

# American Guild of Organists Blue Ridge Chapter

## May 2023

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



## Annual Meeting and Organ Build

May 6 · First Baptist Church, Hendersonville NC · 9:30am

From the Dean:

The Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday May 6 at the First Baptist Church Chapel, 312 5th Ave West, Hendersonville, hosted by Vance Yoder. Thank you Vance. Fellowship will commence at 9:30 am. I hope that you will join us for some pastries, fruit, and coffee. We will meet in the Chapel, facing Fifth Avenue, which is the middle building flanked by the sanctuary on one side and the children's building on the other. Parking is available in the large church lot on the northwest corner of Buncombe and Fifth.

After this term I will be rotating off as Dean. The Nominating Committee has prepared and will present for vote the slate for the next year. We will vote to elect the officers who will carry the Blue Ridge chapter into the future. The meeting of the members will begin at 10.

Another part of this program will be to build an organ using an OrgelKids kit. This is a handcrafted small functioning organ that arrives disassembled, in dozens of wooden and metal pieces, and pipes. The kit will be on loan on loan from Clemson university, and we will be assisted by Linda Dzuris, the Carillonneur at Clemson. I am excited about the OrgelKid-do. I think you will be too. Come and try it.

And always of interest to me is the instrument at the Church where we gather. First Baptist has a fine instrument and a fine organist. Vance Yoder will demonstrate both during the morning. Please bring your organ shoes and your morning Prelude to test drive the instrument yourself.

At the end of my tenure as dean, it astounds me that we have 51 members on roll. We have a talented and wise group of people invested in our chapter and board. I am grateful and honored to have worked with them. I am also very enthusiastic about the future of this chapter. Stay tuned. Many thanks for this wonderful opportunity to serve as Dean.

Tim Shepard, Dean



### Nominees Slate

Vance Yoder, Dean

Thomas Bernard, Treasurer and Sub Dean

Rhonda Furr, Member at Large (2025)

Timothy Wissler, Member at Large (2024)

Michael Helman (2026)

Hunter Holbert (2026)

David Anderson, Newsletter and Website

Tim Shepard, Past Dean (2024)

## Area Concerts

**Organ and Trumpet Duo**                      **St. Mark's Lutheran, Asheville**                      **April 30, 4:00pm**  
 Enjoy an entertaining program of music by Bach, Vivaldi, Handel, Gershwin, Mussorgsky, and Freddie Mercury. Six trumpets bring flare and fun to the "Carnival of Venice." Be captivated by the power of Widor's "Toccata" for organ. With several engaging video presentations, an out-of-this-world silent movie, and special tributes to Responders and Veterans, this will be an enjoyable concert for all ages! Featuring Chuck Seipp (US Army Band, Pershing's Own, SGM retired) and Randall Sheets (Arlington National Cemetery Ceremonial Organist, retired). Free and open to the public.

**Celebrate with Jubilant Song**                      **Fletcher Community Chorus**                      **May 11, 7:00pm**  
 Fletcher United Methodist Church. Spring concert featuring show tunes, traditional folk music, spirituals, and much more! Free and open to the public.

**Choral Evensong**                      **Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville**                      **May 21, 5:30pm**  
 The Trinity Chancel Choir will sing a traditional candlelight Evensong as the service of The Word at our Celtic service. Evensong is traditionally held near sunset and is focused on singing psalms and other biblical canticles. The entire service is sung or chanted by the officiating minister and the choir. Anthems will include "The Lord Is My Shepherd" by Mack Wilberg, "Put Your Trust in God" by Jack Warren Burnam and "Christ Is the Light" by Margaret Rizza. All are cordially invited to attend.

