

PIPELINES

NASHVILLE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

DECEMBER 2023



NOTES FROM DON

Deck the Halls...

It is hard to believe, but it is the Christmas season . . . again. And we all know what that means: attending parties, getting dressed up, planning the perfect holiday, smiling till your face cracks, making happiness a lifestyle choice, madly shopping for presents, running from this to that, fighting the urge to choke a family member . . . and the list goes on. Though he often captured America in the mid-20th century, I think Norman Rockwell did us a great disservice in his portraits of Christmas. I'm not sure we can ever live up to the perfect Christmas he painted.

The “why not” may be in the term “Christmas season.” My guess is that when we think of the Christmas season, we really don't mean the Advent and Christmas season—a time long associated with the church and the Christian year. The Advent and Christmas season isn't about parties, gift giving, running here and running there, or about much that the culture says is Christmas.

I once read a story about a person who wanted to sing a song, but never did because he kept stringing and unstringing his instrument. He would get it strung and then feel it wasn't perfect enough to accompany his song, so the unstringing and stringing would begin again. In a way, that is what I often feel during this season. I want to “sing” a song of joy for the Advent and Christmas season, for the longing for Christ, for the birth of a child who will refresh my soul. But instead, I keep unstringing and restringing my instrument, because it isn't perfect. I look at Rockwell's perfect Christmas painting and find that my season falls short. So I keep my days and nights busy, cram my calendar full, and stay preoccupied with the details and pressures of measuring up to the “Christmas season.”

In Psalm 137 those in the Babylonian captivity lament, “How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?” As Christians, perhaps the “Christmas season” is our foreign land. Perhaps we long for a true Advent and Christmas season, one that is centered on the coming of Christ, the retelling of his birth. Like those in Psalm 137, I often long to “sing” a song of praise to God, a song of joy over a small child's birth. But I don't because it won't be perfect.

Each of us has a “song” within, one that needs to be sung or played to God's glory. If we slowed down, if we stopped competing with the perfect Christmas, if we were willing to sing or play our song as imperfect as it is, perhaps then we might catch a glimpse of God, of a child in a manger, of a life lived in the Advent and Christmas season.

Notes from Don continued on page 2

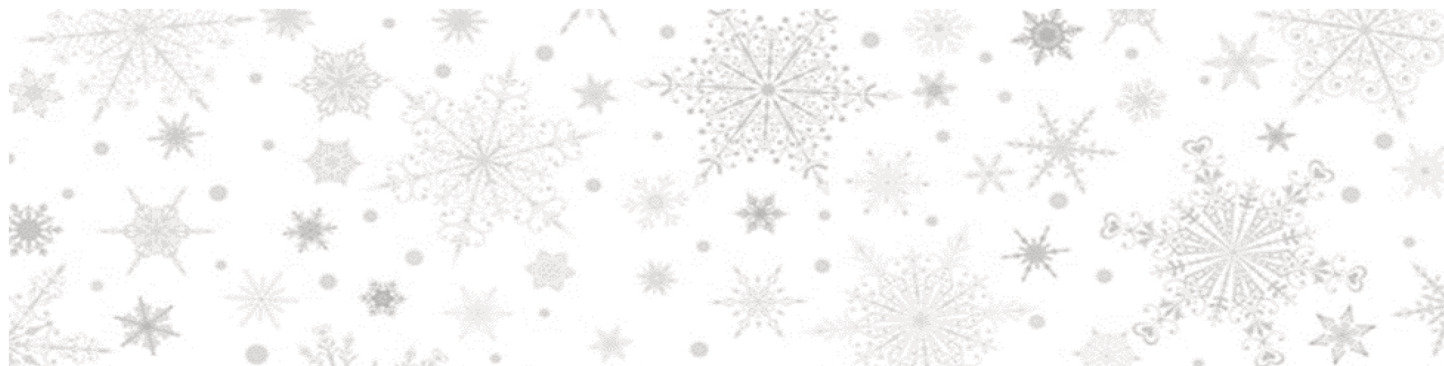


Though we may feel our “song” is imperfect, know that God longs to hear the song that only you can sing or play, to know the life that only you can live. Our faith calls each of us to be a unique instrument playing God’s song in this world. Through us, God’s love in this world becomes real, becomes tangible. The music we create spreads the song of God’s love for this world and helps it to dance and sing. In the words of Charles Wesley:

*Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.*

So may this truly be a season of Advent and Christmas for you, may you sing and play your imperfect song for God’s glory, may you help to bring God’s song of joy to this weary world, and may you find your soul renewed as that tiny babe of long ago enters your heart.

