
THE COUPLER

The Dean's Message



Dear DC AGO Members,

I am very happy to be writing the Dean's message here, having inherited this particular mantle for 2018-20. It will be a pleasure to serve you, the membership, and the AGO as a whole in its mission and aspiration.

To that end, each Chapter is only as effective as its Board and membership wish it to be and we, as your DC Board, have enjoyed a good rapport with lively and creative meetings. I am hopeful that the program year we have devised will whet your appetite and encourage you to be with us for many events.

We all 'bark up the same tree' and find ourselves working in churches where spiritual intentions are wrapped up with the desire to make glorious music, whether on the bench or in front of the choir. Sometimes we find ourselves in challenging ecclesiastical environments - wrought as they can be with political intrigue and

periodically strained relationships. Thus, we are all here to support each other in our endeavours, so do please take advantage of our fraternity in the nation's capital and enjoy the fellowship, support and educational benefits we can offer each other.

The AGO's mission is one that looks to stimulate our personal growth as church musicians and certainly through certification, we can all 'raise our game.' Gaining certification, at whatever level you find yourself, can be of great value, not only to an individual, but also to churches which benefit from the greater skill levels of their musicians. Do be in touch with us if you want support and guidance in such a venture. In light of this, the DC AGO Chapter is keen to help financially those for whom AGO Certification fees are steep. There will a page posted shortly on the website, articulating how individuals can apply for financial support.

During the course of this year, we will publish the COUPLER quarterly, and we are open to the submission of articles regarding organs, music, churches etc. from members: It is your journal. If you would like to write a piece, please submit it via the DC AGO email. This month, you will find below an extract (quoted with permission) from a sermon preached in September by the Dean of Exeter Cathedral. He offered eloquently some pertinent ideas on music in worship and the contemplative qualities it can offer.

A DC AGO innovation this year will be the hosting of a monthly 'Studio' on second Mondays. We do hope that this will become

a regular occasion for musical and social fraternity. To these evenings, we can bring literature, hymns, improvisational questions, service playing issues and share ideas by playing to each other and discussing any problems. We intend to follow these sessions with a 'Happy Hour' at a local hostelry. We will look to encounter different instruments in our region - one indeed rich with variety. We started recently by meeting with Joy-Leilani Garbutt at Christ Lutheran Church on 16th Street, playing for each other on one of the 'hidden gems' of DC; the 1969 Beckerath mechanical action organ there. The next, on October 8th, will be 7.00pm at St. Andrew's, College Park (and the Milk House Art Bar afterwards...). Please join us!

Do be in touch with us if we can be of any help, with ideas, articles, and information on the Monday Studios. We would love to see you.

Jeremy Filsell (Dean)

*In honor of years of service to the American Guild
of Organists*

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The Coupler

A quarterly newsletter published by the District of Columbia Chapter, American Guild of Organists.

Paul Byssainthe, Jr.,
Editor

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or for newsletter
submissions:

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DC AGO Chapter
PO Box 39179

2018-2019 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

September 10: STUDIO CLASS & FELLOWSHIP [7.30pm Christ Lutheran 16th St.]

September 23: Tri-Chapter Installation Service [7.30pm St. Luke's Episcopal Alexandria]

October 8: **STUDIO CLASS & FELLOWSHIP** [7.00pm St. Andrew's College Park/Milk House Art Bar]

October 14: **PIPES SPECTACULAR** (Hosted by Potomac Chapter): Erik Suter in recital [5.15pm Washington National Cathedral]

November 11: Jeanne Demessieux Memorial Concert (marking the 50th anniversary of her death) with Joy-Leilani Garbutt (organ): **VIDENTES** sings the Fauré Requiem [6.00pm Franciscan Monastery, Quincy Street]

November 12: **STUDIO CLASS & FELLOWSHIP** [7.00pm Franciscan Monastery, Quincy Street, WDC]

November 16/17: **THIERRY MECHLER** (French organist and organ and improvisation teacher at the Hochschule für Musik, Köln) weekend in Baltimore [Friday Recital 7.00pm at Peabody Conservatory; Saturday 10.00am Masterclass at Peabody Conservatory] (sponsored by Baltimore Chapter & Peabody Conservatory)

December 10: **STUDIO CLASS & FELLOWSHIP** [7.00pm St. Paul's K Street/Foggy Bottom]

