

April 2019

The Richmond

STOPLIST

THE DEAN'S LETTER TO MEMBERS

It Takes a Village



It was obvious to me in Los Angeles, where I heard about so many small or struggling chapters, that we have a gloriously successful one. There are so many people in our chapter who contribute in so many different ways to its strength. Some are obvious, up there performing, serving on the executive committee, and chairing or being members of important committees. I would name names except for the fear of missing someone. But tonight, as I write this on his birthday, I want to name just one: Bill Van Pelt.

As I watched and listened to Bill lecturing on the Erben organ at St. Paul's last Tuesday night, I realized how rarely he is up front, sharing his vast knowledge of organs and organ history with our members and guests. It was a masterful lecture, filled with facts made interesting and important, and enhanced by his

excellent pictures.

Bill does so many things in the background for our chapter. For every recital, he manages and often supplies the audio-visual equipment that brings the concert images to all in attendance. That, in itself, is huge because the video really grabs the non-organist audience members and helps educate the organists. He also deftly handles the publicity for the recital series, filling the pews. Bill has the unrelenting job of taking the photographs and writing the text for the monthly chapter programs and sending them to the TAO. For our recent regional convention, he researched, chose, booked, and managed the hotel—a huge job, with a lot of on the spot crisis management. All of these things and more Bill does quietly, with good humor and awesome competence.

Thanks are not nearly enough for all you chapter members who, like Bill, are out there in the trenches, supporting the chapter, making music and education available to all of us, managing the business affairs the chapter, helping with meetings, receptions, and AGO testing, working on the website, newsletter, and archives, and so on. You know who you are and please know that I and others know, too.

Nancy

ndbreed@gmail.com

804-784-5010 (h)

804-389-5574 ©

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Betty Girardeau shares some thoughts in response to last month's Dean's Letter

Nancy was SO right about members needing to reach out to and connect with organists in other churches who are not AGO members. I especially want to suggest the need to do that with those in small, part-time church jobs, many of whom are only playing electronic organs.

I never knew about the AGO until one of my mentors suggested that I might be interested in joining. Even then I was unsure that this was a group for me. I was only beginning my organ studies and felt very inept. But my mentor passed my name along to Liz China, then chair of New Members for our chapter. And she called me and invited me to come to a meeting. After that first meeting, I never stopped attending meetings. My life was then, and continues to be as a handbell ringer here in TN (I was introduced to handbells because of a guild program and then class by Ray Herbek) so very, very enriched because of my AGO connections.

AGO is an amazing group that unfortunately does not come across as welcoming to those who are struggling students (and I do not necessarily mean young students. I did not start studying the organ until I was 37 years old) or in small churches with less than "perfect" organs. It seems elitist because most of the members are those in churches with established great music programs, better salaries/compensation packages, and wonderful instruments.

My sense of where the future of the Guild can and should be is to find and encourage potential members who never see a future as an organist/choir director in a large established church, but one who believes that they can learn and become better at their craft than they would have believed possible because of friends and mentors that only the Guild can offer.

But that means that each member, should they hear of a person working in some little parish church in, say Hanover or the outback of Henrico or Chesterfield, take the time, as Liz China did with me, and invite and welcome them to come to a meeting. I have repeatedly over the years heard potential members say things like "I am not good enough," or "my church is so small and I only have 7 in the choir," or, and this is the worst response of all, "AGO members are too snobbish."

I am now, and was 40 years ago, blessed to have been invited to my first AGO meeting. While I substituted in larger churches ultimately, I never aspired to working in a large church. My belief then and now is that even the smallest church deserves to be given the opportunity to learn how to give God the best in its music ministry.

I urge each member to pick up the torch and reach out to the "little people working out in the fields." Even if no more than one or two of those reached out to respond, as I did, that enrichment for them and the Guild will be worth it.

Betty Girardeau

GREAT NEWS!

