
THE COUPLER

The Dean's Message



Post-holiday Greetings and Welcome to the New Year!

As we enter 2017 in anticipation of the prospects and challenges of a new year let us not neglect opportunities to reflect on the events of 2016.

The natural progression of life inevitably presents us with some good things and some not so good things. One of our most productive challenges is to learn and grow from our negative experiences. This action will allow for our positive experiences to offer us the highest level of appreciation and satisfaction.

As I consider the current status of our chapter I continue to recall many wonderful and amazing realities. True, not all of our efforts went as smoothly as planned but we still had a pretty amazing year. Our scheduled calendar of events was highlighted by several first-rate tri-chapter efforts. Our combined service of Installation of Officers in September was an enormous success

REST IN PEACE

David Hearn

1930 - 2017

that included an outstanding recital by our own Christopher Betts and ended with a most worthy reception.

In October another tri-chapter collaboration at National Presbyterian Church treated us to a truly spectacular Pipes Spectacular! This event featured the phenomenally talented French organist, Johann Vexo. You may be interested to know that as a result of Mr. Vexo's performance for us, our chapter received an acknowledgement in the January 2017 issue of TAO! Our blurb can be found just inside the front cover next to the photo of Mr. Vexo.

Aside from our scheduled calendar of events several of our members took time to volunteer their talents to participate in a benefit concert for recent world-wide flood relief efforts where all donations went to the Red Cross.

Continued on page 4

2016-2017 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

Sunday, September 25 at 7:00 pm
Opening Convocation and Installation of Officers
with Eileen Gunther officiating and
recitalist Chris Betts
Church of the Redeemer
6201 Dunrobbin Dr.
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Sunday, October 2 at 4:00 pm
Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular
Johann Vexo, Organist
National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016

Monday, January 9, 2017
Twelfth Night Service and Catered Dinner
With members of the Potomac and NOVA Chapters
All Saints Episcopal Church
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Monday, February 20, 2017
Presidents' Day Organ Festival
Including a session with The American Boychoir,
a concert by Dr. Jeremy Filsell
and other workshops
Pre-Register at www.dcago.org
More information on page 5

Continued on page 3

DC AGO Board of Directors

Co-Deans

Irvin Peterson
Russell J. Weismann

Sub Dean

Christopher Betts

Secretary

Kathleen Cooper

Treasurer

Rob Church

Hospitality Coordinator

Irvin Peterson

Education Coordinator

Jeremy Filsell

Historian

Irv Lawless

Communications

Director

David K. Houston

The Coupler

A monthly newsletter
published by the District
of Columbia Chapter,
American Guild of
Organists

David K. Houston,
Editor

To contact the DC AGO
or for newsletter
submissions:
dcagochapter@gmail.com

Continued from page 2

Tuesday, March 14, 2017
An evening with Past AGO President, Dr. John Walker
Sponsored by the NOVA AGO & the
National Association of Pastoral Musicians DC/Arlington chapter
The Cathedral of Saint Thomas More
3901 N Cathedral Lane
Arlington, VA 22203

May 2017
Potomac Organ Institute Student Recital

Two other dates to note....

The deadline for applications for the **Quimby Competition**, to be held at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church on March 18, is next **Sunday, January 15**. If you are interested or have a student who you know might be interested, please visit the AGO National Website, www.agohq.org. go to the "Competitions & New Music Banner", click on it and find "AGO Performance Competitions." The RCYO competition is the Quimby, and all details including the application form can be found there. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

The **Mid-Atlantic Regional AGO Convention** will be hosted by the Richmond Chapter **June 25 - 28**. Please note these corrected dates, not as listed in TAO January edition.

Call for Nominations for Office

The DC AGO Board of
Directors

If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, with their consent, please contact the nominating committee at dcagochapter@gmail.com.

Elections will be held in June.

Nominations may be submitted for all offices, as listed in the masthead on page 2 of The Coupler.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dean's Message, continued from page 1

This event was presented at the First Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Virginia and hosted by member Carol Sikkelee.

In early December I was pleased to attend a recital of classical organ and piano music that also included some jazz and gospel performed by member Pedro Hart at Mt. Airy Baptist Church on N. Capitol Street NW. This concert offered a musically varied program presented to an extremely enthusiastic African American audience. I was proud to assist Pedro as he offered his talents to a demographic that has not traditionally embraced the DC AGO and its efforts in the city of Washington. It is my hope that events such as this one will become more commonplace within our chapter.

