

# Che Organizer

## The Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

#### www.agoatlanta.org

## December 2023

In this issue...

From the Dean
December 2023 Calendar of Events 3
2023-2024 AGO Meetings & Programs 3
Around the Chapter7, 8
Positions Available9
Chapter Officers 10

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## From the Dean

Dear AGO Members, Friends and Colleagues,

A fellow Chapter member, opening our 2023-2024 Yearbook to page 9, was heard to inquire, "Who is Jason Roberts?" Here's a 'preview of coming attractions': https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chAA10NnrJg

Jason Roberts, who improvised that prelude and fugue, is a winner of AGO's National Improvisation Competition. He's the featured artist for our first Chapter Event in 2024 (which is the Atlanta Chapter's 110th anniversary year), Friday evening, January 12, and Saturday morning, January 13, at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Do you own an improvisation method book by Gerre Hancock or Michelle Johns? Why not keep it handy over the next few months? Your musical fluency may expand, along with appreciation for what's shared and heard in January!

Each new or renewed membership in our AGO Chapter increases the ability to plan more confidently for our Chapter's near future. Every member can join our Membership Committee! It should not be assumed that friends whom we met as long-time members of AGO have maintained membership in our Chapter since 2020. Kindly ask, and then encourage each person to share input as renewing members who may attend and participate in Atlanta Chapter Events! Elizabeth George, CMM, is Chief Officer for Membership and Chapter Development at AGO Headquarters. Elizabeth traveled to Atlanta to attend our October 21st Executive Board Meeting, and acknowledged our Chapter's progress thus far. She emphasized practical assistance available from AGO Headquarters to expedite improvements from which we can benefit.

Just as our 2023-2024 Yearbook was going to the printer, Sandy Land withdrew from the job of Chapter Co-Dean, due to reduced energy from "long COVID" among other reasons. I'm sure Sandy will contribute as she is able, giving her time and talent where her strongest enthusiasm lies.

Please note: Those interested in AGO Certification should contact Sue Mitchell-Wallace, FAGO, until a new Exam Coordinator can be found. Several other Chapter Committees (see page 30 of the Yearbook) are still in formation. Thankfully, Dr. Sean Vogt, Co-Sub-Dean, has created an online spreadsheet (<a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12NXHLhPIP1n65UhYLOGVMb1kWpksu74TomLEJAs1hsw/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12NXHLhPIP1n65UhYLOGVMb1kWpksu74TomLEJAs1hsw/edit?usp=sharing</a>) of Committees, whereby members may volunteer.

As 2023 draws to a close, I'm very thankful to the two generous colleagues who provided opportunities this fall for AGO Chapter members to get reacquainted — and to play and hear music reminding us why we love the pipe organ: Joyce Schemanske at St. Anne's Episcopal, Atlanta (the perfect venue on 9/29 for Bach's *Orgelbuchlein*), and Mary Ruth Laverty-Solem at Dunwoody United Methodist, where Amanda Mole's dazzling performance on October 27 was followed by a festive reception to meet and chat with one another.

I'm eager to see you at events our Sub-Deans have planned for January & February! The Chapter Nominating Committee is being formed prior to December 31. We'll be on track for an online election of two new Board Members-At-Large (continued on page 2)

# From the Dean (continued)

in Spring 2024. Over the next 6 weeks, I'll carry Yearbooks to hand-deliver when I see AGO members.

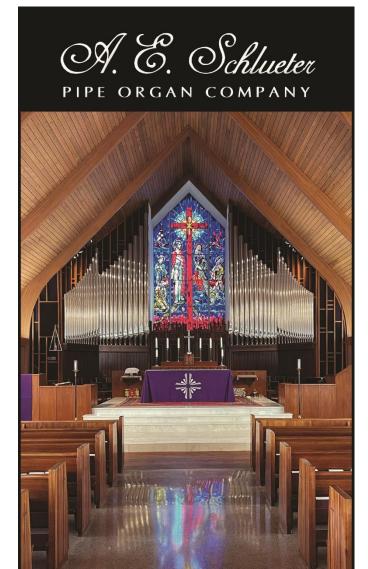
May your Advent & Christmas Seasons be as blessed as they are busy!

