## Happy New Year 2016

from the Richmond AGO Chapter Communications Team





Our next chapter meeting and program will be held on January 19, 2016 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4103 Monument Avenue, Richmond. Our Featured presenter will be Bruce Stevens in a program of Organ Works of Josef Rheinberger.





Bruce, who has now recorded 15 of the 20 Rheinberger Romantic sonatas on period 19th-century organs, will lead us in examining the life, career, compositional style, and organ works of the German master composer, teacher, and organist. We will also learn about the best Rheinberger editions as well as look at the the type of organs that inspired him. Bruce will play selections from the sonatas and miscellaneous works and suggest pieces useful for church services.

Our meeting will begin with a 6:00 PM gathering followed by dinner and a business meeting at 6:30. Bruce's program will follow the business meeting.

Our dinner menu will include Salad, Baked Chicken Breast, Roasted Root Vegetables, Green Beans, Apple Cobbler. Reservations are required for dinner, and the cost of the meal is \$12. Please contact Paul Honaker at (paul.honaker@comcast.net) to make your reservation. You will receive a confirmation notice from Paul once your reservation has been recorded. If you make a reservation and fail to attend, you will be responsible for the cost of the meal.

#### THE DEAN'S LETTER TO MEMBERS

"Come on in, nobody will know you are there. We're all just out there, running around and having a great time." Well, it was very tempting. I had been with the New York City Opera for several weeks as the accompanist for the choir boys; my duties in the evenings were to serve as guardian as they came and went onstage. This year, the work was "La Boheme". I had been seeing the chorus for several weeks as we waited backstage, and on this final night, one of the chorus members jokingly asked me to come on. He was so convincing. Well, I didn't know the music, and I didn't know what I would do when I got out there. "No problem, just stand in the back and blend in. Come on in, it will be lots of fun!" I looked around; I was the only person on staff, and said, very sadly, "No." Who else would look after the boys when they came off stage?

Fast forward 25 years later, and I am in the grocery store in Chicago. I was relieved to find all that I needed, since we had just moved there from California. I stood at the door, which had magically opened, and there from the sky were falling specks of white. What was this? In November? I stood there with my eyes wide open, in silence. "What is that?" I finally managed to croak out. A man who had seen many winters just laughed, and as he went outside, he said, "It's snow. Come on in!"

"Come on in" to 2016! There are so many possibilities for this calendar year. Here are some that come to mind, and I'm sure you can come up with many more:

- -Mental: planning music for this big anniversary year for the following composers: Antonio and Juan de Cabezon, Johann Jacob Froberger, Mattias Weckmann, Max Reger, and Jean Langlais; taking an AGO exam; taking an online music class.
- -Physical: learning more about practice techniques from people like Noa Kageyama, who has an instructive website; setting practice goals; taking lessons from some of the talented teachers here in town; going to the gym and setting up healthy patterns of eating.
- -Spiritual: taking time to be centered, to have a quiet time to read, journal, etc.
- -Social: preparing for the 2017 Regional as we network and organize, and call for volunteers; building bridges with each other. Joining the Dean's Organ Tour as we travel monthly to different churches.

"It's time to hand in your reports, we are closing soon." Time for the beginning of the fiscal year. "At the sound of the shofar..." Time for the beginning of the Jewish year. "Advent is coming soon!" Time for the beginning of the Christian Liturgical Year. "We're going to see the Rose Parade!" Time for the beginning of the calendar year. There are so many different years, and they each come and go. They each have a beginning and an end. At the beginning of 2016, I invite you to "come on in," and join us for another year of adventure and great music!

Cheryl Van Ornam

Dean, Richmond Chapter, AGO
ago.cheryl@gmail.com
804-272-7973 x303

FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA CHURCHES,
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The Churches Of Hirginia

Web Site Available at

www.ChurchesOfVirginia.org

### PLEASE NOTE THE NEW CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS

Richmond Chapter AGO PO Box 8644 Richmond, VA, 23226

### **UPCOMING DEAN'S ORGAN TOURS**

\*Please note that this replaces the "Dean's Lunch."

January 21 @ 11:00 a.m. (Thursday): Chris Martin will be our host organist at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1627 Monument Avenue, Richmond. February 18 @ 10:00 a.m. (Thursday): Bruce Stevens will be our host organist at Cannon Chapel, University of Richmond, Richmond.