We here in Washington are extremely fortunate to have available to us a number of quality venues that offer free concerts to its visitors throughout the year. One of my favorites is National City Christian Church with its Music at Midday series. On any given day the 7500 pipe Moller is always a thrill to listen to, but the musical offerings in this space during the holiday season are particularly special. One recent performance of note was a recital of seasonal favorites presented by Metropolitan Opera tenor, Michael Forest and Eric Bowman, organist/pianist at St. Thomas Luther Church in Charles Town, West Virginia.

Having the opportunity to take some time to slow down, sit and listen to this lovely music in this beautiful space was in itself a very nice Christmas gift.

Another highlight of the season was a recital by the brilliant young rising star Janet Yieh. Janet is a native of Alexandria, Virginia and as some of you may remember, won 1st prize at the 2015 Franciscan Monastery & DC AGO Young Organist Competition. She just recently

performed at St. John's Church Lafayette Square on their First Wednesday Concert Series; music of Mendelssohn, Bridge, Paul Ayres and Guilmant. I would like to personally thank you, members of the DC AGO chapter, for your direct support of Janet as she embarks on an exciting career as a concert organist.

I would also like to take a moment to encourage you to continue to offer your support to our members that are lending their talents as they perform on our own Music @ The Monastery Series. I know that a number of you have performed on this series or are scheduled to perform in the future. Thanks to you and thanks to our most recent performer, Clarice Snyder.

Our next chapter event will be our President's Day Organ Festival, scheduled for Monday February 20th. Some topics of exploration will be AGO certification, basic organ repair and finances. We will also be treated to some face time with the American Boychoir and a recital by Dr. Jeremy Filsell. Please take a moment to check out the details found in this issue of the Coupler. Your support is key to the success of this interesting and informative workshop.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to consider attending our Regional Convention in Richmond, Va. this coming summer. Dates are June 25-28.

If you know that you will not be able to make a physical appearance at the convention there are a number of ways you can support the convention from afar. Just go [Here](#).

Moving Forward!

Thank you!

Irvin

Monday, February 20, 2017 9 am to 4:30 pm

Presidents' Day Organ Festival

At The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany &
First Congregational Church

In the vicinity of Metro Center in Downtown DC

Epiphany	9:00 – 9:30	Registration & Coffee
Epiphany	9:30 – 10:45	AGO Certification with Jeremy Filsell
<i>Walk to 1st Congregational</i>		
1 st Congregational	10:30 – 11:00	Mid-morning Late Registration
1 st Congregational	11:00 – 12:00	The American Boychoir An open rehearsal-style Performance/Masterclass
1 st Congregational	12:00 – 1:00	Lunch, box lunch included in registration
1 st Congregational	1:00 – 1:45	Financial Workshop for Musicians with Patrick Summers, CPA and DC AGO supporter
<i>Walk to Epiphany</i>		
Epiphany	2:00 – 3:00	Sunday Morning Emergency Organ Maintenance with Irv Lawless
Epiphany	3:00 – 3:30	Social time and Refreshments
Epiphany	3:30 – 4:30	Jeremy Filsell in Concert, featuring materials from AGO Certification requirements

Registration for this Presidents' Day Organ Festival is open all: AGO members and guests and friends from the community.

\$20/\$10 Students.

Pre-Register at dcago.org.

Please note that parking is limited to on-street (free on holidays) or paid parking. Epiphany and First Congregational are both easy walks from the Metro Center metro stop. When exiting the station, to get to Epiphany metro riders should use the 13th street exit or the 11th street exit for First Congregational.

Members' Events

Sunday, January 15, 5 pm

Organist Weston Jennings
The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer,
Bethesda, MD

Saturday, January 28, 7:30 pm

Organ Dedication Concert
St. Stephen and The Incarnation Episcopal
Church
Music for Organ, Brass, Choir and
Congregation

Sunday, January 29, 5 pm

Martin Luther Hymn Festival
Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring
Bishop Theodore Schneider and Organist
Jeffrey Pannebaker

Friday, February 3, 12:15 pm

Music @ Midday
National City Christian Church
Organist Dr. Joby Bell

Members are encouraged to submit recitals and concerts for public listing on the DC AGO website. Submit your event for web or newsletter listing to dcagochapter@gmail.com

You may also submit digital photos of your recent excursions or concerts if you would like.



