

THE COUPLER

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



Dear DC AGO members,

What would it take to draw you to an AGO event? Because frankly, your chapter's board is stumped.

Attendance at our events over the past year has been less than overwhelming. Our recent open console session at St. Patrick's downtown drew one person who was not a host – and that person was a Northern Virginia chapter member.

We want to hear from you. What type of event appeals? A members' recital? An educational program? A hymn festival? An organ crawl in a DC neighborhood? A program on music for weddings, funerals, church seasons, hymn settings or spirituals? Tips on organ repair and maintenance? Academic research? More Zoom programs?

What keeps you from attending? Are evening programs not good for you? Do Mondays not work?

Please email your frank opinions and suggestions to us at dcagochapter@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 2023

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CHAPTER NEWS



Brass of Peace at Monastery on Dec. 10

The Brass of Peace (See Pages 3-4), under the direction of Sylvia Alimena and with organist Lisa Mitchell Tyler, will perform at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land on Dec. 10 as part of our chapter's Music at the Monastery series.

Chapter members present these events on the second Sunday of each month from September to May. For more information on recitals, go to myfranciscan.org and click on the music tab. The monastery is at 1400 Quincy St. NE.

The 2024 lineup is:

- Jan. 14: Grace Oh (First Presbyterian, Annapolis, MD)
- Feb. 11: Carol Feather (Trinity Presbyterian, Arlington, VA)
- March 10: David Beatty (freelance organist, Annapolis, MD)
- April 14: Nathan Ringkamp (St. Dominic Church, Washington, DC)
- May 12: Iris Lan (freelance organist, Washington DC)

Located on 42 acres, the monastery is an architectural gem hidden in the northeast corner of Washington, DC.

Dedicated in 1898, the church is in the shape of a Jerusalem Cross in neo-Byzantine architectural style. The church and extensive contemplative gardens include full-size replicas of shrines from the Holy Land, plus catacombs and a Lourdes Grotto. The monastery also has two hermitages for personal retreats. The Monastery's Lively-Fulcher pipe organ was built in 1998 and contains 40 ranks of pipes over three manuals and pedal.



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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.

Brass of Peace provides intensive training to students



SYLVIA ALIMENA CONDUCTS.

Music by Marcello, Bach, Pinkham, Corelli, Karg-Elert, Brahms, Alain and Saint-Saens will be on the program presented by the Brass of Peace and organist Lisa Mitchell Tyler at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy St. NE on Dec. 10. (See program on Page 4.)

The Brass of Peace Scholarship Program (BOP) is a tuition-free program for talented high school students. It is an intensive training program that prepares its members for greater success in the competitive field of music.

For a period of 36 weeks during the school year, the Brass of Peace Scholars, a group of 13-15 gifted children, are given two-hour weekly coaching sessions with former National Symphony Orchestra hornist Sylvia Alimena at the organization's home, Peace Lutheran Church of Alexandria. There are no fees or tuition of any kind. The goal is to build individual and ensemble skills as well as build confidence in performing and public speaking.

Brass of Peace performs four free community concerts per year on concert series in and around Washington. Brass of Peace also performs four to six free in-school Kidshare

Concerts throughout the DC area and in partnership with the National Symphony Orchestra Education Department. During the Kidshare Concerts, members of Brass of Peace perform works of all genres, act out scenes from the story and demonstrate their instruments as Alimena performs the storytelling in these original tales for children enhanced by music.

The musicians who participate in Brass of Peace are from every economic, ethnic and racial background.

The Kidshare Concerts presented by Brass of Peace in the schools provide other children with inspiration and more importantly, a role model. In past seasons, as many as 800 elementary school children in the District of Columbia, Alexandria and Falls Church heard a concert in their school by Brass of Peace.

The Brass of Peace Program is recognized throughout the country as a training ground for tomorrow's fine musicians and is a factor in helping young musicians enter the college or university of their choice. Recent graduates of Brass of Peace are attending Northwestern University, Indiana University, the Eastman School of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Many graduates of Brass of Peace have gone on to become employed in the nation's symphony orchestras, brass ensembles, service bands and ensembles throughout the world.