Directions o Cannon Chapel from Downtown/The Fan:

Take Grove Avenue to Three Chopt Road. Turn left on Three Chopt. Follow Three Chopt until it ends and turn right onto River Road. Continue on River Road and bear right immediately before the intersection to stay on River Road. Continue straight for approximately .75 mile and make the second right onto College Road. Continue for approximately one mile, going past Westhampton Lake and the Robins Center arena. Turn right at the University of Richmond sign onto Campus Drive. Make the first right into the Gateway Entrance of campus. Continue down the hill and take a left at the first intersection. Follow Westhampton Way and turn left after the speed bump onto UR Drive and take the first left into the Chapel parking lot.



#### **CONVENTION UPDATE**

There has been no new convention news this past month. Remember the convention dates – put it into your own calendar, too!

SUNDAY, JUNE 25 to WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017

Kenna Payne,

2017 Regional Convention Coordinator

### OFFER OF HELP WITH IRS FORMS 1099-MISC

If you are involved in another organization, and are responsible for generating Forms 1099-MISC in January (for calendar 2015 payments to vendors), and don't know what to do about the forms or supplies, call Kenna Payne, our treasurer. Kenna processes these forms for the Chapter and one or two other small organizations each year. She can answer any questions about the process and requirements, and can even prepare the forms for you. Just give her a call – 272-9656. Don't wait too long – the forms need to be done and distributed before January 31, 2016.

### The Richmond AGO is on FACEBOOK.

Stay connected with Richmond AGO members and notices of meetings, recitals, and other events through the chapter's official Facebook page. Look for us on Facebook: Richmond Chapter - American Guild of Organists, or go to the Richmond AGO webpage www. richmondago.org and click on the Facebook icon.



### **NOMINATIONS**

Do you know a member of our local AGO chapter who would be interested in serving on the Executive Committee? Perhaps you are interested? It is time to seek willing nominees for elections which will be held in May. The positions that will be open are one auditor and two members-at-large. Any current member in good standing can nominate another member, or one's own self. You must secure agreement from the person you nominate that she or he is willing to be nominated. Please send your nominations to Sharon Freude, Chair of the Nominating Committee, by email to freudemusic@earthlink.net or by mail to 1619 Park Avenue, Richmond 23220. Thank you.

#### **EDUCATION CONCERNS**

Happy New Year from the Education Concerns Chair. You still have time to get ready for the service playing exam (application in to National by Feb. 1, 2016, take by March 31st 2016) and / or get ready for the CAGO (application to be in by March 1, 2016) to be given on May 13, 2016. Be sure your music will fit the organ on which you are taking the exam!!!

If you took music lessons in Germany, these terms are what you may have encountered:

Double whole note: Doppeltakt (m) Double whole rest: doppel Pause (f.)

Whole note: ganze Takt (m) or Ganze (f)
Half Note: Halbe (f) or halbe Takt (m)

Quarter note: Viertel (f)
Eighth note: Achtel (f)

Whole rest: ganze Pause (f)
Half rest: halbe Pause (f)
Quarter rest Viertelpause (f)
Eighth rest: Achtelpause (f)

Sixteenth note: Sechzehntel(f) Sixteenth rest: Sechzehntelpause (f)

Thirty-second note: Zweiunddreissigstel (f)
Sixty-fourth note: Vierundsechzigstel (f)
Thirty-second rest: Zweiunddreißigstelpause (f)
Sixty-fourth rest: Vierundechzigstelpause (f)

One hundred twenty-eighth note: Hundertundachtundz wanzigstel (no gender listed)

One Hundred twenty-eighth rest:

Hundertundachtund zwanzigstelpause (f)

Material above was taken from : www.dolmetsch.com/musictheory2.htm

Mary Campbell

### **MEET YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

This month, we are replacing our usual column with a special HIGHLIGHTS message from our District Convener.

Dear Richmond AGO members,

Greetings and Happy New Year from Lynchburg! I hope you all have gotten your second wind after the Advent/Christmas rush.

I enjoyed the wonderful meal and getting to meet new people during my visit in November. I was very impressed with the huge turnout and obvious collegiality of everyone at your chapter meeting. Your list of programs and recitals is outstanding. It is certainly an exemplary program for other chapters to emulate.

I look forward to visiting many of the beautiful churches and hearing the many fine organs at the 2017 Regional Convention. Best wishes to all of you for an exciting year of music making.