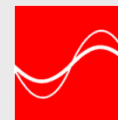
Notre Dame, Paris, January 1, 2017. Submitted by David Houston.

Acoustic Design Services

Acoustical Design Collaborative, Ltd specializes in ecclesiastical spaces where natural acoustics for music and unobtrusive amplified speech are essential for worship celebration. We have completed over 90 successful projects involving the following services:

- **Acoustic Measurements**
- **Room Reverberation Enhancement**
- **Audio/Visual Systems Design**
- **Sound System Tuning & Optimization**
- **Organ Space Planning**

We strive to provide our clients with professional advice based on prudent design criteria, cost-effective solutions, clear concise recommendations, open communication, all delivered in a timely manner. Please contact us to see how we can provide 'heavenly sounds' for your Sanctuary.



**ACOUSTICAL DESIGN
COLLABORATIVE, LTD**

7509 L'Hirondelle Club Road
Ruxton, MD 21204-6418

In honor of years of service to the American Guild of Organists

DC Chapter AGO Life Members

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

Eileen Gunther

David Hearn †

Kenneth Lowenberg

Albert Russell

Donald Sutherland

Did You Know?

Did you know that the National City Christian Organ has two sets of chimes, two zimbelsterns and a set of hand bells?

Did you know that January 8, 2017 marked the 40th anniversary of the death of Garnell Stuart Copeland, organist and choirmaster at the Church of The Epiphany 1968-1977? Copeland was just 34 when he died just after midnight in an ambulance after being attacked by three assailants on the steps of his Capitol Hill home on January 6th 1977. The following year the congregation of Epiphany dedicated in Copeland's name the horizontal rank of 49 trompette-en-chamade pipes in the rear south gallery, an addition to the Aeolian-Skinner organ Copeland had helped design in 1968. With the addition of the new stop, Epiphany became the first parish church in the United States with two such ranks, one in each end of the building. A second memorial to Copeland is a stained-glass window incorporating the notation of a motif from a hymn he wrote.

Patrick J. Summers, M.S.

SUMMERS & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Bookkeeping, Accounting, Tax Prep, Audit, and Financial Management

*Serving Church Musicians, Performing Artists,
and Nonprofit Organizations Nationwide*

1775 "I" Street, N.W., #1150
Washington, DC 20006
202-390-4018

201 Saint Charles Avenue, #2500
New Orleans, LA 70170
504-940-8313

pjsumm@aol.com summersllc.net

Member: National Society of Accountants, Institute of Management Accountants

Music @ the Monastery

Located on forty-four acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, the Franciscan Monastery (Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery) is a beautiful architectural gem hidden in the northeast corner of Washington, D.C. Built in 1899 in the shape of a Jerusalem Cross in neo-Byzantine architectural style, the Monastery includes gardens, replicas of various shrines throughout Israel, a replica of the catacombs in Rome, an archive, a library, as well as bones of Saint Benignus of Armagh, brought from the Roman Catacombs and originally in the Cathedral of Narni, Italy. The Monastery's Lively-Fulcher pipe organ was built in 1998 and contains forty ranks of pipes over three manuals and pedal.

Together with the Franciscan Monastery, the DC AGO is proud to support a series of community outreach musical events titled, "Music @ the Monastery". These events are free of charge and take place on the second Sunday of each month at 4pm, followed by a reception. All are welcome!

2016-2017 Recitalists

October 9	<i>Russell Weismann (Saint Jane Frances de Chantal Parish - Bethesda, Maryland)</i>
November 13	<i>Carl Schwartz (All Hallows Parish - Davidsonville, Maryland)</i>
December 11	<i>Iris Lan (New York, NY)</i>
January 8	<i>Clarice Snyder (Washington, DC)</i>
February 12	<i>Nathan Davy (National Shrine - Washington, DC)</i>
March 12	<i>Brass and Organ (Brass of Peace Ensemble with Lisa Galoci, Organist)</i>
April 9	<i>Ronald Butts-Boehmer (Messiah Lutheran Church - Germantown, Maryland)</i>
May 14	<i>Paul Skevington (Saint Luke Catholic Church - McLean, Virginia)</i>

THE COUPLER

District of Columbia Chapter
The American Guild of Organists

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, \$25; half-page, \$20; quarter page, \$15. 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.