

American Guild of Organists Blue Ridge Chapter

September 2022

www.blueridgeago.org



From the Dean

Welcome back to the new normal! That's what it feels like to me. I am excited to see so many great things happening again here in the mountains. Alleluia.

Welcome to a new season for the Blue Ridge chapter. What a great start we already have. My last count put membership of the Blue Ridge Chapter around 50 members. We have two brand new members just this week. As a person who was an early member of this still young chapter, the number astounds me. And honestly, I see room for more growth at about every fifth church I pass that I know is using an organ in worship. Let's all make a point to invite any colleagues to our fellowship. I bet everyone reading this can name one organist who is not a member of AGO. Is your membership due?

And what excites even more is to take note of the tremendous talent that has retired to WNC! Rhonda Furr (retiring from Houston) and Timothy Wissler (Atlanta) are two such organists that I am grateful to recruit to the board. Frank Boles is another esteemed church musician who retired after a distinguished career. There are many more out there. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming year. We all have very similar experiences of triumph and tragedy in our church work. That's why we need each other, to share stories, to support, to challenge, and to teach each other.

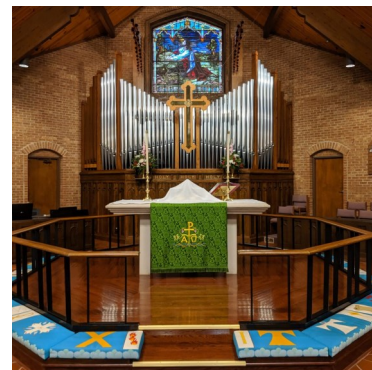
We are very excited to begin a brand new season. I am very grateful to our able board for stitching this year's programs together. It is a tapestry of events. Our first gathering is a dinner meeting, officer installation, etc., on Tuesday, September 13. There could be a few surprises that night... Details about the program, etc., and RSVP information are found elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you will plan to attend. Later in the Fall we are putting together a choral reading session lead by several of our local choir directors and in November a handbell session with our newest local resident, Michael Helman, a well known composer and handbell director. Welcome one and all. I encourage you all to be a part of this fellowship this year.

Sincerely,
Tim Shepard, Dean
Blue Ridge AGO



AGO Dinner Social

Join your friends and colleagues on **September 13** at **Grace Lutheran Church, Hendersonville** for our dinner social! We will gather at 6:00 pm and enjoy a catered meal at 6:30. Socialize and get acquainted with our now 50-member chapter! Cost to members is \$10 (subsidized by the Blue Ridge Chapter), \$20 non-members. After dinner we will have a chance to hear and play the Rogers/Zimmer organ in the sanctuary. RSVP to **Thomas Bernard**, (706) 593-0104, tbernardjr@reagan.com.



Blue Ridge AGO Fall Events

Save the date for these exciting events hosted by your AGO chapter. Keep an eye out for details soon!

Choral Reading Session

Join us on October 22 for a **Choral Reading Session** at Hendersonville First United Methodist Church hosted by Michael Brannon. We will gather at 9:30 and begin the program at 10am.

Handbell Workshop

Join us for a **Handbell Workshop** at Brevard Davidson River Presbyterian on the morning of November 5. This workshop will be led by **Michael Helman**.

Concerts and Events

Dances of Universal Peace

Porter Center, Brevard College

September 11, 3pm

Piano Duet Recital - "Dances of Universal Peace" Sunday, September 11, 3pm. Scott Concert Hall, Porter Center. Richard Riccardi and Vance Reese, pianists. More information on page 4!

Organ Concert

Lutheran Church of the Nativity, Arden NC

September 17, 5pm

Organ concert featuring Ryan Singelton playing works of Messiaen, Brahms, Dubois, and more! Lutheran Church of the Nativity, 2425 Hendersonville Road, Arden NC. Free and open to the public.