On Tuesday, March 15, 2019, the Richmond Chapter received the following message from Leslie Robb, Director, Committee on Pipe Organ Encounters, "I am pleased to inform you that the Committee on Pipe Organ Encounters and AGO National Council have approved your proposal to host a POE+ in 2020!...Your letter of agreement will be sent to you by May 1." Whoopie!

Having a POE+ has been a dream of Kenna Payne's and others in the chapter for some time. It is one of the ways that we can use some of the proceeds from our successful regional convention to do further good in the organ world. A POE+ for adults is in some ways a bit easier to host than one for children. Most, if not all the teachers will be chosen from our chapter.

The Executive Committee approved the idea hosting a POE+ and chose Grant Hellmers as its chairman. Steve Henley will serve as second in command. Kenna Payne will be treasurer. Thanks to Kenna and Grant, with input from Bill Van Pelt, and others, for filing out and submitting the complex, detailed application. Hang on to your hats; here we go again!

Nancy

EDUCATION CONCERNS



Dear Members,

I am referencing our New Organist Scholarship Program this month. If you know of a young person interested in learning about playing the organ and this person exhibits good piano skills, please have them download an application for an audition for our new organist scholarship program. The prospective organ student will need to keep up their piano lessons. The particulars are in our website.

Some of our previous young students have acted as subs and interim organists. One in particular used to come to my classroom as a youngster during our almost monthly singalongs in kindergarten. After his organ lessons, he subbed all summer long at St. Matthew's Episcopal, then later subbed another summer in Tappahannock. He has subbed for me, as well. He recently graduated with a Master's in statistics. He has acquired a practice organ along the way and uses what he has learned through this program.

Mary Campbell SPC

(804) 288-4098

Education Chairman

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 web page www.richmondago.org and click on the Facebook icon.

FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA CHURCHES, PLEASE VISIT

The Churches Of Virginia

Web Site Available at

www.ChurchesOfVirginia.org

CHAPTER OFFICER ELECTIONS

The following is the Ballot for elected offices to be filled on the 2019-2020 Executive Committee of the Richmond Chapter of the AGO. Here are the candidates' biographies:

DEAN (vote for 1):

Christopher Reynolds:

Christopher Reynolds, DMA, is the Director of Music and Organist at the historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Capitol Square. Prior to his appointment at St. Paul's, Dr. Reynolds served as the Associate Director of Music at Christ Church, Cranbrook, in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Christopher, a native of Lexington, Virginia, attended Shenandoah University, studying with Dr. Steven Cooksey and Dr. W. Dudley Oakes. He completed his DMA in organ performance and church music at the University of Michigan, studying with world-renowned organist Dr. Marilyn Mason. During his time in Michigan, he was very active in the Detroit chapter of the AGO. He became the editor of the new sletter, The Bombarde, in 2012, and held this position through the end of 2016. In 2013, he became Sub-Dean of the Detroit chapter and held that position for two years. In 2015, he became Dean of the chapter. He is also an active member of the Association of Anglican Musicians as well as the Royal School of Church Music.

SUB-DEAN (vote for 1):

Scott Hayes:

Scott G. Hayes is Director of Music at All Saints Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia, and Tonal Director of the Muller Pipe Organ Company in Croton, Ohio. Scott earned a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he was a student of Todd Wilson. Other formal organ studies were at Ohio Wesleyan and Cedarville Universities under Robert Griffith and Phyllis Warner, and coaching by Timothy Smith. Prior to moving to Richmond, Scott served St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Granville, Ohio for over 10 years, also acting as University Organist at Denison University during that time. Active in the Columbus Chapter of the AGO, Scott served as a member of the Executive Committee and assisted the Program Committee for the 2007 Regional Convention. He lives in Bon Air with his wife and four-year old daughter, a pipe organ, and a collection of Commodore computers.

