

THE COUPLER

The Dean's Message



I've been convincing myself that my life will calm down in May. I'm starting to have doubts! Amidst finals and juries, concerts and recitals, graduations and first communions, competitions, papers, certifications, and auditions, I am now looking forward to June being the month to offer me some rest and relaxation.

How have you been? I've been hearing marvelous accolades in regards to the music making of our members. You all are so good at what you do and your dedication to excellence in music making is inspiring for people like

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Meet the three remarkable young organists who have been selected as finalists for the Young Organists' Competition.

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DC AGO May Program

YOUNG ORGANISTS' COMPETITION

Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land

Sunday, May 17, 4:00 p.m.

Finalists: Aiden Wright, Janet Yieh, Nicholas Capozzoli

DC AGO Young Organists' Competition

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.

Meet the Finalists



Alden Wright is 17 years old and attends Jesse Carson High School in Salisbury, NC. He began studying piano at age 10. Alden studied piano for 4 years with Diane Freeman. He is now active in the fine arts program in his high school. He began studying organ in January 2012 with Dr. Phillip Burgess of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Salisbury. He has been trained in the art of leading worship and has been active as a substitute organist in the Rowan County area. Alden is a two-year winner of the Stigall Scholarship Competition in 2013 and 2014. He is also the winner of the 2014 Columbia, SC AGO Young Organist Competition. Alden is currently the principal organist at Milford Hills United Methodist Church in Salisbury.



Janet Yieh, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, is a fourth-year undergraduate student of organ department chair Paul Jacobs at the Juilliard School, where she receives the E. & G. Valentine Scholarship, Schuld-Jacobs Organ Scholarship, and John Dexter Bush Scholarship. She also currently serves as Assistant Organist at Trinity Church, Wall Street in downtown Manhattan.

Janet won first prize at the 2013 Philadelphia AGO Quimby Competition and holds second prizes from the 2013 Rodgers Classical Organ Competition and 2010 Albert Schweitzer Competition. She has performed recitals around the US and in Asia, notably at Alice Tully Hall (Lincoln Center), St. Mary the Virgin (Times Square), St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue (New York), St. Paul's Chapel (New York), National Cathedral

(Washington DC), Holy Spirit Anglican Church (Hong Kong), St. John's Cathedral (Taipei), and Aletheia University Chapel (Taipei, Taiwan).

Janet's playing has been broadcast on the national radio show *Pipedreams* and on New York's WWFM, accompanying the Choir of Trinity Wall Street with the Trinity Baroque Orchestra. Janet has been featured in Juilliard's Focus Festival! for modern music and premiered new music for the organ. In February 2015 she performed with the NOVUS NY orchestra at Carnegie Hall in a program of Ives' Fourth Symphony and Ginastera's *Turbae ad passionem*. In December 2014, she appeared as guest organist with the Washington Chorus in their Candlelight Christmas concerts at the Kennedy Center. She is featured on recordings, *Julian Wachner: Symphony No. 1, Works for Orchestra and Voices* (Musica Omnia/Naxos, 2014) and *Celebrating the Skinner Organ* (Schott, 2011).

As Assistant Organist at Trinity Wall Street, Janet regularly plays for Sunday and weekday Eucharist services and Choral Evensong, working with Julian Wachner and Avi Stein. In her four years at Trinity, she has accompanied the GRAMMY award nominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street, Family Choir, and Trinity Choristers in liturgical settings and in concert, directed and performed in the Pipes at One concert series, and played harpsichord with the Trinity Baroque Orchestra in the weekly Bach at One cantata series.

Janet began playing organ at age 11 with a scholarship from the Potomac Organ Institute. As a high school student, she studied with John Walker, took music courses at the Peabody Preparatory School, and served as Organ Scholar at Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Baltimore, MD under the direction of Diane Meredith Belcher. In 2011, she graduated with academic and artistic honors from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes high school. Former piano and organ teachers include Rueil-Hwa Shyu, Victoria Shields, Wayne Earnest, and Carol Prochazka. Janet is a Colleague of the American Guild of Organists.



Nicholas Capozzoli, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a fourth-year student at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he studies organ with James David Christie and harpsichord with Webb Wiggins. Nicholas also studied with distinguished visiting professor of organ, Marie-Louise Langlais in the fall semester of 2012. He received his initial organ training through the Pittsburgh Organ Academy of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AGO and studied under the tutelage of Richard Pinkerton. He was the first-place winner of several competitions, including the 2013 Region III AGO/Quimby Competition, Pittsburgh Concert Society Audition for Young Organists, and Carol Tetti Memorial Organ Competition. Nicholas is the recipient of various scholarships, including the M. Louise Miller Scholarship and numerous NPM (National Association of Pastoral

Musicians) scholarships. He has participated in organ and harpsichord masterclasses conducted by Jane Parker-Smith, Davitt Moroney, Robert Hill, and Ton Koopman, and has performed in several esteemed venues, including St. Paul Cathedral (Pittsburgh, PA), Heinz Chapel (Pittsburgh, PA), St. Peter Cathedral (Erie, PA), St. Patrick Catholic Church (Washington, DC), Church of the Covenant (Cleveland, OH), Old South Church (Boston, MA), and the Musée des Augustins (Toulouse, France). Nicholas presented recitals at the 2013 NPM Convention in Washington, DC and the 2014 AGO National Convention in Boston, MA as a "Rising Star." He was also a featured recitalist in the 2014 Piccolo Spoleto Festival "L'Organo Series" in Charleston, SC. In January 2014, Nicholas joined Oberlin's organ department in a tour of major churches and pipe organs in Bordeaux, Paris, and Toulouse. As an aspiring church musician, Nicholas was selected as the Sacred Music Intern at the prestigious Brick Presbyterian Church (New York, NY) and the highly regarded Ss. Peter and Paul Church (Naperville, IL), working under the direction of Keith Tóth and Matthew Sprinkle, respectively. He currently serves as organist at Bethesda-on-the-Bay Lutheran Church in Bay Village, OH. Nicholas is an increasingly active harpsichordist and continuo player, and in his fifth year at Oberlin, he will pursue a Master of Music in Historical Performance.

