

American Guild of Organists Blue Ridge Chapter

Summer 2023

www.blueridgeago.org



Year in Review



We kicked off our 2022/23 programs with a **Dinner Social** on September 13 at Grace Lutheran Church, Hendersonville. Chapter members and guests enjoyed a catered meal and time to socialize and get acquainted with our now 50-member chapter. After dinner we heard and played the Rogers/Zimmer organ in the sanctuary. Thanks to **Burton Bumgamer** and Grace Lutheran for hosting us.

The chapter hosted a **Choral Reading Session** on October 22 at First United Methodist Church in Hendersonville. Several local choir directors led an enthusiastic group in singing new music and old favorites. This event was very well received; the only complaint was that it was not long enough! Thanks to our directors, and **Michael Brannon** and First UMC for hosting us.



On November 5 at Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian, the chapter hosted a **Handbell Workshop**. Handbell ringers from throughout the area gathered with handbell composer, clinician, and chapter member **Michael Helman** to explore a variety of music and techniques during a morning of handbell ringing, music making, and fun fellowship. Thank you Michael for an excellent program.

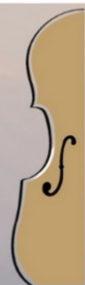
On February 27 we gathered at Fletcher United Methodist Church for a presentation on **Clergy and Musicians as a Team**. Members treated their clergy guests to a catered meal and socializing time, followed by a talk by **Kyle Ritter** and **Todd Donatelli**. Kyle and Todd worked together as Canon for Music and Dean at the Cathedral of All Souls, and had many insights on clergy-musician relationships. They took questions from the audience, and a productive conversation ensued. Many thanks to our presenters, and to **Blaine Russell** and Fletcher UMC for hosting us.

On March 25 we held a **Young Organists Recital** at the Schantz/Cornell organ at Christ School in Arden. **Dr. Joby Bell** from Appalachian State University brought several of his students to demonstrate this instrument. They played an interesting program of music by Bach, Matthias, Gigout, Howells, and more. The chapter was pleased to be able to support the next generation of organists through this program. Thank you to **James Cassarino** for hosting this event.



The **Annual Meeting** was held on Saturday May 6 at the First Baptist Church in Hendersonville. After pastries, fruit, coffee, and fellowship, the chapter accepted unanimously the nominees for next year's board. We also recognized Past Dean **Tim Shepard** for his dedicated work for the chapter (before and during a global pandemic!) Another part of this program was **to build an organ using an OrgelKids kit**. This is a handcrafted small organ that arrives disassembled. The kit was on loan from Clemson university, and we were assisted by **Linda Dzuris**, the Carillonneur at Clemson. We also enjoyed hearing and playing the 45 rank Casavant at the church. Thanks to **Vance Yoder** and First Baptist for hosting us.

**PRESS
RELEASE**
MAY, 2023



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MUSIC
SOCIETY**
of the carolinas

*fostering shared experiences of joy,
creativity and transcendence
through world-class chamber music*

July 8-30, 2023

www.cmscarolina.com

Celebrating its 54th Season! July 8-30, 2023

CMS Carolinas is delighted to announce its 54th season!

Highlights of the upcoming season include accordion virtuoso Ivan Filipchuk, the return of the remarkable countertenor Nicholas Tamagna and cellist Raman Ramakrishnan, a special program of music and dance with duoJalal and movement artists Jillian Linkowski and Razvan Stoian, and our friends the Jasper String Quartet and Inessa Zaretsky.

Join us each week for a new program in our three welcoming venues. Tickets are on sale now

Swannanoa, NC: Kittredge Theater at Warren Wilson College
Saturdays at 7:30pm July 8, 15, 22, 29

Waynesville, NC: First United Methodist Church
Sundays at 4pm July 9, 16, 30

Greenville, SC: Fine Arts Center
Mondays at 7:30pm July 10, 17, 24

www.cmscarolina.com

Sincerely,

Inessa Zaretsky
Artistic Director



J and Rachel Freivogel
Associate Artistic Directors





2023 Season Artist Series

PRESENTS:



Fletcher Community Chorus

"Celebrate with Jubilant Song"

Thursday, May 11th | 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 6th
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 8th
4:00pm | Tickets: \$25

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

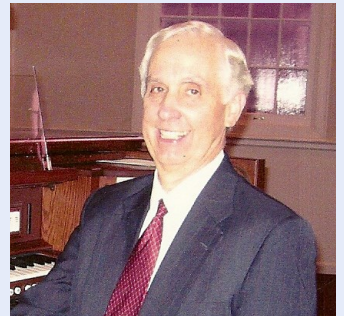
Fletcher United Methodist Church
50 Library Rd. Fletcher, NC 28732 (828)684-7155