Joanne Cobb Brown, CAGO Co-Dean, Atlanta AGO

Two days after Mothers' Day this past spring, I contracted a case of "long COVID" which had me basically bedridden for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  months. At the end of July, when it was suggested that I share the position of Dean with my friend Joanne Brown, I did not foresee the lingering effects of long COVID, especially the lack of energy and, perhaps even worse, of focus. I'll continue to help the Chapter as I am able, but regrettably I don't feel that I can continue as Co-Dean, and Joanne has graciously agreed to be the Dean this year.

On another note, our two Sub-Deans have planned (with very little lead time) a wide variety of outstanding concerts and workshops for the 2023-2024 season. The first two of these have been excellent. I hope that you will find the time to attend some, if not all, of them, and I hope to see you then.

Alexandra (Sandy) Land



New Schlueter III-manual, 38-rank pipe organ at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort Pierce, Florida.

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# December 2023 Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location	Admission
Friday	12/1	12:00 noon	Lunchtime Live! Flûture: Music for Flute Quartet	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Free
Sunday	12/3 12/3 12/3 12/3 12/3	10:00 AM 3:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Advent Lessons & Carols Festival Singers of Atlanta: "Winter Light" An Advent Procession with Lessons & Carols, Cathedral Choir New South Festival Singers, Carols by Candlelight 48th Annual Messiah Sing-Along	St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Milton Northside Drive Baptist Church The Cathedral of St. Philip St. John United Methodist Church St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Free Free Free \$5-75 Free
Friday	12/8 12/8 12/8 12/8	12:00 noon 7:00 PM 8:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lunchtime Live! Matthew Hess, saxophone; Matthew Brown, piano Georgia Boy Choir: Christmas Concert Holiday Concert with members of the Atlanta Symphony Brass Christmas with Atlanta Master Chorale	St. Luke's Episcopal Church Peachtree Road United Methodist Church The Cathedral of St. Philip Schwartz Center, Emory	Free \$15-40 \$10-150 \$38
Saturday	12/9 12/9 12/9 12/9	3:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM 8:00 PM	Christmas with the ASO Georgia Boy Choir: Christmas Concert Christmas with the ASO Christmas with Atlanta Master Chorale	Symphony Hall Peachtree Road United Methodist Church Symphony Hall Schwartz Center, Emory	\$25-140 \$15-40 \$25-140 \$38
Sunday	12/10 12/10 12/10 12/10 12/10	3:00 PM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM 5;30 PM 8:00 PM	Christmas with the ASO Christmas with Atlanta Master Chorale Advent Lessons and Carols Carols by Candlelight: A Community Carol Sing! Christmas with the ASO	Symphony Hall Schwartz Center, Emory St. Luke's Episcopal Church Peachtree Road United Methodist Church Symphony Hall	\$25-140 \$38 Free Free \$25-140
Thursday	12/14	8:00 PM	Handel's Messiah	Symphony Hall	\$30-120
Friday	12/15 12/15	12:00 noon 8:00 PM	Lunchtime Live! Vega Quartet Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	St. Luke's Episcopal Church Symphony Hall	Free \$30-120
Sunday	12/17 12/17 12/17 12/17	4:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Nine Christmas Lessons & Carols by Candlelight, Cathedral Schola Christmas on Clairemont Christmas Concert The Many Moods of Christmas	The Cathedral of St. Philip First Baptist Church of Decatur St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Milton Peachtree Road United Methodist Church	Free Free \$5-20 Free
Friday	12/22	12:00 noon	Lunchtime Live! Dr. Joyce Johnson, organ	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Free

2023-2024 AGO Meetings & Programs

Date	Location	Program/Artist	Dinner, Reception, etc.
Jan. 12 (Friday) 7:30 p.m. Jan. 13 (Saturday) 10:00 a m12 noon	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church 3180 Peachtree Rd NE Atlanta, GA 30305	Jason Roberts	Recital on Friday Reception following Improvisation Workshop on Saturday
Feb. 10 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m12 noon	St. Bede's Episcopal Church 2601 Henderson Mill Rd Atlanta, GA 30345	Shelly Moorman-Stahlman	Workshop: Orgelbüchlein Lent/Easter Coffee & refreshments provided during the break
<b>April 26</b> (Friday) 7:30 p.m.	The Cathedral of St. Philip 2744 Peachtree Rd. NW Atlanta, GA 30305	AGO National Gala Elizabeth & Raymond Chenault	Recital at 7:30 p.m. Gala reception following For tickets, see https://www.agohg.org/2024-gala/
<b>May 10</b> (Friday) 7:30 p.m.	First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta 1328 Peachtree St. NE Atlanta, GA 30309	Tom Bara	Recital at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, see <a href="https://concertsatfirst.org/events/">https://concertsatfirst.org/events/</a>



Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, 7 p.m. 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Messiah Sing-Along Benefitting Atlanta Community Food Bank Clinton Smith *conductor* with soloists from The Metropolitan Opera Maria Valdes *soprano*; Sarah Larsen *alto*; David Blalock *tenor*; Kevin Burdette *bass* 













Lunchtime Live! 30-minute concerts followed by lunch from Henri's Bakery.

