

American Guild of Organists

Blue Ridge Chapter



Summer, 2021

From the Dean

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

What a mind-numbing year we have just experienced, one for the history books. Many suffered and continue to suffer from this disease. I pray you are all well. I am grateful to be well, and grateful for all of the lessons that I learned during this time: lessons of the spirit, how to properly wash my hands, six great new pieces, and Zoom. I am happy to say that the organ sang assuredly and blessedly at my church in Brevard during the last year. The organ turned out to be the perfect socially distanced music maker for a pandemic. I recorded nearly two dozen organ pieces that reached people in a way that it never has before. Having a camera on the organist provides a front row view. "I didn't know you played with your feet too! Fancy that!" commented one newly enlightened member at FUMC. Many of you did the same, and I loved seeing some of them. I can confidently say that through this pandemic the organ was able to provide comfort, distraction, joy, melancholy, tears and dancing to many through music. I hope that your instrument is alive and well too!



The Blue Ridge Chapter has been quiet this year, waiting for vaccines to be widely available. The board is now developing plans for some great programs. If you have an idea, let me know. Our first meeting will be a **fellowship gathering at Hendersonville Presbyterian Church on Saturday morning September 18**. We will gather for brunch, fellowship, election of the 21-22 slate of board members, and the acceptance of our chapter Operating Procedures. Perhaps there will be a surprise or two. Mark your calendars!

We hope that you will put your shoes back on and re-engage with your AGO chapter. There are various ways to reconnect. Here are a couple possibilities:

1. We encourage you to renew your membership when it becomes due. Many of our members renew in July. The National office has scholarships to support members who are having financial issues from the pandemic to renew their membership. Contact me if you would like more information about this fund and eligibility.
2. We are looking for new board members to help guide the chapter and provide some of the leg work to make the chapter function. You would be joining a fun and dedicated group of people.
3. We have a large list of friends who have contributed to our chapter in various and generous ways. We invite you to consider another friendly donation, or better yet become an official member of the AGO.
4. Literally, put your organ shoes back on, please! We need organ substitutes in WNC. You can add your name to the sub list by contacting David Anderson: cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

For the health of the chapter, I need to rotate off as Dean in June 2022. My goal for this year, in addition to continuing some great programs, is to find ways to strengthen our fellowship and personal connections. We need each other and we need to support each other. Few people can really understand the trauma to church musicians caused by closed churches and silenced choirs, the things that nourish us. This is a time of healing, renewing, rejuvenating, reconnecting. And for all of that we need each other.

I delight to hear from you! All the best,

Tim Shepard, Dean

Blue Ridge AGO Event

Save the date! On September 18, we will gather for brunch at Hendersonville Presbyterian Church. More details will be coming soon, so keep an eye on the website and your email. We cannot wait to see you in person!

Bach's Lunch

Bach's Lunch, a recital series by Mr. Tate Addis of First Baptist Church, Asheville (Reuter III/42) continues online.

New performances are posted on the first Tuesday of each month at 12:05 pm.

July 6: Organ Music from the United States.

academyforthearts.org/bachs-lunch/



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

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.

Visit our Website

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

COVID-19 Response

The American Guild of Organists continues to make a variety of excellent resources available to members. There is also a scholarship for anyone affected by the pandemic which will cover AGO dues. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you or someone you know could benefit from this program! www.agohq.org/responding-to-covid-19



Something for Everyone!

The AGO Young Organists had a full slate of virtual programs in 2020/2021, and they are all available to view online now. 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!

Margaret Vardell Sandresky



(b. April 28, 1921), the talented and long-lived American organist, teacher, composer, and 2004 AGO Distinguished Composer Award recipient, is celebrated in a centenary tribute on Pipedreams. Congratulations, happy birthday, and best wishes from the

AGO! Hear the program at: www.agohq.org/margaret-sandresky-100th-birthday-celebration/

OrganFest 2021

The American Guild of Organists invites you to OrganFest 2021, June 27–July 2. This year, in the absence of AGO Regional Conventions, we wanted to provide a week in which we could again enjoy outstanding performers and instruments, be entertained by a wide variety of musical styles, learn new skills, and mingle with old and new friends at after-parties. agoorganfest2021.org

