DEAN'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that all of your music-making this Christmas was joyful, that you had a restful holiday, and that your new year is off to a great start. Thanks to everyone who braved the cold and made the trek to Murfreesboro on January 4th for Dr. Barbara Owen's presentation on the organ works of Johannes Brahms. It was an honor to have such a distinguished scholar in our midst, and I hope that all who attended will be inspired to study this beautiful music more closely and to perform it more often. I would like to extend a special "thank you" to Doug Murray for helping with logistics and for driving Dr. Owen during her time with us. Thanks also to Angela Tipps and St. Paul's, Murfreesboro, for being such excellent hosts.

Our next program will take place on Monday, February 1st at Vine Street Christian Church, when we will welcome Dr. Stuart Forster, who will lead a workshop on hymn playing. Dr. Forster currently serves as Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church,

Cambridge, Massachusetts, and he is also the author of *Hymn Playing: A Modern Colloquium*. In this remarkable book, he interviews a number of gifted British and American hymn players, asking their opinions on a variety of topics relevant to playing hymns – introductions, registrations, and reharmonizations, to name but a few. Hymn playing is so central to our work as organists, and Dr. Forster is sure to have gleaned a great deal of insight into this art from his in-depth study. Please make plans to join us!

On the subject of fundraising, the Executive Board recently updated our donor categories as follows:

Supporter: \$1 - \$99 Friend: \$100 - \$249 Patron: \$250 - \$499 Benefactor: \$500 - \$999

Sustainer: \$1000

(Dean's letter continued on page two)

FEBRUARY PROGRAM - MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1 - 7:30 PM

HYMN-PLAYING MASTERCLASS Presented by Stuart Forster

Vine Street Christian Church 4101 Harding Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37205

DINNER — 6:30 PM — Reservations, *due by January 27*, can be made online @ www.nashvilleago.org, click on Dinner Reservations, or contact Linda Winters at 615-456-2065 or @ lwinters357@gmail.com

(Dean's letter, from page one)

In March, we'll hear Chelsea Chen at Covenant Presbyterian Church, and in May, Tom Trenney, and the women's choir Vox Grata will perform at St. Andrew Lutheran in Franklin. Both of these promise to be excellent programs, well worthy of your support. If you haven't yet made a contribution to our program year, please consider doing so soon by mailing a check to our Treasurer, Gary Scott. Another opportunity to support the chapter is through AmazonSmile. By registering, a portion of every Amazon purchase you make will be given to the Nashville AGO. To sign up, point your browser to www.nashvilleago.org, scroll to the bottom, and click on the AmazonSmile button. Thanks very much to all of you for everything you do to support our chapter, financially or otherwise!

As most of you know, AGO National is sponsoring a gala in honor of Wilma Jensen at West End United Methodist Church on Friday, April 8th at 7:00 PM. Please note that the evening will begin with Wilma's recital, which is free of charge. The festive reception that follows the recital will be off-campus at a nearby location, soon to be announced. Tickets to the reception are \$150 (75% of which is tax-deductible), and the proceeds benefit the AGO endowment. I hope to see many of you there in support of our wonderful Wilma!

Wishing you all the best in the New Year,

Nicholas Bergin, Dean

Nashville Chapter American Guild of Organists Donors 2015-2016 — New Categories as of January 6, 2016

SUPPORTER (\$1 - \$99)

Jere Adams

Lisa Barry

Pat Berthelot

Laurens Blankers

Justin Bowen

Julia Callaway

Hildegard Cox

Betty Polk

Dawn Seidenschwarz

John Semingson

William Taylor

John Todd

Marie Wiggins

FRIEND (\$100 - \$249)

T. Evans Baird

Joyce Byrd

Marjorie Collier

Rocky Craft

Eric Egli

Peter Fyfe

Timothy Gmeiner

Bill Gray

Frances Hall

Charlotte Hughes

Wilma Jensen

Albennia Ladieu

Edgar Lowe

Sharron Lyon

Darryl Miller

Felix Montgomery

Melvin Potts

Jonathan Setzer

Elizabeth Smith

John Wells

Hank Woerner

PATRON (\$250 - \$499)

Helen Norman

Richard Shadinger

Thomas Zimmerman

BENEFACTOR (\$500 - \$999)

SUSTAINER (\$1,000 - +)



February Program presented by Stuart Forster



Stuart Forster has been Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church, the Episcopal Church in Harvard Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts, since 1999. His performances as soloist, accompanist, and conductor have been broadcast around the world, and he has recorded numerous CDs, including solo

performances on the JAV and Pro Organo labels. His book, Hymn Playing: A Modern Colloquium, draws on interviews with leading church musicians to document expert techniques of hymn leadership and accompaniment with the organ. Dr. Forster has written orchestral transcriptions for the organ, liturgical music for congregations (including more than 100 hymn arrangements), organ music, and choral anthems. His landmark organ transcription of Dvořák's Ninth Symphony, "From the New World," has been published and recorded and is frequently performed. Forster's work has been published by Paraclete Press, MorningStar Music Publishers, St. James Music Press, and Éditions Chantraine.

