

# THE COUPLER

## The Dean's Message



Dear Members,  
Summer Greetings!

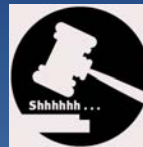
As I prepare to write my final letter as your Dean, I am filled with gratitude for the wonderful members in our chapter that I have had the opportunity to get to know over the past two years (four years, if you count my term as sub-Dean). I am especially grateful to our DC AGO Board members: Irvin Peterson, Irv Lawless, Kathy Cooper, Rob Church, Michael McMahan, Jeremy Filsell, and Karen Bredberg for their support of the

chapter. Each of us have worked very hard to ensure that members have opportunities to learn, make music, listen to music, and socialize.

Along with myself, a few other board members will be stepping down this year. This includes Karen Bredberg and Mike McMahon. Karen has had a very busy schedule, but has always offered her assistance, for which I am grateful. Mike has been extraordinary in his role as newsletter editor. He assumed this position

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### SUMMER 2016 In This Issue



The AGO is holding its second - ever silent auction. Find out how you can contribute or bid!

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It's summer and time for an end-of-the year party!

6



A new season of Music @ the Monastery begins in September. Check out how you can participate.

8



Virginia Theological Seminary will be dedicating the Curfman Collection of Sacred Music and Liturgy.

8

### Mark Your Calendar!

*2016 Pipes Spectacular  
Johann Vexo (Notre Dame de  
Paris), organist*

Sunday, October 2, 5:00 p.m.  
National Presbyterian Church

## 2015-2016 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

*Monday, September 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m.  
Organ Recital and Installation of Officers  
Mary Beth Bennett, Organist  
First Congregational United Church of Christ*

*Sunday, October 4, 2015, 5:15 p.m.  
Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular  
Renée Anne Louprette, Organist  
Washington National Cathedral*

*Saturday, November 7, 2015, 10:00 a.m.  
Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza  
National City Christian Church*

*Monday, January 4, 2016, 6:30 p.m.  
Annual Twelfth-Night Dinner and Service  
(with Northern Virginia and Potomac Chapters)  
All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase*

*Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
DC AGO Members' Evensong and Happy Hour  
Church of the Epiphany*

*Friday, March 18, 2016, 7:00 p.m.  
Silent Movie with Organ  
La vie et la passion de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ  
Thomas Ospital, Organist (co-titulair of St. Eustache,  
Paris)  
Saint Jane Frances de Chantal Church, Bethesda*

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### DC AGO Board of Directors



#### Dean

Russell J. Weismann

#### Sub Dean

Karen Bredberg

#### Secretary

Kathleen Cooper

#### Treasurer

Rob Church

#### Hospitality Coordinator

Irvin Peterson

#### Education Coordinator

Jeremy Filsell

#### Historian

Irv Lawless

### *The Coupler*

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

J. Michael McMahon,  
Editor

To contact the DC AGO  
or for newsletter  
submissions:  
[dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com)

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*Saturday, April 23, 2016, 3:00 p.mn.  
Theater Organ Concert with Dave Wickerham  
(Joint event with Northern Virginia and Potomac Chapters)  
Jack and Mildred Hardman Residence, Great Falls, Virginia*

*Saturday, April 30  
(Postponed from Presidents' Day)  
Southern Pennsylvania Road Trip  
Canceled*

*Saturday, May 7, 2016, 10:00 a.m.  
(Rescheduled from January 23)  
AGO Certification Workshop  
Jeremy Filsell, Clinician  
Church of the Epiphany  
1313 G Street, NW (Metro Center)  
See page 11 for more information*

*Monday, May 23, 2016, 7:00 p.m.  
Potomac Organ Institute Student Recital  
All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase*



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

with little notice and has done a remarkable job. He excelled the most at reminding me to submit my Dean's letter! But beyond that, I think that we can all agree that our newsletter is one of the best in the Guild. Thank you, Karen, and thank you, Mike!

Irvin Peterson has been handling nominations to fill these vacant positions. We will be voting online. Once final names have been submitted, you will receive a link to cast your vote. Please participate in this important process.

Over the summer, transitions will be made within our chapter, but the work of the chapter and of the Guild will continue. In thinking about the past two years as your Dean, we have uploaded a new web site, begun a new events calendar, upgraded to a

new newsletter format, installed a new board structure, conducted a competition, begun a members' recital series, offered numerous dinners, recitals, and workshops, relocated the chapter archives, and even had time to switch our investment account over into a better interest yielding Wells Fargo account. This is a lot! Your board has worked very hard. Please join me in offering them your thanks. I toast a gin and tonic to all of our members who work hard to make our chapter into something worthwhile. I am extremely humbled to have been your Dean - an honor that I will cherish forever.

I hope to see many of you in Houston!

Your #1 Fan always,  
Russ



The 2016 AGO National Convention, June 19 - 24, will showcase vibrant performances, world-class instruments, enlightening workshops, creative new music, and inspiring worship. There will be many opportunities to meet fellow musicians and create dynamic connections. Come and experience a warm welcome at the Hilton Americas-Houston, at the various convention venues, and throughout this exciting city. This is a convention you won't want to miss! Registration and information at <http://www.agohouston2016.com>

## AGO Silent Auction

The second biennial AGO Silent Auction will be held in connection with the AGO National Convention in Houston. Your participation would be warmly welcomed.

