# THE COUPLER

### THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



## Celebrating our inner geek

Over the past couple of years, I've heard the question many times: "So, why should people join the AGO?" And I've heard others' answers and seen them in print: "Think of all the benefits of the AGO to our members, The American Organist magazine, the conventions, the local meetings and concerts, the networking!!"

I must admit, along with some of you perhaps, that many of the responses have fallen flat and, in years past when I chose not to renew my membership, left me saying, "Really? That's your answer?" I must also admit that several years ago the reason I maintained a membership had nothing to do with the local chapter but everything to do with a sense of duty and having access to the job listings.

I'd like to add to the discussion the idea of geekdom, or being around other people of our tribe. Take, for instance, talking about our organ shoes. If I mention to one of my parish organ aficionados that I need to *Continued on Page 8* 

## FEBRUARY 2022 IN THIS ISSUE



The Member Spotlight shines on David Lang, church organist and artistic director of the Reston Chorale.



Get out this month to hear an impressive array of organists performing in our area.



Do you have music you no longer play? Consider donating it to our chapter's music swap.



Check out job opportunities in the DC/MD/VA area.

#### **Erase and Mark Your Calendar**

Our Presidents Day workshop has been postponed due to the COVID surge.

Our online Studio 32 program Feb. 28 will feature home organs with Zoom fellowship to follow. See Page 3.

## CHAPTER NEWS

## Seeking new board members



American Guild of Organists District of Columbia Chapter Would you be willing to serve a two-year term, 2022-2024, on our chapter's board? It is a

great way to meet fellow organists and promote your passion for music. Meetings are monthly with an option to participate via Zoom.

To volunteer, send an email to <u>dcagochapter@gmail.com</u>. A member of our nominating committee will be in touch.

## Thank you



Our chapter extends a hearty thank you to Ken Lowenberg and Rebecca Yoder for proctoring and recording a recent AGO Certification Exam. This required several hours of preparation and organization. More thanks go to Tim Laughlin at The Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, who hosted the exam.

#### Check out our website

For the latest news on recitals, job openings, substitutes and teachers, go to our chapter website, dcago.org. It is regularly updated.

## **Pipe Organ Encounter Plus**



Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley chapter is planning a Pipe Organ Encounter Plus (POE+) June 12-17, for keyboard players 19 or older who are interested in improving their organ skills. Housing and meals will be on the campus of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. This is the only 2022 POE program in the mid-Atlantic.

The deadline for reduced-price early registration is March 1. For more information, go to <u>poePlusBrochureLVAGO2022.pdf</u>. And please help spread the word.



DC AGO Board of Directors 2021-2022

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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.

### MORE CHAPTER NEWS



Our February Studio 32 features a break from the ordinary. Most months the program features an informal open console session followed by drinks at a nearby watering hole. The Feb. 28 program will be online only. Watch your email for directions for accessing the program.

## Teen seeking organ internship

Owen Barnert, a young musician from Reston, would like to do an organ internship after finishing a year of study through the Potomac Organ Institute and an additional year of private instruction. Owen, 17, is a high school senior and has studied the piano since age 3. He began studying the organ with chapter membership liaison John Nothaft in 2019. He now studies with Todd Grivetti and occasionally assists his teacher with service playing at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon.

Owen's repertoire includes Rheinberger's Organ Trio in G Minor Op. 49, Bach's Little Prelude and Fugue in G Minor (BWV 558) and Little Prelude in E Minor (BWV 555), Boëllmann's Verset and Pachelbel's Toccata in E Minor.

Owen says: "Being an organ intern and/or organ substitute would allow me to progress my organ playing from that of a student to a more responsible performing and accompanying role. I would be able to assist the main organist in services. I wish to gain more experience playing the organ at new churches and for different congregations. I would like to pursue the organ on the collegiate and professional levels."

If you wish to help Owen or want more information, please send an email to <a href="mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com">dcagochapter@gmail.com</a>.

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## **David Lang**

Each month The Coupler focuses on one of our chapter members. If you would like to be featured in a future Member Spotlight, send an email to dcagochapter@gmail.com.

What got you interested in the organ?

One would think I might have been around organs as a preacher's kid, but my father's calls to ministry took our family to smaller country churches with pianos only or maybe very small "home" type organs with popsicle sticks for pedals.

