



The Organizer

The Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.agoatlanta.org

May 2021

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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

May Chapter Meeting ONLINE
 Saturday, May 1, 2021
 10:00 AM

Annual Guild Service & Installation of New Board Members

Chapter members, please join us online for our Annual Guild Service on Saturday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m. We will announce the results of the election for our Class of '24 Board members (which has been underway during the month of April), install our new Board members, and enjoy pre-recorded performances by Dr. Caroline Robinson, the new Associate Organist/Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Philip. To join the meeting, please click the following link (or enter it into your browser):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89010437132?pwd=aVFST0tDL0ZzMlljWHRDdy8zcmhVZz09>

We look forward to seeing many of you on May 1.

From the Dean

Dear Colleagues:

Please plan to join us virtually for our Annual Meeting and Guild Service on Saturday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m. We will announce the results of the Board election, install our new Board members, and enjoy recorded performances by Dr. Caroline Robinson from the Cathedral of St. Philip. To join the meeting, please use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89010437132?pwd=aVFST0tDL0ZzMlljWHRDdy8zcmhVZz09>

If you have not had the chance to watch our latest program, please visit the chapter website and check out our April recital featuring two recipients of our chapter scholarships. Oak Martin and Briana Duensing both gave outstanding performances on the Mander organ at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church. Many thanks to Scott Atchison, the staff of PRUMC, Oak Martin, and Cliff Frierson for all they did to make this great program happen.

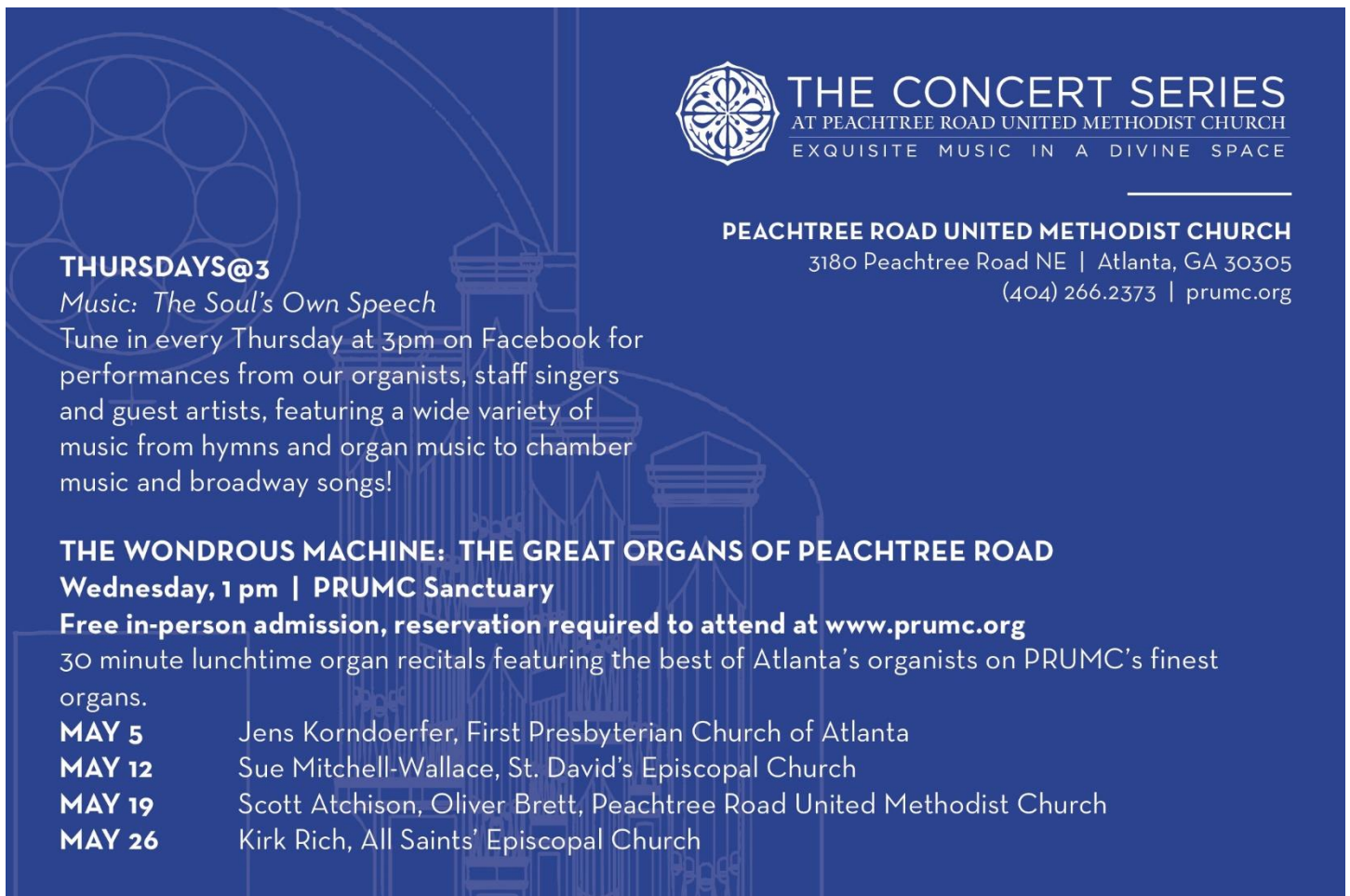
To view, please click or visit the following link: <https://www.agoatlanta.org/calendar/chapter-scholarship-recipient-recital/>.

