

# THE COUPLER

## THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear DC AGO members,

As we embark on a new musical season and academic year, it is a pleasure and privilege to serve you and the AGO as a whole alongside our wonderful board.

Our board strives to promote a strong community of organists and organ lovers. We are all navigating ecclesiastical and academic environments where we serve as performers, teachers, counselors, collaborators, managers and all things in between. I encourage you to take advantage of our fraternity here in the nation's capital and enjoy the fellowship, support and educational benefits we can offer one another.

One of the program highlights for this fall is our annual Pipe Spectacular event in collaboration with the Northern Virginia and Potomac chapters. This year's program features Peabody professor Daniel Aune in a concerto program with chamber orchestra, performing on the Harrison & Harrison organ at Christ Church in Alexandria. The program will be  
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SEPTEMBER 2023

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### Save the date

Our trichapter Pipe Spectacular program Sept. 24 will feature recitalist Daniel Aune.

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## CHAPTER NEWS

### Tri-chapter Pipe Spectacular program and dinner

The DC, Northern Virginia and Potomac AGO chapters will kick off the 2023-24 year on Sunday, Sept. 24, with a dinner and Pipe Spectacular program of organ concertos featuring Daniel Aune and a chamber orchestra.

The event will begin at 6:30 pm with a ticketed, catered dinner at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. in Alexandria.

For the 7:30 program, which is open to the public, Aune and the orchestra will perform Josef Rheinberger's first organ concerto and George Frideric Handel's Concerto Opus 4, No. 6. Aune also will play works by Felix Mendelssohn and works for organ and instruments by Craig Phillips.

The event will be hosted by the Northern Virginia chapter. Watch your email for instructions on signing up for the dinner. An Eventbrite link will soon be available at <https://www.novaago.org>



Aune, a lecturer in organ at Johns Hopkins' Peabody Institute, has been the director of music and organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore since 2011. He holds a doctor of musical arts degree in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with David Higgs.

Aune has been published in the *Eastman Organ Book* and has also composed choral anthems and hymn arrangements for organ, brass, and choir. His competition credits include first prize in both the Rodland Memorial Scholarship Competition and the San Marino Competition, second place in the Arthur Poister Competition, and a semi-finalist in the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, which is sponsored by the American Guild of Organists. He is dean of the Baltimore AGO chapter, vice-president for Region I of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and director of the national Task Force on Denominational Music Organizations for the AGO.



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District of Columbia Chapter

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2023-2024

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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).

## MUSIC AT THE MONASTERY

Music at the Monastery, the members' recital series of the DC AGO chapter, has announced its 2023-24 season and new leadership.



**GRAHAM**

Every second Sunday of the month at 4 pm at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land at 1400 Quincy St. NE in Brookland, members have the opportunity to play a 45-minute recital on the Monastery's French-inspired organ in sumptuous acoustics.

Adam Graham and Carol Feather are the new co-chairs. They are taking over from series co-founder Russell Weismann, who ran it for nine seasons.



**FEATHER**

Performers will be:

Sept. 10: Adam Graham (Sligo Seventh-day Adventist, Takoma Park, MD)

Oct. 8: Jason Farris (Grace Episcopal, The Plains, VA)

Nov. 12: Paul Griffin (Franciscan Monastery, Washington, DC)

Dec. 10: Brass of Peace with organist Lisa Tyler

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)

After nine successful seasons, Russ decided to step down as artistic director of the series in order to spend more time with his family in Pittsburgh. "It was an honor to devise this program with Fr. Jim Gardiner back when I was dean of the chapter," Russ said in a statement. "Fr. Jim is a wonderful friend of the DCAGO and a fantastic host. If you have not yet met him, you are in for a treat.

"We are extremely grateful to Adam Graham and Carol Feather for stepping in as co-directors of the series going forward. I look forward to seeing Music at the Monastery flourish into the future."

Thank you, Russ!



**WEISMANN**

## SPOTLIGHT ON CATHEDRAL ORGAN SCHOLAR REBECCA EHREN

*How did you get interested in the organ?*

I came to the organ almost by accident. I moved to New York right after finishing my undergrad studies in piano at Indiana University. The first job I got offered was singing in a professional church choir in midtown Manhattan. There I was exposed to the organ for the first time, and I was blown away. The church had very high liturgy and lots of organ improvisation, voluntaries, etc. I watched the organist work his magic and thought to myself that I wanted to figure out how to do that.



