

# THE COUPLER

## THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



### Hymn for Easter Day

*Soar we now where Christ has led,  
Following our exalted Head.  
Made like him, like him we rise,  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!*

Dear DC AGO Members,  
In every worship service, the words we say and the actions we participate in are somehow shaping us. Perhaps without even being aware of it, worship is doing something to us – it's forming habits and language inside of us to both teach us why we are in relationship with God, and how to be in relationship with God.

As we approach the Easter season, I thought it appropriate to reflect on one of the most frequently sung Easter hymns, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*. This is one of the most popular and widely used of Charles Wesley's hymns, having been published in 1,028 hymnals to date. Wesley, an early English leader of the Methodist movement, is one of the great hymn-writers of all ages. By many accounts, he  
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APRIL 2023  
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The winners of 2  
the  
AGO/Quimby  
RCYO chapter-  
level competition  
are announced.



The Member 3  
Spotlight shines  
on Lyn Loewi,  
associate organist  
at St. John's,  
Lafayette Square.



The Women's 4  
Sacred Music  
Project seeks new  
hymns, songs  
and liturgical  
music.



Check out the 5  
wide variety of  
recitals  
scheduled at area  
churches this  
month.

**Mark Your Calendar**  
**Our second annual Juneteenth**  
**event is schedule June 19.**  
**See Page 2**

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Members' recital March 11



From left, Alvin Ted Gustin, Ken Lowenberg, Eleanor Timberlake and Storee Denson performed in our Lenten Meditations members' recital on March 11 at First Baptist Church.

### Save the date for Juneteenth event

Our chapter's second annual Juneteenth event on June 19 at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land will feature various workshops and a closing recital by Marvin Mills.



### Quimby winners

Abigail Wood, right, of York, PA, won first place in the AGO/Quimby RCYO chapter-level competition March 24 at Christ Church Episcopal in Alexandria. Daniel Carroll, left, of Hamilton, VA, placed second and Gabriel Galdo of Lovettsville, VA, placed third.



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District of Columbia Chapter

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### THE COUPLER

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Organists.

Send submissions to  
[dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com).

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Lyn Loewi

If you would like to be spotlighted or to nominate someone else, send an email to [dcchapterago@gmail.org](mailto:dcchapterago@gmail.org).

**How did you become interested in the organ?** I grew up in a Presbyterian church in Ridgewood, NJ, with a large youth choir. The music director, John Rodland, picked about six of us in the choir to learn the organ. I don't remember having much choice in the matter, but Cathy Rodland (now organ professor at St. Olaf) and I and the others went on to become organists.



**What is your educational and professional background?** I studied with Marilyn Mason at the University of Michigan and then went to Stanford for my DMA. I also spent a year in Germany with Almut Roessler and two years in France with Marie-Claire Alain. Although I've done a few years of college teaching, my career has mostly been in church

music. Before coming to DC in December 2021 to become associate organist at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, I spent seven years at the Episcopal cathedral in Denver and one year as an interim in Philadelphia when the pandemic hit.

**What are the organ's biggest challenges and joys for you?** Right now I'm interested in playing organ music by underrepresented composers. Finding that music when you've been raised on a diet of Bach, Mendelssohn, etc. takes a lot of research. I enjoy it, but I devote a lot of energy looking for that new repertory. The opportunity to make music with a good choir in a good liturgy is a wonderful experience.

**Why are you an AGO member?** The guild is where I can find colleagues who understand what I do, people who can laugh at the slightly absurd reality that we do this profession.

**What do you like to do when you are not on the organ bench?** Discovering DC has been a half-time occupation: films, exhibits, historic neighborhoods, the Library of Congress!

**What else would you like members to know about you?** I love reading about historic women

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## ‘Resounding Voices’: A supplement to the hymnal ‘Voices Found’

For the 20th anniversary of the hymnal *Voices Found*, the Women’s Sacred Music Project in partnership with The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada is curating *Resounding Voices*, a new collection of hymns, songs and liturgical music by people who identify as women.

They aim to address ideas “that touch our hearts, fire our imagination and encourage us to action.”



Themes may relate to Christian or Jewish religious traditions with or without referring to the Bible or other sacred texts. The project also hopes to honor the spiritual legacy of *Voices Found* by connecting with issues of moral justice in our day.

*Voices Found* was one of the first ecumenical and interfaith hymnals by, for and about women. It made three important contributions to hymnody: celebrating biblical and other visionary women of faith; expanding imagery for God by challenging masculine linguistic conventions; and acknowledging that a woman’s experience is part of human life.

If works are selected for publication, applicants will receive an honorarium of \$250 for each previously unpublished text or musical setting (\$500 for both music and words). Submission of previously published hymns are also welcome for inclusion.

The deadline to submit materials is May 1. Applicants will be notified by July 1 if their work has been chosen. The entire collection will be published by Nov. 15. For more information, click [here](#).

### Member Spotlight on Lyn Loewi

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composers/scientists/writers and the lives they led. It reads like fiction sometimes, because it wasn't easy, yet they did it.