**Blue Ridge Ringers**                      **"Spring Dances"**                      **May, 2023**  
 The Blue Ridge Ringers is proud to announce its Spring concert series entitled "Spring Dances". The Blue Ridge Ringers is an auditioned community handbell ensemble founded by Connie Engle in September 1995 in Hendersonville, NC. We are 16 ringers from Henderson, Transylvania, Buncombe, Polk, and Spartanburg (SC) counties. Many also direct or ring with their church handbell groups or other ensembles. We ring five octaves of Malmark and Schulmerich handbells and five octaves of Malmark choirchimes and practice weekly at Hendersonville First United Methodist Church. We are very grateful for their support. Please come and join us for our "Spring Dances" concert being held on  
 1) Friday, May 19th at 7:00 PM at the First Baptist Church, Brevard, NC 28712  
 2) Sunday, May 21st at 4:00 PM at Saluda Elementary School, Saluda, NC 28773  
 The Blue Ridge Ringers is incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, with federal tax-exempt status. For information, or to arrange an appearance, contact: [theblueridgeringers@gmail.com](mailto:theblueridgeringers@gmail.com), Karen Grady 828-606-2123 or Donnie Halter 828-577-1297

**Musicke Antique**                      **Fletcher United Methodist Church**                      **June 6, 7pm**  
 Fletcher UMC Artist Series presents Musicke Antiqua - Tuesday, June 6, 7 p.m. - Fletcher United Methodist Church. Free admission.

**The Raleigh Ringers**                      **Fletcher United Methodist Church**                      **July 8, 4pm**  
 Fletcher UMC Artist Series presents The Raleigh Ringers - Saturday, July 8, 4 p.m. - Fletcher United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at [fletcherumc.org/artist-series](http://fletcherumc.org/artist-series).

## Professor gets to play music as well as teach it

from the Transylvania Times, April 13, 2023 · reprinted by permission



Much of Brevard's music luster traces to our nearby mountains, but it also shines brightly on another group of highly talented musicians: the Brevard Philharmonic.

Part of that musical force is Vance Reese.

Reese is a double bassist as well as assistant professor of music at Brevard College.

His time with the philharmonic is both a welcomed and enjoyable personal outlet as well as a way to show students he practices, rehearses and performs what he preaches in the classroom.

Before joining the Brevard College faculty, locals may recall Reese as leading the choir and playing organ at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church on Main Street. After a few years away from town, he returned to Brevard College where his responsibilities include teaching the other instruments he plays (piano and organ) as well as accompany students and also teach music history.

The philharmonic is not his first go-round in an orchestral setting.

In ninth grade he landed a seat for a production at the University of Tennessee and his first paying job was with the Knoxville Symphony while still in high school.

Double bass players then, and now, seem in demand.

"My first bass teacher told me 'if you learn bass, you'll always have a job.' And he was right," Reese said. That truism came to life when Reese landed a chair with the philharmonic on a recommendation.

Essentially, he asked the question: 'Do you have a spot opening?' They did and so began his time with the philharmonic (he also plays with the Asheville Symphony Orchestra).

Reese likes that the philharmonic board "is very careful to (encourage) a variety of types of music." He also appreciates what James Fellenbaum, music director and conductor, "is trying to do, which is to go outside what is normally programmed to get composers we haven't heard from."

"I was delighted to play something different," said Reese. "There's something to putting your part into the whole and enjoying those layers of music as they're being assembled and played. It speaks to the deeper pieces. They speak to my soul and reaches my intellect because of the way it's crafted and moves within me." There are parallels between teaching music and actually performing it.

"What happens is, students see you on stage and they realize there's a personal connection," he said.

This in turn fosters a longer conversation between teacher and pupil, said Reese.

"They'll say 'what do you think about that piece you played?' or 'what's it like to work with that conductor?' It gives us a chance to talk about it and it's setting an example for the students in a way to show how this person is connected professionally to the world," he said.

Reese also sees his philharmonic seat as a liaison between the orchestra and the college. "It's more of an 'in' for our students," he said. Those students could potentially join the philharmonic. The philharmonic connects him, and the college, to the "ongoing musical culture."

There are other pluses for Reese, too. He gets to play with friends he's "known for years" on stage and "the music is so satisfying, so it gets me to make music instead of teaching about it."



