



# Vox Humana

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

October 2024

## Contents

Message from the Dean .....	1
News and Reviews .....	2
Upcoming Events.....	4
Executive Committee Members for 2024-2025 .....	6

## Message from the Dean



Welcome to the renewal of the Piedmont NC AGO Chapter newsletter, *Vox Humana*! As of now, it will come out approximately quarterly (perhaps more frequently). We will include events specifically hosted by the chapter, events hosted by local churches and institutions that are shared with us, as well as job postings and other useful information.

But first of all, our hearts go out to all those who have been affected by Hurricane Helene. The devastation of people's homes, churches, schools, and more is heart-wrenching. I'm sure we all have friends or colleagues who have been affected. As damage is assessed, your board will consider ways that we may be of assistance to those affected by the destructive force of Mother Nature in Western North Carolina.

As we look forward to the 2024-25 program year, we are excited to reinvigorate our offerings through social media (on Facebook - please "like/follow" us at Piedmont NC: AGO Chapter as well as ask to join the private FB Group: Piedmont NC Organists) and our website (soon to be revamped). We will update everyone when the website has been updated.

The chapter looks forward to continuing to support UNCSA's Middle School/High School Organ Festival & Competition January 31-February 2, 2025. The chapter has sponsored prizes for the competition since 2011, for which I am grateful. It is always thrilling to see the level of talent and dedication these students have, and to see them have such a wonderful time together while in Winston-Salem. Specific times and ways for you to be involved and events open to the public will be sent out in a future newsletter.

In the coming weeks, you will hear from one of your board members. We hope to be able to offer a handful of events this year in various areas of our widespread geography. Be on the lookout for these in a future newsletter for an opportunity to join your fellow organists, choir directors, and organ aficionados of the AGO. —Sincerely, Timothy Olsen, Dean

## News and Reviews

### **Congratulations to the newly elected Chapter Executive Committee Members!**

See pictures and biographies later in the newsletter on page 5.

Timothy Olsen, Dean  
Dreama Lovitt, Sub-Dean, programming  
Matthew Brittain, Treasurer  
Marya Fancey, Member-at-Large  
Bruce McClung, Member-at-Large  
Susan Keck Foster, Communications Coordinator  
Sarah Kennedy, Member-at-Large, Social Media  
Bill Allred, Webmaster  
Henry Tysinger, Membership Coordinator & Newsletter Editor

### **Pipe Organ Encounter and Pipe Organ Intensive**

Twenty students from ten states and Barbados participated in the Pipe Organ Encounter and Pipe Organ Intensive (run concurrently) at UNCSA in Winston-Salem, NC from July 14-19, 2024, sponsored by the Piedmont NC Chapter. The students were housed in UNCSA's new college dorm, and utilized instruments at UNCSA, Salem College, and many local churches. Each day's rhythm was marked by a lesson, practice time, a session on improvisation, an organ repertoire session, and an evening concert. The participants were exposed to a concert with organ and strings, a harpsichord concert, a hymn festival, and an

organ+percussion concert featuring Lou Harrison's *Concerto for Organ and Percussion Orchestra* among other works. They visited the Reynolda Museum (former home of RJ Reynolds) where



they saw and heard the Aeolian house organ played there. They also enthusiastically put together the Orgelkids kit (owned by UNCSA). The Piedmont NC chapter is grateful to the 30-plus volunteers that helped make the week such an amazing experience for these kids!

