

# THE COUPLER

## The Dean's Message



Dear Members:

Fall has arrived, and we are now in the full swing of our academic year.

I was recently interviewed by a colleague and for all the questions that I answered, most of my responses had an

educational slant to them. I believe that education is at the core of what we do as organists and music aficionados alike. As Dean of this chapter, I believe that education is paramount in what we do. Many of the events

*Continued on page 4*



### NOVEMBER 2015 In This Issue



Do you know a young person who would enjoy "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza"? Bring them on Nov. 7!

1



November is a busy month for members' events!

5



We remember beloved DC AGO Chapter member Ben Hutto.

7



Music @ the Monastery continues with a recital by member David Houston.

8

### November Event

#### **PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA**

*An Introduction to the Pipe Organ for Piano Students and Youth Ages 10-18*

Saturday, November 7, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
National City Christian Church

## 2015-2016 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

*Monday, September 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m.*  
*Organ Recital and Installation of Officers*  
*Mary Beth Bennett, Organist*  
*First Congregational United Church of Christ*

*Sunday, October 4, 2015, 5:15 p.m.*  
*Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular*  
*Renée Anne Louprette, Organist*  
*Washington National Cathedral*

**Saturday, November 7, 2015, 10:00 a.m.**  
Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza  
National City Christian Church

**Monday, January 4, 2016, 6:30 p.m.**  
Annual Twelfth-Night Dinner and Service  
(with Northern Virginia and Potomac Chapters)  
All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase

**Saturday, January 23, 2016**  
AGO Certification Worskhop  
Jeremy Filsell, Clinician

**Monday, February 15, 2016**  
Presidents' Day Road Trip  
Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall  
Steven Ball, Host

*Continued on page 3*

### DC AGO Board of Directors



**Dean**  
Russell J. Weismann

**Sub Dean**  
Karen Bredberg

**Secretary**  
Kathleen Cooper

**Treasurer**  
Rob Church

**Hospitality Coordinator**  
Irvin Peterson

**Education Coordinator**  
Jeremy Filsell

**Historian**  
Irv Lawless

### *The Coupler*

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

J. Michael McMahon,  
Editor

To contact the DC AGO  
or for newsletter  
submissions:  
[dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com)

*Continued from page 2*

**Wednesday, March 2, 2016**

DC AGO Members' Evensong and Happy Hour  
Church of the Epiphany

**Friday, March 18, 2016, 7:00 p.m.**

Silent Movie with Organ

*La vie et la passion de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ*

Thomas Ospital, Organist (co-titulair of St. Eustache, Paris)

Saint Jane Frances de Chantal Church, Bethesda

**April (Date and Time TBD)**

Theater Organ Concert

(Joint event with Northern Virginia and Potomac Chapters)

Jack Hardman Residence, Potomac, Virginia

**Monday, May 23, 2016, 7:00 p.m.**

Potomac Organ Institute Student Recital

All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase



**Acoustical Design**  
Collaborative Ltd

**Neil Thompson Shade, FASA**

President & Principal Consultant

410.821.5930

[www.akustx.com](http://www.akustx.com)

**Your Sound...Our Passion**

*Dean's Message**Continued from page 1*

that we have begun reflect this – from the road trips to the young organists competition. The efforts of promoting the organ seem to go above and beyond any other instrument, and we ought to take pride in that.

When I was in my twenties, I knew that I enjoyed playing the organ and that I had a deep interest in church music, but it wasn't until I began life in my thirties that I realized that I mostly identify myself as an educator. It's one of the many reasons that I have chosen to go back to school (and I continually remind myself of that during my long commutes!).

Education is also part of the mission of the American Guild of Organists, and as a chapter we are obliged to do our part. To that end, our next chapter program is an event titled, "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza," which is actually a structured educational event organized by the Guild. It is intended to introduce the organ to young musicians, especially pianists. I have taken part in the organization of two of these events in the past and I find them to be quite beneficial in

meeting our educational aspirations and generating excitement and interest in the pipe organ in the next generation of musicians.

"Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" will take place on November 7 at National City Christian Church where participants will have the opportunity to learn about the organ, hear Guild members demonstrate the instrument, eat some pizza, and have a chance to play the instrument themselves. What better venue for this than National City, with its visible display of the inner parts of an organ and the massive five-manual console!

