

THE COUPLER

THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Hidden Figures

As we embark on the celebration of Women's History Month, I want to highlight a few of the African American women who composed music for the organ.

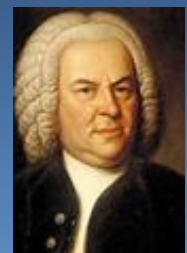
For a variety of historical reasons, much of this music has until recently remained only in manuscript form. Recent efforts to create anthologies of this music by scholars such as Mickey Thomas Terry, James Abbington and others have helped to address this issue and draw attention to organ music produced by a sorely neglected, but substantive school of American composers whose recognition is long overdue. That list includes Florence B. Price, Undine Smith Moore, Zenobia Powell Perry, Betty Jackson King, Sharon J. Willis and Eurydice V. Osterman, to name a handful.

Given that we often hear of Florence Price, I will
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MARCH 2023 IN THIS ISSUE



The Member Spotlight this month shines on new chapter member Patrick Walker. 3



Churches in DC and Virginia are hosting Bach concerts this month. 5-6



A chapter member has donated organ music to be shared. Plus free instruments. 9-10



Need a change? Check out job openings in our area. 12

Mark Your Calendar
We are planning a members' recital for Saturday, March 11.
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CHAPTER NEWS

Members' recital on March 11

We are planning a recital by our members on Saturday, March 11, at 4 pm. The program's theme will be *Lenten Meditations*. Participants will play the marvelous five-manual Austin organ at First Baptist Church, 1328 16th St. NW.

We will go out afterward for drinks and/or dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Performers will include John Nothaft, Kimberly Hess, Eleanor Timberlake, Ted Gustin, Storee Denson and Ken Lowenberg. The program will include pieces by Brenda Portman, William Grant Still, J.S. Bach, G.P. Tellemann, Marcel Dupré, Leo Sowerby, Max Reger, Denis Bedard and Ken Lowenberg.

Come and listen to expand your Lenten repertoire!

Funeral for lifetime member Al Russell



A funeral for lifetime chapter member Al Russell will be held at the Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes in DC on Saturday, March 11 at 10 am with a reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Al's memory may be made to the church, 1215 Massachusetts Ave. NW,

Washington, DC 20005.

Al, who died Jan 24 at age 91, was best known for his tenure as organist-choirmaster of St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette Square.



AGO/Quimby RCYO Chapter Competition

Young organists will perform in the AGO/Quimby RCYO chapter-level competition from 4 to 9 pm on Saturday, March 24.

The venue will be Christ Church

Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., in Alexandria.

The event is hosted by the Northern Virginia Chapter and co-sponsored by the DC, Potomac and Winchester chapters.



American Guild of Organists
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.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Patrick Walker

If you would like to be spotlighted or to nominate someone else, send an email to dcchapterago@gmail.org.

How did you become interested in the organ?

I grew up in a church where my parents led the Folk Mass music so hearing organ was a special event for me and always something that I looked forward to at special holiday masses.

I also became fascinated with all things mechanical as a child and the organ was the perfect combination of my love for music and my love for machines.



What is your educational and professional background?

I began taking private organ lessons when I was 15. I hadn't studied piano prior and could hardly read music so I have the highest appreciation for my first teacher's skill and patience with me.

I soon began subbing at local churches and went on to study organ during my undergraduate years with Gail Archer at Vassar College. I also hold a master of music degree in organ performance and composition from Boston University, where I studied with Peter Sykes.

I am currently serving as music director at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean (left) and previously held positions at St. John's Lutheran and First Congregational in Poughkeepsie, NY, and St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Dover, MA. I also hold a CAGO certification.

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

The biggest joy for me is leading a large singing congregation in a great hymn. The energy for all those voices fills me with such joy and hope! The biggest challenge is the weekly grind of finding exciting, musically interesting postludes that are relatively short.

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Why are you an AGO member?

I became an AGO member soon after I started playing the organ to connect with like-minded individuals and benefit from all of the educational and professional opportunities the guild offers, such as the certifications and job listings.

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

My wife, Michelle Walker, and I are both avid fans of all things aviation and hold pilot certificates so we spend most of our free time flying our 1946 Cessna 140 to various points of interest around



Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia and sometimes back to New York to visit our families.

What else would you like members to know about you?

