

THE COUPLER

The Dean's Message



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Happy Spring, Easter, and Passover! On behalf of the DC AGO Board of Directors, I wish you a beautiful season filled with friends, both old and new, and joyous music to celebrate the beauty of new creation.

The spring season is also renewal season. When I became Dean of this great AGO chapter, we had 140 members. As of this month, we have 157 members, which represents a 12% increase in membership! While this may not seem

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Olivier Latry Masterclass

The next DC AGO Chapter event will take place on Monday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m. Olivier Latry, Organist at Notre Dame de Paris, will offer a masterclass to DC AGO Chapter members. A reception will follow. Three players have been selected to perform in the masterclass:

- Joy Lelani-Garbut (*Vierne, Symphonie III*)

- Mary Mardarelli (Franck, *Grand Pièce Symphonique*)
- Andrew Vu (Messiaen, *Joie et clarté*)

The following day, on April 28, at 7:30 p.m., DC AGO and St. John's Episcopal Church, Georgetown, is sponsoring Mr. Latry in recital on the church's Casavant organ. Admission is \$15.

Coming in May: A DC AGO First!

Plan on joining us for our May event, the first-ever DC AGO Chapter Young Organists' Competition! Held in conjunction with our friends at the Franciscan Monastery, this event will take place on **Sunday, May 17**, at 4:00 p.m., at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, located at 14th and Quincy Streets, NE, in the Brookland neighborhood of Washington, DC.

Three finalists have been selected from the preliminary round that was held earlier this year. They are **Nicholas Capozzoli**, an organ student at Oberlin Conservatory; **Alden Wright**, a high school student from New Jersey; and **Janet Yieh**, an organ student at the Juilliard School of Music and Assistant Organist at Trinity Church, Wall Street.

The three finalists are competing for cash prizes of \$1,500 (underwritten by Potomac Organ Institute), \$1,000 (underwritten by Montage Construction), and \$500 (underwritten by JAV Recordings).

The judges for this final round include **Peter Conte**, Grand Court Organist for the Wanamaker Organ; **Donald Sutherland**, Chair of the Organ Department at Peabody Conservatory; and **Andrew Weaver**, Professor of Musicology at the Catholic University of America.

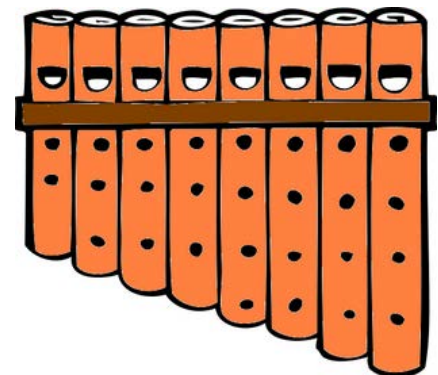
Please come and cheer on these three talented young organists and hear them play some fantastic music in the awe-inspiring monastery church. A festive reception will follow the competition.

Welcome, New Members!

We extend a warm welcome to new DC AGO members:

Michael Austin

Robert Barbarino





June seems like forever away, especially with all the snow we have been seeing these past weeks, but in reality it is but two months in front of us. And with that comes the Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention, June 21 – 24 in Pittsburgh. I encourage you to go to www.agophg2015.com and register for this wonderful event, *Bridges to the Future*.

So many wonderful events await you:

- the opening recital and silent movie accompaniment to **David Briggs**
- superstar **Nathan Laube** on the von Beckerath organ at St. Paul Cathedral
- workshops, including **Vocal Training, Music Technology, Jean Langlais**, and more
- the newly renovate Heinz Chapel and a concert by **Renee Louprette**
- **exhibits** with music to browse and ideas to stir your creative spirit
- **Chatham Baroque** and **J. Reilly Lewis** on the new Taylor and Boody organ at Westminster Presbyterian Church
- a dinner cruise on the the **Gateway Clipper**
- . . . and the closing concert featuring that “orchestra of voices,” **Chanticleer!**

This is but a small sample of what you can experience in Pittsburgh. Don't delay! Register now for this exciting event.

Larry Allen, Chairperson

2014-2015 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

Monday, September 22, 2014, at 7:30 p.m.
Hymn Festival with Installation of Officers
John Walker, organ
Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda, MD

Sunday, November 16, 2014, at 4:00 p.m.
Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular
Parker Ramsay, organ
Saint Luke Church, McLean, VA

Sunday, January 11, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.
Vespers and Annual Dinner and 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 Latry
St. John's Episcopal Church, Georgetown

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

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The Coupler

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J. Michael McMahon,
Editor

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Dean's Message
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like much, the DC AGO Chapter has not seen this significant a gain in membership for the past few years; in fact, we had been losing more members than we have been acquiring. This positive turn in membership is in large part due to your extraordinarily bright and hard-working Board of Directors, with whom I have the great pleasure of meeting on a monthly basis and sharing ideas that will best lead our beloved chapter forward.

