

American Guild of Organists Blue Ridge Chapter

February 2025

www.blueridgeago.org



How to Inspire Congregational Singing and Rescheduled Members' Recital

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

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

Join us for lunch after the recital! We will eat together at an area restaurant (dutch treat). **RSVP to tbernard@knology.net by February 6.**



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.

Since our January program of favorite organ pieces for Christmas and Epiphany was cancelled due to weather, the second half of the program will feature the following area organists playing favorite seasonal pieces: David Anderson, Howard Bakken, Rhonda Furr, Virginia Moe, John Psychas, James Taulbee, and Vance Yoder

Carpool opportunities are available! In the Mills River area, contact Tim Shepard, tshepard@BrevardFUMC.org. In the Asheville area, contact Tom Bernard, tbernard@knology.net

Save the Dates!

Sunday, March 16th the Blue Ridge AGO presents **Organ Plus** at Grace Lutheran Church in Hendersonville at 3:00 pm. This program will feature organ + strings, organ + brass, organ + voice organ + piano and more! Grace Lutheran Church, 1245 6th Ave W, Hendersonville, NC 28739

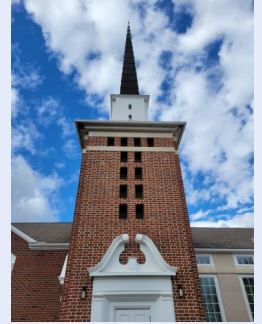
Thursday May 8 at 7:30 pm the Blue Ridge AGO, Brevard FUMC, and the BMZ Organ Foundation present organist **Ken Cowan**! Chapter members and guests are invited to attend the Annual Meeting Dinner at 6:00pm. Brevard First United Methodist Church · 325 N Broad St, Brevard, NC 28712



Photo by Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

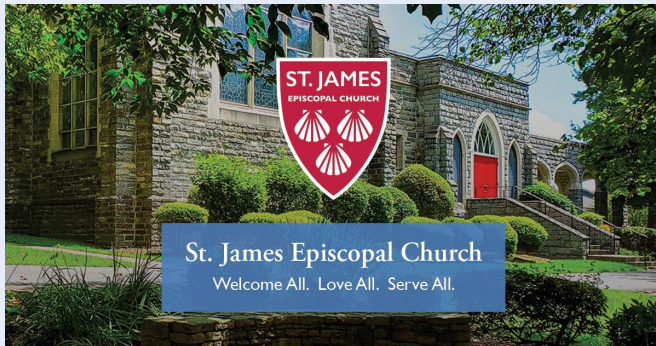
Sunday, February 9 at 3:00 pm – Four Hands in Motion

Michael Helman, Director of Music at B-DRPC and Tim Shepherd, Director of Music at First UMC will present a program of keyboard music for two players. Music will include selections for four-hand piano, organ and piano duets as well as four-hand organ. Pieces will include arrangements of “Sheep May Safely Graze” by Bach, Pachelbel’s “Canon in D,” “Sonata in D major” written for four-hand piano by Mozart, and hymn tune arrangements for organ and piano duet by various contemporary arrangers. The program will end with an organ duet on the dynamic “The Stars and Stripes Forever” by Sousa. This will be an enjoyable experience you won’t want to miss! Brevard-Davidson River Church, 249 East Main Street, Brevard



Choral Evensong

Sunday, Feb. 23rd (Epiphany VII) at 5:00 pm—Prelude begins at 4:40



Join us for Choral Evensong, a beautiful, quintessentially Anglican service of sung Evening Prayer that has elements of drama and ritual that nourish the spiritual life of us all. The service is based on elements of Holy Scripture and comes from a long history, originating in Judaic and early Christian evening worship. At St. James, Evensong is sung by the choir, with the congregation participating throughout in thoughtful prayer, the Confession and Creed, and singing of hymns.

The organist for the service is Tate Addis. Acclaimed for “spectacular” performances and “deeply communicative musicality,” organist Tate Addis has appeared as a recitalist throughout the United States and Europe. A graduate of Wichita State University, Yale University, and Oberlin Conservatory, he currently serves as Associate Director of Music & Organist at First Baptist Church in Asheville. Tate will play a twenty-minute prelude beginning at 4:40.

