



Vox Humana

Newsletter of the Piedmont NC Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists

January 2026

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Message from the Dean

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to get some well-deserved R&R before getting started back up again.

As we look forward to the second half of the program year (and my final semester as dean), I am excited for you to see all the wonderful things happening throughout the chapter in addition to many more things happening throughout our chapter's area. To start, I invite you to the Winners Recital of the MS/HS Organ Festival & Competition on Saturday, January 31, at approximately 4:00pm in the Elberson Fine Arts Center at Salem College. We will have 14 young organists from around the country competing in two divisions throughout the day. The chapter supports two of the prizes, UNCSA sponsors several prizes, and The Leupold Foundation also graciously sponsors gift certificates to their extensive catalog of publications for each of the prize winners. The evening will be capped off with a performance by several of my UNCSA students in Crawford Hall on the recently renovated C.B. Fisk, Op. 75. All of these are free and open to the public.

The annual Flentrop Organ Recital Series at Salem College will be back again this year on Tuesdays in February at noon. Feel free to join us for 30-minute recitals in Shirley Recital Hall in February.



SALEM COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
PRESENTS

2026
Flentrop Organ
Recital Series

FEBRUARY 3 FEBRUARY 10
FEBRUARY 17 FEBRUARY 24

30-MINUTE ORGAN RECITALS
EVERY TUESDAY IN FEBRUARY
AT 12 NOON
SHIRLEY RECITAL HALL
ELBERSON FINE ARTS CENTER, SALEM COLLEGE
FREE ADMISSION

I am also excited for the second Piedmont Triad Organists Symposium coming this year a couple of weeks after Easter. Tom Trenney will be our headliner! Read on in the newsletter for more information, but save the dates, April 17-18, now!

I wish you all a productive and safe 2026. We have many exciting events (including two new organs and a major renovation within the chapter) to celebrate. Join us at a future event! Sincerely, Timothy Olsen, dean

2026 UNCSA Organ Festival & Competition

Kenan Associate Professor of Organ Timothy Olsen, the UNCSA & Salem College Organ Studio, and the Piedmont NC Chapter of the American Guild of Organists invite you to the 2026 UNCSA Middle and High School Organ Festival & Competition.

The competition will take place on Saturday, Jan. 31. Workshops, lectures, and master classes will take place on Friday, Jan. 30 and Sunday, Feb. 1. For a full schedule, see the website [Organ Festival & Competition](#).

In addition to participating in the Competition, guest middle and high school organists will be able to meet other organists their age from around the country, tour the UNCSA & Salem College organ facilities, hear UNCSA keyboard faculty and students perform in recital, participate in workshops, masterclasses, lessons, as well as build a small functioning [Orgelkids Kit](#) pipe organ!

Our chapter will sponsor two prizes: First Prize in the Intermediate Level (\$500) and Second Prize in the Advanced Level (\$1000).

Upcoming Events

Friday, January 23

The Rodland Duo, organ and violin at MUSIC FOR A GREAT SPACE

7:30pm, Christ United Methodist Church, Greensboro

MGS starts off the new year with the Rodland Duo on the Fisk Organ. Mother & daughter duo Catherine Rodland and Catherine Carson will perform works for organ and violin, exploring folk music and the music of female composers.

Catherine Rodland is a prizewinner in several competitions including the American Guild of Organists Young Artists Competition, the Calgary International Organ Competition, and the International Organ Competition at the University of Michigan for which she received first prize. She



concertizes extensively throughout the United States and Canada. Ms. Rodland currently serves as Artist in Residence at St. Olaf College. In 2010 she released two CDs: “Dedication”, and “American Weavings”, the latter recorded in Boe Chapel at St. Olaf College with violist and duo partner Carol Rodland. The Rodland Duo is managed by Concert Artists Cooperative. Ms. Rodland received both the MM and DMA from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY where she was a student of Russell Saunders.

Catherine Carson, violinist, is currently pursuing her master’s degree at The Juilliard School. As an avid chamber musician, she is currently in the Honors Chamber Program at Juilliard with her string quartet DragonBoot. Ms. Carson is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and has served as concertmaster of both the Eastman School Symphony Orchestra and the Eastman Philharmonia. She has also won prizes in numerous competitions, including the Young Arts, Schubert Club Scholarship, Thursday Musical, Young People’s Symphony Concert Association (YPSCA), Rochester Music Guild and Mary West Solo Competitions, and because of the YPSCA competition at which Ms. Carson won the grand prize, she performed the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Minnesota Orchestra.

For more information on the concert and tickets, visit the MGS [website concert page](#). There you will find program information and more. Also, join us for outreach events, presented at no charge, with the Rodland Duo:

Thursday, Jan 22, 2:00pm

[Art & Live Music class](#)

Friday, Jan 23, 6:30pm

Musings on Music with Maria-Elena Surprenant

Saturday, Jan 24, 10:00am

[Masterclass with Catherine Rodland](#)

Sunday, January 25

Gardner-Webb University Concert Choir in Concert

7:00pm, Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem

Arts at Admore Series presents an inspiring evening of choral music presented by the acclaimed Gardner-Webb Concert Choir. Their program, “Revelare,” explores the many ways God reveals Himself through music, Scripture, prayer, and lived experience. The concert features works by Brahms, contemporary composers Jocelyn Hagen and Melissa Dunphy, and folk music from Africa and North America. The Gardner-Webb Concert Choir—an auditioned ensemble recognized for regional, national, and international performances—is led by Dr. Joshua Cheney with Timothy Scruggs at the piano and organ.



