

The Organizer

The Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.agoatlanta.org

May 2018

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The Organizer, the official bulletin of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is published monthly, September through June. All material for publication must reach the Editor by the 15th day of the month preceding the date of issue (e.g., November 15 for the December issue). This should be typewritten and emailed. The Organizer reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Articles in The Organizer reflect the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Guild.

Advertising Rates

1/8 page: \$15 1/4 page: \$30 1/2 page: \$60 Full page: \$120 Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Annual Guild Service





Rev. Dr. Don Saliers & Rev. Dr. John Beyers, Worship Leaders

at

Cannon Chapel, Candler School of Theology

515 Kilgo Circle Atlanta, GA Choral Music by Dr. David Brooks Daniel & The Candler Singers Randy Elkins, *organ*

> 6:00 p.m. Punchbowl 6:30 p.m. Dinner & Meeting (Dinner reservation required, \$18) 7:30 p.m. Guild Service

Menu: Country Captain Chicken over Rice, Fresh Corn, Whole Green Beans, Spring Salad (w/field greens, Mandarin oranges, grapes, apples, and raisins, with Raspberry Vinaigrette), Yeast Rolls and Corn Muffins, Assorted Desserts, Menu Served with Vegetarian Pasta.

From the Dean

Didn't someone once say, "It's a shame that youth is wasted on the young"? I think I understand the consternation of one who is, shall we say, "seasoned" when he or she is confronted with extremely talented young people. But how "wasted" is that youth? The youthful enthusiasm and excitement... the youthful passion and zeal... the youthful motivation and drive... the youthful keenness and quickness? I was totally thrilled this past weekend to hear five brilliant young performers: the finalists in the 2018 Taylor Organ Competition. It was beyond inspiring to witness first-hand the skill, proficiency, and passion of these young people as they played a most challenging repertoire for the judges.

Being just a very small part of this fantastic event has reinforced my determination to see that we as a Chapter pursue every possible avenue to expose young people to the magnificence of the organ, and to utilize our resources to encourage them to pursue the training they need in order to rise to the level of the young organists we hosted for the Taylor Competition. In a conversation with two of the judges following the competition, we gained some valuable insight as they shared several really good ideas to help us reach out to young musicians and communicate the wonders of "The King of Instruments."

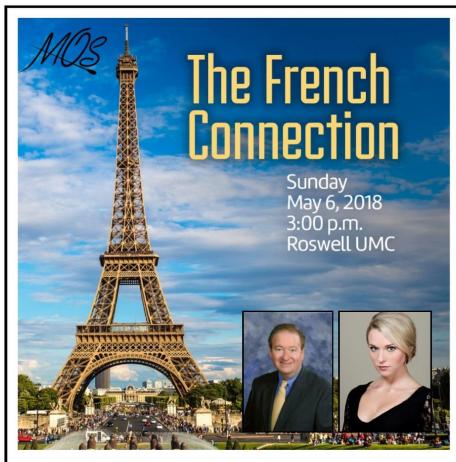
As we begin to realize the "urgency" of our preparation for the upcoming National AGO Convention in Atlanta (2020 will be here before we know it!), we cannot abandon our ongoing local initiative to engage young musicians in the pursuit of the organ, and our continuing support for those who are the future. By the way, it was George Bernard Shaw who once wrote that "Youth is the most precious thing in life; it is too bad it has to be wasted on young folks." Let's make sure it isn't wasted and we take full advantage of the opportunities we have to support our young musicians, strengthen our base, and build up our Chapter!

Grace and Peace!

