

American Guild of Organists Blue Ridge Chapter

August 2022

www.blueridgeago.org



Autumn Events

Our first event for 2022/2023 will be a catered dinner and social gathering on **September 13 at Grace Lutheran in Hendersonville**. We will enjoy time together, a brief installation of chapter officers, and have a chance to hear and play the Rodgers/Zimmer organ in the sanctuary. Final details are still being worked out, but please let us know if you plan to attend by contacting treasurer Thomas Bernard at tbernardjr@reagan.com, or 706-593-0104.

Further events this year will include a choral workshop in October and a recital in November. Watch for details about these and other exciting events in upcoming newsletters and on the chapter website, www.blueridgeago.org. And if you have ideas for programs you would like to see, please contact us. The more we are all involved, the better!

National Convention Report from the Dean

The National Convention was held this year in Seattle WA July 3-8 at the downtown Hyatt Regency Convention Center. Everyone in attendance was very grateful to be gathering together again as a national fellowship. I enjoyed being in Seattle for the first time. One of the great blessings is catching up with colleagues that you have intertwined with for decades. The week was a well-designed opportunity to visit the most beautiful churches and hear the mightiest organs in the Seattle area, including traveling up to Tacoma for a day of events.



My favorite performers were David Briggs's opening concert at Benaroya Hall; Katelyn Emerson played an exceptionally clean Baroque program at Christ Episcopal Church, and IMHO every tempo was perfect; Stephan Engels juggled the two massive instruments at St. James Cathedral. I was particularly impressed with one of the rising star performers, representing our very own region, David Stultz, from Nashville. The rising stars presented in a series of concerts are college-age organ students who have won competitions in their regions. Nearly every concert I attended included a newly commissioned piece by a living composer.

I was particularly edified by the excellent worship services that were scattered throughout the convention and presented by local church choirs and music programs, a hymn festival, an Evensong service, and a Mid Day Prayer Service. One that I was particularly looking forward to was the "O Antiphons" service at St. Mark's Cathedral. This is the church that is famous for its Compline service. This Advent worship service included magnificent organ music, congregational singing, and several of St. Mark's choirs - surround sound - singing in procession as banners for each of the antiphons were presented. Following that service, Isabelle Demer played a brilliant program.

I am very grateful for the privilege of representing the Blue Ridge Chapter at this National Convention and appreciate the support of the chapter in getting me to Seattle. The AGO is in a very healthy state coming out of the pandemic and is very interested in supporting local chapters that are creating new opportunities in their communities. I would encourage everyone who has not experienced a national, or a regional convention, to put that on their bucket list. You never know, we might be hosting one down the road.

Dean Timothy Shepard

John Mullaney (1942-2022)

John Edward Mullaney, 80, of Hendersonville, North Carolina, died on Friday July 8, 2022 in Autumn Care of Saluda where he was a resident for one and one-half years due to his Dementia Alzheimer's Disease.

John was born January 3, 1942 in New York City, New York. He was the son of John Joseph Mullaney and Irene G. Schad.

At a very early age John was drawn to music and especially the piano. A friend of the family, who was musical herself, spent time talking to John about music and the piano. She began giving him some basic lessons and soon realized John had a natural gift and talent for playing the piano. She expressed these thoughts to his mother and suggested John should be given professional piano lessons. His mother agreed, the friend found a good teacher, and John excelled quickly under his new teacher. John began his schooling in the New York Public Schools. His new piano teacher recognized John's ability to learn and felt he could gain from being in a school that would challenge him and provide more opportunities for his high interest in Music and the Arts. She was successful in getting John and his younger brother, Ron, full scholarships to The Birch Wathen School in New York City. John graduated from the school in 1960.



John enrolled at Columbia in New York City and funded his college by working in New York City's garment district. While at Columbia John also developed his tenor voice and sang in various groups as well as playing services for churches in the city. John graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music.

After college John continued his work in the garment district. He applied for and was hired for a job in Hendersonville, North Carolina, with Ruth's Originals, a company which made fancy party dresses for girls. He eventually became Manager/Director of Sales and worked closely with the owner. He travelled throughout the United States and overseas looking after the company's clients. The owner sold the business to a French company and John stayed on two years to help in the transition of ownership.