Take care,
Don



ONCE UPON A TIME - HISTORY NOTES

by Julia Callaway

In January 2022, Nashville AGO Chapter programs resumed in person as restrictions from the COVID pandemic were being lifted. An enthusiastic group of members and friends gathered at St. George’s Episcopal Church to hear about the acoustic changes and other preparation for the installation of their new organ, Buzard Opus 48. Members of the Buzard staff participated in the program. The

installation was completed in 2023, and several concerts were presented as part of the dedication series sponsored by the church.

In February 2022, a February Flourish program was held at First Lutheran Church. David Cherwien led a Hymn Festival on Friday and served as a clinician for Saturday morning sessions. Other spring programs included recitalist Matthew Owens playing the Fisk at Covenant Presbyterian Church, and Patrick Scott playing for the hymn festival at Belmont United Methodist Church.

In 2022, we were delighted when a former chapter dean, Nicholas Bergin, was appointed editor of The American Organist magazine.

A double-header recital in October commemorated the 200th birthday of César Franck, with Scott Detra performing at West End United Methodist Church and Christ Church Cathedral.

Next time: Creating virtual organ crawls to churches in Murfreesboro.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

by Jennie Smith



Rachel Ward moved to Nashville in 2017 with her husband, who is with the Army Corps of Engineers. They have an eight-year-old daughter and six-year-old son. She grew up in Huntington, West Virginia, and likes to say she was proudly adopted with her brother when she was three years old and was raised in the Methodist church. She graduated from Kentucky's Morehead State University in music performance.

She had the distinction and experience of playing for three years one of the largest pipe organs in the United States—the six-manual Harrah Symphonic Organ, built for Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC in Hurricane, West Virginia.

Rachel works for the Department of Mental Health and loves event planning. After several years of playing at Bellevue UMC, she is now organist/pianist and music director at Cook's UMC in Mt. Juliet, closer to home.



Richard Shadinger grew up in Carrolton, Georgia, was first-chair clarinet in high school, studied for a piano performance degree at Shorter College, and later earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in piano performance at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Now professor emeritus at Belmont University after 44 years of service, Richard taught piano and music history and was the assistant dean of the School of Music. He has also been the university's carillonneur since the instrument was installed in 1986. He continues as organist at Immanuel Baptist Church, now in his 42nd year in that position.

He has two children and five grandchildren. He loves reading, Belmont basketball, and Italian food. His main hobby is adding to his collection of over 3,000 hymnals.

2024–25 AGO ORGAN SCHOLAR ANNOUNCEMENT

The AGO Organ Scholar Program offers emerging organists under the age of 30 the opportunity to experience an annual ten-month internship within a significant music ministry program in the United States. St. George's here in Nashville has been awarded the opportunity to host the Guild's 2024–25 Organ Scholar. For more information check out <https://www.agohq.org/organ-scholar-program>.

WATCH OUR MEMBERS' RECITAL

from November 13



The members' recital from November 13 featuring Nick Bergin, Josh Coble, Wilma Jensen, Malcolm Mathews, and Dale Nickell is now up on our YouTube channel. If you missed it or wish to hear it again, go to our website (www.nashvilleago.org); at the bottom is a link to our YouTube channel. Kudos to the performers for an excellent recital! And thanks to Dale Nickell for recording and posting the program.

From Our September 18 Meeting

pictures by Carl Berg



Below:
Organ Kit

Officer Installation



Left:
Handbell Mini-Class

Below:
Belmont Carillon Ringers



YOUR GIFTS CAN BENEFIT OUR CHAPTER

Nashville AGO members and friends are encouraged to make an extra contribution to either help underwrite the programs for the year, to the Endowment Fund, or to the Discretionary Fund. This may be done by on our website at www.nashvilleago.org, www.agohq.org, or by check. Your gift may also be in memory or honor of someone. If you use a credit card, consider making your donation through the national website, as it saves our chapter the credit card expense. You do this by logging into your account, then choosing “make a contribution.” When you scroll down, you will see the funds for the Nashville Chapter.

Why are we encouraging extra giving to the chapter? Our budget has various sources of income to support its expenditures. The budgeted income from additional gifts to the general fund for chapter expenses is \$4,000.00. However, to date we have only received \$630.00. Pre-COVID we did regularly receive the budgeted amount. However, we are under the amount needed to fully fund our budget. Any amount you contribute to the General Fund (chapter expenses) would be greatly appreciated.

