



THE COUPLER

October 2014

The official publication of the District of Columbia Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists (AGO)

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Members of the DCAGO:

Autumn greetings! I extend my sincere thanks to Dr. John Walker, AGO National President, for leading the chapter's September event: a Hymn Festival with Installation of Officers; and to Thomas Smith, our host. The hospitality extended to us by The Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda was extremely gracious.



I also wish to thank our Sub Dean, Victoria Shields, for her work on the program; and board member Irvin Peterson, for his assistance with hospitality. Our program year is off to a great start!

Many were moved by the remarks I gave following the Installation of Officers. I share my comments below so that those who were not present for the Hymn Festival can read and ponder them:

"Recently, I sent an email to the board members of the DCAGO that began with the line, "There is never a dull moment in the life of the DCAGO". Board Members present with us here tonight will know exactly what I meant by this line, for it was not used to express good news, but frustration and disappointment.

One of the first things I did when I moved to DC in the summer of 2007 was to transfer my AGO membership from the Pittsburgh chapter to the District of Columbia chapter. Looking back, I never received any sort of welcome into the DC chapter, but I did get my first edition of *The Coupler*, which listed the first DCAGO event in the fall of 2007. This program was the installation of officers and a hymn sing at St. Columba's Church, followed by a dessert reception. I anxiously awaited the event.

I arrived at St. Columba's feeling nervous. I didn't know anyone and no one knew me. I was not greeted, or even recognized, so I went and sat down in the back of the church. Once the program began, I realized that there were less than

ten people in attendance! We sang great hymns that evening, all eight of us.

Afterwards, I timidly walked to where the reception was being held. I had this overwhelming sense of not feeling welcomed. No one said a word to me. I looked around at our members chatting and enjoying refreshments with one another. I felt like an outsider, and so I got in my car and left. That was my first impression of the DCAGO.

"A Message from the Dean", *continued on p. 3...*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2014 - 2015

Monday, September 22, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.
Hymn Festival with Installation of Officers

John Walker, organ
The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, MD

Sunday, November 16, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.
Tri-Chapter PipesSpectacular

Parker Ramsay, organ
Saint Luke Roman Catholic Church, McLean, VA

Sunday, January 11, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.
Vespers and Annual Dinner & Meeting
The Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC

Monday, February 16, 2015
Presidents' Day Road Trip
Richmond, VA

Monday, April 27, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.
Masterclass with Olivier Latty
St. John's Episcopal Church, Georgetown

Sunday, May 17, 2015
First Annual DCAGO/Franciscan Monastery
Young Organists Competition
The Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION & RENEWAL

Have you renewed your AGO membership?

The American Guild of Organists' new Online National Collection and Remittal of Dues (ONCARD) system allows members to pay dues by check or online, using a credit card. Members can also update personal information, search for fellow Guild members, and make special contributions.

Chapter officers can use the ONCARD system to review and print membership rosters, monitor payments from the national office, and set-up chapter-specific data fields and contribution funds.

It's incredibly easy to register for a new AGO membership online:

1. Go to: www.agohq.org.
2. Click on *Membership*.
3. Click on *Join the Guild*.
4. Click on *Join the Guild as a Chapter Member*.
5. Click Online: Start your AGO Chapter Membership process (if you prefer to join the old fashioned way, click the link directly below to join offline and print out a membership form to mail in with a personal check.)

It's just as easy to renew an existing AGO membership online:

1. Go to: www.agohq.org/oncard.
2. Click on *ONCARD login/renew*.
3. Enter your username and password to continue. Your user name is the first letter of your first name followed by your entire last name. Do not include apostrophes, hyphens, or spaces. Your password is your membership ID, which may be found on the address label of *The American Organist* magazine, just to the left of the date
4. Click *Renew*.



...“A Message from the Dean”, *continued from p. 1*

I grew up in the AGO as a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter, where members all wore nametags at meetings, ate dinner together as part of our monthly events, and introduced guests and new members at each function. We were a large and close-knit chapter. Thanks to Pittsburgh, I view the DCAGO with high expectations.

