



The Coupler

eNewsletter

American Guild of Organists
Washington, DC Chapter

www.dicago.org

December 2009

Message from the Dean

One of the important efforts of the AGO is to establish standards of compensation for our profession. Our TriChapter Directory has guidelines both for specific services, such as weddings and funerals, and also for regular employment. It is a well understood fact of life that, as such an intelligent group of adults, had we wanted to focus on maximizing income, we would have chosen to be..... what? dentists? lawyers?

However, for now, I would like for us to consider that the period of contact that the public has with our work, our “job performance,” or our “product,” is rather brief. It takes an awfully long time to build up a repertoire of suitable preludes, postludes, choral accompaniments, etc. to cover the year, not to mention the time commitment necessary to present concert repertoire! Occasionally we need to remind ourselves, and recommit, to offering the best selection of music, played the best we can, since our contact with our intended audience is so fleeting.

This very brief result of a great deal of preparation can be considered our holiday gift to those who receive our art. Please keep in touch, tgcowan@aim.com

Tom Cowan

The AGO National Convention 2010 is on course for July 4-8!

Check our website www.AGO2010.org

for the latest information on recitals, concerts and seminars.

Thank you to those who have joined our team of volunteers for the convention. Plans are being made for assisting artists, ushering at concerts, giving directions to venues, and serving at the hospitality desk. With all of us working together, our convention will be a resounding success.

Volunteers will have a pre-convention wine and cheese party and access to the hospitality room during the convention. If you have a friend or co-worker who would like to be involved, please tell them to contact me at National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle, Washington D.C. 20005, home 703-323-1187, or e-mail volunteers@ago2010.org

Thank you again!

Barbara Collins, Volunteer Chair



Have you completed the survey?

The American Guild of Organists Task Force on Long-Range Planning is asking all AGO members to complete a survey that will be used to create plans for the important work of the AGO in the second decade of the 21st century. Survey results will be communicated to the entire Guild membership during the early months of 2010. Find the survey at

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ZZNu9JDbpveQB8rzz1CenQ_3d_3d.

Deadline is December 31.



DCAGO November 10 Event: Review

Chapter members Stephen Ackert and Ronald Stolk presented a lecture/demonstration Nov. 10 on Northern Baroque organ tradition in the period up to Bach, with a focus on the works of Dietrich Buxtehude. The setting was the United Church, also known as *Die Vereinigte Kirche*, a union congregation of the United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church. Topics included articulation, registration, fingering, and other aspects of interpretation, with examples from Buxtehude's work. The II/17 tracker organ at the United Church was built in 1980 by the Alfred Fuehrer Orgelbau of Wilhelmshaven, Germany, and uses the Werkmeister II historical tuning.



Minutes from the November 10 DCAGO Board Meeting

The board for the DC chapter of the AGO met Nov. 10 at Unity Church in Foggy Bottom, prior to the Northern Baroque program. Here are the highlights, plus some solicitations from the secretary:

The chapter is seeking a candidate to be historian for 2009-2010.

Ted Gustin is stepping down as registrar at the end of December but Arthur Roach has volunteered to act as both registrar and treasurer.

Tom reported that the AGO case filed against the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception has ended with a finding of no wrongful termination. Therefore, AGO members will be allowed to accept regular employment at the Shrine after mid-November.

Members of the board are lobbying the national chapter to take over online registration of members and to send chapters their allotted portion of dues, in order to relieve the chapters of this duty.

Regarding the national convention in DC next summer, \$36,000 in income has been reported so far, mainly from exhibitors. Online registration for attendees was in a testing phase as of Nov. 10.

The board members discussed how to maximize the benefits the chapter will receive from its purchase of a \$2,010 membership in the convention's 2010 club. One suggestion was that the benefit package could be split up into component parts and auctioned off.

Nicholas Russotto is setting up a Facebook page for our chapter.

Ted Gustin has volunteered to administer a new member campaign. Ted will contact churches to ask them to consider paying their organists' dues. As needed, he will also contact organists directly. Tom Cowan is soliciting names of churches or organists to contact about potential membership. **(Can you help with names? Email Ted at orgue7@aim.com.)** Although no chapter programs are scheduled before the annual meeting in May, to allow for convention preparations, a Volunteer Fair is anticipated in early 2010.