January 7: **Tri-Chapter 12th Night Dinner** (sponsored by Potomac Chapter) [All Saints Episcopal, Chevy Chase Circle, MD 20815]
6:30pm – Rehearsal; singers are attendees; 7:15pm – Service: 7:45pm – Dinner

February 11: **STUDIO CLASS & FELLOWSHIP** [7.00pm St. Alban's Episcopal, Wisconsin Avenue/Cafe Deluxe]

February 18: **PRESIDENT'S DAY MEET** at St. Jane Chantal, Bethesda MD (Venue TBC)

9.30: Coffee & Registration

10.00: Workshop on service music/selection/accompaniment (Clinician TBC)

12-1pm: Lunch

1.00pm: Mark Willey (Sub-Dean) workshop on Technology for Organists; Music writing software and Hauptwerk systems

3-4.00pm: Organ Recital by Paul Byssainthe, Jr. (NYACOP Finalist 2018)

March 4: Jeremy Filsell Piano & Organ Recital of music by **FRANCIS POTT** [7.00pm Peabody Conservatory, Mt. Vernon Square, Baltimore: Launch of CD of piano music]

March 8: Conversation with composer **FRANCIS POTT** on writing for the organ [6.00pm]: Jeremy Filsell performance of 'CHRISTUS: A Passion Symphony for Organ' (1990/1) by Francis Pott. [7.30pm St. Paul's Lutheran Connecticut Avenue, WDC]

March 11: **STUDIO CLASS & FELLOWSHIP** [7.00pm St. Patrick's Catholic, G Street/Fire & Sage]

April 8: **STUDIO CLASS & FELLOWSHIP** [7.00pm Washington National Cathedral/Cactus Cantina]

April 25/26: **DC AGO Road trip** to New York to visit St. John the Divine Cathedral (Aeolian-Skinner/Quimby). (Other venues TBC)

May 13: **STUDIO CLASS & FELLOWSHIP** [7.00pm St. Vincent's Chapel, CUA/Brookland Pint]

June 10: **STUDIO CLASS & FELLOWSHIP** [7.00pm St. Columba's Episcopal/Guapo's]

13 | THE THIRTEEN

Matthew Robertson, Artistic Director

www.thethirteenchoir.org
P.O. Box 32065, Washington, DC 20007
info@thethirteenchoir.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2018

CONTACT: Lisa Koehler
info@thethirteenchoir.org

The Thirteen to Perform "I write your name" in Season Series "the bonds between"

The all-star professional choir, The Thirteen, will perform a reflective and poignant concert titled "I write your name" on Saturday and Sunday, October 20 and 21, 2018, at 7:30 pm. The Saturday concert will be held at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. and the Sunday concert at Bradley Hills Church, 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817. This Sunday concert is only available to season subscribers. Tickets are available at www.TheThirteenChoir.org

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, making the end of World War I, we investigate two works inspired by conflict: Maurice Durufle's touching Requiem and Francis Poulenc's technically-demanding Figure humaine. Joined by Jeremy Filsell, of whom Gramophone writes: "...I must register a certain shock at sheer brilliance of his playing," this concert promises to be a display of virtuosity and artistry.

"In planning this program, I sought out music that helped the act of remembering, and repertoire that inspires us towards the ideals in which those who fought and died believed. I look forward to plumbing the depths of these two 20th-century masterpieces, with Jeremy Filsell, and the peerless voices of The Thirteen." says Artistic Director, Matthew Robertson.

The Thirteen is in its seventh season with highly successful tours and residencies held at major universities within the United States. Matthew Robertson declares, "Our season, "the bonds between," marks a continuation of our commitment to vibrant and exciting performances, music making at its finest, and our determination to provide a social context for our diverse and moving programs. This year we look forward to examining the theme of connection, and how the threads binding us can fray and break - from the union of romantic love to the divide of war."

The concert will be approximately 65 minutes in duration followed by a complimentary meet and greet reception with performers and board members. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005 is easily accessible via public transportation with ample garage parking next door to the church. Bradley Hills Church, 6601 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, MD 20817 is accessible by car, and public transportation, with ample free parking available.

END

Board of Trustees - John Stevenson, President • Patricia Stocker, Secretary • Christopher Hoh, Treasurer
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Extract from a sermon preached by the Dean of Exeter, The Very Reverend Jonathan Greener on 16 September 2018:

Our music matters dearly to us. The Christian Church was born singing, and has never ceased to do so. A great danger of the modern world is what E.M. Forster has called “poor little chattering Christianity” – all those words which bombard us as soon as we step inside a church; but when they are set to music, they take on new life.

