

Principal Pipings

August 2023, Vol. 79, Issue 1



LEXINGTON AGO

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Clif Cason

Allen Fletcher

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Dean's Message

Hello AGO Friends,

I hope you are all having a pleasant summer filled with the leisure pursuits that you enjoy. It's hard to believe that back-to-school season is upon us. With it comes our kick-off to another great year of AGO activities! Your executive committee has come up with a great program year for 2023-24. Check out the calendar of events on pages 2-3 and mark your calendars now so you won't miss anything. Our first activity comes up quickly, on September 16th. You can find all the details on page 3.

Our yearbook committee, Brian Hunt and Clif Cason, are hard at work on this year's issue which we hope to have available at our first meeting. Please send any updates to your contact information to Brian at bbhuntky@gmail.com by August 20th.

Thank you all for your support of Lexington AGO this past year. I am so happy to be serving as your dean for the upcoming year, and I hope that we can continue to be a great resource for our membership.

Jane

UPCOMING EVENTS—AGO sponsored events are in bold

Saturday, Sept. 16, 11:00 a.m.—Paris/Cynthiana Organ Crawl featuring organ and choral compositions by Lexington AGO members. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Sunday, Sept. 17, 4:00 p.m.—Holtkamp Organ Dedication Recital featuring Grant Holcomb, Jane Johnson, and Michael Rintamaa, Central Christian Church, Lexington.

Sunday, Sept. 24, 3:30 p.m.—Schuyler Robinson, organ, and Jason Dovel, trumpet, followed by 4:00 p.m. Evensong, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

October TBA—"Phantom of the Opera" silent film with organ accompaniment at the Kentucky Theatre, Lexington. Co-sponsored with Bluegrass Chapter American Theatre Organ Society.

Sunday, Oct. 8, 2:30 p.m.—Lisa Hall, organ, and Jana Flygstad, flute, Cathedral of Christ the King.

Sunday, Oct. 8, 5:00 p.m.—Lexington Chamber Chorale, Miniature MASsterpieces, Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington

Sunday, Oct. 22, 4:00 p.m.—Hymn Festival featuring Eric Wall, Central Christian Church, Lexington.

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2:30 p.m.—University of Kentucky Chorale, Jefferson Johnson, director, Cathedral of Christ the King.

Sunday, Nov. 19, 4:00 p.m.—Nathaniel Gumbs, organ recital, Central Christian Church, Lexington.

Sunday, Nov. 26, 5:00 p.m.—Lexington Chamber Chorale, Sing Noel, Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington

Monday, Nov. 29, 7:00 p.m.—Adiel Najera, trumpet, and Gabrielle Manion, accompanist, Cathedral of Christ the King, Lexington.

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 15 and 16, 8:00 p.m.—"A Cathedral Christmas", Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, Cathedral of Christ the King, Lexington.

Friday, Jan. 5, 6:00 p.m.—Twelfth Night Party, home of Jane and Bill Johnson, Lexington

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, con'd.

Sunday, March 17, 5:00 p.m.—Lexington Chamber Chorale, Miniature Masterpieces II, Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington.

Saturday, March 23—Annual Bach Marathon/Members' Recital, St. Raphael's Episcopal Church, Lexington

Saturday, April 13, time TBA—David Enlow workshop, topic TBD. Central Christian Church, Lexington

Sunday, April 14, 4:00 p.m.—David Enlow, organ recital, Central Christian Church, Lexington

Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.—Greg Zelek, organ recital, Cathedral of Christ the King, Lexington

June date TBA—Officer Installation and Spring Social, home of James and Kelleigh Humlong

For inclusion in the September newsletter calendar for local music events, please contact Jane Johnson at jhjohn@email.uky.edu. The deadline is Friday, August 25th.

LET'S TAKE A TRIP TO PARIS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH!