Peace, Wisdom and Grace, Gordon Betenbaugh, District Convener

### THE CHAPTER AREA EVENTS CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE

The Richmond AGO Area Events Calendar is an excellent way to advertise your programs and to check for date availability.

The Area Events Calendar on the chapter website at www.richmondago.org was added for the use and convenience of our chapter members as well as those in the greater community who may be wanting to check and see what events are already on the calendar for a certain day or evening so that they can avoid conflicts as well as being able to plan to attend events that are listed.

Events shown on the calendar are added by you, the member, and not by any officer or committee chair of the Richmond Chapter AGO. That means that if you want your event or events shown on the calendar, you must go to the website, click on the Area Events link on the left side of the home page, top right, click on "submit an event," and add the event or events on their specific dates.

The Area Events Calendar is a actually a Google calendar. This means that, in addition to adding your own events, you can "dump" this calendar into your pre-existing Google calendar on your smart phone or tablet with just two clicks of your mouse.

Remember, too, that if you are a group "Friend" of the chapter for our Facebook page, you can also announce your special events there as well for other group members to see. Our Facebook page is only open to those who have asked to join and been admitted as a "Friend" by one of the administrators. It is not open to the public. So your privacy is not at risk if you join and follow our Richmond AGO Facebook page.

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# <u>Summary of remaining Chapter Programs, Organ Repertoire Recital Series</u> <u>performances and scheduled Dean's Organ Tours for the 2015-16 season</u>

**Chapter Program**: Organ Works of Josef Rheinberger (Bruce Stevens, presenter)

January 19, 2016 (Tuesday) @ 7:30 p.m.

Westminster Prebysterian Church, 4103 Monument Avenue, Richmond

#### Dean's Organ Tour

January 21, 2016 (Thursday) @ 10:00 a.m.

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1627 Monument Avenue, Richmond

**Chapter Program**: "The Spiritual Bach" (Spirituals and Orgelbüchlein) Marvin Mills, Organist and Marlissa Hudson, Soprano February 12, 2016 (Friday) @ 7:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2315 North Parham Road, Henrico

#### Dean's Organ Tour

February 18, 2016 (Thursday) @ 10:00 a.m.

Cannon Chapel, University of Richmond, Richmond

Chapter Program: Sixth Annual J.S. Bach Birthday Marathon

March 6, 2016 (Sunday) @ 3:00-6:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 8706 Quaker Lane, Bon Air

Chapter Program: Marcel Dupré: Le Chemin de la Croix "Stations of the Cross" Stephen Hamilton, Organist

March 11, 2016 (Friday) @ 7:00 p.m.

St. James's Episcopal Church, 1205 W. Franklin Street, Richmond

#### Dean's Organ Tour

March 17, 2016 (Thursday) @ 10:00 a.m.

Chester Presbyterian Church, 3424 W Hundred Rd, Chester

#### **Organ Repertoire Recital Series Concert**

Scott Detra, Concert Organist

April 8, 2016 (Friday) @ 7:30 p.m.

Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, 3601 Seminary Avenue, Richmond

Chapter Program: Maintaining Your Serenity - Role Plays and Advice from Veteran Church Leaders

April 12, 2016 (Tuesday) @ 7:30 p.m.

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7757 Chippenham Parkway, Richmond

#### **Dean's Organ Tour**

April 21, 2016 (Thursday) @ 10:00 a.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1214 Wilmer Avenue, Richmond

Chapter Program: Scholarship Recital/Educational Meeting

May 9, 2016 (Monday) @ 7:30 p.m.

Location: 7TH Street Christian Church, 4010 Grove Ave., Richmond

### **AROUND THE TOWN**

Please note: To insure inclusion, all articles for Around The Town must be received no later than the 16th of the month before the month of publication.

#### FOREST HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On Sunday, January 17, 2016, at 2:00 P.M., a free concert in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be presented at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church by Dr. Lisa Edwards Burrs, soprano; violinist Naima Burrs, & pianist Patrick Carlin, featuring works by Handel, Elgar, Massenet, Puccini, and Traditional Spirituals. Closer to the concert date, the complete Concert Program may be viewed at www.fhpcrichmond.org. The Church is located at 4401 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond, VA 23225. 804-233-4371

#### ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN BON AIR

January 22nd, 7:30 P.M. - Organ Concert, Kevin Kwan, organist, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 8706 Quaker Lane, Bon Air, VA 23235, Ph. 804-272-0992

#### ST, BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH

January, 29, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.: Daniel Stipe presents a concert to benefit the Leadership Program for Musicians at Saint Bridget Catholic Church, 6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23226. Admission is Free, but donations to LPM are encouraged.