Which is why people often quote St Augustine of Hippo to say that anyone who sings a prayer prays twice. He didn't ever say that in fact, but what he did say is: *[The one] who sings praise, does not only praise, but also praises joyfully; [the one] who sings praise, not only sings, but also loves Him whom he is singing about.*

Music enables us to give voice to the unspeakable. So American slaves sang spirituals to give vent to their pain, and to verbalise their conviction that God would finally work for their good. For many decades, black South Africans suffered, protested, and sang. And all those years ago, the Israelites in exile sang of their sorrow, but also of their confidence in the gracious mercy of Almighty God. We sing in good times and bad; we sing in exultation, we sing in sadness, we sing whenever words alone won't do. And when we worship, words alone won't do. We are not praying minds or 'talking heads' (to quote Alan Bennett): we are whole people who pray. Loving God with our heart and soul and mind and strength.

But there is something about [the service of Anglican/Episcopal] Evensong that many people find difficult to start with - namely the passivity of this form of worship. As has really always been the case. The choir does most of the work, and the clergy take care of the prayers and readings. The congregation joins in with the odd Amen and the creed, and the hymns: and you stand, sit, kneel at the appropriate moments.

I have to admit it was Evensong that attracted me back to the Church of England forty years ago, and over those years it's become part of who I am. So I don't find this passivity alien at all. But neither do I have a problem with it in principle: the fact that someone else does all the work. And that's because I believe that prayer is not something we do as much as something we join in with, or align ourselves with. St Paul tells us that it is the Spirit who prays on our behalf... *“The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.”*

From all around the world, there's a great wave of prayer battering heaven. Our prayers, yours and mine, are a small part of this spirit-led offering that rises to God. No matter then that Evensong can appear very passive. That doesn't reduce the validity of the prayer. Our prayer is a part of the great tidal wave: a movement towards God.

Of course, this way of worship flies in the face of the modern Church's tendency to focus on us. But we worship first and foremost, not for our sake, but because God is God. It does though take practice worshipping in this way. To start with, people can feel excluded or as though they are at a concert. For many it grows on them with time. Still after forty years, sometimes I

love the music; sometimes I don't. That doesn't matter. This is not a concert. It is an offering to God. It is a piece of work that we do. When the music is most dissonant or to my mind fights with the words, that helps me focus on what the words mean and why we're using them. What I love, however, is the fact that someone is praying with me and for me, enfolding me in prayer. The fact that during the often quite lengthy psalms I can listen to some of the words (which are now pretty familiar); I can focus on some of them; I can look around at the building which speaks of the glory of God, and points me to heaven; I can bring before God the parts of the day that have troubled me or rejoiced my heart. Going back what I was saying earlier, I don't feel constrained to think about every word that is offered. For our mind is not the only communication channel we have with God. We can pray with our eyes as well. And if I'm tempted to nod off, which is not unknown, I take comfort from the fact that the disciples were very close to Jesus in the garden - when he agonised with God while they were asleep.

It's worth pondering the fact that cathedral congregations at Evensong have shown consistent growth in recent years. It must be partly that you don't pay to get in. So it's cheaper to attend Evensong than to come in as a tourist. But also there's the very real fact that people want to pray, and want help to pray, and this service does much of that work for them. Praise God, then, for Evensong. Choral prayer has been offered here for at least eight centuries: we pray that with your help it will continue to sustain the people of this city until Christ returns on the clouds of heaven. To him be all glory this night and forever. Amen.

PIPES SPECTACULAR

ERIK SUTER
organist

Sunday, October 14
at 5:15 pm
Washington National Cathedral

\$10 suggested donation

Präludium und Fuge über
B-A-C-H

Franz Liszt

Sonate—Der 94th Psalm

Julius Reubke

Fantasie über den Choral
Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

Max Reger

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Cathedral and the
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American Guild of
Organists

Members' Events

Friday, October 5, 12:15 pm

Organist Justin Brueggeman (Kingsport, TN)
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

Sunday, October 7, 5:00pm

Choral Evensong with guest organist, Preston Smith
Music of Howells, Roberts, & Wadsworth Christ Church
118 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA

Friday, October 12, 12:15 pm

Organist Jordan Prescott (Baltimore, MD)
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

Friday, October 19, 12:15 pm

Organist Sondra Goldsmith Proctor (Canton, NY)
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

Friday, October 19, 7:30 p.m.