Following his departure, John moved into the Ministry of Church Music. His denomination of choice was the Lutheran Church in which he was raised but his Music Ministry as Organist/Director of Music embraced churches of different denominations. Living four years in New Mexico he played for a Lutheran Church. Moving back to the area he served Skyland United Methodist Church and served The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd in Brevard, North Carolina, for eleven years. After Brevard John went into semi-retirement but offered himself to serve interim positions for churches in Hendersonville, Saluda, and Tryon, North Carolina. After playing interim positions, John became a part of the Music Ministry of Hendersonville First United Methodist Church. John joined the Adult Choir, the Chamber Singers, the Solace Choir and The Hendersonville Chorale. John played one last interim position at St. Pauls Episcopal Church in Edneyville, North Carolina, and played there until his illness prevented him from continuing to do so.

John was a longtime member of the AGO and his membership was in The Blue Ridge Chapter, Hendersonville, NC, and became inactive due to his illness. John's Ministry of Music reached countless numbers of people in many different congregations. God used his music to touch people's lives and spirits, giving them hope, courage, and inspiring them all along their journey of life.

John was a veteran serving in the U.S. Army Reserves for six years. John was preceded in death by his parents, and his younger brother, Ronald Thomas Mullaney. John is survived by two nephews, Keith Mullaney (Nell) and Shane Mullaney, both of California, and his dearest friend, Donald R. Youmans of Tryon, North Carolina.

Per John's request there will be no service.

Memorials may be made to The Alzheimer's Association by mail - P.O. Box 9601, Washington, D.C.; by phone - 800-272-3900; or online, Alzheimer's Association.com (donate); or to a favorite charity of the donor's choice.

Meet Your 2022 AGO Board

Timothy Shepard, Dean Timothy has been the Director of Music and Organist at Brevard First United Methodist Church since 2008. He received a BM at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, where he studied sacred music practices, organ, and choral conducting. He received a Masters of Sacred Music in Choral Conducting from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. He has been the Director of Music at churches in South Carolina and Georgia. Mr. Shepard has performed as an organist in recitals, with the Brevard Philharmonic, and at Brevard College. He is a composer and arranger of hymns, handbells, organ, and choral music.



Vance Yoder, Sub-Dean Vance Yoder, organist at Hendersonville First Baptist, is a retired college president with M.M. and Ph.D. degrees in music from Indiana U. and Ohio State U., respectively, teaching at both while a graduate student. Earlier he has been a college faculty member, dean, and academic V.P., and consultant-evaluator on 35 accreditation teams, chairing 18. He has given recitals in Hendersonville and Brevard, served as chair of the Henderson Co. Library Board and president of two local Rotary clubs. He and his wife, Marilyn, have three married sons and eleven grandchildren.

JC Cicconi, Secretary JC received a BA from Harpur College, SUNY Binghamton, and an MBA in Hospital Administration from Baruch College, CUNY and the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He is a former naval officer, has a private pilot license and is retired from a career in hospital and academic administration. He has held positions as Organist, and Minister of Music in NY churches, and served as the regular organist for several Masonic lodges and Eastern Star chapters. He is a past Dean of the Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He resides in Connestee Falls.



Thomas Bernard, Treasurer After retirement from practicing Orthopedic Surgery, my wife and I moved from Columbus, Georgia to Asheville having always loved Western North Carolina. We both play piano and organ and were long time members of the Columbus AGO where I served as treasurer for over 12 years. As the Blue Ridge AGO treasurer, I look forward to serving our members, and working with the other board officers as we share the common goals of growing our chapter, providing excellent musical and educational meetings and supporting future young organists.

Meet Your 2022 AGO Board

Dr. Charlie W. Steele, Registrar and Member at Large Charlie grew up on a farm in southwestern Virginia and began playing the organ at age 12. He is a graduate of Radford University (BA, MA) and the University of Kentucky (DMA). He served 16 years at First Methodist Church of Brevard, and 17 years at Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian. Charlie retired with fanfare from Brevard-Davidson River in July of 2018, but his love of music and his Christian devotion have led him to fill in occasionally at local churches, including Lake Toxaway UMC. Together with his wife, Patti, who is also a talented musician, he loves to garden in his free time.



