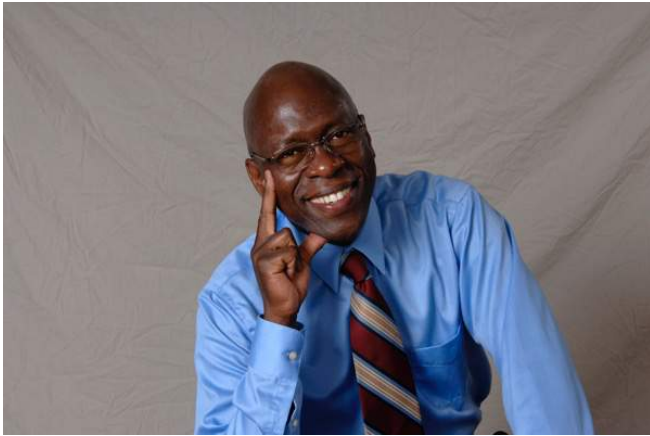


---

# THE COUPLER

---

## The Dean's Message



Dear Members -

As we approach the end of the spring semester we look forward to the coming of summer and all the things summer brings. For example, summer brings warm weather, warmer weather, hot weather, humidity, bugs, sweat and insect repellent.

But lest I sound too pessimistic, summer also brings one of my favorite seasons of the year. Yes there is hot weather and humidity but it also brings air-conditioning, beaches, road trips, free time and organ conventions.

More on the organ conventions later.

On a more serious note, I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to someone who has been a very special friend to me and to the DCAGO chapter for many years. At the end of June, **Russell Weismann** will be ending his service to the DCAGO executive board. Currently serving as our Co-Dean, Russell's past service has included

two years as Sub-Dean and three years as Dean.

We thank Russell for his years of dedicated and selfless service to our chapter. We will miss him and I will miss working with him. All the best, Russell!!!

Our past year of programming offered a number of interesting and inspiring events and opportunities. Our first ever President's Day Organ Festival back in February proved to be a very successful first effort. Although there were a few challenges and growing pains our members thought that the results were well worth the effort.

Responses to a survey taken at the end of the day revealed the following:

On a scale of Excellent to Poor:

1. Workshop Schedule - Excellent
  2. Content of Workshops - Excellent
  3. Recital Repertoire - Excellent
  4. Food and Beverages - Excellent - Good
  5. Parking - Fair - Poor
  6. Transit options - Excellent - Good
  7. Venues - Excellent - Good
  8. Registration Fees - Excellent
  9. Social/Networking Time - Excellent
-

*Continued from page 1*

Favorite Parts Of The Day:

1. American Boychoir Open Rehearsal
2. AGO Certification Exams/Recital
3. Accounting and Tax Information

Venue Suggestions For Future Chapter Events:

1. Basilica/National Shrine
2. Washington Hebrew Congregational
3. Kennedy Center

Likely To Return For Future DCAGO Chapter Events?

All replied: Very Likely

Finally, I would like to encourage you to seriously consider supporting our regional convention in Richmond June 25-28.

If you are not able to attend the entire convention perhaps a one or two day appearance might suit your schedule better. You never know who you might run into at convention and I am sure that our friends in Richmond would appreciate a visit from you.

All the best wishes for a wonderful and restful summer!

Irvin

## 2016-2017 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

*Sunday, September 25, 2016*

*Opening Convocation and Installation of Officers  
Church of the Redeemer  
Bethesda, Maryland*

*Sunday, October 2, 2016*

*Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular  
Johann Vexo, Organist  
National Presbyterian Church  
Washington, DC*

*Monday, January 9, 2017*

*Twelfth Night Service and Catered Dinner  
With members of the Potomac and NOVA Chapters  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
Chevy Chase, Maryland*

*Monday, February 20, 2017*

*Presidents' Day Organ Festival  
Including a session with The American Boychoir,  
a concert by Dr. Jeremy Filsell  
and other workshops*

*Tuesday, March 14, 2017*

*An evening with Past AGO President  
Dr. John Walker  
Sponsored by the NOVA AGO & the  
National Association of Pastoral Musicians DC/Arlington chapter  
The Cathedral of Saint Thomas More  
Arlington, Virginia*

**Friday, May 19, 2017 7:30 PM**

**Potomac Organ Institute Student Recital**  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish  
6701 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD

### DC AGO Board of Directors

#### Co-Deans

Irvin Peterson  
Russell J. Weismann

#### Sub Dean

Christopher Betts

#### Secretary

Kathleen Cooper

#### Treasurer

Rob Church

#### Hospitality Coordinator

Irvin Peterson

#### Education Coordinator

Jeremy Filsell

#### Historian

Irv Lawless

#### Communications

#### Director

David K. Houston

### *The Coupler*

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

David K. Houston,  
Editor

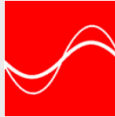
To contact the DC AGO  
or for newsletter  
submissions:  
dcagochapter@gmail.com