Adam Brakel, organ recital
St. Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Friday, October 26, 12:15 pm

Organist David Brock
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

Sunday, November 4, 5:00pm

Choral Evensong with guest organist, Adam Detzner
Music of Stanford, Sanders, & Whitbourn Christ Church

Sunday, December 2, 5:00pm

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Brass Quintet and guest organist, Daniel Aune
Combined Choirs of Christ Church
Christ Church

Members are encouraged to submit recitals and concerts for public listing on the DC AGO website. Submit your event for web or newsletter listing to dcagochapter@gmail.com

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St. Ann's Church at Tenley Circle

We are celebrating our 150th anniversary next year. Outside of the many events that will be happening, are three outstanding organists that will be performing at St. Ann's. They are:

Vincent Dubois, Tuesday Evening, @ 7pm, March 19, 2019

Nathan Laube, Sunday, @ 3pm, April 28, 2019

Oliver Latory, Sunday, @ 3pm, November 17, 2019

A champagne reception will follow given by Ridgewell Caterers. Admission is open to the public. St. Ann's is one block south of the Tenleytown/AU red line subway stop.

Robert Bright
Director of Music
St. Ann's Church at Tenley Circle
Wisconsin & Yuma N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

Organ Study Tour of Paris and Environs**May 31 – June 10, 2019**

Concept Tours is pleased to announce plans for an Organ Study Tour to Paris, Rouen, and Versailles, May 31 – June 10, 2019. Under the direction of John Walker in cooperation with Mme. Marie-Louise Langlais, the tour will visit many legendary French organ lofts.

For a full description of the Tour, including cost and information for registration:

1. GO TO: www.concept-tours.com
2. On the top bar select: **MY TOUR** page
3. Click **LOG IN** and type the **USER NAME** Organ Study Tour of Paris 2019 (case sensitive)
4. Insert your **PASSWORD** (user name without spaces)
organstudytour2019

Although limited to a maximum of 20 performers, registration is open to others without restriction. All registrations must be submitted electronically to Concept Tours, using the form which can be located on the agency website. Please note the deposit deadline of October 31, 2018.

For further information, please contact Concept Tours at info@concept-tours.com or John Walker at JW4700@gmail.com

Music at Midday
Fridays, 12:15 – 1:00 pm

National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
5 Thomas Circle, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Free admission; donations accepted

Detailed information at www.nationalcitycc.org or (202) 797-0103

Upcoming Concerts: October 2018

October 5: Organist Justin Brueggeman (Kingsport, Tennessee) will perform works of Edward Elgar, Herbert Howells, Charles-Marie Widor, and J. S. Bach, concluding with the “Epilogue” of Rachel Laurin.

October 12: Jordan Prescott (Baltimore, Maryland) will perform organ works of Herbert Howells, William Bloom, Ad Wammes, Johannes Brahms, and Leo Sowerby, concluding with “Afro Cuban” by Johannes-Matthias Michel.

October 19: Organist Sondra Goldsmith Proctor (Canton, New York) will perform music to touch the spirit, including works of J. S. Bach, Maurice Duruflé, Jehan Alain, and Rachel Laurin.

October 26: Organist David Brock will perform all five movements of Symphony No. 5 in F minor by Charles-Marie Widor, concluding of course with the well-known Toccata.



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Worship Matters: The Art of Choral SingingOctober 22-23rd, 2018

The Center for Liturgy and Music at Virginia Theological Seminary invites all choral directors and singers to a conference to explore the art of good choral singing by reading through music for choirs of all sizes and abilities, learning about good vocal techniques, discovering ways of dealing with aging voices, and finding out the best methods for starting an RSCM program.

Presenters include:

- Karen Brunssen, Associate Professor of Voice, Northwestern University
- Blake Clark, Music Director, Baltimore Choral Arts Society
- Cynthia DeDakis, Music Consultant, Diocese of Maryland
- Cliff Hill, Owner, Cliff Hill Music
- William Bradley Roberts, Professor of Church Music, Virginia Theological Seminary

Included with the conference is a concert on Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Immanuel Chapel by the Baltimore Choral Arts Society. They will be performing *Ein deutsches Requiem* by Johannes Brahms, as well as *John Henry* by John D. Miller, *Spätherbs* from *4 Quartette* by Johannes Brahms, and *Selig sind die Toten* by Heinrich Schütz.

