

Volume 80, Issue 12  
December, 2025



American Guild of  
**ORGANISTS**

## LEXINGTON, KY CHAPTER

Michael Dunn, Co-Dean  
Nancy Dunn, Co-Dean  
Mattilda Middleton, Sub-Dean  
Hayden McNeal, Secretary  
Brian Hunt, Treasurer  
Allen Fletcher, At-Large  
Barbara Rogers, At-Large  
Glenna Metcalfe, At-Large  
Larry Sharp, Great Lakes  
Regional Ambassador  
Jane Johnson, Exam Center  
Coordinator

[agolexington.org/](http://agolexington.org/)

[facebook.com/AGOLexington](https://facebook.com/AGOLexington)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Recent AGO Events  
Upcoming AGO Events  
Upcoming Local Events  
Member News  
More Important Stuff  
Job Openings  
Our Sponsors  
Humoresque

# Principal Pipings



## A CHRISTMAS POEM

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the score  
There were septuplets, trills, and accidentals galore!  
The music was placed on the console with care,  
In hopes that the organist soon would be there.  
And then in a twinkling, he sprang to the bench  
(He might have given his back quite a wrench!)  
And laying a finger aside of his nose,  
Out from the pipe work the music arose!  
And we heard him exclaim as he read music from sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all - and may every note be right!"

Merry holidays to all,

Michael & Nancy



[agohq.org/](http://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

The Lexington Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## Members' Recital

4:00 p.m. Saturday, November 22, 2025  
First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Kentucky

### *Music for the Holidays*

*Thanksgiving, Reign of Christ, Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany*

Now Thank We All Our God  
Now Thank We All Our God

David M. Cherwien (b. 1957)  
Gerald Near (b. 1942)

*Tina Wagoner*

Give Thanks (Cool Chorale)  
Nun danket alle Gott  
He Is King

James Biery (b. 1956)  
Johannes Matthias Michel (b. 1962)  
Robert Powell (1932-2025)

*Lynn Vera*

Reflections on "Wachet auf"  
I. A voice calls to us

Scott Roberts (b. 1959)

*Scott Roberts*

Preludio from "Amahl and the Night Visitors"

Gian Carlo Menotti (1911-2007)

*Roland Herzel*

Rorate caeli, op. 8, No. 1  
In dulci jubilo, op. 28, No. 41  
Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Epiphanie, op. 13

Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)  
Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)  
Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

*Larry Sharp*

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, BWV 604  
Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ  
(from Choral-Improvisationen für Orgel, op. 65)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)  
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