#### A WINTER WEEKEND WITH ALEXANDER PALEY

Saturday, January 30 at 7:30 P.M: The complete Chopin mazurkas; Rachmaninoff preludes.

Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 P.M. with Daniel Stipe, piano. Tchaikovsky's Children's Album, Ravel's "Mother Goose" suite and Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" with narration. Great for children. St. Luke Lutheran Church7757 Chippenham ParkwayRichmond 23225 Free (donations appreciated). For more information call 272-0486, x14

### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH AGO

The Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Memorial Scholarships are intended to support the education of talented young organists who will make significant contributions in the performance of organ music. Applicants are expected to have existing talent, achievements, and skill in organ playing. They will also have an expressed commitment post-graduation to teaching and/or performing organ music, or engaging in another serious endeavor with respect to the organ. The AGO awards \$60,000 in college scholarships annually from this memorial fund.

In 2016, four scholarships will be eligible for renewal while two new scholarships will be awarded: one each to an entering college freshman (\$7,500) and an entering graduate student (\$15,000). These scholarships will be renewable if certain academic requirements are met. Applications are judged on the basis of both talent and financial need. The online application period is January 1–February 15, 2016.

Please help us spread the word about these scholarships to young organists who are considering college organ studies! For more details, visit us online. Young organists can find a list of schools offering academic degrees in organ studies here. For more information about this scholarship program, contact Harold Calhoun at AGO National Headquarters, 212-870-2310 or e-mail info@agohq.org.

AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education Sharon Hettinger, DMA, Director Tom Mueller, DMA Dana Robinson, DMA Catherine Rodland, ChM, FAGO, DMA Charles Tompkins, DMA

Don Cook, AAGO, DMA, National Councillor for Education

### PIANO FOR SALE

1920'S C. Kurtzmann Player Piano needs a good home. Instrument is In good condition. Nice for home or for use in restaurant or public venue. If interested please contact Ashley McCune at (804)363-7693.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

The persons listed below have indicated a desire to be called for substituting at church services. No specific qualifications are implied by their inclusion on this list.

The employer is responsible for determining that a substitute will adequately meet the needs of the church.

Questions should be addressed to Betty Girardeau. If you no longer wish to be included on the substitute list, please ask that your name be removed from the list by emailing Betty Girardeau at bettyg@redfamiliar.com or by phone at 804-647-0825.

### **Substitutes Available for Sundays**

Beck, Susan	804-353-3022	smillerbeck@hotmail.com
Burton, Melvin (Mel)	804 744-2325 or Cell 804 347-4673	
Campbell, Mary	804-337-3935 (cell) 804-288-4098 (home)	maryecampbell@comcast.net
Crafton, Coleen	804-334-8094	pipesnposaune@gmail.com
Freude, Sharon	804-353-4683	freudemusic@earthlink.net
Gay, Esther	757-253-0391 (Williamsburg/Tidewater)	esthergay@cox.net
Grant, Cathy	434-293-0617 (Charlottesville, VA)	mclgrant@centurylink.net
Kerschbaumer, Evelyn	804-744-3147	ekersch@aol.com
Martin, Liz	804-559-0898 (Summer only)	
Moro, Don	804-652-9311	donmoro@gmail.com
Neff, Joan	804-248-2522 (June-August only)	jneff@richmond.edu
Nowowieski, Adella	804-288-0917	delnow@yahoo.com
Suerken, Ernest A.	804-272-5545	
Yates, Elizabeth	804-965-6214	Eay143@yahoo.com

