



The Coupler

eNewsletter

American Guild of Organists
Washington, DC Chapter

www.dicago.org

July 2009

The Dean's Letter

At the Annual Meeting I heard several comments about the increase in the membership fee. The previous dues were \$88 and currently are \$92. Most of us have been to the grocery store, and some of the rising prices are alarming. I fear we are in for a significant period of inflation. Economists point out that any expansion of the economic base, currently due to stimulus packages, typically leads to inflation. I regret that there is nothing I can do about inflation, but I can suggest a reasonable way for DC/AGO members to get more for their dues: Come to more programs.

A portion of your dues go to National AGO for TAO and support of our organization in general. The part that stays with the local Chapter used to go largely for newsletters. Thanks to internet publishing, DC/AGO has more to spend on programs. So attend our programs, meet your colleagues, and enjoy the receptions that your dues provide!

This year, leading up to the 2010 National Convention in Washington, DC, will see our Chapter's activity focusing on making the convention a great success. Therefore, I ask that each of you help grow DC/AGO. Invite neighboring churches or organists to join AGO and enjoy the benefits of membership, including the discount available to the convention. It's an honor to be your new dean. Please keep in touch tgcowan@aim.com

Tom Cowan, Dean



AGO Region III Convention July 5-8, 2009

Come Celebrate With Us ... Four memorable days filled with talented artists, inspired musical works, and professional enrichment, all showcased among the vibrant cities and venues of historic Hampton Roads and experiences that will inspire and thrill you. Come and renew your creative spirit against the backdrop of the Nation's Independence Day celebration!

Go to www.hitthestops.org for the events schedule, workshops, and more. On-line registration is available there. You can also use the "Vacation Planner" found on the web site to become more familiar with the Hampton Roads region, its cities, and its many vacation opportunities. Let's "Hit the Stops in Hampton Roads" this year!- a coastal maritime region in Southeastern Virginia that is the birthplace of Colonial America.

The Tidewater Chapter of the [American Guild of Organists](http://www.americanguildoforganists.org) is privileged to host the Region III Convention from July 5th through July 8th, 2009. Building on the strong musical, cultural, and religious heritage of our past, we are poised to deliver a far-reaching and expansive program of events.

Thanks and best wishes,

Jane Errera
Region III Councillor, American Guild of Organists
Tel/Fax 610-865-4837



Potomac Organ Institute recital – June 13, 2009

On Saturday, June 13, 2009, the annual Potomac Organ Institute (POI) recital was held at the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean, Virginia. Students Johannes Löhner and Michael Drescher were presented in performance. Afterwards there was a reception for the students and teachers. The Potomac Organ Institute is a teaching scholarship program operated by the TriChapter Committee, representing the three Washington DC area AGO chapters: DC, Potomac and Northern Virginia.

Gerald Piercey, Editor
Heel & Toe, Potomac Chapter, AGO



Pictured (L to R): Jeff Pannebaker, Coordinator of the POI, Students Johannes Löhner and Michael Drescher, and their teachers Ed Moore and Thom Robertson.



"Lightning Rod Topics: Maintaining Professionalism While Resolving White Hot Issues"

The AGO National Committee on Career Development and Support announces its workshop for the 2010 Washington, D.C. national convention <www.ago2010.org>. The topic of the workshop will be "Lightning Rod Topics - Maintaining Professionalism While Resolving White Hot Issues."

To assist the committee, all AGO members who would like to have the panel discuss their question/situation should submit their question/situation by email to Roy Roberts, Committee Director at careerdevelopment@agohq.org. In order to protect privacy, all names, dates, locations, and other identifying features will be changed.



SIBELIUS TRAINING

- Have you always wanted to learn Sibelius, the music writing software?
- Or are simple things taking you too long with Sibelius?
- Are you frustrated not knowing the quickest way of doing things in Sibelius?
- Do you want to become more familiar with all that Sibelius offers?



Check out www.sibeliustraining.com

Jason West, who worked as a trainer for Sibelius when he lived in London, is able to train you, no matter what your level is. He has trained beginners to advanced users. So no matter what your level is, you'll become more proficient in **just one day**.

SPECIAL Summer Deal for Tri-chapter AGO members! For a bit more than the Wedding fee you charge, you'll receive a FULL DAY of personalized one-to-one Sibelius training in your home. For a reduced price of \$350, you'll get private training as well as special guidance on your projects.