My father spoke of taking me to an organ concert at Elon College (now Elon University in North Carolina) as a first- or second-grader. I don't remember this. My concentration was exclusively dedicated to the piano as a student from age 6 through 19. I do remember, however, tinkering with the popsicle pedal organ at my high school and playing the popsicle pedal organ on Sundays at our



with Professor Melvin Dickinson in 1985.

little country church in tiny Hopedale, NC, because my father asked me to. I really didn't know what I was doing.

As an undergraduate, I entered Appalachian State University to be a piano major. My adviser and the chairperson of the music department at the time just happened to be the organ professor, Dr. H. Max Smith. As Dr. Smith and I discussed which classes I would take, he encouraged me to study organ as a side thing. In addition to piano, I began organ lessons during the second semester of freshman year and changed my major to organ at the beginning of my sophomore year.

What is your educational/professional background? I graduated from Appalachian State in 1983 with a double major in K-12 choral music education and sacred music-organ. I then went to the University of Louisville (KY) and completed my master's in organ performance

I moved to the DC area in 2000 and am now in my 11th season as artistic director for the Reston Chorale. I also serve as director of music and principal organist for St. John the Beloved Catholic Church in McLean, conductor for Encore Creativity for Older Adults, and organist and pianist for the Washington Hebrew Congregation. I previously served at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in McLean, St. Catherine of Siena in Great Falls, VA, and St. John's Episcopal Church-Lafayette Square. I have prepared choruses for the Kennedy Center, George Mason Center for the Performing Arts and *Continued on Page 5* 

#### From Page 4

Wolf Trap. I also have an active studio of organ students and teach through the Potomac Organ

Institute.



What are the biggest challenges and joys in playing?

Challenges: overcoming poor instruments or instruments needing repair so that a church/synagogue service or public performance will not suffer musically.

Joys: playing a wonderful instrument that helps to bring alive the music for a church/synagogue service or public performance.

#### Why are you in the AGO?

I am in the AGO to help further the cause of the organ, its beauty, its music and its players. The professional and educational benefits are huge and invaluable.

What do you like to do when you are not on the bench?

I enjoy conducting, teaching, traveling, crossword puzzles/word games and sewing. I have developed a recent interest in jazz, theater and gospel organ.



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### ORGAN RECITALS

**Friday, Feb. 4, 7:30 pm:** Memorial Concert for Leo Nestor featuring the Madeleine School Choir, Festival Chorus, Washington Symphonic Brass, organist Todd Fickley and conductor Kevin O'Brien. St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill, 313 Second St. SE.

**Sunday, Feb. 6, 5 pm:** Choral Evensong with prelude recital by Bryan Holten, Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

Sunday, Feb. 6, 7:30 pm: The choristers of the Madeleine Choir School of Salt Lake City perform at St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill, 313 Second St. SE. The school is the only pre-K through 8th grade Roman Catholic choir school for boys and girls in the U.S.

**Friday, Feb. 11, 8 pm:** Recitalist Kola Owolabi dedicates the new Martin Pasi & Associates organ at St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington. The program includes the premiere of Brenda Portman's "Aspects of Light." It will be livestreamed at <u>saintgeorgeschurch.org/live</u>.

**Saturday**, **Feb. 12**, **11 am:** "Dinosaurs and Donuts," a concert and organ demonstration for children led by Minister of Music Ben Keseley. St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington.

**Saturday, Feb. 12, 7 pm:** Potomac Chapter Member Recital, Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Dr., Bethesda. Featuring Jimmy Gregory, Stephen Kalnoske, Justus Parrotta, Nathan Ringkamp, Karl Robson, Samantha Scheff and Ronald Walton.

**Sunday, Feb. 13, 10:30 am:** Festival Holy Eucharist with dedication of the new Martin Pasi & Associates organ at St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 N. Oakland St., Arlington. With trumpet, clarinet and choir.

**Sunday, Feb. 13, 4 pm:** Apex Brass of DC plays a recital at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, 1400 Quincy St. NE.