I am new to the area and look forward to meeting other members and connecting with the organist community in the DC area! I am also a composer and always looking for organists, or other musicians for that matter, to collaborate with on musical projects. I am particularly

interested in collaborative projects that include non-musical elements like dance, storytelling and/or visuals.

What was your funniest moment on the organ bench?

I'm not sure if funny is the right word for it, though I do laugh derisively at myself looking back on it, but at my third Christmas Eve service this past year during the crescendo to the "WORD OF THE FATHER" chord in Willcocks' *O Come All Ye Faithful* I went for the Tutti piston, missed and instead hit ... cancel.

pwalker@ipcmclean.org

patrick.walker.organist@gmail.com

GRACE CHURCH, GEORGETOWN, WASHINGTON, DC PRESENTS



338th Birthday Concert for **JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH** Born March 21, 1685

MICHAEL KOENIG
Austrian Concert Organist
Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 7:00 PM

Admission Fee: \$30.00

Students Under Age 18 with Valid ID: \$15.00

All proceeds will go to the Grace Church Scott Fund which will help sponsor our 28th Bach Festival at Grace Church, Georgetown in the summer of 2023.

Grace Church, Georgetown, Washington, DC, USA
1041 Wisconsin Ave., NW (Between K and M Streets, NW)
202-333-7100 • www.gracedc.org

For more information contact Francine Máté, Organist/Choirmaster at Grace Church
at bach@gracedc.org

2 hour free parking with Grace validation at the Colonial Garage
for AMC Cinema at 3171 K Street, NW and
Georgetown Park, 1080 Wisconsin Ave. NW. Washington, DC, USA

ORGAN EVENTS

Wednesday, March 1, 12:15 pm: Midweek Music at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square presents Karl Robson in a lunchtime recital including works of J.S. Bach, Jean Langlais and Niels Gade.

Wednesday, March 1, 12:40 pm: Joy-Lelani Garbutt, director of music at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco, presents an organ recital at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW, following the 12:10pm Mass. Dr. Garbutt will play works of five distinguished French female composers of the last century – Nadia Boulanger, Cécile Chaminade, Joséphine Boulay, Jeanne Demessieux and Mel Bonis – suited to the church's French-Romantic Lively-Fulcher Great Organ.

Sunday, March 5, 5 pm: Choral Evensong with prelude beginning at 4:40 by Christian Crocker, organist and choirmaster at Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, AL. The choir will sing works by Radcliffe and Sumsion. Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

Tuesday, March 7, 12:10 pm: Christian Lane performs Bach's *Tocatta, Adagio and Fugue in C Major*. The Washington Bach Consort performs the cantata *Auf, schmetternden Tönen*. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

Tuesday, March 14, 7:30 pm: Northern Virginia chapter program on funeral and wedding organ music. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5533 16th St. N, Arlington. Workshop with Jason Abel, David Kelley and Carol Feather Martin.

Sunday, March 19, 2-7 pm: 46th annual Bach Marathon on the 3-manual, 50-rank, 2,500-pipe Rieger tracker organ at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, 1 Chevy Chase Circle NW (at Connecticut and & Western Avenues). Performers will include Julie Vidrick Evans, Karl Robson, Lyn Loewi, Adam Graham, Samantha Scheff, Benjamin Keseley, Lisa Tyler, Rob Church, Jason Farris and Monica Berney.

Sunday, March 19, 4 pm: Second Annual Annandale Bach Birthday Marathon. An afternoon of short performances of organ works of J. S. Bach by local artists on the mechanical action organ (John Leek, Op. 1) at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike. Drop in and depart at will. When the marathon ends at 6 pm, celebrate Johann Sebastian with beer and German fare. Performers are Sonya Sutton, Anne Timpane, Linda Egan, Bryan Holten and Adam Detzner.

Tuesday, March 21, 7 pm: Austrian organist Michael Koenig presents a 338th Birthday Concert for Johann Sebastian Bach at Grace Episcopal Church, 1041 Wisconsin Ave. NW (between K and M Streets.). Adults \$30. Students under 18 with valid ID \$15. Proceeds go to the Grace Church Scott Fund to sponsor the 28th Bach Festival at Grace Church this summer. Two-hour free parking with Grace validation at the Colonial Garage for AMC Cinema at 3171 K St. NW and Georgetown Park, 1080 Wisconsin Ave. NW.