Our chapter election is well under way and voting remains open through April 25. All online members should have already received an email from our registrar, David Barber, with a link to the online ballot.

I look forward to seeing many of you on May 1st and am grateful to you all for your continued support of our chapter throughout the past year of virtual programming.

Best regards,

Peter Waggoner, Dean
AGO Atlanta



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(404) 266.2373 | prumc.org

THURSDAYS@3
Music: The Soul's Own Speech
Tune in every Thursday at 3pm on Facebook for performances from our organists, staff singers and guest artists, featuring a wide variety of music from hymns and organ music to chamber music and Broadway songs!

THE WONDROUS MACHINE: THE GREAT ORGANS OF PEACHTREE ROAD
Wednesday, 1 pm | PRUMC Sanctuary
Free in-person admission, reservation required to attend at www.prumc.org
30 minute lunchtime organ recitals featuring the best of Atlanta's organists on PRUMC's finest organs.

MAY 5 Jens Korndoerfer, First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta
MAY 12 Sue Mitchell-Wallace, St. David's Episcopal Church
MAY 19 Scott Atchison, Oliver Brett, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church
MAY 26 Kirk Rich, All Saints' Episcopal Church

May 2021 Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location	Admission
Saturday	5/1	8:00 PM	The Atlanta Opera: <i>The Threepenny Opera</i>	Cobb Energy Center, The Big Tent	\$
Sunday	5/2 5/2	2:00 PM 3:15 PM	The Atlanta Opera: <i>The Threepenny Carmen</i> Richard Gress, <i>organ</i>	Cobb Energy Center, The Big Tent The Cathedral of St. Philip ONLINE	\$
Wednesday	5/5 5/5	1:00 PM 8:00 PM	Jens Korndörfer, <i>organ</i> The Atlanta Opera: <i>The Threepenny Opera</i>	Peachtree Road UMC ONLINE & in-person Cobb Energy Center, The Big Tent	\$
Thursday	5/6	8:00 PM	The Atlanta Opera: <i>The Threepenny Carmen</i>	Cobb Energy Center, The Big Tent	\$
Friday	5/7	8:00 PM	The Atlanta Opera: <i>The Threepenny Opera</i>	Cobb Energy Center, The Big Tent	\$
Saturday	5/8 5/8	3:00 PM 8:00 PM	Pavel Haas String Quartet & Boris Giltburg, <i>piano</i> The Atlanta Opera: <i>The Threepenny Carmen</i>	Spivey Hall ONLINE Cobb Energy Center, The Big Tent	\$ \$
Sunday	5/9 5/9	3:15 PM 8:00 PM	Malcolm Matthews, <i>organ</i> The Atlanta Opera: <i>The Threepenny Opera</i>	The Cathedral of St. Philip ONLINE Cobb Energy Center, The Big Tent	\$
Wednesday	5/12	1:00 PM	Sue Mitchell-Wallace, <i>organ</i>	Peachtree Road UMC ONLINE & in-person	
Thursday	5/13	8:00 PM	Coucheron/Oundjian/ASO: Mendelssohn/Price/Schubert	Symphony Hall ONLINE	\$
Sunday	5/16 5/16 5/16 5/16	2:00 PM 3:15 PM 4:15 PM 5:00 PM	Atlanta Chamber Players w/ Jens Korndörfer, <i>organ</i> Zachary Zwahlen, <i>organ</i> Robert Poovey, <i>organ</i> Choral Evensong, The Choirs of St. Luke's	First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta The Cathedral of St. Philip ONLINE St. Luke's Episcopal Church ONLINE & in-person St. Luke's Episcopal Church ONLINE	\$
Wednesday	5/19	1:00 PM	Scott Atchison & Oliver Brett, <i>organ</i>	Peachtree Road UMC ONLINE & in-person	
Thursday	5/20	8:00 PM	Hadelich/Stutzmann/ASO: Mendelssohn/Bologne	Symphony Hall ONLINE	\$
Sunday	5/23 5/23	3:00 PM 3:15 PM	New South Festival Singers Concert Jack Mitchener, <i>organ</i>	St. John UMC, Sandy Springs, in person The Cathedral of St. Philip ONLINE	\$
Wednesday	5/26	1:00 PM	Kirk Rich, <i>organ</i>	Peachtree Road UMC ONLINE & in-person	
Thursday	5/27	8:00 PM	Gaffigan/ASO: Tilson Thomas/Still/Dvořák	Symphony Hall ONLINE	\$
Saturday	5/29	8:00 PM	Thibaudet/Harth-Bedoya/ASO: Frank/Bellido/Zigman/de Falla	Symphony Hall ONLINE	\$