Please mention that you are a Tri-chapter member to receive this special summer offer. Contact Jason on (202) 413 0147 or jasonkentwest@gmail.com



New A. E. Schlueter organ, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, DC

<http://www.pipe-organ.com/nyave.shtm>

From the Web

(Not an endorsement; for informational purposes only)

“Organ music at DC’s Nationals Park”

<http://nats320.blogspot.com/2009/05/that-organ-is-real.html>

“Chinese island makes haven for Western pipe organs”

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/15/content_11545919.htm



CALENDAR

Saturday, July 4: Recital “Washington National Cathedral celebrates Independence Day with its popular, annual July 4 Organ Recital. The Cathedral’s two organists, Scott Dettra and Christopher Jacobson, entertain the audience with a program of organ pyrotechnics that is as patriotic as it is nostalgic. The all-American program opens with Copland’s stunning *Fanfare for the Common Man* and includes opportunities for audience singing on the National Anthem and “My Country, ’Tis of Thee.” This year’s program marks the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln with a rare organ performance of Copland’s ‘Lincoln Portrait,’ complete with narrator, featuring excerpts from Lincoln’s speeches and letters, including the Gettysburg Address. Also not to be missed is *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, played by four hands and four feet!

The recital given on the Cathedral’s famous Skinner organ takes place inside one of the country’s most famous and breathtaking national treasures. The architectural splendor of the Cathedral and the magnificence of the music within create a harmony that is both stirring and memorable.

Seating in the great choir is \$40 per person; general admission seating is free. Everyone is encouraged to RSVP, regardless of seating section, at <http://tickets.cathedral.org>.”

Sunday, July 5 at 3:00 PM: *Sixteenth Grace Church Bach Festival* opens with a concert at Grace Church, Georgetown, Washington, DC. The concert will be performed by an ensemble (Soo Young Kim Chrisfield, Soprano; Irvin Peterson, Flute; Erika Sato, Violin; Emily Leader, Violin; Charlie Powers, Cello) led by Dr. Francine Maté, Organ and Harpsichord, and Director of the Festival, and will feature works of J.S. Bach including The Coffee Cantata. Grace Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Georgetown. A donation of \$15 per person is requested for admission to each concert. There is no reserved seating. Commercial parking is available; street parking is limited. Tel. 202.333-7100 or visit www.gracedc.org

Sunday, July 5 at 6:00 PM; Concert with Rupert & Rachel Gough (Violin & Organ), Recitalists; Music of Cochereau, Hakim, Massenet, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (Crypt Church).

“The Basilica's Summer Organ Recital Series is held every Sunday in June through August each year in which recitals are given on both the Crypt and Upper Church organs. International players participate in the series and in 2009 the recitals will feature performers from the USA, Great Britain, Germany and France. 2009 will mark the 25th anniversary of the death of the great French organist Pierre Cochereau. This significant figure of the French Organ tradition, forever recognized as the 'Organist of Notre-Dame,' was not only an unrivalled improviser of his time, but also an important and influential musician; he was a Conservatoire Director devoted to the musical education of young people and remained continually committed to furthering the organ's artistic aesthetic in places where it was perhaps less appreciated.

The 2009 recital series at the Basilica will mark the 25th anniversary of his death by featuring music that he both wrote and improvised - music that has been transcribed into musical score by a number of contemporary players. All the performers in the series will present a different aspect of Cochereau's art, but will be united in making the series an effective *hommage à Cochereau*.

The programs will reflect the associations Cochereau enjoyed with the great Parisian churches he served - Saint-Roch, Saint-Sulpice and Notre-Dame -the music he played and indeed the teachers and friends he held in high regard.

For more information about the concerts at the National Shrine www.nationalshrine.com please contact the music office at 202-526-8300, ext. 120 or via email at muslit@bnsic.org. “

“Rupert and Rachel formed the Gough Duo in 1997, the only regular violin and organ duo to tour internationally. They have appeared in various European festivals and toured the USA from New York to Dallas and Florida to Alaska. Earlier this year they performed to a sell-out audience of 1,800 at the new Svetlanov Hall in Moscow for the Moscow International Organ Festival. In the UK the Duo enjoys the challenge of performing in a variety of venues, and with organs ranging from 2-stop chamber instruments to large cathedral and concert organs including Westminster Abbey and Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

The Duo has made a number of recordings including works for violin, soprano and organ by Karg-Elert (Lammas) and the violin and organ works of Joseph Rheinberger for release by Mollterz in 2009. The Duo is committed to promoting new music and has had many pieces especially composed including a Sonata by American composer Carson Cooman (recently been recorded for Naxos).



Rachel and Rupert Gough

Rachel Gough attended the University of East Anglia, where she won performance scholarships enabling her to study with Hugh Maguire, and graduated with First Class Honours in Music. With a scholarship from The Wall Trust she entered the Royal College of Music, studying with Frances Mason. She graduated in 1997 with an MMus Degree in Advanced Performance. Rachel was until recently a violin tutor at Wells Cathedral Specialist Music School, and still performs and records regularly as a chamber and solo violinist in the West of England.