*Matthew Kim*

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

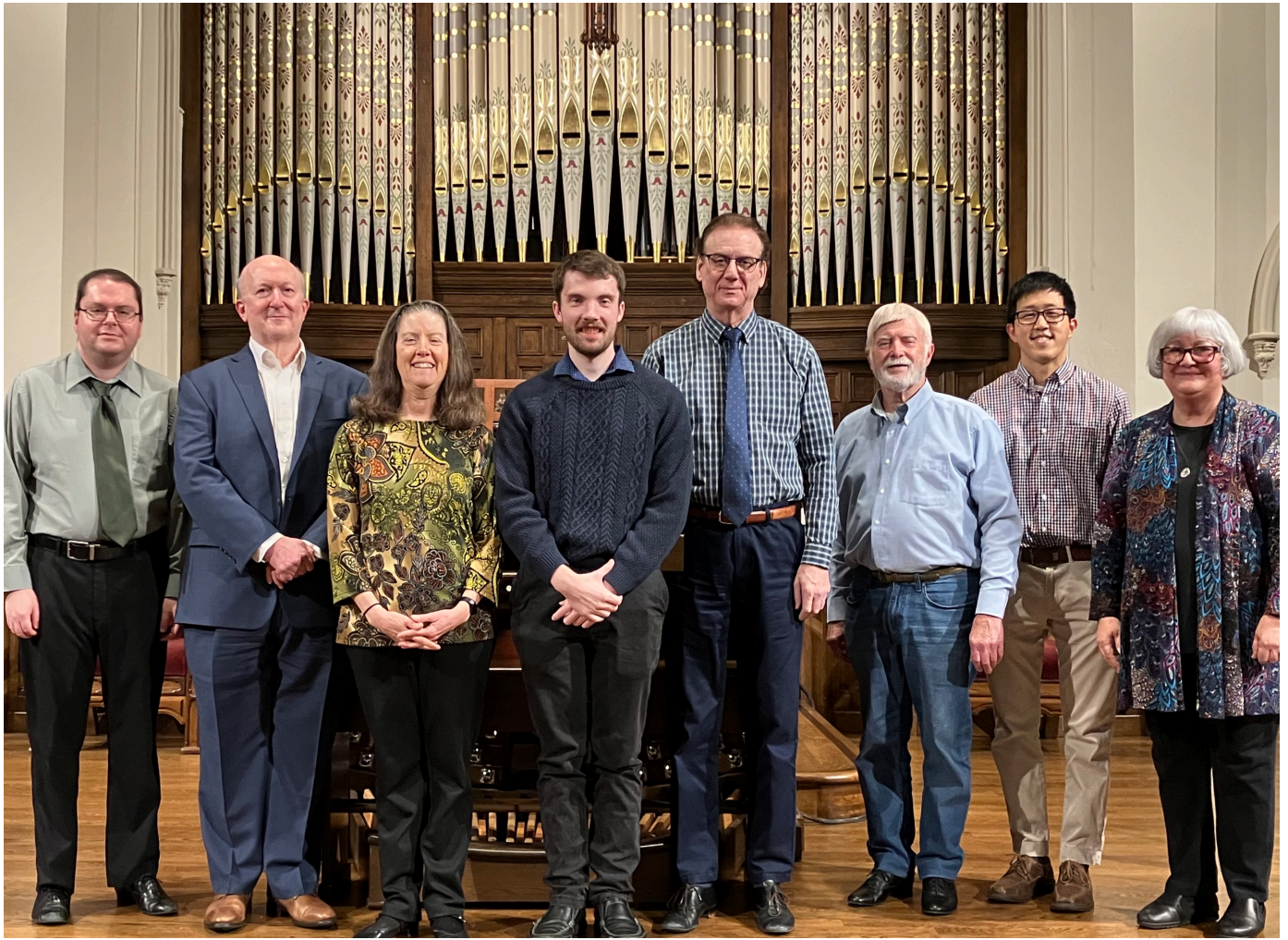
*Mark deAlba*

La Marche des Rois mages

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

*Calvin Riggs*





*2025 Members' Recitalists (left to right): Mark deAlba, Larry Sharp, Tina Wagoner, Calvin Riggs, Scott Roberts, Roland Herzel, Matthew Kim, Lynn Vera*



*Tina Wagoner at the console*



*Member Alex Vorhaus (above) prepared a fabulous reception*





# UPCOMING AGO EVENTS

## GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT AGO EVENTS

**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

**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](http://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](http://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

**Monday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.** - Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington

The Center for Old Music in the New World and Musick's Company:

"A Handeful of Christmas Delights" from Appalachia and the American South

**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

**Sunday, February 8, 3:00 p.m.** - Hunter Presbyterian Church, Lexington

Allen Fletcher, Organ Recital



**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](#)

**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](#)

## MEMBER NEWS

### AGOLEX MEMBER LANDS STARRING ROLE IN MOVIE!



**Member Lynn Vera writes:** Life sure has some unexpected twists and turns; in 2025 I became a movie star! Well, kind of....

First, a short background: During the early days of COVID our good AGO friend and colleague Bill Webber encouraged me to learn to play the organ in theatre organ style. The distinguished UK professor, pastor, theatre organist and LexAGO member Dr. John W. Landon offered to become my mentor, and over a period of more than a year he gave a comprehensive introduction to the music, history, instruments and famous organists who introduced this style and

made it popular in movie palaces and concert halls in the U.S. and Europe.

I will be forever grateful to Dr. Landon for his very generous gift of time and expertise. This study not only kept me very well entertained and productive during the pandemic; it led to three summers playing 30-minute concerts prior to The Kentucky Theatre's Wednesday Summer Movie Classics series. In 2025 I played 18 summer concerts! I made many new friends in the process, including the young filmmaker Jacob Forman.



John Landon

Set in an empty Art Deco movie theater, PALACE—as it exists now—consists of a series of vignettes surrounding The Star Baby, a Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle-esque figure putting on a show and simultaneously reflecting on his past work in complete isolation.

With PALACE, we aren't aiming to “tell the Roscoe Arbuckle story,” rather, we look to evoke his image as one of the first true fallen angel movie stars to give a visceral experience of what loneliness feels like; what it looks like, sounds like, etc.

To be shot on miniDV video tape and printed onto 16mm celluloid film, PALACE will aesthetically evoke the grainy, monochromatic images and lo-fi, run-and-gun heart of early Pre-Code Hollywood Comedy in a unique way; we are avoiding pastiche at all costs.



