

THE COUPLER

THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year!

Believe it or not, 2023 is here! It seems as if 2022 flew by in the blink of an eye. I hope the new year brings you good health and prosperity.

I am sure you will have heard the Scottish song "Auld Lang Syne" a few times in recent days. The words are attributed to the national poet of Scotland, Robert Burns. The title, translated literally into standard English, is Old Long Since, and is often interpreted as since long ago or for old times' sake. The lyrics are about old friends having a drink and recalling adventures they had long ago.

Burns first wrote down "Auld Lang Syne" in 1788, but the poem did not appear in print until shortly after his death in 1796. It was first published in volume five of James Johnson's Scots Musical Museum, a collection of traditional folk music. Burns, a major contributor to the compilation, claimed that the words of "Auld Lang Syne" were
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JANUARY 2023

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The deadline for 2
registering for the
AGO's Quimby
competitions is
Jan. 15.



The Member
Spotlight this
month shines on
Carol Feather
Martin. 3



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Check out job
listings in our
area.



These are the
stops every
organist wants
but will never
get. Look and
dream! 9

Mark Your Calendar

We will celebrate Twelfth Night with
the Potomac and Northern Virginia
chapters on Monday, Jan. 9.

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CHAPTER NEWS

Twelfth Night celebration Jan. 9

Members of the DC, Potomac and Northern Virginia AGO chapters will gather Monday, Jan. 9, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 3 Chevy Chase Circle, for a relaxing evening of singing.

The Potomac Chapter is hosting.

6:30 Rehearsal in the church with members forming the choir

7:15 Twelfth Night Evensong

Reception following in the Great Hall.

Members' recital coming in March

We are planning a recital by our members on Saturday afternoon, March 11. Stay tuned for more information on signing up to perform on this program. We are excited to hear you make music!

Holiday event

Chapter members gathered at Washington National Cathedral Dec. 6 for evensong followed by member time on the organ.

They then went to Cactus Cantina for margaritas and appetizers to celebrate the holiday season.

At right, membership liaison John Nothafft tries out the cathedral's instrument.



Keep up to date on chapter news

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



American Guild of Organists
District of Columbia Chapter

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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.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Carol Feather Martin

To nominate someone for the Member Spotlight, please send an email to dcagochapter@gmail.com.

How did you become interested in the organ?

I was always exposed to the organ, since my father was a minister in the UCC denomination. My mother and father both played organ at various times. During my conservatory years I took a summer job at a church in a neighboring town when their organist suddenly died. I practiced a lot on



my own and subsequently studied in studio during my senior year at Oberlin.

What is your educational and professional background?

I studied piano with my mother from age 3 through junior high school. (I do not remember learning to read music ... It's like I was born knowing.) During high school, I studied piano with a professor at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC. I also studied oboe with the principal in the Charlotte symphony.

I went to Oberlin Conservatory as a piano performance major. I studied oboe the entire time I was there and played in chamber orchestras and

AT THE CONSOLE AT NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ensembles. I also studied organ in studio. Since I was an avid sight-reader, I also did a lot of accompanying of various solo instruments and played chamber music.

After graduating, I came to DC and started work on a double major master's degree in organ performance and collaborative piano (called chamber music and accompanying at that time) at Catholic University. I have played concerts throughout the east coast of the U.S., in Canada and multiple cities in Germany.

I have been director of music and arts/organist at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arlington since 1990. I have directed all levels of choirs from children through adults, directed many handbell ensembles including Virginia Bronze for 10 years, and served as clinician at many musical festivals. I have taught private organ and piano lessons as well. I have concertized extensively in the DC area both as organist and as pianist in chamber ensembles. I create concert programs that are based around a theme and often collaborate with other musicians to craft programs of music not often

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performed. I also champion music from American composers as well as new compositions.

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

The biggest challenge for me has always been sitting comfortably at a two-manual instrument. Some of it is due to my background as a pianist and my approach to arm position at the keyboard and the other part of it is my lack of height. Three-manual instruments pose no problem ... it's odd.

The greatest joy is introducing people to the myriad capabilities of the instrument and helping them realize that it's not just for religious services. I love seeking out literature that is off the beaten path.