The auction will be conducted exclusively online from June 13 to 24 at [www.BiddingForGood.com](http://www.BiddingForGood.com), and will be open to everyone, not just AGO members. Proceeds will benefit the AGO Annual Fund, which supports educational programming for youth and adults.

The 2014 AGO Silent Auction raised more than \$23,000 from 84 donors who gave 116 auction items. The auction item that received the highest number of bids was a registration to the 2016 AGO National Convention in Houston, while the highest bid placed was for a recital by John Walker.

Do you have something you or your chapter could donate this year? Your gift could be mileage and/or travel rewards; a time share; concert/theatre/sporting event tickets; a recital, lesson, or masterclass; CD recordings or books; a convention registration; or a membership to your favorite museum or a trip to your local zoo. Another option would be to donate a gift certificate from a local business or restaurant you frequent. Just about any gift you make will qualify for a charitable tax deduction for its fair market value.

We have already received a number of donations including a weekend for two at the Hilton Americas-Houston, a weekend for two at the Marriott Copley Place-Boston, and a keynote speech and/or installation of officers at a chapter meeting by AGO Executive Director James Thomashower.

Here is how you can participate. Send a brief description and digital image of the item you wish to donate. E-mail this to Tony Thurman at [fathurman@agohq.org](mailto:fathurman@agohq.org). Include the "fair market value" of your gift, your suggested minimum bid, and/or reserve amount. The reserve amount is the lowest bid we would accept for your item. If the reserve is not met, the item does not sell. After the auction closes, Tony will send you the name and contact information of the winning bidder. You will mail/ship your item at your own expense to the winner. Please respond by Friday, June 10.

*Patrick J. Summers, M.S.*

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## Members' Events

### Friday, June 3, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday  
National City Christian Church  
Colin MacKnight, organist

### Friday, June 10, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday: *Capital Pride Recital  
Sweet Suites*  
National City Christian Church  
David K. Houston, organist

### Sunday, June 12, 4:00 p.m.

Organ Recital  
First Baptist Church  
Diane Bish, organist

### Friday June 17, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday  
National City Christian Church  
Sondra Goldsmith Proctor, organist

### Friday, June 24, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday  
National City Christian Church  
Aaron Comins, organist

*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](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com)*

## NOVA/Potomac Chapters End-of-Year Party

Members of the DC AGO Chapter are warmly invited to an end-of-year party hosted by Joe and Sue Graif. Last names A-M, kindly bring a side; N-Z, a dessert. If possible, bring a folding chair and beverage of choice. The Graifs will take care of the main courses on the grill. There will be open bench time on the theatre organ for those who have brought their organ shoes, and some party favors for those who play. Please note that the party has been pushed forward by a week and will take place on June 13, 2016, not one June 20 as previously advertised.

**When:** *Monday, June 13, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. EDT*

**Where:** *Home of Joe and Sue Graif, 3303 Rocky Mount Road, Fairfax, VA 22031*

If you are planning to attend, please email Dr. Kimberly Hess, Interim NOVA Dean at [kimberlyannahess@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlyannahess@gmail.com).

## For Sale

Roland VK-88 double manual organ. \$500 or best offer. Contact: Lee Ewing at (202) 744-3932 or [leebeewing@gmail.com](mailto:leebeewing@gmail.com)



*Diane Bish*  
*First Lady of the Organ*

**FREE  
CONCERT**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 12 4PM**



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**First Baptist Church**  
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON D.C.

1328 16th Street NW Washington, D.C.  
(202) 387-2206 [firstbaptistdc.org](http://firstbaptistdc.org)

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## Music @ the Monastery

Music @ the Monastery, a community outreach and members' recital series sponsored by the DC AGO and held at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, is preparing to enter its third program year. If you are interested in performing on next year's series, please send an email to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com). Recitals take place on the second Sunday of each month (September-May) at 4:00 p.m. Playing the Monastery's wonderful Lively-Fulcher organ in its amazing acoustic is a sheer joy!

## Dedication of Curfman Collection of Sacred Music and Liturgy

Virginia Theological Seminary warmly invites members of the DC AGO chapter to a celebration on **Sunday, June 26**, in memory of David Curfman and in honor of Blanche Curfman on the occasion of the donation to Bishop Payne Library of the David R. Curfman, M.D. Collection of Sacred Music and Liturgy. The Bishop Payne Library will be open from 3:00 until 8:00 p.m. to view the Curfman exhibit.

4:00 p.m. - Curfman Collection Dedication: Bishop Payne Library  
4:45 p.m. - Organ Recital by J. Reilly Lewis: Immanuel Chapel  
6:00 p.m. - Reception: Immanuel Chapel's North Terrace

Admission is free but the favor of a reply is requested by June 13, 2016, to Ann Roebuck: [aroebuck@vts.edu](mailto:aroebuck@vts.edu) or 703-461-1715.

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### THE COUPLER

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District of Columbia Chapter  
The American Guild of Organists

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