**Tuesday, March 1, 12:10 pm:** Washington Bach Consort performs a cantata preceded by J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in B Minor played by Benjamin LaPrairie. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, March 6, 5 pm:** Choral Evensong with prelude recital by Samantha Scheff. Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

**Sunday, March 13, 4 pm:** David Houston, dean of the DC AGO chapter and director of music at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, College Park, plays a recital at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, 1400 Quincy St. NE.

**Sunday, March 13, 4 pm:** Inaugural Annandale Bach Birthday Marathon: Local organists Jinsun Cho, *Continued on Page 7* 

#### From Page 6

Julie Huang Tucker, Samantha Scheff, Karl Robson and Adam Detzner will perform organ works by J. S. Bach at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale. A festive reception with German food and drink will follow at 6 pm, COVID permitting. Donations will be accepted to support the Muldoon Memorial Concert Series at St. Alban's. For more information, visit the concert series website at Muldoon Concert Series – St. Alban's Episcopal Church (wearestalbans.org).

**Sunday, March 20, 4 pm:** Organist Stephen Ackert performs selections from The Well-tempered Clavier of J. S. Bach at Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW. This is the first in a series of recitals marking the 300th anniversary of the WTC.

**Tuesday, March 22, 12:10 pm:** Organist Jinsun Cho, director of music at the Church of the Epiphany, plays a "Lenten Meditation" program at the church, 1317 G St. NW.

**Tuesday, March 29, 12:10 pm:** Organist Joseph Ripka, canon musician designate at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Oklahoma City and winner of the Dublin International Organ Competition, plays music by Vierne, Bach and Liszt. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, April 3, 4 pm:** Dr. Caroline Robinson will present a recital at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale. She is the associate choirmaster and organist at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta and won second prize in the 2018 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance. Donations will be accepted to support the Muldoon Concert Series – St. Alban's Episcopal Church (wearestalbans.org).

**Sunday, April 3, 5 pm:** Choral Evensong with prelude recital by Janet Yieh at Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

## Music at Midday

A new five-month season of weekly Music at Midday concerts at National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle NW, begins Feb. 4. This season's musicians hail from 10 U.S. states and three European countries. Social distancing and masks required. Free admission; donations accepted Programs are 12:15-1 pm each Friday.

- **Feb. 4:** New York City organist John A. Woife will perform works of Nicolas de Grigny, Dietrich Buxtehude, William Albright and Johann Sebastian Bach.
- **Feb. 11:** Organist Grant Wareham (Hershey, PA) will perform the East Coast premiere of Karim Al-Zand's Toccata for Organ, along with works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Max Reger.
- **Feb. 18:** French organist Laurent Jochum is traveling from Paris to perform a program of works by J. S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn and M.L. Takle.
- **Feb. 25:** New York City organist Aaron Comins will perform works of John Williams, Marco Enrico Bossi, Richard Wagner, J. S. Bach, Franz Liszt and Charles-Marie Widor.

Dean's column continued from Page One

have my shoes re-glued because the sole keeps getting stuck when I move from one accidental to another quickly, glissando-like, he or she will look at me in bewilderment and exclaim, "Oh, you do wear special shoes when you play organ, don't you?"

You know exactly what I'm talking about -- the sole is like a loose flap on the inside of the ball of my foot and it gets trapped between the accidentals, especially if, say, I'm moving with my right foot from a B-flat down to an A-flat. I end up playing on the crunched-over bit of sole. What a pain.

Or how about this one: My singers' eyes will glaze over if, during the final run-through rehearsal before a service, I have to spend three minutes checking piston settings on the anthem because, in my



haste, I inadvertently switched one of the pistons to the full organ with en chamade right in the middle of the lovely Eleanor Daley piece. The choir is bothered that they must wait for me to maneuver the unwieldy beast, change "pistons" and push a bunch of buttons. They generally have little interest in the minutiae of my work at the console, but because they must truly like me, will endure the time it takes me to re-set pistons on multiple levels.

But you understand this. You perhaps have been there, or at least you can easily imagine that this could happen to you. This is why I remain a member of the DC Chapter of the AGO. Because when it comes to chatting to people about my work, you understand almost everything I can come up with.

Last month as we were gathering for the Jan. 8 workshop with Dr. Thomas Murray before our Service Playing Competition, I was chatting with a member about the roller coaster of Covid protocols for choir rehearsals. I could relate to everything he said about his current situation. During and after the competition, other audience members and I were able to get down about how much we enjoyed some of the registrations or mood-painting of the hymn interpretations. I was geeking out, as were some of you, and we understood one another.

