

Principal Pipings

April 2021, Vol. 76, Issue 9



Dean's Message

Hello AGO friends,

I hope your Holy Week and Easter services, whether virtual or in-person, went well and you are now getting some well-deserved rest. But your AGO chapter is not at rest. We have several events on the horizon that we know you will enjoy. Elizabeth George, AGO National's Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development, will join us on Saturday, April 17th via zoom for a lunchtime meeting. Elizabeth and Caron Farmer, the Great Lakes Region Councillor, will have a special presentation for our chapter that you won't want to miss. Watch for the zoom link, coming soon to your email inbox and also found elsewhere in this newsletter. Grant Holcomb, our Chapter Secretary and representative to AGO National's Committee for Young Organists, will be playing his senior recital later this month. This will be a virtual performance featuring works by Bach, Gigout, Matthias, Frescobaldi, and others. We will send you more details as they become available so you will be able to tune in and enjoy his performance.

Speaking of young organists, AGO National Council has established the "Year of the Young Organist", beginning July 1 of this year and running through June 30, 2022. During these 12 months, any individual under the age of 30 can become a new member or renew his/her membership for free as part of this program. Do you know of a young organist who isn't an AGO member? This is the perfect time to let him/her know about AGO and encourage membership. Did I mention that it's FREE? Let's all do what we can to welcome younger members into the Guild so they can take advantage of all that AGO has to offer!

Your Executive Committee continues with our planning for in-person programming for next year. We are working on a lineup of educational, social, and performance activities. There should be something of interest for everyone. And won't it be wonderful to be able to be together in person again! In the meantime, Happy Passover, Happy Easter, Happy Spring!

Jane

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Upcoming AGO Events

Your Executive Committee continues to come up with terrific chapter events during this, our 75th anniversary year, in the midst of a global pandemic! 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.

April Virtual Event	Multi-AGO Chapter Collaborative Video: “Easter Exultations” The video is here: https://vimeo.com/536637505 Enjoy! The program is HERE .
Saturday, 04.17.21 12:00pm	Elizabeth George, Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development, AGO National Headquarters We will meet on Zoom! Please check your email. Jane Johnson sent out the link on Friday, April 16 in the morning.
May Cancellation	<i>The Katie Minion Scheetz Recital scheduled for May 21 at Christ Church Cathedral in Lexington will be rescheduled for a date in the next program year.</i>

For inclusion in the newsletter calendar for local music events, please contact Lynn Vera at 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.

Announcements

April Virtual Event: “Easter Exultations” Video

AGO members in eight Chapters participated in this collaborative video of music appropriate for the Season of Easter. The concert program contains much information that could not be included in the video, and can be found [HERE](#). From the program you can click on the video link at the very bottom of the last page, or from this page you can go directly to the video, which is [HERE](#).



Thank you so much to all who shared their time and talent for this very special project! We are receiving thank you and congratulations messages from all over the country!

April 17th Event: A Zoom webinar with Elizabeth George to celebrate the Lexington Chapter’s 75th Anniversary!

Elizabeth George is **Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development, AGO National Headquarters**. She will lead a Zoom webinar on Saturday, April 17 at 11:30am. **Caron Farmer**, the **Great Lakes Region Councillor**, will also join us. You won’t want to miss it, as there will be a special surprise just for our chapter!

When: Apr 17, 2021 11:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: **Lexington Chapter’s 75th Anniversary Celebration**

Please refer to your April 16 email from Jane Johnson for the link.

Member News

Angela Hurley fell while on her nightly walk and broke both wrists. She reports that after surgery to insert pins, she is on the mend and is finding new ways to do things while wearing splints on both arms. She has started some limited therapy exercises and hopes to return to normal activities soon.

Glenna Metcalfe has accepted the organist position at First United Methodist Church in Lexington. Congratulations, Glenna!

If you have any member news (including virtual concerts!) that you would like to report, please email it to Jane Johnson: jhjohn@email.uky.edu

BALLOT

Member-At-Large 2024



Your Nominating Committee, chaired by Brian Hunt, has met and is pleased to recommend the following person for the Executive Committee for a 2021-2024 term:

Gwen Frazier - Member-At-Large 2024 (3-year term)

Please cast your ballot vote **by email** to current Secretary Grant Holcomb at Hholc2@gmail.com no later than Friday, April 30, at 5pm. The votes will be tallied and announced in the May Newsletter.

