

# Principal Pipings

January 2021, Vol. 76, Issue 6



## Dean's Message

Hello AGO friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you all survived the holiday season and are now enjoying some much-deserved rest and relaxation. Our virtual [Christmas Pipes concert](#) was a rousing success! It has been viewed by nearly 200 people from all across the country. Thanks to everyone who participated, and special thanks to Lynn Vera for putting all our videos together into such a beautiful and entertaining product.

Now your Executive Committee is looking ahead to the rest of this program year and is starting to compile ideas for 2021-22. Since we haven't really had much of a chance to celebrate our chapter's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we will bill next year as our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary plus one! Hopefully we will be able to celebrate it properly once the Covid-19 vaccine is widely available. Until that time, we are being cautious about gathering. It pains me to tell you that our planned activities for February and March have been cancelled. It's not possible to have a Pedals, Pipes and Pizza program for young students when most of them are not even back to in-person school yet. So we will try again next year for this worthwhile activity. Recitalist Marcelo Giannini had already cancelled his planned trip to the U.S. because of the pandemic. And the Executive Committee has also decided to cancel our March choral and organ reading session, since our planned venue is not yet allowing outside activities. However, the EC has come up with some different virtual programming that we hope you will enjoy. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter. I look forward to continuing to navigate this very strange time with you all.

Jane

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# Upcoming AGO Events

Your Executive Committee has come up with a terrific slate of chapter events which we hope we will be able to hold, particularly during this, our 75th anniversary year. Watch your upcoming chapter newsletters for updates on these and other area programs as we continue to cope with Covid-19 and its impact on the arts.

<p>Saturday, 02.13.21 9:30am – 1pm EST</p>	<p><b>Virtual February Flourish 2021</b> Sponsored by the St. Louis and Gateway Confluence Chapters of the AGO. (More information under “Announcements”, next page.)</p> <p><b>*** Our previously-scheduled February events have been canceled due to the pandemic: the <i>Marcelo Giannini</i> concert and <i>Pedals, Pipes and Pizza</i>. ***</b></p>
<p>March Newsletter</p>	<p><b>NEW! Portable Pipes: “Celtic Celebration”</b> (More information under “Announcements”, next page.)</p> <p><b>*** The in-person <i>Choral and Organ Reading Session</i> has been changed to a virtual event in April. ***</b></p>
<p>April Virtual Event</p>	<p><b>NEW! Video: Easter-Themed Choral and Organ Reading Session</b> (More information under “Announcements”, next page.)</p>
<p>Saturday, 04.17.21 12:00pm</p>	<p><b>Elizabeth George, Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development, AGO National Headquarters</b> Location TBA</p>
<p>Friday, 05.21.21 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>Katie Minion Scheetz Recital</b> Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington</p>

For inclusion in the newsletter calendar for local music events, please contact Lynn Vera at [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com) by the 20th of the month prior to the month of publication. Due to space limitations, events will be listed for the current and following month. Events beyond that timeframe can be found on our website: [www.agolexington.org](http://www.agolexington.org).

# Announcements

## ***FEBRUARY FLOURISH: A Virtual Church Music Conference!***

The **St. Louis Chapter of the AGO** has invited us to their virtual **February Flourish** on Saturday, February 13, 2021. This Virtual Church Music Conference promises to be an interesting and helpful experience for Church Musicians, Organists, Singers, Bell Ringers, and anyone who appreciates sacred music. The speakers for the five pre-recorded seminars have a great deal of valuable information to share. Those recordings will be made available for viewing on February 4; watching them before the live Zoom gatherings on the 13th is strongly encouraged.



The live Zoom discussions with the presenters on February 13 between 9:30 a.m. and 1pm (EST) will uplift and enlighten. Of course, there will be AGO news and happenings, some fine organ music to listen to, and even a few moments to chat on Zoom between sessions.

In order to make this event available to as many people as possible, the registration fee is just \$10. Registration is now open via Eventbrite at [www.eventbrite.com/e/february-flourish-tickets-128018317233](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/february-flourish-tickets-128018317233).

