

THE COUPLER

THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Giving thanks

Happy November! As the holiday season bears quickly down upon us, I thought I might get a head start on expressing gratitude for all that I have.

I am grateful for health, a loving family, trustworthy friends and a meaningful career, to name but a few things in my personal life. I am also grateful for the opportunity to work with our chapter's exceptional leadership team and for their passion and spirit of service.

Above all, I am grateful for each of you members and the diligent, often unseen, occasionally mundane, but ultimately invaluable work you do in various spheres to enliven and enrich our vibrant musical community here in our nation's capital.

I want to express further gratitude for our wonderful PipeSpectacular program just a few weeks ago, done in collaboration with the Boulanger Initiative. It was a fantastic program curated and performed by our
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Longtime DC organist Lon Schreiber will retire from First Baptist this month and be honored with a recital.

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Meet some chapter members who joined during the AGO's Year of the Young Organist.

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Alcee Chriss (left) and Adam Brakel are among organists playing recitals in DC this month.

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Need a change? Check out job listings in our area.

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Mark Your Calendar

Our chapter is planning a Dec. 6 holiday party at a location to be determined. Save the date!

CHAPTER NEWS

PipeSpectacular 2022

Joy-Leilani Garbutt, pictured showing some young fans the main and gallery organs at National City Christian Church, presented the



tri-chapter PipeSpectacular program Oct. 14 at the church. The program featured music by female composers.

Joy-Leilani is music director at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in San Francisco and a founder of The Boulanger Initiative. Janet Yieh, who also was scheduled to perform, was absent due to a family emergency.

The program was sponsored by the DC, Potomac and Northern Virginia chapters in partnership with The Boulanger Initiative, which seeks to make the music of women composers more accessible.

Looking for manageable Advent and Christmas 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 at [\(8\) Facebook](#).

Also, on YouTube, check out the highly entertaining January 2021 interview treasurer Rob Church did with chapter archivist emeritus Irv Lawless. Irv had a fascinating career as a pipe organ builder and curator and knows the history of many pipe organs in the DC area. See it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjW0jt8xSQ>.



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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

Lon Schreiber

By Christi Harlan

After six decades as a church organist and choirmaster in the heart of Washington, DC, Dr. Lawrence P. "Lon" Schreiber will retire.

Again.

Lon plans to step down Nov. 20 after 22 years at First Baptist Church at 16th and O Streets NW.

Before joining the staff of First Baptist in November 2000, Lon served 40 years as music minister of National City Christian Church on Thomas Circle at 14th Street.



Lon's service at National City began while he was earning his master's degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York. He filled in for the church's organist one summer and was offered the permanent job before he graduated in 1960. He joined the American Guild of Organists that year and has held several officer positions in the DC chapter.

Lon's tenure at National City spanned some of the most traumatic events in U.S. history, from the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 to the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. Their deaths sparked riots in multiple cities, including Washington.

Lon recalls being at the church with the then-pastor, the Rev. Dr. George Davis, as businesses on 14th Street burned. Both wondered whether the church would be spared. The following Sunday they were grateful to hold services.

In January 1973, Rev. Davis delivered a eulogy and Lon played the organ at the state funeral for former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who had often attended National City Christian Church. At the service, soprano Leontyne Price, who had sung at Johnson's inauguration, sang "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" and "Onward, Christian Soldiers," accompanied by Lon on the chancel organ.

By the mid-1970s, the organ, built and installed in 1930, was showing its age. Lon oversaw nine years of refurbishments and additions, including the installation of a separate gallery organ with a

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From Page 3

horizontally mounted trompette en chamade. The work on the organs at National City culminated in 1985 with the installation of a new console that could play both the gallery and chancel organs. The church could rightfully boast of the only five-manual console in DC -- until Lon "retired" and went to work with First Baptist.



"On October 1, 2000, I was 'persuaded' to begin what I call my 'Baptist venture,'" Lon said. "Having completed 40 years at National City Christian Church, and enjoying some extensive world travels, I became minister of music at FBC, to which I added the term 'interim,' believing I might serve a year or two while the committee continued searching for a permanent musician.

"After some time, I asked one of the committee members who had persuaded me to come to FBC how the search was going. 'Search?' he said. 'There's no search. We've got you!'"

