

American Guild of Organists

# Blue Ridge Chapter

February 2024

[www.blueridgeago.org](http://www.blueridgeago.org)



**Calling All Singers!**  
*New Music · Old Favorites · Free and Open to the Public*

## Choral Reading Session

Led by Mr. Frank Boles

**February 24, 2024 · 11:00 am**

Grace Lutheran Church,  
1245 6th Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC

Hosted by the Blue Ridge Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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## Coming Attractions

### **The Theology of Bach with Dr. Becket Soule**

April 14 · St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Arden · 3:00pm

The Rev. Dr. W. Becket Soule, OP Becket Soule has taught classical languages, law, theology, and history at The Catholic University of America, the Dominican House of Studies (Washington, DC), the Pontifical College Josephinum (Columbus, OH), and Oxford University, and is currently Emeritus Professor of Canon Law at St Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario (Canada). He has been visiting lecturer and fellow at institutions of higher studies in the United States, Great Britain, and the Ukraine; Becket has also served as pastor of parishes in Texas, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and England. He is now pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Maggie Valley, NC.

### **Annual Meeting and Organ Recital featuring Dr. Marilyn Keiser**

May 16 · St. James Episcopal Church, Hendersonville · 6:00pm, 7:30pm recital

Dr. Marilyn Keiser is Chancellor's Professor of Music Emeritus at Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington, where she taught for 25 years. Prior to her appointment at Indiana University, Dr. Keiser was Organist and Director of Music at All Souls Parish in Asheville, North Carolina and Music Consultant for the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina.

## www.SacredMusicDownloads.com

Past Dean Tim Shepard is reviving his sacred music website after 15 years of neglect and invites you to check out [www.SacredMusicDownloads.com](http://www.SacredMusicDownloads.com). On it you will find music for handbells, organ / piano, and choir. There are also a couple of original hymns, and a music setting for the Great Thanksgiving. These are arrangements and anthems by Tim from many years of music ministry. It is a work again in progress. Look for an expanded roster of composers in the future.



“Sacred Head” is an original organ composition perfect for Holy Week. You will hear the minimalistic influence of Phillip Glass where the tune “O sacred head now wounded” in the pedal guides the structure of the piece. [http://sacredmusicdownloads.com/Catalog/Productdisplay.asp?item\\_number=AC-OR001](http://sacredmusicdownloads.com/Catalog/Productdisplay.asp?item_number=AC-OR001)

Check out the AzaleaCircle Hymn Collections for some easy, practical, colorful arrangements for handbells that work great. Hymn Collection #4 for bells is specifically for Lent: [http://sacredmusicdownloads.com/Catalog/productdisplay.asp?item\\_number=AC-HB028](http://sacredmusicdownloads.com/Catalog/productdisplay.asp?item_number=AC-HB028).

## Organ & Piano Recital



The Weaverville Music Study Club presents an Organ and Piano Recital featuring great hymns of the church and classical selections. Kevin Bryant, piano; Joel Matthews, organ. Friday, February 9 at 7:00pm. First Baptist Church, 63 North Main Street, Weaverville NC. Offering to benefit the North Buncombe Music Scholarship.

## Academy of St Martin in the Fields Wind Ensemble + Piano

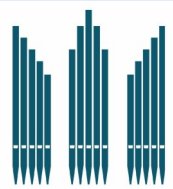
February 11, 4:00pm · Central United Methodist Church of Asheville

Works by Poulenc, Molbe, Francaix, and Mozart. \$45, Tickets at: <https://www.ashevillechambermusic.org>

## Candlelight Lenten Evensong

Candlelight Lenten Evensong by Trinity's Chancel Choir. The choir will sing a traditional Evensong with music by Stanley, Trotta and Shepard. Trinity Episcopal Church, February 25 at 5:30pm 60 Church St., Asheville.

## What will you play on Woman Composer Sunday?



WOMAN  
COMPOSER  
SUNDAY

The AGO will once again observe Woman Composer Sunday on Sunday, March 10, 2024. Members are encouraged to include music by women composers in their services and other performances on that day.

If you're not sure what you might play or are seeking new repertoire, the AGO Task Force on Gender Equity arranged for three works by women composers to be reprinted in The American Organist magazine: Largo, 1857, by Elizabeth Stirling (Jan.); Children of the Heavenly Father, 1964, by Roberta Bitgood (Feb.); and Let Us Break Bread Together, 2020, by Martha Sobaje (March). The Task Force will also present a webinar on Monday, Feb. 12 that will highlight further repertoire and explore the legacy of the AGO's first female president, Dr. Roberta Bitgood (1975-81). Visit <https://www.agohq.org/task-force-gender-equity/> to sign up for the Task Force's monthly email newsletter.