Updates and a registration link can be found on the Saint Louis Chapter website: <https://www.agostlouis.org/february-flourish/>

Their Facebook page is here: <https://www.facebook.com/agostlouis/>

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## **Your Input is Requested for the March Newsletter “Event”: a special “Celtic Celebration” edition of “Portable Pipes”**

YouTube and other music video websites have expanded to the point where there's almost nothing you can't find! Please submit a video link of your favorite Celtic piece to Lynn Vera for the March newsletter. It does not have to be organ music! These links will be featured in an expanded version of “Portable Pipes” in the March newsletter. If you can't find it, tell Lynn what you're looking for and she will search in more obscure websites. Her email address is [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com).

## April Virtual “Event”: Choral and Organ Reading Session

The success of our [2020 Christmas Pipes member recital video](#) has inspired another video “event”! Our Choral and Organ Reading Session that was to happen in March is being rescheduled as a virtual event for April, now with an Easter theme. Lynn Vera again will collect your individual videos and images and create a full-length video to be released on or before Easter Sunday.

More information and deadlines will be provided in the February newsletter, but it’s not too early to get started! Please start to think about what Easter pieces you’d like to share with our Chapter. As the event title suggests, the pieces can be choral and/or organ. Lynn Vera is now collecting the names of your pieces. Please email Lynn at [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com). In the event of duplicate submissions, the first person to submit a piece will be the presenter.

Each piece presented in the Reading Session video will include multiple components:

- A video of your presentation of the piece, as you would have shared at the in-person workshop
- a video performance of the piece
- an image of you
- if possible, an image of your church in all its Easter glory! (may use images from previous years)

We look forward to a very joyful Easter celebration video that will newly inspire our choices of Easter music in the coming years!

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### A Contest from the Editor!



A few years ago I snapped this photo and digitally decorated the casework for Easter. The first person to correctly identify the church and the organ will win a special (small!) prize. Please email Lynn Vera at [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com).

# Member News

We express our sincere condolences to **Barbara Rogers** on the death of her husband, Dr. Richard Weis. Dr. Weis was the Dean and Professor Emeritus of Hebrew Bible at Lexington Theological Seminary. A donation has been sent from Lexington AGO to The Nature Conservancy in his memory.

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**Zach Klobnak** put together a wonderful virtual program of Christmas music as part of The Presbyterian Church of Danville's Music on Main Street concert series. Zach, **Grant Holcomb**, **Lisa Hall**, **Anna Pan** and **Mattilda Middleton** all participated in **Christmas from Around the World**, which aired December 20<sup>th</sup> on the church's YouTube channel. It may still be viewed at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V\\_WmyFBaGnU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_WmyFBaGnU)

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Some of you will remember **Michael Parrish**, who was organist at Broadway Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church before he and his wife **Alice** moved to the Washington, D.C. area where he served several congregations. We are sorry to report that Michael died on December 14<sup>th</sup> after a series of strokes. Alice's email address is [alicecparish@gmail.com](mailto:alicecparish@gmail.com), if you would like to contact her with your sympathies.

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*If you have any member news that you would like to report, please email it to  
Jane Johnson: [jhjohn@email.uky.edu](mailto:jhjohn@email.uky.edu)*

## What Did You Do During the Pandemic??

By Brian Hunt, Subdean

Surely all of us remember those first days of a new school year when our teacher asked us to write about "what I did on my summer vacation" ... well 2020 presented with a variation on that task - the likes of which, few, if any of us, have ever lived through! As Jane Johnson and I were talking about ideas for our January communication - in absence of a program, I suggested that we solicit ideas to find out how our members are spending their time during the COVID 19 pandemic. The following bits of news were received from our chapter folks to give us an idea of how to make lemonade out of lemons!