I held the choir job for three years and during summers I would get hired by small churches to play the organ even though I was a pianist by training. They would often rehire me so I guess I wasn't as terrible as I thought I was.

Fast forward: I was joking around with a friend when she nudged me to start organ lessons with her boyfriend, then the organist at St. John the Divine. Needless to say, I was slightly intimidated. After a few months she nudged me one time too many and in August 2018 I agreed to try a lesson. After a year or so of lessons I was absolutely loving it and my teacher suggested applying for a master's program in organ. I thought he was out of his mind but figured why not.

Only a week after auditioning at Yale and Julliard, COVID shut down the world. I ended up going to Yale while still working in New York throughout the pandemic. I worked at the University Church at Yale as their organist and in my second year of the master's I worked as organ scholar at St. Michael's Episcopal Church on the Upper West Side, as well as Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in the Bronx. When I finished my master's, the opportunity arose to come to the National Cathedral and I absolutely couldn't say no. In summer of 2022 I moved to DC and began working as the cathedral's two-year organ scholar.

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

Coming from a piano background, I would say pedal work, coordination and console management are the biggest challenges.

One of the greatest joys is how frequently I can share music with congregations and visitors. We have six services and two to three organ demos per week. I get to share music not only with in-person audiences but also with thousands of people online. About 10,000 people watch each of our Sunday morning services. Also, as a singer, I love collaborating with choirs and supporting congregational singing.

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

I like to try new experiences and restaurants; travel; engage in deep, sprawling conversations with friends; tutor math; go on thrill rides at amusement parks; and work jigsaw and logic puzzles.

# The Peabody-Baltimore Legacy

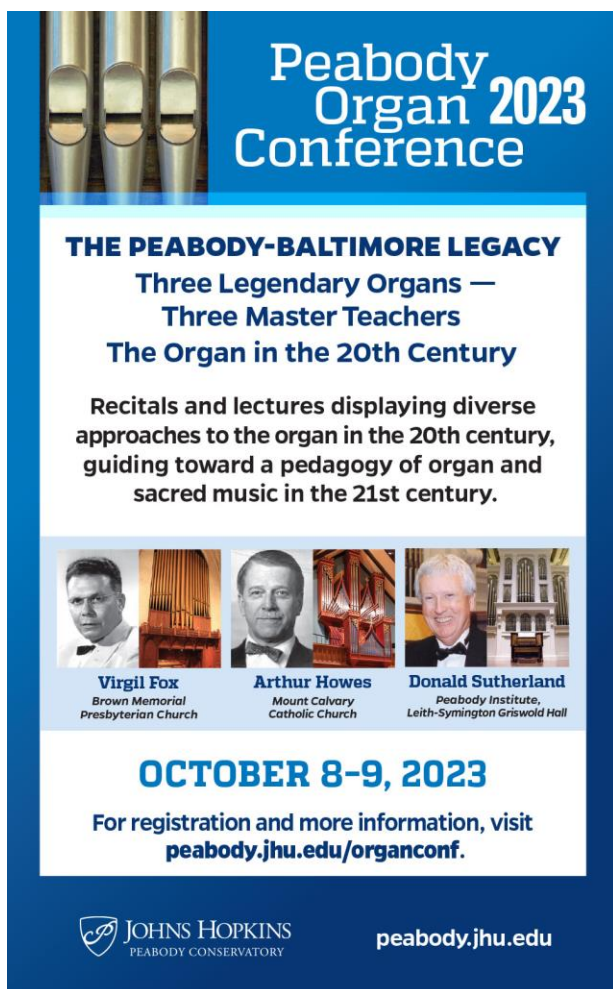
Three Iconic Organs – Three Master Teachers

The Organ in the 20th Century

*October 8-9, 2023*

Three former Peabody faculty artists had an incredible influence on the organ world and organ building - Virgil Fox, Arthur Howes, and Donald Sutherland. In recognizing their




contribution to the field of organ study, this conference features recitals on the organs with which they were associated. Lectures about the teachers and their pedagogy, as well as a study of the instruments, will display the diverse styles and approaches to the organ in the 20th century. This retrospective will guide us as we also envision pedagogy of organ and sacred music in the 21st century.



