# THE COUPLER



**New collection available online** *This month chapter member Lyn Loewi shares information about the Women's Sacred Music Project. She serves on the project's board.* 

The Women's Sacred Music Project is a nonprofit that started in Philadelphia in 1995 to diversify the music of our sacred liturgies (both Christian and Jewish) by including the voices of women.

It sprang from the imagination of Lisa Neufeld Thomas, a parishioner at St. Mark's Church in Philadelphia, and the determined advocacy of the Rt. Rev. Allen Bartlett, the Episcopal bishop of Pennsylvania. In 2003 the project published a groundbreaking hymnal called *Voices Found* (Church Publishing).

Today, the project has 12 board members from Philadelphia, the DC area (Alexandria and Bethesda) and Maine. We are women and men, two ordained clergy, two adherents of the Reform Jewish tradition, musicians and *Continued on Page 2* 

#### MARCH 2024 IN THIS ISSUE



The Member Spotlight shines on Sean Burns, organist at First Baptist Church in downtown DC.



A chapter member is offering a slew of free organ CDs by Marcel Dupre, Virgil Fox, Philippe Lefebvre and others.



Musicians of St. Mary Mother of God Church perform Pergolesi's Stabat Mater this month.



Need a change? Check out job openings at area churches.

### Save the date

The Potomac Organ Institute plans an organ crawl and recital at St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington on March 6. Page 9

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# WOMEN'S SACRED MUSIC PROJECT

#### From Page One

music lovers. Our goal is to promote sacred music by women through education, publishing, commissioning and performances. Our most recent project is called *Resounding Voices*, and it was just published for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Voices Found*. This new collection of hymns and songs can be found on The Hymn Society website. You can download it for free and find all the copyright information you need to use this music: https://thehymnsociety.org/resources/resounding-voices/

Why did we do this? Because 20 years after *Voices Found*, we believe that far too little has changed in our churches and synagogues, especially in sacred music. *Resounding Voices* is our effort to diversify and improve the theology that limits God.

If you would like to know more about the Women's Sacred Music Project, you can visit our old <u>website</u>. However, we have just hired a webmaster and have great hopes of unveiling a beautiful new website soon. We're hoping to have blogs about the hymns, videos of performances, interviews and lots of pictures. If you love to do these things, maybe we should get in touch! Want to hold a Hymn Sing?

It is hard to describe the collection other than "wonderfully eclectic." Here are a few examples: Dr. Marty Wheeler Burnett (Virginia Theological Seminary): "Take My Life and Let It Be" Yshani Perinpanayagam: "In Heav'n We Are Ourselves Entire: Hymn for Trans Day of Remembrance" Dr. Mary Beth Bennett (Richmond, VA): "Great Voice of God" Robert McCormick (Philadelphia) with text by the Rev. Erika Takacs: "The Prompting of the Pilgrim" The Rev. Dr. Victoria Sirota: "O Wondrous Souls" Cantor Natalie Young: "Lo Alecha" Susan Palo Cherwien and David Cherwien: "Blessed, How Blessed" Anita Datta: "Jonomo (Shantiniketan)" Marnie Camhi: "Mi Shebeirach: A Prayer for Healing" Note: These pieces and others would make ideal selections for Woman Composer Sunday on March 10. Also, Oxford just published a wonderful <u>collection</u> of organ music by women.



DC AGO Board of Directors 2023-2024

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#### THE COUPLER

A monthly newsletter published by the DC chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Send submissions to dcagochapter@gmail.com.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON SEAN BURNS



How did you become interested in the organ? Somewhat unusually, my first exposure to the organ (and really excellent organ playing) came through participating in an extracurricular choir when I was in high school. We sang every year at a local Thanksgiving Eve service at a local church with a magnificent tracker that sat front and center in the sanctuary. As a bass, I used to stand on a riser essentially perched directly above the organist. I initially studied piano

growing up, but watching what this man could do set a fire in me that made me want to make the leap!