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

DC AGO Board of Directors



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The Coupler

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J. Michael McMahon,
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To contact the DC AGO
or for newsletter
submissions:
dcagochapter@gmail.com

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

me to witness. I learn a lot from meeting others and hearing them talk, or play the organ, or direct a choir. As I mentioned in my column, last week, one of the best benefits of being a member of the DC AGO is that we have the opportunity to learn from one another.

This brings me to the two items that I would like to address this month.

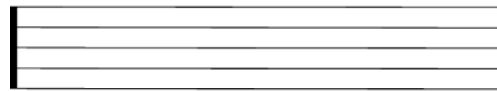
1. I hope to see you at the DCAGO Young Organists Competition on Sunday, May 17 at 4 pm at the Franciscan Monastery. We have three amazingly brilliant young organists performing for us that day. We all can have the honor of hearing them play, meeting them, and learning from them. More information on this event is elsewhere in the newsletter.

2. Please renew your membership. The AGO has transferred to "rolling dues",

meaning that you can join and renew your membership at any time of the year, but many of us are still on the July 1 membership anniversary date. This means that your membership will expire on June 30, unless you renew. Renewing your membership is fast and easy with the new online renewing option. If you have trouble renewing, you can always call Leah at AGO National headquarters (212-870-2310). She's delightful and would be happy to help you. Together, we make up the strongest asset of the AGO - its members.

So that's it for now. Here's your homework for the month - renew your membership and join us on May 17th for the Young Organists Competition at the Monastery. Remember, there's no rest for the weary -- until June!

Russ



POI Student Spring Recital

The Potomac Organ Institute is holding its annual Student Spring Recital on Monday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints Church, Chevy Chase. The POI is a teaching scholarship to encourage pianists to begin studying the organ and to increase awareness of the need for well-trained organists. It is co-sponsored by the DC, Northern Virginia, and Potomac chapters of the AGO. Come and support this year's class of students by attending the recital!

Seeking a Church to Practice

Patti Hicks Whaley writes from England that she is expecting to be staying in Alexandria during October and November. She is an "advanced non-professional" organist (passed ABRSM grade 8 with distinction and currently working on her ABRSM diploma recital). An experienced church organist, she is looking for a church in the DC area, ideally accessible by public transportation, where she could practice in exchange for playing services, rehearsals, etc. References and more information are available. You may contact her at pattihickswhaley@yahoo.co.uk

Upcoming Members' Events

Friday, May 1, 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Kimberly Ann Hess, organist

Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

Organ Recital
Benefit for St. Paul's Commission on Mission
Suggested minimum donation: \$15
St. Paul's Parish, K Street
Robert McCormick, organist

Sunday, May 3, 5:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
Washington National Cathedral
Jeremy Filsell, organist

Wednesday, May 6, 12:10 – 12:45 p.m.

First Wednesday Concert
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square
U.S. Air Force Strings Chamber Orchestra
Benjamin Hutton, organist

Friday, May 8, 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Nathan Davy, organist

Wednesday, May 13, 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
Kennedy Center
Thierry Escaich, organist

Friday, May 15, 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Mary Mozelle, organist

Friday, May 17, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Young Organists' Competition
Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land
See page 2 for more details.

Monday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.

Potomac Organ Institute
Student Spring Recital
All Saints Church, Chevy Chase
See page 5 for more details.

Tuesday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.

Choral Concert: Life, Love and Change
Benefit for NCCC Music Ministry
Suggested minimum donation: \$15
National City Christian Church
Thomas Circle Singers

Friday, May 22, 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
Russell Weismann, organist

Sunday, May 24, 5:15 – 6:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
Washington National Cathedral
Stanislav Kalinin (Ukraine), organist

Friday, May 29, 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

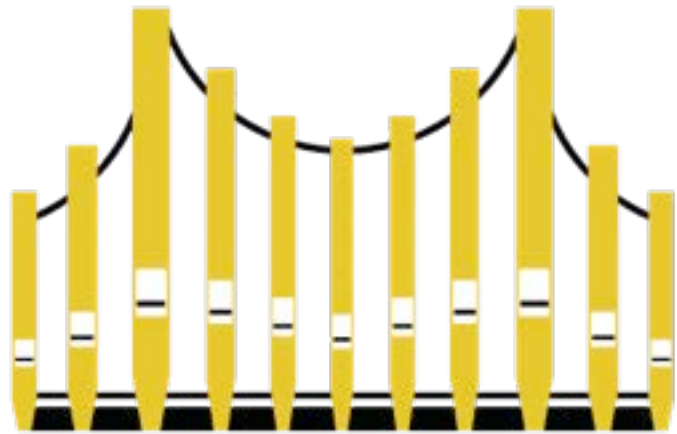
Organ Recital
National City Christian Church
David Lang, organist

Sunday, May 31, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square
St. John's Choir, Benjamin Hutto, director
Michael Lodico, organist

Submit your event to dcagochapter@gmail.com

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



To view complete information or to register, go to
<http://agopgh2015.com>

Welcome, New Member!

We extend a warm welcome to new DC
AGO member, **Patrick Summers!**



“First organ transplant?”

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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.

Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists.

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