

American Guild of Organists Blue Ridge Chapter

December 2024

www.blueridgeago.org



Let Them Eat King Cake

Christmas and Epiphany Organ Favorites

Sunday, January 12 · 3:00pm
St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Arden NC

After the mad rush of December is a mere memory, join your Blue Ridge AGO friends and colleagues on January 12 as we share some organ music and social time! Members will play some favorite organ music from the past season, and we'll enjoy an **authentic New Orleans King Cake** and social time together. All are welcome to attend this event!



How to Inspire Congregational Singing

Introductions, Improvisations, Interludes,
Modulations, Reharmonizations with Dr. Rhonda Furr

February 8, 11:00 am · First United Methodist Church, Waynesville NC



Join us for an opportunity to play FUMC's 50-rank Casavant Pipe Organ at the service playing program given by Rhonda Furr. If your schedule allows, join other organists for lunch (dutch) downtown Waynesville after the program.

This program will include practical ideas for enhancing your hymn playing. These ideas have been developed over five decades of service playing, teaching, workshops, tips from others, untold hours of experimentation, and trial and error during worship. It includes old standards, bending the rules, and yes – sometimes breaking the rules! Join us for this fun program.

You are invited (but not obligated) to bring a favorite hymn intro, improvisation, interlude and/or modulation to play. (One stanza only due to time.) If you'd like to set up pistons in advance, plan to arrive early and let Rhonda know (rhondafurr@gmail.com or 281-961-8195).



Benjamin Britten's

A Ceremony of Carols

The Feast of St. John, December 27 at 7:00pm

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
337 Charlotte Street · Asheville, NC

The Choir of St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Daniel Gainey, director · Jessica Meltz, harp

Free and open to the public · Champagne reception to follow



Grace Lutheran Church, Hendersonville
December 6 and 7 at 6:30pm
December 8 at 1:00

Written and directed by Blue Ridge AGO member Burton Bumgarner, this musical is set in a small southern town in 1939. It is a feel-good comedy with a joyful Christmas message. At the height of the Great Depression a small, southern mill town is facing economic hardships and social challenges. There is a history of tension between the labor force that works at the mill and the regular citizens, and the school building is in a state of deterioration. At a town hall meeting the citizens learn that the recently departed town recluse has left enough funds for the construction of a new school building with stipulations: the new school must be named for her late mother, the town must have an outdoor Christmas pageant with live animals, and they must invite ALL of the children in town to participate. At first there is hesitation, but once the festivities begin three visitors open citizens' hearts to the importance of kindness and to the real meaning of family.



Brevard College Music presents

Lessons and Carols Service

Saturday, December 7
7:30pm

Scott Concert Hall
Porter Center for Performing Arts

This performance is free and open to the public



THE BEULAH MCMINN ZACHARY
ORGAN FOUNDATION PRESENTS

*Christmas Organ
Recital Series*

FRIDAYS at 12:30PM

December 6, Sharon Carlton Boone
December 13, Tim Shepard
December 20, Vance Reece

All are welcome!

Come and enjoy seasonal music
played on our beautiful Schantz organ.

Free admission.

Donations to the organ fund are gratefully accepted.
Parking available in the Caldwell Street Lot.

First United Methodist Church
325 N. Broad St., Brevard, NC





Tuesday, December 3, 12:00 p.m.

Transylvania Library, Brevard, NC

Thursday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Carolina Village, Hendersonville, NC**

Sunday, December 8, 4:00 p.m.

Lutheran Church of the Nativity, Arden, NC

Monday, December 9, 4:00 p.m.

Deerfield Retirement Community, Asheville, NC**

Thursday, December 12, 4:00 p.m.

Pack Library, Downtown Asheville, NC

Monday, December 16, 3:30 p.m.