## Acoustic Design Services

**Acoustical Design Collaborative, Ltd** specializes in ecclesiastical spaces where natural acoustics for music and unobtrusive amplified speech are essential for worship celebration. We have completed over 90 successful projects involving the following services:

- **Acoustic Measurements**
- **Room Reverberation Enhancement**
- **Audio/Visual Systems Design**
- **Sound System Tuning & Optimization**
- **Organ Space Planning**

We strive to provide our clients with professional advice based on prudent design criteria, cost-effective solutions, clear concise recommendations, open communication, all delivered in a timely manner. Please contact us to see how we can provide 'heavenly sounds' for your Sanctuary.



**ACOUSTICAL DESIGN  
COLLABORATIVE, LTD**  
7509 L'Hirondelle Club Road  
Ruxton, MD 21204-6418

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

## DC Chapter AGO Life Members

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

Eileen Gunther

David Hearn †

Irv Lawless

Kenneth Lowenberg

Albert Russell

Donald Sutherland

*Patrick J. Summers, M.S.*

## SUMMERS & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Bookkeeping, Accounting, Tax Prep, Audit, and Financial Management

*Serving Church Musicians, Performing Artists,  
and Nonprofit Organizations Nationwide*

1775 "I" Street, N.W., #1150  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-390-4018

201 Saint Charles Avenue, #2500  
New Orleans, LA 70170  
504-940-8313

pjsumm@aol.com      summersllc.net

Member: National Society of Accountants, Institute of Management Accountants

## *From The Potomac Organ Institute*

Dear Colleagues,

The *Potomac Organ Institute* was founded in 1988 to interest pianists in the field of church music by providing instruction on the pipe organ. Auditions for prospective students are held annually and successful applicants receive one year of free organ instruction from a volunteer Tri-Chapter Guild member with lessons from September through May. Students participate in a master class, a spring recital, become members of their local AGO chapter, and receive a complimentary subscription to *The American Organist* magazine.

I am writing to ask you to identify a student or students – grades 7 and up, as well as adults – who have a good piano background, are interested in learning to play the organ, and who would benefit from a year of organ instruction.

Auditions will be held on Friday evening, June 23, and again on Saturday morning, June 24, at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle Street, NW, Washington, DC. For information, including a downloadable audition form and list of requirements, please go to our website, [www.potomacorganinst.org](http://www.potomacorganinst.org). A flyer is also attached to this email.

Over the years we have discovered that these beginning organists make remarkable progress during this time of free instruction. Many continue organ lessons after their scholarship year and some even go on to study organ and/or church music in college.

I am grateful for any assistance you can provide in identifying students – young people and adults – for this unique program. The number of awards available is limited, so those with an interest in this opportunity are encouraged to read details on the website and submit an application by June 9, 2017. Please let me know if I can answer questions. Thank you for helping get the word out about Potomac Organ Institute!

Sincerely,

Diane Heath, *POI Coordinator*

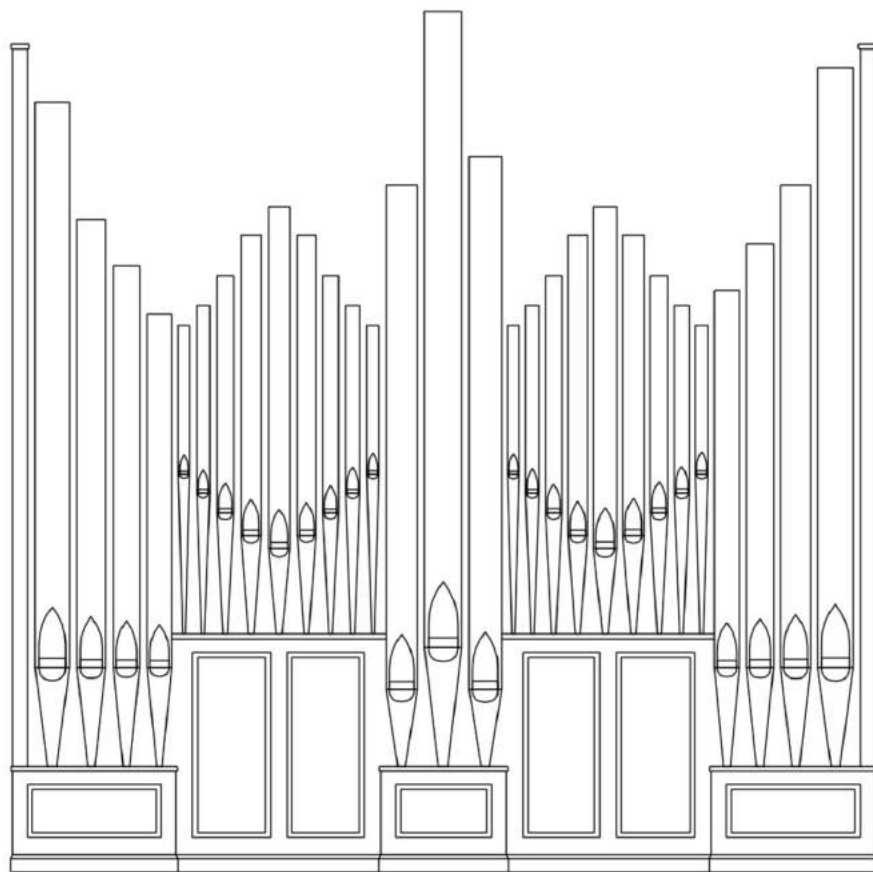
[dianeheath@verizon.net](mailto:dianeheath@verizon.net)