This is why I will continue to renew my membership — because you are my people. You understand my lingo and I understand your passion. During these difficult days of separation and few in-person meetings, we must stay connected to one another.

If I do not stay connected to you, I may become like a lone person on an ice floe, drifting through the... OK, that's a little dramatic. How about, if I do not stay connected with you, I may become like a sole  $2^2/3$  without the 8', 4', 2' and  $1^3/5$ ?

All the best to you,

David

## UPDATE ON OUR SCORE-SHARING PROJECT

Our chapter's effort to pair donated organ music with new owners has been a great success. We would like to continue that.

If you have scores you no longer use, please send an email to <u>pathenry33@gmail.com</u> to arrange drop-off or pick-up. The pieces will be listed in future Couplers.

If you are interested in any of the music listed below, please send an email to the same address to arrange pick-up or drop-off. We ask that you send a donation to cover postage and, if you wish, a gift for the Potomac Organ Institute, an initiative by the DC, Potomac and Northern Virginia chapters that pairs piano students wishing to learn the organ with volunteer teachers. Donations should be sent to DC AGO, PO Box 39179, Washington, DC 20016. If you later decide you do not want the music, please share it with someone else.

#### Now available:

Bach – Vol. 1 of Oeuvres Completes pour Orgue annotated and fingered by Marcel Dupre (Nine Preludes and Fugues), H.W. Gray

Bach—Vol. IV Preludes and Fugues of the Mature Master-Period, Widor/Schweitzer edition, hardbound, G. Schirmer

Diane Bish – Merry Christmas, Fred Bock

Charles Callahan – 3 Processionals for Trumpet and Organ, Concordia Publishing House Partita on Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>, Morningstar

David Conte – Meditation on Silent Night, ECS Publishing

Francois Couperin – Mass for the Parishes and Mass for the Convents, Kalmus

Marcel Dupre – Fifteen Pieces founded on Antiphons, H.W. Gray

Jean Langlais--Trois Paraphases Gregorienne, Combre edition

Paul Manz – Ten chorale Improvisations Set II, Concordia

Dan Miller – All Glory, Laud and Honor, DSDS Enterprises

Raymond Moulaert--Trois Poemes Bibliques, Jean Delvigne

Piet Post – Triptych for Organ (Old Hundredth, Liebster Jesu, Nun Danket), Augsburg

George Shearing – Pieces based on early American Hymn tunes, Sacred Music Press

Gayden C. Sikes – Hymns for the New Organist, Broadman Press

Antonio Soler – Spanish Intento for Organ, Pan Publications

R.S. Stoughton – Tanglewood Tales (The Pygmies), White-Smith Music Publishing Persian Suite

Louis Vierne – Symphony No. 1, Kalmus

Charles-Marie Widor --Fifth Symphony, Marks edition

Fifth Symphony, Kalmus

Twenty-five Pieces for Small Organ, various composers, J. Fischer & Bro.

Historical Organ Recitals: Forerunners of Bach, G. Schirmer

Devotional Solos for solo instrument in C, ed. Newell H. Long and Margaret Sisson, Remick Music Corp.

## **AGO National Convention: The Well-Tempered Future**



## Seattle, Washington | July 3-7, 2022

Go to AGO Seattle 2022 for more information and registration.

Booking your flight to Seattle? Receive a 5% discount from Alaska Airlines for AGO convention travel and fly round-trip from <u>cities</u> across

the U.S. and Canada. <u>Book online</u> with the exclusive AGO convention discount code **ECMD864**. See <u>discount terms and conditions</u> here or when booking online. Questions? Email info@agoseattle2022.com.

## Apply now for competition in Atlanta

Organists age 32 and younger are invited to apply online for the Elizabeth B. Stephens International Organ Competition to be held June 15-17 at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta.

Six organists will be invited to Atlanta, all expenses paid, to compete for prize money totaling \$21,000. The competition will be judged by a jury of David Briggs, David Higgs, Alan Morrison, Carole Terry and Jean-Baptiste Robin.

