
THE COUPLER



As we move from winter into spring we look forward to new birth, new growth and new challenges. Even now as I write to you our own DC AGO chapter faces one very personal challenge. As you may recall from last month's Coupler and other sources, our Co-Dean, Christopher Betts and his family recently relocated to Texas where Chris is taking on a new and exciting position as director of music at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston. Some of you may recall visiting this wonderful church during the 2016 national convention. While we are all happy for Chris and his new position we are saddened that he is no longer with us here in Washington. In the few years he lived and worked in Washington Chris brought a wealth of musical talent to our area. But his musical talents are not the only things we will miss about him. The executive board and I especially, will miss his passion, professionalism and solid work ethic. But I think we will mostly miss his calming

presence and perpetual smile.

Many thanks, Chris. We will miss you.

On Monday February 19th our chapter presented its second annual Presidents' Day Organ Festival. It was a wonderful day of programming that included opportunities to learn, listen, play and socialize. The festival, graciously hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C., featured three presenters: Jeffrey D. Dexter, Rev. Benjamin Straley and Janet Yieh.

Jeffrey Dexter is vice-president and Tonal Director of the Schantz Organ Company in Orrville, Ohio. A native of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, he oversees the work of the tonal department along with sales and marketing for the Schantz Organ Company. He has served the Schantz company since 1993. Mr. Dexter's presentation focused on the organ reform movement in the United States.

The Rev. Benjamin Straley is Organist and Associate Director of Music at Washington National Cathedral. Prior to this appointment, he was Organ Scholar at Trinity Church (Episcopal), New Haven, as well as Director of Music for the Episcopal Church at Yale. Fr. Straley's presentation focused on hymn and service playing. This workshop was filled with interesting, practical and accessible tips to overhaul one's hymn playing, service playing and worship service appropriate improvisations. During this workshop members were encouraged to come forward and play the organ.

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2017-2018 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

*Monday, September 18 at 7:30 PM
Celebration of the Reformation &
Installation of Officers
Lutheran Church of the Reformation
Host Paul Leavitt
with the Potomac Chapter*

*Sunday, October 15 7 pm
Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular
Eric Plutz, Princeton University Organist
The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land
Washington, DC*

*Monday, November 6 7 pm
Morales at the Monastery
The Choir of The Church of the Epiphany, DC
The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land
Washington, DC*

*January 8, 2018
CANCELLED due to inclement weather
Twelfth Night Service and Catered Dinner*

*Monday, February 19, 2018 9:30-4:00
Presidents' Day Organ Festival
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, DC*

*Friday, March 9, 2018
50th Anniversary of the Æolian-Skinner Organ
The Church of the Epiphany, DC*

Saturday, April 7, 2018
Road Trip to Longwood Gardens
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania
See page 6 for more information

DC AGO Board of Directors

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The Coupler

A monthly newsletter
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American Guild of
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David K. Houston,
Editor

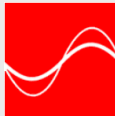
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Members' Events

Friday, March 16, 12:15 pm

Organist Clara Gerdes
Music at Midday @ National City
Christian Church

Sunday, March 18, 2 to 7 pm

41st Annual Bach Marathon
Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 18, 4 pm

Organist Randall Sheets with
Commonwealth Brass and National
Brass
Music @ the Monastery

Friday, March 23, 12:15 pm

Organist James Kosnik
Music at Midday @ National City
Christian Church

Friday, April 6, 12:15

Pianist Nathan Carterette
Music at Midday @ National City
Christian 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

Lowenberg Composes Several Commissioned Works

Recently, long-time AGO member Ken Lowenberg has received several commissions to compose music for special commemorative occasions at various churches.

On May 28, 2017, "Sonata on Lauda Anima," for brass quartet and organ, received its world premiere at Hughes United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, MD. It was commissioned by the church to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Van Knauss as Organist there. Ken was also asked to play the organ at the morning service and rehearse with the brass, so that it would be a surprise for Dr. Knauss, and so that he could sit with his family in the congregation to enjoy the celebratory part of the service. The work is a three movement work (fast-slow-fast) all based on motifs from the hymn tune *Lauda Anima* ("Praise My Soul, the King [God] of Heaven"), and the three movements may be performed as one major piece or (as was done in the service) done as three separate pieces in various parts of the service, as Prelude, Offertory, and Postlude.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Cleveland Park UCC in Washington, DC, Dorothy Mora and Georgiana Dunham commissioned Ken to compose an anthem for SATB choir, piano, and flute. The result is "God of Our Past, Present, and Future," incorporating parts of *St. Anne* ("O God, Our Help in Ages Past") and *Sandon* ("God of Our Life"). It will be premiered at a festive service on Sunday, March 11.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Bel Air, MD, Brent Pertusio, Organist, commissioned Ken to compose an anthem for SAB choir and organ based on the text, "I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me" to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary. In addition to the text from Ps. 122:1 & 7, the anthem also uses text from Gen. 28:16b-17 (Surely the Lord is in this place...this is none other than the house of God.), creating an ABA form. It will receive its premiere performance at the Festival Service on Sunday, March 18, 2018.

Ken is working on a fourth commission, but it is to be a surprise for the personnel involved, so we will have to wait for a more full report until after the event has taken place!