Dr. Forster holds qualifications from Trinity College of Music (London), the University of Sydney, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Yale University, and the Graduate Theological Foundation, where his doctorate focused on the congregation's experience of flow and music within liturgy. A dedicated organist and choir trainer, Dr. Forster's passion for leading congregational singing has guided his vocation both in the church and as a teacher. Details of his compositions, performances, recordings, and book may be found at www.StuartAForster.com.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER PROGRAMS

February 1, 2016 — Hymn Playing with Stuart Forster Vine Street Christian Church

> March 7, 2016 — Chelsea Chen Covenant Presbyterian Church

April 8, 2016 — Gala in Honor of Wilma Jensen West End United Methodist Church (sponsored by National AGO)

May 9, 2016 — Tom Trenney and Vox Grata St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Franklin

AmazonSmile for Nashville AGO Members

Members of the Nashville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists can now support our organization through the AmazonSmile program!

If you're not familiar with AmazonSmile, it features all of the same products at the same prices as the regular Amazon website, except Amazon will make quarterly contributions to our chapter if you use the AmazonSmile American Guild of Organists — Nashville Chapter landing page for all of your Amazon purchases.

One half of one percent (.5%) of any Amazon Smile purchase will be donated quarterly to the Nashville Chapter of the AGO if you select our chapter as your charitable organization in the AmazonSmile program. Just use this link to land you on the AmazonSmile page specifically developed for our chapter — https://smile.amazon.com/ch/62-6046525. Save this log-in page as your Amazon "bookmark" on your web browser and note the Supporting: American Guild of Organists Location: Nashville, TN on the AmazonSmile banner.

From now on, each time you make purchases from AmazonSmile, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you're automatically supporting our chapter.

Vincent Dubois

Congratulations to Vincent Dubois, who was appointed this week, to succeed Jean-Pierre Leguay, retiring titular organist of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. In addition to his Notre-Dame position, Vincent also serves as General Director of the Strasbourg National and Superior Conservatory and is a Visiting Artist at the University of Michigan. Vincent has performed three times in Nashville, and is a friend of many in the Chapter.

The organists of Notre-Dame De Paris are:

At the grand organ: Vincent Dubois Olivier Latry Philippe Lefebvre

Organist Emeritus: Jean-Pierre Leguay

Choir Organist: Yves Castagnet

Alternate: Johann Vexo

FROM NATIONAL AGO

The American Guild of Organists announces the start of the application period for the 2016-2017 Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee Memorial Scholarships. These are the largest monetary scholarships awarded by the Guild each year to individual organ students. They are made possible by the generosity and vision of the late Messrs. Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee. The scholarships support the education of talented young organists who are dedicated to making significant contributions to the field of organ playing. Applicants are expected to have existing talent and be able to demonstrate achievements in the field of organ playing along with an expressed commitment to post graduation teaching, performing, or other serious endeavor with respect to the organ. Each student applicant must also demonstrate a verifiable financial need to be eligible to receive a scholarship. Six scholarships are presently awarded each year with a total distribution of \$60,000 in scholarship funds annually. Four scholarship awards of \$7,500 each are awarded to an incoming college freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior, as well as two graduate awards of \$15,000 each, one for a student beginning a master's degree program and one for a student in the second year of a master's degree program. The scholarships are renewable annually if requirements are met.

For the 2016–2017 academic year, the AGO began accepting online scholarship applications on January 1, 2016 from qualified students entering their freshman year in college and starting their first year of graduate study. Complete details of the Pogorzelski-Yankee Memorial Scholarships can be found on the AGO website, https://www.agohq.org/education/pogorzelski-yankee-memorial-scholarships. For more information, contact Harold Calhoun at hc@agohq.org or 212-870-2311, ext. 4318.

