

Principal Pipings

December 2023/January 2024, Vol. 79, Issue 5



LEXINGTON AGO

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Dean's Message

Hello AGO Friends,

Greetings of the season! Wow—how did it get to be December so fast? I hope all of your services and performances go well, and that you'll have some time to relax soon.

Speaking of which, Bill and I are happy to invite you to our home for some social time at our Twelfth Night Party on Friday, January 5th, 6:30-9:00 pm. The 1927 Estey will be available for any of you who'd like to play so bring your music and shoes! We'll also have the little harpsichord tuned and ready to make some music. All the details are elsewhere in this newsletter. We hope to see you there!

There are so many activities upcoming, you'll want to check the calendar on pages 2-3 of this newsletter and mark your calendars so you won't miss anything. And don't forget to bring a friend.

With the arrival of the holiday season, many of you are working overtime to prepare the best music possible for your congregations and audiences. Through your efforts, you are fulfilling the mission of the Guild by enriching people's lives with your organ and choral music. Thank you, and Merry Christmas! See you in the New Year!

Jane

UPCOMING EVENTS—AGO sponsored events are in bold

Sunday, Dec. 10, 4:00 p.m.—Blue Christmas with Pleasant Company, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington.

Sunday, Dec. 10, 7:00 p.m.—The Organ Works of Cesar Franck Part 2; Rob Vanover, organist; Centenary Church, 2800 Tates Creek Road, Lexington.

Sunday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.—Christmas Oratorio BWV 248, Parts IV, V, and VI; Kentucky Bach Choir; First Presbyterian Church, Lexington.

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

Sunday, Dec. 17, 5:00 p.m.—Lessons and Carols, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 5:00 p.m.—Messiah Part One and Hallelujah; Baroque ensemble, soloists, and Chancel Choir; First United Methodist Church, Frankfort.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m.—A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Cathedral Choir, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington.

Wednesday, Dec. 20, noon—A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

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

Thursday, Jan. 11, 12:05 p.m.—Brenda Portman Organ Concert, Christ Church, Glendale, 965 Forest Avenue, Glendale OH

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 12:15 p.m.—Michael Delfin, Harpsichord; Trinity Episcopal Church, 16 East Fourth Street, Covington KY

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.—Nathan Laube, organ, with Christopher Pell, clarinet; Cincinnati Museum Center, 1301 Western Avenue, Cincinnati OH

Sunday, Jan. 28, 3:00 p.m.—Jonathan Ryan Organ Concert; Christ Church Cathedral, 318 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati OH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, con'd.

Friday, Feb. 2, 7:00 p.m.—Choir Cabaret; Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington.

Sunday, Feb. 4, 3:30 p.m.—Gabrielle Manion Wrighton, organ, followed by Evensong with the Cathedral Choir; Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington.

Sunday, Feb. 4, 4:00 p.m.—Alan Fletcher Organ Concert; Hunter Presbyterian Church, Lexington. A \$10 ticket donation is suggested with proceeds going to Hunter's music program.

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

Sunday, March 24, 4:00 p.m.—Gabriel Faure's Requiem, Christ Church Cathedral, 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

Sunday, April 21, 3:30 p.m.—Robert Bozeman and Lisa Lewis, organ duo, followed by Evensong with the Cathedral Choir, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington.

Thursday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.—Ascension Day Evensong, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington.

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

Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.—SCAPA Madrigal Singers, Ryan Marsh, conductor; Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington.

Sunday, May 19, 3:30 p.m.—Rachel Renee Miller, harp, followed by Evensong with the Cathedral Choir; Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington.

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

For inclusion in the February newsletter calendar for local music events, please contact Jane Johnson at jhjohn@email.uky.edu. The deadline is Friday, January 19th.

KENTUCKY BACH CHOIR



On Sunday, December 10th, the Kentucky Bach Choir presents the final three cantatas of Bach's Christmas Oratorio. The concert is at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington at 7:30 pm.

As J.S. Bach said: "The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul." And who among us could not benefit from our soul being refreshed these days?

Please join us, and welcome our new Artistic Director, Richard Waters. The program begins with an organ piece by JSB performed by Schuyler Robinson, followed by a short motet by Felix Mendelssohn, who was, of course, hugely important in reviving interest in Bach's music in the 19th century. We conclude with the final three cantatas of Bach's "Christmas Oratorio". Soloists are Chloe Boelter, soprano (winner of our most recent Audrey Rooney Vocal Competition); Melissa Snow-Groves, mezzo-soprano; Dylon Crain, tenor/Evangelist; and Jeremy Kelly, bass.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

We welcome Bailey Yates as a new member of the Lexington chapter! Bailey is professor of Violin and Viola at Berea College. He is available for lessons, recitals, weddings, church services, and other special events. Bailey may be reached at yatesviolin98@gmail.com, or 859-533-4506.

CELEBRATE TWELFTH NIGHT WITH YOUR AGO FRIENDS!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 6:30-9:00 P.M.
 AT THE HOME OF JANE & BILL JOHNSON
 3456 BELVOIR DRIVE, LEXINGTON

It's party time! Kick back after the busy holiday season at our Twelfth Night Party. Lexington AGO will provide the main dish; you provide a side dish or dessert. It will be a great time to just relax and enjoy each other's company. We'll also have some open console time at the 1927 Estey, so bring your music and shoes. And the little harpsichord will be tuned in case anyone wants to try some harpsichord/organ duets.

Please RSVP by January 2nd to Jane (jhjohn@email.uky.edu, or 859-277-0327). We hope to see you there!