TriChapter Mailing List is available in Electronic File

Ready to print, Single Chapter: \$15.00; Complete TriChapter Directory List (names and addresses): \$35.00, Contact Carol Guglielm, cgug@loc.gov or 301-699-8765, make check payable to:

TriChapter Committee, AGO

Mail to Gerald Piercey c/o Lewis & Hitchcock, Bacon Drive, Beltsville, MD 20705



Email Blasts



Looking for a great way to advertise your next program, event, etc. to a local, targeted audience? Consider DCAGO email blasts. For a fee of \$5.00, Dean Tom Cowan will see that your message is delivered via email to each DCAGO member. The fee for a one-time "blast" is \$5.00. Contact Tom Cowan for more information at tgcowan@aim.com.



Notice Informing Membership of Outcome of Case

The AGO has determined, upon investigation, that the employer, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, was not at fault regarding the termination of the employee. Therefore, the case has been closed without a finding of wrongful termination.



Looking for a substitute organist?

Check the TriChapter Directory for a listing of those who have expressed an interest in substituting. Note from Evelyn Rowe efrowe@mindspring.com: "I am prefer organ to conducting (just can't be seen over the music rack). I am highly qualified as a liturgical organist, being cradle Episcopalian and having subbed for Lutherans and RC's, not to mention West African Anglicans, who present different challenges. I am willing to go anywhere reasonably close to public transportation on Sundays."



House (with organ) for sale in Baltimore

"My name is Randall Mullin and I am a member of the Baltimore and Portland, Maine Chapters of the AGO. I am selling my 1886 townhouse in Baltimore, which contains a Rodgers 890 three manual organ. Since it is well known that quite a few people in the Washington area have searched for homes in the Baltimore area, especially with close proximity to the train station, I thought I might ask if you would be willing to place the following (or something similar) in your periodical.

Randall Mullin, formerly organist and choirmaster of St. David's Church, Roland Park, Baltimore, and his partner, Dan Daniels, will be selling their townhouse in the cultural center area of downtown Baltimore. Located near the train station, and in close proximity to the Lyric Opera House and the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, the 1886, three story townhouse will be offered for sale with or without the Rodgers 890 three manual organ installed there. To see pictures of the house

and organ visit www.randallmullin.com and scroll down to the bottom of the home page. Anyone interested in either house or organ (or both) can contact Randall at randmullin@aol.com.”



We’re always looking for news and information that may be of interest to DC AGO Chapter members. Let us know about your programs or other programs (see format in calendar below), new organs, rebuilds, anecdotes, new research, interesting websites, new music composed by you or others, images and pics (public domain or with permission), “shameless self-promotion,” etc. Deadline for the January 2010 issue of *The Coupler* is Wednesday, December 30, 2009. Send your information to rsaladini@gmail.com. Be sure to include “For The Coupler” in your email message.



From the Web

(Not an endorsement; for informational purposes only)

♪ Glen Echo Dentzel Carousel Survives Nine Decades

http://www.carouselnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=477&Itemid=1&ed=45

♪ The new ‘Dom Bedos / Roubo, Benedict XVI Pontifical Organ’ in the Church of San Domenico, Rieti (Italy). This instrument is built according to designs/principles of Dom Bedos (organ) and Roubo le Fils (case) by Barthelemy Formentelli. http://www.organosandomenicorieti.it/index_en.htm

♪ In Concert: Talent, Style and Sequins” (Cameron Carpenter)

www.nytimes.com/2009/11/15/arts/music/15schw.html?_r=2&ref=arts

♪ “The Christian West and Its Singers: The First Thousand Years” by Christopher Page

www.yalebooks.co.uk/yale/display.asp?K=9780300112573&sf1=author&st1=Christopher%20Page&m=1&dc=1