That sounds enticing, doesn't it? Unfortunately, a one-day trip to Paris, France would mean a non-stop flight there and back. What is more reasonable is to do some ride sharing and hear beautiful instruments in Paris and Cynthiana, KY. **The programs will be approximately forty-five minutes in length and will feature organ and choral compositions by members of our chapter. If you have a piece you would like to share, please contact Clif Cason at clif.cason@gmail.com.**

Our tour begins at 11:00 a.m. at **Annunciation Catholic Church** in Paris. **Bonnie and Kevin Crump** have served Annunciation for many years and during that time have been visionaries for a restoration of the Kilgen organ by Bradley Rule. Most recently, church members contributed to the organ fund which allowed for the organ's pedal division to be expanded with two new ranks and a Zimbelstern.

The church has graciously invited us to a luncheon in their Parish Hall following the first part of our organ tour. **Reservations for the luncheon will need to be made by Wednesday, September 6.**

After lunch, we will go to **St. Peter's Episcopal Church**. **Randy Runyon**, Organist and Choir Director, will provide a program of his organ and choral compositions on the Holtkamp/Walker organ. This is a lovely space and the organ sounds incredible.

Following these two visits, we will take a short twenty-minute drive to **Advent Episcopal Church in Cynthiana**. There we will listen to some more compositions by members of our chapter on the distinguished Jaeckel Organ built in 2006. Very few know of this hidden gem.

While our official name is the Lexington Chapter of the AGO, we are also a chapter which supports church musicians and organ aficionados in the surrounding area. Plan to attend this special event, the first of an exciting year of programs, to see and hear compositions by our members played on three incredible organs.

WANDA DEATON HONORED FOR 54 YEARS OF SERVICE AT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH article by Mariana Marye

Let there be light, is the perpetual demand of Truth and Love, changing chaos into order and discord into the music of the spheres. (Mary Baker Eddy)

An integral part of the Christian Science Church service is our music program, and our Lexington branch Church has had both organist and pianist wrapped up in one talented package for over 54 years. We have been blessed indeed to have Wanda Deaton at the keyboard these many years, working chiefly with our beautiful soprano, Virginia Bowles, plus various soloists, students and Music Committees.

Wanda was born in Columbus and grew up in Lima, Ohio, once known for its many heavy industries. Her dad drove a horse drawn dairy wagon stocked with dry ice to keep the milk cold, and at the age of 9, Wanda would help run the milk and dairy products up to – or in – the homes he serviced, then write the details in a large account book.

Wanda comes from a musical family, whose members either sang, taught or played several instruments. She began piano lessons in the 3rd grade, though her goal in life was to become a nurse. Back then, there was a height and weight stipulation for entering nursing school. Being too short to qualify, she enrolled at the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, where she studied piano for 4 years, organ and voice for 2. Graduated with a B.S. in Music, she found her way to Lexington first as a roomie with her best friend from school, later making a home here with her “hubby” Wally.

Her first job with the Fayette County Public Schools was as a beginning band and orchestra teacher at 4 elementary schools. At the time, FCPS only paid for the months teachers taught, so she needed a summer job. Word of mouth brought her to the Christian Science Church to interview for the summer; happily, this temporary position led to the start of “a beautiful friendship” still going strong after all this time!

Wanda’s church friends are delighted to recognize Wanda’s many years of devoted service to our Church, and held a celebration in her honor this summer at the Lexington Club.

Congratulations, Wanda!

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Dr. Jolan Cully Bell has joined the Lexington Chapter AGO. Cully is Staff Accompanist at Eastern Kentucky University and Director of Music/Organist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Danville. Cully lives in Harrodsburg, and his email address is jolan.bell@eku.edu. Welcome, Cully!

UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFO NOW FOR OUR YEARBOOK

It's time for a new Lexington AGO yearbook, and we want to make sure your information is correct. Please take a moment now to check your old yearbook and send any updates to your phone, address, degrees, email, and church/work to Brian Hunt at bbhuntky@gmail.com by August 20th. Thanks!

ALLEN FLETCHER RECEIVES SERVICE PLAYING CERTIFICATE

Congratulations to Allen Fletcher who was recently awarded AGO's Service Playing Certificate. Allen worked with Richard Dwyer to prepare for the exam, which he took this past spring. Allen says now it's on to the CAGO Exam!