#### What is your educational and professional background?

My bachelor's degree is in German of all things, but then I was able to get a master's in organ performance at Westminster Choir College where I studied with Alan Morrison. (The German does come in handy with all things Bach, as you might imagine!) I held organist positions at a few places outside Philadelphia before moving to DC to obtain a law degree at Georgetown. I just started at First Baptist this past June, where I could not be happier.

#### What are the organ's biggest challenges and joys for you?

As someone who played the piano for well over a decade before starting organ, perhaps the most obvious challenge for me is pedaling. I spent a lot of time working on my technique when I first started so that I wouldn't develop any early bad habits, but it still never feels completely natural. As for joys, there are quite a few! Accompanying an enthusiastic congregation, tackling new repertoire, giving recitals, etc. But perhaps my absolute favorite thing is demonstrating how the instrument works to anyone curious enough to ask. I love demystifying something which at surface level certainly appears almost impossibly daunting.

#### Why are you an AGO member?

Being an AGO member connects me to all sorts of opportunities I wouldn't otherwise know about. It's a chance to learn about upcoming recitals and other events, and of course the resources for professional development are unmatched. *Continued on Page 4* 

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON SEAN BURNS

From Page 3

*What do you like to do when you are not on the bench?* My other happy place is without a doubt the kitchen. For me there's something quite therapeutic



about taking the time to work through a complicated recipe, especially on a cold or rainy day. Plus, you get to eat what you've made!

What's an interesting fact that you would like people to know about you? I was on Jeopardy back in 2010. I didn't win (it's actually a long story and involves a weird technicality), but I met Alex Trebek, which was a total blast.

Tell us a funny/odd thing that happened when you were on an organ bench.

Less than a year into my tenure at

a large Catholic church, an intense thunderstorm hit in the middle of the evening vigil Mass I was playing. I discovered that there was an apparent hole in the ceiling directly above the console, since not long after a steady rain started falling directly onto the organ (not the manuals, though, fortunately). I calmly excused myself and found a bucket, although not quite in time for the offertory hymn!

## **Remembering Solveig Ingersoll**



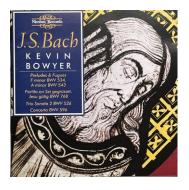
Solveig Ingersoll, former dean of the Potomac AGO chapter and organizer of the printed Tri-Chapter Directory for many years, died Feb. 1 in Colorado at age 79. Solveig was born in 1944. When she retired from her hearing technician business, with its main office in Wheaton Plaza, and her husband, Phil, retired from his job, they moved to Colorado. There, Solveig subbed as organist at several churches and remained active in the church music scene.

In recent years Solveig developed dementia and moved into a memory care unit in Loveland, CO. Solveig and Phil's son Evan, a brilliant physics major, was also quite musical, singing in highly regarded, auditioned choirs in Boston and elsewhere. Evan and his wife and family moved to Colorado to be close to Solveig and Phil, where they are carrying on Solveig's legacy through her grandchildren, all four of whom are very musical. A memorial service for Solveig was held Feb. 24 at the Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies. -- Ken Lowenberg

Chapter member Richard Roeckelein is offering free organ CDs from his collection to chapter members or anyone else interested. Send an email to <u>pathenry33@gmail.com</u> for more information or to arrange pickup.