SECRETARY (vote for 1):

Jacob Temple:

Jacob D. Temple is the Associate Music Minister for St. Bridget Catholic Church in Richmond, VA, and currently serves as a member-at-large for the Richmond Chapter of the AGO. He previously served as Director of Music Ministry at St. Benedict the Abbot Catholic Church, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, and St. Juan Diego Parish. He received both his B.M. in Organ and Sacred Music and M.M. in Organ Performance degrees from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. While there, Jacob served as Graduate Assistant under Dr. Ann Labounsky and Benjamin Cornelius-Bates. Jacob has been awarded the Colleague Certification from the American Guild of Organists, the Jean Langlais Award for Excellence in Sacred Music from Duquesne University, and a Pastoral Musician Scholarship from the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

TREASURER (vote for 1)

Kenna Payne:

Kenna Payne has lived in the Richmond area for over 40 years and began substituting in the area early on. In 2003 she began her career of regular subbing and in the fall of 2011 became the organist at Westminster Presbyterian in Richmond (her home church since 1977). In her 'other' life, she was an accountant and general business manager for almost 40 years, retiring in the summer of 2014. Kenna is active in both her church and in the Presbytery of the James, and she sings in the Richmond Symphony Chorus and a small singing group out of Salisbury Presbyterian Church. She has been active in the Richmond Chapter of the AGO for several years and began serving as Treasurer in July 2013. In addition, she was the Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention hosted by the Chapter in June 2017. She has enjoyed everything about working within and for the Chapter, and she looks forward to continuing as the Treasurer.

AUDITOR (vote for 1):

Aubrey Lindsey

Aubrey Lindsey is organist - choir director at St. John's Episcopal Church in Chester, having come out of "retirement" to assume the position in 2017. Prior to St. John's, he was Director of Music and Organist at Chester Presbyterian Church for forty-five years. His professional career outside of music was in educational administration for forty years.

CHAPTER OFFICER ELECTIONS, *continued*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (vote for 3)

Ted Bickish

Ted Bickish is the director of music and organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond, VA. There he conducts the adult, handbell, and junior choirs, oversees the music for weekly services and organizes the concert series Music at Trinity. Prior to his time there, Ted served as director of music at Grace Episcopal Church in Lexington, VA. In the summer of 2017, he led Grace's adult choir in a choral residency at Wells Cathedral, Somerset, UK. A native of Maryland, Ted is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. There he received a Master of Music degree in organ performance, studying under Donald Sutherland. In addition to this, he holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster Choir College, in Princeton, NJ. At Westminster, he studied with organists Ken Cowan and Alan Morrison. Ted has played solo recitals in numerous prestigious venues, including the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, New York City. Ted and his wife Lindy are recently married and are excitedly awaiting the arrival of their first child this coming summer.

Landry Duvall

Landry Duvall has served as the Director of Music at River Road Presbyterian Church since January of 2018 where he oversees the developing music program as a focal point of the sacred musical arts in Richmond's West End community. He completed the Master of Music Degree in Church Music and Choral Conducting at Baylor University where he was a student of Dr. Lynne Gackle. There, he served as Graduate Assistant Conductor to the Baylor University Concert Choir and Baylor Bella Voce Select Women's Ensemble. In addition, he assisted in lecture with undergraduate Choral Conducting and served as organist for the George W. Truett Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. A native of McMinnville, Tennessee, Mr. Duvall holds the Bachelor of Music Degree in Church Music and Organ Performance from Carson-Newman University near Knoxville, Tennessee. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, The American Guild of Organists, and Delta Omicron International Honors Music Fraternity.

Aaron Renninger

Aaron Renninger serves as Director of Liturgy and Music at Saint Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg, VA. Aaron holds a Master of Sacred Music Degree from the University of Notre Dame studying under Dr. Craig Cramer and graduated cum laude from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance. He has completed advanced programs in choral conducting, chironomy, chant notation and hand bells. Professionally, Aaron has served as organist, choirmaster, and director of liturgy and music for several churches in the Midwest. At Saint Bede, Aaron directs the parish choir, a schola ensemble, a Choral Scholars program, and a children's choir, serves as the principal organist and is responsible for all liturgical planning for the parish. He was selected to sit on the Liturgical Commission for the Diocese of Richmond and currently chairs the Diocesan Music Committee. He holds memberships in the American Guild of Organists, National Pastoral Musicians, Church Music Association of America and the Royal School of Church Music.