Organ Concert

First UMC, Brevard

September 18, 3pm



Dr. Brennan Szafron will present a program of organ music plus one piano / organ duet with resident organist Tim Shepard. The program will include works by Bach, Franck, and Bedard. Brennan began his tenure at Holy Cross in Tryon last November after a very long tenure in Spartanburg. This program is sponsored by the Beulah McMinn Zachary Organ Foundation of Brevard FUMC. Concert is free; donations gratefully accepted. First United Methodist Church, 325 N. Broad Street, Brevard NC (Across from Brevard College, parking on Caldwell Street)

The Reel Sisters

Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville

September 18, 5:15pm

On September 18th Trinity Episcopal Church will have as guests, The Reel Sisters. The duo will play at the 5:30pm Celtic Eucharist Service, including a fifteen minute prelude beginning at 5:15pm, and much more music within the service. Rosalind Buda, smallpipes and Kelly Brzozowski, Scottish harp are both accomplished performers who specialize in Celtic music, and have performed throughout the US and Europe.

Hendersonville Swing Band

Fletcher UMC

September 24, 3pm

Fletcher UMC's Artist Series presents the Hendersonville Swing Band. Under the direction of trombonist Jerry Zink, the band plays music of the Big Band era of the '30s, '40s and '50s. Saturday, Sept. 24, 3 p.m. \$10 per person suggested donation. 50 Library Rd. Fletcher, NC.



Concerts and Events continued

Asheville Baroque Concerts

St. Giles Chapel, Deerfields

September 25, 3pm

"Among Friends," Händel and Telemann. Asheville Baroque Concert's artistic director, Gail Ann Schroeder, viola da gamba, is joined by Baroque violinist, Jeanne Johnson; Baroque flutist, Forest Lily; and harpsichordist Jennifer Streeter, in a program of solos and chamber music by Händel and Telemann. Sunday, September 25, 3 pm • St Giles Chapel, Deerfields, Asheville • tickets: www.ashevillebaroque.org

Organ Concert

First UMC, Hendersonville

September 25, 3pm

Makena James presents "Soon May Jesus Come" September 25th at First United Methodist Hendersonville at 3pm. The concert is free and open to the public, and donations to the church are appreciated. It will last an hour, and it will be followed by a reception. A wonderful opportunity to hear a variety of music from a Bach trio sonata to some original compositions.

Concert & Kittredge Recital Hall Dedication

Warren Wilson College · October 1, 11:30am—1:00pm

Honoring the late Dr. Steven Williams



Free Concert and Recital Hall naming celebration honoring Dr. Steven Alan Williams. This event is free of charge, but is a part of Warren Wilson's Homecoming Weekend. Seating is limited, so pre-registration is highly recommended. If you would like to register for this event in addition to other Homecoming events, please RSVP through the Homecoming webpage. <https://warren-wilson.edu/after-wwc/alumni/homecoming/>

If you are only interested in RSVPing for this event, you are welcome to RSVP via email to advancement@warren-wilson.edu. Parking will be available in the guest lot adjacent to Kittredge Theatre. Parking attendants will assist if the lot reaches capacity.

Choral Evensong & Recital

St. James Episcopal, Hendersonville

October 16, 5pm

The St. James Choir will sing Choral Evensong on Sunday, October 16 at 5:00 pm, Tate Addis, service organist. Directly after Evensong, Dr. Brennan Szafron will present a recital including works by Bach, Gigout, Bonnet, Denis Bedard. The congregation may greet Dr. Szafron in the church following the recital. No tickets are required; an offering will be received. For further information, please contact Director of Music Brad Gee at (828) 694-6925, or brad@stjamesepiscopal.com.

Three Choirs Festival

First Presbyterian Church, Asheville

October 21, 7:30pm

The choirs of Trinity, Central Methodist and First Presbyterian will sing both separately and together in this celebration of our neighboring churches. The Church Street Collaborative seeks to explore opportunities to work together for the better good of our neighborhood as well as the greater Asheville community. These three choirs make up a mighty musical force! Music directors and accompanists include Sharon Boone, James Taubee, Linda Haggard, Corey Powell, and Jeremy Roberts.