ADAM BRAKEL AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CONSOLE, WHERE HE WILL PLAY NOV. 6

During his 22-year tenure at First Baptist, Lon added depth and breadth to the music and worship ministries. He expanded the congregation's traditional hymn repertoire and added a wide range of choral literature including African-American spirituals and other historical and contemporary sacred music.

"The warm acceptance by the congregation was magnified with the generosity and forethought that led to the purchase of two world-class instruments: the Steinway concert grand piano and, by 2013, the incredible Austin organ," Lon said. "They made music at FBC more exciting than anyone expected, especially during the celebrations of Christmas and Easter."

Custom-built by the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, CT, First Baptist's organ contains more than 6,000 pipes in four chambers. The organ console features 229 stops -- and five manuals.

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“One of the many accomplishments in Lon’s abundant legacy includes two major five-manual pipe organ installations,” said concert organist Adam J. Brakel, who performed an inaugural recital on First Baptist’s organ in 2015. “He will be long commended as one of the unforgettable staples and legends in DC and abroad.”

Under Lon’s leadership at First Baptist, the Steinway and the organ served as instruments of both worship and welcome. At his invitation, renowned pianists and organists performed free recitals,

including Halloween concerts featuring guest organists in costume playing eerie music.

Lon oversaw the musical worship during Holy Week services and the beloved Candlelight Carols, an annual community event at First Baptist.

In addition to his ministry in music, Lon is a prolific composer and arranger of organ and choral music. The most recently published are seven organ solos in “Mosaics: Organ Music for Worship and Concert,” which includes several short hymn settings, an extended fantasia on spirituals and an homage to Jean Langlais.

“It is rare to find an excellent musician who is also an excellent minister, yet Dr. Lon is both,” said Eric Mathis, First Baptist’s associate pastor for faith formation, worship and the arts and young adults. “The music and worship ministries at National City Christian Church and First Baptist Church have been greatly enhanced by his capable musical leadership and faithful pastoral ministry. His legacy will endure in these congregations, this city and

the professional organizations of which he was part for years to come.”

Brakel, who is director of music for the Diocese of Orlando, FL, and St. James Cathedral, will return to First Baptist to perform a free recital in tribute to Lon at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6, in the sanctuary. “Lon is an unbelievably special person who is a mentor and friend,” Brakel said. “I will always be honored and forever thankful for his support, but more importantly, for his inspiration in over six

Continued on Page 6

You are cordially invited to celebrate the
music ministry and retirement of

Dr. Lawrence P. Schreiber

Adam Brakel, organ recital

Sunday, November 6, 2022

4:00 pm

Reception to follow

Fellowship Hall

No RSVP required

Gratitude Sunday Worship

Sunday, November 20, 2022

10:55 am

Lunch to follow

RSVP to office@firstbaptistdc.org

by November 10

The First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC

1328 16th St. NW | Washington, DC 20036

Watch online at www.firstbaptistdc.org

From Page 5

decades of church music in Washington, DC.”

The program will include the Six Etudes of Jeanne Demessieux, which Brakel is one of the few organists in the world to have performed and recorded in their entirety, and – in a nod to the Halloween series that Lon organized – “Night on Bald Mountain” by Modest Mussorgsky.

Lon’s final Sunday at First Baptist will be Nov. 20, which will include tributes to his service. Beyond celebrating his 89th birthday on Nov. 30, Lon said he hasn’t made plans.

“I flunked Retirement 101,” he said. “We’ll see how I do with 102.”

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.

Dean’s message

From Page One

former colleague, Joy-Leilani Garbutt. A special thank you to David Houston for his work in bringing this program to fruition.

Lastly, I would like to thank Lon Schreiber for his six decades of faithful service to the DC community and to the worship life of our area. I invite you all to join us in celebrating him this month as he concludes his tenure at First Baptist Church with special programs on the 6th and the 20th. You can find more information about these wonderful celebrations here in The Coupler.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!


With gratitude,
Paul Byssainthe, Jr.