**Klaas Bolt**--Chorale compositions and improvisations. Muller-orgel Grote of St. Bavokerk in Haarlem, Netherlands Live-concert at Grote of St. Maarenskerk Zaltbommel

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Kevin Bowyer--Brahms Complete Organ Works. Odense Cathedral, Denmark
J.S. Bach Works for Organ Vols. 2 and 17. Sct. Hans Kirke, Odense
J.S. Bach Preludes and Fugues in F and A minor, Partita on Sei gegrusset, Trio Sonata 2, Concerto BWV 596. Sct. Hans Kirke
J.S. Bach Toccata and Fugue in F, Concerto BWV 592, Aria, Te Deum, Fugue BWV 576, Prelude and Fugue in D Minor. Sct. Hans Kirke
J.S. Bach Toccata and Fugue in D minor, Fantasia and Fugue, Trio Sonata
1, Pastorella, Concerto BWV 592, Chorales. St. Hans Kirke

Christian Brembeck--Virtuose Orgelkunst des Norddeutschen Barock. Arp-Schnitger-Orgel im Schloss Charlottenburg zu Berlin

John Brock--A Tennessee Organ Tour--eight pipe organs historic and recent

**David Chalmers and James E. Jordan Jr.--**Organ Music of America 1891-1991. 1915 Aeolian-Skinner at Church of the Advent, Boston

**Francis Chapelet**--Orgues Historiques Espagne--Trujillo – Covarrubias Orgues Historiques Baleares--Palma de Mallorca

Michel Chapuis--Orgues de France--Marmoutier--St. Maximin

Pierre Cochereau--Grandes Heures Liturgies a Notre-Dame de Paris

Peter Richard Conte--Magic! Wanamaker Grand Court Organ

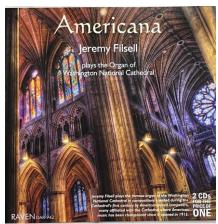
Scott Detra – Majestus. Washington National Cathedral

**Marcel Dupre** – Recital (Widor and Franck). St. Thomas Church NYC *Continued on Page 6* 

#### From Page 5

**Maurice and Madame Durufle** at the organs of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (1967)

Virgil Fox--Live recording at the Riverside Church, NYC



**Henry Fairs** – Durufle Organ Music. Cavaille-Coll organ at Notre-Dame d'Auteuil, Paris

Jeremy Filsel – Americana. Washington National Cathedral

**James Hammann** – Guilmant in America. St. Martin of Tours Church, Louisville, KY

**Scott Hanoian--**Organ works of Brahms. Washington National Cathedral

Michael Harris--The Widor Tradition--French Organ Music. Canterbury Cathedral

Felix Hell--Bach, Pachelbel, Bruhns, Karg-Elert, Mendelssohn and Rheinberger. St. Peter's Church NYC

Buxtehude, Bruhns, Mendelssohn, Bach, Frank. Th. Kuhn Organ at Frankfurt a.M.

Christoper Herrick--Bach Partitas and Canonic Variations. St. Nikolaus, Bremgarden, Switzerland

**Frederick Hohman a**nd J.S. Bach--Andover Organ at Meredith College, Raleigh, NC The English Connection--Noel Manger Organ at the Winston Churchill Memorial, Fulton, MO

Craig Humber--J.S. Bach Leipzig Chorales. Silbermann organ in Freiberg

Donald Hunt--English Organ Music 2--Naxos Label. Worcester Cathedral

**Peter Hurford--**Mendelssohn Organ Works: Sonatas and Preludes and Fugues, Ratzeburg Cathedral Toccata and Fugue (Decca), Sydney Opera House J.S. Bach Great Organ Works, various organs Organ Spectacular--Bach, Widor, Liszt, Franck, Boellman, Mendelssohn. Ratzeburg Cathedral in Germany, Sydney Opera House, St. Sernin, Toulouse

Andre Isoir--Widor, Boely, Lefebure-Wely, Pierne, Ropartz, Guilmant. Orgue Cavaille'-Coll de Lucon

**Werner Jacob--**Johann Pachelbel (Virgin Classics). 1833 Callinet organ in Mollau, Alsace *Continued on Page 7* 

*From Page 6* **Joyce Jones** at the Ruffatti organ in Spivey Hall

John Kitchen – The Organ in the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling

Dom Andre Laberge – Bach. Grand Orgue de Saint-Benoit-du-Lac

**Bernard Lagase** – Scheidt, Scheidemann, Froberger, Tunder, Buxtehude. Fisk organ at Wellesley College

Olivier Latry – On a Sunday Afternoon Vol. 8. Washington National Cathedral

Philippe Lefebvre--Marcel Dupre--Les Vepres de la Vierge Op. 18. Grand organ of Notre Dame

Hans Leitner – Klangfarben der grossen Kirchenorgel der Welt, St. Stephan's Cathedral, Passau, Germany

**Gustav Leonhardt--**J.S. Bach. Hagerbeer-Schnitger organ at Grote of St. Laurenskerk/Alkmaar

**Marsha Heather Long** – Romantic French and German Organ Music. Cathedral of St. John the Divine

**Douglas Macomber** – Works of the French Masters. Reiger organ at Pacific Union College, Angwin, CA

**James Mitchener--**Dulcet Tones. Salem Tannenberg organ, Winston-Salem, NC

**Michael Murray--**Dupre-Franck-Widor. St. Sulpice Vierne Symphonies 1 and III. Cavaille-Coll at St. Ouen de Rouen Encores a la francaise, Poulenc Concerto for Organ with Robert Shaw and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Symphony Hall, Boston Bach at St. Bavo's, Haarlem, Netherlands

Maria Nacy--Un Orgue dans la Ville: Bach and Reubke. Eglise des Dominicains, Montpellier

**Bruce Neswick-**-Sowerby, Scheidemann, Bach, Distler, Hancock, Neswick. Richard Fowkes and Co. organ, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Greenwich, CT

Robert Noehren--The Robert Noehren Retrospective. St. John's Cathedral, Milwaukee

**Simon Preston** – The World of the Organ including Widor, Purcell, Walton. Westminster Abbey *Continued on Page 8* 



*From Page 7* **George Ritchie**--J.S. Bach Organ Works Vol. 3. Brombaugh Organ at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN

Ludwig Ruckdeschel – Meisterwerke barocker und romantischer. St. Stephan zu Passau



**Rene Saorgin**--Orgues Historiques Italiens--Brescia-Bastia Orgues Historiques France – Malaucene

**Roger Sayer** – Great European Organs No. 45. Klais organ of the Hallgrimskirkja, Reykjavik

Gilbert Schneider – J.S. Bach. Freiberg Cathedral

**John Scott** – On a Sunday Afternoon Vol. 7. Washington National Cathedral

**Miklos Spanyi**—J.S. Bach works (Classical Gallery label)

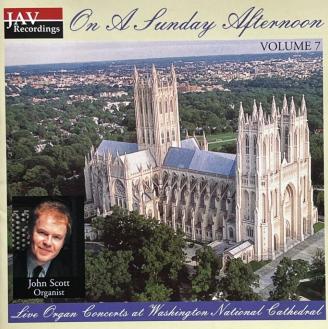
**Erik Suter**--On a Sunday Afternoon Vol. 1. Live at Washington National Cathedral Romantic Thunder: Liszt and Reubke. Washington National Cathedral

Frederick Swann--Riverside Revisted (NYC)

**Robert Triplett** – Dupre, Martin, Roger-Ducasse. Moller organ at Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA

**Gerd Wachowski** – Orgelkonzert. St. Jakob at Rothenburg ob der Tauber

**Patrick Wedd** – Healey Willan organ works. Organ of the Elise Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Montreal



#### ORGAN EVENTS Plus see Music at Midday on Page 10

**Saturday, March 2 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, March 3 at 5 pm:** The professional singers and instrumentalists of St. Mary's Mother of God Catholic Church and the surrounding area perform Pergolesi's Sabat Mater on period instruments. 727 5th St. NW. Suggested donation of \$20.