Summer Concert Series

Presented by the Academy for the Arts at First Baptist Church, Asheville. Reclaim the joy of live music with two **free** summer concerts featuring AFTA faculty. A free-will donation will be collected for the AFTA Scholarship Fund, giving opportunities to students in financial need. More information at www.academyforthearts.org/summerconcerts
Sunday, July 11 — Traditional Music on the Sanctuary Steps — bring a chair — Rain date: July 14
Sunday, July 18 — Classical & Jazz Music in the Sacred Garden — chairs provided — Rain: July 21

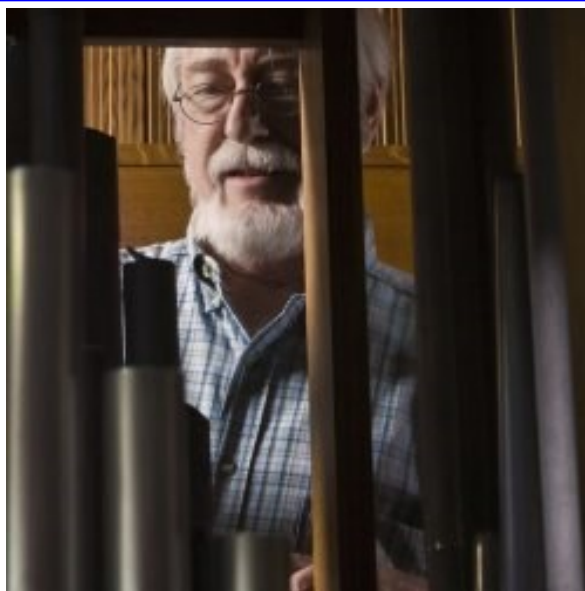
Condolences to the family and friends of Marilyn Munson,

loving wife of Greg Munson, who passed away on March 25th, 2021 at home in Canton, Georgia of causes unrelated to Covid-19. Marilyn is survived by three children – Mark Munson (Melissa Feemster), Julie Beck (Doug Beck) and Amy Munson and four grandchildren – Molly and Max Fitzsimons, Kate and Walter Beck. Marilyn was a devoted Christian Scientist and had many talents. At age four she started playing the piano (Marilyn had perfect pitch), and by sixteen was a church organist, with a career that spanned over 50 years. As a result, Marilyn made fast friends with many famous organists and was a past president of the American Guild of Organists of the Western North Carolina Chapter. In addition, she taught private piano lessons to many beloved students for over 20 years. Outside of music, Marilyn loved making art (particularly watercolors) and studying art history. She was proud of her Masters in Humanities. An enthusiast of art museums, Marilyn was happy to stand in front of a single painting and study every detail for long periods of time. Having learned German from her parents (first generation immigrants) Marilyn was the family ambassador for relatives in Europe and enjoyed many trips abroad. Her German cousins were like brothers and sisters to her. Long before Google maps and armed only with a Rand McNally, Marilyn was always game to hop in the car for a drive – whether it was a long trip from New York to Alaska, the parks in Utah, or an unpaved road up the side of a mountain. In addition, swimming or a great meal (with dessert first) always made her smile. Marilyn always had a twinkle in her eye, and will be missed as the rock of our family. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Longleaf Hospice (who were the most thoughtful and caring the last few weeks) or The Publishing Society/CS (who gave Marilyn inspiration her entire life).

**Condolences to the friends and family of Fritz Noack**
(1935-2021), founder of the Noack Organ Company, who died on June 15, 2021.

From 1954-58, Noack apprenticed with Rudolf von Beckerath in Hamburg, and then worked with Klaus Becker, Ahrend & Brunzema and Charles Fisk prior to founding The Noack Organ Company in 1960 in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Noack became one of the leading figures of the organ revival movement that influenced the American organ building scene during the second half of the 20th century. In the 1960s and 1970s he built organs with tracker action, a clear break with tradition at that time, before the economic downturn of the late 1980s and early 1990s necessitated Noack to broaden. In 1994, he built his first electric-action organ in decades for the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas.