As a guild, we must love the pipe organ, be passionate about its music, and work together towards progressing the image of the pipe organ and our profession in the greater community. This responsibility lies on all of our shoulders, not just the board members of the local chapter. Being a guild is a group effort – not an individual effort.

We have 138 members in the DCAGO chapter, a far cry from the larger numbers that we once enjoyed. When I look around the room, I see familiar faces of people whom I am greatly honored to call friends and colleagues. Yet, as I say that, in the back of my mind, I realize the stark reality that many of the most prominent church organists in Washington, DC are not here tonight with us and, additionally, are not even members of the AGO. How did this happen?

In order for us to continue to promote our love of the pipe organ and its music in the greater DC community, we all must work unceasingly towards renewal and transformation of this chapter. From the organist of the third Presbyterian church on the outskirts of Anacostia, to the organist of the town’s most prestigious religious institution. Folks, perhaps we need to see a different reality for the future of our organization, which sometimes means that change is inevitable.

Change is a scary word for some. I once worked for a person, who would always say “change is a sign of imperfection”. Well, we don’t strive for perfection, but we do strive to promote our interest of the organ and its music to the wider Washington, DC community. Change is good. Change is how we adapt to a new day. Change is how we meet the demands of a new generation. Change is how we stay strong as a professional organization and recruit new members.

Thankfully, we have a little more than eight in attendance tonight; however, together we make up a small fraction of all 138 members of our chapter. Looking back on my email to the board, I am glad that I wrote that there is “never a dull moment in the life of the DCAGO”. In order to stay alive, we truly cannot afford to have one single dull moment. We, not I, must work unceasingly towards rejuvenation of our chapter. I am honored to have been elected to serve as your Dean, and I am extremely grateful for the members of the DCAGO board who spend many volunteer hours helping to build and sustain this chapter. I urge you to join me in

showing your appreciation of their dedication and commitment to the organization. Together, we make up the Guild. We are much stronger as a guild than we are individually.”

Through this speech, I hope to charge all of our members to take on a more active role in the DCAGO. For our success – we need you!

Yours truly,

Russell Weismann
Dean

HELP WANTED!

Due to the resignation of the former DCAGO Treasurer/Registrar, we are in urgent need of a member to fill this position on the board. This role has been made substantially easier in recent years due to the implementation of national collection of dues and the ONCARD online membership management system. If you are interested in this position, please contact Russell Weismann, Dean: russell.weismann@aya.yale.edu.

What are the duties of the Treasurer/Registrar?

The Treasurer/Registrar is the custodian of all financial records of the chapter, and as such, shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Supervise and have custody of all financial records of the chapter and keep full and accurate accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the chapter. These shall include: (1) assets, liabilities, and fund balances; (2) revenue and operating expenses; (3) all other financial records and documents deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
- b. Cause all monies and credits to be deposited in the name of and to the credit of the chapter in chapter bank accounts.
- c. Disburse, or supervise the disbursement of, all other funds of the chapter, in accordance with the authority granted by the Executive Committee, utilizing proper vouchers to correspond to the disbursements and keeping accurate records thereof.
- d. Prepare and submit such reports or statements of the chapter's finances and accounts as may be requested by the Executive Committee.
- e. Sign and/or countersign such instruments requiring his/her signature.
- f. Make periodic recommendations to the Executive Committee on determining an annual budget for the chapter and on management of the chapter assets.
- g. Perform such other duties incidental to the execution of this office that may be required by the Executive Committee
- h. Be knowledgeable of the AGO ONCARD system for reviewing chapter membership details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 1, 2014, at 12:10 p.m.

The United States Army Chorus in Concert

The United States Army Chorus will be assisted by St. John's Director of Music Ministry and Organist Benjamin Hutto.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square
16th & H Streets NW ▪ Washington, DC 20005
www.stjohns-dc.org

Friday, October 3, 2014, at 12:15 p.m.

Organ Recital: Stephen Hamilton

National City Christian Church
5 Thomas Circle, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20005
www.nationalcitycc.org

Sunday, October 5, 2014, at 5:15 p.m.

Organ Recital: Piotr Rachon

Washington National Cathedral
3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20016
www.nationalcathedral.org

Friday, October 10, 2014, at 12:15 p.m.