Richard Ezell

Richard Ezell, husband of AGO member Michael Morgan, passed away last week and was interred next to his parents in Arkansas. Richard joined Central Presbyterian Church in 1990 and went on to found the Geneva Bell Choir, which he continued to support in the role of ringer and as interim director several times. A beloved member of the Down Yonder parish, Richard provided his rich bass voice and gentle humor to Chancel Choir rehearsals for two decades. Professionally, he spent most of his career as a computer programmer and analyst at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Richard is survived by his husband, Central Presbyterian's Organist Emeritus Michael Morgan, his son and daughter-in-law Chris and Penny Ezell, his daughter and son-in-law Stephania and Chuck Abell, and four grandchildren. A service in witness to the resurrection will be held at Central Presbyterian after the church reopens to in-person worship, or is able to have the service that Michael wants in a safe manner.

Marilyn Schmeh Munson (1942-2021)

Marilyn Schmeh Munson, a lifelong pianist and church organist who loved traveling with her husband, Greg, served as the family ambassador on trips abroad, and enjoyed eating dessert first, died Thursday, March 25, 2021, in Canton, Georgia. She was 78.

Born in Brooklyn to Berta and Alfons Schmeh, who had immigrated from Southern Germany in 1929, Marilyn at age nine months moved with her family to Valley Stream, Long Island.

Marilyn started taking piano lessons on her fourth birthday, studied under renowned pedagogists and concert pianists and served as a church organist and often choir director at churches in Long Island and Hendersonville.

Her piano teachers included a neighbor, Mr. Dietrich; Prof. Joseph Solerno, a retired conductor and composer for the US Navy Band, from Italy, who lived in Jamaica, Queens; Irma Harter at the Edith MacIntosh School of Music in Rockville Center, NY, who had studied at Fontainebleau, France, with a Cassadeseu and the famous pedagogist Isidor Phillip; Edith MacIntosh, who had studied with the famous pedagogist Mathais and was one of the first women ever to pass the American Guild of Organists' Fellowship Exam; Blanch Abram at Hofstra University; and Dr. Thomas Richner who had his doctorate from Columbia University and had several Honorary Doctorates.

A devoted Christian Scientist, Marilyn made the music for worship services in several different denominations in her 55-year career. She landed her first church organist job on Dec. 9, 1956, at the Methodist Church in Oceanside, Long Island. Although Marilyn had just turned 14, her teacher was confident she could do the job. The church was almost unheated in winter, and her mother had to drive her and sit in the cold while Marilyn practiced, learning all new music for each Sunday as well as 11 choir anthems for the Christmas service. In 1959, Marilyn became the organist at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, a big church in a suburb of Valley Stream.

During the summers of 1953, 1954 and 1955, she attended Pinecrest Dunes Camp for Boys in Peconic, Long Island, where her mother worked in the camp kitchen. Gregory, her future husband, was bugler and played cornet duets with her for the camp.

After graduating from Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY, in 1964, Greg, by then a partner in the Pinecrest Dunes camp business and associate director, hired Marilyn as camp music director and a romance blossomed. They were married the following Feb. 20, 1965.

