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May, 2026



American Guild of
ORGANISTS

LEXINGTON, KY CHAPTER

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Recent AGO Events

Upcoming AGO Events

Upcoming Local Events

AGOLex Business

Member News

Miscellany

Job Openings

Our Sponsors

Humoresque

Principal Pipings



EAR TRAINING . . . some thoughts

I remember the tremendous relief I felt when my first organ teacher told me that organists were not typically expected to memorize music for a recital (I still remember the awful feeling of having a couple of memory slips during piano competitions more than half a century ago!). For some of us, even the word “memorize” can conjure up a feeling of dread.

Memorization and ear training go hand-in-hand. Playing by ear acts as a form of active memorization; it strengthens tonal memory and auditory recall, naturally boosting your capacity to recall music. These skills lead to enhanced fluency, performance confidence, technical mastery, and increased musicality.

That said, for the church organist preparing mass quantities of music, memorizing doesn't seem very practical (except for memorizing one or two measures on the next page so you can turn!). However, including some memorization and playing by ear in your practice routine can be of benefit, especially if you are preparing for an AGO certification that requires ear tests or transposition! And if you're in the mood for some remedial ear training, try this for fun:

checkyourpitch.com.

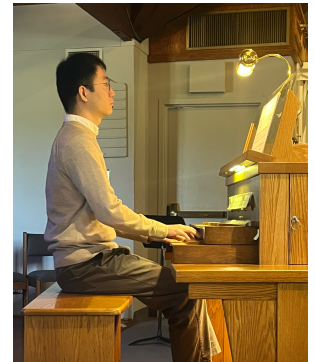
- Nancy (and Michael)



RECENT AGO EVENTS

2026 BACH MARATHON, SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 10:30 A.M. ST. RAPHAEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LEXINGTON

Co-sponsored by The Lexington Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
and The Kentucky Bach Choir



Performers included Mary Ann Wilder, piano; Lily Steiner, piano; Caleb Lee, piano; Jonathan Francis, cello; Ruth Bryan, clarinet; Ethan Serman, organ; Rebecca Kiekenapp, cello; Xiaoyu Ouyang, organ; Hannah Houston, soprano; Clyde Beavers, cello; William Adams, piano; Don Zent, piano; as well as AGOLex members David Cooper, Mark de Alba, Wesley Roberts, Cully Bell, and Cade Dundon. In addition, a Bach Chorale Sing-a-long was led by members of the Kentucky Bach Choir.



Above: The surviving AGO members at the conclusion of the Bach Marathon! Left to right: Scott Heydinger, Schuyler Robinson, David Cooper, Mark de Alba, Vicki Bell (host and organizer of the event), Cully Bell, Wesley Roberts, Larry Sharp



Left: A Bach chorale sing-a-long at midday was one of the highlights of the event.

***THANK YOU to Vicki Bell and to
St. Raphael Episcopal for
organizing and hosting this great
tribute to Bach***



Looking forward to the 2027 Bach Marathon!

UPCOMING AGO EVENTS

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT AGO EVENTS

The Hymn Festival originally planned for May 2 has been cancelled

Saturday, May 16, 11:30 a.m. - Ascension Luncheon in the “VIP Room” at Ramsey’s Diner, 151 W. Zandale Drive, Lexington, 40503

Join your AGO friends and colleagues for a relaxing and fun (and FREE) lunch. Spouses and partners are also welcome. Space is limited to 20, so **RSVP soon** - no later than Sunday, May 10! (Text Nancy: 859-333-0526 or Michael: 859-205-9549, or respond to this email.)

Door prizes will be awarded!

Saturday, June 27, 11:00 a.m. - Brunch and Installation of Officers
at the home of Michael and Nancy Dunn, 135 Georgia Street, Winchester, Kentucky, 40391 Please RSVP by Sunday, June 21.

OTHER UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

Sunday, May 17 - Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

3:30 p.m. - Grant Holcomb, *organ*, River Road Presbyterian Church,
Richmond, Virginia

4:00 p.m. - Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

Sunday, June 7, 5:00 p.m. - Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington

Lexington Chamber Chorale: “How Can I Keep from Singing: The Heart of Kentucky: A Musical Tribute” <http://lexingtonchamberchorale.org/>

AGOLex BUSINESS

ELECTION 2026-27/28 and APPROVAL OF UPDATED OPERATING PROCEDURES

If you are a member of AGOLex, your ballot was emailed on Monday, April 27. Votes should be sent to **Executive Secretary Hayden McNeal** no later than May 27 (instructions are in the email). **IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A BALLOT VIA EMAIL** (check your spam or junk mail please) let us know by responding to this email.

