



# THE COUPLER

September 2014

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Autumn Greetings! I hope that you enjoyed the final days of summer and are now beginning a brilliant new season of music making at your respected institutions. Please know that the DCAGO is always here for you. We must function as a forum for sharing thoughts and ideas amongst one another so as to foster a collegial environment of manifesting our combined knowledge and skill. I especially hope to see all 138 members at the September 22 (7:30 p.m.) DCAGO Event – a Hymn Festival with Installation of Officers featuring our newly elected National AGO President, Dr. John Walker. This event takes place at The Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda (Thomas Smith, host), and will be followed by a festive reception. I had the honor of being a student of Dr. Walker while studying for my undergraduate degree at Duquesne University. If you have not heard him play hymns, then you will want to be at this event. This opportunity is FREE and open to all DCAGO members.



Speaking of teachers, I was reminded this past month of how influential our organ teachers are to us. Our profession is one of passion and intimacy. Making music is not just a black and white activity of learning notes on a page; it requires emotion, spiritual depth, and mental maturity. We learn these traits from our teachers. For one year, I had the wonderful opportunity of studying organ with Donald Wilkins at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Don was a Pittsburgh ‘institution’. He could lecture for hours on any given musical topic. He was a student of Durufle, Boulanger, Dupre, Langlais... the list goes on. He was among the first Americans to win first prizes at the Paris Conservatoire, and he could play any piece of music in any clef. He personified humility – he never spoke of his achievements; in many ways, his musical actions left little to the imagination of the exceptional genius that he was. I remember studying Durufle’s Variations on Veni Creator with him. He would often take long pauses after I played, as if to catalog every note. He would then coach me as if it was Durufle himself sitting with me on the bench. Ultimately, my time with Don

was cut short. I wanted to study amongst other organists, and thus I transferred to Yale. I dreaded telling Don about my decision to transfer. I loved him as a teacher... the decision had nothing to do with him! When it finally came time to tell him, he had already known. He laughed and wished me luck, and supported me with his knowledge and mentorship throughout my time at Yale. A great honor was being asked to return to Carnegie Mellon as a student of his and to play in a recital honoring his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

See “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 Pipes Spectacular

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, Virginia

Monday, April 27, 2015, at 7:30 p.m.  
Masterclass with Olivier Lamy  
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](http://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](http://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*.

The following chapter have not yet renewed as of Thursday, September 11:

S. Ackert	J. Evans	J. Kreger	H. Rickels
S. Baker	J. Garbutt	D. Lael	R. Roecklelein
R. Bishop, Jr.	J. Frost	J. R. Lewis	J. Rogers
C. Booth	R. Holder	J. Marks	C. Schmitt
W. Brubeck	G. Hooker	C. Martin	C. Schroeder
O. Burdick	J. Ireland	S. Matthias	C. Sikkelee
B. Caviness	S. Kahler	C. McCleskey	S. Stitziel
M. Clark	J. Kempkie	C. Miller	J. Wysocki
D. Dickensheets	J. Kim	C. Pastorius	
J. Dodge	L. Kivrak	S. Pegasus	

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

Don passed away on September 1. I can't remember the last time that I had spoken to him. There's no way to change that now. When I heard the news of Don's passing, a piece of my musical soul went missing. I'll never be able to shake his hand anymore. Gone are our 2-hour lunches at the Pittsburgh Athletic Club talking about everything from Mozart opera to Messiaen's use of eastern rhythm. I remain deeply grateful for my time studying with Don and I will do my best to carry on his musical legacy for another generation.

Have you called your teacher today?

Be well,

Russell Weismann  
Dean



Russell Weismann, Dean, (seated) along with chapter members Irvin Peterson (left) and Ronald Stolk (right) at the May 17 Members' Improvisation Showcase at the Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUB DEAN

What an exciting season for the DCAGO! We are pleased to begin the 2014-2015 program year with Dr. John Walker, leading us in a Hymn Festival and Installation of Officers at The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda, MD, on Monday, September 22 at 7:30 pm. Dr. Walker is renowned for his hymn and service playing, and has compiled a fantastic program to share with us. A festive reception by our hosts will follow, which of course will include wine!

On Sunday, November 16, the annual PipesSpectacular program will feature virtuoso Parker Ramsay, at St. Luke's Catholic Church, McLean, Virginia. As the first American selected to Organ Scholar at King's College Cambridge, England, he will be performing works by English and American composers and sharing his experiences at King's. Sponsored by the DC, NOVA, and Potomac Chapters, this event is free of charge. Pipes Spectacular is an outreach program, so be sure to share the program with friends, colleagues (especially the non-organist!), your parish, and students.

Following a busy holiday season, and for some rest and renewal, we will gather on January 11, for Solemn Vespers in the beautiful setting of the Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC, followed by our annual dinner and meeting. We are grateful to the Monastery for hosting us, and for being a friend to the DCAGO.

Once again in February, we will be having our annual Presidents' Day Road Trip. This year we'll be heading to Richmond, so stay tuned for details! In April, the DCAGO and St. John's Episcopal Church, Georgetown are co-hosting the Titular Organist of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, Oliver Latty. On Monday, April 27, DCAGO is sponsoring a Masterclass at St. John's, and on Tuesday, April 28, Latty will play a recital as part of the Georgetown Concert Series.