#### **What is your most memorable moment on the organ bench?**

The organ at St. John's sits out of view, off to the side of the altar area. At a recent Evensong service a door usually locked (the President's door) was left unlocked. The choir began their introit in the balcony. In the three minutes between introit and hymn, a man experiencing homelessness suddenly appeared at my side. He gently asked if I could help him, and when I said no, he smiled and said, "Don't say you can't help me, say that you wish me well." I assured him of my good wishes and urged him to take a seat. We both laughed, and my apparition left just as I started the processional hymn.

## ORGAN EVENTS

**Tuesday, April 4, 12:10 pm:** DC AGO chapter dean Paul Byssainthe Jr. performs the Prelude and Fugue in A Minor by J. S. Bach and Toccata in F Major by Dietrich Buxtehude. The Washington Bach Consort performs the motet *Jesu, meine Freude*. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, April 9, 2 pm:** Washington National Cathedral organist Thomas Sheehan plays an Easter recital.

**Sunday, April 16, 4 pm:** Brass of Peace plays at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy Ave. NE.

**Tuesday, April 25, 6:30:** Nathan Ringcamp, a candidate for a bachelor of music degree in organ performance from Catholic University, performs his senior recital at St. Matthew's Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW. He will play Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E-Flat Major (BWV 552), Franck's Chorale No. 1 in E Major, Duruflé's *Prélude et fugue sur le nom d'Alain*, Op. 7, and Rachel Laurin's *Quatre Pèlerinages en Lorraine*, Op. 30. Nathan is the organist at St. Dominic's Catholic Church.

**Sunday, May 14, 4 pm:** Chuyoung Suter (DC) plays a recital at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy Ave. NE.

**Sunday, May 14, 4 pm:** Noted performer and pedagogue Dr. Kimberly Marshall presents a concert of music from a wide variety of times and places. A festive reception follows. St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale.

## MUSIC AT MIDDAY

National City Christian Church presents Music at Midday on most Fridays from 12:15-1 pm. The church is at 5 Thomas Circle NW in DC. Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.

**April 7:** No concert (Good Friday)

**April 14:** Organist Loreto Aramendi from Spain's Basque country performs works of Dietrich Buxtehude, Richard Wagner, Franz Liszt, Jehan Alain and Maurice Duruflé.

**April 21:** South Carolina organist Charles Douglas Frost performs works of African and African American composers, including Fela Sowande, Roy L. Belfield Jr., Ralph Simpson, Phillip Barnette McIntyre and Florence Price.

**April 28:** French organist Emmanuel Duperrey performs works of G.F. Handel, Hans Andre Stamm, Klaas Jan Mulder and Helmut Walcha along with one of his own compositions and two arrangements of works by John Williams ("Jurassic Park Theme") and Paul Dukas ("The Sorcerer's Apprentice").

## The Dean's message

*From Page One*

he wrote no fewer than 6,500 hymns. Born in Epworth, Lincolnshire in England in 1707, he was the youngest son and 18th child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley.

Charles Wesley composed this "Hymn for Easter Day" in 11 stanzas! It was first sung at the famous Foundry Meeting House, the first Wesleyan Chapel in London, England, on Easter Sunday in 1739. Wesley wrote it specifically for the occasion, and the text was published the same year in *Hymns and Sacred Poems*. The text contains familiar Easter themes: all creatures rejoice in Christ's resurrection (vs. 1); the work of redemption is complete (vs. 2); death is vanquished (vs. 3); we have new life in Christ now (vs. 4); we praise the victorious Christ (vs. 5). The "Alleluia" responses we now sing were added by later editors to fit the tune. Not only do these joyous responses reflect ancient Jewish and Christian practice, they also provide the framework for praising God with each line of text.

This hymn text has often been set to the tune Llanfair. This tune, written around 1817, is usually attributed to Welsh singer Robert Williams. Williams, who was blind, had an innate musical ability and could write out a tune after hearing it just once. Llanfair is actually a common Welsh name, but some scholars believe that in this case the tune name refers to the Montgomery County village in Wales where Williams was born. Llanfair was first published in 1837 and has been associated with this Wesley text since its publication in *The English Hymnal* in 1906.

As we sing this hymn, we are first brought back two centuries as "witnesses" of the resurrection, and then we are also made aware that though the actual event of the resurrection happened once, it is in a sense an ongoing event with ever-present effects. We are called today to live out of the resurrection, to follow our risen Lord in newness of life, and to ever lift our "Alleluias" in praise.

### Easter Prayer

Living God, Long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

Grace & peace,  
Paul Byssainthe, Jr.



### Free Estey pump organ

Free for pickup in Fairfax.

1890 Estey parlor pump organ. Very nice case in Eastlake design, six stops.

Rebuilt bellows ready for another century of sound!

Red fabric under front grill and red carpet on pedals.

Has a wood and iron stool with red velvet seat.

Contact Erika Messenger at [eroner1@yahoo.com](mailto:eroner1@yahoo.com).

## JOB OPENINGS

### District of Columbia

**Director of music:** St. Paul's Parish, K Street. Full-time. \$72,000-80,000 annually. Click [here](#) for details from the agohq.org website.