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Instructions for casting absentee ballots if you are unable to attend the May 21, 2019 meeting:

The ballot itself should not be signed and should be mailed to the Secretary, Scott Hayes, at **All Saints Episcopal Church, 8787 River Road, Richmond, VA 23229**. Please mail in time for it to arrive before May 21. On the return address part of the mailing envelope write the voting member's name and the word Ballot. The secretary will keep the unopened ballots until the May meeting, when they will be opened and counted.

DEAN (vote for 1):

_____ Chris Reynolds

SUB-DEAN (vote for 1):

_____ Scott Hayes

SECRETARY (vote for 1):

_____ Jacob Temple

TREASURER (vote for 1)

_____ Kenna Payne

AUDITOR (vote for 1):

_____ Aubrey Lindsey

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (vote for 3):

_____ Ted Bickish

_____ Landry Duvall

_____ Aaron Renninger

AROUND THE TOWN

Items for AROUND THE TOWN should be sent to the editor by the 15th of the month previous to the month in which the event will take place.

RIVER ROAD CHURCH, BAPTIST

The E. Carl Freeman Concert Series at River Road Church, Baptist (8000 River Road, Richmond, VA) presents two upcoming concerts:

On **Monday, April 1 at 7:30 PM**, concert organist, recording artist, and University of Richmond organ faculty **Bruce Stevens** will present his annual University of Richmond faculty recital, performing a program of all-Romantic organ music. The program will include American, German, English, and French Romantic works by Arthur Foote, Josef Rheinberger, and Percy Fletcher, as well as César Franck's *Grande Pièce Symphonique*.

On **Sunday, May 5 at 2:30 PM**, soprano Victoria Jackson will present a vocal recital.

Free tickets may be obtained at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/river-road-church-804-288-1131-5328092385>.

RICHMOND CONCERT CHORALE

On Sunday, April 7 at 7:00 PM at St. Benedict Catholic Church (300 N Sheppard St, Richmond) and Sunday, April 14 at 7:00 PM at All Saints Episcopal Church (8787 River Road, Richmond), the Richmond Concert Chorale, Jefferson Baroque, and members of the St. Benedict Schola Cantorum will perform Dietrich Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu nostri*. Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$10. Both churches have parking lots. For more information, visit www.richmondconcertchorale.org.

ST. BEDE CHURCH, WILLIAMSBURG

On Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 1:00 PM at St. Bede Church, Williamsburg (3686 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA), Christopher Martin, Director of Music and Organist at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Richmond, will perform a variety of classical selections. Having performed extensively throughout the East Coast as a concert organist, Christopher is also in demand as an organist for numerous choral ensembles throughout the Richmond area. A reception will follow this FREE concert. For more information, please call (757) 229-3631, or visit www.bedeva.org/concerts.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

On Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 5:00 PM, the Choir of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Goochland, under the direction of Dr. Ryan Tibbetts will offer a service of Choral Evensong, with a prelude recital beginning at 4:30. Repertoire will include the Summion Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A-major and Ayleward Preces and Responses. For more information, e-mail rtibbetts@stmarysgoochland.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

The final performance of the 2018-19 Organ Repertoire Recital Series, featuring acclaimed concert organist **Nathan Laube**, will take place on **Friday, May 3 at 7:30 PM** at **St. Bridget Catholic Church** (6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond).