Tryon Estates, Columbus, NC**

** This concert is at a senior facility. Check with them to see if they are allowing visitors.

CONTACT US

For information, or to arrange an appearance by the Blue Ridge Ringers, contact: theblueridgeringers@gmail.com, or call Donnie Halter, 828-577-1297. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/theblueridgeringers. Our concerts are FREE, but donations are gratefully accepted. The Blue Ridge Ringers is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

From Vance Reese:

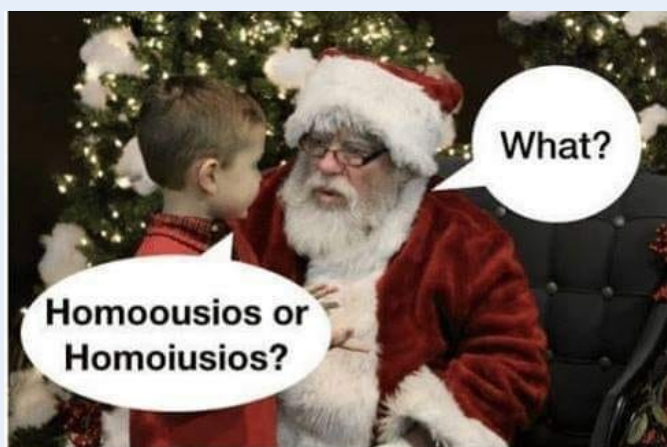
Hello, Fellow Blue Ridge AGO members --

I recently inherited a friend's (Len Bobo's) LARGE (2700-piece) collection of organ music. The catalog is linked here: <https://tinyurl.com/49cchp2p>

I have contacted my students and colleagues at Brevard College, and they (and I) have selected pieces to keep. What is now gone from the catalog is music by Messiaen and any composer with a last name beginning with W-Z (except Gordon Young).

Now that they and I have rifled through the collection, I'd like to make it available to you. Look the catalog over, and feel free to contact me directly (reesev@brevard.edu) if you see something you'd like. I will save your selected piece(s) for you. Alternatively, if you'd like to "shop," all the music is in my office at Brevard College in numerical order. Come during office hours or by arrangement with me. What the catalog doesn't include are a rather sizable stack of sacred and not-necessarily-sacred art songs, and other vocal things.

I'll humbly request a donation of funds (your choice about the \$ amount) to Friends of the Fine Arts, Brevard College in return for any music you select.



SacredMusicDownloads.com



Handbell, Choral, Keyboard music
for music ministries

By Timothy Shepard

A Christmas Fantasia

Snow flakes faintly falling as carolers sing Distler motets in the narrow cobblestone streets. Candlelight flickering in the frosty windows. The harmonium groans with beloved carols of yore; a peacock pie perches proudly on the table while the vicar ignites a ponderous, plump pudding and the precentor bedecks the *en chamade* with a gay garland; what could make this resplendent, effulgent Yuletide scene complete?

That's right: a copy of the newest **Blue Ridge AGO Newsletter under the tree with your next event** in its effulgent pages! There's no better time than now to send your concerts, community announcements, position descriptions, and sugarplum-wanted ads to the editorial department: cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

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ILLUMINARE

A Celebration of Christmas Light

Transylvania Choral Society and
Brevard College Chamber Singers

Dr. David Gresham, Artistic Director

Illuminare - Elaine Hagenberg

Christmas Oratorio - J. S. Bach

Alleluia - Elaine Hagenberg

December 12, 2024

7:30pm

Scott Concert Hall

The Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts

Organ Festival & Competition

The Piedmont NC AGO Chapter looks forward to continuing to support UNC School of the Arts's Middle School/High School Organ Festival & Competition January 31-February 2, 2025. It is always thrilling to see the level of talent and dedication these students have, and to see them have such a wonderful time together while in Winston-Salem, NC. Participants will take part in workshops and masterclasses (including building an Orgelkids kit!), attend recitals by university students and faculty, as well as compete amongst their peers. The competition has two levels – Intermediate and Advanced; the competitors choose the most appropriate level for themselves. Festival website: <https://www.uncsa.edu/music/events/organ-festival.aspx>

