
THE COUPLER

The Dean's Message



Greetings!

By now we have all packed up our Christmas decorations and are looking forward to springtime. Don't let the winter doldrums keep you down, however! Join us this month as we celebrate Presidents' Day with an exciting organ festival. Your DC AGO Board has worked hard putting together the details of the day, which are found on page 5 in this newsletter, but I want to highlight a few of the special events:

1. Classes. We've listened to our members' feedback. Many of you wanted more educational opportunities. We are grateful to our chapter members Irv Lawless and Patrick Summers, who will be offering classes on pipe organ maintenance and taxes

for church organists, respectively.

2. Masterclasses. One of the country's most celebrated choral ensembles, the American Boychoir will be with us! They will offer us a glimpse into a working rehearsal format. This opportunity will provide us with many insights into vocal health and technique for our own church choirs.

3. Music! Our Education Coordinator, Jeremy Filsell, will end the day with a spectacular recital featuring music from AGO certification lists. In addition to his recital, Jeremy will also offer a morning session on AGO certification, a topic that those of us on the board wish to more actively promote. Come and learn techniques in hymn playing, improvisation, and keyboard skills.

4. Food and fellowship. We have excellent lunch options and refreshments provided throughout the day. This will give us all the chance to mingle and share ideas.

So what are you doing on February 20th? I hope to see you at our Presidents' Day Pipe Organ Festival!

Russell Weismann

2016-2017 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

Sunday, September 25 at 7:00 pm
Opening Convocation and Installation of Officers
with Eileen Gunther officiating and
recitalist Chris Betts
Church of the Redeemer
6201 Dunrobbin Dr.
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Sunday, October 2 at 4:00 pm
Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular
Johann Vexo, Organist
National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016

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
Pre-Register at www.dcago.org
More information on page 5

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DC AGO Board of Directors

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The Coupler

A monthly newsletter
published by the District
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American Guild of
Organists

David K. Houston,
Editor

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

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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
3901 N Cathedral Lane
Arlington, VA 22203

May 2017
Potomac Organ Institute Student Recital

Other dates to note....

The **Mid-Atlantic Regional AGO Convention** will be hosted by the Richmond Chapter **June 25 - 28**. Please note these corrected dates, not as listed in TAO January edition.

March 10 is the submission deadline for the AGO Young Organists (AHOYO) **North Central Region Young Composers Competition**. The competition for a new work for organ solo, 3–6 minutes, is open to any individual who is younger than 30 years of age as of August 31, 2017. U.S. composers need not be AGO members; composers living outside of the U.S. must be AGO members. More information is available at agohq.org.

**Call for
Nominations for
Office**

The DC AGO Board of
Directors

If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, with their consent, please contact the nominating committee at dcagochapter@gmail.com.

Elections will be held in June.

Nominations may be submitted for all offices, as listed in the masthead on page 2 of The Coupler.

Thank you for your consideration.



RECITAL AND GALA BENEFIT RECEPTION
HONORING

Joan Lippincott

Friday, April 21, 2017, Princeton, N.J.

Recital at 7:00 pm with Eric Plutz, and Scott Dettra at the Princeton University Chapel
Reception following (advance tickets required) at Princeton University Prospect House

Colleagues, Students, Loved Ones, and Friends from Across the Country Will Gather to Celebrate Her Lifetime Achievements at AGO Endowment Fund Benefit

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) has selected internationally acclaimed organist and teacher JOAN LIPPINCOTT as the honoree for the 2017 AGO Endowment Fund Distinguished Artist Award Recital and Gala Benefit Reception on Friday, April 21, 2017, in Princeton, N.J. Complete information can be found online at Agohq.org/2017-gala.

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 †

Kenneth Lowenberg

Albert Russell

Donald Sutherland

Monday, February 20, 2017 9 am to 4:30 pm

Presidents' Day Organ Festival

At The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany &
First Congregational Church

In the vicinity of Metro Center in Downtown DC

Epiphany	9:00 – 9:30	Registration & Coffee
Epiphany	9:30 – 10:45	AGO Certification with Jeremy Filsell
<i>Walk to 1st Congregational</i>		
1 st Congregational	10:30 – 11:00	Mid-morning Late Registration
1 st Congregational	11:00 – 12:00	The American Boychoir An open rehearsal-style Performance/Masterclass
1 st Congregational	12:00 – 1:00	Lunch, box lunch included in registration
1 st Congregational	1:00 – 1:45	Financial Workshop for Musicians with Patrick Summers, CPA and DC AGO supporter
<i>Walk to Epiphany</i>		
Epiphany	2:00 – 3:00	Sunday Morning Emergency Organ Maintenance with Irv Lawless
Epiphany	3:00 – 3:30	Social time and Refreshments
Epiphany	3:30 – 4:30	Jeremy Filsell in Concert, featuring materials from AGO Certification requirements

Registration for this Presidents' Day Organ Festival is open all: AGO members and guests and friends from the community.