For more event info & ticket sales
visit www.fletcherumc.org or scan code:



Meet Your 2023/24 Blue Ridge AGO Board

Vance Yoder, Dean Vance Yoder, organist at Hendersonville First Baptist, is a retired college president with M.M. and Ph.D. degrees in music from Indiana U. and Ohio State U., respectively, teaching at both while a graduate student. Earlier he has been a college faculty member, dean, and academic V.P., and consultant-evaluator on 35 accreditation teams, chairing 18. He has given recitals in Hendersonville and Brevard, served as chair of the Henderson Co. Library Board and president of two local Rotary clubs. He and his wife, Marilyn, have three married sons and eleven grandchildren.



Thomas Bernard, Treasurer and Sub-Dean

After retirement from practicing Orthopedic Surgery, my wife and I moved from Columbus, Georgia to Asheville having always loved Western North Carolina. We both play piano and organ and were long time members of the Columbus AGO where I served as treasurer for over 12 years. As the Blue Ridge AGO treasurer, I look forward to serving our members, and working with the other board officers as we share the common goals of growing our chapter, providing excellent musical and educational meetings and supporting future young organists.

JC Cecconi, Secretary, received a BA from Harpur College, SUNY Binghamton, and an MBA in Hospital Administration from Baruch College, CUNY and the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He is a former naval officer, has a private pilot license and is retired from a career in hospital and academic administration. He has held positions as Organist, and Minister of Music in NY churches, and served as the regular organist for several Masonic lodges and Eastern Star chapters. He is a past Dean of the Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He resides in Connestee Falls.



Rhonda Furr, Member at Large, retired with her husband to North Carolina in 2021 after serving more than 30 years as professor of musicology and organ at Houston Baptist University, and 17 years as organist at First Presbyterian Church of Houston. She is a former Dean of the AGO Houston Chapter and was the Convention Coordinator for the 2016 AGO National Convention. Rhonda received her BSEd and MME at Western Carolina University and her DMA at Southern Seminary in Louisville KY. In retirement Rhonda and her husband continue in ministry and enjoy spending time with their four children and eleven grandchildren.

Timothy Wissler, Member at Large, retired from the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta, moved to Asheville, joined the Blue Ridge and Asheville AGO chapters and is enjoying meeting and working with church musicians in these beautiful mountains. Tim received a DMA degree from the University of Michigan and served as Dean of the Atlanta Chapter and as a member of the steering committees for two national and one regional convention. For the national AGO office he was a member and chair of the Quimby Regional Competitions for the Young Organist committee. In Atlanta he taught at Mercer University Atlanta and Georgia State University. He enjoys cycling, yoga and playing pickleball with his wife Anne.





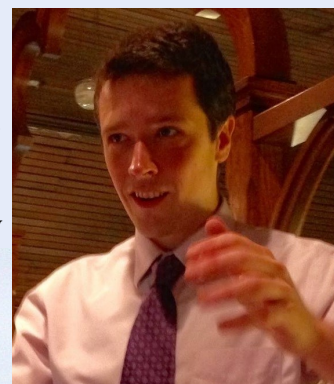
Hunter Holbert, Member at Large, is a native of Hendersonville and found his musical passion through his studies on the violin. Today, he proudly owns and operates R&H Landscape/Development while actively contributing to the musical scene in Hendersonville, Western North Carolina, and Eastern Tennessee as a professional violinist. Hunter's commitment to his craft drove him to achieve both an undergraduate and graduate degree in music from Appalachian State University. He also possesses a passion for historically informed music and the captivating realm of the organ. As a member of the American Guild of Organists, he brings his expertise, enthusiasm, and love for music to the organ community.

Michael Helman, Member at Large, Michael Helman is currently Director of Music/Organist at Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church in Brevard, North Carolina where he directs the Chancel choir and handbell ensemble as well as a staff accompanist at Brevard College. Prior to moving to North Carolina, Michael served churches in Hockessin and Wilmington, Delaware and most recently was Director of Music/Organist for sixteen years at Faith Presbyterian in Cape Coral, Florida. He holds a degree in organ performance from Lebanon Valley College and graduate degree in Music History. He is an active composer of handbell, organ, and choral music with numerous pieces in print. For a number of years, Michael was on the Board of Area 3 of the Handbell Musicians of America as well as serving as Dean of the Delaware Chapter of AGO for four years. Michael has begun two community handbell ensembles: the Wilmington Handbell Ensemble in 2000 and in 2009 the Southwest Florida Handbell Ensemble. He is also the past Handbell Editor for the Lorenz Corporation.