MEMBER NEWS

Mark de Alba will be available to sub on the evening of December 24 and on Christmas Day. Contact him at markd@lexcentral.com or (859) 407-0716.

Allen Fletcher will present an organ recital on Sunday, Feb. 4th at 4:00 p.m. at Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden in Lexington. Suggested ticket donation is \$10 with proceeds going to the Hunter Presbyterian music program.

ADULT PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER COMING TO CHATTANOOGA

The Chattanooga Chapter AGO will be hosting a Pipe Organ Encounter for Adults, June 9-14, 2024, in Chattanooga. A POE+ is open to organists ranging from beginners (proficient pianists who will learn the basics of organ playing) to advanced who are 19 years or older. This is an opportunity for organists to improve their practical skills at the organ, regardless of level. Participants will have daily lessons and practice on a variety of instruments, including a 94-rank Casavant, a 52-rank Aeolian-Skinner, a 14-rank 1889 A.B. Felgemaker, among others. There will be workshops on accompanying, hymn playing, and other organ skills. A visit to the Richards, Fowkes and Co. pipe organ builders shop, and daily evening concerts by the teaching faculty are among other highlights of the week. Hotel accommodations at a discounted rate are offered at DoubleTree by Hilton Chattanooga Downtown, \$124/night plus \$8/night parking.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, more information can be found at <https://www.agochattanooga.org/poeplus/> or on the national AGO website. Space to participate is very limited, so anyone wishing to attend should make plans early! Early bird registration is available until April 9th at \$425. The final registration deadline is May 9th.

MUSIC RETURNS TO CINCINNATI UNION TERMINAL ORGAN

Several Lexington AGO members headed to Cincinnati the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 29th to hear the return of music from the 1929 E.M. Skinner organ in the rotunda of the magnificent Cincinnati Union Terminal.

Isabelle Demers presented a fantastic program, including transcriptions of John Williams' *Harry Potter Suite* and Stravinski's *The Firebird Suite*. She also collaborated with saxophonist Rick VanMatre on Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez for Guitar and Orchestra*. The program was rounded out by *Three Impromptus* by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Vierne's *Scherzo and Final from Symphony No. 1*, and *Berceuse Mariale from Sonata No. 1* by Rachel Laurin.



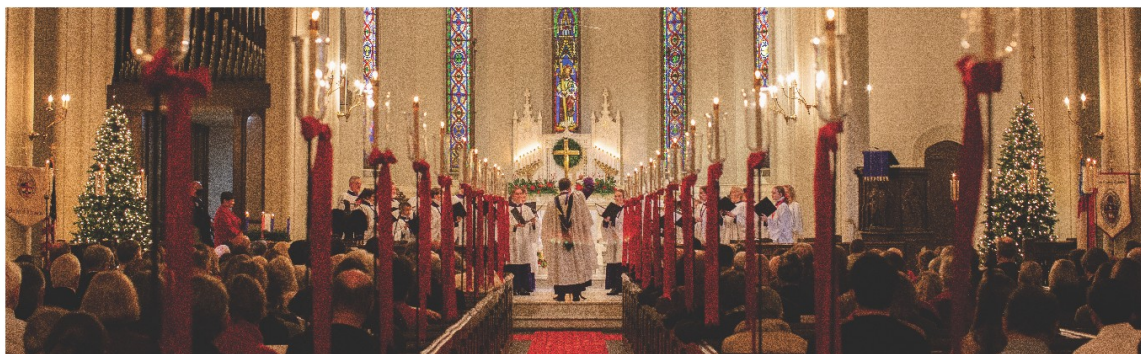
After the program, Lexington AGO members visited with Pipedreams host Michael Barone, who is celebrating 40 years of the syndicated NPR show. Below, L to R, David Schroth, Bill Johnson, Jane Johnson, Brian Hunt, Michael Barone, and Larry Sharp.



COMING EVENTS

GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral
December 2023



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00pm

Preludes at 6:30pm



A Ceremony of Carols

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Noon

A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten

The Cathedral Girls Choir

Rachel Renee Miller, harp

Please visit our website www.ccclex.org/music for more information on the Cathedral Choir, Great Music Series, and Friends of Cathedral Music.



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GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral
2023-2024



Concerts & Evensongs

3:30pm Concert

4:00pm Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

September 24 April 21

November 5 May 19

February 4

Friday, December 1

7:30pm George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*
with the Cathedral Choir

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



Sunday, December 17

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

Wednesday, December 20

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



Palm Sunday, March 24

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



Please visit our website ccclex.org/music for more information on the Cathedral Choir, Great Music Series, and Friends of Cathedral Music.

Central Christian Church is delighted to debut our newly renovated and enhanced Holtkamp Pipe Organ. For information about monthly special events, from September through June, please visit centralchristianlex.org or our Facebook page.

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HYMNATHON

AUGUST 27, 2023
11:15 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

**ORGAN CONCERT
BY DAVID BRIGGS**

OCTOBER 7, 2023 - 7:30 P.M.

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.

LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 17, 2023 - 5:00 P.M.

CHOIR CABARET

FEBRUARY 2, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

ASCENSION DAY EVENSONG

MAY 9, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.



DR. MATTILDA MIDDLETON
ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

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- 3. This Is Modern And Everyone Will Hate It*
- 4. Oh God, Not This One Again*
- 5. A Half-Decent New Piece Composed By Someone Who Knows The Choir*
- 6. Please Kill Me Now So I Don't Have To Sing This*
- 7. Something With Angels In The Title*
- 8. One That Classic FM Featured This Year*
- 9. John Rutter*
- 10. A Willcocks Descant*
- 11. Hark the Herald*