The St. James Choir will sing *Lighten Our Darkness* by Alexander L’Estrange, *Prayers & Responses* by Herbert Sumsion, Horatio Parker’s rollicking setting of the evening canticles *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis*, and Mendelssohn’s sublime cantata for soprano and chorus *Hear My Prayer* featuring soprano Alex Rowland. The Rev. David Henson will be the Officiant for the service, and Phillip Haynie will be the Cantor.

Brad Gee, Director of Music/Organist
St. James Episcopal Church, 766 N Main Street · Hendersonville, NC 28792, 828-694-6925
Brad@stjamesepiscopal.com

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.

Your Ad Here

Want to see your next event here?

Just write your submission on the back of a crisp \$100 bill and mail it to the editorial department today! Alternately, email your event information to:

cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net



Is your AGO membership current?

In addition to the great programming you've come to expect from the Blue Ridge chapter, your membership includes this newsletter, and a subscription to *The American*

Organist, the glossiest magazine around. Please visit agohq.org to check on the status of your membership, or contact the chapter registrar Tom Bernard: [tbernard \(at\) knology.net](mailto:tbernard@knology.net)



SacredMusicDownloads.com

printable PDFs & reproducible downloads

by Timothy Shepard

Looking for accessible & creative handbell music for **LENT**?

The Azalea Circle Hymn Collection IV contains EIGHT hymn tune arrangements for beginning three octaves choirs. Although the arrangements are conceived for handbells, many can readily be played by hand chimes, often to quite good affect. Each piece is 2-3 minutes in length yet they each feel complete and are appropriate length for most worship settings. *CONTENTS: 40 Days and 40 Night; Ah, Holy Jesus; Be Still My Soul; Blessed Assurance; Dear Lord and Father; My Faith Looks Up to Thee; Were You There?; When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Visit www.SacredMusicDownloads.com to preview this collection and other handbell, keyboard, or choir music for your music ministry. I would be honored by your patronage.

www.blueridgeago.org

Open Positions

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/

Union Lutheran Church, Salisbury NC

Union Lutheran Church in Salisbury is searching for an organist to play for Sunday services. The job description may be found at <https://ulcsalisbury.org/employment-opportunities/>. Contact the church office for more information.

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

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.

In case you missed it:

In Conversation with Tim Sloan of Elkin Music

Blue Ridge AGO member Daniel Gainey recently sat down (digitally) for a conversation with our local sheet music supplier, Tim Sloan of Elkin Music International.

Daniel Thank you for taking the time to talk with the Blue Ridge AGO! The Elkins started in the music publishing business in 1903. How did you get connected with them?

Tim For those who might be interested, the origins and much of the history of the Elkin family name in music publishing is outlined at our website. My place in the legacy began when I was hired in January, 1993, by Bill and Anne Elkin to manage their new company in Fort Lauderdale, where I lived at the time and where they spent several months of the year.

Daniel 30 years! You must have seen some great music come through the catalog. Are there any hidden jewels you can think of?

Tim I'm not sure I can pinpoint a "hidden jewel" among the products we sell – which theoretically includes every music publication foreign and domestic. That encompasses everything from beginner pedagogic material to expensive, esoteric, critical editions. I think for the customer it consists of the item that they need but may have had difficulty finding – even in the age of the internet -- and then Elkin comes through for them.

Daniel That is a huge catalog then. Does that set Elkin apart from others?

Tim Elkin Music International is unique in the ambitious scope of products we supply. The company is also dedicated to unsurpassed personal customer service, which has become a rarity in modern life. While the focus has always been on supplying foreign editions, Elkin also supplies all domestic publishers' material as well.

Daniel: Is there a piece you would recommend to our organists?

Tim: Tastes and needs vary so much that it's difficult to pinpoint a specific title to recommend area organists. That said, with Christmas fast approaching, a useful collection for many but which may be unknown would be Denis Bédard's Organ Works for Christmas.

Daniel: I know I'll be checking it out! Thank you again for spending this time with us. Last question for you-- what would your hope be for organ music in the Blue Ridge area?

Tim: It would be terrific if organ music in the Blue Ridge Mountains – and elsewhere, too, of course – could expand to include more unexpected repertoire by more unfamiliar composers. I think almost all of us gravitate toward what's familiar, accessible, and maybe even utilitarian. But the amount of organ literature – both for service playing and for recitals – is incredibly vast, and includes countless works by composers largely unknown in the United States. A broader palette might nurture a broader audience.

Daniel For those interested in checking out this awesome resource in our area, visit **www.elkinmusic.com**



Blue Ridge AGO Chapter

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Founded
August 15, 2013

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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

