

American Guild of Organists Blue Ridge Chapter

January 2025

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).

'Tis the season for **J.O.Y.!**

January brings a new page and lease on our schedule. Holidays and hurricanes give way to a more measured and steady pace.

Our Blue Ridge AGO chapter has an exciting lineup of monthly events and programs to fit a variety of interests. Mark your calendar to attend each one noted in this issue!

You bring the love and appreciation for the organ to your constituency and to our collective body. Together we show that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Thanks for your partnership.

Vance A. Yoder
Blue Ridge AGO Dean



Organ and Trumpet(s) Recital January 26, 3pm

Porter Center, Brevard College
Bradley Ulrich and Madison Barton,
trumpets; Vance Reese, organ

SacredMusicDownloads.com



Handbell, Choral, Keyboard music
for music ministries

By Timothy Shepard

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.



Tate Addis Benefit Organ Recital

Thursday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Tate Addis will give an organ recital featuring prominent works of Austrian composer Franz Schmidt on Thursday, Jan. 30th at 7:00 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church in downtown Hendersonville, NC. The recital will be followed by a beautiful reception in Stillwell Hall. Tate is the Associate Director of Music and Organist at First Baptist, Asheville. He has appeared as an organ recitalist throughout the United States and Europe.

Franz Schmidt is one of the significant figures of Late Romanticism and Early Modernism. His compositions are celebrated for their profound emotional depth and technical brilliance, with lush harmonies and expansive forms. Tate will commemorate the anniversary of Schmidt's birth with performances of three organ works: the *Prelude and Fugue in D Major*, the *Four Little Chorale Preludes*, and the monumental *Chaconne*. Renowned for their virtuosic writing and inventive use of the instrument, you will not want to miss this concert of thrilling music.



The long-awaited organ additions of Walker 32-foot pedal sounds will be completed, so plan now to hear this beautiful Harrison & Harrison organ at St. James. The console will be moved so that all can see Mr. Addis as he plays.

All proceeds from this recital, including Mr. Addis's fee, will benefit the Asheville Cathedral of All Souls' music ministry.

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 Sumson, 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.



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@knology.net

Your Ad Here

Want to see your next event here?

Just write your submission on the back of a crisp \$50 bill and mail it to the editorial department today!

Alternately, email your event information to:
cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

www.blueridgeago.org

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

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

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

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Founded
August 15, 2013

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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



"That was our contemporary service. Next is the traditional service, followed by a classical service, and a casual service with a sports emphasis."