Additionally, an outstanding program that your contributions would help is this coming April 8, 2024, when we are bringing internationally renowned artist Vincent Dubois, one of the titular organists of Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris, to Nashville. That night at 7:30 p.m. he will give a recital at Covenant Presbyterian Church. Mr. Dubois has performed in major concert venues throughout Europe, North America, Asia, and the Pacific, and has been featured at numerous international music festivals. He is regarded as one of the finest organists in the world today.

Your additional support helps our chapter champion outstanding organ and choral music in our city. We wish to thank these people who have already contributed, and we hope others will join.

SUPPORTER (\$1–\$49)

Sarah Gebhardt
Margorie Proctor

DONOR (\$50–\$99)

Lisa Barry
John Todd
Rachel Ward

PATRON (\$100–\$499)

Joyce Byrd
Felix Montgomery
Jonathan Setzer

SUSTAINER (\$500–\$999)

Frances Hall

BENEFACTOR (\$1,000 up)

THE BULLETIN BOARD - MEMBER NEWS & SUNDRIES



We sadly say goodbye to our chapter members Allison and Tony Williams. Tony has been offered the position of director of music and organist at First-Scots Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The church has a beautiful sanctuary, and the organ is a IV/71 Ontko & Young. Tony is looking forward to playing this beautiful instrument. He begins his new position on January 1. So, though we say congratulations to Allison and Tony and wish them well, we will also miss their presence.

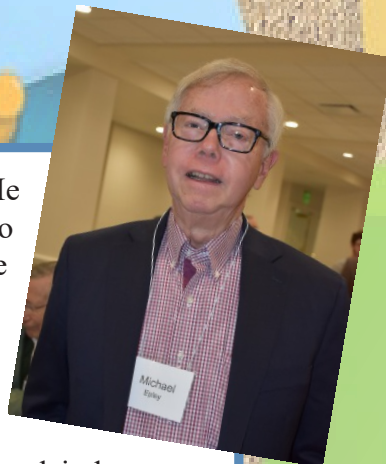
The Chattanooga AGO Chapter is hosting a POE+ (Pipe Organ Encounters for Adults) June 9–14, 2024. If you are interested in attending you may go to their website, www.agochattanooga.org/poeplus, or ask Don Marler to email you a brochure.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS!

Mike Epley moved from his hometown of Magnolia, Arkansas, in March 2022. He and his wife, Betty, moved to Nashville to be near their daughter and two grandchildren who live here. They also have two sons in Austin and Charlottesville and four other grandchildren, with one more on the way.

Mike studied piano for twelve years and organ for six years with the local music teacher but never studied music in college. He was a history major at Harvard College and received a law degree from the University of Arkansas. When they moved back to Magnolia in 1976, Mike practiced law and also served as a local judge. Additionally, he served as organist at the local Episcopal church for almost 50 years!

While living in New Orleans between college and law school, Mike studied organ with Jack Hutton at Rayne Memorial Methodist Church and served as organist at St. Anna's Episcopal Church. He has substituted as organist or pianist in Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Episcopal churches in several towns in Arkansas and is available to do so again in the Nashville area.



Abe Wallace is a doctoral student at the University of Michigan, studying organ performance and sacred music. He holds degrees from Yale University (MM, organ performance) and the University of Oklahoma (BMA, Piano; BS, Geophysics). From 2021 to 2023, he was the Edwards Organ Scholar at St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit. He is currently serving as organ scholar at St. George's Episcopal Church in Nashville under the auspices of the AAM Gerre Hancock Organ Internship. In his spare time, he enjoys baking bread and making coffee.

Sean Lane Fuller was born on Christmas Day in 1965. He lives with his wife Terri in Tullahoma and has been working as a software engineer since 1988. He plays many different instruments well enough to have lots of fun. His strongest instrument is the saxophone, and his favorite is the pipe organ. He plans to start studying the organ soon and has secured a teacher and a pair of organ shoes.



Andrew Lynn is a new chapter friend. In Andrew's own words, "I am delighted to have recently joined this chapter as a friend. The pipe organ has been a passion of mine since my late teen years when I discovered Diane Bish's *The Joy of Music* on television. Besides Diane Bish, some of my favorite organ composers include George Frideric Handel, Craig Phillips, Leo Sowerby, Frederick Swann, and Charles-Marie Widor. I am particularly drawn to sacred and choral arrangements for the organ yet enjoy a diverse range of organ works. Though not an organist, I am grateful to live in a city that has many others who share my appreciation for the magnificence and grandeur of the pipe organ.



