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American Guild of
ORGANISTS

LEXINGTON, KY CHAPTER

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LISTEN UP!

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, *listen to and imitate fellow musicians and recordings* was one bit of advice from well-known organist Jan Kraybill. A decade or so ago, listening to our AGO colleagues play would have



been a somewhat rare event. One happy outcome from the Covid experience was the proliferation of online recordings of organ music and worship services. Check out some of our members' YouTube channels: Owen Sammons' [*Organ Explorer*](#), Jerry Martin's [*JerryMartin79*](#), and Phil Lehenbauer's [*OrganGuyPhil*](#).



Photos:
Top, Owen Sammons
Left, Jerry Martin
Right, Phil Lehenbauer

Many of our members are online weekly in their church livestreams - a wealth of information, ideas, and (dare we say) entertainment!

As enriching as online listening may be, however, it cannot take the place of attending a live performance. Please take advantage of the rare opportunity to hear and support your AGO colleagues *in person* at our **Members' Recital** on Saturday, November 22!

Michael & Nancy

If you have an online presence you would like listed in future issues of *Principal Pipings*, please let us know.

agohq.org/

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

RECENT AGO EVENTS

SILENT FILM WITH ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT October 17, 2025



At the historic Kentucky Theatre in downtown Lexington, a crowd of over 300 enjoyed the 1924 thriller, "The Hands of Orlac," accompanied by the stirring organ music of Tim Baker of Louisville. One young man in attendance expressed his intentions to begin studying pipe organ!



Tim Baker, Organist

This was a joint program with the Bluegrass Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (BGATOS)



[The Hands of Orlac trailer](#)

UPCOMING AGO EVENTS

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT AGO EVENTS

Saturday, November 22, 4:00 p.m. - Members' Recital:



“Music for the Holidays: Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year’s, and Epiphany” at First Presbyterian

Nine of our members are preparing a veritable feast of a program for the fall and winter holidays! Come soak up the music, support your colleagues, and enjoy some deliciousness at the reception which follows (downstairs in the Assembly Room). For more information about First Presbyterian’s organ, [click here](#).

First Presbyterian Church, 174 N. Mill St., Lexington, KY 40507

Saturday, February 14, 2026, 12:00 noon - Lunch and Masterclass with Huw Lewis, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

Huw Lewis is Professor of Organ at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and Director of Music at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Detroit.



Sunday, February 15, 2026, 4:00 p.m. - Huw Lewis concert, Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

Here are sample reviews of Lewis’s playing:

“A stunning recital that can only be described as breathtaking!...the kind of transcendent performance one always hopes for, but only gets to experience once or twice in a lifetime—if that!” (Alfred Fedak, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Albany, NY)

“Dr. Lewis played with great authority, but also with an elegance and sensitivity to style, room, and instrument, and received the first standing ovation of the [AGO] convention.” (*The American Organist*)

Saturday, March 28, 2026 - Bach Marathon, St. Raphael Episcopal Church, Lexington; a joint program with the Kentucky Bach Choir



The March 28 schedule will include a Bach chorale sing-a-long at **noon**. Singers at all levels of expertise are invited to participate; we hope to promote a connection to and appreciation for the chorales of J. S. Bach, as well as a connection between the musicians (both professional and non-professional) in this shared experience.

Suggested repertoire choices for performance range from beginning piano, instrumental, or vocal works, to professional repertoire. Solo performers as well as chamber ensembles are welcome.

Fifteen-minute performances are suggested; however, dependent on the expertise of performers and their chosen repertoire, 30-45 minute performances are also encouraged. Performers will be scheduled before and after the 12:00 noon chorale sing-a-long. An online sign-up for performance slots will be available starting in January 2026.