Continued from page 1

Janet Yieh, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, is pursuing her Master of Musical Arts degree with Professor Thomas Murray at Yale's institute of Sacred Music and School of Music. She also currently serves as Organ Scholar at Christ Church, New Haven and organist for Berkeley Divinity School. Janet is a graduate of Yale (MM '17) and the Julliard School (BM '15). Named one of The Diapason magazine's 20 under 30 in 2017, Janet won the 2015 Franciscan Monastery & DC AGO Young Organist Competition and 2015 Northern Virginia & Potomac Quimby Competition. Janet's recital program of music by Guilmant, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Bach, Bingham and Reger was a very appropriate offering to highlight the theme of the festival. Very nicely done, Janet! We are all so proud of you and your inspiring music.

Many thanks to those of you who were able to attend. And thank you to those who responded to the survey. Your thoughts and concerns are being thoroughly considered. Your suggestions help us to develop and offer top quality learning and listening experiences.

As our calendar year comes to an end I would like to encourage you to consider supporting our next event.

ROAD TRIP!!!!

Yes, we are going to visit Longwood Gardens in Kenneth Square, Pennsylvania on Saturday, April 7th. It will be a day-long event by charter bus departing from Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd. in Bethesda, MD 20817. We will depart at 7:30 am and return by 7:30 pm. More details can be found in the Coupler with final details of the trip to be announced very soon. Also, nominations for all DC AGO board positions are open. All members in good standing are eligible to offer submissions.

Lastly, please consider supporting our National Convention in Kansas City, July 1-6.

Thank you all for your continued support of our chapter.

Irvin Peterson

DCAGO Dean

ROADTRIP

Longwood Gardens

Saturday, April 7

7:30 am to 7:30 pm



We will travel together by bus to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA! We will hear and play The Longwood Organ, which has the distinction of being the largest residential Aeolian ever constructed and is a stunning specimen of American Art Deco organ design and engineering. Newly restored in 2011, the organ captures an orchestral sound like no other. Hear it played by the most talented organists of today in our Ballroom. We will also hear The Longwood Carillon of 62 cast bells.

Our bus is scheduled to depart at **7:30 on Saturday morning** from the parking lot of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd. in Bethesda, MD 20817. You may leave your car parked during the day at Bradley Hills Presby. We will return by 7:30 pm.

John Widman will play the Longwood Carillon when we arrive; people can listen and walk around the gardens. Organist **Rudy Lucente** will demonstrate the Longwood Organ in the Ballroom from 12:30-12:50. **We will also have time reserved at the organ until 2:30 for all who wish to play the organ!**

Following the Longwood activities we will stop at a winery in Havre de Grace, MD on the way back home.

* Our 45 passenger bus is not equipped with a restroom but there are rest stops along the way.*

Price per person: \$49.00 Pre-pay to reserve your spot on the bus.

Please make payments on the DC AGO website through PayPal.

<http://www.dcago.org/media.html>

PayPal accepts any major debit or credit card.

If you do not pre-pay you may pay at the bus if there are seats available.

You may also send a check to DC Chapter AGO, PO Box 39179, Washington, DC 20016.

Included in the cost is the price of bus transportation and entrance into Longwood Gardens.

Meals and the winery visit are not included in the price; please bring cash or cards for meals, snacks and beverages as you wish.



The Church of the Epiphany

an Episcopal Church in Downtown Washington, DC

At Metro Center

1317 G Street, NW • Washington, DC 20005

epiphanydc.org • 202-347-2635



@EpiphanyDC

Friday 9 March 2018 at 7:00pm

The Church of the Epiphany and the DC AGO Chapter present the

50th BIRTHDAY of the ÆOLIAN-SKINNER organ

and the

Garnell Copeland Memorial Recital

A recreation of Garnell Copeland's 3rd March 1968 Inaugural program

with a preconcert lecture given at 6:00pm by organ builder

MICHAEL HART

on the history of the ÆOLIAN-SKINNER organ

J. S. Bach *Fantasia & Fugue in G minor BWV 542*

Franz Liszt *Fantasia & Fugue 'Ad Nos'*

Garnell Copeland *Prelude in C minor*

Marcel Dupré *Fleuse (Suite Bretonne)*

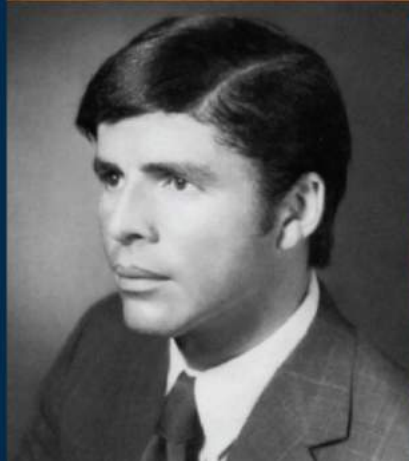
Leo Sowerby *Passaglia*

(written for the occasion and dedicated to Edgar Romig, Epiphany Rector 1964-92)

Leo Sowerby *Pageant*

JEREMY FILSELL organ

Admission Free - A freewill offering is invited



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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!

2017 - 2018 Recitalists

- September 10 *Dudley Oakes (Shenandoah University)*
October 8 *Jeffrey Pannebaker (Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring)*
November 12 *Chris Betts (Church of the Redeemer, Bethesda)*
December 10 *Russell Weismann (Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Bethesda)*
January 14 *Jung Yeon Kim (Peabody Conservatory)*
February 11 *Samantha Scheff (University of Maryland)*
March 11 *Brass of Peace Ensemble (Sylvia Alimena, Director) with Lisa Galoci, organist*
March 18 *Commonwealth Brass and National Brass with Randall Sheets, organist*
April 8 *Carolyn Lamb Booth (Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Oxen Hill)*
May 13 *Carol Feather Martin (Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington)*

THE COUPLER

District of Columbia Chapter
The American Guild of Organists

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