

American Guild of Organists
Blue Ridge Chapter



January 2024

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

www.blueridgeago.org



"Marilyn & Her Babies" Organ Recital

January 18, 2024 at 7:00

Trinity Episcopal Church

Tickets \$20 Adults; \$10 Students.

Tickets: trinityasheville.org

Marilyn Keiser

with former students:

kyle ritter patrick pope ned tipton



TRINITY EPISCOPAL
60 CHURCH STREET
DOWNTOWN ASHEVILLE
828-253-9361 + TRINITYASHEVILLE.ORG

Organ Music Through the Jewish Year

Dr. Vance Reese will present a program of music, "Organ Music Through the Jewish Year" on the Kirkpatrick-Coleman pipe organ in the Scott Concert Hall of the Porter Center at 3pm on January 21. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

The music will feature works by traditional Jewish composers ranging from the mid-19th century to the present century. Mr. Norm Bossert, the founder of the Brevard Jewish Community, will also provide narration to briefly describe the nature of the holidays. The event will also feature works from unusual sources – Handel, a Nigerian-born composer, and a World War II French Resistance fighter. The program will last about an hour and a quarter.

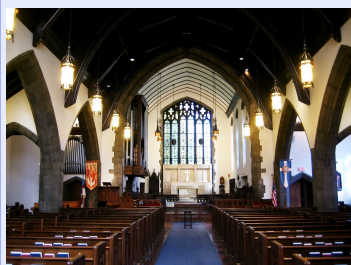


The Kirkpatrick-Coleman organ, with its three manuals, ornate façade, woodwork, and 3,500 pipes, is among the finest in Western North Carolina. Mr. Bossert, also a board member of the Center for Spiritual Wisdom, has worked in public education for more than 50 years, and is currently serving part-time as an assistant principal at Haw Creek Elementary School in Buncombe County. Dr. Reese, Associate Professor of Music at Brevard College, is renowned as being the finest organist within a quarter mile of his house.

Dr. Reese and Mr. Bossert will field questions after the program in the Francis Pavilion.

For more information, contact Vance Reese at 828.641.0354.

Candlelight Lenten Evensong



Trinity Episcopal Church, February 25 at 5:30pm

60 Church St., Asheville, NC 28801

Candlelight Lenten Evensong by Trinity's Chancel Choir

The choir will sing a traditional Evensong with music by Stanley, Trotta and Shephard.

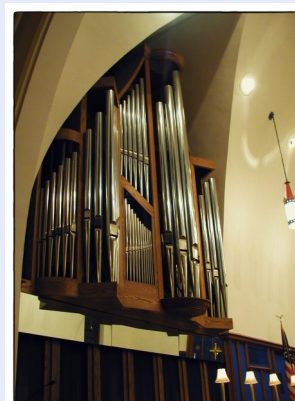
Winter Organ Festival

The Tryon Concert Association, based down the mountain in Tryon, NC is holding a Winter Organ Festival as part of its 2023-24 concert series. Every other Friday at 7:30 p.m. in January and early February, three world class performers will be giving recital at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Tryon, which boasts a IV/44 instrument installed by John Dower in 1994-95. It is a thrilling organ which truly makes all kinds of music come to life. The performers are as follows:

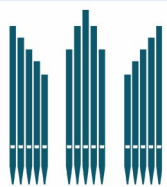
January 19th – Martin Jean, Yale University (reception to follow for members of local AGO chapters)

February 2nd – Felix Hell, independent concert organist

All recitals are free for AGO members. However, anyone interested in attending must contact Brennan Szafron to reserve tickets for each recital. He can be reached at 828-859-9741 or bszafron@holycrosstryon.org.



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.



AGO 2024
SAN FRANCISCO

June 30 to July 4

Your New Year's Resolution:

Register for the
San Francisco AGO National Convention

Concerts · Workshops · Exhibits · Services



Save \$100! Register before February 1,
when rates will increase.