## Why This Story? Why Now?

While Arbuckle's story isn't necessarily singular, it has become an urtext for many forgotten stars—whether it's a scandal, or a slow drift into obscurity, most people don't experience the level of public praise, affection, criticism, castigation, etc that the Celebrity encounters every day and return to a life unmonitored and alone; a life deemed unimportant by the collective voice of the people.

In 2025, most people are not living their lives in any sort of solitude. We are given ways to constantly stay connected, thus avoiding real loneliness—true isolation. With PALACE, we are seeking to capture that oft-unexperienced pain and loneliness of an Arbuckle-esque Icarus journey in the only medium that can—film.

In early summer 2025 Jacob asked me to portray a theatre organist in his upcoming short film “Palace”, set in the 1920's and starring a fictional Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle-esque character. Initially I had serious doubts that I was the best person to do this, but Jacob was persistent!

After months of preparation and practice the filming took place late in the evening of October 10, after the last movie showing ended at The Kentucky Theatre. I played three pieces written by the

acclaimed British theatre organist Tom Horton (“Console Up!”, “The Forgotten Cinema”, and “Jelly Mould Rag”), plus the classic 1929 song “My Song of the Nile” by Al Bryan and George W. Meyer. My renditions were not precisely authentic, but as I was



acting as (and actually am!) an aging theatre organist, I was satisfied with the takes, especially as it was almost midnight when we finished filming and my stamina was waning. The soundtrack to this movie will be comprised of my music, and most of the filming was focused on my hands.



It was a very fun new experience for a septuagenarian! I learned a lot about moviemaking, and I can't wait to watch and share the completed film.

-Lynn Vera, CAGO



## MORE 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.





## LOOKING FOR AN ORGAN ON WHICH TO PRACTICE?

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](mailto:info@ascensionfrankfort.org)

Website: [www.ascensionfrankfort.org](http://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](#).



## ADD THOSE COVETED AGO LETTERS AFTER YOUR NAME!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



## ORGANISTS NEEDED

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](mailto:williamawebberiv@gmail.com)

## JOB LISTINGS

### **St. John's Episcopal Church, Versailles:**

#### **Part time organist/choir director**

St. John's Episcopal Church, 210 N. Main St., Versailles, KY 40383, seeks a part time organist/choir director for an average of ten hours per week. The individual will play the organ, with some piano, and direct the choir during the Sunday 10:30 AM worship service. The director will work with clergy regarding music selections. Additional tasks include playing for Holy Days, funerals, Evensongs, and other special services. The choral year is September through May, with a weekly choir rehearsal to prepare for the upcoming Sunday service. Additional rehearsals may be scheduled during the holidays.

The organist/choir director is vital to providing a music ministry at St. John's. The congregation feels music is an integral part of the worship experience. They appreciate special musical presentations, both vocal and instrumental. The church primarily utilizes The Hymnal 1982. The choir is enthusiastic and dedicated to the music ministry and enjoys challenging selections.

Interested candidates should contact [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com) for a more complete job description.

[posted 12/1/2025]

### **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lexington:**

#### **Part time organist**

[Full description](#)

[posted 12/1/2025]

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:dmpowell44@roadrunner.com) or Kitty Barsotti [barsotti@windstream.net](mailto:barsotti@windstream.net)

[posted 9/1/24]



MANY THANKS  
TO OUR SPONSORS



# GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral  
December 2025

## GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL'S *Messiah*

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5**

7:30pm

The Cathedral Choir and guest soloists  
with the Lexington Baroque Ensemble

*For Tickets: visit [cccllex.org/messiah](http://cccllex.org/messiah)*



## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

7:00pm

The Cathedral Choir

Organ Prelude at 6:30pm

Childcare is available.

## BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S *A Ceremony of Carols*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

4:00pm

The Cathedral Girls Choir  
Rachel Renee Miller, *harp*





# THE PIANO SHOP

## *Sales & Service*

Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio

Tuning, Repair, Restoration, Moving

Concierge Piano Sales Service

All Makes and Models

Confidential & Stress Free Piano Shopping

*Purveyor of World -Class Acoustic Pianos*



STEINWAY & SONS

NEW YORK 1853



STEINGRAEBER

BAYREUTH 1852

*Serving Thousands of Clients Throughout the Region Including:*

Chamber Music Festival of the Bluegrass

Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts

Norton Center for the Arts

Louisville Orchestra, Lexington Philharmonic,

University of Louisville, Centre College

Indiana University SE, Campbellsville University

Western KY University, Murray State University

**ThePianoShop.net (800) 924-1900**

*Matt Grossman , Owner*

*Piano Craftsman Since 1975*



**Choral**  
*Even song*  
**at Good Shepherd**

Weekly on Wednesdays at 7 PM

Visit [gslex.org/music](https://gslex.org/music) for more details

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church  
533 East Main Street  
Lexington KY 40508



*New Instruments*  
*Restoration*  
*Renovation*  
*Tuning*

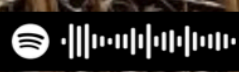


*Buzard*

PIPE ORGAN BUILDERS

217.352.1955

[www.buzardorgans.com](http://www.buzardorgans.com)

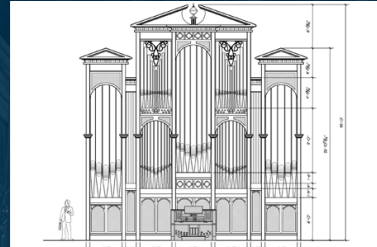




# THE MULLER DIFFERENCE

## PASSION AND COLLABORATION

We are not just builders, we're musicians and artisans who partner with you to create an instrument that reflects your vision.



## CRAFTSMANSHIP AND DETAIL

Crafted with care at every stage, our work reflects a tradition of excellence. Our attention to detail ensures an instrument lasting generations.



## TRADITION AND INNOVATION

Our work carries forward the American organbuilding legacy, shaped by both proven methods and thoughtful innovation.



## A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

For over a century, Muller has built, restored, and maintained instruments that enrich worship, performance, and community.

# MULLER

## PIPE ORGAN COMPANY

*Builders & Conservators of Fine Instruments*

P.O. Box 353 | CROTON, OHIO 43013  
740.893.1700 | [www.MULLERPIPEORGAN.COM](http://www.MULLERPIPEORGAN.COM)

NEW ORGANS  
RESTORATIONS  
TONAL REVISIONS  
REBUILDS  
MAINTENANCE





**KentuckyBachChoir.org**



KENTUCKY **Bach** CHOIR

• SOLI DEO GLORIA •

## 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



# Restore Renew

*The*  
**HOLTKAMP**  
**ORGAN COMPANY**  
*Six Generations. 169 years. One mission.*



2909 Meyer Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109  
t [216] 741-5180 f [216] 741-0678  
chris@holtkamporgan.com  
www.holtkamporgan.com





# *Goulding & Wood*

*PIPE ORGAN BUILDERS*

*Opus 52*

*St. John's Episcopal Cathedral  
Knoxville, TN*

*317.637.5222    [GouldingAndWood.com](http://GouldingAndWood.com)*



# 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](http://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](http://cccllex.org/music) for more  
information on the Cathedral Choir, Great Music Series,  
and Friends of Cathedral Music.*



# D.C. Schroth

ORGAN BUILDERS





# HUMORESQUE

## SOME HOLIDAY HUMOR:

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? *Frostbite.*

I wasn't going to visit my family this December, but my mom promised to make me eggs Benedict. So I'm going home for the hollandaise.

I bought the 250 million year old pink Himalayan salt. The label says that it expires in December 2025.

What do you call a snowman with a six-pack? *An abdominal snowman.*

What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense?  
*Wait, there's myrrh.*

What do you call Santa's little helpers? *Subordinate clauses.*

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? *A mince spy!*

What nationality is Santa Claus? *North Polish.*

What is Santa's favorite pizza? One that's deep-pan, crisp and even!

**Good King Wenceslas**  
JOHN M. NEALE  
Traditional  
Arr. by Sir John Stainer

*Andante*

Chorus 1. Good King Wen- ces - las look'd out On the Feast of Ste - phen,  
Male 2. "Hith - er, page, and stand by me, If thou know'st it, tell - ing,  
Male 3. "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, Bring me pine - logs hith - er;  
Female 4. "Sire, the night is dark - er now, And the wind blows strong - er;  
Chorus 5. In his mas - ter's steps he trod, Where the snow lay dint - ed;

When the snow lay round a - bout, Deep and crisp, and e - ven:  
Yon - der peas - ant, who is he? Where and what his dwell - ing?"  
Thou and I will see him dine, When we bear them thith - er."  
Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no long - er"  
Heat was in the ver - y sod Which the saint had print - ed.

[agohq.org/](http://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.