Noack also participated actively in professional organisations and was president of the International Society of Organ Builders (ISO) from 2000 to 2006. He retired in January 2015 passing the reins to Didier Grassin, a colleague and friend he had known for many years.



Now Accepting Submissions!

Want to see your next event advertised to music lovers and colleagues across Western North Carolina? Has your Tammy Wynette parody mass finally been accepted for publication? Perhaps your bell choir (like everyone else) is presenting a complete Ring cycle this summer? The Blue Ridge AGO newsletter and website are wonderful ways for you to communicate with your colleagues and audiences, and the price simply 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 theremin prototypes, look no further than the Blue Ridge AGO! Submissions may be made to the editorial department by carrier pigeon or email at: cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

Gathered in My Name: 2021 Worship & Music Conference

This intergenerational conference is for children, youth, adults, pastors, directors, organists, pianists, guitarists, percussionists, ringers, worship leaders, choir members, and anyone who loves and takes part in the worship and music of the church. Multi-generational Hymn Festival Choir led by Tom Trenney; daily Worship Reflections focused on collaborative worship planning for congregations of ALL sizes; a variety of class offerings to explore the cultivation of inspirational worship; living SCRIPTure: Biblical Storytelling for Middler and Senior High conferees. Montreat.

You can join us online as well! A select number of programs will be streamed and available virtually – join us from anywhere! In-person: Week 1: June 20 - 25, 2021; Week 2: June 27 - July 2; Online: June 27 - July 2
www.presbysmusic.org



Upcoming Conferences at Lutheridge, Arden NC



Lutheridge Adult Music Week returns August 12-14 2021, in an abbreviated form! Make a joyful noise in the mountains with friends old and new! Bring your own musical passions with you to share, and join us to learn from passionate and engaging sacred music leaders. Share in creative and inspiring worship in this community. Be filled up with faith-forming experiences lead by Lutheridge's gifted program staff. And have a relaxing adventure away in the middle of God's good creation! We look forward to this opportunity to gather back together with all those who have made Music Week at Lutheridge a yearly tradition. And for those who have never joined in on the fun before, this weekend retreat

is a great opportunity to join a great community centered on music and faith. Registration and more info at: lutheridge.org/fall_spring_programs/adult-music-week-retreat/

Find inspiration, instruction, and community for your handbell choir at **Lutheridge Handbells Retreats**, August 27-29! Tucked away in the mountains around Asheville, NC and featuring renowned handbell instructors, this experience has been the centerpiece for many great choirs for years. Each weekend features an Intermediate and an Advanced track. From beginners to old pros, all levels of experience are invited to join. Your choir will leave with beautiful pieces prepared to share with the world for the rest of the year. Program leaders from Lutheridge will lead devotions and worship. Your choir will have an experience which doesn't just teach music but forms you as a witness to God's love through music. Our clinicians will be **Kevin McChesney** and **Julie Turner**.

Registration and more info at: lutheridge.org/fall_spring_programs/handbell-workshops/

Open Positions

Church of the Incarnation, Highlands NC

Church of the Incarnation (Episcopal) in Highlands, NC seeks an experienced baritone/bass-baritone staff singer for the 10:30 am service. One trip, Sunday only position with occasional extra services for extra pay. The Incarnation Choir is a friendly, welcoming group of 8 professional and 8 volunteer voices. Please contact for more information.



Church of the Incarnation, Highlands

Boiling Springs Baptist Church, Boiling Springs NC

Boiling Springs Baptist Church seeks a part-time organist. This position includes providing service music for Sunday worship services, seasonal worship services, and funerals, as available; and rehearsing with the choir when the choir accomp is absent. Candy@boilingspringsbaptist.org

Saluda Presbyterian Church, Saluda NC

Saluda Presbyterian Church is seeking a pianist for weekly Sunday morning services. Responsibilities are: prelude, hymns, special music, offertory and postlude. The special music segment is a short solo work of the pianist's choosing. The former pianist's repertoire included Scarlatti to African American Spirituals and everything in between. There is no choir. The compensation is \$75 per service. Saluda Presbyterian Church, located in a historic church building in lovely downtown Saluda, is a small, warm, and caring community with a music-loving congregation. Contact Pastor Lin Johnson at linjohnson6@gmail.com