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 7:30 PM
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Goochland
Scholarship Winners Recital

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 (Including Sundays)

Beck, Susan	804-519-3855	smillerbeck@hotmail.com
Burton, Melvin (Mel)	804 744-2325 or Cell 804 347-4673	melburt@comcast.net
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	elkersch@aol.com
Little, Matthew	804-691-2594	mlittleorgan@gmail.com
Moro, Don	804-652-9311	donmoro@gmail.com
Nowowieski, Adella	804-288-0917	delnow@yahoo.com
Traser, Donald	804-644-0888	donald.traser@gmail.com

Substitutes Available for Special or Non-Sunday Morning Events Only

Bailey, Tom	804-221-7549	Froberger@aol.com
Bickish, Ted	386-956-6020	ted@trinityrichmond.net
Campbell, Mary	804-337-3935 (cell) 804-288-4098 (home)	maryecampbell@comcast.net
Hargrove, Elizabeth	804-798-1776 or 804-339-5701	f.hargrovejr@comcast.net
Heath, Larry	804-212-9861	lwheath51@gmail.com
Jonkman, Crystal	804-330-9976 (home) 804-301-9976 (cell) 804-272-0992 x104 (church)	crystal.jonkman@verizon.net crjonkman@stmichaelsbonair.org
Lindsey, Charles	804-370-7374	charleslindsey15@gmail.com
Moro, Don	804-652-9311	donmoro@gmail.com
Nowowieski, Adella	804-288-0917	delnow@yahoo.com
Sachs, David	804-222-2494	Psalm100Pesach@comcast.net
Schutt, Ed	804-564-4887	e.schutt@comcast.net
Temple, Jacob, M.M., CAGO	703-966-7801	jacob.temple@gmail.com
Van Ornam, Cheryl	804-814-6677	ago.cheryl@gmail.com



MOVING?

Be sure to notify us of any changes in your mailing or email addresses so that you will continue to receive your copy of the "Stoplist" without interruption.

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 at bettyg@redfamiliar.com and phone 804-647-0825

MT. PISGAH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

13312 Mildlothian Pike, Midlothian, VA, 23113

Seeking part-time Director of Traditional Music and Worship Arts. Direct the Chancel Choir, Vesper Bells (adult handbell choir); serve as primary organist/accompanist for two Sunday morning services; provide music for other seasonal services and weddings and funerals when available; is primary liaison for the altar guild and scripture readers. Three manual Allen organ. Candidate should have a minimum of Bachelor of Music or BA in music, Master's preferred, and professional training and musical experience in a variety of Christian music types. Proven and demonstrable experience in directing and leading musical groups as well as a proficiency playing the piano and organ. Salary \$39,500 per year with a 30 hour week. 8 paid vacation days per year. Interested candidates should contact Ian Millikan via email at ian.millikan@gmail.com.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HANOVER

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

Seeking part-time organist/director for one Sunday service and additional required services on Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter morning, and the evening before Thanksgiving. Adult choir rehearsal currently being held on Sunday. Two manual Allen organ; piano in the Parish Hall available for rehearsals. Ideal candidates should be familiar with Episcopal liturgical tradition and comfortable with various liturgical styles. Compensation range \$15,000 to \$20,000 per annum commensurate with experience. Four Sundays paid vacation. Budget for music supplies and continuing education negotiable. Starting date negotiable after June 9, 2019. For more information about the parish, please visit www.stpaulshanover.org. Applicants should send a resume and cover letter, including references and links to recordings that highlight organ performance and choral directing to Beverly Townes via email at bevtownes@comcast.net.

CHESTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3424 West Hundred Road, Chester, VA 23831

Seeking part-time Minister of Music/organist-choir director for one Sunday service and two choir rehearsals per week (Chancel Choir and Joyful Noise children's choir). Special services at Christmas, Lent, and Easter week. Two manual A.E. Schlueter pipe organ. Compensation range \$18,000 to \$25,000 per year with two weeks paid vacation, book and music allowance, and continuing education benefit. Interested candidates should contact Wendy Wellener via email at wbwellener@gmail.com or phone at 804-921-5268.