From chapter member, **Bill Webber** – he writes:

*I have been doing two main things during this time. I have been practicing the final three songs (my own arrangements, including "My Old Kentucky Home") in preparation for recording them on the Robert Morton organ at The Carolina Theater. And I have been working with progressive United Methodists on future plans following our denomination's upcoming likely church split in August, 2021.*

**Gwen Frazier** has recently moved back to Kentucky from Virginia with her husband, **Don**. They are getting settled in a new town home in the Versailles area. Gwen sent in the following:

*Since before Covid took hold of our country in mid-March, we have been observing the respective mandates of Don/my respective church employments and while Don was able to socially distance in playing for his Church, I had been active with recording both organ and piano rep and accompaniments for choir anthems, hymns thru our last Sundays Aug 30/Sept. 6.*

*Since last year & early Feb. we have been involved with downsizing our small home, various home improvement mode/house selling preps, and this summer doing serious packing. We are now still unpacking boxes, and we have barely started to file quite a few boxes of music scores when we can get up the momentum, and right now still unpacking within our new place in Versailles from when we moved in - 9/11 - an unfortunately auspicious & dubious a date, but a joyful one in many respects.....*

*Other activities we have been involved with Covid-time are my taking Renaissance Italian art/architecture survey class via OLLI in Sept. Oct & Don/I are taking a Windows 10 filing and computer file organization class via OLLI and catching up with Schuyler Robinson (Master's work in mid-'80's) and other mutual KY friends/colleagues, AGO friends, and finding what has been happening with the "Anglican movement" in Lexington for the past 10+ years (I just started to serve as interim organist at Apostles Anglican).*

*Don is continuing to get acquainted with Central KY/environs, Lexington's AGO Chapter (he was a member/officer of the Greater Kansas City AGO Chapter for many years and is an organist/pianist as well as being a retired SW tester, an Electrical Engineer and post-retirement*

income tax preparer) and both of us are glad to be residing in Kentucky again! We are trying to establish an all-new schedule for us since being in northern in VA for 30+ years - - - Don/I are looking forward to getting together for future chapter get-togethers & getting to know many more of you & re-establishing friendships when it is safe to do so - so you all please keep safe as well.  
- Don and Gwen Frazier, CAGO's

Our Dean, **Jane Johnson**, has been busy in her early stage of retirement- she and husband Bill have been making their own way in the land of travel – in perhaps one of the safest ways possible – pulling their own trailer! She tells of their adventures here:



During 2020, aside from all the recording necessary for virtual church services, I have gotten more into birding. I've always enjoyed birds, and find that the hobby is perfect for staying socially distanced while enjoying the outdoors. Lexington has some wonderful parks that Bill and I have explored, and we have seen birds that a year ago we had never heard of. I have a new camera with a long zoom lens so I'm able to get some decent photos of the birds we see, too. We had to cancel our planned trips for the year but have been able to take our RV trailer to a small campground on the Ohio River for several short get-aways. The birding is good there, too!

Our Chapter Treasurer, **Anna Pan**, sends this:

*Regarding what I have been doing lately: Lately, I have been trying to find organ pieces that are suitable for the Advent and also uplifting and comforting.*

Our amazing Internet/Communications member **Lynn Vera** has also had some new life changes. Her reflection is shown here:

*Going into 2020 I anticipated an exciting year of change. I looked forward to retirement and a wonderful year of travel, beginning with accompanying my husband to a science conference in Shanghai. Eight other trips also were planned: four more conferences in the US (including the AGO National Convention, my first time being able to attend), a trip to Seattle to visit my daughter in her new home and explore the Pacific Northwest, and shorter trips to see family from Maine to Florida. However, as I watched the world news in January it became increasingly apparent that I needed to come up with Plan B, as did the rest of the world.*

*Coming up with Plan B was a challenge at first, but I was in the fortunate position of being able to focus on what I wanted to do, without concern for anyone else. For years I had wanted an organ at home. Why not now? Yes!!! I acquired a small Allen studio organ and have spent the last eight months learning about the theatre organ, taking lessons from Dr. John Landon (a fantastic*

teacher!), and doing a lot of reading, listening, practicing and learning new repertoire. I would not trade this experience for anything!

In retrospect I think that musicians are uniquely well-suited for Social Distancing because of the countless hours we spent in practice rooms in our younger years. 2020 presented me with the opportunity to revisit some blissful aspects of my college experience, at a much more relaxed pace and in the comfort of my own home. It was an unexpected gift of time, at a time when so many have lost time and family members to this horrible pandemic. I am blessed and very grateful.

