

THE COUPLER

THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



His yoke is easy

Season's greetings! I am sure the holiday season is already in full swing for many of you, readying a variety of wonderful musical programs.

In preparing for an upcoming performance of Handel's Messiah, I've been drawn once again to this poignant text that he quotes from Matthew 11: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

May this be a beautiful reminder for us all as we navigate the hustle and bustle of this month. It is a cliché to say to remember the reason for the season, but I would encourage us to find moments of rest for our weary souls throughout this Advent/Christmas season.

Grace and peace be with you all as you continue to serve faithfully.

Paul Byssainthe, Jr.

DECEMBER 2022

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Mark Your Calendar

Our chapter will celebrate the season this Tuesday, Dec. 6, at National Cathedral and Cactus Cantina.

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CHAPTER NEWS

Holiday party Dec. 6!

Our chapter will celebrate the season this coming Tuesday, Dec. 6 at National Cathedral and Cactus Cantina. The evening begins with optional National Cathedral evensong 5:30-6 pm followed by a demonstration and free time on the Cathedral pipe organ with cathedral organist Tom Sheehan until 6:30 pm.

We will then have drinks at Cactus Cantina, just up the street at 3300 Wisconsin Ave. NW, from 6:45 to 8 pm. The chapter will buy the first drink for all members attending.

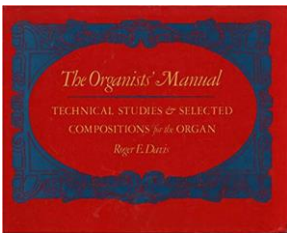
January deadline for Quimby competitions

Organists born after Dec. 31, 2000 are invited to apply for the 2023 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists. The deadline is Jan. 15, 2023.

The Northern Virginia chapter will host our area's chapter-level competition March 24 at Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., in Alexandria. The DC, Potomac and Winchester chapters are co-sponsors.

More information and an application form are available at the [AGO national website](#).

Seeking 'The Organist's Manual'



The Potomac Organ Institute needs a few copies, new or used, of "The Organist's Manual" by Roger E. Davis.

This book, used by many POI teachers, has recently gone out of print.

If you have a new or used copy that you no longer use or need, would you be willing to either donate or lend it to the POI?

If so, please contact Peter Crisafulli at peter.crisafulli@allsaintschurch.net.

The POI is a joint project of the DC, Potomac and Northern Virginia chapters that pairs promising piano students with volunteer organ teachers.

Many thanks!



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District of Columbia Chapter

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THE COUPLER

A monthly newsletter
published by the DC chapter
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Organists.

Send submissions to
dcagochapter@gmail.com.



A tasteful tribute

This impressive organ cake was made to honor chapter member Lon Schreiber. The dessert graced a table at the Nov. 6 reception following Adam Brakel's recital in celebration of Lon's 22 years at First Baptist Church at 16th and O Streets NW. On his final Sunday, Nov. 20, Lon received a certificate of recognition from the national AGO presented by Margaret Shannon.

Keep up to date on chapter news

Did you know that our chapter's website, dcago.org, is updated several times each week with the latest recital news? And that the job listings also are refreshed regularly? Get your AGO fix in between Couplers by checking out the site.

Looking for manageable repertoire?

Our chapter did an online presentation in December of 2020 of Advent and Christmas "bonbons" – favorite pieces that come together pretty quickly. Check it out on our chapter's Facebook page by clicking here: [\(8\) Facebook](#).

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Irvin Peterson

How did you become interested in the organ?

I became interested as a small boy from watching *The Lawrence Welk Show* back in the 1960s and being a regular at our Baptist church in Bryan, TX.

Our choir director was my first piano and organ teacher. We had a Hammond B-3 with all kinds of knobs and drawbars and 13 pedals. Since the instrument was brand-new, my teacher kept it locked and allowed few people to touch it. As one of her more trusted students, I was allowed to play the Hammond as a pre-teen and soon went on to accompany the youth choir.

This was all very exciting, but the organs I watched Bob Ralston play on the Welk show put our little organ to shame.

There were several pipe organs in our small Texas town back in the 1960s, but my skin color did not allow me free and easy access to those larger, segregated churches.

I found a music store that sold Lowrey and Wurlitzer organs of all sizes. I started taking lessons from a teacher at the music store and was able to experience something other than the Hammond.

Piano and organ lessons were fine, but I wanted to be in the school band. I wanted to play the flute, but the band director needed saxophone players. So I played the saxophone but taught myself to also play the flute and clarinet along the way. As a piano player in the band, I got a workout at solo and ensemble contest time as I was asked to play accompaniments.

What is your educational and professional background?

After high school I majored in music education with secondary teaching certification at the University of Texas at Austin. Saxophone was my principal instrument. Most of my time was taken up with performing with various ensembles, but I also had a church job playing piano and organ in East Austin on Sundays.

After graduation in 1977 I was all set to become a Texas band director. However, just prior to

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graduation I learned of a saxophone opening with "The President's Own United States Marine Band" in DC. I flew to Washington, won the audition and moved to start my 30-year stint as a saxophonist with the White House band.

It was a whole other world. The job was filled with music-making and touring all over the U.S. and the world. My principal instrument with the band was the saxophone, but sometimes my keyboard services were needed when a pipe organ part showed up in the repertory. My organ playing was spotty, as I subbed at churches when my Marine Band schedule would allow. But once I figured out how the yearly schedule worked, I was able to accept more organ jobs. I also learned the importance of being a substitute organist.