Organ Recital: Samantha Koch

National City Christian Church
5 Thomas Circle, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20005
www.nationalcitycc.org

Sunday, October 12, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.

Organ Recital: Paul Hardy

The Franciscan Monastery
1400 Quincy Street, NE ▪ Washington, DC 20017
www.myfranciscan.org

Sunday, October 12, 2014, at 5:15 p.m.

Organ Recital: Sigurd M. Øgaard

Washington National Cathedral
3101 Wisconsin Avenue, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20016
www.nationalcathedral.org

Wednesday, October 15, 2014, at 8:00 p.m.

Organ Recital: Jeremy Filsell

Program includes Joseph Jongen's Sonata Eroica, Op. 94; Marcel Dupré's Evocation poeme symphonique, Op. 37; Calvin Hampton's Everyone Dance; and Sergei Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances Op. 45 (transcribed by Jeremy Filsell).

The Kennedy Center
2700 F Street, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20566
www.kennedy-center.org/events/?event=NPORA

Friday, October 17, 2014, at 12:15 p.m.

Organ Recital: David Brock

National City Christian Church
5 Thomas Circle, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20005
www.nationalcitycc.org

Saturday, October 18, 2014, at 5:00 p.m.

Cantate Chamber Singers, Bowen Macauley Dance, and St. Columba's Children's Choirs in Concert

Program includes The Unicorn, the Gorgan and the Manticore by Gian Carlo Menotti and Noye's Fludde by Benjamin Britten. Purchase tickets at www.cantate.org: \$35 or \$45 (children under 18 free).

St. Columba's Episcopal Church
4201 Albemarle Street, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20016
www.columba.org

Sunday, October 19, 2014, at 5:00 p.m.

Cantate Chamber Singers, Bowen Macauley Dance, and St. Columba's Children's Choirs in Concert

Program includes The Unicorn, the Gorgan and the Manticore by Gian Carlo Menotti and Noye's Fludde by Benjamin Britten. Tickets available at door: \$20 (children under 18 free).

St. Columba's Episcopal Church
4201 Albemarle Street, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20016
www.columba.org

Sunday, October 19, 2014, at 5:00 p.m.

Inscape Chamber Orchestra in Concert: "Symbol & Myth"

Redeemer's Ensemble-in-residence explores repertoire inspired by symbolist poetry, particularly the work of Stéphane Mallarmé. The program features Claude Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun and Paul Hindemith's Hérodiade, as well as works by Arthur Honegger and Nathan Lincoln-DeCusatis. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard ▪ Bethesda, MD 20816
www.redeemberbethesda.org

Friday, October 24, 2014, at 12:15 p.m.

Organ Recital: Jonathan Vaughan

National City Christian Church
5 Thomas Circle, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20005
www.nationalcitycc.org

Monday, October 27, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.

Silent Film: Tom Trenney, organ

Capitol Hill United Methodist
421 Seward Square, SE ▪ Washington, DC 20003
www.chumc.net

Friday, October 31, 2014, at 12:15 p.m.

Organ Recital: Julie Vidrick Evans

National City Christian Church
5 Thomas Circle, NW ▪ Washington, DC 20005
www.nationalcitycc.org

Sunday, November 2, at 5:00 p.m.

Solemn Requiem Mass for the Feast of All Souls

Dr. Martin Neary, LVO, former Organist & Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, London, leads Redeemer's Adult Choir in a liturgical performance of Gabriel Fauré's sublime setting of the Requiem Mass, with chamber ensemble. The service includes a reading of the parish necrology. Reception to follow.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard ▪ Bethesda, MD 20816
www.redeemberbethesda.org

Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at 12:10 p.m.

Organ Recital: Greg Morris

Join Greg Morris, Associate Organist of the Temple Church, London, England, for a program entitled A London Portrait.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square
16th & H Streets NW ▪ Washington, DC 20005
www.stjohns-dc.org

MUSIC @ THE MONASTERY

A new community outreach program for members of the DCAGO has begun in conjunction with the Franciscan Monastery. "Music @ The Monastery" will be a monthly recital/concert held on the second Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the Monastery Church. These musical events are free and open to the public and will feature a member of the DCAGO playing the Monastery's magnificent Lively-Fulcher pipe organ. For more information, or to express interest in performing, please contact Russell Weismann: russell.weismann@aya.yale.edu.

