

# THE COUPLER

## THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear DC AGO members,

Thank you to all who attended our annual Pipes Spectacular event in collaboration with the Northern Virginia and Potomac chapters. This year's program featured Peabody professor Daniel Aune performing a concerto program at Christ Church in Alexandria. Thank you to our friends at the NOVA chapter for spearheading this year's program and to all those who helped make it a successful event.

I hope many of you are planning to attend the Peabody Organ Conference in Baltimore on Oct. 8-9. It will celebrate three former Peabody faculty artists -- Virgil Fox, Arthur Howes and Donald Sutherland - for their contributions to the field of organ study.

Performances will take place on three iconic organs: the Skinner organ at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church, the Fisk-Flentrop organ at Mount Calvary Catholic Church, and the Holtkamp organ at Peabody Conservatory, which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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## Save the date

Our chapter is planning an open console night Monday, Nov. 6 from 7 to 8 pm on the [Lively-Fulcher organ](#) at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 619 10<sup>th</sup> St. NW, with socializing afterward.

## CHAPTER NEWS



The Potomac Organ Institute (POI) is looking for volunteers to teach promising piano students interested in learning to play the organ. The introductory scholarship program is sponsored jointly by the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and Potomac chapters of the American Guild of Organists.

Scholarship winners receive one year of tuition-free organ instruction with a talented teacher associated with the AGO, participate in a masterclass, and perform in a spring student recital. Each student is granted a one-year membership in a local AGO Chapter, which includes a complimentary subscription to The American Organist magazine.

For more information, or to inquire about audition requirements, dates and location, contact POI Coordinator John Nothaft at [jphohtaft@gmail.com](mailto:jphohtaft@gmail.com).

### **Dinner and recital invitation**

DC chapter members are invited to a dinner and member recital hosted by the Northern Virginia and Winchester Chapters on Sunday, Oct. 22, at Trinity Episcopal Church, Upperville, VA. The 6 pm Bavarian dinner is \$25. RSVP by Oct. 16 to [bevilllel@verizon.net](mailto:bevilllel@verizon.net). Dinner will be followed by a 7 pm recital on the church's Aeolian-Skinner organ. <https://www.novaago.org>



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District of Columbia Chapter

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### **THE COUPLER**

A monthly newsletter  
published by the DC chapter  
of the American Guild of  
Organists.

Send submissions to  
[dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com).

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON JOBY BELL

*Many of our members belong to more than one chapter. This month we feature one of them.*



*How did you become interested in the organ?*

I grew up in a church with a nine-rank pipe organ. As a youngster taking piano lessons, I found the organ irresistible. I credit the hospitality of my organist and minister of music as much as I do my own interest for getting me hooked. Hospitality is critical.

*What is your educational and professional background?*

I went to high school at the North Carolina School of the Arts, where my teachers were Marian Hahn and Robert McDonald, piano, and John Mueller, organ. I earned my BMus in piano and organ performance at Appalachian State University in 1990, studying organ with H. Max Smith and piano with Rodney Reynerson and Allen Kindt. I then earned masters and DMA degrees from Rice University in 1997 and 2002 respectively, studying with Clyde Holloway.

Since 2004, I have served on the faculty of the Hayes School of Music, Appalachian State University, in Boone, NC, where I teach organ and church music studies.

*What are the organ's greatest joys and challenges for you?*

I am challenged most often by the tension between my work ethic in the practice room and my available time to practice!

But no matter what, the organ is a faithful mainstay of my daily productivity. And when I am seated at an organ that already serves its listeners well, then it's a great day.

*Why are you an AGO member?*

I joined the AGO because my teacher wisely made me aware of the AGO. But I was always lured by *The American Organist*, anyway. I felt that all those names and faces in the magazine were names and faces of greatness. I wanted to meet them all; I wanted to be one of them; I wanted to network with them and visit their corners of the world.

And I loved the color photos of the beautiful instruments and wanted to visit them.

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## Joby Bell

*From Page 5*

*What do you like to do when you are not on the organ bench?*

I love hiking, bicycling, driving, reading and eating. A lot.