**Monday, March 4, 12:10 pm:** The Bach Consort presents Sehet! Wir gehen hinauf gen Jerusalem, BWV 159 at St. Mark's Capitol Hill, 301 A St. SE. Organist Jeffrey Kempskie performs. **The program repeats Tuesday, March 5, 12:10 pm at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.** 



Wednesday, March 6, 12:40 pm: J.J. Mitchell, director of music for St. John Neumann in Reston, plays a recital on the Lively-Fulcher organ at St. Matthew's Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW, following the 12:10 pm Mass. Works of Florence Price, Correa de Arauxo, Rachel Lauren, Ethel Smyth, William Grant Still and C.M. Widor. To also be livestreamed on the church's <u>YouTube</u> <u>Channel</u>.

Wednesday, March 6, 4 pm: The Potomac Organist Institute, sponsored by the DC, Northern Virginia and Potomac chapters, plans an organ crawl at St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington.

**Sunday, March 10, 4 pm:** David Beatty (Annapolis, MD) performs as part of Music at the Monastery, our chapter's member recital

series. Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, 1400 Quincy St. NE.

**Sunday, March 17, 4 pm:** Third Annual Annandale Bach Birthday Marathon at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale. An afternoon of short performances of organ works of J. S. Bach by students from the Peabody Institute on the church's mechanical action organ (John Leek, Op. 1). Drop in and depart at will. At 6 pm, concertgoers and musicians will continue to celebrate J.S. with a festive reception with beer and German fare.

**Sunday, March 17, 8 pm:** Gabriel Galdo performs on the new Kegg organ (above) at the Chapel of Christ the King at Christendom College, Front Royal, VA. Music from Elgar Sonata No. 2, Reger, Hakim. Co-hosted by the Northern Virginia and Winchester AGO chapters. Facebook: <u>https://fb.me/e/1ut8ldIK4</u> *Continued on Page 10* 

# ORGAN EVENTS

#### From Page9

**Sunday, March 31, 9 and 11 am:** A fully realized three-movement Concert Suite for Organ and Brass Quintet by David Conte will be premiered at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, McLean, VA, by John Nothaft, director of music ministries, and brass quintet on Easter Sunday. The present second and third movements were commissioned by the Donald Sutherland Music Ministries Fund at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD, in 2011. The new first movement was commissioned by Lewinsville Presbyterian Church Music Fund in memory of Helen Martin.

**Sunday, March 31, 2 pm:** Thomas Sheehan plays an Easter recital at Washington National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave. NW. No tickets required.

**Sunday, April 7, 6 pm:** Eric Plutz plays the annual Octave Day of Easter recital at the National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave. NE. Plutz will play the entire Fifth Symphony of Louis Vierme as well as works by J.S. Bach and Gerald Near.

# MUSIC AT MIDDAY

National City Christian Church presents Music at Midday on Fridays from 12:15 to 1 pm. The church is at 5 Thomas Circle NW in DC. Donations are gratefully accepted.



**Friday, March 1, 12:15 pm:** Organist Christopher Reynolds of Richmond, VA, performs music of Johann Sebastian Bach, John Knowles Paine, César Franck and Léon Boëllmann.

**Friday, March 8, 12:15 pm:** Pianist Muen Vanessa Wei (Cleveland, TN) performs the Sonata No. 7 in D Major by Ludwig van Beethoven and the Ballade No. 1 by Frédéric Chopin.

**Friday, March 15, 12:15 pm:** The Duo Beaux Arts, pianists Catherine Lan and Tao Lin, perform music by Franz Schubert, Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Felix Mendelssohn, Camille Saint-Saëns and Johann Strauss.

**Friday, March 22, 12:15 pm:** Organist Mi Zhou (Ann Arbor, MI), above left, presents works by Jean-Adam Guilain, Libby Larsen, Rachel Laurin and Louis Vierne.

There will be no Music at Midday recital on Good Friday, March 29.

# Pergolesi's Stabat Mater



Please join us at Saint Mary's this Lent for our performance of Pergolesi's moving arrangement of the Stabat Mater.