If you've thought about trying the Service Playing Exam but don't know how to start, we are here for you! Several of our members have been working towards this certification. We have study guides and other information to help you. If you're interested, please contact Jane Johnson for more information. Maybe 2023-24 is the year we count you among our newly certified members!

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to **Lynn Vera**, who recently accepted the organist position at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Georgetown.

Kathy Egner has been named Music Director at Faith Lutheran Church, Lexington. Congratulations, Kathy!

William Webber has been named to the National Board of the American Theatre Organ Society. Bill traveled to Chicago for the ATOS National Convention, and has written an article about his experiences which you can find elsewhere in this newsletter. At the convention, our own **John Landon** was named an Honorary Member of the American Theatre Organ Society. Congratulations to Bill and John!

Continuing in the theatre organ realm, our members **Cade Dundon**, **Brian Hunt**, **Grant Holcomb**, **John Landon**, and **Lynn Vera** have served as summer organists at the Kentucky Theatre in Lexington, playing before the Summer Classic Movies series.

Thanks to **Ted Gentry**, coordinator; **Brian Hunt**, proctor; and **Mattilda Middleton** and **Richard Dwyer**, examiners, for their work in administering an AAGO exam through our Lexington Exam Center earlier this summer. **Erich Balling** and **Lisa Hall** facilitated the use of the organ at Christ Church Cathedral for the exam. This is the first exam our chapter has administered since becoming an exam center several years ago.

Erich and Kathleen Balling and **Lisa Hall** recently returned from England, where they led a choral residency for the Christ Church Cathedral Choir at Chester Cathedral. Lisa's article and pictures about the experience may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

HARPSICHORD FOR SALE

HARPSICHORD FOR SALE: 8 foot, 4 foot, buffer pull lever with knee lever which adds or removes 4 foot. Replacement strings and tuning kit included. 52 inches length x 34 inches width. Selling price same as when it was purchased in 2015: \$3,000. Contact Clif Cason at clif.cason@gmail.com.



ANNE SESSA



Lexington AGO member Anne Sessa died July 28th after a long battle with cancer. Anne had a distinguished music career as both a vocalist and choral director. She directed the Bel Canto Singers in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, for many years before moving to Lexington to be near her husband's family. Most recently she was the music director and organist at New Union Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Woodford County. A service in Anne's memory was held at New Union on August 3rd.

AGO MEMBERS ATTEND THEATRE ORGAN CONVENTION

By William Webber, CAGO

Six members of the Bluegrass Chapter (ATOS) recently attended the July convention of The American Theatre Organ Society in Chicago. More than 350 members attended the convention including organists, technicians, and enthusiasts.

Brian Hunt is not only the treasurer of the Bluegrass Chapter ATOS, he is also the current sub dean of the Lexington AGO chapter. Bill Webber is also a member of the Lexington Chapter of the AGO.

Of the many theatre pipe organs we heard while there, some were real standouts. The 5-manual 80-rank Wurlitzer at the Sanfilippo Estate was a crowd thriller with its several 32' pedal stops that softly shook the room. That performance was done by Richard Hills from England. Richard is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and a strong supporter of the work of the UK's Cinema Organ Society, to whom he serves as Musical Adviser. His lively performance on the Wurlitzer, accenting its many toy counter sounds and tonal varieties drew a standing ovation from the audience which led to an encore number.

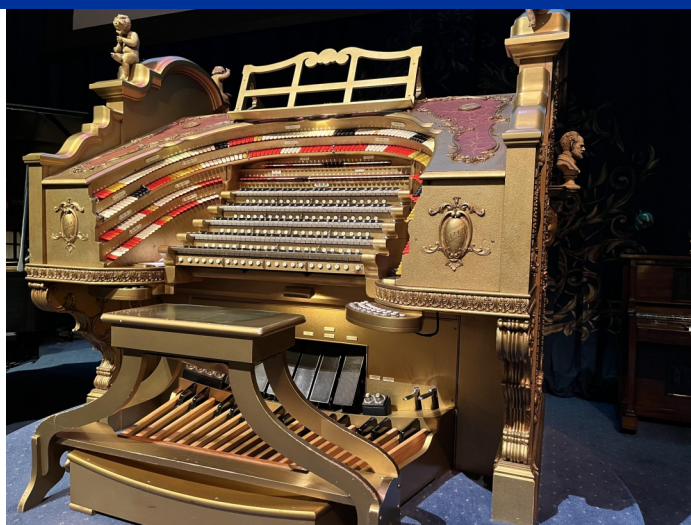
Both American organist Dave Wickerham and British organist Simon Gledhill wowed the audience at The Rialto Theater just outside Chicago. The organ is a magnificent 4-manual 27-rank Barton Grande which thrills audiences at The Rialto on a regular basis.