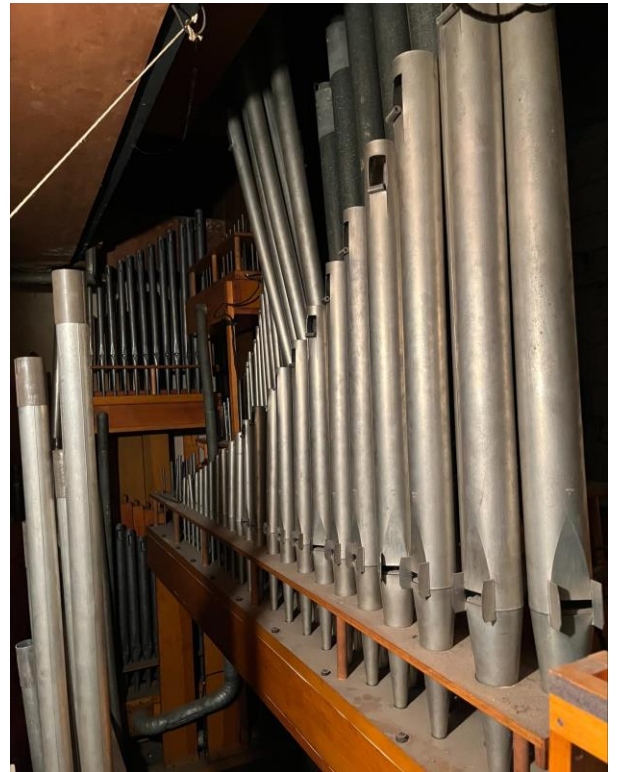
I love being taken on tour when I'm visiting a new place. I love climbing around in church towers and organ chambers. I love biking the local bikeways, wherever I am. I divide my time between Boone, NC, and Des Moines, IA, where my new wife lives. I'll retire to Des Moines when the time comes. Meanwhile, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the organists of the Midwest better.

*Please share with us an interesting moment you had on the organ bench.*

I recall a particularly horrifying moment when an associate pastor decided to improvise his prayer, rather than practice it beforehand (perhaps that sounds familiar to recitalists). He asked the Holy Spirit to help us put on the yoke of Christ ... and to "strap it on good and tight."

[Joby Bell - Blog](#)

## Estey pipe organ available



A beautiful 100-year-old working pipe organ is available for free. It is set up with pipes in a DC home slated for demo and renovation in the next few weeks and will be thrown out if no one wants it. A full appraisal from 1982 valued it at \$25,000. It is in working order and has a beautiful sound.  
--Sandy Safran, scaskei@hotmail.com.

# Saint Luke Lutheran Church presents

## *Ken Cowan, organ*



*"It is difficult to find enough adjectives to describe Ken Cowan's playing. He is simply one of the best anywhere!"*

*The Diapason*

**Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Admission: Free Will Offering**

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church**

9100 Colesville Rd

Silver Spring, MD 20910



Follow us on facebook: SaintLukeMusic

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

*Presents*

## An Organ Dedication Recital



*Featuring*

### Carol Feather-Martin

Director of Music and Arts and Organist  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA



*Program*

- Prelude and Fugue in Eb Major - J. S. Bach*
- Partita on HYFRYDOL - Daniel E. Gawthrop*
- Oceanic Vision - Aaron David Miller*
- Offering of Love - H. Leslie Adams*
- Finale, Op. 78 - Rachel Laurin*

\*\*\*

*Reception to Follow*

# November 19, 2023 4 pm

12351 All Saints Place, Woodbridge, VA

*Free Admission - Donations Accepted*

Rev. Stephen Bohannon, Pastor  
Kathy Lundgren, Music Director  
Melvin Goodwyn, Organist



**St. Matthew's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ORGAN EVENTS

**Sunday, Oct. 8, 3:15 pm:** Benton Schmidt performs at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW. Works of Lantry, Messiaen, Bach and Vierne. Click [here](#).

**Sunday, Oct. 15, 5 pm:** Dr. Alison Luedecke plays a recital on the Casavant organ at St. John's Episcopal Church in Georgetown, 3240 O St. NW. For tickets, click [here](#).

**Sunday, Oct. 22, 4 pm:** Ken Cowan performs a recital at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring.

**Tuesday, Nov. 7, 12:10 pm:** The Washington Bach Consort presents *Du aber Daniel, gehe hin*, TVWV4:17, by Georg Philipp Telemann. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 pm:** Organist Stephen Ackert is joined by bassoonist Anna Marsh in the next installment of his concert series at Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW. Three preludes and fugues from Bach's Well-tempered Clavier, a bassoon sonata by Fasch, and preludes and fugues by J.F.K. Fischer and Heinrich Stolze.

**Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 pm:** Paul Griffin, organist at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, plays a recital at the monastery.

**Sunday, Nov. 19, 4 pm:** Carol Feather Martin performs an organ dedication recital at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 12351 All Saints Place, Woodbridge. Music by J.S. Bach, Daniel Gawthrop, Aaron David Miller, H. Leslie Adams and Rachel Laurin.

### MUSIC AT MIDDAY CONTINUES IN OCTOBER

On Fridays from 12:15-1 pm, National City Christian Church presents Music at Midday. The church is at 5 Thomas Circle NW in DC. Donations are gratefully accepted.

**Oct. 6:** Jason Farris (The Plains, VA) performs organ music from France, with works by 17th century composer Nicolas de Grigny and 20th century composer Charles-Marie Widor.

**Oct. 13:** Los Angeles organist Nicholas Galinaitis presents works of J. S. Bach, Percy Fletcher, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Max Reger and Louis Vierne.

**Oct. 20:** French organist Laurent Jochum performs music by Michel Corrette, Léon Boëllmann, and Thierry Escaich.

**Oct. 27:** David Houston (College Park, MD) performs a program titled "b & g in a minor key," featuring music of J.S. Bach and César Franck.