David Barber, Ed. D. david.barber@charter.net Dean, Atlanta AGO

May 2018 Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location	Admission
Tuesday	5/1	7:30 PM	The Atlanta Opera: Bizet's Carmen	Cobb Energy Centre	\$
Friday	5/4	8:00 PM	The Atlanta Opera: Bizet's Carmen	Cobb Energy Centre	\$
Saturday	5/5 5/5 5/5	7:30 PM 8:00 PM 8:00 PM	Truls Mork, <i>cello</i> , & Behzod Abduraimov, <i>piano</i> Yo-Yo Ma with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra: Saint-Saëns Atlanta Master Chorale: Music and the Civil War	Spivey Hall Symphony Hall Schwartz Center, Emory	\$ SOLD OUT \$
Sunday	5/6 5/6 5/6 5/6 5/6 5/6 5/6	9:00 & 11:15 AM 2:00 PM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 3:15 PM 4:00 PM	Schubert Mass in G Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Brass Ensemble The Atlanta Opera: Bizet's <i>Carmen</i> Paul Lewis, <i>piano</i> Michael O'Neal Singers: The French Connection Georgia Boy Choir Choral Evensong, Cathedral Schola	First United Methodist Church, Marietta First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta Cobb Energy Centre Spivey Hall Roswell United Methodist Church The Cathedral of St. Philip The Cathedral of St. Philip	\$ \$ \$
Tuesday	5/8	7:30 PM	AGO Meeting: Annual Guild Service	Cannon Chapel, Emory University	
Wednesday	5/9	8:00 PM	ASO/ASOC/Spano: Bernstein's Candide	Symphony Hall	\$
Friday	5/11	8:00 PM	ASO/ASOC/Spano: Bernstein's Candide	Symphony Hall	\$
Saturday	5/12 5/12	9:00 AM-4:00 PM 8:00 PM	Atlanta AGO Scholarship Auditions ASO/ASOC/Spano: Bernstein's <i>Candide</i>	St. James' Episcopal Church, Marietta Symphony Hall	\$
Sunday	5/13 5/13 5/13	3:00 PM 3:15 PM 4:00 PM	ASO/ASOC/Spano: Bernstein's <i>Candide</i> Caroline Robinson, <i>organ</i> Choral Evensong, Cathedral Schola	Symphony Hall The Cathedral of St. Philip The Cathedral of St. Philip	\$
Tuesday	5/15	8:00 PM	ASO/ASOC/Spano: Bernstein's Candide	Symphony Hall	\$
Wednesday	5/16	8:00 PM	ASO/ASOC/Spano: Bernstein's Candide	Symphony Hall	\$
Thursday	5/17	8:00 PM	ASO/ASOC/Spano: Bernstein's Candide	Symphony Hall	\$
Saturday	5/19	8:00 PM	ASO/ASOC/Spano: Bernstein's Candide	Symphony Hall	\$
Sunday	5/20 5/20 5/20	3:00 PM 3:15 PM 4:00 PM	ASO/ASOC/Spano: Bernstein's <i>Candide</i> Bruce Neswick, <i>organ</i> Choral Evensong, Cathedral Choir	Symphony Hall The Cathedral of St. Philip The Cathedral of St. Philip	\$
Wednesday	5/30	8:00 PM	Jonathan Biss, piano: Beethoven Sonata Cycle 3	Symphony Hall	\$
Thursday	5/31	8:00 PM	Znaider/Măcelaru/ASO: Enescu/Shostakovich/Tchaikovsky	Symphony Hall	\$



The Michael O'Neal Singers and

Georgia Philharmonic present

The French Connection

Sunday, May 6, 2018 3:00 p.m. Roswell UMC 814 Mimosa Blyd. in Roswell 30075

Symphony No. 3 "Organ Symphony" by Camille Saint-Saëns Four Motets on Gregorian Themes by Maurice Duruflé Gloria by Francis Poulenc

Caitlin Andrews Bayles, Soprano Tom Alderman, Organ Michael O'Neal, Conducting

\$20/\$25 in advance; \$22/27 at the door

www.mosingers.com 770.594.7974 staff@mosingers.com





2020 Convention Report

Dear Friends,

Things are getting quite exciting as AGO 2020 is nearly two years away. As I write this, our performance committee is finalizing plans with some of the world's greatest performers.

Also, our new music chair, Sue Mitchell Wallace, is confirming details with a varied and exciting roster of composers to bring new music to us. Many of you have already offered to volunteer your time and talents. If you have not, please consider joining our team. Finally, if you cannot offer your time, conventions like this rely on financial contributions from individuals to keep them vibrant. As I have said, it will take EACH ONE in our chapter to make this a success. For information on sharing your time and/or resources, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheers to 2020!

Scott H. Atchison Convention Co- Coordinator AGO 2020

Taylor Organ Competition 2018

The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta, was the host site for the Atlanta Chapter's third Elizabeth Taylor Organ Competition on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Sarah Hawbecker, host; Dr. Timothy Wissler and Raymond Chenault, co-chairs; Charlene Ponder, treasurer; Rachel Ficklin, Charles Higgs, Sarah Martin, Robert Mays, James Mellichamp, and numerous volunteers, did a spectacular job planning and executing what I observed as a nearly flawless organ competition. I did have to chuckle over the drama created by the organ as the competitors began their practice on Thursday. Duct tape to the rescue!! That reminds me that another "key player" in this event was Robert Coulter, who maintains the organ and was there on competition day as well. Hats off to all who made this event a huge success!