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YEAR OF THE YOUNG ORGANIST

The national American Guild of Organists declared July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 the Year of the Young Organist. A year's free membership was offered to musicians under the age of 30. Our DC chapter welcomed 34 new members, including some who have dual membership in other chapters. A few of them shared with The Coupler what they love about the organ, why they are AGO members and what activities they would like to see our chapter plan.



Matthew Richardson, music director at the Catholic parishes of South Washington County, MD: St. Augustine (Williamsport), St. James (Boonsboro) and St. Joseph (Hagerstown)

What I love most about the organ is not the powerful voices of the reeds, but the overwhelming calmness that is rooted in the flutes and strings. My favorite part of playing the organ is that I am able to help create an environment that lends itself to meditation and peace through the beauty of the chief instrument of all instruments. The ability to create an atmosphere of tranquility and meditation through this instrument is a humbling experience and one I wouldn't trade for the world.

My favorite aspect of my AGO membership is that I have access to almost unlimited resources right at my fingertips. This comes in handy when you're the music director at three churches and

fill in as needed for other churches. The membership helps connect me to other professionals around my area while allowing me to prepare adequately for accompanying with the countless resources the AGO offers.

I would love to see a program that features the works of marginalized communities, particularly persons of color and LGBTQIA+ people. Offering workshops or events that highlight these communities would provide us with resources that we, in turn, could take back to our communities to share and disperse the richness of their traditions.



Andy Brown, from Silver Spring, a sophomore organ performance major at Baylor University

What I love about the organ is how powerful and dynamic it is. It has the musical power of an entire orchestra. I especially love registration and playing around with different colors and combinations.

My favorite aspect of the AGO is the connections that I've made. The AGO is how I know so many other organists now.

I would like to see the chapter sponsor a day out at an amazing organ for both young organists and other young people interested in the organ.

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From Page 7



Chloe Costello of Purcellville, VA, who attends Christendom College in Front Royal

I love that the organ is able to lift up the minds and hearts of listeners and how it can reflect the power and majesty of God.

I love all the opportunities my AGO membership offers me to hear and play amazing instruments, and I would like to see the chapter do more tours of organs in the area.

Storee Nathaniel Denson, 13, who plays the organ and piano each week at St.

Luke Baptist Church and for special occasions at the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, both in DC. He is a piano student at the National Conservatory of Arts and an organ student of Dr. Lawrence P. Schreiber.

What I love most about the organ is that it can create many diverse sounds, from a soft salicional and voix celeste to a loud tuba and trompette en chamade, which all can guide the feelings/moods of listeners, as well as accent or support the context of services. Personally, I love loud solo trumpets playing above background harmonies, such as the state trumpet at St. John the Divine in NYC.

My favorite aspect of AGO membership is the many connections that I have made (and am still making) with organists and discovering the organs in Maryland and DC during scheduled organ crawls and recitals. Meeting organists has allowed me to discover possibilities of attending a college/university and envision becoming either a principal organist, a music artist/performer, or an educator/professor teaching others.

In the coming year, I would like to see the chapter sponsor more organ crawls, so that aspiring organists, as myself, can discover the wonderful organs that are hidden gems in the DC vicinity.

Gabe Simerson, director of music and organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Burke, VA

What I love about the organ is its power to light a fire under hundreds of people in congregational singing.

My favorite aspect of AGO membership is networking and the organization's built-in resources for professional development. I'd like to see the chapter continue the accompaniment competition, which I staffed last year.

--Compiled by John Nothhaft, chapter membership liaison





ST. ANN
CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF SAINT ANN
WISCONSIN AVENUE AT TENLEY CIRCLE, N.W.
CITY OF WASHINGTON

PRESENTS



Sunday
November 13, 3PM

**STANISLAV
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Karamanov, Szymanowski, Prokofiev,
Kapustin, Silvestrov, Lyatoshynsky,
Horowitz

Khristenko's gentle, loving approach to the keyboard—and his palette of touches—yielded a startling array of emotions. —*THE WASHINGTON POST*

Dazzling music-making. —*THE MIAMI HERALD*

A deeply spiritual performance with great individuality... tour-de-force of technical, musical and stylistic mastery. —*THE PLAIN DEALER, CLEVELAND*

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ORGAN EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 12:10 pm: The Washington Bach Consort presents the cantata *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*, BWV 80, preceded by an organ prelude performed by Christian Lane at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 am: The Northern Virginia chapter invites DC chapter members to a “Vienna Organ Tour.” Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd NE, at 10 am and Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., at 11 am.