SCHEDULE OF RECITALISTS

September 14	Russell Weismann
October 12	Paul Hardy
November 9	Andrew Vu
December 14	Paul Campbell
January 11	DCAGO Event
February 8	Victoria Shields
March 8	Jeremy Filsell
May 17	DCAGO Event

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

No positions available at this time.

MARYLAND

Bethany United Methodist Church at Snug Harbor Road and Route 611, near Berlin, Maryland, is looking for a full-time organist. The applicant will be responsible for providing organ music (Allen Protege) at Sunday services, special worship services, and choir practice. He or she is expected to work in conjunction with the pastor of the church and the choir director. Applicants will be asked to audition for the position. For more information, contact Dorothy Shelton: 410-208-3884 or dshelton0247@verizon.net; or Gloria Taylor: 410-641-2605 or gdawn40@comcast.net. Church website is: <https://sites.google.com/site/bethanyinberlin/>

VIRGINIA

No positions available at this time.

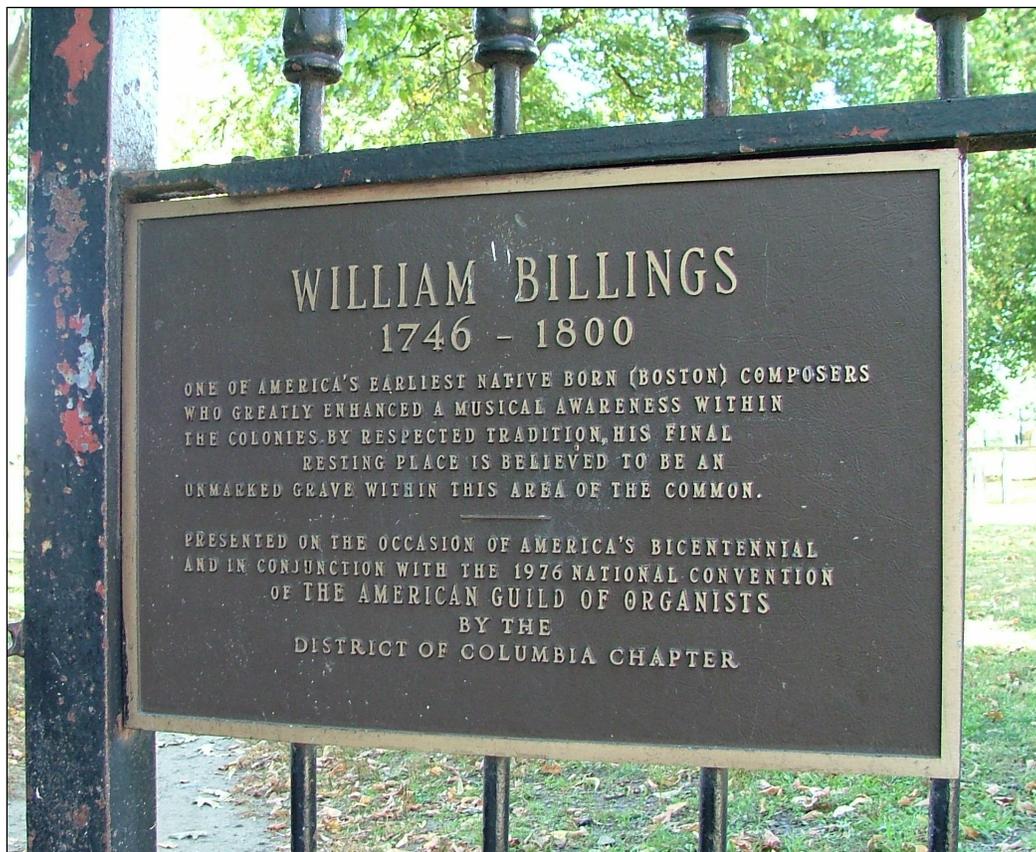


Photo courtesy of chapter member and past Dean Tom Cowan.