## Sounds of the Summer

Our big summer series, Sounds of the Summer: Exploring the Tones and Colors of Organs in Winston-Salem (SotS), had another successful run in 2024. With a large following and enthusiastic concert attendees, we featured a wide variety of instruments, from big (the updated Cornell Zimmer-Moeller at First Baptist) to small (the



Zimmer-Lewtak at Trinity Moravian), Baroque (the Noack at Ardmore UMC) to Romantic (the Hook & Hastings at Calvary Moravian) to Modern (the Cassavant at Augsburg Lutheran), including one never before featured in the series (the Zimmer at Konnoak Hills Moravian). Ten years in, there are pipe organs yet to be featured in the city! We extend a huge thank you to the eighteen volunteer organists who showcased these instruments and to the team of volunteers who helped make the concerts possible through organizing, promoting, donating funds for printing costs, and all the rest that goes into making such a wonderful series possible. One additional note: this year, the SotS series was connected to the Pipe Organ Intensive/Encounter week concerts- a Harpsichord Extravaganza (UNCSA), an Improvisation and Hymn Festival (Centenary UMC), and an Organ + Percussion Concert (West Market St UMC, Greensboro). That “festival” week also drew in large, energetic crowds, beginning with the SotS Baroque & Modern concert at Ardmore UMC. We are excited to imagine what next summer will bring!

## Margaret Sandresky Celebration Concert

An Organ Concert Tribute to Margaret Vardell Sandresky, an American composer, organist, and educator, was presented on Friday September 27 at Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem. Organists Susan Bates, Mary Lou Kapp Peeples, Susan Keck Foster, and Susan Orgain presented a variety of organ works from Ms. Sandresky’s extensive catalog on the church’s 1959 Aeolian-Skinner organ. A large and enthusiastic audience turned out to celebrate Ms. Sandresky, now 103 years young! Her organ works are published in 11 volumes by Wayne Leupold Editions.



# Upcoming Events

## At St. Luke's Episcopal in Salisbury – October & November

St. Luke's Episcopal Church will be offering a free midday concert series every Tuesday in October. Beginning at 12:10 p.m. each week, the community is invited to enjoy about 45 minutes of music by outstanding local and regional performers.

On **October 1st**, organist **Karen S. Eddinger** will offer a program featuring 20th century compositions for the organ. Eddinger is Minister of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, Pennsylvania. A magna cum laude graduate of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ, Karen holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Church Music.

On **October 8th**, organist **Dustin Shelton** will perform. Shelton is the Director of Music Ministries at Milford Hills United Methodist Church. He also accompanies for the Salisbury-Rowan Choral Society and the Singing Saints Choir based in Concord, NC.

Shelton received his bachelor's degree in sacred music from Catawba College in 2013. He received his master's degree in Church Music from Mercer University (Macon, GA) in 2016.

**October 15th's concert features mezzo-soprano, Andrea Petska.** Originally from Iowa, Andrea studied under Dr. Robert Larsen while earning her degree in Vocal Performance. After graduation, Andrea moved to Philadelphia where she was a regular artist with the Main Line Opera Guild and performed at several churches doing solo work from "Messiah" and "Elijah". Andrea also studied with Barbara Paver at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She moved to the greater Charlotte area in 2019 and has sung at St Patrick's Cathedral and St Mark's Catholic Church where she is a staff singer.

On **October 22nd**, St. Luke's will welcome the **Horn Society of the Carolinas**. The Horn Society of the Carolinas was formed in February 2009 after a local debut of a fabulous piece written for 8 horns. The group includes amateur and professional players from the North and South Carolina area. The HSoc has performed at local Scottish Games, Octoberfests and regional horn Workshops. The October 22nd program will include pieces with different flavors. The audience will hear Handel to Sousa to Rodgers & Hammerstein and perhaps a little barbershop mixed in as well.

The series will conclude on **October 29th with a performance entitled "Love, Death, and Art" featuring local actor, Mary Ann McCubbin** as well as several other local actors.

The entire community is invited each Tuesday in October at 12:10pm. A free-will offering opportunity to support arts ministries at St. Luke's will be available. St. Luke's is located at **131 W Council St.** in downtown Salisbury. More information may be found at [www.SLS.church](http://www.SLS.church) or on the church's Facebook page.