Timothy Olsen, dean, Piedmont NC Chapter
olsent@uncsa.edu 405.535.8124

Open Positions



Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church, worshipping in a simple Gothic-Revival style frame building dating from 1912, is seeking an interim and/or permanent organist. The congregation meets each Sunday at 10am. There is no choir so the organist's only responsibility is selecting hymns for the week and playing during the service, with an optional prelude and postlude of his/her choosing. There are a few weddings and funerals each year. The church's organ is a 2 Manual Allen Digital organ, less than 10 years old and in excellent condition. It also has a system to utilize additional stops beyond the regular stop list. The church also has a similarly aged high end Roland electric piano, also in excellent condition. Please

contact Stephen Wood, the church's Parish-Staff Committee Chair (swwood50@gmail.com) for further information or to express interest in exploring this opportunity.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hickory NC

Director of Worship and Music Ministry, Full-time with benefits The Director of Worship and Music Ministry will assist in worship and provide worship music through the HTLC vocal choirs and instrumental ensembles. As a member of the staff of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church with specific responsibilities in the area of church music, the Director of Worship and Music Ministry will coordinate with the Pastor(s) and the Worship and Music Ministry Team in the planning and implementation of the liturgical and other special worship services in accordance with Lutheran tradition and practices. Primary Duties: Work with the pastor(s) to plan and coordinate worship services. Coordinate the use of liturgical resources, choose liturgical music and prayers, select hymnody, and create bulletin templates/written drafts of worship for editing and publication. Select music appropriate liturgically for Lutheran worship and musically suitable for the choirs. Provide choir anthems, vocal or instrumental ensembles, or solos for all regular worship services. Obtain copyright permission for all hymns, anthems, liturgy, prayers, etc. for use in worship and livestream. Develop and Direct vocal choirs for adults, youth, and children. Coordinate all music ministries for children, youth, and adults including recruitment of leaders. Supervise the Director of Handbells and Instrumental Music. Serve as pianist for the 8:30 a.m. Sunday service. Communicate and promote Music Ministries by disseminating information in various communication formats, and in coordination with other music staff. Participate with other staff in weekly staff meetings. Work with other music staff to strengthen youth participation in Education Ministry, Youth Ministry, Worship, and Music Ministries. Manage funds allocated for music and worship. Plan and coordinate annual budget requests. Supervise music expenses. Coordinate maintenance of all musical instruments, with the exception of the church organs. Meet with Worship and Music Ministry as an ex officio member (with voice and vote). www.htlchickory.org/

Skyland United Methodist Church, Arden NC

Organ and Piano Accompanist

Position Summary: We are seeking a part-time skilled organist and piano accompanist to join our worship staff. This position will support our worship services through music, providing accompaniment for congregational singing, choir performances, and other special musical performances.

Primary Duties: Provide accompaniment by playing the organ and/or piano to accompany congregational hymns, choir anthems, soloists, and other musicians during worship services. Select appropriate musical pieces in collaboration with the music director or worship leader and prepare adequately for services. Availability to attend rehearsals and services, which may include evenings, weekends, and holidays. Actively participate in rehearsals with the choir, soloists, and other musicians as needed. Provide music for special services including holidays and other church services upon request. Collaborate with the music director, worship team, and other musicians to enhance the overall musical experience during worship. Provide or assist in arranging accompaniment for funerals, memorial services, and weddings on organ/piano as needed. For more information, contact Erin Brady, SPR Chair: erinRbrady@gmail.com or 828-808-5324

SKYLAND
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LOVE • GROW • SERVE

**St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Candler NC**

Director of Music Ministry. The Director of Music Ministry will inspire musical participation by the congregation during Roman Catholic liturgical worship through the appropriate selection of music and the proper training and direction of choir, cantors, and instrumentalists. Part time position requiring 8-12 hours each week. More hours may be required during certain Liturgical seasons. **Responsibilities:** Ensure that the musical presentation at Mass and other events is of a sufficient quality to inspire robust participation

by the congregation and enhances their worship experience.