Proposed 2026-28 Lexington Chapter AGO Slate of Officers

Dean: Mattilda Middleton
Co-Sub-Deans: Mike and Nancy Dunn
Executive Secretary: Hayden McNeal
Treasurer: Brian Hunt
Representative At-Large: Mark de Alba (2029)

Respectfully submitted,
AGOLex Nominating Committee:

Mark de Alba
James Humlong
Angela Hurley
Larry Sharp, chair
Lynn Vera

*Thank you to Larry Sharp and the Nominating Committee
for their thoughtful deliberations!*

MEMBER NEWS

AGOLEX MOURNS THE LOSS OF LONG-TIME MEMBER CAMILLE WALLACE

Camille G. Wallace Obituary

Camille G. Wallace, 88, of Lexington, died April 18, 2026 at The Springs of Oldham Reserve in LaGrange, KY. She was the wife of the late Robert E. Wallace, who passed December 1, 2015. She was born in Milwaukee, WI on June 13, 1937 to the late Ted and Sophie (Czarnecki) Dziejdzic. Camille was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church. She most recently was church organist at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on Eastland Parkway. Camille Dziejdzic Rehfuss was conferred the honor of membership into the Theta Chapter of Delta Mu Theta – a National Catholic Music Honor Society on May 18, 1961, for work in the churches after graduation from Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI in 1959. Camille advanced her studies in music education at the University of Kentucky in 1981-1982. She was an appointed International Piano Teaching Foundation Consultant since 1978. She also retired full time work from the State of Kentucky as an administrative secretary in the Cabinet for Families and Children in August of 2007.



She will be sadly missed by her four children: Peter L. (Michelle) Rehfuss of Allen, TX; Kenneth M. (Redonna) Rehfuss of Silver Spring, MD; Kay M. Rehfuss (Bob) Tyler of LaGrange, KY; Sue E. Rehfuss (David) McKee of Charlotte, NC. She is also survived by her sisters, Lynn M. Dziejdzic (Dan-dec. May 2022) Stuempfig of Waukesha, WI and Joyce A. Dziejdzic (Bernard) Witkowski of Wisconsin Rapids, WI. She was preceded in death by her mother, father and sister, Geraldine Dziejdzic of Waukesha, WI.

A Mass of Resurrection in memory of Camille was celebrated on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of Christ the King, 299 Colony Boulevard, Lexington, Kentucky..

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Christ the King Catholic Church or Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.



MISCELLANY



THE AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Register NOW! [click here!](#) St. Louis is less than five hours' drive from Lexington! Several members of our chapter have already registered. If you plan to go, **let us know** by responding to this email.



FROM EVANSVILLE AGO EDUCATION CONVENER ROBERT NICHOLLS:

2026 RSCM Midwest



The RSCM Midwest Summer Choral Residency is a seven day immersive choral experience for any singer age 10+. Visit rscmmidwest.org or scan the QR code!

Dates: July 13-19, 2026

Location: Evansville, IN

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



ADD THOSE COVETED AGO CERTIFICATION LETTERS AFTER YOUR NAME!

You can do it! 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, information will be available soon about the due date. The cost is \$40.00. Chapter Friends receive our monthly newsletter but are not eligible for AGO discounts and do not receive *The American Organist* magazine.

IMPROVE YOUR IMPROV!



The Bluegrass Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (BGATOS) 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. This is a great way to “loosen up” your playing and gain confidence in improvisation. If you are interested please contact Bill Webber at 859.298.8962 or williamawebberiv@gmail.com

JOB OPENINGS

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Winchester: Part time organist

[Full description](#)

[posted 4/1/2026]

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lexington: Part time organist

[Full description](#)

[posted 12/1/2025]

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

May 2026

Concert & Evensong

SUNDAY, MAY 17

3:30pm ORGAN CONCERT

Grant Holcomb, *organ*

*River Road Presbyterian Church,
Richmond, Virginia*

4:00pm EVENSONG

with the Cathedral Choir



SCAPA Choral Concert



THURSDAY, MAY 21

7:30pm

*School for the Creative
& Performing Arts*

Madrigal Singers

Ryan Marsh, *conductor*

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



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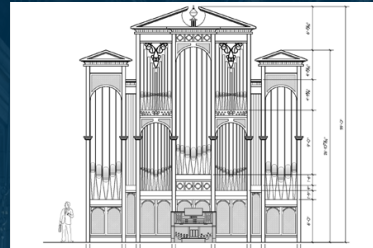


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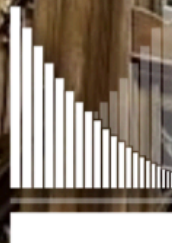
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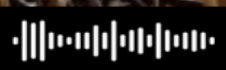


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GREAT MUSIC

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

HUMORESQUE

“Without music to decorate it, time is just a bunch of boring production deadlines or dates by which bills must be paid.” - *Frank Zappa*

“Doing nothing is very hard to do . . . you never know when you're finished.”
- *Leslie Nielsen*

“I’m sure wherever my Dad is, he’s looking down on us. He’s not dead, just very condescending.” - *Jack Whitehall*

“A good friend will help you move. But a best friend will help you move a dead body.” - *Jim Hayes*

“A husband is what's left of the lover after the nerve has been extracted.” - *Helen Rowland*

“Alexander Hamilton started the U.S. Treasury with nothing - and that was the closest our country has ever been to being even.” - *Will Rogers*

“I’ve lived through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened.”
- *Mark Twain*

“I’m not offended by blonde jokes because I know I’m not dumb . . . and I also know that I’m not blonde.” - *Dolly Parton*

“Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way when you criticize them, you are a mile away from them and you have their shoes.” - *Jack Handey*

“Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend. Inside of a dog it’s too dark to read.”
- *Groucho Marx*

“A day without sunshine is like, you know, night.” - *Steve Martin*

“Never doubt the courage of the French. They were the ones who discovered that snails are edible.”
- *Doug Larson*

“If I should ever die, God forbid, let this be my epitaph: THE ONLY PROOF HE NEEDED FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD WAS MUSIC” - *Kurt Vonnegut*

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.