## AGO Southeast Regional Convention: August, GA June 18-21, 2023

The Augusta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists looks forward to welcoming you to the Central Savannah River Area of Georgia and South Carolina for next June's Southeast Region AGO Convention. Join us for three days and four nights of celebrated performers playing inspiring pipe organs in live acoustics with visible consoles. Take in workshops, reading sessions and music displays. Enjoy renewing friendships in the ambience of Augusta's Marriott Hotel located on the Savannah River. Visit historic sites, play a round of golf, and relax in the beautiful communities of Augusta and Aiken, South Carolina. Bask in our old South charm and new South hospitality. Here's hoping to see you next June! [ago23augusta.org](http://ago23augusta.org)

## Thirst No More: PAM Worship & Music Conference June 18-23, June 25-30, 2023

This intergenerational conference is for children, youth, adults, pastors, directors, organists, singers, ringers, worship leaders, and church members. All are welcome! The Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) works in cooperation with Montreat Conference Center to offer two identical Worship and Music conferences each summer. Guided by the principles of Reformed worship, conferees explore opportunities for vital worship experiences and enriching the liturgical life of the local church. [www.presbysmusic.org](http://www.presbysmusic.org)

## Lutheridge Music Week July 9-14, June 25-30, 2023

Don't miss this mountain-top experience – a long-standing Lutheridge tradition for adults – that provides great music-making, creative daily worship, and a place to develop life-long friendships. Renowned, nationally recognized clinicians lead the Adult Choir, Hymnfest Choir, Handbell Choirs, and Organ/Keyboard Class. Workshops include multiple reading sessions for choral, handbell and organ/keyboards repertoire. Each ensemble performs throughout the week. Highlights are daily worship, Bible study, the Hymnfest, and Closing Festival Worship. Adult housing choices are Lakeside Cabins, Thornburg, and Kohnjoy.

*Sing to the Lord a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful. (Psalm 149:1)*

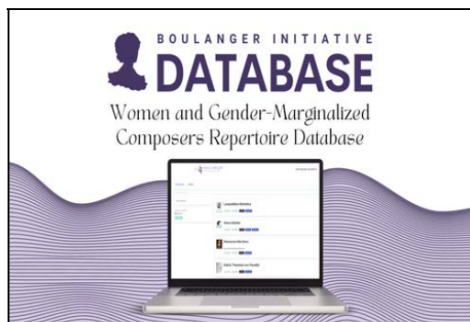
Adults are housed with families in adult lodging. [lutheridge.org/summer\\_camps/adult-music-week/](http://lutheridge.org/summer_camps/adult-music-week/)

## What Wondrous Love: ALCM National Conference July 4-8 2023

Each time the church gathers to pray and sing, we hear the wondrous story of God's divine love revealed in Christ—a love that is deep, broad, high, amazing, and steadfast, that builds up and binds everything together in perfect harmony. Love is our greatest commandment and the source of our song. Or, as the hymnist exclaims: "what wondrous love is this!" This biennial conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians invites us—through worship, lectures, workshops, and making music together—into deeper reflection about the what, wonder, and love of which the church sings. We hope that you will join us in July 2023 in Philadelphia! Until then, may love continue to be our song, prayer, and endless story. [www.alcm.org](http://www.alcm.org)