"I moved to Nashville in 2007 and work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center as a Pharmacy Technician Coordinator. During my time in Nashville, I have enjoyed singing in the West End UMC Chancel Choir, and for a couple of seasons, in the Vanderbilt Community Chorus. I feel fortunate to enjoy many musical opportunities throughout Middle Tennessee. Particularly, I look forward to expanding my organ experience through my involvement with the Nashville Chapter of the AGO."

Holli Scholz received her bachelor's degree in piano performance from Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, in 2002. After teaching in a music store (G&G Music) for several years, Holli and a business partner bought it and ran it for five-plus years. While owning that store, she taught 60-plus students a week and sold pianos and other instruments. She also taught part-time for one year at a private Christian high school and middle school. That year brought about the beginning of her classroom teaching. After closing the store, she accompanied full-time at Lawton public schools for three years, then pursued a master's degree in education at Cameron University and became certified to teach K-12 music in Oklahoma public schools. During her seven years of teaching in public schools, she taught two years of elementary music and five years of middle school choir; she also created a piano class. While maintaining the full-time teaching job, she also directed the orchestra for the Duncan Little Theater, accompanied the Lawton Community Theater, taught private vocal and piano lessons, and kept a church organist job.

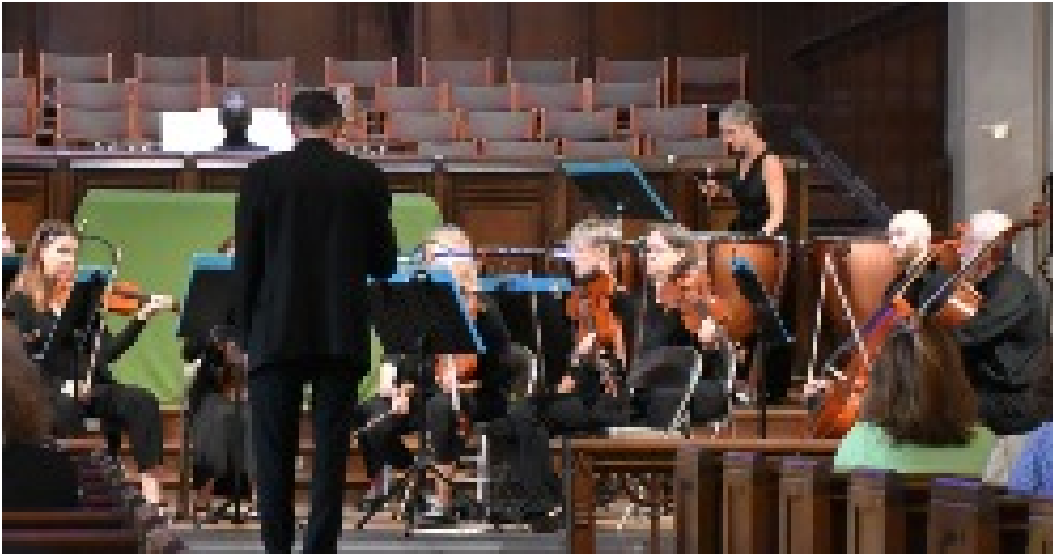


Since moving to Nashville in 2022, Holli has earned a master's degree in choral music education from Southeastern State University in Durant, Oklahoma, and is an instructor of music and the choral director at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, Tennessee. She maintains a private lesson studio called Holli Harmony (HolliHarmony.org) and is the organist at All Saints Episcopal Church in Smyrna.

She enjoys traveling with her husband, James, and taking their dog, Marley (a certified therapy dog), to assisted living centers. Holli and James also have two cats: Perci and Brezhnev.

From Our October 1 Meeting

pictures by Carl Berg



Left:
Organ Concerto Concert

Below:
Organ Repertoire Mini-Class



Above:
Organ Concerto Concert Performers:
Peter Rogahn, Matt Phelps, Andrew Risinger

BE AMBASSADORS

Our chapter presents many outstanding programs featuring excellent choral and organ music. Some by our own members and others by renowned national and international artists. We need your help to spread the word. If you have a position in a church, we encourage you to include an invitation to our events in your newsletters, bulletins, and email blasts. In particular, please consider inviting your choir members to our events. If you are in a school setting, invite your students. What an opportunity to bring a new audience to the organ! Our programs are listed in each Pipeline and on our website. If you want more information, just ask. Do become an ambassador for our chapter and help us to reach out into the Nashville community.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Monday, February 5

Westminster Presbyterian Church

6:00 PM: Mini-Class on Children's Choir Techniques and Repertoire (Janice Kemp)

6:30 PM: Dinner

7:30 PM: Members' Recital

(Woosug Kang, Jonathan Rudy, Dawn Seidenschwarz, Jonathan Setzer, Elizabeth Smith)