Timothy Shepard, Past Dean Timothy has been the Director of Music and Organist at Brevard First United Methodist Church since 2008. He received a BM at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, where he studied sacred music practices, organ, and choral conducting. He received a Masters of Sacred Music in Choral Conducting from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. He has been the Director of Music at churches in South Carolina and Georgia. Mr. Shepard has performed as an organist in recitals, with the Brevard Philharmonic, and at Brevard College. He is a composer and arranger of hymns, handbells, organ, and choral music.

David Anderson, Newsletter Editor, is the Cantor (organist and music director) at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Asheville where he leads and encourages the song of the people. Outside of church he may be found playing bridge and cribbage, assailing his neighbors with a 1956 Vega 5-string banjo, and trying to catch trout. A native of Woodstock, NY, he graduated from Concordia College New York with a BA in English, holds a Certificate in Sacred Music from Lenoir-Rhyne University, and the AGO Colleague certificate.



Letter from the Editor

“Keeping Up Appearances” is a sitcom which stars the socially-aspirational Hyacinth Bucket (*boo-kay*). When she learns that her neighbor’s brother is a musician, she dreams of the possibilities this presents to her and rushes to tell her husband that “Emmett is a musician! He’s been certificated! Don’t you know what that means, dear?” Richard responds dryly: “Oh, about twenty-five pounds per hour, I should think.”

Certification. Does it fill you with fear and trembling? It certainly did me. While I can’t promise you an extra twenty-five pounds per hour, let me give you a few reasons that you definitely, actually, really should apply to the AGO certification program. Today!

You’ll have something to work toward. If you’re like me, it’s hard to get motivated. Sure, I occasionally spend the time to learn a new piece; but just as often I’ll start working, get distracted, and think “well who’s really gonna remember the postlude from last Pentecost? Hello Orgelbuchlein, my old friend!” For the exam I chose BWV 729, Bach’s “In Dulci Jubilo.” While I certainly could have sat down and spent the time preparing it for Christmas, I was all the more motivated by having a test date on the calendar, chapter colleagues who had agreed to give their time to proctor it, and a couple hundred bucks less in my pocket (ok, in my continuing ed budget) for the privilege. When Christmas came around I had it down pat, and the congregation loved it!

You’ll learn something you may never have wanted to know. Perhaps you’re excited to improve your improvisation. You’ve already picked the modulating bridge option for C8, and are happily plugging away at the necessary skills. Not so fast hot-shot. You’re also going to have to contend with the dreaded C7: transposition. I had no desire to acquire this ~~elritch~~ ^{elritch} power skill, but worked at it long enough that I managed to (barely) squeak by (barely). A week after I took the test I was asked to take a two-part piece down a full step; that seemed easy. I’ve continued to work on this skill, and while I’m far from perfect it gets a little better every time. Now when a clarinet player stops by and wants to sight read some hymns, I can play a passable accompaniment. When I walk into a dark, rainy Sunday morning with sparse attendance, the congregations can mysteriously sing those high notes with no problem. Certification almost guarantees that you will gain or improve a skill you may not have wanted, but will find useful in the future.

You’ll improve in unexpected areas. Particularly in the two months leading up to the exam, I slept better, got more exercise, and played better. I dropped a few commitments that I knew would be drains on my time, and found myself out in nature more often. On nights that I was tempted to stay up and read “just a few more pages,” I opted for an early bedtime since I had to practice in the morning. I also noticed my piano playing outside the church was remarkably improved. That isn’t exactly unexpected when you spend more time each day practicing, but it was a welcome confidence boost! These unintended consequences made for a great few months.

You’ll feel like a pro. I took organ lessons from the time I was sixteen until I graduated from college (BA in English), then again for three years in my late ’20s. I have worked in churches for twenty years, accompanied community choruses, musicals, high school and college productions, played music at national church events, and more. Despite this decent background, like many of you I do not hold a degree in music, and therefore in my mind have never been a real musician. Certainly not a real organist! Passing the Colleague exam, while not completely erasing those feelings of impostor syndrome, has gone a long way toward helping. When I sit at my desk and see the certificate hanging on the wall, I begin to think I just might be qualified for this job that I’ve been doing all these years! That’s good for your own mental health but it’s also good for the people you work with and play for; when you’re less busy with doubts, you can allow yourself to open up and make music more fully, better serving your community. If you have any sort of confidence problems, certification can make a real difference.