So, please spread the word about this exciting educational event. A flyer is located in this edition of the newsletter for you to distribute at your respective churches. Also – if you yourself are someone who would like to take part in the fun, we welcome your participation as an auditor, as well! The more, the merrier!

Your #1 fan,

Russell



## Needing a Place to Practice

DC AGO Chapter member Nancy Kim is a student in need of a place to practice piano and/or organ for free somewhere in DC, preferably near Dupont Circle. If you can help, please contact Nancy at [nyjkim92@gmail.com](mailto:nyjkim92@gmail.com)

---

## Members' Events

**Sunday, November 1, 5:00 p.m.**

Choral Evensong  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, College Park  
David Houston, Organist and Choirmaster

**Sunday, November 1, 5:00 p.m.**

Gabriel Fauré, *Requiem*  
Christ Church Episcopal, Alexandria  
Michael Weinberg, conductor

**Wednesday, November 4, 12:10 p.m.**

First Wednesday Concert  
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square  
Michael Lodico, organist  
Noah Getz, saxophonist

**Friday, November 6, 12:15 p.m.**

Friday Music at Midday  
National City Christian Church  
David Brock, organist

**Friday, November 6, 7:30 p.m.**

Dedictory Organ Recital  
Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Sem.  
Scott Dettra, organist

**Sunday, November 8, 3:00 p.m.**

Organ Recital  
Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Alexandria  
Wesley Parrott, organist

**Sunday, November 8, 4:00 p.m.**

Organ Recital  
Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land  
David Houston, organist

**Sunday, November 8, 4:00 p.m.**

Organ Recital  
First Baptist Church of Washington  
J. Reilly Lewis, organist

**Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.**

Organ Recital  
National Presbyterian Church  
Simon Johnson, organist

**Friday, November 13, 12:15 p.m.**

Friday Music at Midday  
National City Christian Church  
Joseph Russell, organist

**Sunday, November 15, 4:00 p.m.**

Chevy Chase Concerts  
Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church  
U.S. Navy Band Country Current

**Friday, November 20, 12:15 p.m.**

Friday Music at Midday  
National City Christian Church  
Victoria Shields, organist

**Sunday, November 22, 3:00 p.m.**

Organ Recital  
St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Bethesda  
Russell Weismann, organist

*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)*

## Upcoming Events of Note

### NPM Liturgy Day

*Place:* St. Agnes Catholic Church, 1910 N. Randolph St., Arlington, VA 22207

*Date and Time:* Saturday, October 31, 9:30 a.m.

*Registration:*

The day begins with Morning Prayer and a keynote address by Msgr. Richard Hilgartner, NPM President. There will be session on *Hymns Ancient Made New*, a new official English translation of hymns for the Liturgy of the Hours, will be led by Peter Finn beginning at around 11:00 a.m. Another session on Vocal Skills for Better Singing, will be offered by Dr. John Romeri at the same time.

For more information or to register, visit [www.npmdc.org](http://www.npmdc.org) or [www.npmarlington.org](http://www.npmarlington.org)

### Diocesan Festival Evensong

*Place:* Washington National Cathedral

*Date and Time:* Sunday, January 31, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

*Registration:* \$15 per family. Churches are asked to group participants into one registration.

Choristers from local parishes are invited to take part in the Diocesan Festival Evensong, directed by Christopher Betts. Rehearsals will be held on Saturday, January 30 and on Sunday, January 31.

More information available at <http://www.cathedral.org/events/ES20160131.shtml#.VjEP4oSl3Cc>.

To register or seek further information, send email to [reply@cathedral.org](mailto:reply@cathedral.org) or call (202) 537-2211.

### Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance

East Carolina University has announced the Tenth Annual Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, February 26-27, 2016.

The competition is an innovative outreach program designed to inspire young musicians in our region to strive for the highest level of musicianship and technical accomplishment in organ performance. It is open to any pre-college student in North Carolina, South Carolina, Washington, D.C., Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida. From the recorded applications round, three finalists will be chosen to compete live on February 27. In addition to generous monetary prizes, the competitors will compete for the two additional prizes in hymn playing and Bach interpretation.