First Baptist Church, Forest City NC

First Baptist Church of Forest City is looking for an organist and/or pianist for Wednesday evening rehearsal and Sunday morning worship. The salary is \$250 to \$400 a week depending on responsibilities and experience. There is also the possibility of an internship for a young accompanist interested in church music as a career. Contact: Diane Nelson; Minister of Music, First Baptist Church Forest City NC.; 828-447-6709

**Fletcher United Methodist, Fletcher, NC**

Fletcher United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Organist/Pianist. Under the direction of the Director of Music and the Pastor, this person is responsible for the planning and participation of organ and piano music in support of the worship services and programs of the church. He/she ensures that the music is presented in a manner that preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provides glory to God, and inspires holy worship at all worship services. The Organist/Pianist will accompany rehearsals of the Chancel Choir one weekday evening per week (from early September through early June) and provide a year-round musical component for both Sunday worship services (8:30 and 11:00), as well as special worship services throughout the year (i.e. Good Friday, Christmas Eve, etc.) Occasional assistance may also be needed for our Anticipate Ancient-Modern services, which occur on

Wednesday evenings during Advent and Lent. A degree in organ and previous church-related music experience is preferred. For more information, email Blaine Russell, Director of Music: [blaine \(at\) fletcherumc.org](mailto:blaine@fletcherumc.org)

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, Clyde NC**

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Clyde, NC is looking for a part-time organist to play one or two Sundays per month, as well as special services throughout the year (Good Friday, Christmas, etc). OSLC is a small congregation with a traditional, liturgical worship service. We only need someone to play for the church service, no choir or other duties are needed. We are happy to work with various skill levels, whether a young student looking to grow as an organist, a retired organist still interested in playing occasionally, or anything in between! Compensation is per

service, and will be based on experience. For more information please contact: office@oursaviorlutherannc.com or (828) 456-6493.

St. John's Church, Marion NC**Organist/Church Musician (Part Time)**

Church musician will provide music and musical leadership at the regular Sunday services of the Parish, and for Holy Week, Christmas, and additional services. Musician will assist the Rector in the selection of hymns, anthems, and service music. Provide music for other occasions as requested. The ideal candidate will provide direction for a seasonal choir, handbells and other musical groups as needed and work to develop, and encourage, small

ensembles, soloists and other talented musicians within the congregation.

St. John's has a 2007, three manual Rodgers Allegiant digital organ.

Qualifications: Knowledge of church music and organ repertoire for church services. Experience within the Episcopal/Anglican tradition preferred or willingness to learn. Proficiency in organ and piano. Experience directing a choir or ensemble (ideal) Self-motivated with a collegial style of leadership

Part time salaried position requiring an average of 9-12 hours per week. Additional hours required for special services. Salary is \$805 per month (\$10,200 per year) 4 Sundays off per year \$250 towards continuing education per year. To apply send cover letter and resume via email to Rev. Erin Kirby,

[stjohnsmarionclergy \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmarionclergy@gmail.com), or as a hardcopy to St. John's Church, Attention Rev. Kirby, P.O. Box 968, Marion, NC 28752. Position open until filled

**St. Mary's and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Morganton NC**

St. Mary's-St. Stephen's is seeking a part-time pianist/organist. The position involves primarily playing the music for the 10:30 am Sunday Service. This role requires proficiency at either organ or piano or both, time spent in private rehearsal, and some administrative tasks are anticipated, along with occasional special liturgies, including but not limited to Christmas and Easter. Compensation is per service and will be based on experience. More information can be found on the church website www.stmarysandststephens.org. Interested musicians, please contact Fr. Logan, at rev.loganlovelace@gmail.com or (828) 475-2353.



Blue Ridge AGO Chapter

www.blueridgeago.org

Founded
August 15, 2013

OFFICERS

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Thomas Bernard
Treasurer and Sub Dean

JC Cecconi
Secretary

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Tim Shepard
Past Dean and Registrar

David Anderson
Newsletter Editor

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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 United Methodist Church, Waynesville NC
Casavant Frères Opus 3774, 1998 · 50 ranks, 3 manuals

