Summer Recital Series  
August 2020

August 2  
Chase Loomer  Live-Streamed

August 9  
John Apple  Live-Streamed

August 16  
Lester Ackerman  Live-Streamed

August 23  
Elizabeth Harrison  Live-Streamed

August 30  
Scott Foppiano  First UMC (Belmont)

Please see page 10 for the full recital series schedule.

For all live-streamed recitals, please visit www.charlotteago.org.

Please consider signing up to be an usher at one of our summer recitals by clicking here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aeadd2dabf6-agosummer

For the most recent information regarding recitals, please check the Charlotte AGO Chapter website.

"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."
It’s time for a new directory of AGO members in Charlotte! When we sent out ballots for electing new board members, we included a survey for you to update your information. We received 80 replies to our survey, so that’s a great help. But if you were one that did not, PLEASE email me (watsonndh@gmail.com) with this following information:

- Name
- Home address
- Cell phone number
- Home phone number
- Work phone number
- Personal email
- Work email
- Employment/Position
- Address of employment
- Degrees/Certification
- Name of spouse or partner
- Are you willing to volunteer for any position on the board, host a meeting at your church, host an Epiphany dinner in your home, serve on a committee or contribute in another way?
- Add any comments about our chapter you may have.

This will be a mammoth job for a few of us in the coming months, so please respond. We really don’t want to call 50 people! There’s one additional plea! If you have not renewed your membership, you will not be included in the directory. Please check on your membership status.

Your AGO board had a whole year of programs planned, only to have to create virtual programs. Some of our planned actual meetings can conform to virtual, but others can’t and we need to invent new ways to program.

**One new way is to have a virtual members’ recital.** Many of you have been playing the organ for virtual church services, and by now you probably have a library of performances of preludes, offertories, and postludes. If so, please share something for this virtual recital. Introduce yourself on the video and announce your music. Give your name, your position or title if applicable, and what you will be playing.

If you do not have videos, you can create one with your smart phone
- Position the phone in landscape mode (sideways) when recording
- Place the phone far enough away from the pipes or speakers so that the sound is not distorted
- Introduce yourself (see above instructions for your introduction)

ALL MUSIC MUST BE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. The definition for public domain is that the music must have been written or published before 1925.

After your video is complete, turn it in on the Charlotte AGO website (https://www.charlotteago.org/). Our webmaster, Mark Johanson, will put a button on the home page for this purpose (https://www.dropbox.com/request/e1Khb6iAXUCggDgDubZi). Do not email the video, since videos are too large for email. If you have questions or need help with any of this, please email Mark with questions, at markwjohanson@gmail.com.

Nancy Watson, Dean
Charlotte Chapter AGO
E-mail: watsonndh@gmail.com
Tel: 704-618-280
September 2020 Chapter Meeting

We have a real treat coming up on September 21 at 7:30. We will be having a live streamed production from Baltimore, MD.

Dr. Theodore Davis will present a program of organ music based on Bach’s use of French dance. The program is entitled “So You Think Bach Can Dance?”

Dr. Davis has his DMA from Peabody Conservatory, and is Organist/Choirmaster of St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in Baltimore.

His programs include both organ and harpsichord on a variety of subjects such as “Advent from the land of Luther,” “Homage to Sacre’ Coeur,” and this Bach program. Harpsichord programs have such titles as “The French Twist” and “Goldberg Variations.”

We look forward to hearing this interesting program and certainly hope that many of you will be tuned in to watch and listen. We will send a link in September to the program. Many thanks to Dr. Davis for making this a virtual presentation, though we certainly regret that he cannot be with us in person.
JOIN THE CHARLOTTE CHILDREN’S CHOIR IN 2020

Join singers from across the Charlotte area to sing together with CCC. No experience or prior training required. Schedule your placement today!

Contact Keegan Brittain at kbrittain@artsplus.org

artsplus.org/programs/charlotte-childrens-choir
The AGO Southeast Region was able to host our Regional Meeting on Monday, July 20 via Zoom. Many topics were discussed, including the postponement of all 2021 Regional Conventions until 2023, the highlighting of regional leaders, and a prayer from AGO National Chaplain, Don Saliers. In addition, we heard a stunning performance of Messiaen’s *Les enfants de Dieu* played by Nicholas Stigall at Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville, TN. Nicholas was the winner of the 2019 AGO/Quimby Southeast Regional Competition for Young Organists. If you would like to hear Nicholas’ performance, please click here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=d_qJj3_P9U8&feature=emb_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=d_qJj3_P9U8&feature=emb_title)

---

**CARITAS**

**A Cappella Ensemble**

* 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, Gjello, Sandstrom, Culloton, 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**

---

**Carolina Pro Musica**

Artists in residence, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont NC
42nd Season of Early Music Concerts, Charlotte NC

Edward Ferrell, Rebecca Miller Saunders, Holly Wright Maurer, Karen Hite Jacob

Medieval to Baroque Music / period instruments & voices

[www.carolinapromusica.org](http://www.carolinapromusica.org)
The board of the Charlotte AGO Chapter met on Monday, July 13, 2020, via Zoom. Highlights of the meeting were discussions around:

- The new website for our chapter
- A new membership directory
- Upcoming programming for 2020-21
- Virtual recital by AGO members
- Membership survey
- Renewing membership updates

Our next meeting will be August 10 via Zoom. Please let any board member know if you have any issues that need to be discussed.
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 GeniSys™ 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 the 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

Allen offers organs for worship spaces of every size, shape and acoustics.