Saturday, March 24, 4-9 pm: AGO/Quimby RCYO chapter-level competition for young organists. Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Hosted by Northern Virginia Chapter. Co-hosted by the DC, Potomac and Winchester chapters.

Music at Midday features organists, Army chorus

National City Christian Church presents Music at Midday on Fridays from 12:15-1 pm. The church is at 5 Thomas Circle NW in DC. Admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.

March 3: Baltimore organist Midori Ataka, originally from Kobe, Japan, will perform works of Charles-Marie Widor, J.S. Bach, George Walker, Edward Elgar and Gilbert M. Martin, along with her own improvisation on a Japanese folk tune.

March 10: Chinese pianist Muen Vanessa Wei, assistant professor of music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will perform works of Ludwig van Beethoven and Frédéric Chopin.

March 17: Carson Cooman, concert organist and composer in residence at the Memorial Church, Harvard University, will perform works of living composers, including world premieres of works by Elizabeth Alexander and Frederick Frahm, along with music by B.E. Boykin and Thomas Åberg.

March 24: New York City organist James Wetzel will perform music by Niels W. Gade, Felix Mendelssohn, J. S. Bach, G.F. Handel, Max Reger and Josef Rheinberger.

March 31: The U.S. Army Chorus will present a program spanning a variety of genres, including standard works from the choral canon and fresh arrangements of familiar tunes.

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY'S CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE

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2023 FEATURED CLINICIANS



Nicole Keller

Week 1: June 18–23
Organ Week



Mark Hayes

Week 2: June 25–30
Piano & Organ Week



Dr. Wayne L. Wold, Director
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The Dean's message

From Page One

focus for a moment on one of the potentially lesser-known names listed above.

Renowned as "The Dean of Black Women Composers," Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989) graduated from Fisk University in 1926 with highest honors and received a master of music degree at Columbia University. She pursued additional study at the Juilliard School, the Eastman School and the Manhattan School of Music, and taught music for 45 years at Virginia State College (now Virginia State University).



Primarily known for her choral compositions, Moore published with regularity during the 1940s-60s, writing also for organ, piano, voice, flute and chamber ensemble. Moore stated that, "I will say, if forced, that I use the term black music to describe music created 'mainly' by people who call themselves black, and whose compositions in their large or complete body show a frequent, if not preponderant, use of significant elements derived from the Afro-American heritage."

As did other composers of this era, Moore incorporated standard, classical style in her music, as in her two solo organ works, *Variations on Nettleton*, commissioned in 1976 for the graduation recital of a Virginia State University music student, and *Variations on There Is a Fountain*, written in the style of Mendelssohn's Sixth Sonata for Organ.

Variations on Nettleton is a short piece in the key of C major. It begins with a variation based on the tune. The melodic line in the first variation is in the soprano voice and is accompanied by triplets in the left hand. A brief interlude follows, and the second and last variations present the melody in the pedal voice. The brief interlude consists of chromaticism on the manuals followed by a forte pedal entrance, which gradually diminishes to a piano with large leaps in the manuals and pedals. The last four measures – *Allargando e maestoso* – are chromatic and the piece ends with four distinct chromatic jazz chords.

Of course, much more can be said of Moore, and of Zenobia Powell Perry (1908-2004), a black Creek Indian woman who studied piano with black pianist-composer R. Nathaniel Dett and composition with Darius Milhaud, and of Betty Jackson King (1928-1994), who studied at the Peabody Conservatory and Westminster Choir College and who wrote works for piano, organ and voice, as well as art songs and choral works.

There are also contemporary composers such as Sharon J. Willis (b. 1949), the former department
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chair of music at Morris Brown College and Clark Atlanta University, who had a commissioned piece premiere at the 2022 National AGO Convention ("Ascension Suite"), as well as local composer Evelyn Simpson-Curenton (b. 1953).

I encourage you to continue to explore the works of these wonderful black female composers, both past and present. These anthologies compiled by James Abbington and Mickey Thomas Terry are excellent starting points:

- Abbington, James -- *King of Kings: Organ Music of Black Composers, Past and Present*, 4 vols. (GIA Publications Inc.)
- Terry, Mickey Thomas -- *African-American Organ Music Anthology*, 9 vols. (MorningStar Music Publishers)

Grace & Peace,
Paul Byssainthe, Jr.

Two free instruments available



The organ is a Hammond 8200 Series model # 8214 @ 1981. The keyboard is a Technics SX - K500. Contact Dr. Vince Patterson at 301-603-1515.



