



The Coupler

eNewsletter

American Guild of Organists
Washington, DC Chapter

www.dicago.org

January 2010

The Dean's Letter

Congratulations! We've made it through another Christmas season, sanity intact. We now enter 2010, the Centenary of our Chapter and year of the DC-hosted National Convention.

As usual, our slate of officers for the DC/AGO Board still has some holes in it. Carol Guglielm has announced her retirement from the position of Librarian/Historian and candidates for all positions are being solicited by Nick Russotto. nrussotto@gmail.com

Responsibilities for the Board will begin after our Convention is finished. Please offer your assistance to this exciting opportunity. The convention volunteer coordinator is Barbara Collins.

BarbaraFCollins@hotmail.com

Many hands make light work.

Tom Cowan

DC AGO Chapter Members Discount – National Convention

Greetings Metro DC **AGO** Colleagues!!

I am pleased to inform you that online registration for the 2010 National Convention is open and ready for you to access at www.ago2010.org . **DC AGO Chapter Members will receive a specially discounted rate during the early registration period which ends on February 15th, 2010.** To take advantage of this lower rate, begin the registration process by typing in your AGO ID which is located to the left above your name on your “The American Organist” (TAO) mailing label. Once you have typed in this ID, the special rate will appear automatically on the next page. Register soon to reserve a seat in the events you plan to attend. I look forward to seeing you next summer – July 4th - 8th .

Carol Feather Martin, Registrar



Washington National Cathedral organ project suspended

“During the past months in the Cathedral’s life it has become clear that the notion of sustaining the Cathedral’s organ project is not viable at this time.

The design and development phase, that has been underway for three years, has come to a natural conclusion with the completion of the design. As such, the Cathedral has determined that work on the project should now be suspended until it finds itself in a more conducive climate for projects of this magnitude. The Cathedral looks forward to a time when work on this exciting project can resume.”

From www.nationalcathedral.org



Ken Lowenberg publishes three new works

Long-time DC AGO member **Kenneth Lowenberg** (Minister of Music Emeritus, Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church) has seen 3 of his compositions very recently come into print:



“O Praise Ye the Lord” –Variations on *Laudate Dominum*, hymn tune by C. Hubert H. Parry, for organ solo. Hope www.hopepublishing.com, Code 8458. This piece consists of 8 movements, utilizing a wide range of organ colors and styles, ranging in length from :35 to 2:00 each, and totaling 10:20. It could be played straight through for recital use, or individual movements could be played for Prelude, Offertory, and Postlude for liturgical use. Difficulty = Med. Easy – Med.



“Prayer of Patrick of Ireland”, for unison, 2-part treble or mixed, or SATB choirs, with keyboard accompaniment. GIA, www.giamusic.com, G-7451. A charming text by St. Patrick, with the opening and closing sections in 4/4 time, and the middle section in 3/4 time. Difficulty = Easy – Med. Easy.



“Adoro Te Devote”, for SATB choir and organ. GIA, www.giamusic.com, G-7370. This anthem is based on the ancient text by Thomas Aquinas and the plainsong tune associated with it. Verse 1 is presented in Latin, then in English in a different harmonization and voicing; the 3rd verse is presented in yet a different voicing and harmonization. The organ accompaniment uses motifs from the plainsong associated with Aquinas’ other famous poem, “Pange lingua.” This piece could be a good way of introducing Latin singing to a choir. Difficulty = Med. Take a look - <http://www.giamusic.com/searchPDFS/G7370.pdf>.

For further information on any of these new publications, or to see samples, contact Kenneth Lowenberg at kenlowenberg@verizon.net.



St. Thomas Choir School (NYC) open house

“Boy treble choristers are invited, with their parents, to join us for an afternoon at Saint Thomas Choir School (New York City) www.choirschool.org on Sunday, February 14, 2010. Visiting boys will rehearse and sit in the choir stalls with the Saint Thomas Choir of men and boys for evensong. Guests are invited to join the Saint Thomas choristers and their families for lunch at 1:00 PM (following the 11:00 AM Sung Eucharist). Teachers will host visitors in the classrooms to answer questions about the curriculum and student life.” For further information and reservations contact Ruth Cobb, rcobb@choirschool.org or 212-247-3311.



DC AGO on Facebook

Thanks to the efforts of Nicholas Russotto, DC AGO now has a presence on Facebook. Check it out and consider joining.



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.



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.



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 February 2010 issue of *The Coupler* is Friday, January 29, 2010. 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)

“Described as a ‘diminutive dynamo,’ Canadian organist Isabelle Demers performs her arrangement of Mendelssohn's Fifth Symphony on the newly-restored 1939 Moller-Whitelegg at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church.”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aHer2_tIFc

“Organs in Greek Orthodox Churches”

<http://orthodoxhistory.org/2009/12/organs-in-greek-orthodox-churches/>

“A Sign of Change: Liturgical and Musical Programme for the ‘Year for Priests’ Clergy Conference Rome 2010”

<http://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/index.html#3015161716787138716>



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). To include information about “For fee” services or products, contact the editor. Deadline for the February 2010 issue of *The Coupler* is Friday, January 29, 2010.

