



Vox Humana

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

December 2024

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Message from the Dean

Last month I attended the EROI (Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative) Festival in Rochester, NY. It was a two-day festival that focused on the 1920s Orgelbewegung (organ reform) movement and all that that entailed. From lectures to organ demonstrations to recitals on various organs, and even the singing of a hymn with Samuel Scheidt organ verses played in between the stanzas. It was an inspiring couple of days being around colleagues and friends.

Your chapter leadership is beginning to plan our own 24-hour “mini convention” for YOU (and others in the area)! You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks/months, but please save the dates now as you will not want to miss it: Friday (afternoon) & Saturday, May 30-31, 2025. It will feature various recitals, workshops, lectures...and food! Please plan to attend. There will be a variety of offerings. I am grateful for sub-dean Dreama Lovitt and the energetic team for planning this event. Watch for more information in future chapter newsletters.

As we are near the end of 2024, we have been through a lot as a country and as a people. I wish for all of you sincere happiness, love, and joy as we go into 2025. From the legendary Leonard Bernstein: “Art cannot change events. But it can change people. It can affect people so that they are changed...” Let us all be the agent of change that affects people deeply – whether it be in the sanctuary, in the rehearsal room, or in the concert hall.

I am grateful for all our members – both new and long-standing. Thank you to all of you who continue to contribute in various ways large and small. If it’s been a little while since you’ve been involved, consider joining us for an upcoming event (several are listed in this newsletter). We ALL are the AGO. We ALL are our chapter.

May 2025 be a year of happiness, love, joy, and peace. Be that agent of change that affects people. — Timothy Olsen, dean

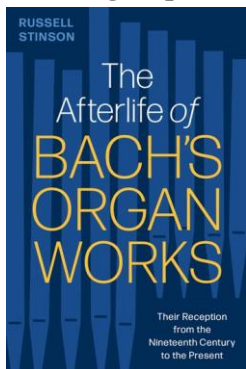
Member News

New Book Published by Chapter Member

Musicologist, organist, and Bach expert, Dr. Russell Stinson, has published widely on the music of J.S. Bach, including seven books, most recently *The Afterlife of Bach's Organ Works: Their Reception from the Nineteenth Century to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2023).



Through extensive scholarship and research, Dr. Stinson traces the curation and performance of Bach's organ works in the centuries following Bach's death by a diverse group of musicians and non-musicians alike who championed his organ



compositions. Beginning with the early nineteenth century and moving through to the present day, Stinson treats the reader to five chapters of stories and anecdotes of these devotees, and how the afterlife of Bach's organ works has now been spread throughout the world, both real and virtual. Stinson also briefly discusses the use (and exploitation?) of Bach's music by the American film industry. Engagingly written, the book contains a wealth of music history, performance practice, social history, and the means by which Bach's music has endured the test of time. An excellent review of the book by David Yearsley appears in the October 2024 issue of *The American Organist* magazine.

Dr. Stinson is Emeritus Professor of Music at Lyon College and Director of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Wilkesboro, NC. He and his wife Laura live in Winston-Salem. The book can be purchased through Oxford University Press, or on Amazon.

Mueller Home Organ Set to Be Auctioned

Countless organ students and colleagues have fond memories of being welcomed into the home of Dr. John and Margaret Mueller to enjoy musical salons and soirees. The musical centerpiece was the two manual/pedal tracker organ, which was installed in their home in 1960 by Flentrop Organ Builders of Zaandam, Holland.

Educators extraordinaire, John and Margaret Mueller, had international careers as organists, and paved the way for the mechanical action organ movement in America in the 1960s. Their relationship with the Flentrop company resulted in the installation of several organs in the area, notably the three manual instrument in Shirley Recital Hall at Salem College (1965).

The Muellers were lifelong members of the American Guild of Organists and served in various leadership positions in the Winston-Salem chapter. Their influence as organists and teachers reached beyond the local community to around the world. John Mueller died in 2019, and Margaret passed in 2024, but their legacy lives on in the lives they touched.