Rhonda Furr, Member at Large Rhonda retired with her husband to North Carolina in 2021 after serving more than 30 years as professor of musicology and organ at Houston Baptist University, and 17 years as organist at First Presbyterian Church of Houston. She is a former Dean of the AGO Houston Chapter and was the Convention Coordinator for the 2016 AGO National Convention. Rhonda received her BSEd and MME at Western Carolina University and her DMA at Southern Seminary in Louisville KY. In retirement Rhonda and her husband continue in ministry and enjoy spending time with their four children and eleven grandchildren.

Timothy Wissler, Member at Large Tim retired from the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta, moved to Asheville, joined the Blue Ridge and Asheville AGO chapters and is enjoying meeting and working with church musicians in these beautiful mountains. Tim received a DMA degree from the University of Michigan and served as Dean of the Atlanta Chapter and as a member of the steering committees for two national and one regional convention. For the national AGO office he was a member and chair of the Quimby Regional Competitions for the Young Organist committee. In Atlanta he taught at Mercer University Atlanta and Georgia State University. He enjoys cycling, yoga and playing pickleball with his wife Anne.



David Anderson, Newsletter Editor David is the Cantor (organist and music director) at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Asheville where he leads and encourages the song of the people. Outside of church he may be found playing bridge and cribbage, collecting and using old fountain pens, assailing his neighbors with a 1956 Vega 5-string banjo, and trying to catch trout. A native of Woodstock, NY, he graduated from Concordia College New York with a BA in English, and holds a Certificate in Sacred Music from Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Open Positions



First Presbyterian Church, High Point, NC

Organist and Assistant Director of Music. Half-time, 20 hours per week. Play organ/piano for Sunday services and special services, and aid the Director of Music in musical events in the life of the church. Accompany adult choir rehearsals, and assist in accompanying youth choir as needed. In coordination with the Director of Music, contingent on the organist's skill set, assist in directing at least one of the following: children's choirs, children's chimes, and/or handbell choirs.

Minimum of Bachelor's degree in music. Organ or piano major preferred. Prior experience in church organist/accompanying/directing positions. Strong communications skills and willingness to work in a collegial manner with the Director of Music, clergy, and other staff. Familiarity with Reformed Tradition preferred. Word processing skills required. Familiarity with music software, such as Finale. Annual compensation commensurate with experience: \$25K – \$29K Deadline for application: August 15, 2022

To apply: Please submit a cover letter, résumé, three references, and a video or link to a video recording. You may request to visit the church -- to practice on the organ and view the environs. Finalists will be invited for a live audition. Email submissions and questions to FPCHP.Organist.Search@gmail.com

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Brevard, NC,

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is seeking a part time Music Coordinator to organize, rehearse, and participate in two masses per weekend, one on Saturday afternoon and one on Sunday morning, plus additional holy days. Participation in funerals and weddings will include additional compensation. Compensation will be based on qualifications. Good keyboard skills (piano a must, organ a plus) and the ability to effectively engage a variety of groups in music ministry are necessary. Knowledge of Catholic liturgy is preferred. Please submit a resume and cover letter to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 150 Brian Berg Lane, Brevard, NC, 28712, or to Jenni@sacredheartnc.org.

St. Timothy United Methodist Church, Brevard, NC

St. Timothy UMC is searching for a part time director of music. He/she will provide piano and, if possible, organ accompaniment, lead the choir for the 10:55 worship service on Sundays, plan with the pastor for upcoming services, and offer music for funerals. The minister of music will maintain music files, purchase new music, and lead the choir in all sung music. This person will secure a substitute when absent and meet with the pastor once a month to explore worship plans. Choir practice will be held weekly along with a short rehearsal on Sunday mornings before church. Please contact Andrew Crimmins at andrew@sttimothy-brevard.org to discuss salary and other details. We would love to explore the possibility of your working at St. Timothy.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Brevard, NC

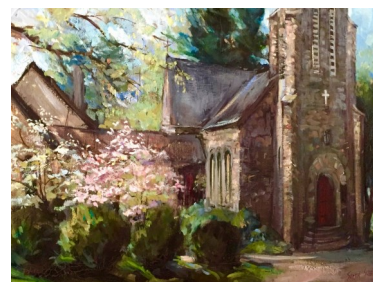
St. Philip's Episcopal Church is seeking a Director of Music Ministry to serve as Organist, Choir Director, and Nurturer of volunteer parish musical groups. We are open to different configurations of the position, so please apply even if you are not an organist but have experience directing a music ministry and working with organ accompanists. This is part time, salaried position.

