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American Guild of
ORGANISTS

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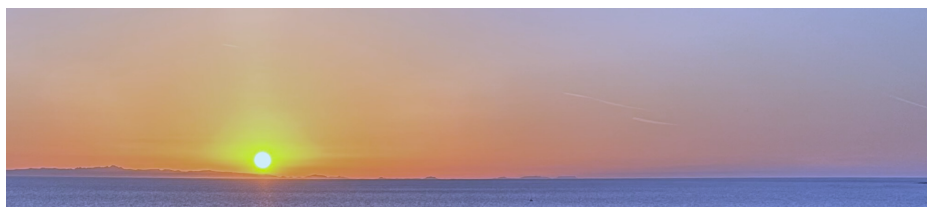
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Many many years ago when Bach's *Orgelbüchlein* was new to me I happily practiced *In dir ist Freude* diligently for months. At the time I doubt that I took the time to even read the words of the chorale; I just knew it was intended for New Year's. But now I can imagine how these powerful words must have inspired Bach:

*In you is gladness amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.*

*By you are given the gifts of heaven,
you the true Redeemer are.*

*Our souls are waking, our bonds are breaking;
who trusts you surely has built securely
and stands forever. Alleluia!*

*Our hearts are pining to see your shining,
dying or living to you are clinging
now and forever. Alleluia!*

*If he is ours, we fear no powers,
not of earth or sin or death.*

*He sees and blesses in worst distresses;
he can change them with a breath.*

*Wherefore the story tell of his glory
with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices
in him forever. Alleluia!*

*We shout for gladness, win over sadness,
love him and praise him and still shall raise him
glad hymns forever. Alleluia!*

Happy New Year! - Nancy

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

If you plan to attend the lunch, please sign up by February 9: Text or call and leave a message (please include your name) to Nancy Dunn at 859-333-0526, or respond to this email.

The cost of the lunch will be \$5.00; bring cash or check with you that day.

The Masterclass will be from 1:00 to 2:15 p.m. and will focus on Romantic music.

Huw Lewis was born into a musical family in Wales and received formal training with John Birch and Ralph Downes at the Royal College of Music in London and at Cambridge University. In 1972, he came to the United States to study organ at the University of Michigan, earning master's and doctoral degrees in organ performance. His teachers there were Robert Clark, Robert Glasgow, and Marilyn Mason. He also studied privately with Catharine Crozier.



Huw Lewis' early career was marked with distinction: he received the teaching and performing diplomas from the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music as well as top

prizes for both diplomas of the Royal College of Organists while yet a teenager; he received scholarships and fellowships at Cambridge University and the University of Michigan and won First Prize at the National Organ Competition in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Subsequently, his extensive performing career has taken him across the United States, and throughout Britain, Europe, and Russia. He has performed at numerous national and regional conventions of many professional organizations, including the Hymn Society of America, the Organ Historical Society, the International Congress of Organists, and the American Guild of Organists.

Dr. Lewis has judged at many competitions, including the 2003 Dallas International Organ Competition and the 2016 Sursa American Organ Competition at Ball State University. His playing has been broadcast over the radio in Europe and in Britain for the BBC, and on radio and television in the U.S. Huw Lewis has appeared as a soloist numerous times with orchestra – most recently with the Holland Symphony Orchestra. He has participated in the world premieres of concertos by Alfred Fedak and Michael Daugherty. His May 2016 performance of the Fedak concerto was part of the series of performances to inaugurate the new Casavant organ at the Jack H. Miller Center for Musical Arts. Since 1990 Dr. Lewis has served as Professor of Organ and College Organist at Hope College, Holland, Michigan. He is also Director of Music at St. John's Episcopal Church, Detroit.

Huw Lewis is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, L.L.C.

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**

2026 Bach Marathon

**March 28, 2026
St. Raphael's Episcopal Church
1891 Parkers Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40504**

Sponsored by :



AND



The Kentucky Bach Choir and the Lexington Chapter of the American Guild of Organists announce the return of the annual Bach Marathon on Saturday, March 28, 2026, held at **St. Raphael's Episcopal Church, 1891 Parkers Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40504.**

Accessible parking and entrances are available at the front of the church, with additional parking at the rear of the church. The event is free and open to the public.

INFORMATION

As we celebrate the 17th anniversary of the Bach Marathon in Lexington, KY, we will collectively explore the compositions of J.S. Bach through individual and small ensemble performances as well as the communal singing of Bach chorales, led by members of the Kentucky Bach Choir. We invite performers of all ages and skill levels, ranging from beginners to professionals, to participate in performances lasting from 5-30 minutes (dependent on performers' skill levels). Both a pipe organ and a grand piano will be available for performers. **To apply for a performance slot on the March 28 event, please complete the attached application form (along with your proposed repertoire) by March 1, 2026 and return to Vicki Bell at vicki.kbc@gmail.com.** A complete schedule of performances will be posted in early March, based on applications and grouped by repertoire.

POSSIBLE PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

Performances on organ, piano, voice, choir, guitar, wind instruments, and stringed instruments are suggested, either by individuals or small ensembles (accompanists are not provided).

PERFORMERS' APPLICATION FOR 2026 BACH MARATHON

March 28, Lexington, KY



AND



LEXINGTON CHAPTER

LOCATION: St. Raphael's Episcopal Church, 1891 Parkers Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40504

AVAILABLE INSTRUMENTS: pipe organ and piano

SCHEDULE: To be determined, based on applications

DUE DATE FOR EMAIL APPLICATION: March 1, 2026

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION: vicki.kbc@gmail.com

PERFORMER'S NAME/S:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE:

1. LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE AS A PERFORMER (please underline or highlight)

Beginner *Intermediate* *Advanced amateur* *Professional*

2. INSTRUMENT (please underline or highlight)

Organ

Piano

Stringed instrument

Wind instrument

Voice (accompanists are not provided)

Ensemble (please specify)

Other:

3. YOUR REPERTOIRE FOR BACH MARATHON, with accurate timings

(J.S. Bach compositions only); suggested limit of 5-10 minutes for amateurs, up to 30 minutes for professionals).

The March 28 schedule will include a Bach chorale sing-a-long at **noon**.
Singers at all levels of expertise are invited to participate.

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

OTHER UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

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](#)

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

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 in July! Only 4 hours, 59 minutes away from Lexington! To read more or register, [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 \(SPC\)](#), [Colleague \(CAGO\)](#), AAGO or FAGO 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

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 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
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]



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January 2026

Visiting Conductor Series *with* RICHARD WEBSTER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

3:30pm CONCERT

Joseph Parr, organ
Indiana University

4:00pm EVENSONG

with the Cathedral Choir



Organ Concert

with HUW LEWIS

HOPE COLLEGE, MICHIGAN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

4:00pm

Co-sponsored with
*the Lexington Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists*



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

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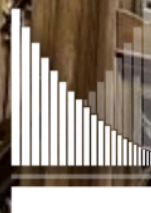
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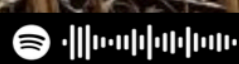


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ANNOUNCING OUR 2025-2026 SEASON

*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

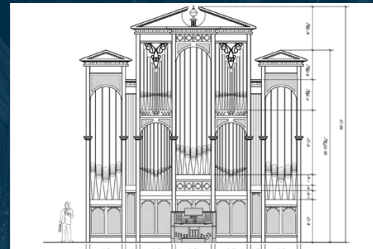
Concerts will be held at First Presbyterian Church
174 North Mill Street, Lexington, KY 40507



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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.*

HUMORESQUE



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.