# JULY 7-12, 2024

## FOR ADULTS

Arden, N.C.

*Hands-on learning & daily creative worship experiences with nationally renowned clinicians.*

- Adult Choir
- Organ Workshops
- Handbell Choirs
- HymnFest Choir
- Reading Sessions
- Hymn Festival

*Organ*

*Adult Choral*

*Handbells*

*Chaplain*



**CATHERINE  
RODLAND**

**ST. OLAF  
COLLEGE**



**ZEB  
HIGHBEN**

**DUKE  
UNIVERSITY  
CHAPEL**



**MICHAEL  
HELMAN**

**BREVARD-  
DAVIDSON RIVER  
PRESBYTERIAN**



**REV. AMANDA  
HIGHBEN**

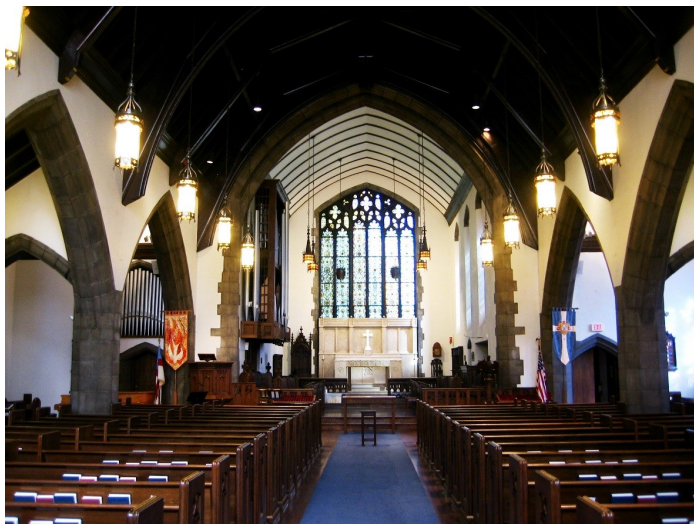
**DUKE  
UNIVERSITY  
LUTHERANS**

**LUTHERIDGE.ORG/ADULT-MUSIC-WEEK**

## Open Positions

### Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville NC

Trinity Episcopal seeks a highly skilled and experienced church musician to lead our large downtown parish's music program beginning August 1, 2024. We seek a leader who will pursue the highest standards within the Anglican choral tradition and organ playing as our primary organist and choir director for Sunday services. We also seek a collaborator to help us nurture music-making beyond the Anglican tradition. Our next Music Director will effectively manage the church's significant investment in music, supervise a team of staff musicians, and care for our fully restored Austin pipe organ and other instruments. We seek a talented colleague who will bring energy and passion to their work here and further develop our vision for music at Trinity.



Review of applications begins January 24, 2024. To receive full consideration, please submit:

- A pdf containing your Cover Letter and CV/resume to [musicsearch@trinityasheville.org](mailto:musicsearch@trinityasheville.org).
- URL links to videos of you conducting two contrasting anthems for SATB choir
- Samples of your organ playing (two pieces, suitable for opening and closing voluntaries), two hymns from The Hymnal 1982, and a short improvisation leading into the Old 100th.

The deadline for applications is March 1, 2024. Applicants are also welcome to contact the search committee chair with any questions at [musicsearch@trinityasheville.org](mailto:musicsearch@trinityasheville.org). A full position description and application instructions are available at <https://www.trinityasheville.org/music-director-applicants>.

Learn more about Trinity at [trinityasheville.org](http://trinityasheville.org)

**The Carolina Lakes Choral Society** of Sun City (Indian Land, SC) is seeking a new Artistic Director to lead the ensemble through the second half of the 2024 season and beyond. The group is a voluntary chorus made up of 50 -70 singers who are residents of the Sun City community. The group sings four-part music "from Bach to Broadway" with an emphasis on more contemporary selections. Novelty numbers frequently add to the fun at performances. Two concerts are presented each year, Spring and Fall. Each concert is a series of three performances held on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Rehearsals are held during the day. The Artistic Director is assisted by a professional accompanist at all rehearsals and at performances. The Artistic Director will have primary responsibility for selecting the theme of each concert. The primary requirement for the Director position is a love of choral music and the ability to conduct a group of volunteer singers who share that love of singing. While degrees in conducting and/or choral music are desirable, and experience is definitely a plus, the determining factor shall be the perceived ability and commitment to enhance the love of singing and to form the ensemble into an ever more professional sounding group. Revenues in support of the Choral Society are derived entirely from ticket revenues and member fees (to a small extent). Modest compensation for the position can be discussed. This is a perfect opportunity to supplement on-going studies or to serve the community by keeping a now 15-year tradition alive and well.