Saturday, May 2, 2026 - Organ/Choir Festival, Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington

OTHER UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Sunday, November 2 (All Saints' Sunday) - Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington
3:30 p.m. - Concert - Rachel Renee Miller, harp
4:00 p.m. - All Souls Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

Sunday, November 2, 5:00-7:00 p.m. - *Bachtoberfest* (fundraiser for the Kentucky Bach Choir), West 6th Brewing's Barrel Room, Lexington
For tickets/more information, [click here](#)

Sunday, November 30, 5:00 p.m. - Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington
Lexington Chamber Chorale: "How Can I Keep from Singing:
Sounds of the Season"
<http://lexingtonchamberchorale.org/>

Friday, December 5 - Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

7:30 p.m. - G.F. Handel's Messiah with Emily Albrink, *soprano*, Joseph Kingbury, *countertenor*, Samuel Powless, *tenor*, Craig Price, *bass*

For ticket reservations, visit ccclex.org/messiah

Sunday, December 7 - Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

4:00 p.m. - Blue Christmas with Pleasant Company

Sunday Evening, December 7, 7:00 p.m. - First Presbyterian Church, Lexington

Kentucky Bach Choir Winter Concert: "Mary Bears a Promise"

kentuckybachchoir

Sunday, December 14 - Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

6:30 p.m. - Organ Prelude

7:00 p.m. - A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Cathedral Choir

Sunday, December 21 - Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

4:00 p.m. - Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*

with the Cathedral Girls Choir, Rachel Renee Miller, harp

Amadeus Lex: "*Souvenir de Florence*"

Friday, January 9, 7:00 p.m. - St. Raphael Episcopal Church, Lexington

Saturday, January 10, 7:00 p.m. - St. Mark Catholic Church, Richmond

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 7:00 p.m. - Cincinnati Museum Center,
featuring the 1929 E.M. Skinner Organ in the rotunda:

Johannes Skoog, Organist, with combined Choirs of Christ Church Cathedral and St. Thomas Episcopal Church

[Music-in-the-Museum](http://music-in-the-museum)

Sunday, March 8, 2026, 5:00 p.m. - Lexington Chamber Chorale

Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY

"How Can I Keep from Singing: 35 Years in Harmony"

<http://lexingtonchamberchorale.org/>

Sunday, April 12, 2026, 7:00 p.m. - First Presbyterian Church, Lexington

"From Suffering to Salvation" kentuckybachchoir

Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 7:30 p.m. - Cincinnati Museum Center, featuring the 1929 E.M. Skinner Organ in the rotunda:

Isabelle Demers, Organist, with University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music Professor of Voice, Tenor, Daniel Weeks

[Music-in-the-Museum](#)

IMPORTANT STUFF

INSTANTLY BEAUTIFY YOUR CHOIR!



Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown has about 45 Murphy choir robes (used but in good condition) and stoles that are no longer needed. The church would gladly part with them for a donation to their music fund! For more information, contact David Fraley, 502.316.5867.



THANK YOU . . .

. . . to AGOLex member Lynn Vera for volunteering to keep up with our FaceBook page!
facebook.com/AGOLexington

LOOKING FOR AN ORGAN TO PRACTICE ON?

AGOLex has received a generous offer from the Church of the Ascension in Frankfort to make their organ available to members who would like to practice on their 3 manual, 33-rank Austin organ. Contact the church for more information:

Email: info@ascensionfrankfort.org

Website: www.ascensionfrankfort.org





CHECK OUT THE LOFT . . .