MUSIC AT THE MONASTERY

CONCERTS AT 4PM • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • FREE-WILL OFFERING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 AT 4PM

LISA MITCHELL TYLER, ORGAN
BRASS OF PEACE
SYLVIA ALIMENA, CONDUCTOR

Psalm XIX for brass and organ

Benedetto Marcello/arr. Snel
 (1686-1739)

Pastorale BWV 590 (organ solo)

J. S. Bach
 (1685-1750)

Gloria for Brass and Organ

Daniel Pinkham
 (1923-2006)

Pastorale from Christmas Concerto Grosso

Arcangelo Corelli/arr. King
 (1653-1713)

Monteverdi Fanfare Impressions

Chuck Seipp

Segue to
 Praise the Lord with drums and cymbals

Sigfrid Karg-Elert
 (1877-1933)

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms/arr. Nive
 (1833-1897)

Litanies (organ solo)

Jean Alain
 (1911-1940)

Contrapunctus No. 1 from the *Art of Fugue*

J. S. Bach
 (1685-1750)

Maestoso from Sym. No 3 "Organ"

Camille Saint-Saëns/arr. Garner
 (1835-1921)

DC chapter members invited to Twelfth Night Celebration

DC chapter members are invited to join the Potomac chapter for the annual Twelfth Night Celebration at All Saints Episcopal Church just over the DC border at 3 Chevy Chase Circle.

The prelude concert will be presented by Abigail Wood, who placed first in the Quimby organ competition sponsored by the Potomac, DC, Northern Virginia and Winchester chapters. She is an organ performance major at Syracuse University studying with Dr. Anne Laver.

The 7 pm concert will be followed by choral evensong at 7:30 and a festive reception at 8 pm.

**POTOMAC CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

**ANNUAL 12TH NIGHT
Celebration**

Monday | 8th | January
7:00 PM | 2024

All Saint's Episcopal Chevy Chase
3 Chevy Chase Circle - 20815

PRELUDE CONCERT AT 7PM
Abigail Wood, Organist

CHORAL EVENSONG AT 7:30PM
FESTIVE RECEPTION AT 8PM

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON MALOU F. ROGERS

How did you become interested in the organ?

I grew up in San Diego listening to the incredible Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park. You know it's the world's largest outdoor pipe organ, an Austin-Blackinton with more than 5,000 pipes, 74 ranks, newly expanded and renovated -- it's truly amazing! My mother loved the organ and had a small spinet at home, so I began lessons at age 6.

What is your educational and professional background?

I sang and played in my Baptist church from a young age and didn't know you couldn't get a college scholarship playing hymns, Scott Joplin, "Malaguena" and "The Sound of Music." So formal study began at 15 and my very first classical piece, the Little Prelude and Fugue in F Major by Bach, got me a full scholarship.

I received a BM in organ performance cum laude with distinction and my CAGO. I studied for 10 years with Dr. Leslie P. Spelman, a fine organist and teacher. He had studied with Nadia Boulanger, Marie-Claire Alain and Marcel Dupre. I had no appreciation for the legacy we were carrying on. I also didn't realize that all those early years of improvising from lead sheets (and the study of theory and harmony it encapsulates) would prepare me as a performer, teacher, composer and arranger.

Later, I got a California-issued professional clear teaching credential in music K-12 and taught choral music in the San Diego Unified School District for 27 years. Later still, I earned a MS degree in educational technology in the music classroom. Along the way, I've sung, performed and accompanied choirs on five continents and written for the stage, dance companies, choral groups and chamber ensembles. Currently, I have a rock song on Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube -- "The Plane" by Syd Lizzard -- and arrangements for Philip Vaiman, a classical concert violinist in Hollywood, on YouTube.

I have been a music director-organist since age 16. After retiring from full-time music teaching, I decided sitting in a condo on the beach was not for me, and I made a list of what I desired: a good pipe organ and grand piano; an adult choir, a kids choir, a contemporary ensemble; a place where I could continue to compose and arrange; all in an active, engaged church, making a difference in their community. I interviewed at least 25 churches and made four trips around the country to perform (VA, RI, NJ, CA).

I found it all here! I am the new minister of music and artist-in-residence at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in the District, where I will play the 2002 three-manual/24-rank Peragallo pipe organ and

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Steinway baby grand, direct the chancel choir, work with soloists and create special contemporary ensembles. I will continue to collaborate with my colleagues across the country and form new partnerships here. The AGO community here has been so welcoming, friendly and supportive.



MALOU AT ST. TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

affiliated with five chapters -- two in California and three here in the DMV.

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

I love to stroll through the many gardens, galleries and museums in DC. The art, history and culture
Continued on Page 8

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

My joy comes from creating music that inspires and comforts people -- music that breaks their hearts open to God's love that we can see in nature, people and the perfect harmony of the universe that surrounds us. Listen to my song "[What Is Love](#)" and you'll understand.

