



The Coupler

The Official Magazine of the
American Guild of Organists
Washington, DC Chapter
January, 2009

The Dean's Letter

On behalf of the DC Chapter board, best wishes to all for a musical 2009! Preparations for DC AGO2010 are right on schedule, and information about performers, programs and venues will be available as soon as contracts have been finalized. The Convention needs many volunteers, so please consider donating some time to help make this a successful event!

*I would like to share some recent organ news from the Netherlands. Two of the largest Dutch organists' associations recently decided to join forces and the new organization came into being on January 1. With 2600 its membership is 12% of the national AGO membership, but this is a very small country with a dramatically declining number of churches, where even half-time church positions are something unheard of. The membership of the *Koninklijke Vereniging van Organisten en Kerkmusici* (Royal Society of Organists and Church Musicians) includes professionals and non-professionals, just like the AGO's. Somehow the excellent publications of the organization manage without advertisements for electronic instruments or infomercials. Its website (www.hetorgel.nl) features a most helpful link page.*

Apart from the dismal state of the economy, these are tough times for the organ anyway. Perhaps a little good news, even from far away, will be inspiring!

Ronald Stolk

Baldwin Organ mco MARQUEE (has everything!) In perfect condition. Walnut wood. Was \$6,000. when it was new, now selling for \$2,500. or best offer.

Contact Ruth Evans at (301) 468-7040

Programs

Please come and hear what the future holds for the AGO!

Our colleague **Aline Otten** has graciously offered to host the AGO Young Organist Competition at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, 4900 Connecticut Ave NW, Saturday, **2pm February 21, 2009** Stay tuned for details.

Chevy Chase Concerts, One Chevy Chase Circle, NW

Sunday, January 18, 4PM, Washington Saxophone Quartet, Free, with Reception, An offering will be accepted The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church Washington, DC 20015 202-363-2202

Chantry

Saturday, March 7, 8pm, St. Paul's 2430 K Street NW. Foggy Bottom metro &

Sunday, March 8, 6pm, St. Bernadette's, 70 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring, MD

Orlando Gibbons, Complete *First Service* "Verse" and "full" anthems

Saturday, May 16, 8pm, St. Paul's 2430 K Street NW. Foggy Bottom metro &

Sunday, May 17, 6pm, St. Bernadette's, 70 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring, MD

Victoria "Missa Ascendens Christus"

Church of the Resurrection, Burtonsville, MD

Dedication of 100 'rank' Walker Technical Company Digital Organ www.resurrectionadw.org

John Walker, organist Sunday, January 11th, 2009 6:00 p.m. Dessert reception following.

Church of the Resurrection will host a series of inaugural recitals including: Richard K. Fitzgerald,

Sunday, February 15th, 2009; 6:00 p.m.; Stephen Harouff, Sunday, March 22nd, 2009; 6:00 p.m.

Russell Weismann, Sunday, May 24th, 2009; 6:00 p.m. Eric Plutz, Sunday, June 21st, 2009; 6:00 p.m.

JOBS

MARYLAND

12/10/08 ORGANIST / CHOIR DIRECTOR – Avail. March 1, 2009 St John's Episcopal Church (ASA: 175-200) 3427 Olney Laytonsville Rd Olney, MD 20832 Phone: 301-774-6999 Direct one adult choir. Position averages 12-15 hrs/week; 2-manual pipe instrument

6531 Columbia Pike Annandale, VA 22003 703-256-3644 10 hrs/week. 3-manual Rodgers Oxford

925 (age 15 yrs); Kawai grand piano Salary range \$13,000-16,000; 2 weeks' paid vacation, 2 weeks' sick leave, continuing-educa. fund (\$250). "We are a vibrant, mid-sized, mission-committed

congregation. Our worship services are basically traditional-classical, using some Hal Hopson, K. Lee Scott, Jane Marshall and similar literature. Our Sanctuary Choir numbers 15-20 singers, using SATB, SAB, 2-part & unison anthems; emphasis is not just on singing technically well, but making our music beautiful and inspirational. We frequently have our youth provide special vocal/instrumental music in the services, either alone or with the adult choir. Beautiful, well-played organ music and accompaniments are critical to our music program and services."

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

10/15/08 WEDDING ORGANIST – Available immediately Hylton Memorial Chapel 14640 Potomac Mills Rd Woodbridge, VA 22192 703-590-0076; Fax: 703-590-0157; www.hyltonchapel.org Contact: Andrea Craddock, Events Director; andrea.craddock@hyltonchapel.org This position is for weddings only, typically 12-15 per year.

Average total time requirement per wedding is 3 hours, incl. 1-1/2 hrs for the ceremony.

Organs: Wedding Chapel, Rogers electronic/piper combination; Sanctuary, Allen Digital 4.
Compensation: \$200 per wedding paid directly by bride & groom; on-site consultations extra.
“Most of our couples prefer traditional wedding music, but some do request gospel and contemporary.”

10/25/08 ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR – Available 2 November 2008 St David’s Episcopal Church 43600 Russell Branch Pkwy Ashburn, VA 20147 Contact: Carrie Rush at crush@sdlife.org with cover letter and resume. Size of congregation: 1100; Avg. hours/week: 10 (one service, one evening rehearsal) Direct: 1 choir; Organ: Viscount GS 525; also a 7’ Kawai GS 60 piano. Annual salary/range: within AGO Guidelines “St David’s seeks an Organist/Director for an all-volunteer choir of 12. Thursday rehearsals from 7:30-9pm. We would like the Director to help the choir grow. Responsible for music at one Sunday service, one weeknight rehearsal, Holy Week services and on other Church special days. Variety in musical styles is welcomed. Will consider someone not familiar with Episcopal liturgy but who understands the important role of music in a congregation’s worship experience. Occasional weddings/funerals at additional compensation.”