There were many more performances at The Mundelein Auditorium (4-manual 21-rank Wurlitzer) from Brett Valliant and Walt Strony who are theatre pipe organ distinguished performers. During lunch on our last day, we enjoyed hearing Zach Frame on the 3-manual, 30 rank Wurlitzer at Organ Pipe Pizza.



After seven days, it was great to get back home to Kentucky. We arrived both tired and grateful for hearing and seeing some of these outstanding theatre pipe organs and their wonderful performers.

Photos: 5/80 Wurlitzer in the grand theatre at the Sanfilippo Estate (above); 4/27 Barton Grande at The Rialto Theatre (left).



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHORAL RESIDENCY IN CHESTER

The Christ Church Cathedral Choir (Lexington, Kentucky) traveled to Chester, England to sing for a choral residency at Chester Cathedral from Monday, July 10 through Sunday, July 16. The Choir, under the direction of Canon Musician, Erich Balling and Assistant Choirmaster, Kathleen Balling, sang all the services for Chester Cathedral: leading and singing Choral Evensong every day, Monday through Friday and Sunday afternoon, as well as a Choral Eucharist on Sunday morning. Each day consisted of morning and afternoon choral rehearsals, hours of organ practice, focused preparation, beautiful historical places, ethereal worship, reverent prayer, and excellent music.

The Choir enjoyed short outings each day to historical places following their morning rehearsal, while my schedule for each day was preparation for the service that day. I spent late mornings and early afternoons practicing in the song school on a two-manual Allen digital organ. I also marked music with specific stops and registrations for the pieces. Mid-afternoon was my time in the Cathedral organ loft, finalizing the registrations and final practice right before our Evensong rehearsal and service.

The Chester Cathedral organ is an exciting and dramatic instrument to play! Built in 1876 by Charles Whiteley and rebuilt in 1910 and 1976, the 70-rank organ has many choices of color and depth. The organ has a sturdy but gentle touch with a warm, wide, and strong sound that fills the Cathedral. The four-manual organ is divided into three sections: the pedal division in the north transept, the choir division in the Quire, and the great, swell, and solo divisions making up the main organ above the console. As I got to know the exquisite organ and its secrets, I could be creative and artistic to create beautiful sounds and colors to accompany the choir to support them in their stunning singing throughout the week.

On Wednesday of our tenure there, I also was able to play on a four-stop chamber organ, built in 2019. While it is a newer organ, the luscious sound, velvety touch, and slightly shorter keys transported me back to the 17th century. Using both of these wonderful instruments to play and accompany the choir with ageless music in an ancient, historical place filled with timelessness was absolutely incredible and an amazing honor.

Our Chester Cathedral choral residency and tour was an unforgettable trip for the choir, music staff, clergy, chaperones, and parents. The daily life of the week was so covered in God's presence. We were there for His mission, to spread His Word and Truth through music. With community and friendship, we accomplished that mission by striving for excellence in music, giving 100% of ourselves to our music, and focusing on the daily leading of worship. Being able to lead, play and sing for worship in such an ancient Cathedral created a connection to God and to history in a profound way. We were honored and blessed to be a part of Chester Cathedral's history and musical tradition!

To watch our services that we led, you can visit the Chester Cathedral YouTube Channel and find the dates when we were there under the live tab:
<https://youtube.com/@ChesterCathedralChoirandOrgan>

Lisa Hall, *Assistant Cathedral Organist, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, Kentucky*





Photo captions, clockwise from above: Lisa in the organ loft; organ loft door and stairs; cathedral organ console. Photo on facing page: Christ Church Cathedral choir and music staff.





