

American Guild of Organists Blue Ridge Chapter



COVID EDITION

Message from the Dean

Dear Friends and colleagues,

These are unprecedented times, difficult times for church musicians, challenging times for our country and the globe. I have learned that I am very poor at predicting the future. It's impossible to say what might or might not happen. At the moment, the pandemic is still with us. Fortunately, the trend during the last several weeks is good. There are promising developments for a vaccine and in life-saving therapies. Hospitalizations in NC have been trending down, and a very slow increase in Coronavirus casualties (60 deaths in Henderson County for a long time). All this observed from the NC CoronaVirus dashboard, which I look at frequently. Is this borrowed time until flu season? Will the trend continue or will it reverse course? What's the next step for us?



Members of the board for the Blue Ridge AGO met over Zoom for the second time since the Pandemic knocked us out of normal. It was great to see everyone and to hear stories about how we are navigating music ministry during this time. Some of our churches are meeting in person, some of us are not. All of us are nervous. We decided that we would not plan any on-site programming at least through the end of 2020. Time will tell what will be possible when 2021 arrives. But that does not mean we can not continue to be an organization that connects organists, church musicians, and lovers of sacred music.

Our website and this first newsletter of the 20-21 season will provide communication about what we are doing in our churches. We hope you will check it occasionally. We will continue to list upcoming arts events (both online and in-person), and church job openings, and musical items for sale. If you have concerts or activities to share, a story to tell, and insight to enlighten us, please send them to our very capable newsletter editor and webmaster Cantor David Anderson at CantorDavid@stmarkslutheran.net.

I believe that this could be a good time for the organ. The organ with all of its thousands of real or digital pipes makes the most diverse and beautiful sounds produced from the limbs of a single human, often in an isolated part of the building at least six feet from anyone else. Socially distancing comes naturally for the organist; it is the safest musical instrument at our disposal, easily six feet from anyone. I hope that you are able to use the King of Instrument to be a potent ministry in your church or situation in this time when group singing and singing, in general, has been deemed unsafe activity.

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The Blue Ridge AGO is on the web!

Visit www.blueridgeago.org for information about the chapter including open positions and items for sale, and a regularly updated list of organ, choral, and instrumental events across Western North Carolina!

R U Due?

Membership renewals are coming soon! Please visit www.agohq.org to check on the status of your membership, or contact our treasurer Howard Bakken: hnbakken@gmail.com

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At this time, my UMC church remains closed for in-person worship and small groups are beginning to meet with an abundance of caution, masks, temperature checks, social distancing, cleaning. This is not easy. We have no choral rehearsals in sight. My choir has been meeting on zoom alternating with meeting in wide-open outdoor spaces for hymn singing. In these months, I have uploaded a number of videos of organ pieces to my church's website. These have gotten enthusiastic and interesting responses. I have learned that there are people in my congregation who have never seen the organ console nor the pipes of the musical instrument that has been leading their song for 50 years until these past few months. They are fascinated. Recently I have started to create videos of hymns at the piano, simple accompaniments of three hymns, words provided, unvarnished for those who like to sing in four-part harmony. These have gotten good responses, singing the old and new favorite hymns. I am putting together small groups (5-6) to try their hands at handbells, which are easy to keep safe and socially distanced. We might very well have a larger pool of handbell ringers available at the other end of this crisis.

I would be very interested to hear from you about how you are engaging with the music-making on the organ in your life and work, how you are keeping your folks singing at home, how your church's music ministry is functioning. Would there be any interest in Zooming with your AGO colleagues and friends? Would you be willing to write up a short description of any solutions you are implementing that are making a difference? No doubt, this time is going birth innumerable stories of triumphs, tragedies, new strategies, new expressions of music-making, and everything in between. It's not too early to start sharing these stories. Be well and stay safe.

Sincerely,
Tim Shepard, Dean
Blue Ridge AGO

News and Events

Farewell and Godspeed to Blue Ridge AGO member **Marika Straw**, who is moving back to her native Oregon. Thank you Marika for serving on the board and enriching our fellowship!