Their home practice organ, a nine rank Flentrop, is being offered for auction by Leland Little on December 13, 2024. For details, follow this link to the auction page.

<https://www.lelandlittle.com/items/552209/flentrop-practice-tracker-organ?listId=208253>

Resources for Organists

The Organist's Companion

Leupold Editions, a division of The Leupold Foundation, publishes *The Organist's Companion*[™], a bimonthly journal of quality organ music for the practical church musician, edited by Wayne Leupold. Each issue contains 30 pages of quality easy organ music. Approximately one-third of each issue is easy music for manuals only by living composers notated on two staves with the other two-thirds for manuals and easy pedal notated on two or three staves, most of which also is by living composers.

Usually there also are several compositions from the seventeenth-or-eighteenth centuries (the Baroque period) and the nineteenth-century (the Romantic period). All the compositions, except for the historical compositions are written specifically for this journal. The music in each issue is chosen to be appropriate for the season of the church year for each issue. Most of the compositions are based on well-known, seasonal hymn tunes.

The contents of the issues are as follows:

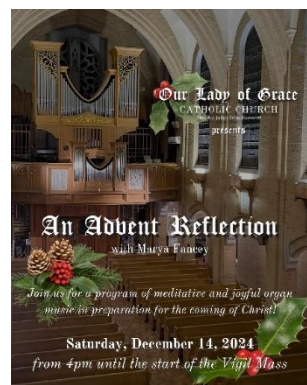
November	General, Christmas, Advent, Epiphany
January	General, Funerals, Lent, Holy Week
March	General, Festivals, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Easter Season
May	General, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity
July	General, Weddings, Patriotic, Communion
September	General, Thanksgiving, All Saints, Reformation

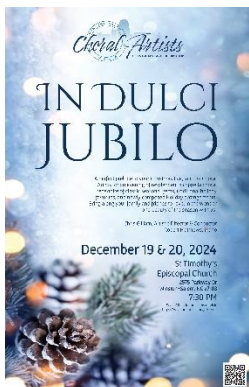
—Wayne Leupold

Upcoming Events

December 7, 7:00 pm — UNCSA Organ Studio Holiday Recital
Salemtowne Retirement Community, Winston-Salem

December 14, 4:00 pm —Marya Fancey, organ
Recital — An Advent Reflection
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Greensboro





December 19 & 20, 7:30 pm — In Dulci Jubilo, the Winston-Salem Choral Artists Christmas Concert
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem. Tickets can be purchased on the WSCA website.

<https://wschoralartists.org/tickets/>

January 25, 2025, afternoon

Harpsichords & Gingerbread

house of Frances Burmeister (more info coming soon)

January 31 & February 1

MS/HS UNCSA Organ Festival (more info coming soon)

Saturday, February 1, 4:00 pm (tentative)

Organ Festival Competition Winners Recital

Elberson Fine Arts Center, Salem College

Saturday, February 1, 7:30 pm — UNCSA organ studio recital

Crawford Hall, UNCSA

Friday, January 31, 7:30 pm — Timothy Olsen

Organ Recital, Shirley Recital Hall,

Elberson Fine Arts Center, Salem College

February 21, 7:30 pm — Music for a Great Space

Amanda Mole, organ

Christ UMC, Greensboro

February 22

Amanda Mole masterclass (tentative)

Christ UMC, Greensboro

March 22 — AGO Service Playing Certificate Exam

Open to anyone who would like to take the SPC.

For more information, contact Timothy Olsen at

(olsent@unca.edu) if interested.

May 30-31 — SAVE THE DATES

Piedmont NC Chapter "Mini-Convention"

(more info coming in 2025!)

Jul. 13-18 — Pipe Organ Intensive at UNCSA

July 14-25 — UNCG Summer Music Camp

Organ as a secondary instrument elective

or

Harpsichord as a primary instrument!

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 piedmontncago@outlook.com.

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

piedmontncago@outlook.com