Candlelight Concerts & Historic Organ Recitals April, 2019

Candlelight Concerts in Bruton Parish

Tuesday, April 2 @ 8:00 pm

Youth Choral Concert
Frigate Singers from Norfolk Academic Guild,
Lydia Netzler, Director

Thursday, April 4 @ 8:00 pm

Continuo Organ & Harpsichord Recital
Rebecca Davy, Music Director at Bruton Parish

Saturday, April 6 @ 8:00 pm

Youth Choir & Strings Concert
Soli Deo & Young Musicians of Virginia,
Karla Robinson & Sarah Umlauf, Directors

Tuesday, April 9 @ 8:00 pm

Continuo Organ & Harpsichord Recital
Dr. JanEl Will, Organist at Bruton Parish

Thursday, April 11 @ 8:00 pm

Chamber Music Concert
William & Mary Gallery Players, Susan Via, Director

Saturday, April 13 @ 8:00 pm

Choral Concert
William & Mary Women's Chorus, Sarah Gallo, Director

Tuesday, April 16 @ 8:00 pm

Continuo Organ & Harpsichord Recital
Dr. JanEl Will, Organist at Bruton Parish

Tuesday, April 23 @ 8:00 pm

Pianoforte Recital
Partitas of Johann Sebastian Bach
Andrew Willis, Professor at the University of
North Carolina, Greensboro

Thursday, April 25 @ 8:00 pm

Brass Trio Concert
Paul Neebe, Trumpet, Abigail Pack, Horn
& Jay Crone, Trombone

Saturday, April 27 @ 8:00 pm

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Annual Memorial Concert
Cantata 66 by Johann Sebastian Bach
Mass in B-flat by Johann Hummel
The Choirs of Bruton Parish & Orchestra,
Rebecca Davy, Director

Tuesday, April 30 @ 8:00 pm

Cello Ensemble Concert
Tidewater Cello Ensemble,
Susan Hines & Erin Hines, Directors

Historic Organ Recitals in the Wren Chapel, at the College of William & Mary

Saturday @ 10:00 am on April 6, 13, 20, 27 – Rebecca Davy, 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.bruntonparish.org

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“Coronation Mass”

by W. A. Mozart



Sunday, May 5, 2019, 11:00 a.m.

Presented by the Adult Choir with Chamber Ensemble

Conductor: **Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis** | Organist: **Lawrence Heath**
Soloists: **Karine Marshall, Caroline Whisnant, Megan Womack**, Sopranos
Kara Harman, Alto | **James Taylor**, Tenor | **Chase Peak**, Bass

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Barbara Dever
Eileen Guenther
Glenn Rodgers
Nathan Avakian
Evelyn Larter
Dan Locklair



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American Guild of Organists

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2019

Contact: F.Anthony.Thurman@agohq.org
212-870-2311, ext. 4308

JOHN WALKER TO BE HONORED AT AGO ENDOWMENT FUND DISTINGUISHED ARTIST AWARD RECITAL AND GALA BENEFIT RECEPTION IN PITTSBURGH

**Colleagues, Students, Loved Ones, and Friends from Across the Country Will
Gather to Celebrate His Lifetime Achievements at AGO Endowment Fund Benefit**

NEW YORK CITY — The **American Guild of Organists (AGO)** has selected internationally acclaimed organist and teacher **JOHN WALKER** as the honoree for the **2019 AGO Endowment Fund Distinguished Artist Award Recital and Gala Benefit Reception on Friday, April 26, in Pittsburgh**. The public is invited to attend. Complete information is available online at Agohq.org/2019-gala.

The celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. with a free recital by John Walker at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminister Place, where Dr. Walker previously served as minister of music (1992–2004). His program will include Guilmant’s stirring *March on Handel’s “Lift Up Your Heads,”* Virgil Fox’s transcription of Bach’s *Come Sweet Death*, John Knowles Paine’s virtuosic *Concert Variations on Old Hundredth*, and John Weaver’s *Sine Nomine*, along with other selections.