And yours truly has been trying to find ways to stay busy:

This is my first year of retirement- and naturally, a number of things I wanted to do – ya can't do! Air travel felt unwise for Cathy & me.. and that was especially hard in that our first grandchild arrived in February 2020! Thankfully, we were able to go to WA state and visit our daughter, husband, and grandson right after he was born- but since then, have done a LOT of Face Time!! Many of our other travel plans - including attending the National Theater Organ Convention - and family trip to Myrtle Beach were both cancelled 😞 . I had wanted to do some volunteer work with the Lexington Public Library- but they are still not allowing volunteers to assist at this time - So... we've been busy - remodeling! We re-did our deck in June and did a fairly complete renovation of half our basement in December. Here are a couple of pics from those projects!





*We may have blown our future travel budget, but our house has certainly been 'improved' over the summer and fall now!! Oh... and our daughter's boyfriend and I built a shed for our backyard - and... I had a knee replacement in September!!*

*Here's hoping all of you have had your own ways of coping with cabin fever and such during the pandemic. May we have a much brighter outlook and way ahead in 2021!!*

Brian Hunt





**by Dr. Ted Gentry, Lexington AGO Chapter Historian**

The newsletter in the chapter's early years was titled the *Guild Quarterly* and was distributed to members at regular meetings. Then, as now, many AGO members missed meetings, so in 1958 the chapter decided to begin mailing it to the membership. Mailing the chapter newsletter became the norm until most members became regular email users in recent years.



*Melvin Dickinson*  
Image from *The Diapason*  
March 20, 2014

Melvin Dickinson, a well-known Kentucky musician and founder of the Louisville Bach Society, was a student member of the Lexington Chapter during the late 50s. He earned bachelor's and master's from UK. As a student, he played a recital for the chapter at the March meeting in 1958 at Memorial Hall featuring works by Telemann, Pachelbel, Langlais, Brahms, and finishing with Alain's Litanies. Months later Melvin left for Europe to study on a Fulbright Scholarship.

To end the Spring 1958 program year, the Chapter met at Capps Coach House for dinner and a lecture by Harvey Davis, music professor at Transylvania University. He spoke on the "Present State of Church Music in America." He noted that it "is not at the level that it should be and that in many places the idea is that church music is just entertainment." His presentation concluded with spirited discussion among the members on how to address their concerns. Mr. Davis strongly encouraged choir directors to use "modern" composers like Ralph Vaughn Williams and Benjamin Britten. Several members complained that many congregants just don't like good music. I wonder what they would think about the state of church music in 2021!



## A Virtual Concert Series for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

During this time of social isolation many of us are sorely missing live organ performances. Every month during our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program year we'll present a set of video links of organ performances selected according to various themes. To watch the videos do a Ctrl + Click on each blue link.

~~ "New Year" + "Hope" ~~

**"New Year Fanfare"** written and performed by **Wolff von Roos**  
on the Möller organ of National City Christian Church in Washington D.C.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzVP5fg92xo>

A slow and dramatic rendition of **"The Cold Song" of Vivaldi's "Winter"**  
Performed by **Xaver Varnus** at St. Ladislaus' Church in Budapest  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=205VbtMOODA>

**"Song of Hope"** written and played by **Kay Johannsen**  
Stiftskirche Stuttgart (organ by Mühleisen, IV/81).  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqUpWHkJurg>

**"Land of Hope and Glory"** by Edward Elgar arr. Bert Koelewijn  
Played by **Marko Hakanpää** at the Grönlund organ of St. Michael's Church in Turku,  
Finland.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsyolkSTtqE>

February's theme is **"Love"**. Please email your submissions for the February newsletter to  
Lynn Vera at [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com).