I retired from the Marine Band in 2007 after serving under five presidents and participating in seven inaugurations. I am still subbing. Since 1990 I have been a member of the choir and substitute organist and choirmaster at Church of the Epiphany.



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

We are all very aware of the technical challenges of playing the beast, but my greatest satisfaction comes from knowing that my musical thoughts, ideas and interpretations are all out there for listeners to scrutinize and hopefully enjoy. Good or bad, the organist is ultimately responsible for what comes out of the instrument. It can be profoundly overwhelming and humbling.

Why are you an AGO member?

I have been an AGO member since 2005. Over the years I have served as chapter hospitality chair, co-dean and dean. I was housing chair for the 2010 National Convention in DC and worked the DCAGO booth at conventions in Arizona and Minnesota. It is a wonderful organization filled with compassion and talent.

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

I love to travel from my home in Cottage City, MD, meet new people and learn about things out of my sphere. I also love to play pinball--yes, the old noisy machines with the silver ball(s). And yes, I have won pinball playing tournaments!

Each month The Coupler focuses on one of our chapter members. To nominate someone to be featured in a future Member Spotlight, send an email to dcagochapter@gmail.com.

ORGAN EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 pm: Nathan Laube plays a recital at the Church of St. Ann, Wisconsin Avenue at Tenley Circle NW. Free-will offering.

Sunday, Dec. 4, 5 pm: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Multiple choirs, brass quintet and guest organist Daniel Aune. Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 12:10 pm: Washington Bach Consort presents the cantata *Christum, wir sollen loben Schon*, BWV 121, at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 pm: Kim Hess (Arlington, VA) plays a recital at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy Ave. NE.

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 12:10 pm: Epiphany Choir presents its Christmas Concert including Handel's *Dixit Dominus* at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

Sunday, Dec. 25, 1:30 pm: Washington National Cathedral organist Thomas Sheehan presents a program of festive Christmas music.

Saturday, Dec. 31, 6 pm: One-hour New Year's Eve concert featuring Rosa Lamoreaux, Anne Timpane, Grace McFarlane, Michael Bard, Jonathan Nazdin and Ann Colgrove. Reception to follow. \$20 suggested donation benefits the music program at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle St. NW.

Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, 4 pm: Carol Feather Martin (Arlington, VA) plays a recital at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy Ave. NE.

Music at Midday continues in December

Recitals take place each Friday from 12:15-1 pm at National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle NW in DC.

Dec. 2: Chicago organist Jacob Reed performs music by César Franck, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck and Felix Mendelssohn.

Dec. 9: The organ and trumpet duo of Randall Sheets and Chuck Seipp presents music for Christmas, including many well-known pieces and beloved carols. Composers include J.S. Bach, Adolphe Adam, Alexandre Guilmant, Morten Lauridsen, Denis Bédard and George Frederick Handel.

Dec. 16: Boston organist Justin Brueggeman performs music by J.S. Bach, Herbert Howells, Joseph Jongen and Marcel Dupré.

Music at Midday will be on break from mid-December through the end of January.



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CITY OF WASHINGTON

PRESENTS



Sunday
December 4, 3PM

**NATHAN
LAUBE**

Organist

Wagner, Franck, Alkan, Barraine, Liszt

Nathan Laube, once a "rising star," is now an international star, and his consummate musicianship is justifiably celebrated worldwide. How fortunate we are that he just happens to be an organist, too. – **THE TRACKER**

His playing was flawless, inspired, and for want of a better word, transporting.

– **THE DIAPASON**

Champagne reception to follow the recital in the Undercroft.

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JOB OPENINGS

District of Columbia

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

Maryland

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

Director of music ministries/organist: St. John's Episcopal Church of Ellicott City. Part-time, \$20,000-\$28,000 annually. Click [here](#).

Organist: Hope Lutheran Church, Clinton. One-manual Hinners pipe organ. One Sunday service, no choir. 8 hours per week. \$15,000 annually. For details, contact Pastor Eric Faret at 631-704-8063 or pastoreric@hopeclinton.org.

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

Accompanist: Community Church (United Methodist) in Crofton. \$14,000-17,000 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

Organist: Parish of St. Andrew and St. Margaret of Scotland, Alexandria. Part-time. \$20,000 annually. Click [here](#) for details from the agohq.org website.

Director of music ministries: Dulin United Methodist Church, Falls Church. \$35,000 annually. 20 hours per week. Click [here](#).

Music director: Bush Hill Presbyterian Church, Alexandria. \$28,000-35,000 annually. 1995 Létourneau pipe organ. Click [here](#).

Keyboard/choral scholar: Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, Arlington. Play the piano for the youth choir, sing with the adult choir, occasionally provide organ music for worship. Through May 28. Click [here](#).

Music director/organist/choir director: Bethany Lutheran Church and Preschool (LCMS), Alexandria. Two-manual Berghaus pipe organ (1995). Click [here](#) to apply through the agohq.org website.

Organist: Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Middleburg. Part-time. 8.5-rank Rieger organ. Contact the Rev. Eugene LeCouteur at rector@emmanuelmiddleburg.org.

Director of music/organist: Peace Lutheran Church, Alexandria. Part-time. \$30,000 annually. Two-manual, 18-rank pipe organ. Click [here](#).

**We welcome new member
Egerton M. Peters.**

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

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

Robert Grogan

Eileen Guenther

Irv Lawless

Kenneth Lowenberg

Albert Russell

Donald Sutherland

David Hearn (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*

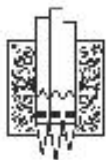


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