



The Coupler

Marie-Claire Alain (10 August 1926 – 26 February 2013) was a French [organist](#) and organ teacher best known for her prolific recording career.

Marie-Claire Alain was born in [Saint-Germain-en-Laye](#) on 10 August 1926. Her father Albert Alain (1880–1971) was an [organist](#) and [composer](#), as were her brothers, [Jehan](#) (1911–1940) and [Olivier](#) (1918–1994). She began assisting her father when he played organ in the parish church at the age of 11. She studied at the [Paris Conservatory](#) in the organ class of [Marcel Dupré](#), where she was awarded four first prizes.[3] She also studied harmony there with [Maurice Durufé](#).[

She taught at the conservatory of [Rueil-Malmaison](#) and the Paris Conservatory. Her pupils included Cherry Rhodes, James M. Higdon, Jr, [George C. Baker](#), Robert Bates, [Diane Bish](#), [Guy Bovet](#), [James David Christie](#), Jesse Eschbach, [Monique Gendron](#), [Gerre Hancock](#), [Marcus Huxley](#), Gunnar Idenstam, [Wolfgang Karius](#), [Jon Laukvik](#), Lyn Hubler Loewi, [Michael Matthes](#), Margaret Phillips, [Daniel Roth](#), Claire Rozier, [Wolfgang Rüksam](#), Helga Schauerte, [6] [Dong-ill Shin](#), Martin Souter, Norma Stevlingson, Martin Strohäcker], [Thomas Trotter](#), Kenneth Weir, and [Fritz Werner](#). Upon her death, the list of her students was described as a "who's who of the present-day organ world".

She was the most-recorded organist in the world, with over 260 recordings in her catalogue. Alain recorded the complete organ works of [J.S. Bach](#) three times as well as the complete organ works of over a dozen other major composers of works for the organ, as well as many individual works. She was devoted to the organ works of her brother Jehan, who died before she began her conservatory studies. A recording of works for organ and trumpet with [Maurice André](#) was among her most popular. When her third recording of Bach's works for organ appeared in 1994, she explained to *The Organ*, a British journal, why she was recording them again:

"It's because of the instruments, the instruments above everything else, and the fine state to which they have been restored—and the fact that they are now accessible. These recordings use instruments from Bach's time, and we know that Bach even played some of them—it's an extraordinary feeling, to put your hands on the keyboard, knowing that he was there 250 years before you!"

Alain had a long association with the [St Albans International Organ Festival](#).

She succeeded her father as organist of the parish church of Saint-Germain-en-Laye after his death in 1971 and served for 40 years.

She married Jacques Gommier in 1950. He died in 1992. Their son Benoît died in 2010. Alain died on 26 February 2013 in a nursing home in [Le Pecq](#), a suburb of Paris, survived by their daughter.

Wikipedia

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Member: Martha Jean Hoehn, jarthamean@gmail.com

New eMail address: Cheryl L. Tatham, tlc4652@gmail.com
 Jeremy Filsell, jfilsell@epiphanydc.org
 Jason Kent West, jasonkentwest@outlook.com

2012 – 2013 DC Chapter Events

Monday, September 10, 7:00 p.m.

Opening Service: Choral Evensong with Installation of Officers

All Souls' Memorial Episcopal Church
2300 Cathedral Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008-1505
The Rev'd John Beddingfield, officiant
The Rev'd Mary Sulerud, homilist
The Choir of All Souls' Church
Benjamin Hutchens, director
Jeremy Filsell, organist
Benjamin Hutchens, host

Sunday, October 21, 5:00 p.m.

Pipes Spectacular: Dedication of the New Casavant-Frères Organ

Bruce Neswick, organ
St. John's Episcopal Church, Georgetown Parish
3240 O Street NW
Washington, DC 20007
Samuel Carabetta, host

Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.

Creating Worship that Works: A Forum on Clergy/Musician Relationships

Virginia Theological Seminary
3737 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

The Rev'd John Beddingfield, The Rev'd Ann Gillespie, Dr. Eileen Guenther, Ms. Ellen Johnston, The Rev'd Dr. William Bradley Roberts, panelists

Sunday, January 6, 6:00 p.m.

Epiphany-Tide Members' Dinner

Ris Restaurant
2275 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Monday, February 18

Presidents' Day Organ Crawl in Philadelphia

Sunday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.

Silent Film: Peter Krasinski, organ

The Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal)
1317 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
Irvin Peterson, host

Monday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting, Dinner & Recital: Caroline Robinson, organ

National City Christian Church
5 Thomas Circle NW
Washington, DC 20005
Charles Miller, host

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To have your event publicized in The Coupler, please send it to Joseph Ireland (dc.ago.info@gmail.com) and include the following: date, time, performer, where, and contact information. Concise descriptive information is helpful and welcome and will be used as space allows: NOTE: We are only able to list information for programs that occur two months in advance.