The Director of Ministry will be adept at employing music in liturgy. Important to the position is an expertise in the literature of organ and choral music and the ability to learn and to teach church music of various styles from the Anglican tradition and beyond.

We seek a creative and professional musician with inclusive tastes and a passion for encouraging active participation in the liturgical life of the congregation.

The full job description is found at stphilipsbrevardnc.org

Please send inquiries/resumes to: musicdirectorstphilips@gmail.com



Year in Review

2021 saw the return to somewhat more normal programming for the Blue Ridge AGO as pandemic-related restrictions began to ease. On September 18 we gathered for a **Fellowship Breakfast** and some brief business at **Hendersonville Presbyterian Church**. After the meeting we heard the organ (Reuter opus 2187) played by a few chapter members.

2021 was the Year of the Young Organist, and on November 7 we hosted a well-attended **Young Artist Program** at **Grace Lutheran Church**. Nolan Anthony, Hunter Holbert, Makena James, and Brett Levi presented a varied and interesting program of organ and violin music, including works by Schumann, Vivaldi, Bach, Bossi, and more. Each performer was presented with an honorarium to help with the purchase of new music.



Our annual Epiphany Party was rescheduled to be a **Mardi Gras Party** on February 26, at the home of Daniel Angerstein and Jerry Schultz on Stoney Mountain. We enjoyed snacks, fellowship, and Daniel & Jerry's beautiful home and instruments.



Chapter member Charlie Steele worked very hard to arrange an **Organ Crawl in Asheville** for members and friends on March 26. We visited Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (three-manual Schantz with Walker digital additions), St. Mary's Episcopal Church (two-manual J. W. Walker and Son), St. Mark's Lutheran Church, (two-manual mechanical by Martin Ott), Central United Methodist Church (three-manual Schantz), and First Presbyterian Church (three-manual Holtkamp, one of the newest organs in Asheville). Those who attended were provided ample time to play each instrument, and to hear from the musicians who regularly play them.

2021/2022 concluded with a **Members Recital** on May 3 at St. John in the Wilderness, where we heard a three-manual Wicks that has recently been refurbished by Dan Angerstein, who was in attendance. Chapter members gathered at 5:45 pm for a catered dinner at 6:00pm with a short business meeting. The recital began at 7:15pm; recitalists included Rhonda Furr, Brad Gee, Howard Bakken, Makena James, and Vance Reese. They played works by Widor, Florence Price, Zsolt Gardonyi, Arthur Foote, and a few of their own compositions to a large and appreciative audience of members and guests from the community.



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Raleigh Ringers: Free Workshop and Concert, September 10

7:00 pm concert at Lees-McRae College will be preceded by a workshop from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. at Banner Elk Presbyterian Church. Both the concert and the workshop are free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted. For more information, contact Janet Speer at SpeerJ@lmc.edu or 828.898.5943 or the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church office at office@bannerelkpresbyterian.org or 828.898.5406.

Something for Everyone

The AGO has a wide variety of virtual programs available to view online. Where else can you see: organ crawls at West Point and Wanamaker's; a panel discussion on organists of color; a workshop on technology and church music; a Taylor & Boody factory tour; a young organist's recital; and more?

Visit youtube.com/user/guildoforganists to watch this treasure trove of programming from the comfort of your own home today!

Read All About It!

“Yes, I know!” we hear you cry. “The Blue Ridge AGO will list my upcoming events in their newsletter, website, and on Facebook, all for the low, low price of free!” But why should you bother sending us your concerts, community events, items for sale, or job openings? For one, **you never know** how our editorial department will see fit to edit them — who knows, you may be playing a whole lot more Reger than you planned at your next recital! Another excellent reason is that our website continues to see increased visitor traffic: in **July '22 alone**, we received over **370 unique views!** So stop procrastinating and send your “hautbois wanted” ad to the editorial department today: cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

Know Your Value!