For further discussion, please contact: Joe Silien, President: [andijoe@comporium.net](mailto:andijoe@comporium.net), Kent Newcomb, Vice President: [cknewcomb@att.net](mailto:cknewcomb@att.net)

**First Presbyterian Church, Newton NC  
Director of Music staff position (Part-time)**

First Presbyterian Church of Newton, NC ([www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)) is seeking a part-time Director of Music. Our active congregation of 320 members has a deep and long-standing love for what music brings to our worship, and we appreciate the same diversity of musical styles that we see represented in the diversity of Christ's church. The Director of Music position will require 15 – 18 hours weekly with a salary commensurate with training and experience. This staff position works alongside the minister to plan thematic worship services that incorporate appropriate and varied music through both choral and instrumental participation. He/she is responsible for the directing of the chancel choir that participates weekly in worship, and the handbell ensemble that participates quarterly or more either together or as a few members for special accompaniments. Also, he/she is responsible for administrative parts of the job such as copyright compliance for livestream services and bulletins, staff representative on some committees, maintenance of the church organs and pianos, and supervisor of and support to our staff organist/pianist/accompanist.

**Organist/Pianist/Accompanist staff position (Part-time)**

First Presbyterian Church of Newton, NC ([www.fpcnewton.org](http://www.fpcnewton.org)) is seeking a part-time Organist/Pianist/Accompanist position requires 10 – 12 hours weekly with a salary commensurate with training and experience. This staff person supports the Director of Music in the church music ministry. He/she serves as accompanist to the Chancel Choir in weekly rehearsals and worship services. He/she also accompanies soloist, duets, and instrumentalists who are participating in worship services. He/she will prepare liturgically appropriate music for the worship services to share as preludes, voluntaries, offertories and postludes. Our church organ is a Casavant Frères, Opus 3806, with three manual console and 47 ranks. Our sanctuary grand piano is a Yamaha C6X – 7ft. with polished Ebony finish.

To apply for either of these positions, please send a resume, references and contact information to  
First Presbyterian Church: Organist Search Committee  
701 N. Main Ave, Newton, NC 28658  
[kberry@fpcnewton.com](mailto:kberry@fpcnewton.com)

A full job description can be requested from the church office.



**Warren Wilson Presbyterian** is seeking a part time Director of Music Ministry to lead our music program as we continue to grow and prayerfully follow where God is leading us. We are a casual, warm, and friendly congregation, who values the Sacred worth and dignity of each person. We are an open and affirming congregation, committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. As Director of Music Ministry, you will be responsible for leading our choir and providing musical accompaniment on organ and/or piano for our worship services. You will be essential, incorporating your own gifts and creativity. This position is for 16 hours per week, with a salary of \$20,157 - \$21,657 including paid vacation and sick leave.

Applications are being accepted now. A job description is posted on our website: [warrenwilsonchurch.org](http://warrenwilsonchurch.org)  
Interested applicants please submit a CV, or resume, and three references to: [info \(at\) warrenwilsonchurch.org](mailto:info@warrenwilsonchurch.org)

**Fletcher United Methodist Church, Fletcher NC** 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)

**First Baptist Church, Weaverville, NC** is seeking a part-time organist. Qualifications: be a person feeling called by God and showing a love for Church music. 4 year college music degree preferred. Experience at the keyboard to help guide the church in worship. Comfortable with a wide variety of musical styles, possess good interpersonal skills. Duties: In cooperation with the Minister of Music, Pastor and the Music committee, be responsible for providing music for and accompanying choirs in all the regular services of the church (currently Sunday AM), special services and funerals (as schedule allows). Accompany the Adult Choir rehearsals (currently Wednesday evenings) and other Choirs as needed. Assist the Minister of Music and others in places of responsibility to carry out the ministry of the church. Advise and work with the Minister of Music on instrument maintenance: tunings and repairs. Benefits: Receive 2 Wednesdays and 2 Sundays paid vacation after the first six months of employment. Be allowed to attend conventions, conferences, and music meetings as the budget allows. Receive a salary and benefit review annually. Typical considerations will include cost of living, job performance, years of service. (Currently position - \$250 weekly approx. 15-20 hrs a week) Be treated with love and respect in keeping with the high calling as a minister of God in this chosen field. Further information about our church can be discovered at the website: [www.fbcwvl.org/](http://www.fbcwvl.org/) Please send inquires and/or resumes to position (at) [fbcwvl.org](mailto:fbcwvl.org), (828) 645-6720