**Concert of Remembrance: Rutter's Requiem** and other anthems. Stephen Williams, conductor. Sunday, November 3 at 4:00PM. FREE



ARTS AT ST. LUKE'S PRESENTS:  
**Noon-Ten Concerts**  
A FALL ARTS OFFERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY  
EVERY TUESDAY IN OCTOBER AT 12:10PM

FREE

ON OCTOBER 1st  
KAREN S. EDDINGER (ORGANIST)

ON OCTOBER 8th  
DUSTIN SHELTON (ORGANIST)

ON OCTOBER 15th  
ANDREA PETSKA (MEZZO-SOPRANO)

ON OCTOBER 22nd  
THE HORN SOCIETY OF THE CAROLINAS

ON OCTOBER 29th  
MARY ANN MCCUBBIN (LOCAL ACTRESS)

131 W. COUNCIL ST., SALISBURY  
WWW.SLS.CHURCH  
610.633.3221

ST. LUKE'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CONCERT OF REMEMBRANCE  
JOHN RUTTER: REQUIEM & ANTHEMS FOR ALL SAINTS  
NOVEMBER 3RD, 4PM  
FEATURING THE CHOIRS OF ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL & SINGERS FROM AREA CHURCHES

MICHAEL ROWLAND, ORGAN  
GRACE ANDERSON, CELLO  
FRANK TOULOS, OBOE  
KAREN FRANKS, FLUTE  
PARKER COX, PERCUSSION

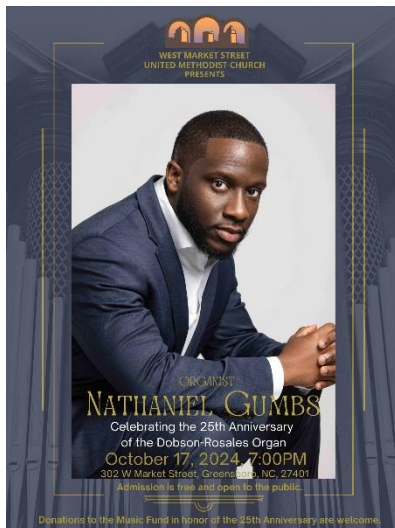
STEPHEN WILLIAMS,  
CONDUCTOR

FREE ADMISSION  
ALL ARE INVITED

ST. LUKE'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

131 W. COUNCIL ST.  
DOWNTOWN SALISBURY  
704-633-3221  
610.633.3221 WWW.SLS.CHURCH

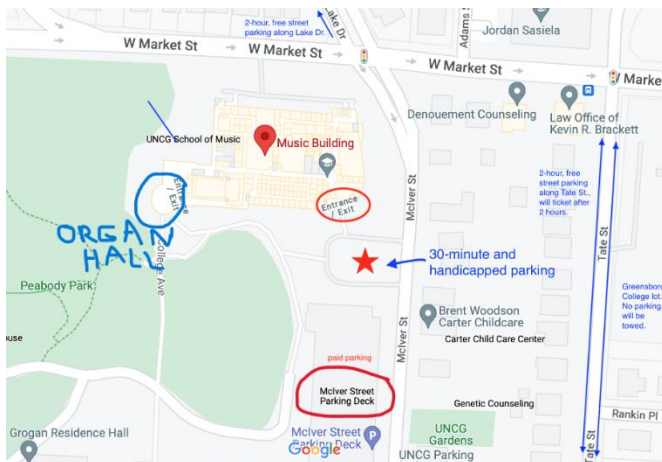
**Nathaniel Gumbs**, organist, Thursday, 10/17 at 7PM, FREE  
25th Anniversary Celebration of the Dobson-Rosales organ  
West Market Street United Methodist Church,  
302 W. Market Street, Greensboro



**Alcee Chriss III**, organ, Friday, 10/25 at 7:30  
Christ United Methodist Church, Greensboro  
Music for a Great Space Series 12  
<https://musicforagreatspace.org/events/138>,  
ticketed event.



**Masterclass by Alcee Chriss III**, organ,  
Thursday, 10/24, 2:30-4:30PM, FREE  
UNCG Organ Recital Hall,  
Greensboro  
See Map for directions and parking  
Sponsored by Music for a Great Space



**FYI - Moravian Music Foundation**, Johannes Berger organ recital is being **rescheduled** for a later date next year.

# Executive Committee Members for 2024-2025

## **Timothy Olsen, Dean**

Timothy Olsen serves in a joint faculty position as Kenan Associate Professor of Organ at UNCSA and Associate Professor of Organ at Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC. He also serves as Cantor (Organist/Music Director) at Augsburg Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem where he oversees a thriving music program.