The challenge is always about communicating the authentic meaning of the piece. Of course, that is very subjective and personal, but it takes a great deal of thought and practice to convey it. You must be satisfied that you did your best and that was good enough (regardless of the opinions and accolades from critics, colleagues and the public). It is especially difficult on a mechanical instrument where your expression only comes through rhythmic articulation and changes in tone color.

Why are you an AGO member?

I have been a member for more than four decades. Dr. Spelman sponsored me as a young undergraduate. (That's when you needed a sponsor to join - LOL.) I've served on boards for years and was dean of the San Diego chapter when we had our Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) and Western Regional Convention. For me, it has always been about expanding the Guild's reach and inclusion -- to welcome more, younger and different musicians while exposing all of us to new music, broader genres, creative performances and exciting venues. I'm currently

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here mesmerize me. There are always new shows, special exhibitions and FREE concerts to attend. I live a few minutes from the Smithsonian museums, the Capitol, the National Cathedral, the Basilica and the Kennedy Center. I enjoy cooking, decor, gardening, photography, games and storytelling. Friends took me sailing last December so that's my newest passion.

What's an interesting fact you would like people to know about you?

I am an indigenous California Native American, born and raised in San Diego. My mother's people have lived here for 10,000 years.

After college and before marriage and kids, I made nine trips over three years playing and singing jazz in high-end nightclubs in downtown Tokyo's entertainment districts of Roppongi, Shibuya and Harajuku. At the same time, I was the organist for the huge English Mass at Tokyo Cathedral on Sundays at noon.

Tell us a funny/odd thing that happened when you were on an organ bench.

Actually, it happened after I jumped off. I was directing a handbell ensemble, and, as usual, a critical ringer was missing. So I hopped off the bench, grabbed the needed bell, and continued to conduct with one hand while ringing with the other.

The final climax arrived, I gave the big cutoff, and one offending bell continued to ring. The choir could see my consternation as I reminded them how important it was to keep an eye on the director and follow my directions. Side-eyes became snickers, giggles became laughs and someone finally pointed out it was MY BELL that was continuing to ring. Of course, they NEVER, ever let me forget it!

You can see, listen and read all about my life, concerts, compositions, students, travels and opinions on my social media links:

<https://www.youtube.com/@malourogers>

<https://www.facebook.com/maloufrogers>

<https://www.instagram.com/malou92037/>

Which DC AGO member would you like to see Spotlighted?

You can nominate others – or yourself! – by sending an email to dcagochapter@gmail.com.



ORGAN EVENTS

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 12:10 pm: The Washington Bach Consort presents *Weihnachts-Historie*, SWV 435, by Heinrich Schütz. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.



Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 pm: Brass of Peace and organist Lisa Tyler perform at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land.

Friday, Dec. 29, 8 pm: Daniel J.T. Carroll in recital, St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Clifton, VA. Peragallo organ. Click here. <https://fb.me/e/1rmttE36Y>.

Monday, Jan. 8, 7 pm: Twelfth Night celebration hosted by the Potomac Chapter at All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase, MD. 7 pm prelude; 7:30 pm Evensong and 8 pm reception. <https://www.potomacago.com>

DANIEL CARROLL WILL PLAY IN CLIFTON

MUSIC AT MIDDAY



Music at Midday occurs Fridays from 12:15 to 1 pm at National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 5 Thomas Circle NW. Free admission; donations gratefully accepted.

Dec. 1, 12:15 pm: Italian organist Giorgio Revelli performs works of Dietrich Buxtehude, Antonio Vivaldi, John Ebenezer West and Jan Zwart.

Dec. 8, 12:15 pm: Local vocal ensemble Musikanten, with conductor Kerry Krebil and organist Richard Mumford, perform music for Advent by DC composer Christopher J. Hoh.

ITALIAN ORGANIST GIORGIO REVELLI

Dec. 15, 12:15 pm: New York City composer and organist Buck McDaniel performs music for the Advent season by Sufjan Stevens and Nico Muhly, along with the world premiere of his own newly composed Toccata.

Weekly concerts start up again Feb. 2.

JOB OPENINGS



NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

District of Columbia

Organ scholar: Washington National Cathedral. \$50,000-60,000 annually. 2-year position starting in July. Click [here](#).

Adjunct professor of music/applied organ: University of the District of Columbia. \$50 per contract hour. Click [here](#).

Music professor: Catholic University 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](#).