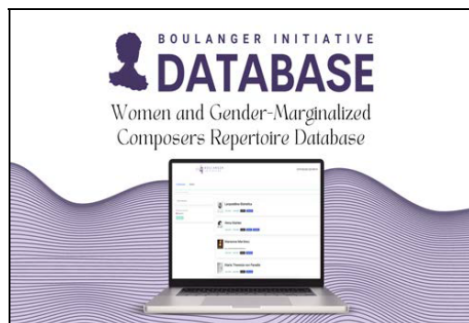


David (r) with his boss. Obviously, not a real organist.

My deepest thanks and appreciation to Past Dean Tim Shepard and Member at Large Rhonda Furr. Tim encouraged and cajoled me, and made the organ at First Methodist Brevard available for the allotted practice and examination times. Rhonda gave her time and advice in reviewing the exam requirements, and drove many hours to serve as a proctor for me. Thank you both!

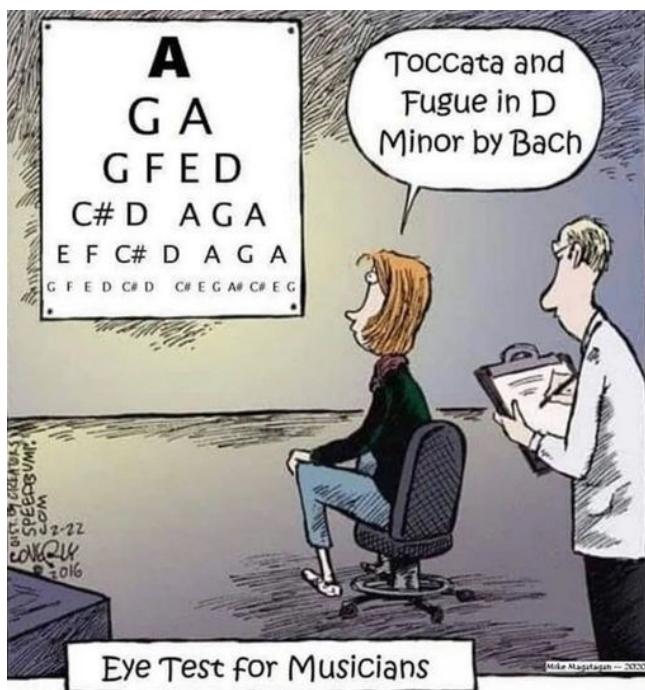
These are just a few reasons you should submit your application for a fall 2023/spring 2024 examination. Even after I played the exam and had serious doubts that I would pass, I did not regret it for a moment; you won't either. Happy practicing!

Boulanger Initiative Database



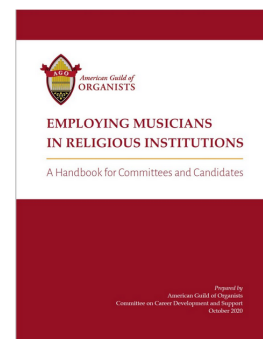
The Women and Gender Marginalized Composers Repertoire Database (BID) is now publicly available, following years of researching archives, compiling data, and beta testing. The database offers freely available information on over 8,000 works by 1,200 BIPOC, women, and marginalized composers in classical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

www.boulangerinitiative.org/database



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/ 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

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.

Open Positions

First Baptist Church, Weaverville, NC

First Baptist Church Weaverville, NC, is searching for an organist for the month of August and/or an interim organist. Presently, the choir is on break for the summer and normally reconvenes sometime in August. Those interested in the position may contact Frances Coates by email: [fmcoates \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:fmcoates@gmail.com)

Skyland United Methodist Church, Asheville NC

Skyland UMC seeks a Director of Music/Accompanist for Traditional Worship. Report directly to the Senior Pastor. Direct and simultaneously accompany Chancel Choir on piano and/or organ. Direct Handbell Choirs (this makeup changes each year with influx of participants, basically ages 3 grade -adult) Direct Children's Choir(s) and offer other youth/child music programming. Supervise and collaborate with Music Ministry volunteers who help on a weekly basis. Organize, rehearse, and direct orchestral groups for special large works with various choirs. Offer special music programs like piano duo concert and/or piano & organ duo concert. Author worship service liturgies, prayers, and musical settings for worship events as needed. Plan weekly worship music and assist drafting and reviewing bulletins. Accompany funerals, memorial services, and weddings on organ/piano as needed. Provide music support for other staff and programs as needed. Qualifications: A committed believer who sets a Christian example in the performance of assigned duties. Master's degree in music. Experience Directing comprehensive church music programs. Anticipated start date August 13, 2023 Submit resume and letter of application to [communications \(at\) skylandumc.com](mailto:communications@skylandumc.com)

