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# THE COUPLER

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## The Dean's Message



### *Signing off*

Dear Friends and Colleagues -

I have had the honor and pleasure of serving as your Dean for the maximum term of three full years and as your sub-Dean for two years prior. After a full five years on the DC AGO board, I'm passing on the torch.

When I reflect on our many accomplishments, I am filled with great pride. I've shared the story of my first DC AGO meeting nearly ten years ago. From that event, we have together transformed our chapter into a vibrant and vital position in the musical arts community of Washington, D.C.

Carrying the leadership of our beloved chapter has not always been easy and we have faced our fair share of challenges. I am most grateful for my fellow board members

who work hard to promote the greater good of the chapter. We owe them much appreciation for all that they do.

Last year, I had planned to step down as Dean so that I could focus on completing my doctoral studies. Since there were no nominations for the post, I agreed to stay on, but only with the help of Irvin Peterson, who has been a wonderful friend to me. Irvin is filled with great ideas and enthusiasm. I am pleased that he will be continuing on as co-Dean with Chris Betts. Additionally, Rob Church will continue on as Treasurer and Kathy Cooper as Secretary. David Houston does an impeccable job as our Communications Director, as does Jeremy Filsell as Education Coordinator. I am pleased to announce that I have accepted the call to serve as an ex-officio member of the Board as Coordinator of "Music @ the Monastery", our popular member recital series. Next year, we also welcome two additional members to the board. Information on these individuals is found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Last year, I wrote of all of the major projects that we undertook together during my time as Dean. I won't rehash them here, but rather use this space to call your attention to two thoughts for the future. First, Kathy Cooper is brainstorming a wonderful composition competition for our chapter. This is the kind of large-scale idea/project that esteemed chapters such as ours has the responsibility to engineer. Stay tuned for updates on this special project.

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Secondly, I want to share with you my excitement for the future of the organ in the D.C. metropolitan area. I tried counting all of the new organs that have been built in D.C. since my arrival ten years ago. I count no fewer than fifteen installations. In comparison with other parts of the country, this is a very impressive number! We still have a ways to go, however, to promote a better variety of instruments. This will come from a renewed commitment to comradery and fellowship amongst all of us organists and organ aficionados in D.C. After trying to sell the benefits of AGO membership for five years, I've found that the greatest benefit of membership is each other. We are the American Guild of Organists, and we serve and represent our impressive instrument in the greatest city on earth. I am truly honored to have journeyed with you and look forward to the years ahead.

Russell

## *News of Our Members*

### **Lowenberg Receives Commission**

Ken Lowenberg, long-time AGO member and officer, Minister of Music Emeritus at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, and current Organist at National City Christian Church, was commissioned by Hughes United Methodist Church on Georgia Avenue in Wheaton, MD to compose an original piece for organ and brass quartet to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their organist, Dr. Van Knauss, in his position as Organist at the church.

The celebration took place on Sun., May 28, beginning with the church's 10:30 a.m. service, during which Dr. Knauss was recognized and the commissioned piece by Lowenberg received its world premiere. The celebration continued with a gala reception in the church's social hall, following the service.

The composition, titled Sonata on "Lauda Anima," is in 3 movements (fast - slow - fast) for brass quartet and organ, and may be performed either as one continuous 10-minute piece (for concert use or as an extended Prelude) or broken up into 3 separate pieces (to be used for Prelude, Offertory or Communion, and Postlude, for liturgical practicality). All movements are based upon material from the hymn tune, *Lauda Anima*, or "Praise, My Soul, the King [God] of Heaven."

Lowenberg has two additional commissions coming up, one for SAB choir with piano and flute accompaniment, and one for SATB choir with organ accompaniment, to celebrate upcoming milestones of several churches.

## 2016-2017 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

*Sunday, September 25, 2016*

*Opening Convocation and Installation of Officers  
Church of the Redeemer  
Bethesda, Maryland*

*Sunday, October 2, 2016*

*Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular  
Johann Vexo, Organist  
National Presbyterian Church  
Washington, DC*

*Monday, January 9, 2017*

*Twelfth Night Service and Catered Dinner  
With members of the Potomac and NOVA Chapters  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
Chevy Chase, Maryland*

*Monday, February 20, 2017*

*Presidents' Day Organ Festival  
Including a session with The American Boychoir,  
a concert by Dr. Jeremy Filsell  
and other workshops*

*Tuesday, March 14, 2017*

*An evening with Past AGO President  
Dr. John Walker  
Sponsored by the NOVA AGO & the  
National Association of Pastoral Musicians DC/Arlington chapter  
The Cathedral of Saint Thomas More  
Arlington, Virginia*