Saturday, March 2, 2013, 6:00pm

Embassy of Italy
3000 Whitehaven Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

The Cathedral Choral Society Angel of the Arts Award Gala Honoring Douglas H. Wheeler. See enclosed Flyer.

Sunday, March 3, 2013, 5:15pm

Washington National Cathedral
3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-5098

Charles Tompkins, Organist

Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 12:10 - 12:45pm

St. John's Church - Lafayette Square
1525 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20005

First Wednesday Concerts. **Bianca Garcia**, flute, assisted by **Michael Lodico**, organ. World premier of Kokopelliana, by **Stephen Cabell**.

Legend has it that the Southwest Native American deity Kokopelli's flute playing would sweep away winter and herald the spring. Stephen Cabell's new piece brings the mischievous humpback dancing flute player to life, whose symbol you may recognize. The 35 minute program will also include Frank Martin's sublime Sonata da Chiesa and a special arrangement of the Titanic Theme Song with glass flute.

New England-based flutist Bianca Garcia is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and was recently a Fulbright Scholar to Italy. In addition to performing in over 16 countries, Bianca was elected into the New Hampshire House of Representatives last fall. New York City-based composer Stephen Cabell is also a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and is on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. Cabell's works are known for their "propulsive sense of rhythm." Michael Lodico is Associate Organist and Choir Director at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square.

Sunday, March 10, 2013, 3:00pm -

6:00pm
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1100 W. Grace Street
Richmond, VA

The Richmond Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will sponsor a "J. S. Bach Birthday Marathon" at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and St. John's UCC parking lots. Performances of Bach's music will take place in 25-minute segments on the hour and half hour. The performance will include organists, instrumentalists, vocalists, and a choir: all based in the Richmond area. For further information, please contact Cheryl Van Ornam at ago_stoplister_cvo@yahoo.com or 804-814-6677.

Sunday, March 10, 2013, 5:15pm

Washington National Cathedral
3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-5098

Michael Bauer, Organist

Monday, March 11, 2013, 7:00pm

The Church of the Epiphany
Downtown
1317 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

An evening of organ music for the record books! Two magnificent organs with two internationally acclaimed organists:
Jeremy Filsell and Neil Weston.

Sunday, March 31, 2013, 5:15pm
Washington National Cathedral
3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-5098

Jeremy Filsell, Organist

Friday, April 12, 2013, 8:00pm
Strathmore Performing Arts Center
5301 Tuckerman Lane
North Bethesda, MD 20852-3385

Cameron Carpenter in concert. Tickets
\$25-\$40. Call 301-581-5100 or
www.strathmore.org. Complimentary
parking.

ADVERTISING IN THE COUPLER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yes, using a guideline established by other chapters, advertising is now available in the COUPLER as follows:

Full page ads, four times per season, \$100.

Half page and quarter pages ads are \$50 and \$25 respectively, also four times per season.

Business card-sized ads are \$10 (one-time) or \$75 for the entire season.

Advertising requests should be sent to the COUPLER editor, Joseph Ireland at dc.ago.info@gmail.com or 503 Seneca Knoll Court, Great Falls, VA, 22066-3000. Checks should be made payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists.



MARILYN KEISER TO BE HONORED IN NEW YORK CITY AT AGO RECITAL AND GALA BENEFIT RECEPTION

Celebration of the Her Lifetime Achievements Will Benefit the AGO Endowment Fund

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) will sponsor a Recital and Gala Benefit Reception honoring Marilyn Keiser on Friday, April 5, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City. Dr. Keiser will perform a solo recital featuring works by Alec Wyton, Herbert Howells, Margaret Sandresky, Josef Rheinberger, and Louis Vierne. The gala benefit reception will follow in the Cathedral's St. James Chapel.

Recital and Gala Benefit Reception Tickets are \$100 (\$75 tax deductible) and can be purchased online at www.agohq.org or by calling 212-870-2311, ext. 4308. Gala ticket holders will be offered preferred seating in the Great Quire with a view of the performer. The names of those who purchase their tickets by March 15 will be printed in the commemorative program book. Tickets for the recital only (\$25) can be purchased at the Cathedral immediately prior to the recital; general seating will be provided in the Crossing and Nave.

Display advertising is offered in the commemorative program book for an inside cover (\$1,500 and includes four gala tickets), full page (\$1,000 and includes two gala tickets) and half page insertion (\$500 and includes one gala ticket). Advertising orders can be placed online at www.agohq.org. E-mail gala@agohq.org for further information. The advertising deadline is March 15. The publication will become a part of the American Organ Archives.