**WRAPPING FINE WIRE
AROUND AIRLINE CABLE TO
CREATE A NECK WIRE FOR A
PENDANT**

Why are you an AGO member?

I became an AGO member in 1978 when some DC area organists encouraged me to join and get active. I quickly became the treasurer for the DC Chapter as well as for the 1982 National Convention Steering Committee after the previous treasurer died.

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

I have lots of other interests which sadly most often get shoved aside for lack of time, such as working jigsaw puzzles, solving crossword puzzles, reading, biking, cross-country skiing (if we ever get enough snow locally since Sundays are committed, preventing me from going away on a whim). The two interests that do manage to get time are gardening and designing and creating metal jewelry. I have an online shop where I sell my creations: www.AIMWearableArt.com.

What else would you like members to know about you?

I am a lover of furry beasts and I live with two cats who help me practice piano. For many years I also had Great Pyrenees dogs. My favorite color is any shade of purple. I have perfect pitch, which has been helpful at times and a detriment at others.

Organ and piano concert to benefit Ukrainian relief



Concerts in observance of the 300th anniversary of the publication of Bach's *Well-tempered Clavier* continue at Georgetown Lutheran Church on Sunday, Jan. 22, at 4 pm. Organist Stephen Ackert, former head of the music department at the National Gallery of Art, will join forces with internationally acclaimed Ukrainian pianist [Mykola Suk](#) to present several of the preludes that are especially effective on the piano, with the corresponding fugues performed on the church's tracker organ, built by Richard Howell and tuned to a historic temperament that Bach would have identified as "well-tempered."

Suk will also perform works by Sigismond Thalberg and Franz Liszt. Admission to the concert is free. A free-will offering for the Ukrainian aid program of Lutheran World Relief will be collected.

-----Paid advertisement-----

ORGAN EVENTS

Thursday, Jan. 5, 5 pm: Andy Brown (Baylor '25) and Carolyn Hoff (Cleveland Institute of Music '26) play a recital at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2430 K St. NW. The program includes the last movements of Bach's 1st and 5th Trio Sonatas, Langlais' Epilogue from *Homage a Frescobaldi*, the Alkan Pedal Etude IV, Romance from Vierne's 4th Symphony and Frank Bridge's Adagio.

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

Sunday, Jan. 22, 4 pm: Organist Stephen Ackert and Ukrainian-American pianist Mykola Suk present the fourth in a series of concerts featuring the complete Well-Tempered Clavier by Johann Sebastian Bach at Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW. Free-will offering to benefit the Ukrainian aid program of Lutheran World Relief. The pianist will play the preludes and the organist the fugues.

Sunday, Feb. 5, 5 pm: Choral Evensong with prelude beginning at 4:40 by Jacob Reed, PhD candidate at the University of Chicago. Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 12:10 pm: Harpsichordist Paula Maust, faculty member at the Peabody Institute, performs selections from Elizabeth Turner's 1756 *Six Lessons for the Harpsichord*, one of the earliest published collections of keyboard music by an Englishwoman. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

Sunday, Feb. 12, 4 pm: David Swenson plays a recital at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy Ave. NE.

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 12:10 pm: John Wolfe, director of music at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, NY, performs works by J.S. Bach, Olivier Messiaen and Nicolas de Grigny. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2 pm: Celebrate Presidents Day at Washington National Cathedral with Christa Rakich, visiting professor of organ at Oberlin College & Conservatory.

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 12:10 pm: Organist Paul Byssainthe Jr., director of music at Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, performs works by Maurice Duruflé, David Hurd and more. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

Sunday, March 5, 5 pm: Choral Evensong with prelude beginning at 4:40 by Christian Crocker, organist and choirmaster at Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, AL. Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

National City Christian Church's Music at Midday is on break until February.