**Peabody Organ 2023 Conference**


**THE PEABODY-BALTIMORE LEGACY**  
**Three Legendary Organs —**  
**Three Master Teachers**  
**The Organ in the 20th Century**

Recitals and lectures displaying diverse approaches to the organ in the 20th century, guiding toward a pedagogy of organ and sacred music in the 21st century.

		
<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).

 **JOHNS HOPKINS**  
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[peabody.jhu.edu](http://peabody.jhu.edu)

Performances will take place on three iconic organs - the beautifully restored Skinner organ at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church, where Virgil Fox created his famous arrangement of "Come, Sweet Death"; the Fisk-Flentrop organ at Mount Calvary Catholic Church, which sparked the career of Charles Fisk; and Peabody's Holtkamp organ, which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Performers include Marvin Mills, Jonathan Moyer, William Porter, John Walker and Janet Yieh. Presenters include Michael Hart, restorer of the Skinner organ at Brown Memorial; Chris Holtkamp, president of the Holtkamp Organ Company; Andrew Johnson, the inaugural winner of the OHS Weaver

Prize in Organ Scholarship; Doug Marshall, student and protégé of Virgil Fox; and an interview with Donald Sutherland.

Join us as we celebrate three faculty artists who made long-lasting contributions not only to the Peabody Organ Department but also to the world of organ design and performance. More information and a registration form can be found [here](#).

## ORGAN EVENTS

### Music at Midday kicks off 2023-2024 season at National City



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

**Sept. 8:** Polish organist Michal Szostak performs works by J. S. Bach and Antonio Vivaldi as well as his own improvisation that he is calling "Symphonic Variations."

**Sept. 15:** Violinist Sarah Berger and organist/pianist John Nothaft perform a program titled "Autumn Leaves," featuring music for the season by American and British composers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

**Sept. 22:** Brazilian organist Sandro Silva performs works by Iain Farrington, Paul Manz, J.S. Bach, Noel Rawsthorne and Albert L. Travis.

**Sept. 29:** Jackson Borges (Statesboro, GA) performs works by French composer Félix-Alexandre Guilmant.

**MICHAL SZOSTAK WILL PERFORM SEPT. 8.**

### Celebrating James Kibbie's teaching career

Dear fellow AGO members:

James Kibbie is retiring after a 42-year teaching career at the University of Michigan. I plan to present a "where are they now" showcase of former students in October at the annual Organ Conference in Ann Arbor and wish to also capture a picture of how he may have impacted others outside the university setting.

If you have had the opportunity to interact with James, please complete this short [survey form](#) at your earliest convenience.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfjBW1lubVRi9ponZy7LPbxCR9APKDwgShbxN9a6MDgfsK0g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfjBW1lubVRi9ponZy7LPbxCR9APKDwgShbxN9a6MDgfsK0g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Linda Dzuris

Department of Performing Arts chair, professor of music and university carillonneur

Clemson University

[ldzuris@g.clemson.edu](mailto:ldzuris@g.clemson.edu)

## ORGAN EVENTS

**Saturday, Sept. 2, 3 pm:** Mirjam Haag, organist of Mauritiuskirche in Rommelshausen, Germany, improvises and performs works of Alain, Bach, Buxtehude and Duruflé on the Beckerath organ of Christ Lutheran Church, 5101 16th St NW. All are welcome to attend this free recital, with donations greatly appreciated.



**Sunday, Sept. 3, 2 pm:** Labor Day recital at National Cathedral featuring Bruce Neswick, artist-in-residence at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Jolla, CA, and founding director of the Girls Choir at Washington National Cathedral. To view online, click [here](#).

**Sunday, Sept. 10, 4 pm:** Adam Graham performs at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land.

NESWICK

**Sunday, Sept. 17, 4 pm:** Dr. Rolf J. Goebel of Huntsville, AL, plays a recital on the Howell tracker organ at Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW, including music by Frescobaldi, Froberger, Pachelbel, Bach and Mozart. Goebel is distinguished professor of German, emeritus, at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. His most recent publications focus on relations between literature, music and philosophy. He has served as dean and sub-dean of the Greater Huntsville AGO chapter.