**Accompanist:** St. Alban's School and National Cathedral School. Part-time. Click [here](#).

**Director of music ministries for 9 am service:** National United Methodist Church. Part-time, \$50,800 annually. Click [here](#).

### Maryland

**Music director:** First Baptist Church of Suitland. Part-time. \$18,000-20,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Director of music ministry:** Glenmont United Methodist Church, Wheaton/Silver Spring. Part-time. \$20,000 to \$22,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Organist/choir director:** St. Francis Episcopal Church, Potomac. Part-time. \$30,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Organist/choir director:** Christ Church, Durham Parish, Nanjemoy. 10-rank Moller pipe organ. \$15,000-27,000 annually. Apply by April 15. Click [here](#).

**Organist and choir director:** Christ Church, Easton. Four-manual Rodgers Infinity Model 484MV organ. Part-time. \$35,000-40,000 annually. For details, contact Fr. William Ortt at christchurcheastonmd@gmail.com.

**Music director:** First Baptist Church of Suitland. \$18,000-20,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Director of music/organist:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waldorf. \$24,000-26,000. Three-manual Rodgers Trillium 927 organ. Click [here](#).

### Virginia

**Director of music ministry:** Franconia United Methodist Church, Alexandria. Part-time. \$18,000-21,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Music director:** Calvary United Methodist Church, Arlington. Part-time. Click [here](#).

**Organist/accompanist:** Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alexandria. \$20,000-25,000 annually. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

**Music director/organist:** Grace Episcopal Church, Cismont/Keswick. Part-time. 2019 Taylor & Boody pipe organ. \$27,500 annually. 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 [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com) with "The Coupler" in the subject field. Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists and send them to DC AGO, P.O. Box 39179, Washington, DC 20016.*

## 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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## Acoustic Design Services

**Acoustical Design Collaborative, Ltd** is an independent consulting firm specializing in ecclesiastical spaces where natural acoustics for music and unobtrusive amplified speech are essential for traditional worship celebration. Services provided to building committees, architects, and organ builders include:

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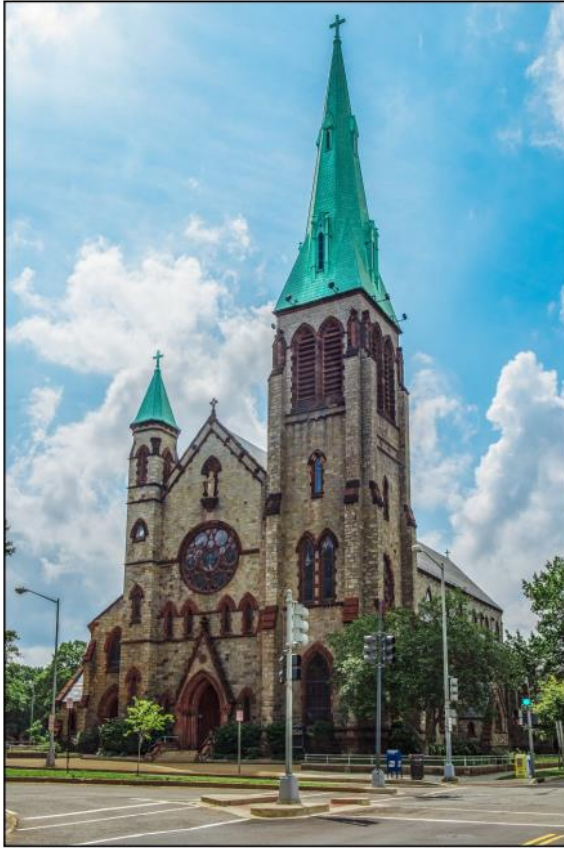
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## SAINT DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH WASHINGTON, DC

“The Island”, as it was often called in the nineteenth century, consisted of the area now known as Southwest Washington. Members of the Order of Preachers – the Dominicans – have stood witness in this historic part of the District of Columbia for over 160 years. The present structure, designed by noted New York City-based architect Patrick Keely, was completed in 1875. Just a decade later, in 1885, a fire destroyed the church’s interior, which was quickly restored. At the same time, the church was adorned with a grand new organ.



We at Di Gennaro-Hart are pleased to announce that we have been commissioned by the Archdiocese of Washington to undertake a major restoration of the Hilborne L. Roosevelt instrument. Cousins to Teddy, Hilborne and his brother, Frank Roosevelt, were among the very finest nineteenth century American organ builders.

The project will include the replacement of the 1929 English-style console with an “American terraced” console built according to current AGO standards. The console will offer a strong nod to the Roosevelts, particularly through the use of the engraving font that was commissioned by their firm. The present solid state control systems will be replaced with a 100 channel capture system and a new switching system with performance recorder. The reeds will be restored, numerous repairs will be completed, and the entire instrument will be thoroughly cleaned. A powerful Tuba stop, constructed by a shop that traces its roots to the Roosevelt firm, will be added.

Father Jordan Turano, OP, *Pastor*  
JC Cantrell, *Music Director and Worship Coordinator*

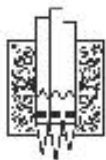


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