The deadline to apply online is 5 pm. Feb. 25. For details, go to

http://www.prumc.org/organ-competition



For more information go to agohq.org/scholarships/

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Please advise the web administrator at <a href="mailto:pathenry33@gmail.com">pathenry33@gmail.com</a> if any position has been filled.

#### **District of Columbia**

**Director of music ministry:** Dumbarton United Methodist Church. 10-15 hours per week. \$20,000-23,000 yearly. Go to <a href="dumbartonumc.org/worship/music.">dumbartonumc.org/worship/music.</a>

**Organist:** Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist. Weekly Wednesday evening service. Schantz pipe organ. \$155 per service. Click <a href="here">here</a> for details from the agohq.org website. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to <a href="mailto:vjstoddart@hotmail.com">vjstoddart@hotmail.com</a>.

#### Maryland

**Director of music and organist:** Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Silver Spring. 20 hours per week. Initially \$30,000 with review after three months. Go to goodshepchurch.org for details.

**Interim organist/choirmaster:** St. Francis Episcopal Church, Potomac. Moller pipe organ. Position to begin in March and continue at least through December. 18 hours per week. For details, go to <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xxXjnZqqWFXqx-1fuDYwxInGdoPn6l3V/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xxXjnZqqWFXqx-1fuDYwxInGdoPn6l3V/view?usp=sharing</a>.

**Director of music for second service:** Govans Presbyterian Church, Baltimore. Three-manual 1950s Kilgen organ upgraded/expanded by Fritzsche Organ Co. in 1993. 25 hours per week. \$35,000-\$38,000 annually. For details, email <a href="musicsearch@govanspres.org">musicsearch@govanspres.org</a>. Deadline to apply is Feb. 4.

**Director of liturgical music:** SS. Philip & James Catholic Church, Baltimore. 1938 Casavant Freres (refurbished 2003), 3 manuals, 32 ranks. 15 hours a week. \$15,600-\$20,000 per year. (410) 235-2294.

**Organist:** Calvary United Methodist Church, Annapolis. Möller organ (1971/1990 addition) III manuals/37 ranks. Part-time. Salary starting at \$28K annually. Click <a href="here">here</a> or go to the church website.

## Virginia

**Director of music ministries:** Messiah United Methodist Church, Springfield. Full-time. \$75,000 - \$85,000 a year. For more information, click <u>here</u>. Or search on indeed.com.

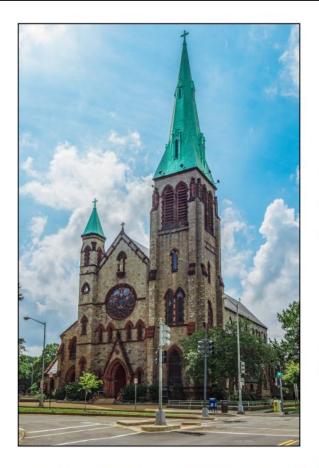
**Director of music and worship:** Christ Crossman United Methodist Church, Falls Church. Half-time. \$25,000 annually. Click <a href="https://example.com">here</a> or search on churchstaffing.com.

**Music and worship coordinator:** Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, Alexandria. 8-10 hours per week. \$10,000 yearly. Email the Rev. Bob Melone at <a href="mailto:bmelone61@gmail.com">bmelone61@gmail.com</a>.

**Organist:** Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Vienna. 4-5 hours per week. \$18,000-\$20,000. Click <u>here</u> or search on indeed.com.

**Organist:** Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alexandria. 12 hours per week. \$12,000-\$15,000 yearly. Click <u>here.</u> Or search on indeed.com.

**Director of music:** Clarendon Presbyterian Church. 10-15 hour per week. Click <u>here</u> or go to the church website.





## 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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#### **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome new chapter members Charlotte von Claparède-Crola, who joined through the AGO's Year of the Young Organist program, and Dr. Thomas M. Conroy, AAGO and DMA, formerly of the Pittsburgh chapter.

## LIFE MEMBERS

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

Robert Grogan

Eileen Guenther

**Irv Lawless** 

Kenneth Lowenberg

Albert Russell

Donald Sutherland

David Hearne (deceased)

## Acoustic Design Services

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## 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 <a href="mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com">dcagochapter@gmail.com</a> with "The Coupler" in the subject field. Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists.

## **RODGERS** IMAGINE

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