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

Maryland

Minister of music: Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Gaithersburg. Casavant pipe organ. \$20,000-24,000 annually. Click [here](#).

Director of music ministry: Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Silver Spring. \$20,000-24,000 annually. Click [here](#).

Interim organist: Village at Rockville. Part-time. \$300 per service. [Click here](#).

Music director: Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, Ellicott City. Part-time. \$9,800 to 10,800 for a 10-month period. [Click here](#).

Organist and choir director: Friendship United Methodist Church, Friendship, MD. One or two positions. Two-manual Gebruder Oberlinger pipe organ built in 2006. Contact the Rev. Rudy White at pastor@friendshipmethodist.org.

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

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](#).

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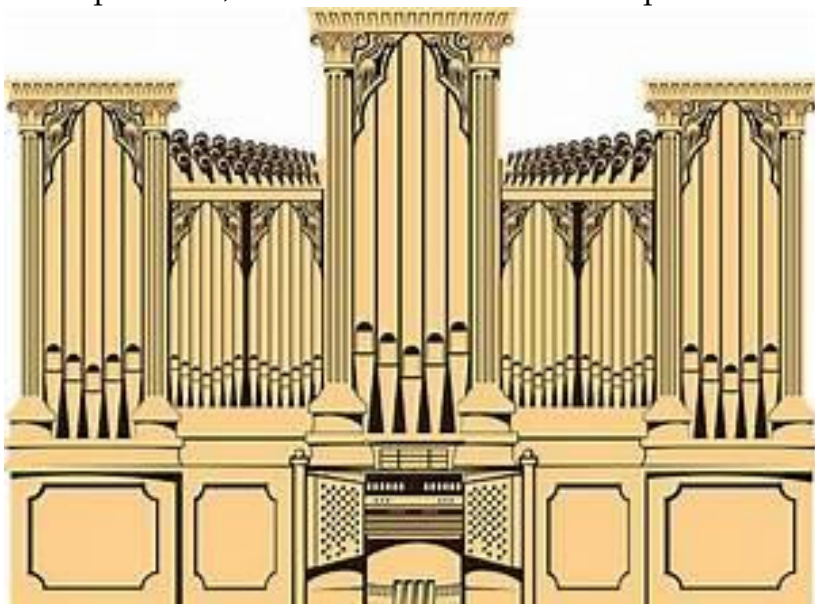
Virginia

Assistant director of worship: McLean Presbyterian Church. \$50,000-75,000 annually. Click [here](#).

Worship arts director: All Saints Church, Woodbridge. \$25,000-35,000 annually. Click [here](#).

Director of music: St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Reston. Full-time. Allen digital organ. \$50,000-70,000 annually. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

Interim organist and/or choirmaster: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Burke. Organist about 15 hours per week; choirmaster about 10 hours per week. Positions could be consolidated into one 25-hour-per week position. Jobs start Jan. 1 and last into the summer. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.



Worship leader/music director: Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington. Part-time. From \$32,500 annually. Click [here](#).

Organist/pianist: McLean Baptist Church, McLean. Part-time. Three-manual Austin organ. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

Organist: Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. Hybrid organ by R.A. Colby Organs Inc. 2010, 3 manuals, 71

ranks. Part-time. \$25,000-30,000 annually. Send resume and recording (video preferred) to davidkirven@fumcva.org.

Music director/choir director/organist: Bethany Lutheran Church, Alexandria. \$25,000-36,000 per year. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

Music director: Friendship United Methodist Church, Falls Church. Part-time. Click [here](#).

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

Have some good program ideas?

Our chapter board is looking for members to help plan programs. The time commitment is entirely flexible. Please send an email to dcagochapter@gmail.com.

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 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)



Acoustical Design
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:

- Acoustic & Audio-Visual Systems Design
- Room Reverberation Enhancement
- Choir & Organ Space Planning
- Speech Intelligibility Assessment
- Sound System Tuning & Adjustment
- Expert Opinion, Peer Review & Client Advocacy

We strive to provide professional advice based on prudent design criteria, cost-effective solutions, clear concise recommendations, and open communication, delivered in a timely and economical manner.

A strong personal involvement characterizes our services. After understanding the design issue, we use a systematic technical approach, tempered with practical experience to provide a range of options factoring budget and aesthetic concerns that are concisely summarized to facilitate informed decisions.

Your acoustic challenge may be one we have already solved. Please contact us to see how our combined 45 years of consulting and university acoustics teaching can improve your house of worship.

Tel: 410.821.5930

Your Sound...Our Passion

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