The five finalists were **Meg Cutting**, a senior organ performance student of Nathan Laube at the Eastman School of Music, and a native of Salem-Keizer, Oregon; **Jeremy Jelinek**, an organ student of David Higgs at the Eastman School of Music; **Benjamin Kerswell**, a senior organ performance major at St. Olaf College and student of Dr. Catherine Rodland; **Chase Loomer**, a native of Charlotte, NC, student of David Higgs, and a senior organ performance major at the Eastman School of Music; and **Jiaqi Shao**, born in Shanghai, China, and pursuing her degree in organ performance at the Eastman School of Music, also a student of David Higgs.

The outstanding panel of final judges for the competition included **Lynne Davis**, an authority in all French organ repertoire; **Isabelle Demers**, head of the Organ Department at Baylor University; and **Todd Wilson**, head of the Organ Department at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

At the conclusion of a reception following the competition, the winners were announced by Dr. Wissler. First place, and recipient of a \$10,000.00 cash award, was **Chase Loomer**. Chase will also present a recital to the Atlanta Chapter during the 2018-2019 recital season. The second place winner and recipient of a \$5000.00 cash award was **Ben Kerswell**.

Again, thanks to all those who were involved in the Taylor Organ Competition for a job well-done!!

David Barber, Ed. D.

Sara Husband Younkin, C.A.G.O (Obituary)

Sara Husband Younkin of Peachtree Corners, GA, passed away peacefully surrounded by her daughters on February 25, 2018, at Seasons Hospice in Cumming, GA. She was 99 years old.

Born on September 4, 1918, in the Fayette County town of Dawson in Southwestern Pennsylvania, on the Youghiogheny River, her parents were David P. and June (Miller) Husband. Brought up in the Methodist Church, her mother was the choir director, and her father the Sunday School Superintendent. Offered piano lessons, little Sara took the streetcar trolley to her teacher's house, and gradually grew in her keyboard ability. At Connellsville High School, she was the accompanist for the orchestra and solo musicians, one of whom was Jack Younkin, a handsome trumpet player who later became her husband. For \$1.50 a day, Sara played for dancing school on Saturdays.

Sara was offered a scholarship at Oberlin, OH, a college noted for music education. But this was the Depression, and times were tough, so she was unable to attend due to her family's finances. Not to be defeated, Sara found education elsewhere, taking the train to Pittsburgh, where she took organ lessons and business school classes. Returning home, she became the organist at the Cochran Methodist Church in Dawson, and enjoyed accompanying her brother David, a vocalist, for services and weddings.

For her day job, she worked in the local bank after high school, where Sara was warned that once a girl married, she could no longer be employed. Nevertheless, Sara and her beau Jack Younkin eloped on February 18, 1942, to Oakland, MD, where they were married in a Methodist church, and drove back home in a blinding snowstorm. When Sara revealed to the bank manager that she was married, he so valued her work that he changed the rules so that she could keep her job.

Jack went off to the Great War in Italy and North Africa, and in August 1944 their first daughter, Barbara, was born. When Jack came home after the war, he got a job locally, and in 1946, their second daughter, Elaine, was born. Wanting to make their way in the world, Sara and Jack moved the family to Clarksburg, WV, to start a new life.

In Clarksburg, Sara took a job as organist at First Methodist Church, played for funerals at Davis Weaver Funeral Home, and additionally became the organist playing Hammond Organ for popular music at lunch and dinner at the famed Stonewall Jackson Hotel. This was 1949, when wartime Swing gave way to solo singers like Frank Sinatra, Billie Holiday, and Nat King Cole, and dinner patrons' requests kept Sara on her toes learning the newest pop tunes. With lots of important travelers passing through, it was only a matter of time before Sara was discovered by a talent agent. Indeed, she had an offer to travel with a big band (we were told it was Guy Lombardo) which she considered, but ultimately turned it down in order to stay in Clarksburg and be a wife and mother. Change came again, when Jack's job uprooted the family from the hills of West Virginia to the flat tidewater of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Settling in the town of Easton, Sara again found a job as organist at the one of the three Methodist churches, which was timely, for those churches soon merged congregations and built a common hall and Sunday School building. There Sara played the Hammond for the combined church, named St. Mark's Methodist, for services in the fellowship hall, the interim sanctuary. The new sanctuary being built needed a pipe organ, and husband Jack became head of the organ committee. Tasked to put out bids for a magnificent pipe organ to fit the magnificent new sanctuary, the contract went to the Teller Organ Company in Erie, PA, and soon, an organ that housed 2400 pipes was installed. St. Mark's music program was graced by Sara's ability to master the three-manual pipe organ.