Piano Duet Recital - "Dances of Universal Peace"

Sunday, September 11, 3pm. Scott Concert Hall, Porter Center

Richard Riccardi and Vance Reese, pianists

Free to the public; donations to the college gladly accepted

Richard Riccardi and Vance Reese, both teachers and accompanists at Brevard College, will present a selection of twelve dances from various countries ranging from pavaues to sambas. It is a program designed to raise awareness of the human need to dance with each other rather than make war with each other. Riccardi and Reese will play the program using two pianos.



Composers represented range from Johann Strauss, Jr. ("The Waltz King"), Dvořák, and Brahms, to Americans Cole Porter, Aaron Copland, and William Grant Still.

Many pieces will be familiar or have a familiar feel to it. Richard Riccardi is a multi-faceted performer and composer with a degree from Yale University.

Vance Reese is also multi-faceted organist, pianist, and double bassist with a degree from Indiana University. The concert is a little over an hour long. It is free and open to the public.



Kirkin' of the Tartans



In celebration of their Scottish heritage, Hendersonville Presbyterian Church will offer their annual Kirkin' of the Tartans October 16 at 11:00 a.m., which will be the only worship service that day. Joe Bailey and the Montreat Scottish Pipes and Drums; and Brian Tribby – soloist will be guest musicians. The choir will sing "'Tis the Church Triumphant Singing" by Stan Pethel. Kathleen Guice Reid and Chuck Rouse will "call the clans." Clan tartans represented will be Anderson, Blair, Bruce, Buchanan, Burns, Cameron, Campbell, Cunningham, Davidson, Elliott Farquharson, Fraser, Galloway, Gordon, Graham, Hardie, Hay, Henderson, Irvine, Lindsay, MacArthur, MacDonald, Magill, MacGregor, MacKay, Mackenzie, MacMillan, MacNaughton,

MacPherson, MacRae, McCauley, McClellan, McClintock, McKean, McLeod, Morgan, Morrison, Murray, Nisbet, Stewart, Taylor, Wallace, and Watt. Districts represented are Aberdeen, Carolina, Perthshire, and USA. There are multiple variations on some clan names totaling 63 tartans. Some will be carried in a processional, and some will be on display. All clans and all families attending will receive a "blessing." Pastor, Reverend Rob McClelland will deliver the sermon. Assistant Pastor, Charles Reed will serve as liturgist, and Pastor Emeritus Dwayne Durham will hold the office of Beadle. The church is located at 699 North Grove Street in Hendersonville, NC. The service may also be viewed live on the church website livestream or later as a previous broadcast.

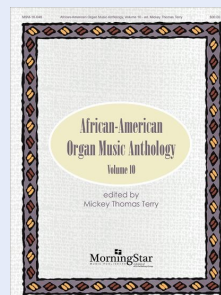
www.blueridgeago.org



African-American Organ Music Anthology from Morningstar Music

www.morningstarmusic.com

Covering the span from mid-to late 20th Century, this series is designed to include music representing African-American men and women who wrote for the organ during this period. The music may be utilized either in recital or for the church service. Contrary to popular belief, the classical music of African-Americans not only includes works that are based on the Negro spiritual, but also include compositions based on or influenced by a variety of sources. Among these are plainchant, African-tribal tunes, general Protestant hymnody, German chorales, original composer themes, music from the Jewish liturgical tradition, as well as Civil Rights themes. One will find many of these categories represented herein.



As for the composers in the series, several are alumni of prominent musical institutions both in the U.S. and abroad. Moreover, several were recipients of prestigious composition awards. As for the series itself, its purpose is to draw attention to organ music produced by a sorely neglected, but substantive school of American composers whose recognition is long overdue. The music speaks for itself.

-Mickey Thomas Terry, Ph.D., Series Editor

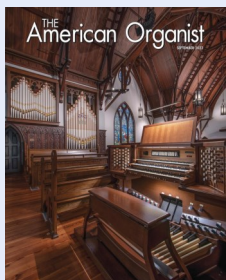
AGO Task Force Meets with British Counterparts, Launches Newsletter



The AGO Task Force for Gender Equity met with representatives of the Society of Women Organists from the United Kingdom during the National Convention in Seattle last July. The groups strategized about opportunities to elevate women organists and composers, as well as creative ways to collaborate in the future.