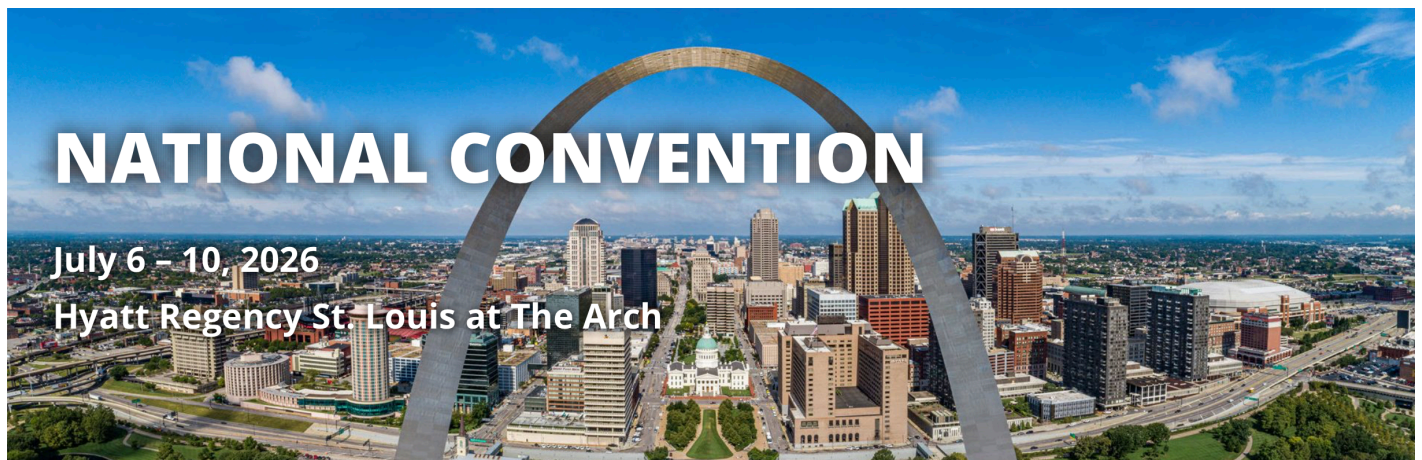
The AGO's EXCLUSIVE Online Community

THE LOFT is your destination to connect, communicate, and collaborate with AGO members across the country and around the world. Join interactive online communities with organists who share your interests, discuss ongoing professional developments, and discover new and interesting music, composers, and research. THE LOFT will also include a searchable Member Directory where you can find fellow AGO members and reconnect with colleagues, and blogs and content from The American Organist magazine. [Click here](#) to get started!



THE AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION . . .

. . . will be in St Louis next summer! Only 4 hours, 59 minutes away from Lexington! To read more about it, [click here](#).



If you have news you would like to share in future editions of the newsletter, please contact Nancy Dunn at agolexdeans@icloud.com or text to 859.333.0526 by the 20th of each month

JOIN THE RANKS OF THE AGO-CERTIFIED!

ZOOM STUDY GROUPS AVAILABLE FOR SPC, CAGO



Free monthly online study groups are being offered for organists planning to take the [Service Playing Certificate \(SPC\)](#) or [Colleague \(CAGO\)](#) exams. For more information, click here: [Study Groups](#)

Your chapter also has study aids available free of charge! Just contact Jane Johnson (jhjohn@email.uky.edu or 859-338-5364) for more information. You can join the ranks of the certified, and we are here to help!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR AGO DUES?

If you haven't yet paid your dues, or can't remember if you've paid them, or want to find out when they are due, go here: [AGO sign in](#). Or if you prefer, call (212) 870-2310 during business hours, or email info@agohq.org.

If you prefer to be a Chapter Friend rather than a member, please send a check for \$40 made out to **Lexington Chapter AGO** to: Brian Hunt (Treasurer), 1008 Claiborne Way, Lexington, KY 40517. Chapter Friends receive our monthly newsletter but are not eligible for AGO discounts and do not receive *The American Organist* magazine.



HONE YOUR IMPROVISATIONAL SKILLS

The Bluegrass Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (BG ATOS) is looking for more organists willing to play the organ at the Kentucky Theatre on Friday nights and, next summer, for their Wednesday Classic Movie series. If you are interested please contact Bill Webber at 859.298.8962 or williamawebberiv@gmail.com

JOB LISTINGS

Bread of Life Lutheran Church, Georgetown:

Part time **organist/pianist**:

[Full description](#)

[posted 10/1/25]

Holy Trinity Church (Catholic), Springfield:

