

American Guild of Organists Blue Ridge Chapter

October 2024

www.blueridgeago.org



October 26 Meeting Postponed

The effects of Helene have impacted western NC in ways we could not have imagined just weeks ago. Few have been left untouched, either through personal loss or the aftermath of the storm that has affected the communities in which we serve.

As a result, our AGO chapter will postpone the projected October 26 meeting (hymn playing with Dr. Rhonda Furr) until February. We hope this will give you time to attend to your personal needs and those of your family, friends, and congregations. Our prayers are with many of you and your church members who continue to experience significant loss.

If you, your family, or the community you serve are in need of assistance, please contact us. The Blue Ridge Chapter and the national American Guild of Organists are ready to support our members in this difficult time.

Call or email any of the board members (listed on the back of this newsletter), email cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net, or visit blueridgeago.org and click "contact."

On a lighter note, we continue to work on an exciting schedule of programs in 2025. Look for announcements about an Epiphany gathering (with authentic King Cake), the rescheduled Hymn Playing program in February, "Organ Plus" in March, a social gathering in April, and a recital in May featuring concert artist and Rice University organ professor Ken Cowan!

September Meeting Repertoire

Our first chapter meeting of the fall was a great success! Thank you to everyone who made it possible, and to all those who attended. In case the dog ate your carefully taken notes, here are the pieces that were shared by our members:

Howard Bakken: "Salix," Percy Whitlock; "Behold a Host," John Ferguson

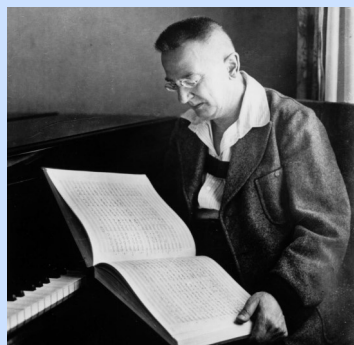
David Anderson: "Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness," Gael Liardon; "Beach Spring," David Lasky

John Psychas: "Cradle Song/Silent Night," "Adoro Te Devote," "Lobe den Herren," Donna Robertson (canticanova.com/cnp_info/robertson.htm)

Denise Bernard: "Improvisations on My Shepherd Will Supply My Need," Charles Callahan, Gilbert Martin

Michael Helman: "Aria," "Trumpet Tune," Michael Helman

Tim Shepard: "Concerto in A minor," Bach/Vivaldi; "Toccata in 7," John Rutter



Franz Schmidt at 150: An Organ Recital

Rescheduled — Details to follow

St. James Episcopal Church, Hendersonville

2024 marks the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the Austrian composer Franz Schmidt, one of the significant figures of Late Romanticism and Early Modernism. With their lush harmonies and expansive forms, his compositions are celebrated for their profound emotional depth and technical brilliance. Organist Tate Addis 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 organ music. Addis currently serves as the Associate Director of Music and Organist at First Baptist, Asheville, and has appeared as an organ recitalist throughout the United States and Europe.



Brevard College Fine Arts Fall Events 2024

Events in the Scott Concert Hall, Porter Center
More information at brevard.edu

Lessons and Carols Service
December 7, 7:30pm

Bach Christmas Oratorio
December 12, 7:30pm
Brevard College Chamber Singers and
Transylvania Choral Society

Messiah

Sunday, December 1 · 4:00pm

First Baptist Church of Weaverville
63 North Main Street · Weaverville, NC

Chuck Taft, Director
Linda Jones, Organist

Singers needed! Contact Harriet Burnette at 778-5510

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Organ Festival & Competition

The Piedmont NC AGO Chapter looks forward to continuing to support UNC School of the Arts's Middle School/High School Organ Festival & Competition January 31-February 2, 2025. It is always thrilling to see the level of talent and dedication these students have, and to see them have such a wonderful time together while in Winston-Salem, NC. Participants will take part in workshops and masterclasses (including building an Orgelkids kit!), attend recitals by university students and faculty, as well as compete amongst their peers. The competition has two levels – Intermediate and Advanced; the competitors choose the most appropriate level for themselves. Festival website: <https://www.uncsa.edu/music/events/organ-festival.aspx>

Timothy Olsen, dean, Piedmont NC Chapter
olsent@uncsa.edu 405.535.8124

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

SKYLAND
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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**St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Candler NC**

Director of Music Ministry. The Director of Music Ministry will inspire musical participation by the congregation during Roman Catholic liturgical worship through the appropriate selection of music and the proper training and direction of choir, cantors, and instrumentalists. Part time position requiring 8-12 hours each week. More hours may be required during certain Liturgical seasons. **Responsibilities:** Ensure that the musical presentation at Mass and other events is of a sufficient quality to inspire robust participation by the congregation and enhances their worship experience.

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

**Fletcher United Methodist, Fletcher, NC**

Fletcher United Methodist Church 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(at)fletcherumc.org)



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



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

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In case you missed it:

2024 National Convention Report

aka

I Left My Harmonic Flute in San Francisco

San Francisco AGO produced a very successful National Convention this past summer. I was grateful to be able to attend and am happy to report that the pipe organ world is alive and well. It was affirming to observe that registrant numbers were up from the previous National Convention, a good trend. High cost has ushered in changes in conventions and convention planning. That's a positive thing.

I attended the National Annual Meeting and the meeting of the Southeastern Region. Both levels of our organizations are in great shape, capable hands, with promising futures. I'm an optimist!

The hotel was very conveniently located and the committee was able to negotiate a very reasonable hotel rate. Not much else was cheap! There was an abundance of places to eat close by in every direction. The Marriott Marquis served truly well to create workshop spaces, a big exhibit hall, receptions, reading sessions, etc.. There was a nice diversity of workshops available. "Fundraising," "Making Hymns Spectacular," "Meet the Composers," and "Mindfulness" were among my favorites.

And there were beaucoup performances! Faythe Freese from our Southeastern region presented a Multimedia Organ concert at Grace Cathedral where lights, dancing, and screen projection added new layers to her brilliant playing and program. I finally heard Organ Mistress Janette Fishell play after hearing about her legendary technique for decades. Ken Cowen, with the gifts of an orchestrator, played on the E.M. Skinner at Trinity & St Peter's Church. The convention also featured its hometown (international) group Chanticleer. The musical highlight for me was hearing Olivier Latry and Shin-Young Lee play Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" in its entirety from the composer's two-piano arrangement. The instrument was the 2024 Hupalo & Repasky Organ at St. Ignatius Church. THAT was spectacular!

I followed the commissions with interest, even listening to the composers' pre-convention interviews. The convention commissioned ten new pieces that were performed at various performance venues through the week. They were diverse in style and approach. They were mostly secular, only a few would fit a Sunday morning worship service. I commend the AGO for their commitment to new music.

It is a brand new year here in Western North Carolina, the other side of the country from San Francisco. I can't help but think what a great area we could offer as a regional convention, but that's just my idea. I am noting a really great line up of programs that my colleagues are gearing up for next season. In fact we are a growing chapter, which is such an exciting thing. Show up at the meetings so that we can meet each other and celebrate the good things that we are doing in the world and at our churches!

Tim Shepard, Past-Dean



Blue Ridge AGO Chapter

www.blueridgeago.org

Founded
August 15, 2013

OFFICERS

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Treasurer and Sub Dean

JC Cecconi
Secretary

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Michael Helman
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Past Dean and Registrar

David Anderson
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



Calvary Episcopal Church, Fletcher NC
Holtkamp Organ Company (Opus 2034, 1992)



@classical.music.memes