The task force recently released its first newsletter, along with information about membership, goals, and future activities. Visit <https://www.agohq.org/task-force-gender-equity/> for more information and to view the newsletter.

The American Organist: September 2022



The September issue of TAO Magazine, now available in print and online, features the Goulding & Wood organ at St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, LA; “Widor’s Toccata: Brilliant Gravitas” by John R. Near; “Karen McFarlane Honored at AGO Annual Gala” by F. Anthony Thurman; “The 2022 AGO Student Commissioning Project” by Alexander Meszler; “Elizabeth Stirling (1819–1895): Lessons from the Earliest Professional Women Organists” by Lyn H. Loewi; and “To the Tune of Excitement: The Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition Returns” by Katie Mobley.



Bach in Space

Bach in Space: The Glory of God's Creation with an Organ Soundtrack

Retired NASA program manager and organ enthusiast Dan Barstow recently launched the Bach in Space project. Barstow pairs videos of the Earth captured by astronauts aboard the International Space Station with recordings of J.S. Bach masterworks.

"The videos are really stunning," Barstow explained. "To make them more appealing, we're combining them with music of Bach—the master of the harmonies of the universe—and specifically some of his most glorious organ works."

The site, **BachInSpace.org**, already features five videos highlighting mountainous landscapes, oceans, nighttime lights, and the aurora borealis, set to familiar chorale preludes, preludes and fugues, and orchestral transcriptions. There is also one video with no soundtrack, offering users the ability to customize the video. The videos may also be accessed and watched on YouTube.

Barstow has many more videos and hopes to partner with AGO chapters and organists in the future on recordings and special multimedia concerts.



Open Positions



First Presbyterian Church, High Point, NC

Organist and Assistant Director of Music. Half-time, 20 hours per week. Play organ/piano for Sunday services and special services, and aid the Director of Music in musical events in the life of the church. Accompany adult choir rehearsals, and assist in accompanying youth choir as needed. In coordination with the Director of Music, contingent on the organist's skill set, assist in directing at least one of the following: children's choirs, children's chimes, and/or handbell choirs.

Minimum of Bachelor's degree in music. Organ or piano major preferred. Prior experience in church organist/accompanying/directing positions. Strong communications skills and willingness to work in a collegial manner with the Director of Music, clergy, and other staff. Familiarity with Reformed Tradition preferred. Word processing skills required. Familiarity with music software, such as Finale. Annual compensation commensurate with experience: \$25K – \$29K Deadline for application: August 15, 2022

To apply: Please submit a cover letter, résumé, three references, and a video or link to a video recording. You may request to visit the church -- to practice on the organ and view the environs. Finalists will be invited for a live audition. Email submissions and questions to FPCHP.Organist.Search@gmail.com

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Brevard, NC,

Sacred Heart Catholic Church is seeking a part time Music Coordinator to organize, rehearse, and participate in two masses per weekend, one on Saturday afternoon and one on Sunday morning, plus additional holy days. Participation in funerals and weddings will include additional compensation. Compensation will be based on qualifications. Good keyboard skills (piano a must, organ a plus) and the ability to effectively engage a variety of groups in music ministry are necessary. Knowledge of Catholic liturgy is preferred. Please submit a resume and cover letter to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 150 Brian Berg Lane, Brevard, NC, 28712, or to Jenni@sacredheartnc.org.

St. Timothy United Methodist Church, Brevard, NC

St. Timothy UMC is searching for a part time director of music. He/she will provide piano and, if possible, organ accompaniment, lead the choir for the 10:55 worship service on Sundays, plan with the pastor for upcoming services, and offer music for funerals. The minister of music will maintain music files, purchase new music, and lead the choir in all sung music. This person will secure a substitute when absent and meet with the pastor once a month to explore worship plans. Choir practice will be held weekly along with a short rehearsal on Sunday mornings before church. Please contact Andrew Crimmins at andrew@sttimothy-brevard.org to discuss salary and other details. We would love to explore the possibility of your working at St. Timothy.