### **Substitutes Available for Special Non-Sunday Morning Events**

Bailey, Tom Candler-White, Laura Edwards, Beverly	804-221-7549 804-360-5754 804-794-6025 (available also for 11:00 AM S	Froberger@aol.com lauracwhite@verizon.net
Ferrell, Lia	513-687-3329	liaruhi9@yahoo.com
Hargrove, Elizabeth	804-798-1776 or 804-339-5701	f.hargrovejr@comcast.net
Jonkman, Crystal	804-330-9976 (home)	crystal.jonkman@verizon.net
	804-301-9976 (cell)	crjonkman@stmicaelsbonair.org
	804-272-0992 x104 (church)	
Lindsey, Charles	804-370-7374	charleslindsey15@gmail.com
Moro, Don	804-652-9311	donmoro@gmail.com_www.donmoroorganist.com
Norfrey, Lisa	434-806-2322	lisa.norfrey@gmail.com
Sachs, David	804-222-2494	Psalm100Pesach@comcast.net
Schutt, Ed	804-564-4887	e.schutt@comcast.net
Taylor, Dr. Brian J. AAGO	912.656.0779	cornishanglican@gmail.com
Taylor, Margaret	717-419-4309 (cell)	m.e.taylor003@gmail.com
Van Ornam, Cheryl	804-814-6677	ago stoplist cvo@yahoo.com

#### **POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Listings in this column appear for a maximum of 90 days and then are removed unless an extension is requested. When a listing is removed, therefore, it does not necessarily mean that the position has been filled. To submit a listing, please contact our Referral Service Director, Betty Girardeau.

#### ST. JAMES EPSICOPAL CHURCH

120 Ellisville Drive (PO Box 1216), Lousia, VA, 23093.

Seeking quarter-time Minister of Music for one Sunday morning service and one weekly choir rehearsal. 1995 Grooms & Payne pipe organ of 31 stops. The church also has a baby grand piano and church members happy to share their musical talents on various instruments including violin, cello, and guitar. Salary range \$13,000 - \$15,000 depending on experience and education. Other benefits include a travel stipend, continuing education credit, vacation, and maternity leave. The Minister of Music is also given the opportunity to use the church facilities and instruments for the purpose of private music instruction. Interested candidates should contact submit a resume with cover letter to the Rev. Alex Riffee via email at stjameslouisa@verizon.net or by phone at 540-355-1779. Questions about the position may be addressed to same.

#### **EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

23 N. Court Street. Westminster. MD 21157.

Seeking part-time Director of Music Ministry. The applicant should have knowledge and appreciation for the role of both contemporary and traditional music in Christian worship. Primary responsibilities include directing the Adult Choir that rehearses on Wednesday night from 8:00 - 9:15 p.m., coordinating the volunteer musicians who play guitar, recorder, drums and other instruments, and integrating and fostering their musical talents and other related duties during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning and special worship services. The ability to play the piano and/or guitar is required. Candidates with the ability to play the Moller pipe organ (during the 11:15 a.m. service) and the Allen electronic organ (during the 9:00 a.m. service) are encouraged to apply. A compensation package commensurate with experience is available in the range of \$12,000-\$15,000 per year plus a church provided house. Please send résumé and letter of interest to ascensionmusician@gmail.com. More information about the church may be found on the church website at www.ascension-westminster.com

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4602 Cary Street Road, Richmond, VA, 23226.

Seeking part-time organist to assist in playing for two Sunday morning services, accompany the Chancel Choir, and rehearse when needed with the children's choirs. Three-manual Andover pipe organ, Steinway grand piano, and a Hubbard harpsichord for accompaniment opportunities. Salary range from \$11,000 to \$12,000 with flexible time for practicing and time off. Interested candidates should contact Suzanne Riehl at sriehl@fpcrichmond.org.

#### ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

8050 St. Paul's Church Road, Hanover, VA, 23069

Seeking part-time organist/director for one Sunday morning service and one weekly choir rehearsal, also held on Sunday morning before or after the service. Special services during the year include Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday. Two manual Allen electronic organ. Salary of \$14,500 per year with 4 weeks paid vacation. Interested candidates should contact the Rev. Connor Newlun via email at cnewlun@stpaulshanover.org or by phone days at 804.537.5516 or evenings at 703.470.9638.

#### ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

510 W. Poythress Street, Hopewell, VA, 23860

Seeking part-time music director for two week-end Masses and one weekly choir rehearsal as well as being available in when possible for weddings and funerals. The music director should be familiar with some contemporary as well as traditional music for the Catholic liturgy. The church has a small pipe organ and a grand piano. Salary ranges from \$16.00 to \$25.00 PER HOUR depending on experience for an approximate 12-15 hour week. Interested candidates should contact jjpetet@comcast.net or call St. James church at 804.458.9223.

#### ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

2631 Pocohontas Trail (PO Box 648), Quinton, VA, 23141

Seeking assistant organist for one weekly Saturday evening mass (5:30 PM) as well as assistance at Christmas and potentially during Lent and Easter, as well as to substitute for the full-time organist occasionally on Sunday. Two manual Wicks 4 rank pipe organ. Candidate should have some knowledge of the Catholic Mass, chant, and antiphon music and be comfortable accompanying the Cantor and choir. Stipend of \$100 per mass. Interested candidates should contact the full-time organist Beth Satterley via email at DMBblue@msn.com or via phone at 751-813-9265. They may also contact the church directly through the secretary Rose Reed at 804-932-4125. The church website may be viewed at www.seascatholicchurch.org.

#### HISTORIC ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2319 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA, 23223

Seeking part-time organist/choir director for one Sunday morning service and one weekly choir rehearsal (these are currently held before the service on Sunday), and special services throughout the year. Renovated Adams Stein 1905 two-manual tracker pipe organ. Annual salary and benefits package worth approximately \$30,000 including health (negotiable), pension, stipend toward continuing education, and 4 weeks paid vacation. Funerals and weddings are right of first refusal and paid outside of the salary. Interested candidates should apply via email with a cover letter, resume, and a minimum of 3 references to music@saintjohnsrichmond.org no later than 11/30/2015. Applications will also be accepted for split positions of either organist or choir director. For additional information please visit the church's website www.saintjohnsrichmond.org.



### January, 2016 Candlelight Concerts and Historic

### Organ Recitals at Bruton Parish Church

There will be no Candlelight Concerts in January due to necessary repairs that will be made inside the church building.

Concerts will resume in February,

with performances set for all Saturdays in that month.

Historic Organ Recitals - Wren Chapel, College of William & Mary

Saturdays @ 10:00 am on January 2, 16, & 23 – Rebecca Davy, Organist January 30 – Sarah Bland, Organist

Rebecca Davy, Music Director & Organist
Dr. JanEl Will, Organist
James Darling, Choirmaster & Organist Emeritus

Contact bdavy@brutonparish,org: or (757) 645-3431 Website: www.brutonparish.org

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American Guild of Organists, Richmond Chapter John G. DeMajo, Editor PO Box 8644 Richmond, VA 23226

# RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the Web and on Facebook! http://www.richmondago.org



### DID YOU KNOW?

Most of today's musicians are aware that it is no longer necessary to venture out to your local music store in order to purchase sheet music. With many on-line music purchase sites available, most printed music can be obtained instantly by downloading a copy from one of these sites and simply printing it on a standard laser printer. Some sites sell their downloads, especially where copyrighted music is offered. There are also sites that specialize in "public domain" offerings including classical music from the masters, as well as hymns and church specific offerings. There is even a site where the entire Lutheran Hymnal has been placed on-line as MIDI files.

What many people don't know is that it is often possible to download printable music in the form of MIDI files. There are several presently available software programs which will allow you to view complete songs and transcriptions, often with embellishments taken from popular performances of the music. One such piece of software that your editor has found to be extremely helpful is a program called "MIDI-NOTATE". Available for a very reasonable one-time download fee, this program will display any MIDI file in the form of sheet music or multi-part orchestral transcription. It will also play the piece for you using computer generated orchestral instruments or organs, so that you can hear how the work was intended to be performed.

An additional set of features in "MIDI-NOTATE" allow the user to edit and modify the piece including the ability to transpose the key up or down within a complete octave, and the ability to add chord symbols and to separate the piece into either a vocal arrangement or a "lead sheet." While it is somewhat limited when it comes to editing and creating your own arrangements, the program's output can be used with other more expensive professional software programs such as Sibelius, to create detailed arrangements.

There is a world of versatility in MIDI music. If you are fortunate enough to have MIDI playback built into the organ at your church, you can generally use the instrument manipulation feature in MIDI-NOTATE to modify the orchestral registrations, thereby registering generally available MIDI files to fit the available specification of your instrument.

As with any downloads from the Internet, it is important to get your music only from reliable sites in order to avoid downloading malware disguised as legitimate music files. The user must also be careful to comply with legal requirements involving copyrighted material, especially when that music is going to be played in church or in some public forum. An added benefit is that MIDI sheet music can usually be directly displayed on the popular tablets that are available. One organ manufacturer is even offering a music rack with a built-in PDF display for use with digital sheet music, and there are several stand-alone devices on the market that are musician specific also.