Causey
Director of Music and Organist at Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill

Davidson College Presbyterian Church Sanctuary
100 North Main Street, Davidson

2019-2020
Concerts start at 7:30 p.m.
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
CHARLOTTE CHAPTER
Dr. Elizabeth 'Beth' Harrison, Newsletter Editor
Submissions to: ElizabethAHarrison@icloud.com or elizabeth.harrison@pfeiffer.edu

Charlotte AGO Executive Board 2019-2020

Chapter Officers
Nancy Watson, Chapter Dean
watsonndh@gmail.com
Kathy Alexander, Sub-Dean
kattails@windstream.net
Linda Liberty, Secretary
stphilipmusict@aol.com
Kevin Haney, Treasurer
Khaney01@gmail.com

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Class of 2021-2022
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