Holy Trinity Church, a Catholic parish near Bardstown, Kentucky, is looking for someone who could play organ for any or all of our weekend Masses at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. Sundays, and/or 11:00 a.m. Sundays. The expectation would be for hymns appropriate for the church season (one for the procession in, one at the offertory, one for communion, and one for the recessional). Additionally there would be some simple Mass parts sung by the congregation or cantors. Compensation is negotiable. For more information, please contact:

Fr. Augustine Judd, O.P
Pastoral Administrator
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
306 Fredericktown Road
Springfield, KY 40069
htr@bardstown.com
859-284-5242

[posted 4/1/25]

First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster:

Our church is searching for a part time **organist/pianist** starting immediately. This position is for Sunday worship and special events. Pay is negotiable. Musicians will have the option of playing a 2 manual pipe organ or a baby grand piano.

Interested parties may contact Donna Powell dmpowell44@roadrunner.com or Kitty Barsotti barsotti@windstream.net

[posted 9/1/24]

MANY THANKS
TO OUR SPONSORS



GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral
November 2025

Concert & Evensong

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

3:30pm CONCERT

Rachel Renee Miller, harp
Vanderbilt University

4:00pm ALL SOULS EVENSONG
with the Cathedral Choir



GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL'S *Messiah*



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5
7:30pm

The Cathedral Choir
Guest Soloists
Lexington Baroque Ensemble

Tickets: visit ccclcx.org/messiah

Visit ccclcx.org/music for more information on
the Cathedral Choir, Great Music Series, and
Friends of Cathedral Music.



D.C. Schroth

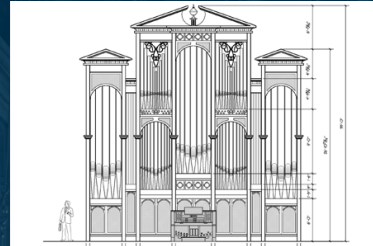
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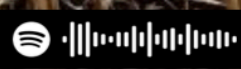


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GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral

2025-2026

Concerts & Evensongs

3:30pm Concert

4:00pm Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

**September 21, October 19, November 2,
February 1, March 1, May 17**



Friday, December 5

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

For tickets, visit cccllex.org/messiah

Sunday, December 14

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



Sunday, December 21

4:00pm Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*
The Cathedral Girls Choir
Rachel Renee Miller, *harp*

Sunday, February 15

4:00pm Organ Concert
Huw Lewis, *Hope College, Michigan*



Palm Sunday, March 29

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

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



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ANNOUNCING OUR 2025-2026 SEASON

*With our new Co-Artistic Directors,
Dr. Vicki Bell and Dr. Stephen Bolster*

Mary Bears a Promise

December 7, 2025 • 7:00 p.m.

Magnificats and other works by J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, Palestrina, Mendelssohn, Britten, and others

From Suffering to Salvation

April 12, 2026 • 7:00 p.m.

Works by J.S. Bach (with selections from the St. Matthew Passion), Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Howells, and Finzi

Concerts will be held at First Presbyterian Church
174 North Mill Street, Lexington, KY 40507

HUMORESQUE

What do you call a group of musical sweet potatoes? A yam session.

What is something that's usually insulting but not on Thanksgiving? Someone giving you the bird.

What should you expect at the end of Thanksgiving? The letter "g."

(continued on next page)

What do you call a sad cranberry? A blueberry.

What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?
Pumpkin pi.

What kind of music did the pilgrims like? Plymouth Rock.

My family told me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes. But I can't quit cold turkey.

I shot my first-ever turkey for Thanksgiving this year. Sure scared everyone in the grocery store though!

How many cooks does it take to stuff a turkey? Only one, but you have to really squeeze to get him in there.

If the Pilgrims were still alive today, what would they be most famous for? Their age.

Thanksgiving is a time to count your blessings, one by one, as each relative goes home.

I have started carrying a stone with me to throw at people who sing Christmas songs before Thanksgiving. It's my jingle bell rock.



agohq.org/

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