Rupert Gough leads a busy career as both a conductor and organ recitalist combining his role as Director of Choral Music and College Organist at Royal Holloway, University of London, with numerous concert engagements. Prior to this Rupert was Assistant Organist at Wells Cathedral for 11 years. During this time, his accompaniments on the Hyperion recordings were described as “exemplary” by the BBC Music Magazine. He was awarded Third Prize at the 2001 St. Alban's International Organ competition and during 2006 was featured in the Hong Kong Arts Festival with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.”

Monday, July 6 at 7:30 PM: Northwest Boychoir, Christ Church, Washington Parish, Capitol Hill. “The Grammy-nominated Northwest Boychoir from Seattle will present a public concert as part of its two-week Summer 2009 East Coast Concert Tour. This concert will feature the 40-member Northwest Boychoir performing a program of classical choral works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Casals as well as traditional American folk songs. The 35-year-old Northwest Boychoir makes its home in Seattle, Washington as the Pacific Northwest’s premier children’s choir. Nominated for a Grammy in 2008 for its recording with the Seattle Symphony of Samuel Jones’ *The Shoe Bird*, the touring Northwest Boychoir comprises the most elite singers in the organization of 200 choristers. Touring members range in age from 10 to 14, and perform regularly with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, on movie and video soundtracks, in recording studios for professional recording artists, and as part of their own year-round concert

series. The Northwest Boychoir was featured on the soundtrack for the 2008 film *Valkyrie*, starring Tom Cruise.



Under the direction of Joseph Crnko, the Northwest Boychoir will make other Concert Tour stops in North Carolina in Asheville, Chapel Hill and in Greensboro as guest artists at the Eastern Music Festival. This concert tour marks the Northwest Boychoir’s 19th national/international tour. Prior tours have taken the choir to Great Britain, Eastern Europe, Washington, DC, Australia, California, as well as Japan and Hawaii.

The concert tour caps months of rigorous musical preparation, as well as a concert schedule that has included performances with the Seattle Symphony of Mahler’s *Symphony No. 8*, and Samuel Jones’ *The Shoe Bird*. The Northwest Boychoir recently received rave reviews of its performance with Seattle’s Music of Remembrance of Israeli composer Betty Oliver’s stunning choral arrangements *Shtiler, Shtiler* and *Mode’ Ani’*. The Northwest Boychoir just completed work on a recording of Americana music to be released in late 2009.”

Christ Church, Washington Parish, 620 G St. SE on Capitol Hill. Free-will donations will be accepted to benefit the church's organ fund. For more information about the Northwest Boychoir, go to www.nwchoirs.org or call 206-524-3234.



Christ Church, Capitol Hill, Hook & Hastings Organ

Monday, July 6 at 7:30 PM: The Teiber Trio will perform at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Foggy Bottom, 723 23rd St., NW. The concert, part of the *Sixteenth Grace Church Bach Festival*, will feature J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 (arr. Sitkovetsky). Members of the Teiber Trio include Regino Madrid, Violin; Derek Smith, Viola; and Charlie Powers, Cello. Members of the trio perform regularly at the White House as members of "The President's Own" US Marine Chamber Orchestra. The Teiber Trio www.teibertrio.com. A donation of \$15 per person is requested for admission to each concert. There is no reserved seating. Free parking is available with St. Mary's validation in the George Washington University garage on H St between 22nd and 23rd St. (The garage also has an entrance on L St.). Tel. 202-333-7100 or visit www.gracedc.org

Tuesday, July 7 at 7:30 PM: Northwest Boychoir from Seattle, Christ Church, 107 South Washington St., Rockville, MD. Free-will donations will be accepted to benefit the Community Ministries of Rockville and the choir scholarship fund. (See July 6 above)

Wednesday, July 8 at 7:30 PM: Recital: Roland Maria Stangier of Essen, Germany will perform Toccatas by J.S. Bach as well as improvisations. Professor Stangier teaches organ and improvisation at the Folkwang University in Essen, Germany and performs internationally as a concert artist. His schedule for 2009 includes recitals in Germany, France, Japan, and the US. See www.rmstangier.de. *Sixteenth Grace Church Bach Festival*, Grace Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Georgetown. For this concert only, free parking is available with a validated parking ticket (validation available at concert) at the Georgetown Park parking garage located at 1080 Wisconsin Ave., NW. A donation of \$15 per person is requested for admission to each concert. There is no reserved seating. Tel. 202.333-7100 or visit www.gracedc.org



"Organ builder, David Moore, wresting the materials for the Grace Episcopal Church (Georgetown, Washington, DC) organ from the earth, to transform it to an instrument of the highest order of sophistication." Photograph: Jo Tarp