A \$15 contribution is requested for lunch.

Dec. 1, 2023, noon Flûture: Music for Flute Quartet

Dec. 8, 2023, noon Matthew Hess saxophonist & Matthew Brown pianist

Dec. 15, 2023, noon Vega Quartet

Dec. 22, 2023, noon Dr. Joyce Johnson organist









Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, 7 p.m.

Advent Lessons and Carols

with music by Briggs, MacMillan, Manz, McKie, Vaughan Williams, and Palestrina



## St. Luke's Episcopal Church

435 Peachtree Street NE • Atlanta, GA • 30308 | stlukesatlanta.org
The Reverend Winnie Varghese Rector
Matthew Michael Brown, HonRSCM Director of Music
Colleen Kingston Associate Director of Music for Children & Youth
Ben Weaver Assistant Organist



# Around the Chapter

#### Lunchtime Live! Concerts at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The first four Fridays in December, St. Luke's Episcopal Church will offer 30-minute recitals at 12 noon, followed by a lunch in the Parish Hall, catered by Henri's Bakery. The recitals are free admission, although a \$15 payment is requested for lunch. Recitalists will include the following:

December 1 — Flûture: Music for Flute Quartet

December 8 — Matthew Hess, saxophone; Matthew Brown, piano

December 15 — Vega Quartet

December 22 — Dr. Joyce Johnson, organ

#### Advent Lessons & Carols at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

On Sunday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m., St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Milton will offer a service of Advent Lessons & Carols, with music by Bach, Schweizer, Warlock, Handel, Hayes, Reger and Buxtehude. The service is free admission and all are welcome.

#### Festival Singers of Atlanta at Northside Drive Baptist Church

Festival Singers of Atlanta invites you to their first concert of the 2023-2024 season with a program titled "Winter Light." The concert features music to brighten the winter holidays of Chanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. The concert, scheduled for Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Northside Drive Baptist Church, will be followed by a reception. The concert is free, but donations are appreciated. For more information see www.festivalsingersofatlanta.org.

#### An Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols at the Cathedral of St. Philip

On the First Sunday of Advent, December 3 at 4:00 p.m., the Cathedral of St. Philip will offer their annual Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols, sung by the Cathedral Choir, and also available via livestream on the Cathedral website and on the Cathedral's Facebook pages. This very popular service, sung from various points in the Nave of the Cathedral, is free admission, and all are welcome.

#### New South Festival Singers at St. John United Methodist Church

On Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. at St. John United Methodist Church, the New South Festival Singers will present their concert "Carols by Candlelight," featuring the Georgia Youth Choir, and Carillon Ringers, with music director Lynn Swanson and organist Will Buthod. Tickets are available at the door or online at <a href="https://www.festivalsingers.org/concerts">https://www.festivalsingers.org/concerts</a>.

## Messiah Sing-along at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

On Sunday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. St. Luke's Episcopal Church presents their 48th Annual *Messiah* Sing-Along benefitting the Atlanta Community Food Bank, with Clinton Smith conducting soloists from The Metropolitan Opera — Maria Valdes soprano; Sarah Larsen alto; David Blalock tenor; and Kevin Burdette bass. Admission is free, though charitable donations are appreciated.

## Holiday Concert with the Atlanta Symphony Brass at the Cathedral of St. Philip

On Friday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m., enjoy an evening of magnificent music and world-class musicianship as the members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's world-renowned brass and percussion sections return to the Cathedral of St. Philip to present their sixth annual holiday concert! The program will feature traditional holiday carols and beloved standards from the symphonic orchestra repertoire in some of the finest arrangements for brass ensemble and percussion. This concert has fast become one of Atlanta's most beloved new holiday traditions, so treat yourself and those you love to a breathtakingly spectacular night of music in the sumptuous acoustical grandeur of the Cathedral of St. Philip. This is a holiday concert not to be missed! Tickets are available at cathedralATL.org/concerts or from the Cathedral Book Store 404-237-7582.