Still juggling roles, Sara participated in music programs at Easton's Academy of the Arts, as well as informal music groups. She played for funerals at the Newnam Funeral Home. And, if that was not enough, Sara taught organ lessons to several diligent students. Always desiring to have an organ in their home, Jack came upon an electronic organ, an "Aeolian" Hammond. This was a rare player organ and a hybrid of electronic and pneumatic components. The manual part of the organ was a Hammond BA and lent itself for use for Sara's organ students as well as for her individual enjoyment. Praise and recognition for her talents was heaped upon her by many friends and musical colleagues. Meanwhile, the Younkins were blessed with the birth of their third daughter, Jeanette. Even more change, however, was in the future.

With a promotion for Jack, the family was on the move to Charleston, SC. Settling in, Sara found a church needing an organist at Northbridge Baptist Church and then the Naval Base Chapel. Desiring a job closer to their West Ashley home, it was fortuitous that Old St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was searching. Sara was hired and became organist, choir director, and director of music in 1967. With their vast knowledge of pipe organs, the couple found that although the historic sanctuary was small, the existing organ was in bad repair and inadequate. A plan for a new pipe organ was approved, and two years later, in 1969, the fine Zimmer 2- manual pipe organ was dedicated. With Charleston being a city with a wealth of culture, Sara soon became well-known and respected in the musical community. As a member of the Charleston chapter of the American Guild of Organists, she was elected Dean, and her crowning achievement was obtaining two celebrated organists and composers, Belgian Flor Peeters and the Frenchman Jean Langlais, to play recitals at Charleston's landmark French Huguenot Church.

Since Sara's scope of musical knowledge was wide, encompassing many decades and genres, she was also able to entertain for dinner and dancing at the famed Cavallaro Restaurant in Charleston, where she also took requests, and since this was the '60s, she was accompanied by a drummer. With expertise in pop music ranging from the '40s to the '90s, prospective brides knew that she could play for their wedding and then play for their reception! Kiawah Island Inn, Mills Hyatt House Hotel, Wickliffe House at Medical University of South Carolina – these venues also were entertained by her keyboard skills for parties. McAlister Funeral Home also hired her to play for funerals.

Besides teaching 30 piano students a week in her home, at Old St. Andrew's she established a bell choir, guided children in presenting Christian musicals, and gathered instrumentalists to augment the choir at Festival times. Loyal and dedicated as well as talented, competent, and valued, Sara did not retire until she was 85, having served Old Saint Andrew's for 35 years. Honored with the title of "Organist Emeritus," a bronze plaque designating this was placed in the sanctuary.

Since her husband Jack had passed away 10 years earlier, Sara moved to Atlanta to live with daughter, Jeanette and husband Mark. There the "Happy Hearts" senior group at a local church enjoyed Sara's company, where she entertained them by playing piano. She also enjoyed practicing privileges on a pipe organ at a Lutheran church.

Finally confined to home, she suffered chronic lung disease prior to her death. Sara was beloved by her family, extended family and many, many people whom she taught over her 84-year music career.

Sara had "Colleague" certification as a member of the American Guild of Organists, and was a member of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, a life member of the American Federation of Musicians, and an Honorary Fellow of Wessex Theological College, Dorset, England. She was most proud of being a member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, having several revolutionary war patriots in her lineage, one being the noted Herman Husband.

Sara's husband of 52 years, John E. Younkin, passed away in 1994. She was also predeceased by her brother, David M. Husband, grandson Clayton Christopher Clark, step-great grandsons, Robert William Stevenson, and Logan Kleier.

The Cathedral of St. Philip



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

Sunday, May 6

3:15 p.m. Georgia Boy Choir, David White, conductor (Atlanta)

Giovanni da Palestrina, Sicut cervus Igor Stravinsky, Pater noster Samuel Barber, Agnus Dei Maurice Duruflé, Ubi caritas David Hurd, Love Bade Me Welcome David Childs, O sacrum convivium Pēteris Vasks, The Fruit of Silence Ola Gjeilo, The Ground

4 p.m. Choral Evensong, Cathedral Schola

Richard Shephard, Preces & Responses Ēriks Ešenvalds, Merton College Service William Mathias, As truly as God is our Father Patrick Hadley, My beloved spake