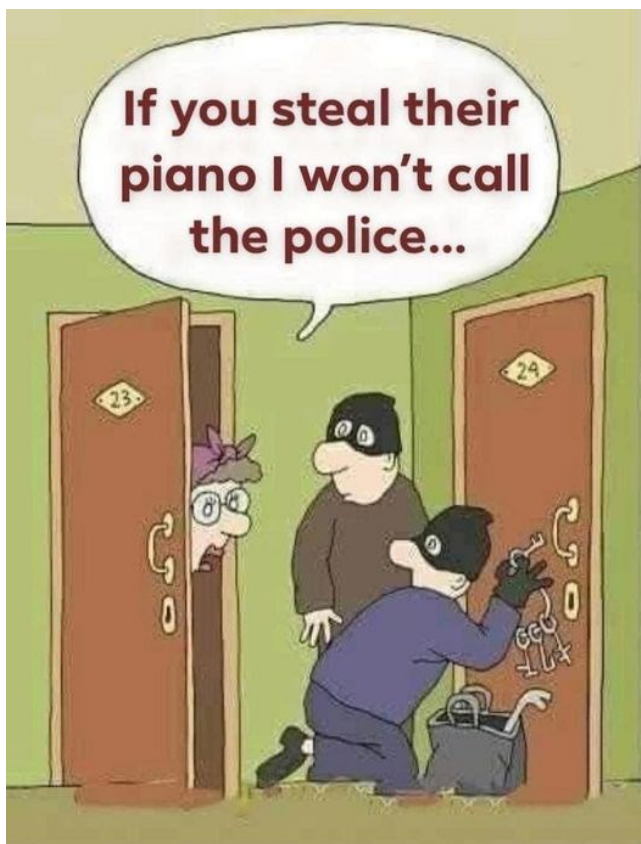


## Boulanger Initiative Database



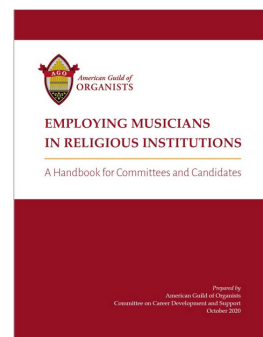
The Women and Gender Marginalized Composers Repertoire Database (BID) is now publicly available, following years of researching archives, compiling data, and beta testing. The database offers freely available information on over 8,000 works by 1,200 BIPOC, women, and marginalized composers in classical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

[www.boulangerinitiative.org/database](http://www.boulangerinitiative.org/database)



### 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/](http://www.agohq.org/employment-handbook/) to download this resource, and to watch a moderated panel discussion.



### 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](http://www.youtube.com/@GuildofOrganists)



**OREGON BACH FESTIVAL  
ORGAN INSTITUTE**  
July 10 - July 15, 2023

Led by Grammy Award-winning organist  
**Paul Jacobs**

Participant auditions due by  
**March 8**

Auditors can enroll through  
**June 1**

For more information visit



### 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.





# 2023 Season Artist Series

PRESENTS:



## *Fletcher Community Chorus*

*"Celebrate with Jubilant Song"*  
**Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm | Free**



Spring concert featuring show tunes, traditional folk music and spirituals, and much more!

## *Musicke Antiqua*

*"Pastime with Good Company,  
 A Day in the Park"*  
**Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>  
 7:00pm | Free**



Music from the 1200's to 1900's as our imaginary friends enjoy spending time together listening to music while they stroll around the park, finding good food, riding "Bicycles Built for Two," and dance to "Sumer is icumen in."



## *The Raleigh Ringers*

**Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>  
 4:00pm | Tickets: \$25**

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

"Noted for their creative, artistic interpretation, The Raleigh Ringers have established themselves as America's premiere professional ensemble." — Dr. William A. Payn, Retired Chair, Department of Music, Bucknell University

**Fletcher United Methodist Church**  
 50 Library Rd. Fletcher, NC 28732 (828)684-7155

**For more event info & ticket sales  
 visit [www.fletcherumc.org](http://www.fletcherumc.org) or scan code:**



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## Open Positions

### **Tryon Presbyterian Church, Tryon NC**

Tryon Presbyterian Church (TPC) is seeking a part-time Director of Music for our Presbyterian USA church in beautiful Tryon, NC. The position is for 20 hours per week with a salary range of \$22-26,000 plus benefits, commensurate with experience. The Director of Music will enrich worship services with appropriate and varied music through choral and instrumental participation. TPC has 252 members and a recently renovated sanctuary and organ. Our music program includes a Moller pipe organ with 19 ranks of pipes and 33 digital ranks, a Perzina baby grand piano, a harpsichord, hand bells, and a 20+ person choir. Inquiries and resumes may be sent to [tpreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:tpreschurch@gmail.com).

### **St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Brevard NC**

St Philip's Episcopal Church in Brevard, North Carolina (Diocese of Western North Carolina) is seeking an Organist and Collaborator to nurture music ministry. The Organist is charged with assisting the Director of Music Ministry in the planning and implementation of music in worship programming at St. Philip's Episcopal Church. This collaboration will facilitate active participation of the congregation in the liturgical life of the church and to encompass the wide tradition of sacred music. 15-18 hrs /week; salary: in the range of \$24,000 annually. Please send resumes and inquiries to: [musicdirectorstphilips@gmail.com](mailto:musicdirectorstphilips@gmail.com)

### **St. John's Church, Marion NC**

Organist/Church Musician will provide musical leadership at the regular Sunday services of the Parish, and additional services. Musician will assist the Rector in the selection of hymns, anthems, and service music. 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 musicians within the congregation. 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 ed per year. To apply send cover letter and resume via email to Rev. Erin Kirby, [stjohnsmarionclergy@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmarionclergy@gmail.com)