Gwen T. Frazier, MM, CAGO

Before returning to Lexington in mid-Sept. 2020, Gwen previously held dual AGO memberships in the Northern VA and Lexington chapters, having resided in Northern VA since late 1986. She holds Bachelor/Master degrees in Organ Performance from UK (studied with Schuyler Robinson and Arnold Blackburn) with postgraduate work and has earned the AGO Service Playing/Colleague certificates.



Gwen most recently served as Organist of Cherrydale United Methodist in Arlington, VA from 2009-2020 and prior to that position served as Music Director/Organist of St. Luke's UMC in DC (now joined with Metropolitan Methodist, DC), and Trinity Episcopal Church, Manassas, VA and as Interim Organist in several parishes including Pohick Episcopal Church, Emmanuel Lutheran (VA) and Capitol Hill Presbyterian, DC. She has also taught private organ and organ and is also retired from Federal Contracting work. Since retiring from this full-time position, Gwen had returned to teaching private piano and organ teaching and has additionally accompanied vocal students in private studios (VA) and at Northern VA Community College campus (Alexandria, VA). She is also a member of the Organ Historical Society, Hymn Society and the ALCM (Lutheran Musicians). Gwen also previously served at Music Director/Organist at St. Raphael's Episcopal Church in Lexington from 1980-86 prior to moving to VA.

Gwen and her husband Don now reside in Versailles and are delighted to return to horse country, friends and colleagues in the Lexington chapter, and Gwen's home state. Don is also a church musician (pianist/organist), having served several Northern VA Lutheran and Methodist congregations and was a previous active member of the Northern VA and Greater Kansas City AGO Chapters.



by Dr. Ted Gentry, Lexington AGO Chapter Historian

In 1960, the Lexington Chapter celebrated the installation of several new organs in area churches: Central Christian (Holtkamp), Church of the Ascension in Frankfort (Austin), Meadowthorpe Presbyterian (Charles Wood), and Woodland Christian (Reuter). Betsy Steiner played the dedication recital at Woodland Christian in a diverse program on October 11, ranging from Bach's Toccata and Fugue in d minor to Dupré's Variations on a Noel. A month later, the new Holtkamp at Central Christian was dedicated with a recital presented by Robert Baker, organist at Fifth Presbyterian and Temple Emmanuel in New York City. His three-part program began with Handel's first organ concerto and concluded with Jongen's Toccata in D-flat.

In 1961, the AGO doubled annual membership dues from \$5 to \$10, a decision that generated much discussion at chapter meetings. Several opinions were expressed on how to spend the "windfall" that the chapter would receive since half of the dues would be earmarked for Lexington. Some felt that the five dollars per member would enable the chapter to host guest organists for recitals. Others asserted that the chapter should refund part of the dues to members as a rebate. This last idea was studied by a committee, but it was never implemented. Also in 1961, the chapter once again began investigating the possibility of hosting a regional convention.

At the meeting on September 12, 1961, a new member was introduced to the chapter. Marian Soule, organist at the Christian Science church, was warmly welcomed. Sixty years later, Marian is still an active and highly respected member of our chapter. For 37 years she served faithfully as organist at Southern Hills United Methodist Church.





A Virtual Concert Series for our 75th Anniversary Year

During this time of social isolation many of us are sorely missing live performances. Every month during our 75th Anniversary program year we'll present a set of video links of performances selected according to various themes. To watch the videos click on the underlined blue links.