\$20/\$10 Students.

Pre-Register at dcago.org.

Please note that parking is limited to on-street (free on holidays) or paid parking. Epiphany and First Congregational are both easy walks from the Metro Center metro stop. When exiting the station, to get to Epiphany metro riders should use the 13th street exit or the 11th street exit for First Congregational.

Members' Events

Sunday, February 5, 4:40 & 5 pm

Choral Evensong with Organ Prelude
Historic Christ Church, Alexandria VA
Organist Christopher Jennings

Sunday, February 5, 3 pm

Organ Recital and Hymn Festival
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Glen Burnie, MD

Friday, February 10, 12:15 pm

Music @ Midday
National City Christian Church
Organist Christopher Henley

Friday, February 17, 12:15 pm

Music @ Midday
National City Christian Church
Pianist Christopher Schmitt

Saturday, February 18, 7:30 pm

Choir of Trinity Episcopal, Binghamton, NY,
Timothy Edward Smith, Organist &
Choirmaster
At St. Stephen and Incarnation Episcopal DC

Friday, February 24, 12:15 pm

Music @ Midday
National City Christian Church
Organist James Hicks

Friday, February 24, 7 pm

Songs and Spirituals with Augustine
Mercante, Countertenor and Marvin Mills,
Pianist
Saints Philip & James Episcopal, Baltimore

Sunday, February 26, 4 pm

Dedication Recital with Hector Olivera
North Bethesda United Methodist Church

Friday, March 3, 12:15 pm

Music @ Midday
National City Christian Church
Organist Joseph Russell

Friday, March 3, 7 pm

Thiel College Choir
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring

Friday, March 3, 8 pm

Organist Cameron Carpenter
The Music Center @ Strathmore, Bethesda

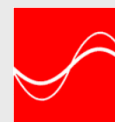
Members are encouraged to submit recitals and concerts for public listing on the DC AGO website. Submit your event for web or newsletter listing to dcagochapter@gmail.com

Acoustic Design Services

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Did You Know?

The Mighty Flentrop

You might have on your calendar that there will be an organ concert March 26 at St Columba's Episcopal Church - "The Mighty Flentrop". And you might know that the instrument was the first Flentrop to be built in the Washington, D.C. area and that it was one of the early modern trackers in the city. But did you know that the Queen of The Netherlands once came to see the organ??

The Netherlands was one of the first countries to recognize the United States, and so, Queen Beatrix and her husband, Prince Claus, came to visit during the celebration of the bi-centennial of the Constitution of the United States. Judy Dodge (fka Judy Breneman, then Director of Music and Organist) and parishioner Bob Haslach (who worked at the Dutch Embassy) contacted the Embassy to invite the Queen to come to St. Columba's. The Embassy thought it a great idea because it was a cultural rather than diplomatic event. The Queen accepted and the event was held April 20, 1982. Students at Janney School (across the street) were invited to line the street waving Dutch flags. (The Queen remarked that the children must have been disappointed because instead of a Queen in a crown, she was just a lady in a hat. She loved it!)

Also present was retired President of the company, D.A. Flentrop who was honored by John Fesperman of the Smithsonian, and Hans Steketee, who succeeded Flentrop as President and designed the St. Columba Organ. Senator Fulbright also attended as he established the Fulbright scholarships used by many American organists who consequently learned of the European tracker organs and visited the Flentrop factory.

Parishioner Roland Hoover designed the program for the event, a Celebration Service, that began with the singing of the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" with words provided in both Dutch and English. The Boy Choir and the Girl Choir participated, singing a Dutch Easter carol for the occasion. Judy Dodge introduced the event, presented both the Queen and Mr. Fesperman, who presented D.A. Flentrop with his book, "Flentrop in America".

Flentrop Orgelbouw, Zaandam, The Netherlands

Mechanical tracker action, two manuals and a pedal board. 22 stops. Built in 1981; expanded and revoiced in 2003. A complete stop list can be found at the church web site: http://www.columba.org/index.php/2011/worship/st._columbas_flentrop_organ

Historical information from Judy Dodge; submitted by Kathy Cooper.

Patrick J. Summers, M.S.

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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	Nathan Davy (National Shrine - Washington, DC)
March 12	Brass and Organ (Brass of Peace Ensemble with Lisa Galoci, Organist)
April 9	Ronald Butts-Boehmer (Messiah Lutheran Church - Germantown, Maryland)
May 14	Paul Skevington (Saint Luke Catholic Church - McLean, Virginia)

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District of Columbia Chapter
The American Guild of Organists

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