---

## R. A. DAFFER CHURCH ORGANS, INC.

Since 1977, R. A. Daffer Church Organs, Inc. has been serving the Washington DC, Northern Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and Delaware area as the authorized Rodgers Instruments dealer. In addition to **Rodgers**, we represent **Johannus**, and **Ruffatti** pipe organs.

*Enhancing  
worship through  
music*



*Custom design façade for  
Theological College, Washington D. C.*



**R. A. DAFFER CHURCH ORGANS, INC.**  
10545 Guilford Road, Suite 106, Jessup, MD 20794  
800.418.4448 | [www.DafferOrgans.com](http://www.DafferOrgans.com)  
**David B. Lang**, Sales Representative  
Direct: 202-657-8345 | [dlang@dafferorgans.com](mailto:dlang@dafferorgans.com)

**RODGERS**  
*Fratelli Buffatti*  
**JOHANNUS**

*The Tiffany Series presents*

# An Organ Recital

by

# James David Christie

*One of the world's great organists*



**Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 3:00 pm**

**BROWN MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**1320 Park Avenue (Bolton Hill), Baltimore**

**[www.browndowntown.org](http://www.browndowntown.org) 410-523-1542**

**[facebook.com/browndowntownbaltimore](https://www.facebook.com/browndowntownbaltimore)**

**Tickets \$20 (students \$5); Patron tickets \$50**

## Members' Events

**Friday, May 5, 12:15 pm**

Organist Clara Gerdes  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

**Saturday, May 6, 7:30 pm**

Sounds of the Seminary Organ, Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria VA

**Friday, May 12, 12:15 pm**

Organist Randall Sheets  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

**Friday, May 19, 12:15 pm**

Pianist Yvonne Chen and Organist Yuri McCoy  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

**Friday, May 26, 12:15 pm**

Organist David K. Houston  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

**Friday, June 2, 12:15 pm**

Organist John Nothhaft  
Music at Midday @ National City Christian Church

**Sunday, June 4, 7 pm**

Organist David Lang with the McLean Symphony  
Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, McLean VA

*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](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com)*



## **Call for Nominees to The DC AGO Board of Directors**

Elections will be held June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Chapter thrives with member input and engagement. Perhaps it is time to consider serving the DC AGO.

Thank you for your consideration.

The positions up for election are:

**Co-Deans**

**Sub-Dean**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Registrar**

**Hospitality Coordinator**

**Education Coordinator**

**Communications Director**

If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please respond to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com).

## Music @ the Monastery

Located on forty-four acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, the Franciscan Monastery (Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery) is a beautiful architectural gem hidden in the northeast corner of Washington, D.C. Built in 1899 in the shape of a Jerusalem Cross in neo-Byzantine architectural style, the Monastery includes gardens, replicas of various shrines throughout Israel, a replica of the catacombs in Rome, an archive, a library, as well as bones of Saint Benignus of Armagh, brought from the Roman Catacombs and originally in the Cathedral of Narni, Italy. 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!

### 2016-2017 Recitalists

October 9	<i>Russell Weismann (Saint Jane Frances de Chantal Parish - Bethesda, Maryland)</i>
November 13	<i>Carl Schwartz (All Hallows Parish - Davidsonville, Maryland)</i>
December 11	<i>Iris Lan (New York, NY)</i>
January 8	<i>Clarice Snyder (Washington, DC)</i>
February 12	<i>Nathan Davy (National Shrine - Washington, DC)</i>
March 12	<i>Brass and Organ (Brass of Peace Ensemble with Lisa Galoci, Organist)</i>
April 9	<i>Ronald Butts-Boehmer (Messiah Lutheran Church - Germantown, Maryland)</i>
May 14	<i>Paul Skevington (Saint Luke Catholic Church - McLean, Virginia)</i>

---

## THE COUPLER

---

District of Columbia Chapter  
The American Guild of Organists

---

*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 are as follows: full page, \$25; half-page, \$20; quarter page, \$15. Please 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.*