Because this month we've produced our own video of organ performances for the Easter season, this page is featuring choral performances.

~~~ "Easter" and "Spring": ~~~ a Choral Offering

"Easter Anthem" by William Billings, regarded as the first American choral composer. Performed by the Florida College Chorus under the direction of Dr. Jon Bassett.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ef3eDN3tn8>

Russian Orthodox Chant for Easter - "The Angel Cried, Christ is Risen" Music by Pavel Chesnokov. Sung by the St. Petersburg State Capella Choir under the direction & conductor, Vladislav Chernushenko. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVr_Wsm7RuY

"Easter Hymne" aria by Anita Rachvelishvili and the Dutch National Opera Chorus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la1nyL2qsX8>

"Agnus Dei" by Samuel Barber

The Flemish Radio Choir is conducted by Marcus Creed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRL447oDId4>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akb0kD7EHik>

May's themes for Portable Pipes are **"Mary"** and **"Pentecost"**.
Please email your submissions by **April 28** to Lynn Vera at LynnVera@ymail.com.

University of Florida Sacred Music Workshop

A message from Laura Ellis, D.M.A., Associate Director & Professor of Music at University of Florida:

I'm excited to announce that the **UF Sacred Music Workshop** is going virtual for 2021!

While I'm hopeful that many of us will be vaccinated by early May, I know it will be a while before the entire UF campus community is vaccinated. So, rather than bring everyone to campus right now, we'll play it safe and meet virtually! Bonus: it's FREE!

The workshop will be held during our normal timeframe: May 2-4, 2021. The event will include interactive Zoom sessions and a great line-up of presentations. Our primary guest clinician is Jonathan Hehn, Choral Program Director and Organist at Notre Dame who will provide a hymn festival and other workshops. We'll have an organ literature session by R. Monty Bennett, an organ recital by Elena Barquerizo, and much more!

Complete details about the workshop may be found here:

<https://uflsmw.wixsite.com/home>

Download the complete schedule [HERE](#).



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March 18, 2021

To All AGO Chapter Deans

cc: Chapter Treasurers

The AGO National Council is committed to membership recruitment, retention, and growth within our organization. As more of our members have reached the "Special" membership category (present company included!), we recognize that new initiatives must be developed to attract and welcome younger members into the Guild. We want them to experience the wealth of benefits, professional opportunities, and camaraderie we have enjoyed during our careers.

To this end, we have established the "Year of the Young Organist," July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022. During these 12 months, any individual under the age of 30 can become a new member or renew her/his membership for free as part of this program.

We are writing to ask you and every other chapter dean to embrace this initiative with enthusiasm and support. We will not collect membership dues for young organists, neither the national nor the chapter portion, during the upcoming membership year for those under the age of 30. All will receive full membership benefits, including TAO. New/renewing young organists can take advantage of this offer by visiting AGOHq.org/free-membership.

During the Year of the Young Organist, please make a special effort to welcome young organists, keep them engaged with your chapter, and retain them as members after the free membership year has expired.

Thank you for your time and support of this yearlong initiative. If you have any questions, please reach out to a member of our membership team by phone, 212-870-2310 or email members@agohq.org.

Michael Bedford, AAGO, CHM

President

James E. Thomashower, CAE

Executive Director

AGO Lexington Scholarship Guidelines:

Given the guidelines and revisions made by the Lexington AGO Executive Committee at their April 22, 2019 meeting, the Education Committee would like to offer the following events for consideration as chapter scholarships.