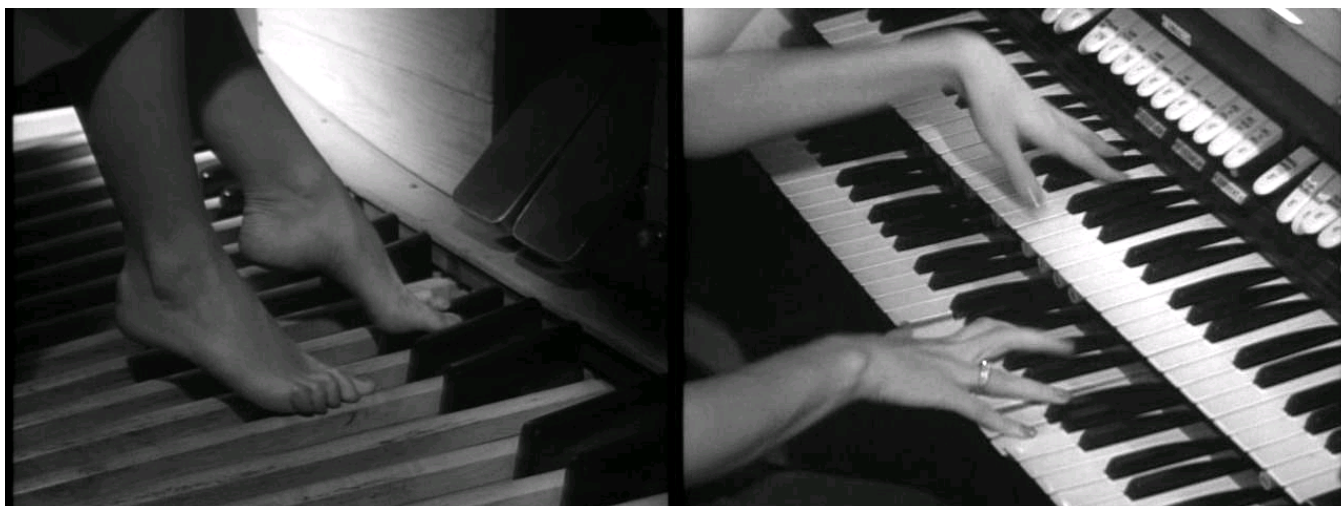
♪ “A sniper in my head” by Jean-Paul Verpeaux, www.pr.com/press-release/184126

♪ “Magnum opus: The Building of the Schoenstein Organ at the Conference Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City” by John Longhurst www.ldschurchnews.com/articles/58046/New-book-tells-the-story-of-the-building-of-the-Conference-Center-organ.html

♪ “Organ-isms: Anecdotes from the world of the King of Instruments” by Jenny Setchell <http://www.nzorgan.com/pipeorgan/reviews.htm>

♪ “World's Largest Hanging Organ for Regensburg Cathedral” www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2009/11/worlds-largest-hanging-organ-for.html

♪ ‘Stills’ from the film ‘Carnival of Souls’ (1962) starring American actress Candace Hilligoss as church organist, Mary Henry. (see below)





CALENDAR

To include information about your program in “The Coupler,” send it to rsaladini@gmail.com with an indication that you would like it listed in “The Coupler” and in the following form: date, time, what, who, where, and contact information. If have any descriptive information about the program and/or an image, send that along for consideration as well. Note that we are only able to list information about programs that occur two months in advance (E.g., April Coupler lists info about April and May events).

December 4 at 7:30 PM – Religious Service: Festival Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent. Hosted by Georgetown University Chapel Choir, Russell Weismann, Director/Organist. Featuring music of the season with Choir, Organ and Brass. Holy Trinity Church, Georgetown (36th and O Streets, NW). Russell J. Weismann, Director of Music and Liturgy, Georgetown University, rjw48@georgetown.edu, russell.weismann@aya.yale.edu



December 4 at 8:00 PM – Organ Recital: Christmas Concert: A Christmas Fantasia of Classics and Carols, Carlo Curley, International Concert Organist, “Carlo Curley is the Pavarotti of the organ.” San Jose Mercury (USA) “He is a masterful organist, the music moves through him with a great intensity...Organ concerts can never be the same.” Toronto Star (Canada) “His technique is awesome: his command of the instrument fearsome.” Vox Magazine (Australia) “...he blends the publicity skills of a top flight advertising agent, the glitz of a world class entertainer and the technical wizardry of a true virtuoso.” Dundee Courier (Scotland) Presented by Jordan-Kitts Music www.jordankitts.com and The Allen Organ Company www.allenorgan.com Faith United Methodist Church, 6810 Montrose Rd., Rockville, MD 301-881-1881

December 5 at 7:00 PM – Concert: Georgetown University Concert Choir presents, "Divine Image". Winter concert featuring J.S. Bach's "Jesu Meine Fruede" motet. C. Paul Heins, Director, Russell Weismann, organist, Dahlgren Chapel of the Sacred Heart, Georgetown University. Russell J. Weismann, Director of Music and Liturgy, Georgetown University, rjw48@georgetown.edu, russell.weismann@aya.yale.edu