10/28/08 ORGANIST – Available immediately Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Rd Alexandria, VA 22308 Contact: Jeff Taylor, Music Director at jtay@loc.gov or by phone at 703-360-5248 (H) or 202-707-1943 (W) – send resume w/ cover to Church attn: Jeff Taylor, Music Director 1 Service and 1 rehearsal per week plus 3-5 add’l services/year. 8-10 hours/week. 1 adult choir (20); II/13 Louis & Hitchcock pipe organ (1995); Yamaha grand piano. Salary: \$13,000, weddings & funerals add’l. 4 weeks’ paid vacation, 2 weeks’ sick leave. Contin. educa. funds avail. “Traditional worship service. Heritage is a welcoming and friendly congregation which includes a number of trained professional musicians, several of whom sing in the well-trained choir. All have an appreciation for sacred music of all periods and genres.”

10/31/08 ORGANIST – Avail. January 1, 2009 Mt Vernon United Methodist Church (200 active members) 2006 Belle View Blvd Alexandria, VA 22307 703-765-1100, fax: 703-765-1101 Two svcs/week, choir rehearsal Wed. eve; avg. hrs/week: 8-10 3-manual Allen electronic organ Annual salary: \$11,000; 4 weeks’ paid vacation. “Mt Vernon UMC enjoys a variety of music styles in worship from classical to contemporary. Organist works with the Music Director and occasionally with the Sacred Dance group director. Please send a resume by mail, fax or e-mail to mvumc.officel@verizon.net.”

10/31/08 ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST/PIANIST – Avail. January 1, 2009 Fairfax Presbyterian Church (700 members) 10723 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22030 703-274-5300 Contact - Att’n: Worship Ministry, or e-mail resume to smmerc2@verizon.net To accompany Adult, Children and youth/Teen choirs, avg. 16.5 hrs/week Organ: Gress-Miles III/34, 47 stops; electronic and acoustic pianos. Annual salary to \$25,000 (3+ years’ experience, Bachelor’s in Music, Master’s preferred) Continuing-educa. fund avail. “FPC is seeking part-time Org./Accomp./Pianist to accompany or perform solo with its music ministry staff and volunteers during worship and rehearsals of the Sanctuary, Carol, Teen, Chapel and Bell Choirs, Instrumental Ensemble and (if needed) its Youth Choir and Praise Band. Two services/Sunday and 3-4 special services such as Christmas Eve. The candidate should have formal training in organ/piano performance in both traditional & contemporary as well as encouraging spiritual growth & fellowship in participants. Position reports to the Director of Music.”

11/24/08 ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR – Avail. per negotiation Fairfax Presbyterian Church (700 members) 10723 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22033 703-273-5300

To direct two (2) children's choirs and one teen/youth Praise Band, avg. 15 hrs/week

Annual salary to \$25,000 (3+ years' experience, with BA in Music or higher degree)

Continuing Educa. fund avail. "FPC is passionate about its music program for all ages and is seeking a part-time Assoc. Director for children & youth music ministry. This Associate should have formal training in choral directing and will report to the Director of Music. He/she will direct the three choirs in both traditional and contemporary music in a friendly & loving environment, encouraging spiritual growth & fellowship among participants. Please send applications to FPC attn: Worship Ministry or e-mail to smmerc2@verizon.net."

12/12/08 ORGANIST – Avail. Immediately John Calvin Presbyterian Church (200 ASA)

Salary: AGO scale; 4 weeks' paid vacation, 2 weeks' continuing education. Book/music allowance and continuing educa. fund. "St John's is a suburban congregation with a K-8 school and three small services on Sundays since the 1842 building and worship spaces are small. Music to be provided for the 9 and 11 a.m. services – the 9 o'clock is an abbreviated Rite-II Eucharist with youth involvement; the 11 o'clock is a standard Rite-II Eucharist with an adult choir of a dozen or so that rehearses on Thurs. evenings plus Sunday a.m. warm-up."

Vernon de Tar Competition for Young Organists

The Delaware Chapter of the AGO sponsors the Vernon de Tar Scholarship Competition. This competition is for young organists ages 12-18, and provides scholarships to attend a summer POE of the student's choice and a cash award. Application **deadline is March 20, 2009**

David Schelat

Coordinator, Vernon de Tar Scholarship Competition

Delaware Chapter, AGO

Minister of Music, First & Central Church, 1101 N. Market Street, Wilmington DE 19801 302-654-5371 ext 18 Schelat@fandc.org www.fandc.org

Local Composer, D.C. AGO Chapter Member Kenneth Lowenberg's New Anthem

GIA has just released a new anthem "Creator of the Stars of Night." It is a setting of the 9th century Latin plainsong hymn, *Conditor alme siderum*. Scoring is for 2-part voices and keyboard, with optional oboe or other C instrument. It is written in such a way that it could be performed by an SATB choir, 2-part mixed voices, treble voices only, or male voices only. Its melody is the traditional plainsong. The organ (or piano) accompaniment is built entirely from motifs found in the plainsong chant. Code number for the anthem is G-6873, and code number for the optional instrumental part is G-6873INST

Nota Bene! If you are willing to take over as Editor of *The Coupler*, with all the attendant power and prestige, contact Tom Cowan tgcowan@aim.com