January 2 at 5:00 PM - Concert: “Twelfth Night: A Celebration of Epiphany and the Winter Solstice,” with Armonia Mundi, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 825 S. Taylor St. Arlington, VA, www.osva.org

“*Armonia Nova* performs “Twelfth Night” – a concert celebrating Epiphany and winter solstice – featuring music from the 12th-17th centuries. Centuries of

evolving sacred and secular rituals with processions, dances, singing and instruments such as harps and viols, created well-known and loved traditions of our contemporary holiday season. *Armonia Nova* has chosen music to reflect this continuous celebration of the human spirit and its ability to carry hope and faith even through the darkest nights. Come be a part of this tradition and extend the joys of this glorious season!”

January 3 at 6:00 PM – Twelfth Night with Armonia Mundi (see Jan. 2 above), Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA, www.historicchristchurch.org

January 4 at 8:00 PM – Organ Recital: Eric Plutz returns to DC for a delightful program featuring works by Guilmant, Whitlock, Smetana and a transcription of the musical menagerie by Saint-Saëns, *Carnival of the Animals*, which includes the delicious poetry by Ogden Nash as read by Helen Hayes Award-winning actress Dana Krueger. Please join us for the first concert of the New Year! Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, 421 Seward Square, SE, www.chumc.net

January 8 and 9 at 8:00 PM – Concert: Monteverdi “Vespers of the Blessed Virgin” (1610), Folger Consort with sopranos Ann Monoyios and Johanna Arnold, tenor Robert Petillo, bass Peter Becker, virtuoso violinist Julie Andrijeski, brass, winds, strings, organ, and choir. Washington National Cathedral, www.folger.edu Tel. 202-675-0379

“The resonant reaches of Washington National Cathedral provide a magnificent venue for the timeless masterpiece – Claudio Monteverdi’s *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin*, published in Venice in 1610. Monteverdi, a master of both old and avant-garde style, composed a work both retrospective and startlingly new – the grand Psalm settings are meditations on the age-old Gregorian chants, and the “sacred songs” are Monteverdi’s bold introduction of the latest theatrical style to liturgical music. Unlike most modern performances of the Vespers, the Folger Consort’s period version, without conductor, features one-on-a-part virtuoso instrumentalists and ten vocal soloists who also serve as the choir.”

January 10 at 5:00 PM – Organ Recital: Nathan Laube. A recent graduate of Philadelphia’s Curtis Institute, 21-year-old Nathan Laube is a rising star among young classical musicians. Mr. Laube’s third appearance at Redeemer includes works by J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Julius Reubke, and Charles Tournemire, as well as a transcription of a major orchestral work. Admission is FREE. A wine and cheese reception follows. Contact: Thomas P. Smith, *Director of Music*,

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive ▪ Bethesda, MD 20816,; *phone* 301.229.3770; *fax* 301.320.803, *e-mail* music.redeemer@verizon.net, *website* www.redeemberbethesda.org

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 17 at 4:00 PM. Recital: Maggie Sansone, Celtic Harp, Maggie Sansone is known as America's premier hammered dulcimer player. As a recording artist and performer, she has performed at the Kennedy Center, National Geographic Auditorium and other venues, from the large stage to small town fairs and Renaissance festivals. She brings a unique beauty and vision to the ancient music of the Celts, and a jazzy new crossover into what she calls "cool Celtic." Following the concert there will be a reception to meet the artists and greet one another. Free admission. For more information, call Julie Vidrick Evans, Director of Music, The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, One Chevy Chase Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20015, 202-363-2202-X33.

January 17 at 5:15 PM – Organ Recital: Robert McCormick, Washington National Cathedral.

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

January 24 at 5:00 PM. Concert: Italian Treasures: The Countertop Quartet & Illuminare in Concert. The Countertop Quartet and Illuminare, two of Washington's leading vocal ensembles, join forces to present a unique program of early Italian choral works. Music by Francesco Landini, Claudio Monteverdi, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, and the Milanese nun Chiara Margarita Cozzolani. Admission is FREE. A wine and cheese reception follows. The Church of the Redeemer is located on Dunrobbin Drive, just off MacArthur Boulevard, across from Glen Echo Park. For more information about these and

other musical events at Redeemer, please contact Thomas Smith, Director of Music: 301.229.3770 or music.redeemer@verizon.net

January 29 – Deadline for the February 2010 issue of *The Coupler*.

January 31 at 2:00 PM – Organ Recital: Douglas Major, organist. Dedicatory recital for new III/62 instrument of A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company, Lithonia, GA. Program will include Copland's A Lincoln Portrait, J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in D Major, Sowerby's Requiescat in pace, as well as works by Franck, Widor, Vierne, and Major. Recital is free and all are welcome. The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1313 New York Avenue, NW, DC (202) 393-3700 www.nyapc.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.

ASSISTANT ORGANIST (Available now)

The Falls Church Anglican (Congregation size: 2,500), 115 E. Fairfax St., Falls Church, VA 22046 Phone: 703-574-4399, Avg. hours/wk: 6. Organ: pipe instrument II/14. "Main duty will be to play the Sun. morning 8 a.m. service in the Historic Church. This traditional service is Rite I Holy Communion and has an ASA of 80. Please send resume to rwright@thefallschurch.org."



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
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Class of 2011	Michael E. Lodico
Class of 2012	Nicholas Russotto
Chaplain:	Rev. Dr. Dean MacDonald
Placement:	Donald Frazier
Coupler editor:	Robert Saladini
Webmaster:	Rick A. Berg
Scholarships:	Diane L. Heath

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