> <u>March 2, 2024 at 7:30 PM</u> <u>March 3, 2024 5:00 PM</u> <u>Saint Mary Mother of God Catholic Church</u> 727 5th St NW, Washington, DC, 20001

> > Suggested \$20 donation per ticket

Performed by the professional singers and instrumentalists of Saint Mary's Parish and the surrounding area at baroque pitch and performed on period instruments. If you would like more information, please contact Director of Music David Swenson at smmogmusic@gmail.com



# Octave Day of Easter

## FREE ANNUAL CONCERT in the Great Upper Church

# Sunday, April 7, 6 p.m.



# Eric Plutz, organist

University Organist Princeton University

The Basilica invites you to a free concert given by Eric Plutz, University Organist at Princeton University. This annual concert in joyful celebration of our Lord's Resurrection is performed each year by Guest Musicians on the Octave Day of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Concert will feature the complete Fifth Symphony of Louis Vierne, as well as works by J.S. Bach and Gerald Near.





Scan the QR code to see the full schedule of events happening during the Easter Season. 400 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC 20017 | **www.nationalshrine.org** | (202) 526-8300

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Emmanuel Episcopal Church. All are welcome. All are loved.

Music at Emmanuel



#### JOB OPENINGS <u>Maryland</u>

Organist/pianist: Holy Cross Catholic Church, Garrett Park. \$22,000-30,000 annually. Click here.

**Director of music:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waldorf. \$21,000-24,000 annually. Three-manual Rodgers Trillium 927 organ. Click <u>here</u>.

**Minister of music:** Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Gaithersburg. Casavant pipe organ. \$20,000-24,000 annually. Contact the church.

**Music director:** Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, Ellicott City. Part-time. \$9,800 to 10,800 for a 10-month period. <u>Click here</u>.

**Director of music:** Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, College Park. Full-time. From \$50,000 annually. Click <u>here.</u>

Music director: First Baptist Church of Suitland. Part-time. \$18,000-20,000 annually. Click here.

#### <u>Virginia</u>

**Music director/organist/pianist:** Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, Alexandria. \$40,500-51,300 annually. Click <u>here</u>.

**Organist/pianist:** Walker Chapel United Methodist Church, Arlington. For more information, send an email to <u>pastor@walkerchapel.org</u>.

**Director of music ministries:** Dulin Church, Falls Church. \$36,000 annually. Click <u>here</u> for details from agohq.org.

**Organist:** First Church of Christ, Scientist, Fairfax. Allen Organ Model AP31, 3 manuals. \$275 per service. For audition, contact <u>kmouser@aol.com.</u>

**Director of music:** Church of the Good Shepherd, Burke. \$45,000 annually. Click <u>here</u> for details from agohq.org.

**Organist:** St. John's Episcopal Church, Arlington. \$10,800-13,500 annually. Contact the church for details.

Music director: Friendship United Methodist Church, Falls Church. Part-time. Click here.

Ceremonial organist: Fort Myer. Part-time. Click here.

# THE COUPLER

Promote your event, product or cause with an advertisement in The Coupler, the official publication of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Rates: full page (4 issues), \$100; half-page (4 issues), \$50; quarter page (4 issues), \$25.

Email advertising requests to <u>dcagochapter@gmail.com</u> with "The Coupler" in the subject field.

Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists and send them to DC AGO, c/o Robert Church, 3562 13th St NW, Washington, DC 20010.

### LIFE MEMBERS

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

**Robert Grogan** 

Eileen Guenther

Irv Lawless

Kenneth Lowenberg

Donald Sutherland

David Hearn (deceased)

Albert Russell (deceased)



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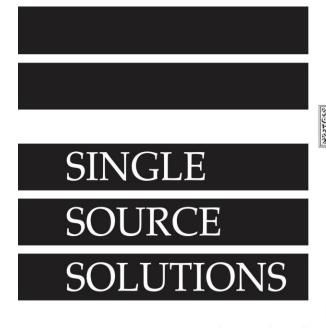
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