Congratulations to Guild member and music major **John Bayne** for remaining on the Dean's list all of last year, and being appointed organist for Daniel Chapel at Furman University. University Chapel services will continue for fall 2020 in the form of ten minute "Encounter: Meditations" videos. Encounter: Meditations will be multifaith in nature, exploring spirituality, music, and ritual. A new video will be posted every two weeks at: www.furman.edu/spiritual-life/furman-strong-in-spirit/

The American Guild of Organists has made a wide variety of excellent resources available during this difficult time. Copyright questions, employment issues, royalty-free resources, technological information, and much more are available at agohq.org/responding-to-covid-19

Practical Resources for Churches is a nonprofit, non-denominational service organization providing consultants, educational webinars, workshops and resources. They present a wide variety of worship and music related webinars, which are made available on their website afterwards; highly recommended. www.prcli.org



Daniel Chapel, Furman University

Hendersonville Presbyterian will celebrate the Kirkin' of the Tartans October 18 at 11:00 a.m. live streamed.

During this year's Kirkin' all but three of our churches 64 flags will be displayed in the choir loft. To ensure social distancing and safety for our parishioners, we will take reservations in advance for those who wish to attend the October 18 Kirkin'. Members will have the opportunity for the first reservations, and masks will be worn as is the current practice. Brian Tribby will be the soloist, singing "The Twenty-third Psalm" and "The Lord's Prayer" by Malotte and "I Cannot Tell" to the tune of Londonderry Air. Those who are not able to attend may watch the service livestream. While viewing, notice our new plaid paraments on the pulpit and lectern made by church member Carol Salupa. Even though we won't be able to have the church filled, as usual, for the Kirkin', I hope the members of the church and the community will join livestream as we pray for blessings on the members of our "church clan" and community. As always, I am grateful to my friend Richard McDonald who helps me with the set-up of the tartan display racks which he designed and built.



The third edition of **Clavichord Tuning and Maintenance** by Peter Bavington will be published in October. Out of print since 2017 and now thoroughly revised and updated with much new information; orders at a special pre-publication price are now being accepted at keyword-press.co.uk

While the pandemic continues to keep us apart, **Pan Harmonia** has been making previous concerts available on their website. Visit panharmonia.org to watch their performances!

Lutheran Summer Music is pleased to announce a series of online events throughout the Fall of 2020 hosted by LSM Faculty and Friends! While in-person events remain on hiatus, this series of webinar-style events will bring our national and global LSM Community together to learn and discuss relevant, helpful, and interesting topics in music. Whether you are a high school student, a professional musician, or a lifelong listener, there is something enriching for everyone to enjoy! All are welcome to join any of these events free of charge by completing a brief online registration to gain access to your event(s) of choice. www.lsmacademy.org

Asheville Choral Society is proud to offer a virtual set of rehearsals and educational content in the fall of 2020, while we await the time when we can safely gather in person to sing. Register to receive links to new video content weekly, and to be invited to our weekly live rehearsals. ashevillechoralsociety.org

Bach's Lunch, a recital series by Mr. Tate Addis of First Baptist Church, Asheville (Reuter III/42) has moved online. New performances are posted on the first Tuesday of each month at 12:05 at: academyforthearts.org/bachs-lunch/

Felix Hell recital Sunday, September 20 2020 4pm, First Presbyterian, Greenwood, SC.

The World of Bach Through His Chorale Preludes, a workshop by Dr. Jack Mitchener (Townsend School of Music), Saturday October 17, 10:00 am at White Oak Baptist Church, Greenville SC. Presented by the Greenville Chapter AGO. www.greenvilleago.org

Open Positions



Central United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Choral Director for its growing music program. Central is a large, downtown United Methodist congregation in Asheville, NC. Central UMC is an open and affirming congregation that welcomes all people regardless of race, gender, gender-identity, culture, nationality, creed, faith history, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, physical/mental abilities, marital status, or family composition. Central UMC is an integral partner within Asheville's music community and frequently partners with area churches, as well as serves as a concert venue for visiting artists.