*Friday, May 19, 2017 7:30 PM*

*Potomac Organ Institute Student Recital  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish  
6701 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD*

### DC AGO Board of Directors

#### Co-Deans

Irvin Peterson  
Russell J. Weismann

#### Sub Dean

Christopher Betts

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Kathleen Cooper

#### Treasurer

Rob Church

#### Hospitality Coordinator

Irvin Peterson

#### Education Coordinator

Jeremy Filsell

#### Historian

Irv Lawless

#### Communications

#### Director

David K. Houston

### *The Coupler*

A monthly newsletter  
published by the District  
of Columbia Chapter,  
American Guild of  
Organists

David K. Houston,  
Editor

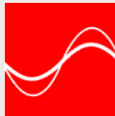
To contact the DC AGO  
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[dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com)

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## *From The Potomac Organ Institute*

Dear Colleagues,

The *Potomac Organ Institute* was founded in 1988 to interest pianists in the field of church music by providing instruction on the pipe organ. Auditions for prospective students are held annually and successful applicants receive one year of free organ instruction from a volunteer Tri-Chapter Guild member with lessons from September through May. Students participate in a master class, a spring recital, become members of their local AGO chapter, and receive a complimentary subscription to *The American Organist* magazine.

I am writing to ask you to identify a student or students – grades 7 and up, as well as adults – who have a good piano background, are interested in learning to play the organ, and who would benefit from a year of organ instruction.

Auditions will be held on **Friday** evening, **June 23**, and again on **Saturday** morning, **June 24**, at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle Street, NW, Washington, DC. For information, including a downloadable audition form and list of requirements, please go to our website, [www.potomacorganinst.org](http://www.potomacorganinst.org).

Over the years we have discovered that these beginning organists make remarkable progress during this time of free instruction. Many continue organ lessons after their scholarship year and some even go on to study organ and/or church music in college.

I am grateful for any assistance you can provide in identifying students – young people and adults – for this unique program. The number of awards available is limited, so those with an interest in this opportunity are encouraged to read details on the website and submit an application by June 9, 2017. Please let me know if I can answer questions. Thank you for helping get the word out about Potomac Organ Institute!

Sincerely,

Diane Heath, *POI Coordinator*

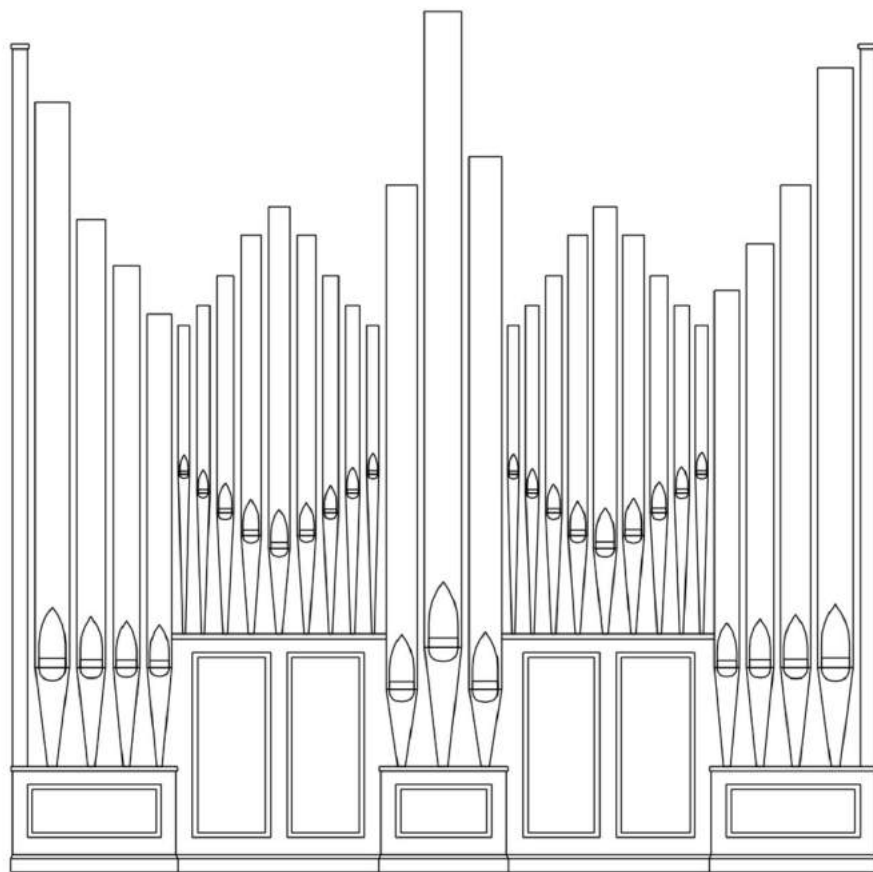
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## *Aloha, Organists!*

An ad in The Diapason:

Wanted: Organists visiting Maui. Lahaina's Holy Innocents Episcopal Church invites visiting organists to play its Beckerath Positiv organ at Sunday services. Built in 1972 by Rudolf von Beckerath and then-apprentice Hans-Ulrich Erbslöh for Honolulu's Lutheran Church, the 408-pipe Shrankpositiv has a 54-note "split" manual, 30-note pedal, 11 stops, 8 ranks, and 6 registers.