This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome to experience this powerful evening of music and reflection.

Saturday, January 31

The Pianist's Primer on Playing the Organ by Kirsten Homdrom

10:00am, North Raleigh UMC, Raleigh

Are you a pianist who is just starting to play the organ? Or maybe an organist whose first instrument is the piano? Join us for this workshop with Dr. Kirsten Homdrom as she explains how to easily become a confident organist with your existing skills at the piano! Kirsten says, "I will be covering registration, as well as articulation, touch, shoes, and repertoire resources, among other things. I'm also looking forward to answering questions, especially ones that perhaps people have had but haven't had the chance to ask them.

Dr. Kirsten Homdrom currently serves as Director of Music and Organist at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh. Kirsten has also taught piano and organ to students of all ages and has performed both in the United States and abroad. She has a passion for ministering to people by sharing God's gift of music in fellowship and faith. Kirsten holds a B.M. in piano performance from Baldwin-Wallace University Conservatory of Music and an M.M. and D.M.A. in piano performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Piedmont Triad Organists Symposium

Save the date for our second Symposium on April 17–18

This year's guest artist will be organist, composer, and choral conductor Tom Trenney. He will lead us in a hymn festival, hold a workshop on improvisation, and share his thoughts on composing, arranging, and working with music publishers. Other workshops planned include: a round table discussion with tips to get the organ building/renovation process rolling at your church, working with aging voices in the choir, registering pieces on an instrument not intended by the composer, and more. Registration will open soon!

Michael Hill Scholarship Spring 2026 Recipient

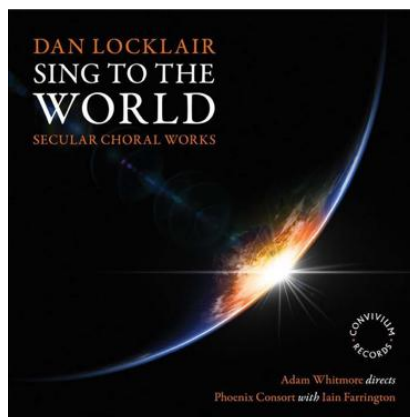
Congratulations to Aliya Rojanapon on receiving the Michael Hill Scholarship to continue her organ studies! Aliya, who also received the scholarship last fall, studies with Marya Fancey in Greensboro. We are proud to renew her award and support her continuing development as a young organist!

The next deadline for scholarship applications is **April 15**, for the trimester study period of May 1 through August 31. Applicants can receive up to \$500 towards the cost of lessons, as well as free instructional materials generously donated by The Leupold Foundation. For more information, visit www.piedmontncago.org/michael-hill-scholarship. We hope you'll share this opportunity with any young musicians you know!

Scholarship information and application forms can be found at <https://www.piedmontncago.org/michael-hill-scholarship.html>.

Member News

On January 2, England's Convivium Records released a new all-Locklair recording, "Sing to the World." The new album contains secular choral works of mine, all brilliantly performed by the Phoenix Consort and pianist Iain Farrington, conducted by Adam Whitmore. Distributed by Naxos, more info on the new release can be found at <https://conviviumrecords.co.uk/product/sing-to-the-world/>.



Positions Available

Check out our [Position Openings](#) page for recent additions! To have a position listed, email us at piedmontncago@outlook.com or use the form at the bottom of the webpage. Follow us on Facebook to receive an update every time a new job is posted. Below are recent NEW listings.

Pianist

Pine Hall Presbyterian Church, Pine Hall, NC

Part-time

Seeking pianist for 11:00 Sunday services and occasional special services like Christmas Eve. This position is ideal for a pianist of any age who is seeking a less demanding musical responsibility on Sunday mornings. For more information, contact Rob Paris at 336-671-0697 or piperparis@hotmail.com.

Musician

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Welcome, NC

Part-time (8-10 hours/week)

OSLC is searching for a passionate musician to accompany our congregation in worship on both piano and organ, as well as direct small adult choir. Salary is negotiable based on experience. To apply, email OSLCStewards@gmail.com with subject line "Organist Position — [your name]" — and include a short description of your qualifications and contact information.

Accompanist (Organ/Piano)

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC

Part-time

Seeking part-time organist/pianist for Wednesday night choir practice and Sunday morning services, as well as special services (weddings, funerals, etc.) and extra services during Holy Week and Christmas Eve. Salary starts at \$900.00 per month, negotiable depending on experience. If interested, contact Darlene Chipman at 336-755-9440 or email at darchipman@gmail.com.

Organist

Friedland Moravian Church, Winston-Salem, NC

Part-time

Seeking a talented and passionate Church Organist to enhance worship services through music. Responsibilities include playing for worship services, special events, and choir rehearsals, as well as collaborating with pastor and choir director to select music. If interested, email resume to Rusla Fulp at ruslafulp@gmail.com or contact church office directly at 336-788-2652.

Music Assistant

The Leupold Foundation, 8510 Triad Drive Colfax NC 27235

Part-time

Work 10-15 hours per week with organ music, books and computers. Will train. Please call (336) 996-8653 in the afternoon.

Please send your news, upcoming events, position openings, substitute availability, and other useful information to Susan Keck Foster, Chapter Communication, at piedmontncago@outlook.com.