Grace Church in the Mountains, Waynesville NC

Director of Music Ministries, Part-time or Full-time. Grace Church in the Mountains is an Episcopal Church in Waynesville, NC near Asheville and Smoky Mountain National Park. Grace Church welcomes all people, including all races, gender identities, and sexual orientations. Our active membership is about 375 people, 120 of whom typically worship on a Sunday. Our worship style is broad, drawing on contemporary and traditional hymnody and generally using Rite II or Enriching Our Worship. The Music Director position is part-time, including playing organ for all services, conducting Adult choir and chime choir, and playing and providing staff leadership for monthly Taizé services, but can be combined with program leadership or administrative support to become a full-time role, depending on the skill, interest and time of the candidate. Applications are being accepted now, and interviews will take place beginning August 15. Resumé and cover letter may be sent to our Senior Warden, Laura Armour: [lauraarmour4567 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:lauraarmour4567@gmail.com)

St. Luke's United Methodist, 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 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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Columbia SC

Person experienced in liturgical worship, preferably Lutheran worship, is sought to serve as Part-time Director of Music Ministry (directing traditional adult and children's choirs). Plan and administer the entire music program in consultation with the pastor, staff, and lay worship committee, including weekly selection of hymns, choir anthems, and service music and music for special services during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Minimum of Bachelor's degree in Music or other related degree. Experience in directing church choirs and proficiency in playing the piano and singing is necessary. Send contact information and attached resume to gslcemployment2@gmail.com.

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 education per year. To apply send cover letter and resume via email to Rev. Erin Kirby, stjohmsmarionclergy@gmail.com, or as a hardcopy to St. John's Church, Attention Rev. Kirby, P.O. Box 968, Marion, NC 28752. Position open until filled

Black Mountain Presbyterian, Black Mountain NC

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, a vibrant and progressive community of faith in Black Mountain, NC, is seeking a classically trained organist. This individual would support worship services that elevate the rich heritage of sacred choral and organ music found in the Presbyterian (PCUSA) liturgy. The organist will serve an integral part-time role, joining an energetic and collegial staff. The Organist will report to the Director of Music and assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive music ministry plan congruent with the vision and mission of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. Bachelor's degree in music or related field preferred (equivalent experience will be considered). Since this is a part-time position, benefits are not included. Salary is negotiable and will be dependent upon experience level. For more information about Black Mountain Presbyterian Church: bmpnc.org Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Aaron Price, Director of Music and Worship Arts, at "aaron (@) bmpnc.org". Candidates are encouraged to include links to audio and/or video recordings of past performances. For more information, contact Aaron Price at 828-669-2725.

Lutheran Chapel Church, Gastonia NC

Lutheran Chapel Church seeks an Organist/Assistant to the Director of Music. Position Objective: To coordinate and assist with the music programs primarily through accompaniment on the organ and piano while reflecting the church mission and theology. Part-time position, 4-5 hours/week average. Salary Range: \$10,400 - \$13,400 Responsibilities: Collaborate with the Pastor, Director of Music and Worship and Music committee in preparation for worship services and any special music requests. Enthusiastically accompany and assist with Music Ministry programs that facilitate cross-generational spiritual growth and enhance the worship experience. Be an active participant in weekly and seasonal worship services. Provide accompaniment for funerals as needed and as available. Necessary Qualifications: Must love music! Highly skilled accompanist. Proficient in most styles of playing piano. Proficient organist preferred, but not required. Must have a desire to learn. Competent music director. Experience working with children. Bachelors or Associate degree in music or equivalent training/work experience. If you are interested in applying for this position, please send your professional cover letter and resume to: Lutheran Chapel Church, Attn: Organist/Assistant to Music Director Search Committee, 702 N. New Hope Road, Gastonia, NC 28054 or by emailing churchoffice (at) lutheranchapelchurch.org

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 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. Degree in Church music or Organ performance preferred. Organ: Orgues Letourneau – Opus 105 2007, 2 manuals, 30 ranks, 22 stops

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 or 919-749-9699.