GOEBEL

**Tuesday, Sept. 19, 12:10 pm:** Soprano Laura Choi Stuart and organist George Fergus present a program titled "May God Bless My People." The exploration of American art songs on the theme of family and community will include works by Charles Ives, Samuel Barber and Leonard Bernstein. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.



**Wednesday, Sept. 20, 5:30 pm:** The choir of St. John's-Lafayette Square sings Evensong, including Pilgrim's Hymn by Stephen Paulus, responses by Margaret Burk, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis *Collegium Regale* by Herbert Howells and Bring us, O Lord God by W.H. Harris. 16th and H Streets NW.

**Tuesday, Sept. 26, 12:10 pm:** Organist Jinsun Cho, music director at Church of the Epiphany, performs Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major BWV 552, Jongen's Sonata Eroica and A Young Kim's *Reflections on 'Arirang'* (Korean Folk Song). Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

CHO

**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.

**Tuesday, Nov. 28, 12:10 pm:** Organist Giorgio Revelli, director of music at St. Maurice Cathedral, Imperia, Italy, performs at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

## THE DEAN'S MESSAGE

*From Page One*

held on Sunday, Sept. 24 beginning with a catered, ticketed dinner at 6:30 pm and the performance at 7:30 pm. (See Page 2.)

I also want to call your attention to the Peabody Organ Conference to be held in Baltimore Oct. 8-9. It will celebrate three former Peabody faculty artists – Virgil Fox, Arthur Howes and Donald Sutherland – and recognize 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 Peabody Conservatory's Holtkamp organ, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Performers include Marvin Mills, Jonathan Moyer, Janet Yieh and more.

I will also submit my annual encouragement towards the pursuit of AGO certification. Gaining certification, at whatever level you find yourself, can be of great value, not only to the individual, but also to the churches that benefit from the greater skill levels of their musicians.

Requirements for the 2024 exams can be found on the AGO website: <https://www.agohq.org/certification/>. Please be in touch with us if you want support and guidance in this endeavor.

I encourage you to stay engaged with us and to share your insights, suggestions and events so we can support and strengthen one another in our various artistic endeavors.

Feel free to make liberal use of our chapter email, [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com), and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

I wish you all much success in your musical adventures this year, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming chapter events.

Grace & Peace,  
Paul Byssainthe, Jr.



**VIRGIL FOX**



**ARTHUR HOWES**



**DONALD  
SUTHERLAND**



## JOB OPENINGS

### District of Columbia

**Principal organist/choir director:** Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Full-time. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

**Music director:** St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Part-time. \$25,000-30,000 annually. Click [here](#).

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

### Maryland

**Interim music director:** St. John's Norwood, Chevy Chase. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

**Choir director:** Colesville Presbyterian Church, Silver Spring. \$1,000 monthly. Click [here](#).

**Music ministry coordinator:** Rockville Presbyterian Church. \$28,000-35,000 annually. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

**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](#).

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

### Virginia

**Music minister:** St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Arlington. \$22,000-32,000 annually. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

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## MORE JOB OPENINGS

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

**Interim director of music ministries:** Rock Spring Congregational UCC, Arlington. \$30-50 hourly. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

**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).

**Organist/pianist:** First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City. Part-time. \$15,000-17,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Music director:** Calvary United Methodist Church, Arlington. \$27,956 - \$33,668 annually. Contact the church for details.

**Church musician:** First United Presbyterian Church, Woodbridge. \$15,000-17,000. 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).

### Did you know that on our chapter website, [dcago.org](http://dcago.org)...

... you can view upcoming organ recitals in our area under the Calendar tab?

...find a new job through the listings under the Membership tab?

...find substitutes under the Substitute tab?

...find organ teachers under the Membership tab?

... look at past issues of The Coupler under the Media tab?

... check out photos of past events under the Media tab?

Give it a try!

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

## 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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## 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*

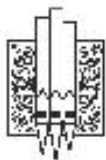


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