- 1) The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts (FUMMWA) Choir Music Weekend-Lake Junaluska, NC. October 15-17, 2021.
Registration is \$85.00
- 2) AGO: Virtual POE, July 18-23, 2021. Registration: \$85.00. <https://agovirtualpoe.org/>
- 3) AGO Certification Exam Fees: SVP=\$150, \$125 for students; CAGO=both sections \$175, one section \$150; CAGO is May 7-Nov. 12. AAGO=\$300, single section \$250, student \$275; FAGO=same as AAGO; Choirmaster=same as AAGO. More information may be found at <https://www.agohq.org/certification/> Ted Gentry has further information.
- 4) Annual Conference of THE HYMN SOCIETY (virtual). July 11-14, 2021. Registrations are Member: \$385.00. Non-Member: \$470.00. Student: \$275.00. www.thehymnsociety.org
- 5) Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) Worship & Music Conference. June 20-25, and June 27-July 2. Week one and week two. Montreat, NC. Fee=\$300 for PAM members, \$475 for non-members by April 1 for in person event. Online is \$175 for members, 200 for non-members.
<https://www.presbysmusic.org/2021-conference-rates>
- 6) The Baptist Church Music Conference (SBC), Thursday, April 29, 2021, at Bowling Green Baptist Church in Kentucky. 12pm to 8:30pm. Fee: \$39. <https://www.sbcmc.org/registration/bowlinggreen>
- 7) ATOS Summer Youth Adventure (ages 12-19), July 11-18, 2021 (Virtual). Detroit, MI in July, 2022. Tuition is \$325.00 per student. **Virtual is \$175 tuition. <https://www.atos.org/program/summer-youth-adventure>
- 8) NPM's National Convention will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 27-30, 2021. The event will be a "hybrid event", offering both an in-person and virtual experience for an attendee to register. Registration is at their website. www.npm.org
- 9) AGO: August 8-13, 2021. PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER PLUS, for organists over the age of 18, and keyboardist/pianists interested in the pipe organ. Richmond, VA. The registration fee is \$450 until May 1 or \$500 after May This fee includes housing in a double room, all meals, private lessons and group sessions, class materials, the POE program book, and admission to special events. A refund of the amount paid, minus a \$50 processing fee, will be available until June 15. After June 15, no refund will be possible. THIS IS SOMETHING OUR CHAPTER SHOULD CONSIDER DOING.
<http://poe2020.richmondago.org/>

The Pipe Organ Encounter+ (PLUS)

- Is a 4-5 day event organized by a local AGO chapter under the sponsorship of the national organization.
- Is a national program sponsored by the American Guild of Organists. Participants are admitted to POE+s on a first-come, first-served basis, regardless of attendance at prior POEs, and regardless of state or country of residence, as long as they meet the following eligibility guidelines: Participants should be 19 or older, want to play the organ or currently play the organ in a church or synagogue, and be interested in improving their organ skills.
- Is open to organists ranging from beginners (proficient pianists who will learn the basics of organ playing) to advanced.
- Offers instruction in basic technique, pedaling, improvisation and registration for beginners, and skills such as hymn playing, sight reading and transposition (which may lead to qualifying as a candidate for the AGO Service Playing Certificate) for more experienced participants. Other topics include a general overview of organ literature, history, and pipe organ construction and design.
- Provides an opportunity for participation in ecumenical worship, so as to experience the role of the sacred musician.
- Most of all, provides a unique opportunity for participants to meet and interact with peers who have similar interests.

Submitted to the Lexington AGO Executive Committee, March 22, 2021.

Respectfully,

William Webber, Zach Klobnak, Ted Gentry....AGO Lex Education Committee

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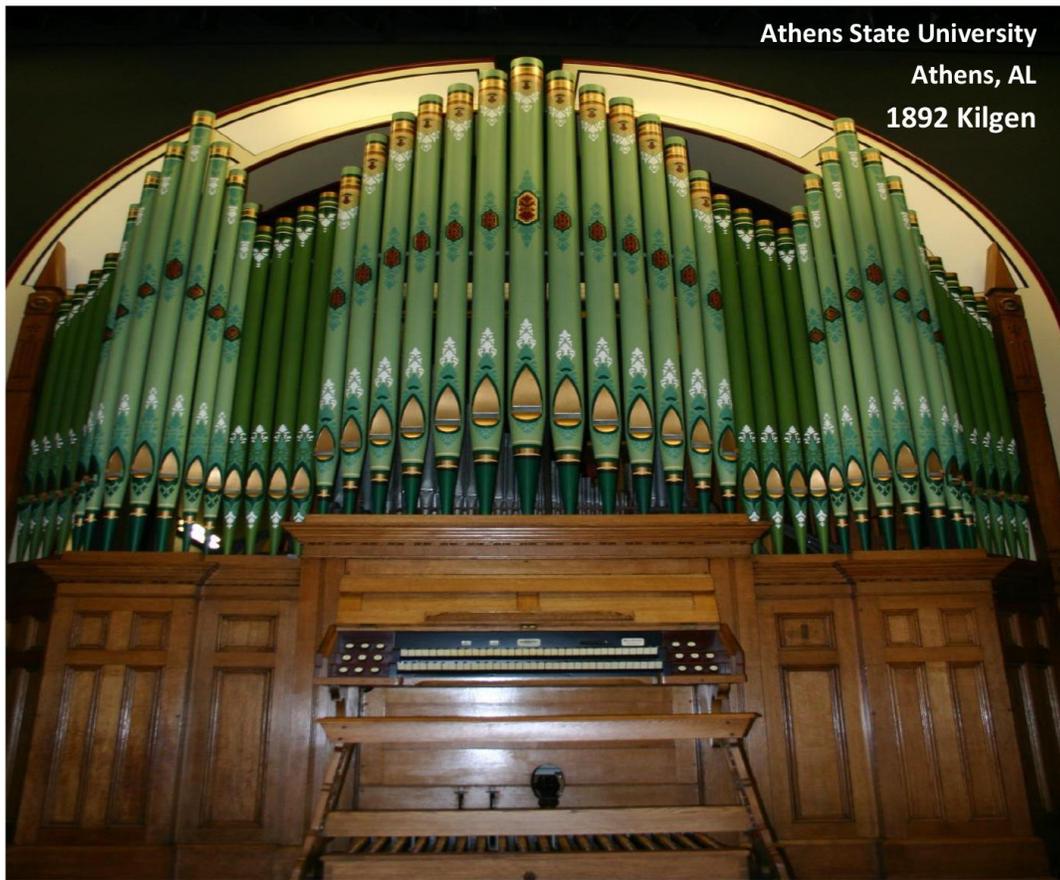
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Divertimento

During this challenging season of Covidtude 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.