The Gala Reception (advance tickets required) benefitting the AGO Endowment Fund will follow the recital at Mansions on Fifth, an elegant Gilded Age hotel, located just a few steps from the church. Guests will enjoy cocktails and hors d’oeuvres while mingling and visiting with John Walker.

Purchase tickets online at Agohq.org/2019-gala by April 12 to attend.

The AGO Endowment Fund Distinguished Artist Award Recital and Gala travels around the country to celebrate distinguished members of the organ world, to raise awareness for the Endowment Fund, and to secure gifts to strengthen it. All proceeds from the 2019 Gala will honor John Walker in perpetuity. Annual earnings from the AGO Endowment support educational programs and outreach.

To purchase Gala Benefit Reception tickets, commemorative program book ads, or participate from a distance by making a contribution in honor of John Walker, visit **Agohq.org/2019-gala**. All donors and advertisers will be recognized in the commemorative program book. **April 12 is the deadline to be included.**

For more information: 212-870-2311, ext. 4308, or gala@agohq.org.

BIOGRAPHY

JOHN WALKER has performed in recital and as concerto soloist throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. He has performed three times at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and other cathedrals and churches in Europe and the U.S. In Taiwan he has performed frequently at the National Concert Hall in Taipei and as soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared frequently with the San Francisco Symphony under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas, notably as soloist in Lou Harrison's avant-garde *Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra*.

"A lot of people can play the notes, but there's always something indefinable in John's playing," remarked Frederick Swann, past president of the AGO and Walker's predecessor at the Riverside Church in New York City. "It's playing that can reach out to people. John always understands the music he's performing. He seems to have a way of projecting the music that enables the people to know what the music is saying. He doesn't put himself out in front. The music always comes first."

A profound practitioner of the art of sacred music, John Walker is minister of music emeritus at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, following distinguished tenures at the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, the Riverside Church in New York City, and First Methodist Church in Palo Alto, Calif.

Walker is the immediate past president of the American Guild of Organists (2014–2016). As president, he led the organization representing more than 15,000 members. He was vice president for six years and treasurer for four. In addition, he coordinated two regional conventions and was dean of the San Jose and New York City AGO chapters. He was the first director of the Task Force on the New Organist, which conceived and implemented the highly successful Pipe Organ Encounters program, now occurring annually throughout the U.S. and abroad.

A Fellow (FAGO) of the American Guild of Organists, Walker is professor of organ performance at Baltimore's Peabody Institute. Previous appointments include the music faculty of the Manhattan School of Music, where he was organ department chair; Duquesne University; Westminster College; and San Jose State University. He holds the doctor of musical arts degree from Stanford University as well as two master of music degrees *cum laude* from American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. In 1999 he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to teach and to perform in Taiwan. In 2015 he was visiting professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and in 2017 he adjudicated international competitions in organ performance in both Taipei and Shanghai, marking his seventeenth professional visit to Asia. ■ Photo available at: <https://bit.ly/2GM3fZ8>



American Guild of Organists

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2019

Contact: F.Anthony.Thurman@agohq.org
212-870-2311, ext. 4308



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS AWARDED \$20,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NEA Funding Will Support Educational Programs in 2019

NEW YORK CITY — The **American Guild of Organists** (AGO) has been awarded a \$20,000 Art Works grant by the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) to support educational programs and career development for organists and choral conductors in 2019. The Guild has received regular support from the NEA since 2005 totaling \$200,000.

“It is an honor for the Guild to be recognized again by the NEA, the most prestigious independent federal agency in the United States responsible for funding and promoting artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation,” stated AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “This Art Works grant covers the full breadth of the AGO’s educational activities for current and prospective members as well as our programs of outreach to the public.”

The AGO promotes lifelong learning opportunities ranging from Pipe Organ Encounters (POEs) for youth and adults to a professional certification program for organists and choral conductors. This summer, more than 100 participants are expected to attend POEs, which include a POE Advanced and a POE Technical, while more than 100 people will improve their skills and opportunities for employment through the Professional Certification Program. Thousands of people will benefit from educational workshops and extraordi-

— More —

nary performances of organ and choral music at seven AGO Regional Conventions held from coast to coast this summer.