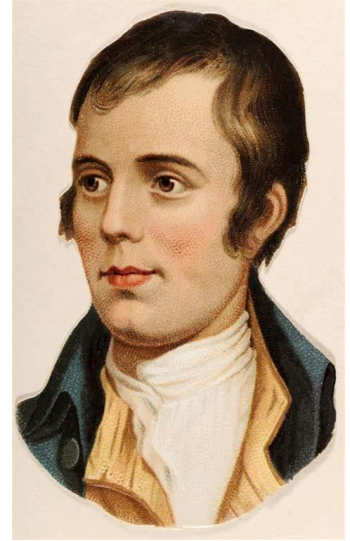
Dean's Column

From Page One

taken "from an old man's singing." However, the song has been associated with Burns ever since.

Sir Robert Ayton, who died in 1638, wrote "Old Long Syne," a poem that was first published in 1711 and is sometimes cited as Burns' inspiration. The melody also existed before Burns wrote down the words. The English composer William Shield used a similar tune in his comic opera "Rosina," first performed in 1782. Not until 1799 did the words and music that are now familiar appear together, in a Scottish song compilation published by George Thomson. In the 19th century the song was reprinted many times, and eventually it became part of the Scottish Hogmanay (New Year's celebration).

The Canadian-born bandleader Guy Lombardo helped make "Auld Lang Syne" a New Year's Eve tradition in North America. His band, the Royal Canadians, played the song at the turn of the new year in a series of popular radio (and later television) broadcasts that began on Dec. 31, 1929, and continued for more than 30 years.



ROBERT BURNS

As the calendar flips to a new year, more than one-third of Americans (37%) say they will have a goal or resolution they want to accomplish in 2023. A YouGov poll conducted in December found that 87% of people who plan to set an objective say they are very or somewhat likely to keep it throughout the year. Yet, according to a study published in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, only 46% of people who make New Year's resolutions are successful.

I'm sure a few of the most popular resolutions resonate with all of us:

- improve physical health
- save more money
- exercise more
- eat healthier

Sticking to a resolution is far easier when it aligns with your priorities. Charissa Chamorro, a supervising psychologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, recommends thinking about the top five values in your life and considering how your goal/resolution ties into these values. What matters to you most in life? In what ways can your attempts at self-improvement help serve those values?

One of my resolutions for 2023 is to take more musical risks, whether that means learning music by new composers, exploring genres that are less familiar to me or engaging with new musical collaborators. I believe this aligns with one of my core artistic values -- to never stop learning. We'd love to hear some of your resolutions for the new year and to know if there is anything we as a community can do to help you achieve those goals.

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I hope one of your resolutions is to continue to support and promote your local AGO chapter events! We have many wonderful activities lined up for 2023. One of the program highlights for the spring will be our second annual Juneteenth Event, to be held Monday, June 19th. We will feature a full day of workshops, presentations and a concert performance highlighting music of black composers.



Please save the date!

Additionally, we would love to feature you, our members, in a recital to be held on Saturday afternoon, March 11th. Please stay tuned for information on signing up to participate. We are excited to hear you make music!

Finally, I want to continue encouraging you to pursue 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 which benefit from the greater skill levels of their musicians. Requirements for the 2023 exams can be found on the AGO website at <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 this new year and to share your thoughts, ideas and events so we can all support one another in our various ministry journeys. Feel free to make liberal use of our chapter email, dcagochapter@gmail.com, and follow us on Facebook.

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

Grace & Peace,
Paul Byssainthe, Jr.

JOB OPENINGS

District of Columbia

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

Director of music/organist: McKendree Simms Brookland United Methodist Church. Part-time. \$18,000 - \$22,000 annually. Click [here](#).

Maryland

Music director: Darnestown Presbyterian Church, Gaithersburg. Click [here](#).

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](#).

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/choir director: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Herndon. \$30,000+ annually. 33-rank Martin Ott pipe organ. Click [here](#).

Organist/pianist: Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alexandria. \$15,000-20,000 annually. Apply [here](#) by Jan. 15.

Music director/organist: Grace Episcopal Church, Cismont/Keswick. Part-time. 2019 Taylor & Boody pipe organ. \$27,500 (negotiable). Click [here](#).

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. 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.

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



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Welcome!

We welcome new members Benjamin D. Bugaile and Egerton M. Peters-John.

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*

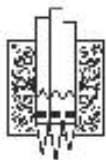


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