

THE COUPLER

The Dean's Message



As I complete my first year as your Dean, I'm filled with humble gratitude to all the members of our esteemed chapter for entrusting me with carrying out the mission of the American Guild of Organists in our Nation's Capital. This great honor has come with its ups and downs along with joys and frustrations. I dealt with several 'baptisms by fire' when I first took over the reins; it seemed like every week held a new test of my leadership skills. Looking back, I have grown a lot, and the chapter has grown a lot as well.

I've come to realize that being a leader is a not an easy task, and it certainly isn't a glamorous position, either. It is nearly impossible to please everybody, so there will always be someone who becomes hurt by taking the outcome of a decision too seriously. Most understand that in order to grow the Guild and the chapter, we need to constantly go outside of our 'comfort zones' and into areas where the Guild and our chapter

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The DC AGO Chapter held its inaugural Young Organists' Competition on May 17

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Have you registered? Check out news of the exciting Mid-Atlantic AGO Convention coming up this month.

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What a year! Check out the list of the past year's DC AGO programs and remember all the great things we did!

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There's a lot going on in June! Check out the members' events for musical happenings in DC.

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Happy Summer!

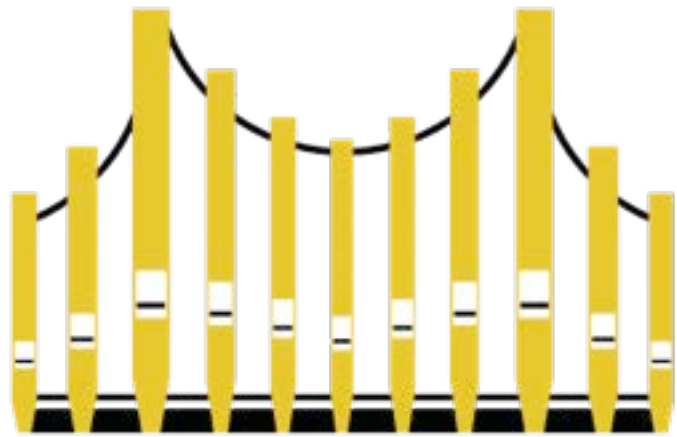
***The Coupler* will reappear in late August with the September issue. Watch for news of exciting events planned for the coming year!**

DC AGO Young Organists' Competition



On Sunday, May 17, the District of Columbia Chapter held the final round of its inaugural Young Organists' Competition at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. The event, which was co-sponsored with the Franciscan Monastery, featured three talented young organists who were previously selected from a recorded first round. The contestants played a variety of repertoire, including a required piece by J. S. Bach, a piece based on Gregorian Chant, and a free selection. The first place winner was Janet Yieh, second place, Alden Wright, and third place, Nicholas Capozzoli. Blind adjudication was done by Donald Sutherland (Professor of Organ, Peabody Institute), Peter Richard Conte (Wanamaker Grand Court Organist), and Andrew Weaver (Chair of Musicology, The Catholic University of America) Pictured from left to right (front row) Russell Weismann (DC AGO Dean), Alden Wright, Janet Yieh, Nicholas Capozzoli, (second row) Fr. Larry Dunham, OFM (Guardian of the Monastery), Donald Sutherland, Andrew Weaver, Peter Richard Conte, and Jeremy Filsell (DC AGO Education Coordinator).

2015 A G O
MID-ATLANTIC
REGIONAL CONVENTION
PITTSBURGH
PENNSYLVANIA
JUNE 21-25



It is definitely not too late to be a part of your AGO Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention, June 21-24 in the city of bridges, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Recitalists are putting the final touches on their preparations, workshop presenters are preparing lectures and materials, the Gateway Clipper ship is all set for the evening cruise, and churches and halls are being made ready.

Other new projects have been undertaken as well:

- The new **Jaeckel organ** at **Duquesne University** is installed and exciting all who hear it.
- The **Taylor and Boody chapel organ** at **Westminster Presbyterian Church** is on its way and will receive some of its first hearings at our convention.
- The **Heinz Chapel** has undergone a renovation which includes addition of air conditioning to make us all more comfortable for a summer recital.

If you have been thinking about attending, but just haven't taken the final step, do go to www.agopgh2015.com and register today!

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THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!
2014-2015
DC AGO Chapter 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

DC AGO
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The Coupler

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J. Michael McMahon,
Editor

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*Dean's Message**Continued from page 1*

have not yet made an impact (i.e. our advocacy of young talent through our recent Young Organists' Competition).

I wrote the following sentence in my first Dean's Letter, "There's never a dull day in the life of the DC AGO." We've got too much work to do before we are able to get comfortable with our status quo. We've gained about a dozen new members this past year and, yet, we have lost a handful of members, as well. I've seen many new faces at our chapter events, but I also miss seeing older faces at the very same events. Sometimes when I think of the dynamics of our current and former members, I recall the passage in Isaiah 11: 6, "And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together." I pray for the manifestation of this peaceable kingdom of organists!

The highlight of the AGO experience for me is the social and professional interaction among colleagues whom I would otherwise not have the opportunity to know. I've said it before,

and I'll say it again, the most important resource of the Guild is its members. Together, we are stronger as a profession than alone by ourselves. I rejoice every day that I am able to live and work in such a wonderful city alongside such talented colleagues. You've all taught me more than any college degree could ever do.

In closing, even though someone had once accused me of having a "prom court" style of leadership, I remain honored and grateful to lead our chapter for one more year (this being my final year of a two-year term). I'm here for you and I hope that I can know that you are here for me. The greatest compliment that I have received as your Dean was when someone remarked that I treat the members with "pastoral sensitivity." I take great pride in that statement. For each and every one of our 152 members, I am your biggest fan. You are all doing great things. I am proud of you and I am blessed to know you.

Happy Summer!

Russ



Upcoming Members' Events

Wednesday, June 3, 12:10 p.m.

Organ Recital
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square
Benjamin Straley, organist

Friday, June 5, 12:15 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Patrick Pope, organist

Sunday, June 7, 5:15 p.m.

Organ Recital
Washington National Cathedral
Bryan Dunnewald, organist

Friday, June 12, 12:15 p.m.

Capital Pride Recital
National City Christian Church
The Arsenal Duo:
Edward Alan Moore, organ
Nathan Carterette, piano

Sunday, June 14, 5:15 p.m.

Organ Recital
Washington National Cathedral
Vaughn Mauren, organist

Friday, June 19, 12:15 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Sondra Goldsmith Proctor, organist

Sunday, June 21, 5:15 p.m.

Organ Recital
Washington National Cathedral
Colin MacKnight, organist

Friday, June 26, 12:15 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Aaron Comins, organist

Sunday, June 28, 5:15 p.m.

Organ Recital
Washington National Cathedral
Chuyoung Suter, organist

Saturday, July 4, 11:00 a.m.

Annual Independence Day Organ Recital
Washington National Cathedral

Submit your event to dcagochapter@gmail.com

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