The cost of the conference is \$150, and includes dinner on Monday evening and lunch on Tuesday. Registrations will be accepted through October 15th. To register and learn more about this, please go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/worship-matters-the-art-of-choral-singing-tickets-46480972841>

If you are interested in attending the concert on Monday evening (7:30 p.m.), you may purchase tickets for \$20, and you may purchase them at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brahms-a-german-requiem-tickets-49282967683>

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OPERA COMES TO CHURCH! CONCERT

Sun., Oct 14, 2018 4 pm
First Presbyterian Church
601 N. Vermont Street
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Featuring: Laree Simon, *soprano*
Featuring: VaShawn McIlwain, *baritone*



Accompanied by: Dr. Lester Green, *Artistic Director*

Enjoy operatic selections set to sacred text from the scriptures, as soprano Laree Simon and baritone VaShawn McIlwain perform in a celebration of opera coming to church. Reception immediately following.



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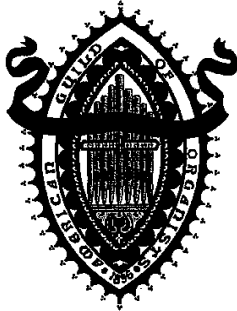
Wednesday, October 17 • 7:30 pm

Saint Luke Catholic Church

7001 Georgetown Pike • McLean, Virginia

Tickets \$20 online or at the door • Students free

musicinmclean.org



The Annapolis Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists

2018 – 2019 Events

You are invited to join us!

October 5, 2018, 7:00 PM: MEMBER RECITAL
Location: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
1800 Seton Dr., Crofton, MD

We are looking for more performers. If you would like to play, contact Brendan Walls by September 12 at Brendan.walls@seaseton.org or call 410-721-5770 extension 231.

November 12, 2018, 7:00 PM: CHRISTMAS MUSIC SHARING AND PARTY
Location: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
461 College Parkway, Arnold, MD.

Join us for an early Christmas celebration. Bring up to three pieces of choral and/or organ music to share with colleagues, or just come ready to enjoy music of your colleagues. You are also welcome to bring along finger snacks such as cookies.

January 14, 2019, 7:00 PM: A TOURING CHOIR AND A LOCAL PIPE ORGAN
Location: First Presbyterian Church
171 Duke of Gloucester St., Annapolis, MD.

Bob Muckenfuss will demonstrate the church's Zimmer/Walker pipe organ, which has 23 ranks of pipes and 62 ranks of digital augmentation. He will also tell us about his choir's recently completed two-week tour of Europe. *Snow date is January 28.*

March 25, 2019: 7:00 PM: CHORAL MUSIC READING SESSION
Location: Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church
611 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd., Severna Park, MD.

JoAnn Kulesza will present recently published sacred choral music. Stay tuned for information to register in advance for \$12 or to register that day for \$15. Invite your choir members to join us. All attendees will receive a packet of music to keep.



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Music @ the Monastery

Located on 42 acres, the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land is a beautiful architectural gem hidden in the northeast corner of Washington, D.C. 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 (the Franciscans have ministered there for 800 years), 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 forty ranks of pipes over three manuals and pedal.

Together with the Franciscan Monastery, the DC AGO is proud to support a series of community outreach musical events titled, "Music @ the Monastery". These events are free of charge and take place on the second Sunday of each month at 4pm, followed by a reception. All are welcome!

2018 - 2019 Recitalists

- September 10 Dudley Oakes (Shenandoah University)
October 14 Jeremy Buckler (National Symphony Orchestra), Trombone, with Russell Weismann
(Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Bethesda, MD), Organ
November 11 Paul Byssainthe, Jr. (Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church), Organ
December 9 Kimberly Hess (Memorial Chapel, Fr. Myer, Arlington, VA), Organist and Instructor of Music, Marymount University
January 13 Dan Miller (First Baptist Church, Winchester, VA), Organ
February 10 Gregory Hooker (St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA), Organ
March 10 Brass of Peace Ensemble, Sylvia Alimena, Director, with Lisa Galoci, Organ
April 7 Georgetown University Chamber Choir, Fred Binkholder, Director
April 28 Choral Festival, First Presbyterian Church, Arlington, Adam Graham, Director and Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, Carol Feather Martin, Director
May 5 Stefan Donnor (Saint Leopold Church and Schönbrunn Palace Chapel, Vienna, Austria), Organ
May 19 Choir and Organ, All Hallows Parish Church South River, Edgewater, MD, Carl Schwartz, Organ

THE COUPLER

District of Columbia Chapter
The American Guild of Organists

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