Photo captions from top left: Back of the Main Organ; Chamber Organ in the Quire; Close-up of the Chamber Organ; Pedal Division in the North Transept.

COMING EVENTS

GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral
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DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WHO LOVES TO SING?

The Boys and Girls Choirs at Christ Church Cathedral are now accepting enrollment for the 2023-24 season!

Choristers will receive a free, world-class after-school musical education. Through rehearsals, private lessons, performances, and fellowship, choristers learn confidence, empathy and teamwork while building musicianship to last a lifetime. Choir begins in September.

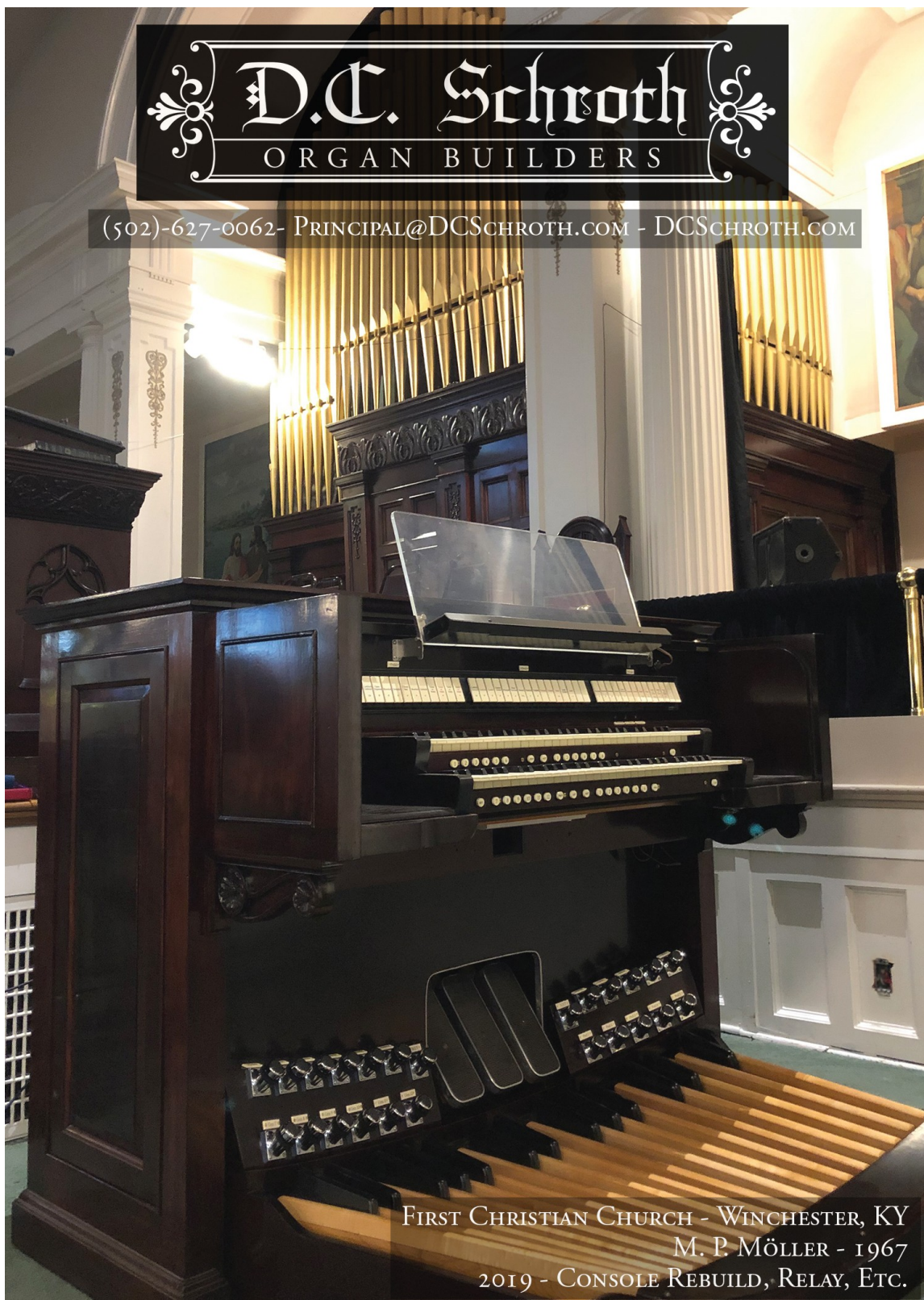
The Boys and Girls Choirs are associated with the Royal School of Church Music, which promotes excellence in church music across the globe through its graduated standards, courses, and educational materials.