Get full information and register at www.sfago2024.org



OREGON BACH FESTIVAL
Organ Institute
10th Anniversary Season, July 8 - 13, 2024
Audition Deadline: March 4, 2024
 Free Tuition, Room, and Board • Auditor Programs Available

Workshops with Paul Jacobs

Daily Masterclasses

Featuring a co-commission of
 Lowell Liebermann's Organ Concerto

OregonBachFestival.org/Organ-Institute

AGO on Social Media

Discover new music on Facebook! After the pandemic closed many churches, organists and composers moved to YouTube and social media to share their latest performances and compositions. You are invited to join the lively conversations on Facebook and other social media channels. AGO Organ Forum is a moderated group and subject to approval (to prevent spammers and scammers). AGO membership is not a requirement to join the group.

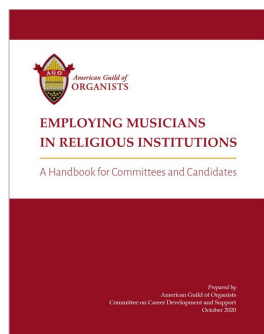


Learn Beginning Organ Improvisation

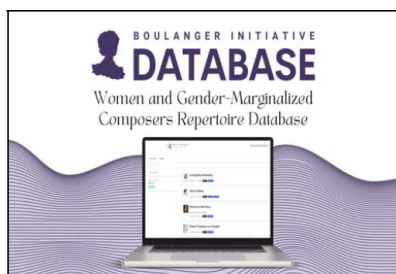
Two winners of the National Competition in Organ Improvisation, Kalle Toivio (2018) and Ivan Bosnar (2020), recently completed instructional videos designed for organists who are just beginning to explore the art of improvisation. The videos were filmed at Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music on the historic Holtkamp organ in Crouse Hall. Frederick Hohman produced the videos, and both are now available on the AGO YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/@GuildofOrganists

Know Your Value!

The Association of Church Musicians and AGO 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.



Boulangier Initiative Database



The Women and Gender Marginalized Composers Repertoire Database (BID) is now publicly available, following years of researching archives, compiling data, and beta testing. The database offers freely available information on over 8,000 works by 1,200 BIPOC, women, and marginalized composers in classical music.

www.boulangierinitiative.org/database

Open Positions

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

First Presbyterian Church of Newton, NC (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) 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

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
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

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/ Please send inquires and/or resumes to position (at) fbcwvl.org, (828) 645-6720

Grace Church in the Mountains, Waynesville NC is seeking a Director of Music Ministries, Part-time or Full-time. Grace an Episcopal Church in Waynesville, near Asheville and Smoky Mountain National Park. Grace Church welcomes all people, including all races, gender identities, and sexual orientations. Our active membership is about 375 people, 120 of whom typically worship on a Sunday. Our worship style is broad, drawing on contemporary and traditional hymnody and generally using Rite II or Enriching Our Worship. The Music Director position is part-time, including playing organ for all services, conducting Adult choir and chime choir, and playing and providing staff leadership for monthly Taizé services, but can be combined with program leadership or administrative support to become a full-time role, depending on the skill, interest and time of the candidate. Applications are being accepted now, and interviews will take place beginning August 15. Resumé and cover letter may be sent to our Senior Warden, Laura Armour: [lauraarmour4567 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:lauraarmour4567@gmail.com) Full job description at https://www.gracewaynesville.com/uploads/1/1/3/1/113184205/final_job_desc_for_website.pdf

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, or our web site: fbcburnsville.com. Applicants should email a resume to: [fbcburnsville \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:fbcburnsville@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 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, stjohsmarionclergy@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: bmpnc.org Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Aaron Price, Director of Music and Worship Arts, at "aaron (@) bmpnc.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

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 nn.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

Founded
August 15, 2013

OFFICERS

Vance Yoder
Dean

Thomas Bernard
Treasurer and Sub Dean

JC Cecconi
Secretary

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Timothy Wissler
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Tim Shepard
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David Anderson
Newsletter Editor

American Guild of Organists

National Office:
475 Riverside Drive
Suite 1260
New York, NY 10115
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

Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville
Austin Organ Company (Opus 2605A, 2018)



44 ranks · 3 manuals · 32 stops · 57 registers