Art Works is the NEA's principal grant making program. In February, the Arts Endowment stated that it received 1,605 Art Works applications for this round of grant making, and will award 972 grants in this category totaling \$27 million. "The arts enhance our communities and our lives, and we look forward to seeing these projects take place throughout the country, giving Americans opportunities to learn, to create, to heal, and to celebrate," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The NEA's funding sends a positive uplifting message to the entire organ community: our instrument and its music are vitally important to the American people," Thomashower added. "NEA grants such as this represent our tax dollars at work. The award validates the AGO's ongoing efforts to ensure that music for the organ is appreciated by the widest audience possible."

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America.

For a complete listing of projects recommended for Art Works grant support, visit Arts.gov. For further information about the AGO's educational programming, visit Agohq.org. ■

The **AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS** is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, it sets and maintains high musical standards and promotes the understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music. The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. The Guild currently serves approximately 14,000 members in 295 local chapters throughout the United States and abroad. THE AMERICAN ORGANIST Magazine, the official journal of the AGO and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America, reaches an audience of more than 15,000 each month. Visit the AGO online at Agohq.org.



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212-870-2311, ext. 4308

AGO ANNOUNCES SIX PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS

Weeklong Summer Programs Will Offer Intensive Study of the King of Instruments for Youth and Young Adults

NEW YORK CITY—The **American Guild of Organists** (AGO) is proud to announce four **PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS** (POEs) and one **POE (Advanced)** for participants aged 13–18, and a **POE (Technical)** for participants aged 16–23 in 2019. Application deadlines to attend vary from site to site. Complete information for each weeklong program can be found online at Agohq.org. The summer schedule follows:

POE (for ages 13–18)

July 15–20	Cape Cod, Mass.
July 14–19	Seattle, Wash.
July 28–Aug. 3	St. Louis, Mo.
Aug. 1–7	Helsinki, Finland

POE Advanced (for ages 13–18)

June 23–28	Houston, Tex.
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POE Technical (for ages 16–23)

July 21–27, 2019	River Forest and Oak Park, Ill.
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The **PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER** (POE) is an introduction to the pipe organ through instruction in organ playing, repertoire, history, design, and construction. These regional summer music camps for teenage participants provide private and group instruction in service playing and solo repertoire, opportunities to learn about the musical heritage of various religious denominations, and a chance for young musicians to meet others with similar interests. Piano or organ proficiency ranging from intermediate to advanced is required. Scholarship assistance is available.

— More —

The **POE Advanced** provides intermediate to advanced classes in areas such as organ literature, history, pipe organ construction and design, music theory, improvisation, conducting, and service playing for participants who have achieved a high level of success in organ study. Scholarship assistance is available.

The **POE Technical** is a program designed for participants who are interested in learning the art and craft of organ building. The event is hosted in the workshop of an organ builder working in cooperation with a local AGO chapter. Scholarship assistance is available.

Generous funding from the **Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America** (APOBA), the **American Institute of Organbuilders** (AIO), the **Jordan Organ Endowment**, and the **National Endowment for the Arts** will support these summer educational programs from coast to coast and abroad. Scholarship assistance is provided by the AGO New Organist Fund.

“The AGO and APOBA have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship since 1975,” declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “Likewise, the AIO has been active in supporting the Guild’s educational programs, beginning with their partnership in *Pulling Out All the Stops*, a video produced jointly in 1996 by the AGO, AIO, APOBA, the Organ Historical Society, and the American Theater Organ Society and aired on PBS. In addition, we are delighted to receive support from the Jordan Organ Endowment at Columbus State University as well as a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts supporting our educational activities this year.” ■

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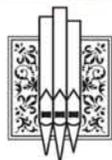
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