Choir is open to children of all faiths, for girls, ages 8-17, and boys, ages 8 through voice change.

For more information or to set up an audition, please contact Canon Musician, Erich Balling at eballing@cccllex.org or Associate Choirmaster, Kathleen Balling at kballing@cccllex.org.

SPONSORS



EVENSONG & RECITAL
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DURUFLÉ REQUIEM
NOVEMBER 6, 2022 - 5P

LESSONS & CAROLS
DECEMBER 18, 2022 - 5P

DURUFLÉ ORGAN WORKS I
FEBRUARY 4, 2023 - 7P

**ALICIA HELM MCCORVEY
& FRIENDS**
MARCH 26, 2023 - 3P

EVENSONG & RECITAL
MAY 7, 2023 - 3P

DURUFLÉ ORGAN WORKS II
MAY 20, 2023 - 7P

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COME & SING EVENSONG**
JUNE 4, 2023 - 3P



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GREAT MUSIC

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2022-2023



Concerts & Evensongs

3:30pm Concert

4:00pm Evensong with the Cathedral Choirs

September 25

March 5

November 6

May 21

February 5

Friday, December 2

7:30pm George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*
Part One and the Hallelujah Chorus
with the Cathedral Choir

For ticket reservations, visit www.ccclex.org/messiah



Sunday, December 18

7:00pm A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
with the Cathedral Choir

Tuesday, December 20

Noon A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten
Rachel Renee Miller, harp
The Cathedral Girls Choir



Sunday, January 15

4:00pm Nicole Keller, organ



Palm Sunday, April 2

4:00pm Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*
with the Cathedral Choir

Please visit www.ccclex.org/music to view the complete list of events.



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	8 Trumpet	
	Tremolo	
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Pedal 30		



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DIVERTIMENTO

IF ORGANISTS WROTE THE WEDDING COLUMNS

On Saturday the 3rd of August, at well after the stated time of 2:00 p.m., Ann Jones and Bob Smith were married at Our Lady of Sorry Acoustics. The groom wore a suit and the bride wore a dress. The organist's shoes, in tasteful black, were by Organmaster. The organ is a rebuild of a Harvey Piston Shotz VI of a 2m Whisk which contains pipe work from the original Ox tracker that existed before the tragic fire. The Harmonic Flute is to die for and the Cor Anglais is like buttah, but the combination action is unreliable.

There were attendants all over the place but the organist still only got three quarters of the way through the 'Prince of Denmark's March', with no repeats, ending on the dominant. The 8' Tuba stop was the central feature of the processional; this could be seen on the smiling faces of everyone in attendance.

After a few minutes of some speaking by some clergy-type, the organist played the first four phrases of the Schubert "Ave Maria" (in E-flat) on the Gemshorn 8' while the couple did something.

Later, the bride's sister's best friend's adopted niece breathily sang "The Wedding Song" from the balcony, without interludes (even though the organist left them in). This didn't matter because she used the microphone, obliterating the subtle chuff of the Gedeckt 8'.

The recessional was the Mendelssohn, played on a satisfying plenum. It was played in ABABA form to fit the length of the movement. The guests talked throughout the postlude, but the organist added stops as the noise level increased, masterfully maneuvering each draw knob, coupler and reversible WITHOUT MISSING A SINGLE NOTE OF THE WIDOR! This noble feat did not go unnoticed by the congregation, as attested to by audible sighs of relief which were heard as soon as the music stopped.

The bride and groom went to college somewhere, but they did not take any music appreciation courses. After their honeymoon they plan to blend into suburbia, where the highlight of each year will undoubtedly be the replay of their wedding video and reliving each musical moment.