Bring us your dreams!

A.P. FARMER
ORGAN COMPANY
Serving Charlotte, NC and the Surrounding Region
980-581-1490
sales@apfarmermusic.com
apfarmermusic.com
The Charlotte Convocation of Episcopal Churches invites you to attend

Choral Evensong

— A sung liturgy with prayer, scripture, music, and silence —

Sung most Sundays during the academic year at one of Charlotte’s Episcopal churches

Service dates and details: www.choralevensongclt.org

Christ Church Charlotte
1412 Providence Road
www.christchurchcharlotte.org

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

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter
2701 Park Road
www.holycomfortercharlotte.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
**Thursday, August 13, 4:00 pm EDT**

*Virtual Choir for the Rest of Us Workshop: Part 1*

Carol Spradling, Director of Music at First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, decided that the COVID “stay at home” order was going to mean that her small but mighty choir was going to adapt, rather than disband. Using Zoom rehearsals, smartphones, electronically distributed music, and the online digital audio workstation BandLab, she and her choir started scaling the learning curve between live choral singing and digital recording. This is a hands-on, nuts-and-bolts course in how to produce socially distanced audio recordings of your choir or ensemble (from home), using smartphones, laptops, and free software. To attend Part 1 of this workshop, please register here: [https://www.agohq.org/upcoming-ago-webinars/](https://www.agohq.org/upcoming-ago-webinars/)

**Thursday, August 20, 4:00 pm EDT**

*Virtual Choir for the Rest of Us, Workshop: Part 2*

Part 2 of this workshop will include participant follow-up discussions of hands-on software utilization, sharing of success stories and challenges. To attend Part 2 of this workshop, please register here: [https://www.agohq.org/upcoming-ago-webinars/](https://www.agohq.org/upcoming-ago-webinars/)
2020 Summer Recital Series

All Recitals to Begin at 7:00 PM. Free Admission.

Freewill offerings will be collected at recitals and online to support the Nashville AGO to assist in organ rebuilding following the March tornadoes (July 5 & 12), and the Stigall Scholarship Fund for young organists (all other recitals).

Schedule subject to change. This schedule current as of July 20. Please refer to www.charlotteago.org for the most up-to-date schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td><strong>ROBERT DICKS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td><strong>CANCELLED</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td><strong>ALEX WILSON</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26</td>
<td><strong>STIGALL SCHOLARS RECITAL</strong></td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Cathedral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1621 Dilworth Rd. E., Charlotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td><strong>CHASE LOOMER</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td><strong>JOHN APPLE</strong></td>
<td>Live-Streamed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Organ, Violin, Cello, Flute, &amp; Harp</td>
<td>Please visit charlotteago.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Freewill offering to support Stigall Scholarship Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16</td>
<td><strong>LESTER ACKERMAN</strong></td>
<td>Live-Streamed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Please visit charlotteago.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Freewill offering to support Stigall Scholarship Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td><strong>ELIZABETH HARRISON</strong></td>
<td>Live-Streamed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Please visit charlotteago.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Freewill offering to support Stigall Scholarship Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td><strong>SCOTT FOPPIANO</strong></td>
<td>Live-Streamed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>First United Methodist Church (Belmont)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>807 S. Point Rd., Belmont</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highlights from

OrganFest 2020

OrganFest 2020 - A Great Success
C. Justin Smith, North Carolina District Convener

While all AGO members were saddened by the necessary cancellation of our National Convention in Atlanta in July, our national Committee on Conventions really "pulled out all the stops" for the inaugural AGO OrganFest, a weeklong celebration of organ and choral music in the United States and around the world. The OrganFest featured five evening "concerts," which were recorded at locations worldwide by a number of organists who were scheduled to play at the national convention. The backbone of these video programs were five of the major commissioned works that were to be premiered at the convention. Instead of having the premieres in person for only registered conference attendees, people everywhere were able to hear these pieces as many times as they wanted, all free of charge. These videos also included the introduction of the new AGO logo, recognition of award winners celebrating our scholarship and composition competitions, and the introduction of leadership award winner Dr. Joyce Johnson of Atlanta. All of these items would have occurred during the national convention, but this instead gave everyone interested a chance to see them and participate in learning more about the Guild, even though many people watching were not going to be able to attend the conference in the first place.

In addition to the evening virtual concerts, a number of PipeTalks were recorded and uploaded to YouTube. These short ten-minute presentations are overviews of academic research as well as workshops on how to teach new organists and lead choral groups. Usually these workshops are a benefit of conference registration, but this year they are free for all to enjoy.