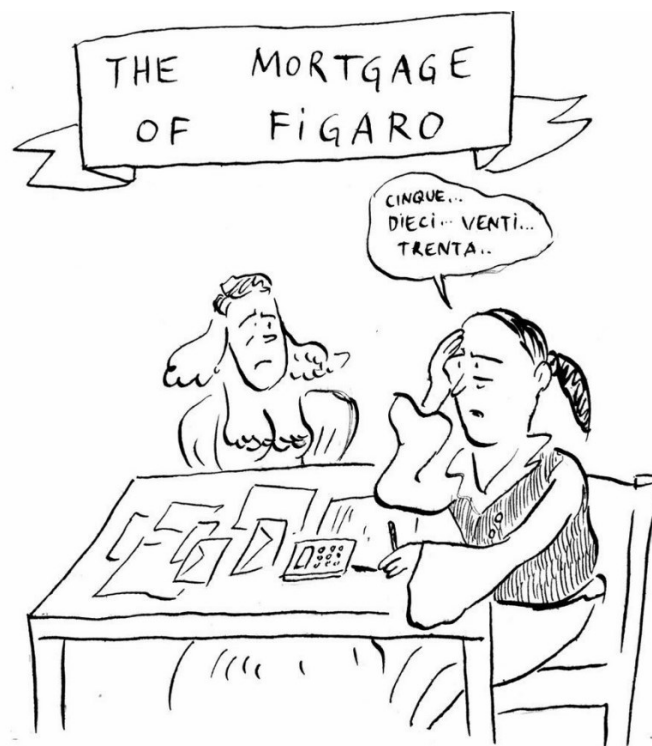
The Association of Church Musicians and American Guild of Organists have cooperated in developing a new booklet “Employing Musicians in Religious Organizations.” Please visit www.agohq.org/employment-handbook/ to download this resource, and to watch a moderated panel discussion.

R U Due?

Please visit www.agohq.org to check on the status of your membership, or contact chapter registrar Charlie Steele at cwsorgan@comporium.net

Year of the Young Organist

AGO Chief Membership Officer Elizabeth George reports that as of mid-June, we have recruited 1,077 new young members and processed 483 renewals! This national initiative was launched in July of 2021, with the goal to recruit 1,000 new young organists. Take a look at the August 2022 issue of “The American Organist” (page 10) for more information about the program, and how they managed to exceed their goals!



The New Oxford Organ Method

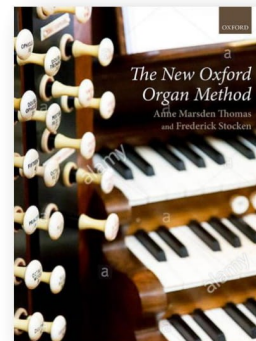
Anne Marsden Thomas and Frederick Stocken

- A comprehensive method book for organ, providing a complete syllabus for learning
- For players of any age and with basic keyboard ability (approx. ABRSM Grade 2)
- Can be used as a self-tutor or material for teaching
- Concise explanatory text for greater understanding
- Pieces cover a range of styles and include works by J. S. Bach, Buxtehude, Franck, Reger, and Walton

The New Oxford Organ Method is the latest title in OUP's educational suite of titles for organ. A single piece of repertoire is the primary focus for each chapter, with preparatory exercises providing the necessary technical work building towards the piece. Each lesson covers four main topics, which are systematically developed: practice methods, registration, fingering and pedalling, and historically-informed interpretation. The method is for keyboard players of any age who are establishing first steps at the organ with or without a teacher. It will also serve more experienced organists who want to improve their technique.

Anne Marsden Thomas is one of the most influential organ teachers of today, and has wide experience as a concert and church organist. She has written or edited over twenty books for organists. In 2015 she was awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours, and, in 2017, was the first woman to receive the Royal College of Organists highest decoration, the RCO Medal.

Dr Frederick Stocken is a widely-commissioned and performed composer, whose recorded and broadcast music ranges from organ and choral pieces to orchestral works. His publications include not only compositions, but also musicological writing and keyboard tutors. He is a cathedral organist, and a distinguished teacher of organ, music theory, and musicianship at all levels.



\$25.50

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Blue Ridge AGO Chapter

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Founded
August 15, 2013

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Vance Yoder
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JC Cicconi
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About Us

Our mission is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this, we encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors; provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support; nurture future generations of organists; promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

Area Organs

First Presbyterian Church, Asheville · Holtkamp Opus 2110 (2014)



57 ranks. 3,380 pipes. 5 divisions. 3 manuals. 44 stops. 65 registers. Incorporates pipework from the church's 1890 Roosevelt and 1951 Aeolian-Skinner organs, and 1984 Casavant-Frères antiphonal organ