Marilyn worked as a public school elementary music teacher from 1964 to 1969. In 1968, after Greg left the summer camp business, the couple embarked on a nine-week camping trip to Alaska, one of their many travel adventures.

After Greg retired in 1993, the couple moved to Mills River. Marilyn worked for a short time as organist for East Flat Rock United Methodist Church before getting the same job, in December 1993, at the Hendersonville Christian Science Church. She served as Dean of the Western North Carolina Chapter of the American Guild of Organists from 1997-1999. Greg and Marilyn both played in the Hendersonville Symphony for several years. In 2011, Marilyn retired as an organist except for occasional substituting at the Hendersonville Christian Science Church and Grace Lutheran Church. In 2017 Marilyn and Greg moved to Canton, GA, to be closer to their daughter Amy and her children. (Shortly afterward, she joined the Atlanta Chapter of the AGO.) Having learned German from her parents, Marilyn served as the family ambassador for relatives in Europe and enjoyed many trips abroad. Her German cousins were like brothers and sisters to her. Long before Googlemaps and armed only with a Rand McNally, Marilyn was always game to hop in the car for a drive — whether it was the road trip to Alaska, visits to national parks out west, or to take an unpaved road up the side of a mountain. Along with travel, swimming or a great meal (with dessert first) always made her smile.

In addition to her husband, Greg, Marilyn is survived by three children, Mark Munson (Melissa Feemster), Julie Beck (Doug Beck) and Amy Munson, and her grandchildren, Molly and Max Fitzsimons and Kate and Walter Beck.

Alice Bliss (January 9, 1925 – March 11, 2020)



We lost a remarkable, talented, and accomplished woman on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, when Alice Bliss slipped away peacefully in her sleep. Alice filled her 95 years on this earth with a kaleidoscopic variety of activities — she was a classroom teacher, music critic, benefactor, accomplished author, wonderful neighbor, great lover of “rescue” animals, and lasting and loyal friend.

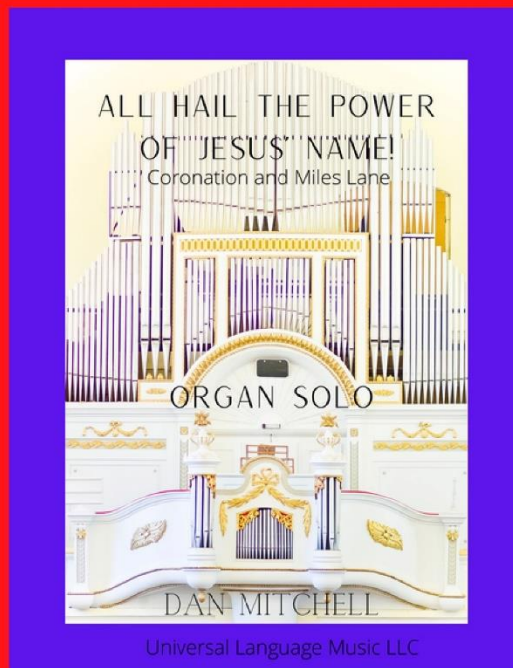
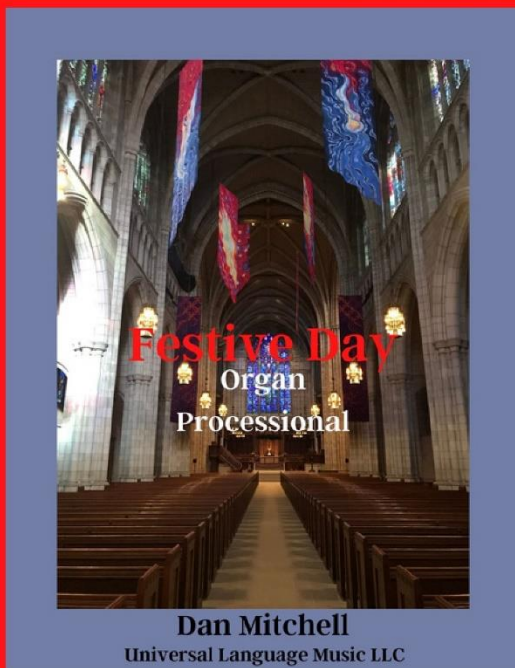
Alice completed studies for both a Bachelor and Master of Arts at the University of Georgia, finishing both degrees at the remarkably young age of 19. She taught in a variety of schools — notably twice in Appalachia — and at many other educational institutions across the country. Alice shared her gift and love of music as the occasional music critic for the *Atlanta Journal*, and worked for a while at a radio station in Albany, GA. She loved to travel and made several trips abroad to the UK and to New Zealand. Her memory was astonishing, and she filled many conversations with photographic details of her life, travels and adventures.