## Georgia Boy Choir at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

On Friday, December 8, and Saturday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m., Peachtree Road United Methodist Church presents the Georgia Boy Choir's annual Christmas Concert. Ring in the Holiday Season with the internationally acclaimed Georgia Boy Choir! Come hear all five levels of the Georgia Boy Choir in this Atlanta tradition and PRUMC favorite. Choristers will perform sacred classics, Christmas carols, and well-loved holiday tunes. Don't forget Atlanta's largest performance of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with all the audience participating! Accompanied by a full orchestra and The Great Organ of PRUMC, this Christmas tradition is sure to fill you and your family with cheer! Tickets are available at prumc.org/music.

## Carols by Candlelight at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

On Sunday, December 10 at 5:30 p.m., Peachtree Road United Methodist Church offers their Carols by Candlelight service — a community carol sing. Join together with friends, neighbors, and communities from across the city to sing together your favorite Christmas carols for all the family. The service will end with the singing of "Silent Night" bathed in candlelight and the lights of the giant Chrismon tree. A reception follows. Admission is free and all are welcome.

# Around the Chapter (continued)

#### Advent Lessons & Carols at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

On Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church will offer their annual service of Advent Lessons & Carols, with music by Briggs, MacMillan, Manz, McKie, Vaughan Williams, and Palestrina. The service is free admission and all are welcome.

#### Christmas Lessons & Carols at the Cathedral of St. Philip

On the Third Sunday of Advent, December 17 at 4:00 p.m., the Cathedral of St. Philip will offer their annual Service of Nine Christmas Lessons & Carols by Candlelight, sung by the Cathedral Schola, and also available via livestream on the Cathedral website and on the Cathedral's Facebook pages. Biblical readings narrating the prophecy and birth of Jesus are illuminated by congregational carols and choral music of the Christmas season. This generally very well-attended service is free admission and all are welcome.

### Christmas Concert at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

On Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m., St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Milton will offer their Grand Christmas Concert. Tickets are available at www.staidans.org.

#### The Many Moods of Christmas at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church

On Sunday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m., the PRUMC Chancel Choir, Georgia Boy Choir, soloists, and orchestra present their Christmas classic "The Many Moods of Christmas." This year's program includes traditional Christmas hymns, moving new settings of familiar carols, and the world premiere of the full orchestration of Randall Stroope's *Hodie*. Tickets are complimentary but necessary for seating. Reserve tickets online or pick up tickets beginning Sunday, November 19. A reception sponsored by the PRUMC Friends of Music in Grace Hall follows the concert.



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Contact **Andrew Atkinson**, General Manager, at **251-382-3644** for additional information on this custom Anniversary Edition Infinity organ.





Infinity 489 Anniversary Edition



Infinity 367 Anniversary Edition

## The Cathedral of St. Philip

2744 Peachtree Rd † Atlanta, GA 30305 404-365-1050 for more information

#### Sunday, December 3

# 4 p.m. An Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols Cathedral Choir

The Great O Antiphons

Richard Marlow, Matin Responsory

"Lo, he comes with clouds descending" Helmsley

Frank Ferko, Adam lay ybounden

"Redeemer of the nations, come" Veni Redemptor gentium

Cristobal de Morales, Veni Domine

"Come, thou Redeemer of the earth" Puer nobis

Jan Sandström, Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

"Isaiah the prophet has written of old" Samanthra

"The great forerunner of the morn" The Truth from above

arr. Craig Phillips, Gabriel's Message

arr. Henry Walford Davies, The Holly & the Ivy

"Ye who claim the faith of Jesus" Julion

Ēriks Ešenvalds, Magnificat (Merton College Service)

Paul Mealor, Ave Maria

"O come, O come, Emmanuel" Veni, veni Emmanuel

#### Friday, December 8

# 7:30 p.m. Holiday Concert with members of the Atlanta Symphony Brass

Tickets at CathedralATL.org/concerts.