Upper Manual

8 Rohrflote
4 Rohrflote
2 Principal
1^{1/3} 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



Hauptwerk

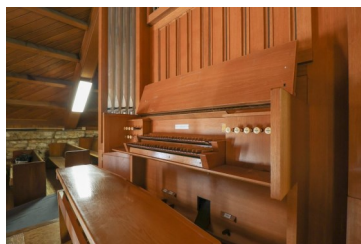
8 Rohrfloete
4 Principal
2 Flachfloete
IV Mixture

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) received 397 unique views in May 2023 alone? Behold, now is the accepted time! Send your concert information, community announcements, position descriptions, and bombe-de-wanted ads to the editorial department at: cantordavid@stmarkslutheran.net

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](https://www.youtube.com/user/guildoforganists) to watch this treasure trove of programming from the comfort of your own home today!



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."

Blue Ridge AGO Chapter

www.blueridgeago.org

Founded
August 15, 2013

OFFICERS

Vance Yoder
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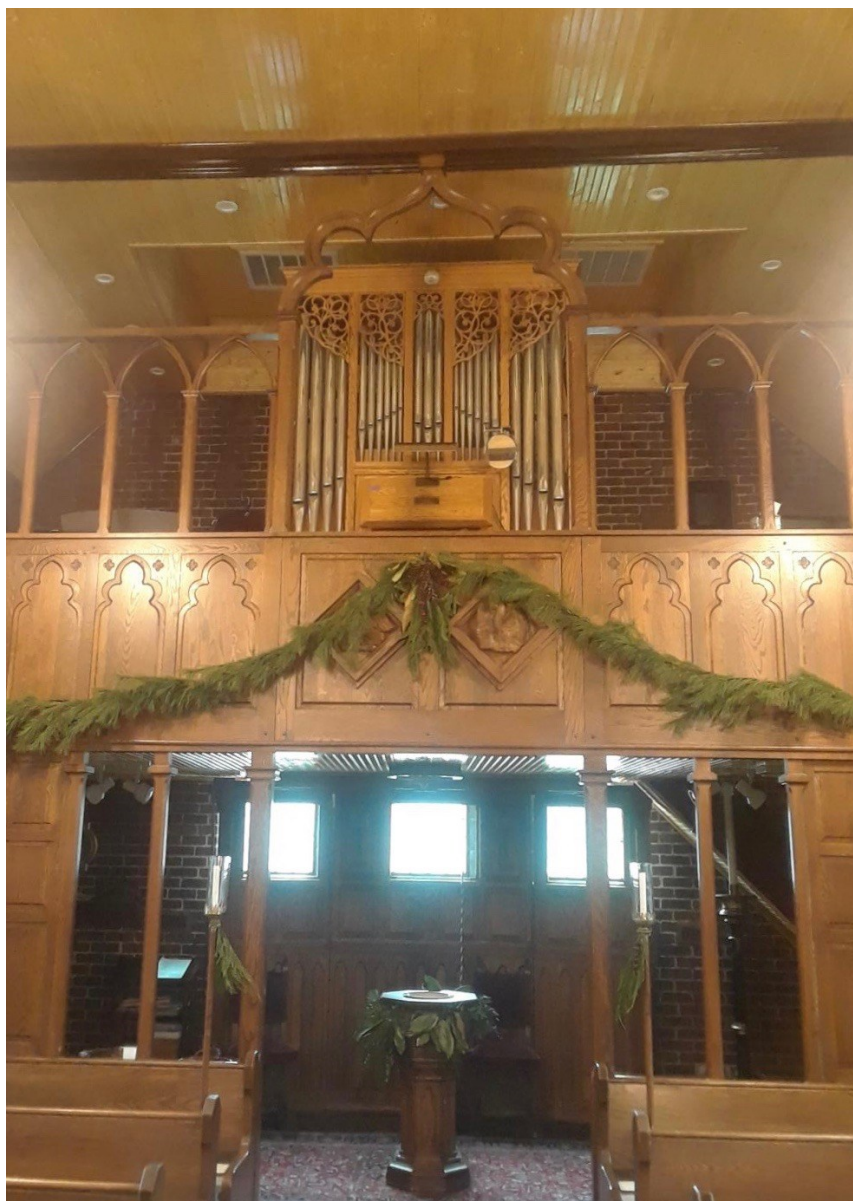


About Us

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

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Asheville · J.W. Walker & Sons · 1993
12 ranks · 2 manuals



*A little one shall become a thousand,
and a small one a strong nation—Isaiah 60: 22*