We will close the year with the chapter's inaugural Young Organists Competition, to be held at the Franciscan Monastery. Competition details, including information about age limits and prizes, will be released soon. We hope this will be a way for us, as a chapter, to support young organists. More details to follow!

It's going to be a great year, so be sure to mark your calendars and bring a friend, and especially an organ student!

Victoria Shields  
Sub Dean

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Friday, September 5, 2014, at 12:15 p.m.**

**Organ Recital: Charles Pugh**

National City Christian Church

5 Thomas Circle, NW ▪ Washington DC, 20005

[www.nationalcitycc.org](http://www.nationalcitycc.org)

**Sunday, September 7, 2014, at 5:15 p.m.**

**Organ Recital: Christopher Betts**

Washington National Cathedral

3101 Wisconsin Ave. NW ▪ Washington, DC 20016

[www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)

**Sunday, September 7, 2014, at ???**

**NOVA Chapter: Installation of Officers & Lecture/Recital**

*Join friends and colleagues from the NOVA Chapter of the AGO for their first event of the 2014-15 season, the Installation of Officers and a lecture/recital by Phillipe Dominguez.*

First Presbyterian Church

7610 Newcastle Drive ▪ Annandale, VA 22003

[www.fpcannandale.org](http://www.fpcannandale.org)

**Sunday, September 14, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.**

**Organ Recital: Russell J. Weismann**

*Music at the Monastery presents organist Russell J. Weismann. Free parking and admission.*

The Franciscan Monastery

1400 Quincy St. NE ▪ Washington, DC 20017

**Sunday, September 14, 2014, at 5:15 p.m.**

**Organ Recital: Benjamin Straley**

Washington National Cathedral

3101 Wisconsin Ave. NW ▪ Washington, DC 20016

[www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)

**Friday, September 19, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Organ Recital: Volodymyr Koshuba**

*The Paul D. and Carrie H. Wickre Memorial Concert Series presents Ukrainian organist Volodymyr Koshuba in Concert. Mr. Koshuba is Chief Organist of the Kiev Concert Hall of Organ and Chamber Music. Following the concert, he will speak briefly about the current situation in the Ukraine. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be received.*

St. Luke Lutheran Church

9100 Colesville Road ▪ Silver Spring, MD

[www.saintluke.us](http://www.saintluke.us)

**Sunday, September 21, 2014, at 5:15 p.m.**

**Organ Recital: Russell J. Weismann**

Washington National Cathedral

3101 Wisconsin Ave. NW ▪ Washington, DC 20016

[www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)

**Sunday, September 14, 2014, at 5:15 p.m.**

**Organ Recital: Jeremy Filsell**

Washington National Cathedral

3101 Wisconsin Ave. NW ▪ Washington DC 20016

[www.nationalcathedral.org](http://www.nationalcathedral.org)

**Monday, September 22, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.**

**DC Chapter: Hymn Festival with Installation of Officers**

*Join Dr. John Walker, recently elected National President of the American Guild of Organists, for a Hymn Festival to kick-off the DC Chapter's 2014-15 program year. A festive reception will follow.*

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

6201 Dunrobbin Drive ▪ Bethesda, MD 20816

[www.redeemberbethesda.org](http://www.redeemberbethesda.org)

**Monday, September 29, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Potomac Chapter: Installation of Officers & Roundtable**

**Discussion with New Church Organists**

Silver Spring United Methodist Church

8900 Georgia Avenue ▪ Silver Spring, MD 20910

[www.silverspringumc.org](http://www.silverspringumc.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 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 ▪ Bethesda, MD 20816

[www.redeemberbethesda.org](http://www.redeemberbethesda.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	vacant
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

There are no positions available at this time.

## WITH GRATITUDE

On behalf of the entire chapter membership, the Dean, Sub Dean, and all members Executive Board of DCAGO extend their deep gratitude for the dedicated service of former board members Samuel Carabetta, Auditor, and Arthur Roach, Treasurer/Registrar, both of whom have submitted their resignation.

If you are interested in taking on the role of Treasurer/Auditor, a role that has recently become significantly less cumbersome due to the AGO's new ONCARD system, please contact Russell Weismann: russell.weismann@aya.yale.edu.

## 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](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com), with *The Coupler* in the subject field. Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists, and mail them to:

Arthur Roach  
 Treasurer, DCAGO  
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## 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**, *Coordinator, Communications*  
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](http://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](mailto: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

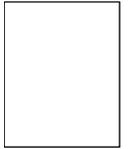
The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this, we:

- 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



### THE COUPLER

The official publication of the  
District of Columbia Chapter of the  
American Guild of Organists

*The deadline for the October issue is September 19.*



JOIN US FOR  
**A HYMN FESTIVAL WITH  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

Dr. John Walker, *organ*

Monday, September 22, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer  
6201 Dunrobbin Drive at MacArthur Boulevard  
Bethesda, Maryland 20186  
[www.redeemberbethesda.org](http://www.redeemberbethesda.org)

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