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Brevard, NC

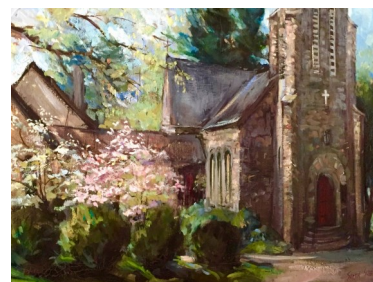
St. Philip's Episcopal Church is seeking a Director of Music Ministry to serve as Organist, Choir Director, and Nurturer of volunteer parish musical groups. We are open to different configurations of the position, so please apply even if you are not an organist but have experience directing a music ministry and working with organ accompanists. This is part time, salaried position.

The Director of Ministry will be adept at employing music in liturgy. Important to the position is an expertise in the literature of organ and choral music and the ability to learn and to teach church music of various styles from the Anglican tradition and beyond.

We seek a creative and professional musician with inclusive tastes and a passion for encouraging active participation in the liturgical life of the congregation.

The full job description is found at stphilipsbrevardnc.org

Please send inquiries/resumes to: musicdirectorstphilips@gmail.com



Raleigh Ringers: Free Workshop and Concert, September 10

7:00 pm concert at Lees-McRae College will be preceded by a workshop from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. at Banner Elk Presbyterian Church. Both the concert and the workshop are free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted. For more information, contact Janet Speer at SpeerJ@lmc.edu or 828.898.5943 or the Banner Elk Presbyterian Church office at office@bannerelkpresbyterian.org or 828.898.5406.

Something for Everyone

The AGO has a wide variety of virtual programs available to view online. Where else can you see: organ crawls at West Point and Wanamaker's; a panel discussion on organists of color; a workshop on technology and church music; a Taylor & Boody factory tour; a young organist's recital; and more?

Visit youtube.com/user/guildoforganists to watch this treasure trove of programming from the comfort of your own home today!

Read All About It!

"Yes, I know!" we hear you cry. "The Blue Ridge AGO will list my upcoming events in their newsletter, website, and on Facebook, all for the low, low price of free!" But why should you bother sending us your concerts, community events, items for sale, or job openings? For one, **you never know** how our editorial department will see fit to edit them — your next choral program may contain a lot more contemporary musical theatre songs than the rector was anticipating! Another excellent reason is that our website continues to see increased visitor traffic: in **August '22 alone**, we received over **320 unique views**! So stop procrastinating and send your "hautbois wanted" ad to the editorial department today: cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

Know Your Value!

The Association of Church Musicians and American Guild of Organists 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.

R U Due?

Please visit www.agohq.org to check on the status of your membership, or contact chapter registrar Charlie Steele at cwsorgan@comporium.net

Year of the Young Organist



AGO Chief Membership Officer Elizabeth George reports that as of mid-June, we have recruited 1,077 new young members and processed 483 renewals! This national initiative was launched in July of 2021, with the goal to recruit 1,000 new young organists. Take a look at the August 2022 issue of "The American Organist" (page 10) for more information about the program, and how they managed to exceed their goals!



John Mullaney (1942-2022)

John Edward Mullaney, 80, of Hendersonville, North Carolina, died on Friday July 8, 2022 in Autumn Care of Saluda where he was a resident for one and one-half years due to his Dementia Alzheimer's Disease.

John was born January 3, 1942 in New York City, New York. He was the son of John Joseph Mullaney and Irene G. Schad.

At a very early age John was drawn to music and especially the piano. A friend of the family, who was musical herself, spent time talking to John about music and the piano. She began giving him some basic lessons and soon realized John had a natural gift and talent for playing the piano. She expressed these thoughts to his mother and suggested John should be given professional piano lessons. His mother agreed, the friend found a good teacher, and John excelled quickly under his new teacher. John began his schooling in the New York Public Schools. His new piano teacher recognized John's ability to learn and felt he could gain from being in a school that would challenge him and provide more opportunities for his high interest in Music and the Arts. She was successful in getting John and his younger brother, Ron, full



scholarships to The Birch Wathen School in New York City. John graduated from the school in 1960.