Sunday, May 13

3:15 p.m. Caroline Robinson, organ

(Doctoral student at Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY)
Dietrich Buxtehude, *Praeludium in E minor*, BuxWV 142
Thomas Kerr, *Arietta*Maurice Duruflé, *Scherzo*, Op. 2

Franz Liszt, Prelude and Fugue on BACH

4 p.m. Choral Evensong, Cathedral Schola

William Smith, Preces & Responses
Orlando Gibbons, Second Service
Peter Philips, Ascendit Deus
Francesco Guerrero, Ascendens Christus in altum

Sunday, May 20

3:15 p.m. Bruce Neswick, organ

(Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR)
Johann Sebastian Bach, Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist, BWV 667
Herbert Howells, Sonata No. 2
Larry King, Fanfares to the Tongues of Fire

4 p.m. Choral Evensong, Cathedral Choir

Gerre Hancock, Preces & Responses Herbert Howells, Gloucester Service Roland Martin, Whitsunday, from Such Glorious Gifts Herbert Howells, Te Deum (Collegium Regale)

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

Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church, Clarkesville, seeks a part-time organist. Send resumes to gcalvary@windstream.net.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Hapeville, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume to Andy Pitman at apitman3@icloud.com.

Carteret Street United Methodist Church, Beaufort, SC, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume and references to Cindy Keener at csumc@islc.net.

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, Marietta, seeks a part-time pianist/accompanist. Send resume to worship@pilgrimageucc.org.

Hillside Presbyterian Church, Decatur, seeks a part-time Organist/Choir Director. Send resume to hillspc@bellsouth.net.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, LaGrange, seeks a part-time organist/choirmaster. Send resume to allen@stmarkslg.org.

Greenville United Methodist Church seeks a part-time pianist. Send resume to greenvilleunited@bellsouth.net.

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church, Forest Park, seeks a choir director and pianist. Could be one position or two. Send resume to gsdurden@gmail.com.

Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington, SC seeks a part-time Organist/Music Associate. For more information, contact Hal McIntosh at hmcintosh@saxeqotha.org.

Toccoa Presbyterian Church in Toccoa seeks a part-time organist. Contact Sharon Morden at 706-491-1330 for more information.

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ in Marietta seeks a Music Director. Email resumes to worship@pilgrimageucc.org.

First Church of Christ Scientist, Roswell, seeks a part-time organist. Contact Jill Jeffrey at 706-897-8437 or ijijeff1@windstream.net to set up an audition.

Harmony Grove United Methodist Church, Lilburn, seeks part-time organist/pianist. For more information or to send resume, contact 770-921-7747 or had not be not be not because the notation of the notation o

First Baptist Church, Hapeville, seeks a part-time organist. Send resumes to Debbie Martin at martindm68@live.com.

Mountain Park United Methodist Church, Stone Mountain, seeks a parttime organist/pianist. For information or to send resume, contact susan.farris@mountainparkumc.org.

Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Cartersville, seeks an organist/choirmaster. Send resume to, or contact, Rev. Mary Erickson, merickson@ascensioncartersville.org, 770 382-2626.

Mulberry Street United Methodist Church, Macon, seeks an organist/Director of Music. For more information, contact Lisa Shephard at maelliott195858@gmail.com.

First United Methodist Church, Tucker, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume to Tom_Moore@tfumc.org.

Commerce Presbyterian Church, Commerce, seeks a part-time music director/organist/pianist. Contact Rev. Jeffrey A. Cain, Sr. at 706-335-3282.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Marietta, seeks a part-time organist. For more information contact Bill Van Buskirk at 770-971-4600.

St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Lilburn, seeks a part-time accompanist. Send resume to thomas vansoelen@sinlilburn.com.

First United Methodist Church, Ellijay, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume to John Rathbone at www.dirtcheepmusic@hotmail.com.

Clairmont Presbyterian Church, Decatur, seeks a substitute organist for May and June. Send resume via email to gary@clairmontpres.org.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Stone Mountain, seeks a full-time Music Director. Send resumes and questions to the EPC Search Committee at musiceastpres@gmail.com.

Singers

Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church, Atlanta, seeks a tenor staff singer. To schedule an audition, contact Steven Darsey at 404-634-3936 or stevend@glennumc.org.

The Cathedral of St. Philip seeks a tenor staff singer. To arrange an audition, call 404-365-1050 or email tgunter@stphilipscathedral.org.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church seeks tenor and bass staff singers. To schedule an audition, contact Shannon Gallier at Shannon@stbartsatlanta.org or 404-634-3336 x 228.



Chapter Officers

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Timothy Gunter, Newsletter Editor
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