She was a longtime resident of Atlanta and returned to her home city to reside and begin a long series of novels published by Bozart Press. In most of these novels, she explored the relationship between daughter and mother, a reflection, many thought, of her long and complicated relationship with her mother, Evelyn. She shared her love and accomplishments as an organist and choir member with a long list of churches, including her most recent and home church of Holy Trinity Episcopal in Decatur, GA.

She was an entertaining and well-liked neighbor, at one time publishing a neighborhood “broadside,” listing the travels, activities and accomplishments of her Gordon Avenue neighbors. She was generous to many organizations — the Nature Conservancy, the Humane Society, and Berry College.

Alice leaves us with a legacy of loyal friendship, love, and caring for so many. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and were blessed by her many gifts and talents.

POSTLUDES BY DAN MITCHELL



Available at JWPepper.com

Organ Recital and Choral Evensong

Sun, May 16, 4:15 p.m. | IN-PERSON* and ONLINE

Dr. Robert Poovey, Guest Recitalist

St. Luke's Music Director (1995-2006)

Music by Bach, Franck, Schumann, and Vierne

*(*A maximum of 75 guests may attend. Please reserve your place at stlukesatlanta.org/music-at-st-lukes-series/)*

Sun, May 16, 5 p.m. | ONLINE

Virtual Choral Evensong sung by the Preparatory Choir,
Junior & Senior Choristers and the Adult Choir of St. Luke's
Music by Brewer, Mendelssohn, Shephard, and Wilby

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

435 Peachtree St NE | Atlanta, GA

The Reverend Ed Bacon, Interim Rector

Matthew Michael Brown, Director of Music

Colleen Kingston, Director of Children & Youth Music

The recital and service may be viewed online at
stlukesatlanta.org/live

Atlanta Chapter Pandemic Assistance Grants

On August 1, 2020, the Executive Committee of AGO Atlanta approved a program of "Pandemic Assistance Grants" to be made available to chapter members who have been significantly financially impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Amount: One-time grants of \$750.00 are now being offered to individual members of the Atlanta Chapter.

Eligibility: Current chapter members who have been furloughed or laid off from any of the following: a salaried organist position, a regular per diem organist position, or freelance organist work, the sum of which is an important component of personal income.

Applications: Please email Peter Waggoner, Dean, at phw52380@outlook.com, and include your answers to the questions below. All applications and inquiries are confidential. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until all available funds are disbursed.

Name of applicant: _____

Name and address of furloughing or terminating institution(s): _____

Position at institution(s): _____

Date(s) laid off/furloughed: _____

Date expected to return to work (if known and applicable): _____

Is this lost income considered significant income for you? _____

Additional information or comments you would like to share: _____

Atlanta Chapter Scholarship Auditions

Our Chapter Scholarship Auditions are scheduled for Saturday, June 26, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., and will take place at Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain. Full details and application information may be found on our chapter website: <https://www.agoatlanta.org/continuing-education/scholarships/>

Around the Chapter

Online Sunday Afternoon Recitals at the Cathedral of St. Philip

While the normal schedule of in-person Sunday services at the **Cathedral of St. Philip** has been put on hold for the foreseeable future, many opportunities are available online. In addition to online Eucharistic services at 8:45 and 11:15 a.m. on Sundays, the Cathedral also offers our **online Sunday afternoon recitals at 3:15 p.m.** on the Cathedral's website (cathedralATL.org/recitals). All of these recitals are also available to access in the days and weeks following the recitals either on the website or on one of the Cathedral's two Facebook pages, "The Cathedral of St. Philip" and "Music at the Cathedral of St. Philip." Recitalists for the month of May will include:

- May 2, 3:15 PM — Richard Gress (student at Yale University)
- May 9, 3:15 PM — Malcolm Matthews (Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville, TN)
- May 16, 3:15 PM — Zachary Zwahlen (University of the South, Sewanee, TN)
- May 23, 3:15 PM — Jack Mitchener (The Cathedral of St. Philip)