As a recitalist, Dr. Olsen performs solo organ recitals, as well as trumpet/organ duo recitals with Judith Saxton. He also frequently presents masterclasses and workshops for universities and chapters of the American Guild of Organists and has been a featured artist at AGO Region conventions as recitalist and workshop presenter.

Dr. Olsen holds degrees from Concordia College (Moorhead, MN) and the Eastman School of Music (MM and DMA). Past faculty positions include Ithaca College and Oklahoma City University, as well as sabbatical replacements at Cornell University and Binghamton University.

Dr. Olsen was the first prize winner of the 2002 AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP). He has recorded compact discs on the NAXOS and Raven labels (including works recorded for the first time) and has been featured multiple times on American Public Media's *Pipedreams*, WCPE's (Raleigh, NC) *Great Sacred Music*, and WXXI's (Rochester, NY) *With Heart and Voice*. He currently resides in Pfafftown, NC with his wife, three boys, and their six-pound Chihuahua, Milo Bjørn.

## **Dreama Lovitt, Sub-Dean**

Dreama Lovitt currently serves as the Director of Traditional Music and Organist at West Market Street UMC, Greensboro. She holds a BM Degree (with Suzanne Bunting) from the University of Richmond, VA, and a MM Degree in Organ Performance and Literature (with Hans Davidsson) from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY. She has sought additional input from international organists Hans Fagius, Daniel Roth, and others, and has performed in the US, Italy, Sweden, and France. In addition, she has pursued coursework in Dalcroze Eurhythmics in the US and at the Institut Jaques-Dalcroze in Geneva, Switzerland.



A founder of the concert series Sounds of the Summer in Winston-Salem, she is also a co-organizer for local Pipe Organ Encounter and Intensive Camps. Her composition for organ and recorded bird song *Spring in Bethabara 2013* was recorded by the Climate Listening Project for a film about the Wood Thrush. She is a cat magnet: in her vegetable garden, in her woodblock printmaking room, and at home practicing piano, harpsichord, and clavichord, they are there.

### **Matthew Brittain, Treasurer**

Matt Brittain has been the Director of Music/Organist at Front Street United Methodist Church in Burlington since 2016. He has a master's degree in sacred music from Emory University in Atlanta and a doctorate in music from the University of Cincinnati. He studied organ with Michael Unger, piano with Barbara Lister-Sink, and choral conducting with Brett Scott. While in Cincinnati, he was the organ scholar at the historic Calvary Episcopal Church under Director of Music, and noted American choral composer, Howard Helvey. In 2019 and 2023, he attended the Smarano International Early Keyboards Academy for two weeks in Italy, where he had the opportunity to participate in masterclasses given by internationally renowned musicians and experts. A certified public accountant, he also holds a business degree from Appalachian State University. In his spare time, Matt enjoys running, walking, hiking, traveling, reading, and hanging out with friends and family.



### **Marya Fancey, Member-at-Large**

Marya enjoys all things organ—performing, teaching, service playing, and research. She received a 2017–2018 Fulbright Student Research Award to Poland for Historical Music Performance and presented her research on organ masses from the Tablature of Jan of Lublin (ca. 1540) at meetings of the Historical Keyboard Society of North America and the SE chapter of the American Musicological Society.



Her concert programs frequently incorporate works by under-appreciated composers. In 2016 Marya Fancey introduced Polish audiences to the music of Florence Price and David Hurd at two summer organ festivals. In 2015 she premiered the rediscovered *Passacaglia and Triple Fugue* (organ) by Louise Talma.

Marya holds the DMA degree in Organ Performance from UNC Greensboro with certificates in Historical Keyboard Performance and Music Theory Pedagogy. She is lecturer in organ and harpsichord at UNCG and organist at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro.