## JOB OPENINGS

### District of Columbia

**Music professor:** The Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama and Art at The Catholic University of America seeks a choral conductor to serve as a tenure-track professor and head the Sacred Music area in the Department of Music Performance. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

**Music director and organist:** St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church. Part-time. Interim with possibility to become permanent. Click [here](#).

### Maryland

**Director of music/organist:** Potomac Presbyterian Church. Part-time. \$30,000-50,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Music director:** Christian Temple Church in Catonsville. Part-time. \$36,000 - \$41,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Director of music ministry:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Bethesda. Part-time. Viscount organ. Click [here](#). Send inquiries and applications to info@elcbethesda.org.

**Director of music:** Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, College Park. Full-time. From \$50,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Music director:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waldorf. Part-time. \$22,000-25,000 annually. Contact the church office for details.

**Organist/pianist:** Neelsville Presbyterian Church, Germantown. \$20-30 per hour. Click [here](#).

**Music director:** First Baptist Church of Suitland, District Heights. Part-time. \$18,000-20,000 annually. Click [here](#).

### Virginia

**Organist:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fairfax. One 9:30 am Sunday service per month. \$200 per service. Send inquiries to [rmartin@lordoflifeva.org](mailto:rmartin@lordoflifeva.org).

**Ceremonial organist:** Fort Myer. Part-time. Click [here](#).

**Manager of choral/organ/handbell department:** Foxes Music Company, Falls Church. Full-time. Contact Eric Wagner at [ewagner@foxesmusic.com](mailto:ewagner@foxesmusic.com).

**Worship leader/choir director:** The Garden at Fair Oaks, Fairfax. \$25 per hour. Click [here](#).



## Dean's message

*From Page One*

Performers include Marvin Mills, Jonathan Moyer, Janet Yieh and more. It promises to be a spectacular event. The organizers are asking people to try to register by Tuesday, Oct. 3.

Many other concerts and performances are happening this month in our region, as always, and we hope you can support each other with your presence and your time.

Please continue to make liberal use of our chapter email, [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com), sharing your insights, suggestions, and events as we look for ways to serve our bustling DC community.

Grace & peace,  
Paul Byssainthe, Jr.



# Peabody Organ 2023 Conference

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<b>Virgil Fox</b> Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church	<b>Arthur Howes</b> Mount Calvary Catholic Church	<b>Donald Sutherland</b> Peabody Institute, Leith-Symington Griswold Hall

**OCTOBER 8-9, 2023**

For registration and more information, visit  
[peabody.jhu.edu/organconf](http://peabody.jhu.edu/organconf).

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## *THE COUPLER*

Promote your event, product or cause with an advertisement in The Coupler, the official publication of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Rates: full page (4 issues), \$100; half-page (4 issues), \$50; quarter page (4 issues), \$25. Email advertising requests to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com) with "The Coupler" in the subject field. Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists and send them to DC AGO, c/o Robert Church, 3562 13th St NW, Washington, DC 20010.

## LIFE MEMBERS

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

Robert Grogan

Eileen Guenther

Irv Lawless

Kenneth Lowenberg

Donald Sutherland

David Hearn (deceased)

Albert Russell (deceased)



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Collaborative Ltd

## Acoustic Design Services

**Acoustical Design Collaborative, Ltd** is an independent consulting firm specializing in ecclesiastical spaces where natural acoustics for music and unobtrusive amplified speech are essential for traditional worship celebration. Services provided to building committees, architects, and organ builders include:

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- **Room Reverberation Enhancement**
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## SAINT DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH WASHINGTON, DC

“The Island”, as it was often called in the nineteenth century, consisted of the area now known as Southwest Washington. Members of the Order of Preachers – the Dominicans – have stood witness in this historic part of the District of Columbia for over 160 years. The present structure, designed by noted New York City-based architect Patrick Keely, was completed in 1875. Just a decade later, in 1885, a fire destroyed the church’s interior, which was quickly restored. At the same time, the church was adorned with a grand new organ.



We at Di Gennaro-Hart are pleased to announce that we have been commissioned by the Archdiocese of Washington to undertake a major restoration of the Hilborne L. Roosevelt instrument. Cousins to Teddy, Hilborne and his brother, Frank Roosevelt, were among the very finest nineteenth century American organ builders.

The project will include the replacement of the 1929 English-style console with an “American terraced” console built according to current AGO standards. The console will offer a strong nod to the Roosevelts, particularly through the use of the engraving font that was commissioned by their firm. The present solid state control systems will be replaced with a 100 channel capture system and a new switching system with performance recorder. The reeds will be restored, numerous repairs will be completed, and the entire instrument will be thoroughly cleaned. A powerful Tuba stop, constructed by a shop that traces its roots to the Roosevelt firm, will be added.

Father Jordan Turano, OP, *Pastor*  
JC Cantrell, *Music Director and Worship Coordinator*

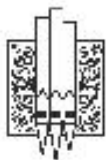


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