#### **Montmorenci United Methodist Church, Candler NC**

Montmorenci UMC is seeking a part-time Music Director/Organist for our church in Candler, NC. We are a loving congregation nestled in the mountains west of Asheville. We are known for our warm and inclusive spirit, where everyone is treated like family! The position is 8-10 hours a week with a salary of 12,000. Benefits include 2 weeks paid vacation. Primary job responsibilities include selection of music, Sunday morning worship, adult choir rehearsals, and special services. A more detailed description of duties can be obtained by contacting us. We have a three manual Johannus. If you have a passion for traditional music with a few twists, a heart for service, and a desire to be part of a warm and caring church family, we invite you to apply for this position. Inquires and resumes can be sent to Glenda Patterson at [allie100 \(at\) currently.com](mailto:allie100@currently.com)

#### **First Baptist Church, Burnsville, NC,**

First Baptist Church, affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, is looking to fill the part-time position of "Pianist". FBC Burnsville appreciates a blended music program that includes choral, hand bell, brass, small ensemble, and solo work. More information about First Baptist can be found on Facebook, [FBCBurnsville](https://www.facebook.com/FBCBurnsville), or our web site: [fcburnsville.com](http://fcburnsville.com). Applicants should email a resume to: [fcburnsville \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:fcburnsville@gmail.com). Applications accepted until position is filled. Salary commensurate with experience. Call 828-682-2288 for more information.

#### **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 re-

quested. 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, stjohmsmarionclergy@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

### **Black Mountain Presbyterian, Black Mountain NC**

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, a vibrant and progressive community of faith in Black Mountain, NC, is seeking a classically trained organist. This individual would support worship services that elevate the rich heritage of sacred choral and organ music found in the Presbyterian (PCUSA) liturgy. The organist will serve an integral part-time role, joining an energetic and collegial staff. The Organist will report to the Director of Music and assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive music ministry plan congruent with the vision and mission of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. Bachelor's degree in music or related field preferred (equivalent experience will be considered). Since this is a part-time position, benefits are not included. Salary is negotiable and will be dependent upon experience level. For more information about Black Mountain Presbyterian Church: [bmpcnc.org](http://bmpcnc.org) Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Aaron Price, Director of Music and Worship Arts, at "aaron (@) bmpcnc.org". Candidates are encouraged to include links to audio and/or video recordings of past performances. For more information, contact Aaron Price at 828-669-2725.

### **Lutheran Chapel Church, Gastonia NC**

Lutheran Chapel Church seeks an Organist/Assistant to the Director of Music. Position Objective: To coordinate and assist with the music programs primarily through accompaniment on the organ and piano while reflecting the church mission and theology. Part-time position, 4-5 hours/week average. Salary Range: \$10,400 - \$13,400 Responsibilities: Collaborate with the Pastor, Director of Music and Worship and Music committee in preparation for worship services and any special music requests. Enthusiastically accompany and assist with Music Ministry programs that facilitate cross-generational spiritual growth and enhance the worship experience. Be an active participant in weekly and seasonal worship services. Provide accompaniment for funerals as needed and as available. Necessary Qualifications: Must love music! Highly skilled accompanist. Proficient in most styles of playing piano. Proficient organist preferred, but not required. Must have a desire to learn. Competent music director. Experience working with children. Bachelors or Associate degree in music or equivalent training/work experience. If you are interested in applying for this position, please send your professional cover letter and resume to: Lutheran Chapel Church, Attn: Organist/Assistant to Music Director Search Committee, 702 N. New Hope Road, Gastonia, NC 28054 or by emailing [churchoffice \(at\) lutheranchapelchurch.org](mailto:churchoffice(at)lutheranchapelchurch.org)

### **First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle NC**

First Presbyterian Church of Albemarle, NC seeks an organist for Sunday morning worship, adult choir rehearsals, and special services. Past worship services can be viewed on YouTube. Worship occurs on Sundays at 11:00. Applicants for this position should contact Ann Crutchfield, 704 985 2050 or [ann.benson.crutchfield@gmail.com](mailto:ann.benson.crutchfield@gmail.com) to arrange an interview and audition opportunity. Applicants will be expected to play traditional hymns for singing, a prelude, offertory, and postlude. The applicant may be requested to accompany a vocal and/or instrumental soloist during the audition. Piano proficiency is expected in playing open score during adult choir rehearsals. Salary: \$18,000 – 24,000. Vacation: 3 weeks. Degree in Church music or Organ performance preferred. Organ: Orgues Letourneau – Opus 105 2007, 2 manuals, 30 ranks, 22 stops.

# Blue Ridge AGO Chapter

[www.blueridgeago.org](http://www.blueridgeago.org)

Founded  
August 15, 2013

## OFFICERS

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## American Guild of Organists

National Office:  
475 Riverside Drive  
Suite 1260  
New York, NY 10115  
[www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)



## 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 · Casavant Opus 3774 (1998)



50 ranks · 2,658 pipes · 4 divisions · 3 manuals · 37 stops