### **Bruce McClung, Member-at-Large**

Bruce D. McClung is Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). With thirty-one years' experience in higher education including six years as a dean, Dean McClung has held academic appointments at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) and UNCG. He is the author of *Lady in the Dark: Biography of a Musical* published by Oxford University Press, which received an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award, the Kurt Weill Prize, and the George Freedley Memorial Award's Special Jury Prize. Dean McClung holds a PhD in musicology, a Master of Arts (MA) in musicology, and a Master of Music (MM) in organ performance and literature from the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music; and a Bachelor of Music (BM) in organ performance from the New England Conservatory.



### **Sarah Kennedy, Member-at-Large**

Sarah Kennedy began her organ studies with Christopher Houlihan in 2018 while pursuing a BA in music at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, graduating in 2020. From 2020 to 2023, she held various roles including Assistant Music Director at Emanuel Lutheran Church and Accompanist/Assistant Director at South Congregational Church, alongside substitute and other freelance music work in Hartford. She also volunteered extensively with the Greater Hartford AGO Chapter and served as Chapter Administrator from 2022 to 2023. After relocating to North Carolina in July 2023, Sarah began her role as Assistant Organist and Music Associate at West Market Street United Methodist Church in Greensboro in January 2024. When she's not practicing or working at her day job in healthcare quality, Sarah enjoys video games, playing in her band(s), and long walks.



### **Susan Keck Foster, Communications**

Susan Keck Foster holds organ and harpsichord performance degrees from Converse College (BM) and Shenandoah Conservatory (MM), with additional study at the Eastman School of Music, the Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute and the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

Susan's professional career has included work as a solo concert artist and chamber musician, a keyboard faculty position at Shenandoah Conservatory of Music,



Executive Director of the Shenandoah Conservatory Arts Academy, and accompanist for numerous choral ensembles. Susan has held church organist positions since the age of 15, serving various congregations in VA and NC, including Home Moravian Church in historic Old Salem, Winston-Salem, NC for 17 years.

She now enjoys working as a substitute organist in the region, maintaining a thriving tax preparation business, and spending time with her two amazing grandchildren.

### **Henry Tysinger, Membership Coordinator and Newsletter Editor**

Henry Tysinger retired as choir director and organist serving in churches in Michigan and North Carolina. For the last 25 years of his career, he served Highland Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem, where he was organist and directed 5 choirs. He has been the Dean of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



Currently he serves as substitute organist and pianist in area churches. He also conducts the residents' choir at Salemtowne and plays organ twice monthly for Vespers.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, a Master of Arts from the University of Michigan, and studied organ and music history on the doctoral level with Marilyn Mason and James Moeser.

### **Bill Allred, Webmaster**

Bill Allred studied organ at Westminster Choir College with Donald MacDonald and at Indiana University with Larry Smith. He received his doctorate in choral conducting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Locally, Ivan Battle, Johnny Bradburn, Bobby King, and André Lash were his teachers. Allred directs the Burlington Boys Choir, is the Organist-Choir Director at Guilford Park Presbyterian in Greensboro, a past Dean of the Greensboro AGO Chapter, and volunteers at Friends Homes Guilford, directing the Resident's Handbell Choir and Vocal Choir. Bill and his wife Alicia live in Alamance County with their adopted dachshunds Missy and Peanut.



**Would you like to pick up independent organist work?** There is big demand for organists like you! A new and updated list of organists available for substitute work, including worship services, rehearsals, wedding and funerals, will be compiled and maintained on the soon to be revamped chapter website. If you wish to be included, please send your name, contact information, and type of work you are available for, to Susan Keck Foster at [bsskfoster@gmail.com](mailto:bsskfoster@gmail.com).

Please send your news, upcoming events, position openings, substitute availability, and other useful information to Susan Keck Foster, Chapter Communication, [bsskfoster@gmail.com](mailto:bsskfoster@gmail.com).

A dedicated chapter email address will be coming soon.