December 5 at 7:00 PM.- Concert: Ars Choralis (Choir-in-residence of St. Paul's Episcopal Church), Douglas A. Beck, director - Selections from Handel's *Messiah* along with Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and Applebaum's *Ani ma'amin*, Christmas carol sing-along. Reception following. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St. Alexandria, VA. Free, donations accepted. Contact: Susan D. Dawson, (703) 931-4349 (Eves) Sddawson@comcast.net

December 5 at 8:00 PM – Concert: MUSIC FOR SINTERKLAAS. Chantry and Modern Musick. Tickets: \$30 regular, \$15 students K-12 and college to age 24 with valid ID at the door (cash or check); discounted advance tickets on-line (credit card) • www.chantrydc.com • (202) 625-2855

“On St. Nicholas Eve, the early music voices of Chantry, led by David Taylor, and the period instruments of Modern Musick, led by Risa Browder and John Moran, join forces for a truly unusual holiday concert, celebrating both Sinterklaas—as the real Saint Nicholas was known to the Dutch long before his name was anglicized to Santa Claus—and the 200th anniversary of the death of Franz Joseph Haydn.



The program offers a rare opportunity to hear together two Haydn masterpieces by a very interesting story, the “Farewell” Symphony No. 45, and one of Haydn’s most beautiful sacred works, the *Missa Sancti Nicolai*. The concert also includes rarely-heard medieval conductus and Renaissance motets in honor of St. Nicholas. To learn why the musicians leave the stage one by one during the last movement of the symphony, and how that led to composition of the St. Nicholas Mass, come to the concert!”

“Chantry is one of the musical glories of Washington,” ALLARTSREVIEW4U

Chantry is offering a special HALF-PRICE discount for AGO Chapter members and their choir members who sign up in advance by email to elisabeth.myers@huschblackwell.com by noon on Dec 5. St. Mary Mother of God, 727 Fifth St. NW (Gallery Place and Judiciary Square Metros)

December 6 at 4:00 PM – Concert: A Chevy Chase Christmas, “An annual tradition of the singing and ringing choirs of Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church is sure to get you in the spirit of Christmas. The candlelight processional is traditional as is the choirs and audience carol singing. You can’t help but leave in the Christmas spirit. Following the concert there will be a reception to meet the artists and greet one another.” For more information, call Julie Vidrick Evans, Director of Music, The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, One Chevy Chase Circle, Washington, DC 20015, Tel. 202-363-2202 X33. Admission Free, An offering will be accepted.

December 6 at 5:00 PM - Religious Service: Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols by St. Mary's Choirs. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 2609 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA 22207, 703-527-6800. www.stmarysarlington.org

DECEMBER 13 AT 10:00 AM – RELIGIOUS SERVICE: A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS, SAMUEL CARABETTA, ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER. “Celebrate the season with the Saint John’s Choir’s presentation of this beloved holiday service of readings and music which originated at King’s College, Cambridge, England. Performed in the serene and radiant beauty of candlelight, the program will feature music arranged by Rutter and Willcocks in addition to traditional Christmas carols for all to sing.” Early seating is advised, tickets are not required,

childcare available. St. John's Episcopal Church, Georgetown, 3240 O St. NW, Washington, Tel: 202-338-1796; www.stjohnsgeorgetown.org

December 24 (in the morning, DC area) – Live radio broadcast: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (for live broadcast time see www.kings.cam.ac.uk/events/chapel-services/nine-lessons.html)

December 30 – DEADLINE for the January 2010 issue of The Coupler. Send your information to Rsaladini@gmail.com. Be sure to indicate that the information is for The Coupler.

January 17 at 4:00 PM – Concert: A Martin Luther King Celebration features Joseph Schwantner's New Morning for the World, a powerful tribute that includes narration from Dr. King's writings and speeches. Also featured are the Washington Symphonic Brass and the works of great African Americans such as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Scott Joplin, and Wynton Marsalis. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean VA. Tickets \$25, students under 18 free. Sponsored by Amadeus Concerts. 866.962.7277
www.wsbrass.com

January 20, at 1:00 PM. Recital: Todd Fickley, organist. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean VA. This lunchtime program is free and all are welcome. 703.356.0670 www.musicinmclean.org



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

For information on how to list your position vacancy in “The Coupler” or on the DCAGO website, contact: Donald W. Frazier, Tel: 703-368-0936; email: dfrazier@ieee.org

MARYLAND

ORGANIST/DIRECTOR (Available now)