#### Sunday, December 17

# 4 p.m. Nine Christmas Lessons & Carols by Candlelight, Cathedral Schola

"Once in royal David's city" Irby

Peter Warlock, Adam lay ybounden

Robert Pearsall, In dulci jubilo

"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming" Es ist ein Ros entsprungen

Kerensa Briggs, A tender shoot

"Comfort, comfort ye my people" Psalm 42

Carl Rütti, I wonder as I wander

Fredrik Sixten, There is no rose of such vertu

Cecilia McDowall, Gaude et laetare

"On this day earth shall ring" Personent hodie

arr. Paul Halley, What Child is this

arr. Gerre Hancock, Come, ye lofty

arr. Dale Adelmann, "Of the Father's love begotten"

arr. Kenneth Leighton, O leave your sheep

arr. David Willcocks, "God rest you merry, gentlemen"

#### Sunday, December 24

#### 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Pageant

Gustav Holst, Christmas Day

John Rutter. What sweeter music

arr. Simon Preston, I saw three ships come sailing in

arr. Andrew Carter, I wonder as I wander

Peter Warlock, Balulalow

arr. Philip Ledger, Still, still, still

#### 8 p.m. & 11 p.m. Prelude Music, Cathedral Choir

arr. Sarah MacDonald, Huron Carol

Gerald Finzi, In terra pax

#### 8:30 p.m. & 11:30 p.m. Festival Eucharist Cathedral Choir, Atlanta Symphony Brass

Stephen Paulus, A Savior from on high

arr. Philip Ledger, Sussex Carol (On Christmas Night)

John Rutter, What sweeter music

John Jacob Niles, arr. Andrew Carter, I wonder as I wander

arr. Reginald Jacques, Away in a manger

## Positions Available

Complete details on these and other positions may be found at the chapter's website: www.agoatlanta.org then click on "employment."

#### Music Director/Keyboardist

**Lutheran Church of the Ascension**, Atlanta, seeks a part-time Music Director/Organist, as well as an Interim Organist. Send resumes to <a href="mailto:pastor@ascension-lcms.com">pastor@ascension-lcms.com</a>.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta, seeks a half-time Organ Scholar. Send resumes to <a href="mailto:shawbecker@redeemer.org">shawbecker@redeemer.org</a>.

**Peachtree Road United Methodist Church**, Atlanta, seeks a part-time Assistant Organist. Send resume to Scott Atchison at <a href="Scott@prumc.org">Scott@prumc.org</a>.

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, seeks a Director of Music and Worship Arts. Send resumes to Krista Firkus at kfirkus42@gmail.com.

**St. Julian's Episcopal Church**, Douglasville, seeks a part-time organist/pianist and choir director. Send resumes to <a href="mailto:ghgibson@saintjulians.org">ghgibson@saintjulians.org</a>.

**Epworth United Methodist Church** seeks a part-time Worship Leader. Send resumes to byron.ahrens@ngumc.net

**St. Francis de Sales Latin Catholic Church**, Mableton, seeks a part-time organist. For information, contact Jonathan Arrington at <a href="mailto:lafamigliaarrington@gmail.com">lafamigliaarrington@gmail.com</a>.

First United Methodist Church, Madison, seeks a part-time organist. Send resumes to <a href="mailto:kathleen@madisonfumc.com">kathleen@madisonfumc.com</a>.

**Central Baptist Church**, Newnan, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume to Dr. Ronnie Oliver, Jr. at roliver@centralbaptistnewnan.org.

**Roswell United Methodist Church** seeks a Director of Worship Arts. Send resumes to <a href="mailto:musicsearch@rumc.com">musicsearch@rumc.com</a>.

Sandy Springs United Methodist Church seeks a parttime Director of Music Ministries. Send resumes to kflovd@ssumc.org.

Senoia United Methodist Church, Senoia, seeks a Director of Music Ministries. Send resume to pastor Julie Schendel at julie@senoiaumc.org, (770) 599-3245.



# Chapter Officers

Joanne Cobb Brown, CAGO, Dean
Caroline Robinson, DMA, Co-Sub-Dean
Sean F. Vogt, DMA, Co-Sub-Dean
Pamela Radford, Secretary
Nancy Dickson, Treasurer
David Barber, EdD, Registrar
Timothy Gunter, Newsletter Editor
The Reverend Dr. John Beyers, Chaplain
Lamar Savage, Auditor

Class of '24 Bill Callaway Mary Ruth Laverty Solem

> Class of '25 Valerie Pool Keith H. Walker

Class of '26 Jeff Funderburk Keith Wilson