ARTS CALENDAR January and February, 2016

JANUARY, 2016

1/24 — 4:00 PM Scott Dettra, Organist Christ Church Cathedral 900 Broadway, Nashville

1/31 — 4:00 PM Nicholas Bergin, Organist First Presbyterian Church 4815 Franklin Pike, Nashville Music of Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, and Rogg

FEBRUARY, 2016

900 Broadway, Nashville

2/21 — 3:30 PM
Kevin Jones, Pre-Evensong concert
(First Congregational Church, Columbus, Ohio)
Solemn Choral Evensong followed by Benediction of the
Blessed Sacrament
The Cathedral Choir
Michael Velting, Canon for Music
Michael Gebhart, Assistant Organist and Choirmaster
Christ Church Cathedral

2/28 — 4:00 PM
"Requiem in D minor" – W. A. Mozart
First Presbyterian Church
4815 Franklin Pike, Nashville
Featuring the Nashville Symphony and the
FPC Sanctuary Choir

Prepared by Gayle Sullivan, Arts Calendar Chair

2016 AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 19-23, 2016 Houston, Texas

agohouston2016.com

The chapter website contains up-to-date calendar listings, as well as information for chapter meetings, substitutes, officers, and many, many other interesting and helpful items for the organist.

NASHVILLEAGO.ORG

MEMBER NEWS

We express our condolences to Mike Belote on the loss of his father, Sarah Cole on the loss of her father, Dakota Hill on the loss of his grandfather, and to the family of Marian Ross, long-time chapter member.

Mark Acker has moved to Hendersonville, North Carolina, where he is the Minister of Music at First Congregational Church (UCC). We wish Thomas Russell and his family all the best in their move to Columbia, South Carolina, where he serves as Organist and Assistant Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church.

Congratulations to Matthew Phelps, who won first place in The American Prize in Conducting: School & Community Chorus Division, 2015.

Allison Boccia Williams played a recital at Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Denver, Colorado on Sunday, December 13.

Please send contact information for prospective members to Janet Schmidt, Nashville AGO Membership Chair, janetrschmidt@gmail.com.

YEARBOOK UPDATE:

Ansley Fleetwood

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Nashville, Organist

Frances Page

500 Elmington Place, Apt. 425 Nashville, TN 37205 615-297-1101 ljpage@gmail.com

Marsha Scheusner

St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Franklin, TN, Director of Music

Dawn Seidenschwarz

4200 West End Avenue #309 Nashville, TN 37205

Music is enough for a lifetime?

Music is enough for but a lifetime is not enough for serge Rachmaninoff music

JOB OPENINGS

First Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, TN is seeking an experienced pianist who is familiar with both traditional hymns and contemporary songs of praise. Candidates would be needed to play at Sunday morning services, Sunday afternoon and Monday morning choir rehearsals, and additional special services throughout the year. Qualified individuals are invited to email or mail their qualifications to Jeffkelly@fbcgoodlettsville.com or First Baptist Church, 613 S Main St, Goodlettsville, TN 37072. For additional information, call Jeff Kelly, Minister of Music, at 615-838-9755.

First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Dalton, GA, is looking for a Director of Music and Organist for 20-25 hours per week, including weekly planning/administration as well as practice time and planning for choir rehearsal and worship service. Position may be filled by one or two people. For a complete job description, see www.firstpresdalton. org. Inquiries and application materials can be submitted to Rev. Will Scott at wscott@firstpresdalton.org.

First United Methodist Church, McMinnville, TN, has an immediate opening for an Organist for one Sunday service (10:30 AM) and Wednesday night rehearsal each week, as well as any special services during the church year. Pianists are welcome to apply on a temporary basis. Salary is negotiable. Contact Donna Campbell, Director of Music, at 931-808-8415 or Senior Pastor, James Johnson at 931-473-4419.

Glen Leven Presbyterian Church, Nashville is searching for a part-time organist/pianist for one Sunday 11:00 AM service and a Thursday night choir rehearsal at 7:00 PM each week, as well as special services, weddings, and funerals. For further information, please contact Dr. Mark S. Bryan at 615-298-5549 or cjastrow@glenleven.org.

St. James the Less Episcopal Church, Madison, TN is seeking an organist/choir director for one Sunday morning service and one Wednesday night rehearsal each week, as well as any special services during the church year. There are no Wednesday evening rehearsals in the summer months. Candidate will also assist the church in the procurement of a new pipe or electronic organ to be placed within the next 12-18 months. Salary is negotiable. Contact the Reverend Robin Courtney, Parish Priest, at 615-708-7337 or FatherCourtney@aol.com.

Prepared by Charlotte Hughes, Placement Chair

AVAILABLE SUBSTITUTES

A current list of available substitutes can be found at our Chapter Website, www.nashvilleago.org.