# Concerts

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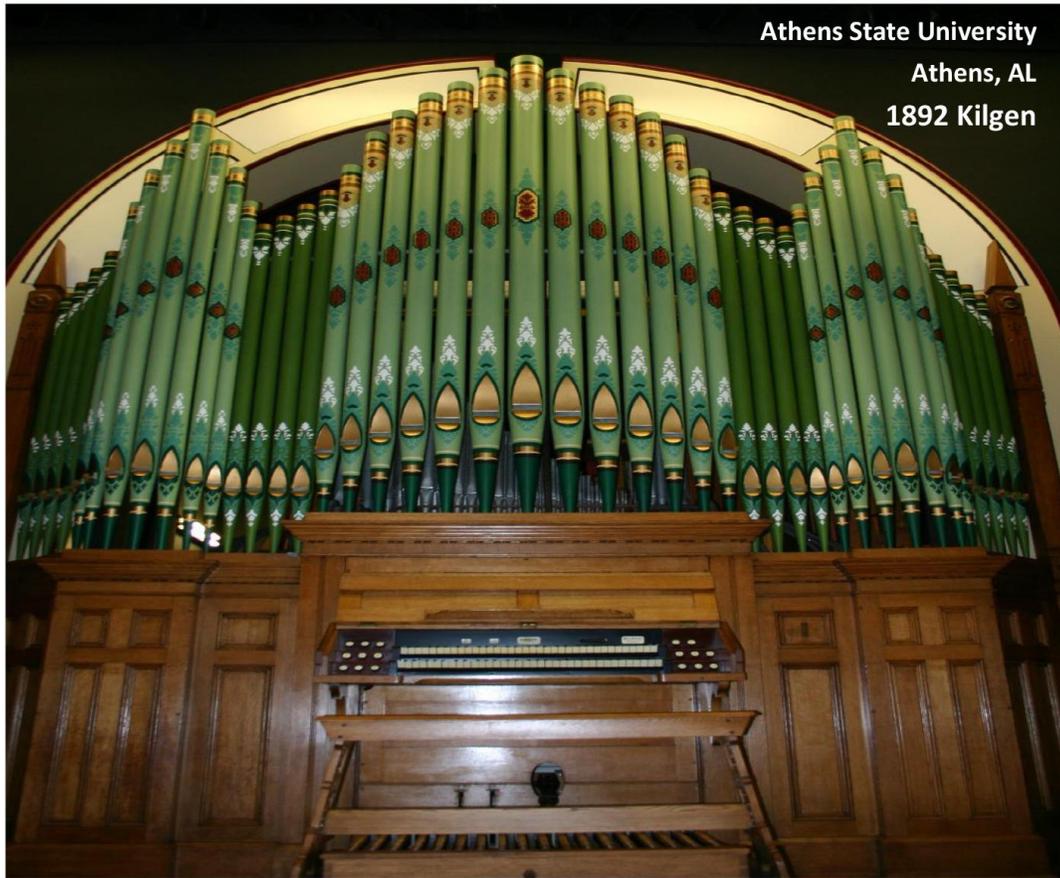
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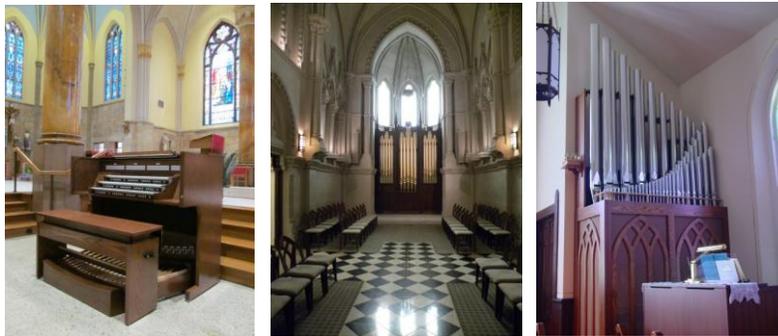
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# GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral



## Evensongs

*Digital Presentations*

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Sunday, October 11, 2020

*All Souls Evensong*

Sunday, November 1, 2020

4:00pm

The Cathedral Choir

## Concerts

*Digital Presentations*

Sunday, October 18, 2020

4:00pm

Concert with Katharine Dain, soprano



Sunday, November 15, 2020

4:00pm

Organ Concert with Maxine Thévenot

The Cathedral of St. John

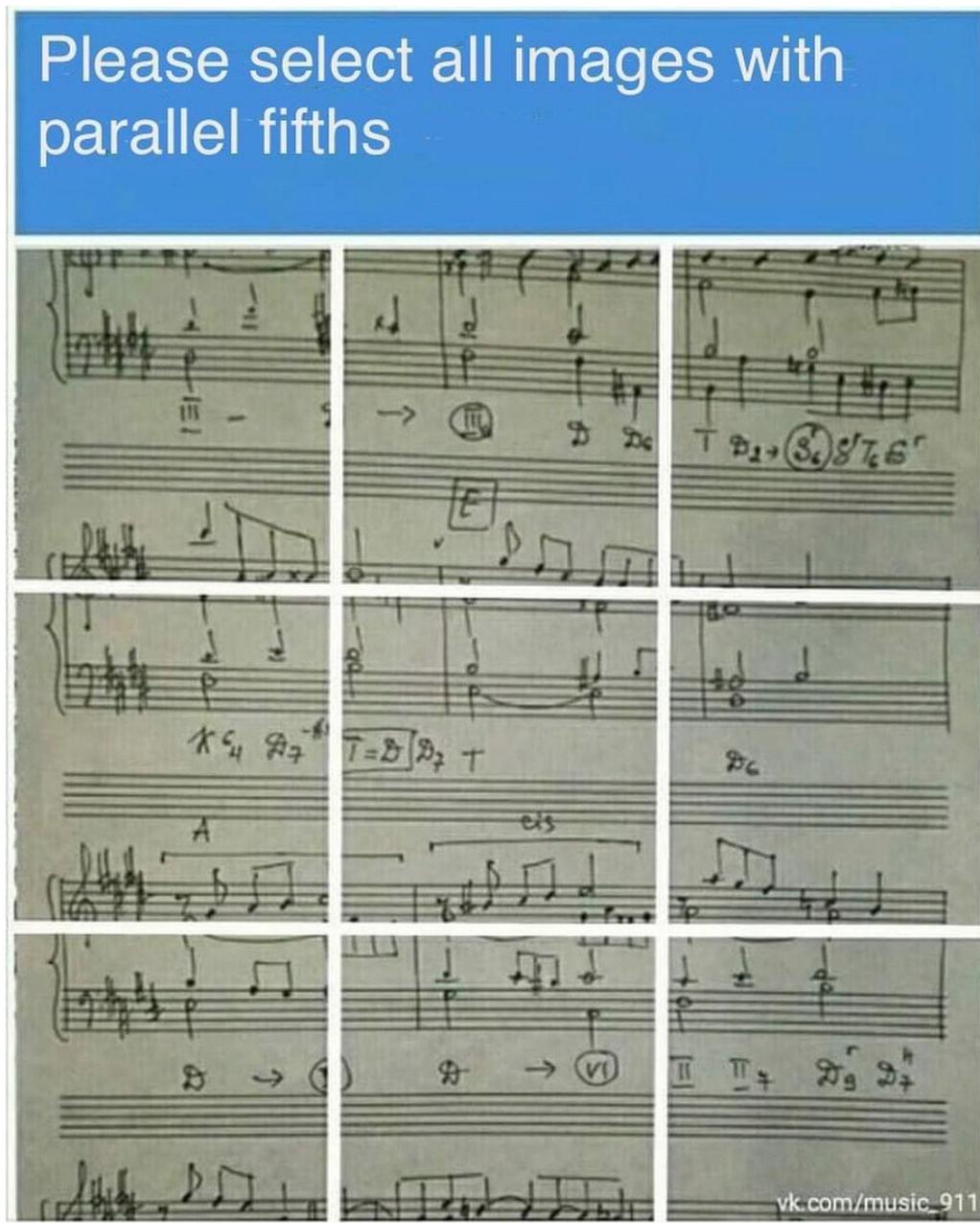
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# Divertimento

“**CAPTCHA**” is the acronym for “Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart”. We’ve all seen (and often struggled with!) these CAPTCHA images that differentiate between real users and automated users, such as harmful web-crawling bots. Imagine being confronted with a CAPTCHA like this! This image was shared from the [Classical Music Humor page](#) on Facebook.



During this challenging season of Covid19 we all need a chuckle now and then! Do you have a good one for the next newsletter? Please email it to Lynn Vera at [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com).