### **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. Sick leave, flexible. Degree in Church music or Organ performance preferred. Orgues Letourneau – Opus 105 2007, 2 manuals, 30 ranks, 22 stops

### **St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Hickory NC**

St. Luke's is seeking a part-time Accompanist to support our Music Ministry in creating an inspiring, relevant, and welcoming worship experience. The major component of the job includes providing skillful piano accompaniment in support of our Chancel, Handbell Choirs, and other ensembles. This is a part-time position with normal working hours up to 5 hours per week. Hours are divided between Wednesday night rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services. Compensation is competitive with the market and commensurate with skills and experience. This position reports to the Leader of Traditional Music. A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Demonstrated experience with choirs or other musical groups is required. A more detailed description of duties can be found at: [www.slumc.org/about-us/employment-opportunities](http://www.slumc.org/about-us/employment-opportunities) Please submit a cover letter, resume, and three references to "administrator (@) slumc.org" Or mail to: St. Luke's UMC, Attn: Church Administrator 52 - 16th Avenue NW Hickory, NC 28601



## For Sale

**Moller Artiste Opus 11428 pipe organ for sale.** The organ is located in a private residence in Charlotte and is in excellent condition; asking \$8,500. Please contact Dan at: [DOHJR@me.com](mailto:DOHJR@me.com) or 919-749-9699.

### Upper Manual

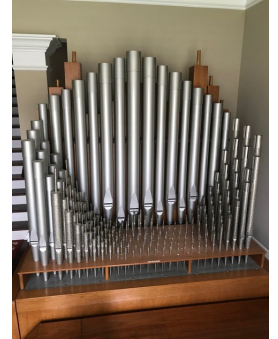
8 Rohrflote  
4 Rohrflote  
2 Principal  
1<sup>1/3</sup> Larigot

### Lower Manual

8 Rohrflote  
4 Principal  
2 Rohrflote  
II Mixture

### Pedal

16 Gedeckt  
8 Rohrflote  
4 Principal



Windchest Cabinet: 66"W x 36"D x 45" H (just under 96"H with pipes) Console: 59"W x 38"D x 48"H (52" D w/ pedalboard, 56"H w/ music rack) Bench: 48"W x 14"D x 25"H

**Rudolph von Beckerath (1971) pipe organ for sale.** Excellent condition; \$45,000. Montreat College, Montreat NC. Contact The Organ Clearing House, [www.organclearinghouse.com](http://www.organclearinghouse.com)



### Hauptwerk

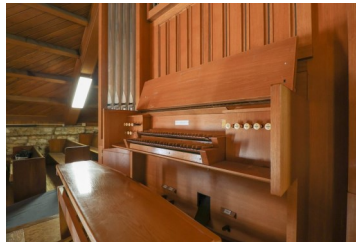
8 Rohrfloete  
4 Principal  
2 Flachfloete  
IV Mixture

### Brustwerk

8 Gedackt  
4 Koppelfloete  
2 Principal  
8 Krummhorn

### Pedal

16 Subbass  
8 Principal  
8 Gemshorn  
4 Choralbass



## Limited Time Offer!

Does your soul longeth, yea, even fainteth to see **your next event** in the pages of the Blue Ridge Chapter AGO Newsletter? Did you know our website ([www.blueridgeago.org](http://www.blueridgeago.org)) received over 300 views in April, 2023 alone? Behold, now is the accepted time! Send your concert information, community announcements, position descriptions, and hautbois-wanted ads to the editorial department at: [cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net](mailto:cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net)



# Blue Ridge AGO Chapter

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

Founded  
August 15, 2013

## OFFICERS

**Tim Shepard**  
Dean

**Vance Yoder**  
Sub Dean

**JC Cecconi**  
Secretary

**Thomas Bernard**  
Treasurer

**Charlie W. Steele**  
Registrar

**Rhonda Furr**  
**Timothy Wissler**  
Members at Large

**David Anderson**  
Newsletter Editor

## 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 Baptist Church, Hendersonville · Casavant Opus 2901 · 1966



45 ranks · 4 divisions · 3 manuals. 34 registers