Holy Innocents acquired the instrument in 1977 and moved it to Maui where it has been played by parish musicians such as Carol Monaghan and visiting artists including Angus Sinclair of Canada and Dalibor Miklavcic of Slovenia. The instrument is extremely responsive and fills the worship space beautifully.

The parish community is "exemplary in its hospitality to all visitors," and that especially includes visiting organists.

For information:

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church  
808/661-4202

<http://holylimai.org>

<http://www.thediapason.com/classified/organists-wanted> )

Kathy Cooper contacted the church recently, and the Vicar replied,  
*"Aloha, Thank you for your email. We are always open to guest organists playing for us. It is a delight to make the musical connections from around the world. Maui is a unique place in that we cross paths with folks from all over. The ad is still active!"*

*Mahalo,*

*The Rev. Amy Crowe*

*Vicar*

*Holy Innocents Episcopal Church*

## Members' Events

### **Friday, June 2, 12:15 pm**

Organist John Nothaft  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

### **Sunday, June 4, 7 pm**

Organist David Lang with the McLean Symphony  
Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, McLean VA

### **Friday, June 9, 12:15 pm**

Organist Michael Britt, Pride Concert  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

### **Sunday, June 11, 5 pm**

National Orchestral Institute, Brass and Woodwinds, with organist David Houston  
St. Andrew's Episcopal, College Park MD

### **Friday, June 16, 12:15 pm**

Organist Alan Hommerding  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

### **Friday, June 23, 12:15 pm**

Organist Sondra Goldsmith Proctor  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

### **Friday, June 30, 12:15 pm**

Organist Aaron Comins  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

*Members are encouraged to submit recitals and concerts for public listing on the DC AGO website. Submit your event for web or newsletter listing to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com)*

You may also want to consult additional resources for concerts, events & worship and Evensong services:

The Kennedy Center  
[www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)

St. Paul's K Street  
[www.stpauls-kst.com/worship](http://www.stpauls-kst.com/worship)

The National Cathedral  
[www.cathedral.org](http://www.cathedral.org)

Tuesday Concerts at Epiphany  
[www.epiphanydc.org/epiphanies-happen/concerts/](http://www.epiphanydc.org/epiphanies-happen/concerts/)





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## Music @ the Monastery

Located on forty-four acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, the Franciscan Monastery (Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery) is a beautiful architectural gem hidden in the northeast corner of Washington, D.C. Built in 1899 in the shape of a Jerusalem Cross in neo-Byzantine architectural style, the Monastery includes gardens, replicas of various shrines throughout Israel, a replica of the catacombs in Rome, an archive, a library, as well as bones of Saint Benignus of Armagh, brought from the Roman Catacombs and originally in the Cathedral of Narni, Italy. The Monastery's Lively-Fulcher pipe organ was built in 1998 and contains forty ranks of pipes over three manuals and pedal.

Together with the Franciscan Monastery, the DC AGO is proud to support a series of community outreach musical events titled, "Music @ the Monastery". These events are free of charge and take place on the second Sunday of each month at 4pm, followed by a reception. All are welcome!

### 2016-2017 Recitalists

<i>October 9</i>	<i>Russell Weismann (Saint Jane Frances de Chantal Parish - Bethesda, Maryland)</i>
<i>November 13</i>	<i>Carl Schwartz (All Hallows Parish - Davidsonville, Maryland)</i>
<i>December 11</i>	<i>Iris Lan (New York, NY)</i>
<i>January 8</i>	<i>Clarice Snyder (Washington, DC)</i>
<i>February 12</i>	<i>Nathan Davy (National Shrine - Washington, DC)</i>
<i>March 12</i>	<i>Brass and Organ (Brass of Peace Ensemble with Lisa Galoci, Organist)</i>
<i>April 9</i>	<i>Ronald Butts-Boehmer (Messiah Lutheran Church - Germantown, Maryland)</i>
<i>May 14</i>	<i>Paul Skevington (Saint Luke Catholic Church - McLean, Virginia)</i>

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## THE COUPLER

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District of Columbia Chapter  
The American Guild of Organists

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