1859 melodeon organ for sale

Wayne Wold, councillor for the AGO's Mid-Atlantic Region, says a friend has contacted him about selling this 1859 melodeon organ. Asking price is \$2,500. For more information, contact Wayne at 240-446-4030 or midatlanticrc@agohq.org.

FREE ORGAN MUSIC AVAILABLE

By Pat Henry, Coupler editor

One of our members has donated a variety of scores to be shared.

The following titles have been sent to organ teachers listed on our dcago.org website and to teachers involved in the tri-chapter Potomac Organ Institute.

Now it's your turn. What interests you? Please speak up and don't be shy – I need the space back in my basement! Feel free to share the list with members of other chapters.

To arrange pickup or to have them mailed to you for the cost of an envelope and postage – or to request photos--send an email to pathenry33@gmail.com.

Jacques Arcadelt, arr. Liszt--Ave Maria (H.W. Gray)

Bach--Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (H.W. Gray)

The Well-Tempered Clavier (Kalmus)

Six Sonates en trio annotated by Marcel Dupre (H.W. Gray)

Eight (Large) Preludes and Fugues, Passacaille and Fugue annotated by Marcel Dupre (H.W. Gray)
(2 copies)

Nine Preludes and Fugues annotated by Marcel Dupre (H.W. Gray)

Miscellaneous Compositions on the Chorale edited by E. Nies-Berger and A. Schweitzer (G. Schirmer)

Organ Concertos and Sonatas edited by Ch. M. Widor and A. Schweitzer (G. Schirmer)

Chorales edited by Boyd and Riemenschneider (G. Schirmer)

Schubler Chorales edited by Riemenschneider (Oliver Ditson)

Complete Organ Works in Nine Volumes--Vols. VI and VII (Kalmus)

My Spirit Be Joyful for organ and two trumpets arr. E. Power Biggs (Mercury Music Corp.)

Organ transcriptions by Gerald Near of Lobe den Herren from Cantata No. 137 and two movements from Cantata 100, Was Gott tut (Aureole Editions)

Beethoven Organ Works (Hinrichsen)

Boellmann--Suite Gothique (Durand et Fils)

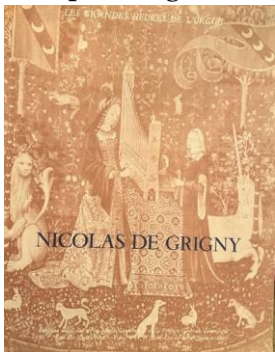
Brahms--Eleven Chorale Preludes (Mercury Music Corp.)

Buxtehude--Book 8 (J. Fischer & Bro.);

Praeludien und Fugen, Toccata, Passacaglia, Ciacona, Canzonetta (C.F. Peters)

Charles Callahan – Six Meditations on English Hymn Tunes (The Organ Literature Foundation)

Campra--Rigaudon (H.W. Gray)



Herbert Colvin – Organ Voluntaries on Early American Hymn Tunes (R.D. Row Music Co.)

Dandrieu--The Well Tempered Organist Vol. 1 (Ernest White Editions)

De Grigny--Premier Livre d'Orgue (Editions Musicales de la Schola Cantorum)

Margaret Whitney Dow – Fantasia on God Rest You Merry, Gentleman (H.W. Gray)

Dupre--Cortege et Litanie – Leduc; Methode d'Orgue (Leduc); 79 Chorales for the Organ (H.W. Gray)

Robert Elmore--Three Meditative Moments based on Moravian Hymns (Harold Flammer)

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Franck--Pastorale, Priere and Final annotated by Marcel Dupre (H.W. Gray)

Les Trois Chorals (Editions Durand)

Fantasie en La Majeur, Cantabile, Piece Heroique annotated by Marcel Dupre (H.W. Gray)

Gigout--Grand Choeur Dialogue (Editions Durand)

Handel--Six Organ Concertos (Kalmus)

Hindemith--Sonate III (Edition Schott)

Richard Hudson--Suite of Organ Carols (Augsburg)

David Johnson--Variations on America (Trinity Cathedral Press)

Joyce Jones: Noel: Christmas selections (Word Music)

Gerald H. Knight--Accompaniments for Unison Hymn-Singing (Royal School of Church Music)

Gerhard Krapf--Organ Improvisation method book (Augsburg)

Langlais--Suite Medievale (Editions Salabert)

Vingt-quatre Pieces pour harmonium ou orgue (Elkan-Vogel Co.)