The Choral Director will be responsible for: providing musical leadership for principal worship services throughout the year as well as special occasions (Holy Days including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve); providing musical leadership for Youth and Children's choirs; and collaborate with the Director of Music Ministries on the preparation and performance of choral music. The ideal candidate will have a Master's Degree or equivalent in either: Music (with an emphasis in voice), Church Music, or Choral Conducting. Keyboard proficiency is not required, but is considered a plus. Candidates without vocal or choral background need not apply. A complete job description

can be found on the church's website: www.centralumc.org. To apply, please submit resume and a list of choral repertoires conducted by email to choirdirectorsearch@centralumc.org. No phone calls, please.

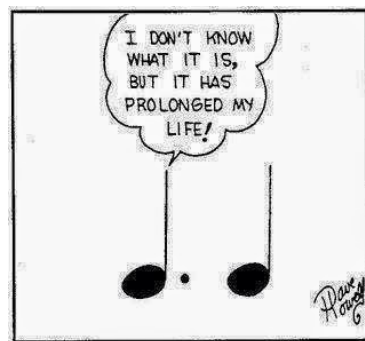
All Saints Anglican Church seeks a Church Choir Director & Organist. Part-time (8-12 hrs./wk.) organist/choir director for a family-sized, traditional, liturgical church. Duties include playing the organ on Sundays and other Holy Days, directing choir during rehearsals and worship, and preparing music appropriate in all circumstances in consultation with the pastor. Familiarity with the Anglican choral tradition a plus. Salary commensurate with experience and education. Contact: Fr. Erich Zwingert, Rector, All Saints Anglican Church, 15 McDowell Rd., Mills River, NC 28759, 828.891.7216, rector@allsaintsmillsriver.org

Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church seeks a Church Organist. The organist will work at the direction of the Pastor; prepare and perform organ music in concert with specific service themes; coordinate for timely preparation of church bulletins; play for occasional guest soloists and arrange for special music; monitor condition of church instruments. Organ is a new Allen model CF10 Two Model with Vista Navigator System. Estimate 8-10 hours per week, +\$14,000 per year.

For Sale

Otto Altenburg 5'7" Piano, black lacquer finish with leather concert bench and adjustable height control. Purchased brand new, and has give much pleasure and satisfaction over the years. Instrument is in good condition. Asking \$4,000, email mullaney_j@yahoo.com

Upright piano of unknown provenance. Very large; on casters; last tuned during the Carter administration; probably not haunted. No reasonable offer refused; contact cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net



Blue Ridge AGO Chapter

Founded
August 15, 2013

OFFICERS

Tim Shepard
Dean

Vance Yoder
Secretary

Howard Bakken
Treasurer

Gayle Stepp
Burton Bumgarner

Mark Acker
Members at Large

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.

Exclusive Offer! Act Now!

Want to see **your next event** advertised to organists and music lovers across Western North Carolina? Has your new collection of Easter introits for zimbelstern and trombone choir finally been published? Is your bell choir presenting a countywide premier of 4'33"? Whether comic or tragic, serious or lighthearted, the Blue Ridge AGO newsletter and website are wonderful ways for you to communicate with your colleagues and audiences, and the price can't be beat. So the next time you're thinking about selling that old harpsichord to make room for your growing collection of Soviet theramin prototypes, look no further than *your* newsletter! Submissions may be made to the editorial department at: cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

Substitute List

David Foster

Annette Hudson
Choir, piano, and some organ

Mary Huff
Choir, organ, piano

Makena James

Gary Mitchell

Virginia McKnight
I can do it all

Robert McWithey
Organ preferred, can direct choir

Dustin Phillips
Piano for any mainline denominational service. No choir or organ.