Monday, April 8

Covenant Presbyterian Church

6:00 PM: Mini-Class on Accessible Choral Music for Youth and Adults (Gayle Sullivan)

6:30 PM: Dinner

7:30 PM: Vincent Dubois Recital

Monday, May 6

First Lutheran Church

6:00 PM: Mini-Class on Using ForScore (Peter Rogahn)

6:30 PM: Dinner

7:30 PM: Choral Service with Installation of Officers,
featuring the West End UMC Sanctuary Choir (Andrew Risinger, conductor) and Kristen Hansen, organ

PIPELINES DEADLINES

The following are the deadlines and publication dates for Pipelines. If you wish to contribute to Pipelines, have something for Member News and Bulletin Board (an honor, a recognition, a publication, notable event, or something available to the membership), or want an event listed in the Arts Calendar, be aware of these deadlines.

Submission Deadline

Publication Date

November 22

November 30

January 11

January 22

March 11

March 21

April 12

April 22

DECEMBER 2023

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 pm
Winter Choral Concert. MTSU Schola Cantorum
Dr. Raphael Bundage, conductor
SOAL and TEBA Chorales
Angela Tipps, conductor
Hinton Hall, Wright Music Building, MTSU
1439 Faulkinberry Drive Murfreesboro



Sunday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.
Feast of Lights and Carol Service
The Choirs of Belmont UMC with orchestra
Gayle Sullivan, Director; Robbie Jones, Organist
Belmont United Methodist Church
2007 Acklen Avenue S., Nashville

Sunday, December 17, 2:30 p.m.
Handbell Christmas Concert
The Carillon Ringers of Belmont UMC
Gayle Sullivan, Director
Belmont United Methodist Church
2007 Acklen Avenue S., Nashville

Sunday, December 17, 4:00 p.m.
Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols
Cathedral Choir and Senior Choristers, under the
direction of Canon Dr. Michael Velting;
Dr. Malcolm Matthews, organ
Reception to follow
Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway, Nashville

Sunday, December 17, 4:00 pm
A Festival of Lessons and Carols
St. Paul's Choir and Choristers
Dr. Susan Kelley, conductor
Nancy Proctor Bieschke and Amanda O'Connor,
chorister directors
Angela Tipps, organist
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
116 North Academy Street, Murfreesboro

Wednesday, December 20, 9:15 p.m.
Compline
Led by the Choir of St. George's
St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville





POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Bellevue United Methodist Church, Nashville, seeks a part-time organist/pianist for worship services. This position requires serving Sunday morning worship services and Wednesday evening rehearsals. Please contact Mary Combs, minister of music, at mpcombs2@gmail.com.

Faith Lutheran Church, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, is searching for a part-time (every Sunday or as often as available) organist (or a keyboard person who would be willing to learn the organ). This position does not require any specific qualifications save for a willingness to learn our liturgy. This is a Missouri Synod Lutheran church with liturgical services. For additional information, please contact Pastor Trae Fistler at pastor@faithhopkinsville.com or 515-571-1378.

First Presbyterian Church, Gallatin, is seeking a part-time music director/organist who has excellent organist (pianist) and communication skills for its weekly 10:00 a.m. services on Sunday and choir rehearsals on Wednesday night. Additional duties include directing the musical operations of the church in collaboration with the pastor (total of approximately 15 hours/week). Bachelor of music or a degree in organ preferred; excellent references and at least three years of experience, together with knowledge of traditional organ and choral repertoire and hymnody. Applicants should submit a CV or resume and at least two references to Joe Dileo, music director/organist search chairman, at jdileo@chariotlog.com. Designate “Music Director/Organist Search” in the subject line. (Full job description is also available from Mr. Dileo.)

First United Methodist Church, Madisonville, Kentucky, is seeking a part-time organist/accompanist music associate (15–20 hours per week). Duties include accompanying the traditional 9:00 a.m. service each Sunday and assisting the director of music ministries in organizing and planning various musical activities and performances. Qualifications include performance abilities on the organ and piano, choral experience (preferred), a music degree (bachelor’s) or equivalent experience, and an active Christian faith. Interested applicants should send a cover letter detailing their interest in the position and qualifications, along with a résumé and performance video links to heejung.park@m1umc.org or axes97@gmail.com.

Hillwood Presbyterian Church (USA), Nashville, is looking for substitutes available to accompany worship services and lead singing, especially around Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve (3:00 p.m.). Contact Rev. Dr. Jule Nyhuis at hillwoodpastor@outlook.com or call 615-352-6310.