Sunday, Nov. 6, 4 pm: Adam Brakel plays a recital in honor of Lon Schreiber, who is retiring after 22 years as organist and choirmaster at First Baptist Church, 1328 16th St. NW. Reception to follow.

Sunday, Nov. 6, 5 pm: Choral Evensong with prelude beginning at 4:40 by Jason Farris. The choir will sing works of Stanford and Bairstow. Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 12:10 pm: Matthew Steynor, director of music at St Alban’s Episcopal Church in DC, performs works by Bolcom, Dupré, Franck and Jongen at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

Sunday, Nov. 13, 4 pm: Iris Lan and David Lang (Washington, DC, and McLean, VA) play a recital at the Franciscan Monastery, 1400 Quincy Ave. NE.

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 12:10 pm: Daniel Aune, who is on the faculty at the Peabody Institute, performs at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

Wednesday, Nov. 16, noon: Russell Weisman plays a recital at St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

Sunday, Nov. 20, 2 pm: Thanksgiving recital at Washington National Cathedral by Alcee Chriss, university organist and artist-in-residence at Wesleyan University.

Sunday, Nov. 20, 4 pm: Ben Keseley plays a recital at St. George's Episcopal Church, 915 North Oakland St., Arlington. Works of J.S. Bach, Guillaume-Gabriel Nivers, Brenda Portman, Sharon Willis and others. Free-will donation.

Sunday, Nov. 20, 4 pm: The Seipp/Sheets Trumpet and Organ Duo play at Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Rd., Burke, VA. Tickets [here](#).

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 12:10 pm: Harpsichordist Patrick Merrill performs Bach’s *Goldberg Variations*, BWV 988, at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

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Tuesday, Nov. 29, 12:10 pm: Jinsun Cho, director of music at Church of the Epiphany, performs Advent and Christmas music at the church, 1317 G St. NW.

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.

Music at the Monastery continues in November

Together with the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, the DC AGO is proud to support a series of community outreach musical events. Chapter members present these events on the second Sunday of each month from September to May at 4 pm The monastery is at 1400 Quincy St. NE. Questions? Contact Russell Weismann at rjw48@georgetown.edu.

Nov. 13: Iris Lan and David Lang (Washington, DC, and McLean, VA)

Dec. 11: Kim Hess (Arlington, VA)

Jan. 8: Carol Feather Martin (Arlington, VA)

Feb. 12: David Swenson (Washington, DC)

April 16: Brass of Peace (DC area)

May 14: Chuyoung Suter (Washington, DC)

Music at Midday

Fridays 12:15-1 pm at National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 5 Thomas Circle NW. Social distancing and masks required. Free admission; donations accepted.

Nov. 4: Organist Christopher Reynolds (Richmond) plays music of 19th and 20th century composers, including Felix Mendelssohn, Max Reger, George Shearing, Leo Sowerby and Louis Vierne.

Nov. 11: No recital (Veterans Day weekend)

Nov. 18: Baltimore organist Jordan Prescott will perform a program of English works, including music of Herbert Howells and, with baritone Ross Tamaccio, the Five Mystical Songs of Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Nov. 25: No recital (Thanksgiving weekend)



ST. ANN
CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH OF SAINT ANN
WISCONSIN AVENUE AT TENLEY CIRCLE, N.W.
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

Maryland

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

Director of music: Church of the Holy Spirit (Catholic), Rockville. Contact Monsignor Charles J. Parry at the church for details.

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.

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. Part-time. \$30,000 annually. Two-manual, 33-rank Martin Ott pipe organ. Click [here](#).

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

Music director: St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Annandale. Part-time. 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. Accompany youth choir, sing with adult choir, occasionally provide organ music. Through May 28. Click [here](#).

Music director/choir director/organist/pianist: Bethany Lutheran Church and Preschool (LCMS), Alexandria. 20 hours per week. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

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. Two-manual, 18-rank pipe organ. Click [here](#).

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

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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*

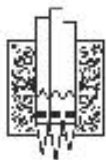


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