Mendelssohn--Organ Works (Schirmer); Works for Organ annotated by Marcel Dupre (S. Bornemann)

Messiaen--Le Banquet Celeste (Leduc)

L'Ascension (Leduc)

H. Mulet--Carillon-Sortie (Novello)

T. Tertius Noble--Free Organ Accompaniments on 100 Well-known hymn tunes (J. Fischer & Bro.)

Pachelbel--Selected Organ Works Vols. 1 and 2 (Kalmus)

Richard Proulx--Prelude on 'Land of Rest' (Augsburg)

Geoffrey Shaw – Variations on an Old Carol Tune – Puer Nobis from Piae Cantiones (J.B. Cramer & Co.)

Virginia Carrington Thomas – Easy Christmas Improvisations (Hansen Publications)

Edward Titcomb--Festive Flutes (H.W. Gray); Improvisation-Toccata on the 'Tonus Peregrinus' (Harold Flammer)

Vierne--Pieces de Fantaisie en 4 suites--Third suite (Editions Henry Lemoine)

Alec Wyton – In Praise of Merbecke Suite for Organ (H.W. Gray)

Gordon Young--Nine Pieces for Organ (Sacred Music Press); Baroque Suite for Organ (Harold Flammer);

Merry Carols for Organ (Harold Flammer); Seven Tone Poems (J. Fischer and Bro.)

Collections:

Forerunners of Bach: Hofhaimer to Du Mage (G. Schirmer)

An Anthology of Early French Organ Music annotated by Joseph Bonnet (H.W. Gray)

A Century of American Organ Music 1776-1876 compiled by Barbara Owen (McAfee Music Corp.)

Albums of Choral Preludes from Olden and Modern Times Vol. 1 (Nos. 1-130) (Belwin Mills)

Wedding music without a cover

Book of early music without cover – Sweelinck, Marcello, Froberger, Buxtehude, etc.

Gloucester Organ Album ed. John Sanders (Novello)

Fanfares and Processionals by Modern Composers (Novello)

Christmas Music for the Organ – compiled by Dr. William C. Carl (The Boston Music Company)

Ricercaris for the organ (Luython, Roberday, Pachelbel) (Kalmus)

A Second Easy Album for Organ: Six Pieces by Contemporary British Composers (Oxford University)

Organ Voluntaries selected by Alexander Schreiner Vol. 1 (J. Fischer & Bro.)

Book: The Choral Service: A Manual for Clergy and Organist (Episcopal) (H.W. Gray)

JOB OPENINGS

District of Columbia

Director of music ministries for 9 am service: National United Methodist Church. Part-time, \$50,800 annually. Click [here](#).

Organist: First Baptist Church, 1328 16th St. NW. Part-time. Five-manual, 118-rank Austin Organ. Click [here](#).

Maryland

Music director/organist: Christ Episcopal Church, Rockville. Part-time. \$30,000-37,500 annually. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

Organist/choir director: St. Francis Episcopal Church, Potomac. Part-time. \$30,000 annually. Click [here](#).

Organist/choir director: Christ Church, Durham Parish, Nanjemoy. 10-rank Moller pipe organ. \$15,000-27,000 annually. Apply by April 15. Click [here](#).

Music director: Christ Church, Easton. Four-manual Rodgers Infinity Model 484MV organ; funding to support a professional choir. Part-time. Click [here](#).

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

Director of music/organist: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waldorf. \$24,000-26,000 annually. Three-manual Rodgers Trillium 927 organ. Click [here](#).

Virginia

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

Organist/pianist: Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alexandria \$15,000-20,000 annually. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

Music director/organist: Grace Episcopal Church, Cismont/Keswick. Part-time. 2019 Taylor & Boody pipe organ. \$27,500. Click [here](#).

New members

We welcome Charlotte Stewart, Cheryl Wagner and John F. Benton to our DC chapter and look forward to meeting them!

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, P.O. Box 39179, Washington, DC 20016.

LIFE MEMBERS

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Nancy Dodge

Robert Grogan

Eileen Guenther

Irv Lawless

Kenneth Lowenberg

Donald Sutherland

David Hearn (deceased)

Albert Russell (deceased)



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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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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*

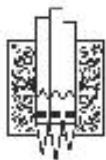


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