Why should you be a member of the American Guild of Organists? Quite frankly, if you are an organist, the AGO is your professional organization and you should feel obligated to be a part of it. This may sound harsh, but think of it this way. Sometimes I hear people complain that the AGO does nothing for them or offers no benefit to them. This is a very self-involved, one-sided view of the AGO (and these folks are the ones that seldom attend chapter events!). I charge you to change your thought from, "What does the AGO do for me" to "What can I do for the AGO."

You have often heard me express in this column my view that a collective voice for the promotion of the organ and its music in our nation's capital city is far more influential than a single voice. We are fortunate to have many professional organists and church musicians actively

working at churches, schools, and synagogues across our region and all of us have gifts, insights, talents, and abilities to share with one another; From the newest organ student to the oldest virtuoso – we need to stick together. So perhaps what the AGO can bring to you is a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are sharing your skills and creativity with your fellow musicians and enthusiasts and helping to build up our profession, doing your part to ensure its continued future. You, the members, are the greatest asset to our chapter. Having you involved makes us a stronger chapter and will affect the creativity, imagination, career, and life of others.

So, when that renewal notice comes your way later this month, I encourage you to renew without delay. Renewing your membership has never been easier now that we can do so over the Internet.

As always, I remain open to your valuable thoughts and comments on the chapter. The AGO is here so that each and every one of you can grow to your fullest potential in the profession. I leave you with this thought, echoing the words of President John F. Kennedy: Ask not what the AGO can do for you, but rather, ask what you can do for the AGO.

Yours,
Russell Weismann, Dean

Upcoming Members' Events

Friday, April 10, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Charles Miller, organist

Sunday, April 12, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
Franciscan Monastery
Jeremy Filsell, organist

Friday, April 17, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Michael Britt, organist

Sunday, April 19, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs
Spring Concert by the St. John's Choir
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square
Benjamin Hutto, Director
Michael Lodico, Organist

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Organ Recital, co-sponsored by Embassy of Austria
National City Christian Church
Ulrike Theresia Wegele, organist

Friday, April 24, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

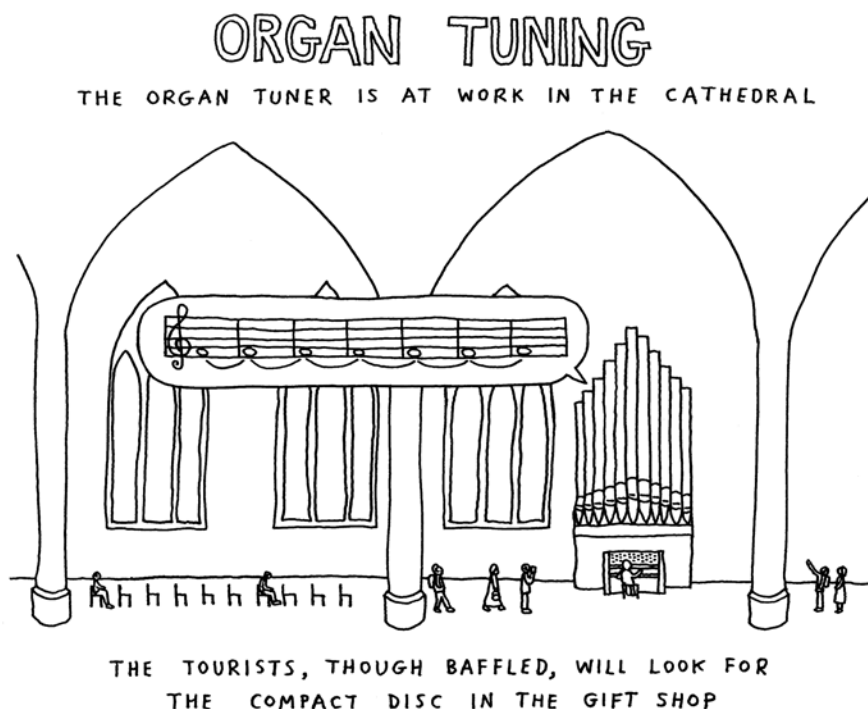
Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Kenneth Lowenberg, organist

Friday, May 1, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Kimberly Ann Hess, organist

Sunday, May 3, 3:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, Baltimore
James David Christie, organist



CartoonChurch.com

Summer Opportunities for High School Organists

Westminster Choir College

Join **Matthew Lewis**, acclaimed organ faculty member at Westminster Choir College and the Pre-College Division of Juilliard; with Princeton University Organist **Eric Plutz** and **Alan Morrison**, Coordinator of Organ Studies at Curtis Institute of Music, for a two-week institute for high school organists. The experience includes private lessons, the opportunity to play the Princeton University Chapel organ, an organ crawl to major churches in Philadelphia, master classes, and sessions on various organ-related topics.