ADVERTISING IN 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 are as follows:

- Full page ad, four times per season, \$100
- Half page ad, four times per season, \$50
- Quarter page ad, four times per season, \$25

Please email advertising requests to dcagochapter@gmail.com, with *The Coupler* in the subject field. Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists, and mail them to:

Russell Weismann, Dean, DCAGO
 St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church
 9701 Old Georgetown Road
 Bethesda, MD 20814



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hvance2000@mac.com

The Ten Commandments of Congregational Singing

- I. Thou shalt sing!
- II. Thou shalt sing with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
- III. Thou shalt sing fearlessly, striving to ignore the possible wondering glances of thy neighbors. Thou shalt know in thy heart that they would like to sing with thee, if they only had the nerve. Never lose faith that they will sing with thee if only thou do continue.
- IV. Thou shalt sing joyfully, as it is written by the prophet Isaiah: “Sing, O Heaven, be joyful, O Earth, and break forth into Singing, O mountains.”
- V. Thou shalt sing reverently, for music is prayer.
- VI. Thou shalt sing without hesitation, for though an individual may pray in a whisper or even in wordless silence, a congregation must sing.
- VII. Thou shalt not resist new melodies, for we have been taught never to let our prayer become rigid. Seek to fulfill the words of the Psalmist: “Let us sing a new song unto the Lord.”
- VIII. Thou shalt never mumble but sing out loud. Never be deterred by an occasional mistake.
- IX. Thou shalt not hesitate to sing with the choir for they fervently want you to join with them.
- X. Thou shalt never forget the words of the Psalmist: “I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live.” True and certain it is that God loves us when we work, but he loves us all the more when we sing.

CHAPTER INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD & OFFICERS 2014-15

Russell Weismann, *Dean*
russell.weismann@aya.yale.edu

Victoria Shields, *Sub Dean*
vshields@me.com

Vacant, *Treasurer/Registrar*

Jason Abel, *Secretary*
mjasonabel@gmail.com

Irv Lawless, *Historian*
korgancurator@aol.com

Thomas Smith, *Editor*, The Coupler
music.redeemer@verizon.net

Jeremy Filsell, *Coordinator, Education*
jfilsell@epiphanydc.org

Irvin Peterson, *Coordinator, Hospitality*
idpete2001@yahoo.com

SUBSTITUTE ORGANISTS & PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

A listing of chapter members who are available to serve as substitute organists and who offer private instruction in organ is available on the chapter website: www.dicago.org.

PUBLICITY & ADVERTISING

We are happy to assist chapter members and others with publicity and advertising. To submit a request, please email dcgochapter@gmail.com. Be sure to include:

1. The type(s) of publicity/advertising you are seeking (e.g. ad in *The Coupler*, e-blast, chapter website)
2. The nature the of event with title (if applicable)
3. The date and time of event
4. The location with street and web address
5. Other details (e.g. admission fees, parking details, etc.)

AGO MISSION STATEMENT

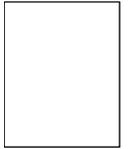
The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.



District of Columbia Chapter American Guild of Organists

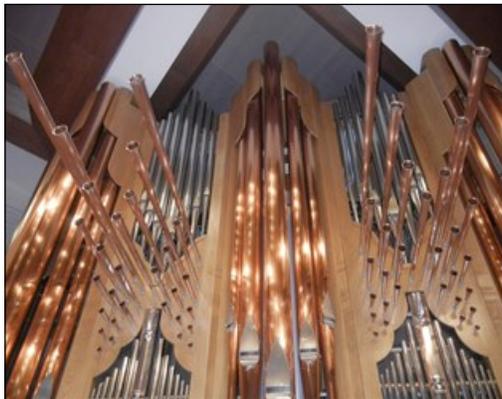
c/o The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
6201 Dunrobbin Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20816



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The deadline for the November issue is October 23.



JOIN US FOR THE 2015 TRI-CHAPTER PIPE SPECTACULAR

Parker Ramsay, *organ*

Sunday, November 16, 2014
4:00 p.m.

St. Luke Roman Catholic Church
7001 Georgetown Pike
McLean, Virginia 22101
www.stlukemclean.org

www.dcastgo.org