Friday, July 10 at 8:00 PM: Concert: The chamber orchestra "con brio!" will perform The Economy of Scales, or Making the Most of your Do (Re-Mi)," featuring transcriptions by JS Bach. Details on the ensemble are available at www.musicconbrio.com. *Sixteenth Grace Church Bach Festival*, Grace Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW , Georgetown. A donation of \$15 per person is requested for admission to each concert. There is no reserved seating. Commercial parking is available; street parking is limited. Tel. 202.333-7100 or visit www.gracedc.org

Sunday, July 12 at 3:00 PM: Recital: Larry Hammerling, Organ and Harpsichord will lead an ensemble (Reginald Allen, Bass; Nancy Almquist, Soprano; George Corbett, Oboe D'Amore; Erika Sato, Violin; Charlie Powers, Cello) in performance of works by JS Bach, including Cantata No. 49. A donation of \$15 per person is requested for admission to each concert. There is no reserved seating. *Sixteenth Grace Church Bach Festival*, Grace Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW , Georgetown. Commercial parking is available; street parking is limited. Tel. 202.333-7100 or visit www.gracedc.org

Sunday, July 12 at 6:00 PM: Recital - Roland Maria Stangier, Organist, Works of Cochereau, Vierne, Balbastre, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, For more information about the concerts at the National Shrine www.nationalshrine.com please contact the music office at 202-526-8300, ext. 120 or via email at muslit@bnsic.org.

Monday, July 13 at 7:30 PM; Recital - Lawrence Molinaro, Organist and Founder of the Grace Church Bach Festival. He will perform "Mendelssohn in Kind," a re-creation of Felix Mendelssohn's organ recital at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig on August 6, 1840. *Grace Church Bach Festival*, Grace Church, 1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW , Georgetown. Commercial parking is available; street parking is limited. Tel. 202.333-7100 or visit www.gracedc.org

Sunday, July 19 at 6:00 PM: Recital - Mark Shepherd, Organist, Works of Cochereau, Bach, Vierne, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, For more information about the concerts at the National Shrine www.nationalshrine.com please contact the music office at 202-526-8300, ext. 120 or via email at muslit@bnsic.org.

Sunday, July 26 at 6:00 PM: Recital - Adam Brakel, Organist, Works of César Franck, De Grigny, Langlais, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, For more information about the concerts at the National Shrine www.nationalshrine.com please contact the music office at 202-526-8300, ext. 120 or via email at muslit@bnsic.org.



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

3/16/09 (originally posted)

MUSIC DIRECTOR -- Avail. June 1, 2009

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church (Size of congregation: 125), 201 4th St SE, Washington, DC 20003, 202-547-8676, Direct small volunteer choir (Sept. thru May); avg. 10-13 hours/wk, III/23 Schlicker Organ, rebuilt 1985; Knabe piano rebuilt/restored in 2008, Salary \$16k – 18k; 4 weeks' paid vacation; \$750 Prof. Development fund,

“CHPC is a small but vibrant urban congregation. The MusDir is to provide the worship service music – organ and piano – prelude, hymns, offertory & postlude, lead small choir in ‘classic’ anthems as well as more contemporary music. Thurs. eve. rehearsal 1.5 hours; Sunday morning short rehearsal and one worship service.” Contact Robert Mantel at Rmantel@msn.com

04/18/09 (originally posted)

ORGANIST / CHOIR DIRECTOR – Avail. June 1, 2009

Riderwood Village Church (Congreg. size: 300), 3110 Gracefield Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20904, Phone: 301-572-8334, Direct 1 adult choir. Position averages 4+ hrs/week; Allen electronic organ, Kawai grand piano, Salary: currently \$14,300 (independent contractor); 4 weeks' paid vacation/sick-leave; Book/music allowance: \$2,000. “To lead 11:00am Sunday worship service and the 2-hour Friday-morning rehearsal (10-12 noon). For details call Kathy Becker at 301-586-9199; send information re. your experience to the Rev. Louis Woods at the above church address.”

3/26/09 (originally posted)

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST -- Avail. Aug. 16, 2009

Clifton Presbyterian Church (Size of congreg: 200), 12748 Richards Ln, Clifton, VA 20124, 703-830-3175, To direct Adult Choir; considering children/youth choir. Avg. hrs/week: 15, 2-manual 1999 Allen digital organ, Salary: \$15,000; two paid Sundays/year off

“Please visit www.cliftonpc.org to see the full position description and to learn more about Clifton Presbyterian.”



NOTE: If you would like to advertise personal for fee services in *The Coupler*, send your information to the Editor and send \$10 to the DC AGO treasurer. Your ad will run for two consecutive issues. Direct any questions to the Editor.



**American Guild of Organists
Washington, DC Chapter
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Deadline for the August 2009 issue of *The Coupler* is July 29, 2009. Send your information to rsaladini@gmail.com. Be sure to include "For The Coupler" or a similar statement in your email message. Note that both current and recent issues of *The Coupler* are archived at www.dcago.org. Ed.