Those unable to attend the Recital and Gala Benefit Reception can make a contribution to the AGO Endowment Fund in honor of Marilyn Keiser online at www.agohq.org. These names will also be published in the program book; all contributions received by March 15 will be included. All proceeds will benefit the AGO Endowment Fund in Dr. Keiser's honor.

MARILYN KEISER

Marilyn Keiser is Chancellor's Professor of Music Emeritus at Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., where she taught courses in sacred music and applied organ for 25 years. Prior to her appointment at Indiana University, Dr. Keiser was organist and director of music at All Souls Parish in Asheville, N.C., and music consultant for the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, holding both positions from 1970 to 1983.

A native of Springfield, Ill., Marilyn Keiser began her organ study with Franklin Perkins, then attended Illinois Wesleyan University where she studied organ with Lillian McCord, graduating with a bachelor of sacred music degree. Dr. Keiser entered the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where she studied organ with Alec Wyton and graduated summa cum laude in 1965 with a master of sacred music degree. Her sacred music doctorate from Union Theological Seminary was awarded in 1977.

Upon graduation from Union Seminary, Marilyn Keiser became assistant organist of the Riverside Church in New York City, and one year later was appointed associate organist and choirmaster of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, a position she held from 1966 to 1970.

In constant demand as an organ recitalist and workshop leader, Dr. Keiser has appeared throughout the U.S. in concerts sponsored by churches, colleges and AGO chapters. She has been a featured artist at AGO Regional Conventions and at the AGO National Conventions in Dallas and in Washington, D.C., where she played with orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In addition, she has appeared as featured artist for the International Congress of Organists in Cambridge, England; in concert at the Royal Victoria Hall with the Singapore Symphony; at the American Cathedral in Paris, the Southern Cathedrals Festival in Winchester, England and the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil.

An active member of the AGO, Dr. Keiser has been a member of the national council, has served as national registrar, a member of the national nominating committee and dean of the Western North Carolina chapter. She holds AGO Associate, Choirmaster, and Fellowship certifications.

THE GREAT ORGAN AT ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

The Great Organ was completed in 1911 by Ernest M. Skinner, and enlarged and rebuilt in 1952 by G. Donald Harrison of the Aeolian Skinner Organ Company. The Great Organ has several extraordinary features which immeasurably heighten its tonal effect, including the famous high-pressure State Trumpet at the West End, the magnificent high-pressure Solo Tubas, a battery of Bombard reeds, and remarkably effective 32' voices. The organ pipes are divided between two large chambers above the floor of the Great Quire on the north and south sides. The console is located in the gallery above the South Choir stall.

On December 18, 2001, the Great Organ and the other two Aeolian-Skinner organs in the side chapels were heavily damaged by smoke from a devastating fire that broke out in the unfinished portion of the North Transept. All three organs were silenced until they could be cleaned and restored. In 2005, the Great Organ was removed for cleaning and repair by Quimby Pipe Organs. It was brought home to the Cathedral along with a new four-manual console with solid state combination action, replicating the style of the original 1911 Skinner shell and the console interior as rebuilt on location by Aeolian-Skinner. Today, the Great Organ has 151 ranks of pipes, 118 speaking stops, and 8,514 pipes on 7 divisions spread over 4 manuals and pedals.

The Cathedral Choral Society Angel of the Arts Award Gala Honoring Douglas H. Wheeler

Please join the Cathedral Choral Society for its 2013 Angel of the Arts Award Gala to be held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Embassy of Italy, 3000 Whitehaven Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. The black tie event features dinner, entertainment and an auction.

The 2013 Angel of the Arts Award honoree is the distinguished Douglas H. Wheeler, president emeritus of the Washington Performing Arts Society. WPAS and CCS have had a long history dating back to the 1980s. The Gala's Master of Ceremonies is [Bob Ryan, lead meteorologist at ABC7/WJLA-TV](#).

Named for arts patron Laura E. Phillips, the Angel of the Arts Award honors a deserving man or woman who has dedicated their career and brought their passion for the arts to the Washington community.

Mr. Wheeler's historic career spans nearly five decades of incubating local talent and bringing national and international artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Midori, Yo-Yo Ma and Luciano Pavarotti to Washington audiences. In addition to more than 60 performances each year, WPAS, an independent, nonprofit professional arts organization, forges community partnerships through educational projects with schoolchildren and develops innovative art forms with emerging artists. Today, as president emeritus of WPAS, Mr. Wheeler is developing WPAS's Legacy Society, works on special projects with nonprofit organizations, and serves on several national boards.

This will be a very special evening and we sincerely hope you can join us.