The institute will be held from July 5 to 18. Students will perform in a final **organ recital** on July 17 and in the final **choral concert** (with Vocal Institute) on July 18. To learn more, visit www.rider.edu/summerarts

Brooklyn AGO Chapter Pipe Organ Encounter

The POE hosted by the Brooklyn Chapter, AGO promises to be a unique experience for all participating. For the first time in a POE, special attention will be given to skills and repertoire needed for use of the organ in Roman Catholic Liturgy and African American worship. The congregations of these two faith traditions often face challenges of replacing a retiring generation of musicians with young organists and music ministers adequately equipped to provide musical leadership. While standard organ training and repertoire will be covered and the expected required events of a POE will be

provided, skills and information will be taught specific to these two traditions which will have far-reaching effects on producing well-rounded musicians prepared for future worship trends. For more information visit

<http://www.brooklynago.org/brooklynpoe2015>

The Brooklyn is inviting AGO members to make a financial contribution to support the Brooklyn POE. The full cost of a POE per student ranges from \$1,500 to \$2,000, but to make this affordable for young people, they must charge no more than \$450. The rest comes from fund-raising. No gift is too small to make a difference. Contributions can be made online at

<http://www.brooklynago.org/poecontribute>.

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Positions Available

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, 8908 Old Branch Avenue, Clinton, Maryland, is seeking a Director of Music (organist required) to begin on July 1, 2015. The congregation includes 1,400 families, with a weekly attendance of 1,000. The Director of Music oversees four music groups and co-directs the Traditional Choir. He or she supervises four choral directors (2 paid, 2 volunteer). The position is full-time (40 hours per week). The organ is a 1995 Rodgers 3-manual digital organ with midi. The church also has a 1995 Tokai piano. Salary is yet to be decided. Vacation is 10 days to begin, then 15 days after two years of service. Contact: Search Committee, c/o Judith Malonek (current Director of Music), 301-86-1070.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 461 College Parkway, Arnold, MD 21012 (just north of Annapolis) [410-544-3799](tel:410-544-3799). 200 family congregation is seeking a dynamic organist/choir director for 1-2 weekly services and 1 weekly choir rehearsal, averaging about 8 hours per week. Position has one week off per month. Choir director must be able to direct and accompany adult choir of 12-15 members. Two manual Rodgers Augmented Pipe organ and Baldwin baby grand piano. \$1000 music budget. Salary: \$15,500 with very flexible summer schedule and several weeks off. Church website: www.gloriadei.org. Contact: Debbie Greene at 410-349-3244 or submit resume to: music.gdlutheranchurch@gmail.com

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) in Fairfax, VA is seeking a part-time pianist/accompanist to play at our Sunday worship services

and Thursday evening choir rehearsals. Position to begin immediately and continue through August 31, 2015 with a possible extension into the fall months. The church pianist plays music for our Sunday morning worship service(s) (hymns, incidental music, preludes, postludes, etc.) and is the choir accompanist. We have two services each Sunday morning between Labor Day weekend and Memorial Day weekend. During the summer months, we have one service each Sunday morning. In addition to playing at the church services, the accompanist plays for Thursday evening choir rehearsals from 7:15pm - 9:15pm. The choir season ends on May 17 and begins again in mid-August. The accompanist will work closely with our Music Coordinators and Ministerial team but will not be responsible for selecting the repertoire for any given service. Our pianist/accompanist needs to be proficient in a wide variety of musical styles, including classical, sacred, popular, jazz, and gospel. The accompanist will be given choral music and hymns in advance of each service and/or rehearsal but on the very rare occasion of last minute changes to a service (usually a hymn), good sight-reading skills are helpful. The ability to play SATB sectionals during choir rehearsals is a required skill. A B.A. in music or piano performance is preferred, but not required. 4 - 8 hours/week (estimated). Salary range \$150-\$300 per week depending on number of services and/or amount of hours worked. Interested applicants please email a cover letter and resume as soon as possible to Liz Anderson and Sarah Jebian at music@uucf.org.

Music @ the Monastery

2014 – 2015 Recitalists

September 14: Russell Weismann (St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Bethesda)

October 12: Paul Hardy (Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, DC)

November 9: Andrew Vu (St. Janes Frances de Chantal, Bethesda)

December 14: Paul Campbell (Sacred Heart, Winchester)

January 11: DC AGO Solemn Vespers and Annual Dinner

February 8: Victoria Shields (St. Paul, Rock Creek)

March 8: Russell Weismann (St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Bethesda)

April 12: Jeremy Filsell (Epiphany, DC)

May 17: DC AGO Young Organists' Competition



All are welcome to these free events, jointly sponsored by the Franciscan Monastery and the DC AGO Chapter, held on the second Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

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 (4 times per season), \$100; half-page (4 times per season), \$50; quarter page (four times per season), \$25. Please email advertising requests to dcagochapter@gmail.com with "The Coupler" in the subject field.

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