Faith Memorial Chapel, Cedar Mountain

Faith Memorial Chapel, Cedar Mountain, NC

Faith Memorial Chapel is looking for a summer organist. The chapel is only open in the summer and has been having services for the past 90 years or so. Services run through Labor Day weekend. The chapel is located off of route 276, near the SC border, about 12 miles from downtown Brevard. The organ is a two manual Allen that was new in the 2019 season, so is still in fairly good shape. Please contact Karen Ramsuar: kargo81@yahoo.com

St. George's Episcopal Church

St. George's Episcopal Church in West Asheville seeks a parish musician. Church has small 2-manual Moller organ and Yamaha GA-1 piano. Reports to: Priest-in-Charge. Plays weekly Sunday service (10:30), Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday. Assists with hymn selection as requested. Sets up equipment needed for online streaming. Offers preludes and postludes of the musician's own choosing. Instrumentation and instruments used of the musician's own choosing (consulting with priest as appropriate). Applicants comfortable/flexible with various musical styles are encouraged to apply. Reports use of hymns/texts and tunes to CCLI/ OneLicense. Rate per service: \$75, plus FICA.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Edneyville, NC seeks an organist. Twice a month, \$150 per Sunday.

Brevard Davidson River Presbyterian Church

Brevard Davidson River Presbyterian Church seeks an organist and choir director substitute for July and August of 2021. Choir rehearsal at 10 am on Sunday mornings, with the choir singing at the 11 am service. Please contact Mary Johnson: majohnson2@comprium.net

Practical Resources for Churches

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: www.prci.org

Webinar Series: Starting the Song

Join the Deborah Carlton Loftis Ambassadors for a free webinar series designed for students and young professionals (but all are welcome!). Since the pandemic has made our usual in-person programming at colleges and universities impossible, we're bringing these wonderful presentation and presenters to you digitally. Each event is free and open to the public. Presented by the Center for Congregational Song. These webinars are now available for viewing at <https://congregationsong.org/webinar-series-starting-the-song/>

Engaging and Lasting: Music to Build Transcendent Worship

British composer and choral conductor **Bob Chilcott** will investigate individual movements from his major works, single pieces, and introduce new Oxford sacred music publications. He will also present a choral skills session for inspiring choirs to sing musically. University of Notre Dame (Emeritus) and Yale Organ Professor (current) **Dr. Craig Cramer** will examine sacred organ masterpieces useful for liturgical settings. He will also demonstrate effective, efficient organ practice regimens.

Dallas, Texas, August 6 @ 4:00 pm - August 7 @ 3:00 pm CDT

<https://www.churchmusicinstitute.org/events/>

The New Oxford Organ Method

Anne Marsden Thomas and Frederick Stocken

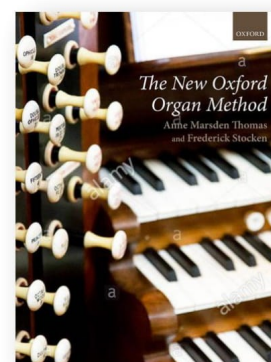
- A comprehensive method book for organ, providing a complete syllabus for learning
- For players of any age and with basic keyboard ability (approx. ABRSM Grade 2)
- Can be used as a self-tutor or material for teaching
- Concise explanatory text for greater understanding
- Pieces cover a range of styles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

Click here for samples: <https://www.yumpu.com/kiosk/oxfordmusic/new-oxford-organ-method/64376323>



\$25.50

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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.

Substitute List

Please note that in order to protect the privacy of our members, we do not publish their contact information publicly. Please contact cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net to get in touch with a substitute, or use the submission form on our website: www.blueridgeago.org

Steve Bennett: Organ (in AVL area)

David Foster: Organ, choir

Annette Hudson: Piano

Mary Huff: Organ, choir

Makena James: Organ

Virginia McKnight: Organ, piano, choir

Robert McWithey: Organ preferred, choir

Gary Mitchell: Organ, piano, choir

Elaine Myers: Organ, piano, choir

Dustin Phillips: Piano