Epiphany Lutheran Church (ASA: 70), 14411 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866. Quarter-time position to direct an adult choir and possibly a children's choir; play one Sunday morning service and special services during church holidays; attend monthly planning meetings. 10-rank Zimmer organ (with 7 registers) installed less than 20 years, good condition; A newly reconditioned

baby grand piano is also available. Salary: \$12,000-16,000 with four Sundays off per year. Send resume to Lynn Burkart at Ldburkart@aol.com or to Church, Attn: Organist Committee.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

CHOIR DIRECTOR (Available now)

Grace Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod), 1601 Prince Wm. Pkwy. Woodbridge, VA 22191. Seeking a highly skilled and motivated person to direct the adult choir and other groups: hand-chime choir, praise singers, volunteer instrumentalists and potential youth choir. Must possess: ability to mold volunteer singers into a cohesive unit; willingness to develop a youth choir; knowledge & appreciation of classical hymnody of the church; ability to assist congregation in learning new hymnody; capability to work with Elders, Pastors, and contract Organist; ability to select music reinforcing the Gospel lesson or liturgical season. Successful candidate must meet with the Vacancy Pastor as needed for planning upcoming services. Allen organ and grand piano avail. for support. Selected applicants must conduct a demo. evening rehearsal of choir. Salary \$12k-\$17k depending upon credentials. E-mail resume to distal@verizon.net by 11/30.

ORGANIST/DIRECTOR (Available now)

Bethel UCC (Congregation size: 35), 4347 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22203, E-mail: BethelUCCVA@verizon.net, Phone: 703-528-0937; Fax: 703-525-7715; Church needs development of a small choir, with rehearsal likely to be Sun. before or after the 10:00am “blended” service, or another time during week as worked out with choir members. Avg. hours/wk: 10-15. Organ: 2-man. Allen; also a Roland keyboard with amplifier. Annual salary range: \$6,000-8,000, with 2 weeks’ paid vacation. “Bethel is a small, enthusiastic congregation which is slowly growing. Now is the time to build a new choir; some previous members are available, but others will need to be recruited from new attendees. We are hoping the new musician will enjoy this challenge, and incorporate an occasional special program with a small group of children.”

ORGANIST/MINISTER of MUSIC (Available Jan. 18, 2010)

St John's Episcopal Church, 5649 Mt Gilead Rd., PO Box 2360, Centreville, VA 20122-2360 Phone: 703-803-7500, Groups to direct: Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs, Avg. hours/wk: 15 (fewer during summer, more during school yr), Two Sun. svcs plus holy days as announced; Adult Choir sings weekly, other Choirs occasionally, Instruments: 2-man. Allen Digital; Yamaha upright, Yamaha Electric PF500; handbells, chimes, Salary range: \$16k-19k dep. on music credentials/experience; 2 wks pd vacation, 1 wk cont. ed. "Congregation appreciates classical music with some contemporary offerings and principally uses Hymnal 1982. Available resources include CCLI license, The Rite Stuff; RSCM 'Voices for Life' curriculum. Volunteer voices, a number with formal musical training; trumpeter, weekly; brass ensemble at Christmas & Easter. Special music for liturgical seasons and feast days, bishop's visit and summer Vacation Bible School. Other traditions: Madrigal singers; Concert series; Cabaret. Music selected in collaboration with the Rector in accordance with Episcopal Church guidelines." Contact: Howard Kempzell, Rector. E-mail letters of interest and resume to: RevDrHFKjr@aol.com. Recordings of service playing, choral conducting and concert performances would be greatly appreciated.



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. You ad will run for two consecutive issues. Direct any questions to the Editor rsaladini@gmail.com.



American Guild of Organists Washington, DC Chapter Officers and Committees, 2009-2010

Dean:	Thomas Cowan
Sub-Dean:	Aline Otten
Treasurer:	Arthur H. Roach
Secretary:	Patricia Henry
Registrar:	Alvin D. (Ted) Gustin
Historian:	Carol Guglielm
Auditor:	Jay R. Rader
Members at Large	
Class of 2010	Eileen Guenther
Class of 2011	Michael E. Lodico

Class of 2012	Nicholas Russotto
Chaplain:	Rev. Dr. Dean MacDonald
Placement:	Donald Frazier
<i>Coupler</i> editor:	Robert Saladini
Webmaster:	Rick A. Berg
Scholarships:	Diane L. Heath

Deadline for the January 2010 issue of *The Coupler* is Wednesday, December 30, 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.