We also enjoyed a lively and informational regional meeting, led by Regional Councillor Sue Mitchell-Walce. At this Zoom meeting, which had around 135 attendees, we learned that the 2021 regional conventions have been postponed until 2023 given the uncertainty of travel and performance availability. We also remembered the members who have passed away in the last year with a prayer by National Chaplain Don Saliers, and we heard a performance by the 2019 Southeast Region AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists winner Nicholas Stigall, who was to have performed at the convention. I am pleased to report that at least seven of our nine AGO chapters in North Carolina were represented, including your chapter.

I was thrilled by the energetic response to our first attempt at this kind of event. The "after-parties" on Zoom after each evening concert gave everyone a chance to meet other organists from around the world. I personally was able to connect with friends that I only get to see at AGO conventions due to distance and schedule restraints. It really did feel like you were together, even though it was all online. I hope that we can experience similar events in the future. If you were not able to watch the weeknight videos, each are less than an hour long and are well worth your time, as you will surely be inspired by the incredible music. Please check them out online at: https://agoorganfest2020.org/.
You recently joined our chapter of the American Guild of Organists. What brought you to the Charlotte area?

After 26 years, I left the cold winters of Rochester, NY to attend the University of South Carolina as a Master’s student in piano. Having always known Church Music was going to play a significant role in my life, I kept an eye out for possible churches that would be a good fit. Ascension Lutheran Church has been a place of great musical and spiritual encouragement, and is the reason I found myself in the vibrant, sunny city of Charlotte.

Tell us about your background. Where did you study? With whom did you study?

I earned a Bachelor’s in Piano Performance from Nazareth College in Rochester. There I studied with Brian Preston, a fabulous pedagogue, performer, and friend. A few years later, I moved to South Carolina to study piano with a Dr. Joseph Rackers, prolific performer and now Eastman piano faculty.

As an organist, I began serious lessons in college with Dr. Dianne Maynard to fulfill a degree requirement. Seven years later, I was still studying and captivated by the technique and literature. Dr. Maynard currently sits on the faculty of the Eastman School of Music as an instructor of sacred music.

Why did you decide to study organ?

I grew up in a very music oriented church. The Music Director was Dr. Cary Ratcliff, a composer and one of the most inventive musicians and improvisers I have heard. The sounds, harmony, and variety he could conjure on the instrument really highlighted how different the organ was from the piano (an instrument I was pretty well versed in already). His example has continued to inspire me, and was the reason I pursued organ with such excitement and curiosity.
What kind of future do you see for young organists like yourself?

The opportunity to reach new audiences is growing as the instrument continues to be demystified. Thanks to social media, I am seeing a lot of young adults viewing the instrument through new lenses. Continued effort in the area of accessibility (through endeavors like the wonderful AGO Summer Recital Series) makes the future for young organists look very bright.

Do you think the AGO at the National, Regional, or Chapter level will be important for the future of young organists? How do you see yourself involved in the AGO in the future?

The AGO, with its respected and proven history, will be an invaluable resource for the newer generations of organists. Upon moving to Charlotte during COVID, the very first people to reach out were organists from the Guild. This community of professionals who are eager to share ideas and expertise will help our art survive and thrive.

What are your plans for the future?

Survive 2020. (Just kidding Zach, thought that’d give you a laugh, though)

What is your favorite repertoire? What attracts you to this repertoire?

A “white whale” of mine has been Mulet’s “Tu es petra.” I am really fascinated by programmatic organ music, and the battle between good and evil depicted in this piece is especially stunning. It reminds me of another work I love, Prokofiev’s “Suggestion Diabolique” for piano. There is similar good/evil imagery, though playing both in a single setting might be too overwhelming for any listener.

What is your favorite organ? What attracts you to this instrument?

The Italian Baroque organ at the University of Rochester’s Memorial Art Gallery holds a special place in my heart. It was where I heard my first organ concert, and many more through the Gallery’s weekly concert series. What I love most about the organ is its unique history: it was quickly disassembled after being built, making it one of the only organs to have maintained the baroque sound you would have heard in the 18th century. It was also discovered in an antique shop, mistaken for a vanity.
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.
American Guild of Organists
Charlotte Chapter
Zach Bowyer, Newsletter Editor

Submissions to: zach@smpchome.org with “Charlotte AGO Newsletter” in the subject of the email.

Charlotte AGO Executive Board 2020-2021

Chapter Officers

Nancy Watson, Dean
watsonndh@gmail.com

Kathy Alexander, Sub-Dean
kattails@windstream.net

Linda Liberty, Secretary
stphilipmusic@aol.com

Kevin Haney, Treasurer
khaney01@gmail.com

Executive Board Members

Class of 2020-2021
John Apple
Mark Johanson

Class of 2021-2022
Evan Currie
Ed Tompkins

Class of 2022-2023
Zach Bowyer
Kathie Riebe