For additional information Prof. Andrew Scanlon at [scanlona@ecu.edu](mailto:scanlona@ecu.edu) or (252) 328-1261 or visit <https://www.ecu.edu/cs-cfac/music/organsacredmusic/youngartistscompetition.cfm>.

## In Memoriam: William Benjamin Hutto



The DC AGO is sad to report the passing of Ben Hutto. We will greatly miss Ben for many reasons, including his creativity, incredible musicianship, and Southern charm. We are privileged to have known and worked with such an incredible and gifted man whose life was dedicated to the service of the church and educating young people. Servant well done!

Ben died on September 29 at the Williams House Community Hospice in Washington, DC, following a valiant battle with cancer. An accomplished musician, composer and educator, Ben served since 1999 as the Director of Performing Arts at St. Albans School for Boys, and National Cathedral School for Girls in Washington DC. He was also Director of Music and Organist at St. John's (Episcopal) Church, Lafayette Square. Born in Charleston, SC, in 1947, Ben was the son of the late William Benjamin Hutto, Jr. and Marie Walz Hutto. Ben adored, was devoted to, and is survived by his sister Catherine B. Hutto of Silver Spring, MD; a nephew Thomas Cordella and his wife

Jessica and their son Henry of Tampa, FL; a niece Marie Cordella of Raleigh, NC, and innumerable friends worldwide who cherish his memory and were touched by his love, kindness, generosity and dedication. After receiving a B.A. in English from Emory University in 1968, Ben continued his studies at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, and at the Royal School of Church Music in England. In 1989 he completed the Education for Ministry Program at the School of Theology at the University of the South. He was named a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music in 1998. In recognition of his contributions to church music and the education of young people Ben was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Human Letters by Virginia Theological Seminary in 2013. Ben served as President of the Association of Anglican Musicians (1988-1989) and the Royal School of Church Music in America (1999-2006). He served as instructor and director of choral music at the Porter-Gaud School (Charleston) from 1969 to 1985. Simultaneously, he was Organist and Choirmaster at the (Episcopal) Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul. He was a co-founder of the organ recital series for Piccolo Spoleto, part of the Spoleto Festival USA. From 1985 to 1999, he was Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church (Episcopal) in Charlotte. He served as Dean of both the Charleston (SC) and the Charlotte (NC) Chapters of the American Guild of Organists. As a composer, Ben wrote several Anglican chants for The Hymnal 1982 of the Episcopal Church and has several published anthems. As a choral conductor, he

*Continued on page 9*

---

## 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 every month at 4pm, followed by a reception. All are welcome!

### 2015-2016 Recitalists

*October 11: Russell Weismann (St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Bethesda)*

November 8: David Houston (St. Andrew's Episcopal, College Park)

December 13: Sarah Bereza (Trinity Lutheran, Bethesda)

January 10: Ronald Butts-Boehmer

February 14: Russell Weismann (St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Bethesda)

March 13: Brass and Organ (Brass of Peace Ensemble with Lisa Galoci, Organist)

April 10: Carolyn Booth

May 8: Dr. J. Thomas Mitts (Shenandoah Conservatory and Augustana Lutheran Church)



*In Memoriam**Continued from page 7*

presented children's choir workshops and served on panels for regional and national conferences for numerous professional educational and music organizations. During his time at St. Albans and National Cathedral Schools in Washington, his school choirs and young singers have appeared on National Public Radio, with the Cathedral Choral Society, the Choral Arts Society of Washington, the Washington Master Chorale, and the Juilliard Orchestra, at performances in the Kennedy Center, and on national television. His singers have toured from coast to coast in the United States and internationally to Australia, South Africa, Chile and Argentina. He has conducted workshops and summer courses for the Royal School of Church Music in many parts of the United States, as well as

in Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and South Africa. Ben held memberships in Sigma Chi social fraternity, Omicron Delta Kappa university leadership society, the American Guild of Organists, the Association of Anglican Musicians, the Royal School of Church Music, and the Cosmos Club. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, October 12, 2015, at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square. A memorial service will also be held at Washington National Cathedral at 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2015. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ben's name to the coordinate Performing Arts Program of National Cathedral School and St. Albans School or to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Ben's name to the coordinate Performing Arts Program of National Cathedral School and St. Albans School or to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square.

---

## 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 (4 times per season), \$100; half-page (4 times per season), \$50; quarter page (four times per season), \$25. 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.*