John enrolled at Columbia in New York City and funded his college by working in New York City's garment district. While at Columbia John also developed his tenor voice and sang in various groups as well as playing services for churches in the city. John graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music.

After college John continued his work in the garment district. He applied for and was hired for a job in Hendersonville, North Carolina, with Ruth's Originals, a company which made fancy party dresses for girls. He eventually became Manager/Director of Sales and worked closely with the owner. He travelled throughout the United States and overseas looking after the company's clients. The owner sold the business to a French company and John stayed on two years to help in the transition of ownership.

Following his departure, John moved into the Ministry of Church Music. His denomination of choice was the Lutheran Church in which he was raised but his Music Ministry as Organist/Director of Music embraced churches of different denominations. Living four years in New Mexico he played for a Lutheran Church. Moving back to the area he served Skyland United Methodist Church and served The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd in Brevard, North Carolina, for eleven years. After Brevard John went into semi-retirement but offered himself to serve interim positions for churches in Hendersonville, Saluda, and Tryon, North Carolina. After playing interim positions, John became a part of the Music Ministry of Hendersonville First United Methodist Church. John joined the Adult Choir, the Chamber Singers, the Solace Choir and The Hendersonville Chorale. John played one last interim position at St. Pauls Episcopal Church in Edneyville, North Carolina, and played there until his illness prevented him from continuing to do so.

John was a longtime member of the AGO and his membership was in The Blue Ridge Chapter, Hendersonville, NC, and became inactive due to his illness. John's Ministry of Music reached countless numbers of people in many different congregations. God used his music to touch people's lives and spirits, giving them hope, courage, and inspiring them all along their journey of life.

John was a veteran serving in the U.S. Army Reserves for six years. John was preceded in death by his parents, and his younger brother, Ronald Thomas Mullaney. John is survived by two nephews, Keith Mullaney (Nell) and Shane Mullaney, both of California, and his dearest friend, Donald R. Youmans of Tryon, North Carolina.

Per John's request there will be no service.

Memorials may be made to The Alzheimer's Association by mail - P.O. Box 9601, Washington, D.C.; by phone - 800-272-3900; or online, Alzheimer's Association.com (donate); or to a favorite charity of the donor's choice.

The New Oxford Organ Method

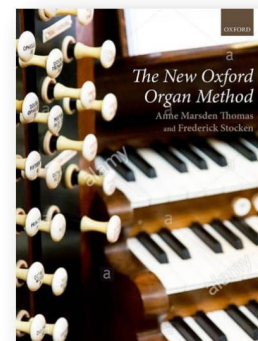
Anne Marsden Thomas and Frederick Stocken

- A comprehensive method book for organ, providing a complete syllabus for learning
- For players of any age and with basic keyboard ability (approx. ABRSM Grade 2)
- Can be used as a self-tutor or material for teaching
- Concise explanatory text for greater understanding
- Pieces cover a range of styles and include works by J. S. Bach, Buxtehude, Franck, Reger, and Walton

The New Oxford Organ Method is the latest title in OUP's educational suite of titles for organ. A single piece of repertoire is the primary focus for each chapter, with preparatory exercises providing the necessary technical work building towards the piece. Each lesson covers four main topics, which are systematically developed: practice methods, registration, fingering and pedalling, and historically-informed interpretation. The method is for keyboard players of any age who are establishing first steps at the organ with or without a teacher. It will also serve more experienced organists who want to improve their technique.

Anne Marsden Thomas is one of the most influential organ teachers of today, and has wide experience as a concert and church organist. She has written or edited over twenty books for organists. In 2015 she was awarded the MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours, and, in 2017, was the first woman to receive the Royal College of Organists highest decoration, the RCO Medal.

Dr Frederick Stocken is a widely-commissioned and performed composer, whose recorded and broadcast music ranges from organ and choral pieces to orchestral works. His publications include not only compositions, but also musicological writing and keyboard tutors. He is a cathedral organist, and a distinguished teacher of organ, music theory, and musicianship at all levels.



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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 · Casavant Opus 3774 (1998)



50 ranks · 2,658 pipes · 4 divisions · 3 manuals · 37 stops