Organ Recital by Robert Poovey & Virtual Choral Evensong at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

On **Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**, organist **Robert Poovey** will offer a free recital in person and online. Following, the Choirs of St. Luke's will offer an **online-only Evensong at 5:00.**

Atlanta Chamber Players with Jens Korndörfer at First Presbyterian Church

On **Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta**, the **Atlanta Chamber Players**, consisting of principals of the ASO and Atlanta Opera Orchestra, will offer an in-person concert featuring the ever-popular *Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin in a chamber version, and a stunning arrangement for cello, harp and organ of Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei*. Tickets are available at <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe.c/10657652>

New South Festival Singers

The **New South Festival Singers** will perform an in-person *a cappella* concert on **Sunday, May 23, 2021, at St. John United Methodist Church** in Sandy Springs. Music will include works by Kenneth Jennings, Claudio Monteverdi, F. Melius Christiansen, Daniel Elder, and signature early American hymns and spirituals of the Festival Singers. There is an audience maximum of 100, and social distancing and masks are highly recommended. For tickets, see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-south-festival-singers-atlanta-home-concert-tickets-131712171651?aff=ebdssbeac>



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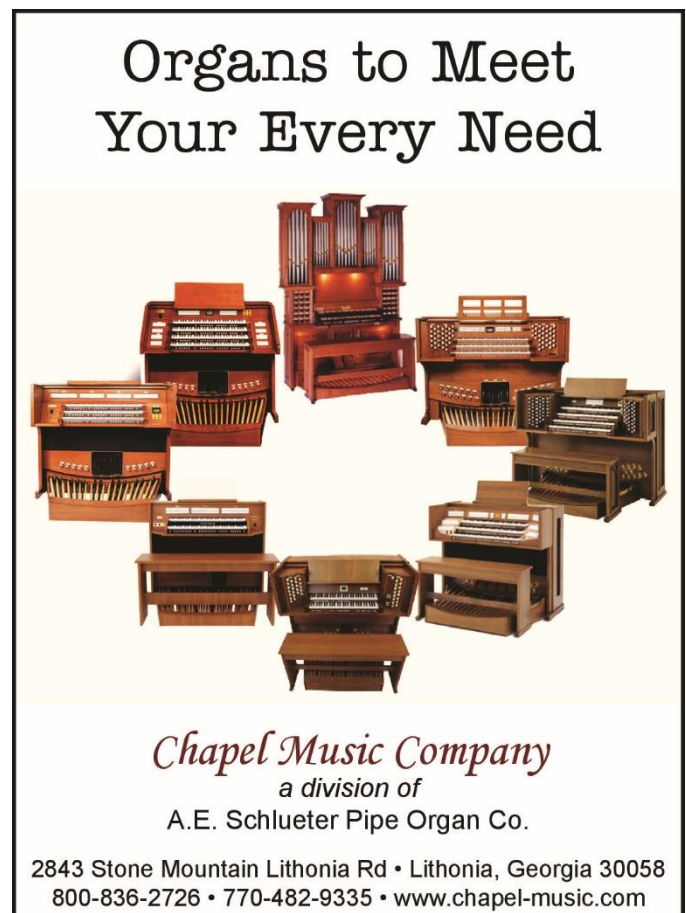
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The Cathedral of St. Philip



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

Sunday, May 2

3:15 p.m. Richard Gress, organ

(student at Yale University)

Jehan Alain, *Trois Danses*

Healey Willan, *Introduction, Passacaglia & Fugue*

Sunday, May 9

3:15 p.m. Malcolm Matthews, organ

(Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville TN)

Program TBA

Sunday, May 16

3:15 p.m. Zachary Zwahlen, organ

(The University of the South, Sewanee, TN)

Program TBA

Sunday, May 23

3:15 p.m. Jack Mitchener, organ

(The Cathedral of St. Philip)

Music of Margaret Vardell Sandresky In celebration of the composer's
100th birthday (b. April 28, 1921)

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

The Cathedral of Christ the King, Atlanta, seeks a part-time Assistant Cathedral Organist. Send resumes to assistantorganist@ctking.com.

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

First Baptist Church, Dalton, seeks a 3/4-time organist. Send resume to Adam Cogliano at acogliano@fbcdalton.org.

St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Dunwoody, seeks a part-time organist/choirmaster. Send resume to Bishop Chandler Jones at bspchj@gmail.com.

Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church, Fort Valley, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume to harlowmatthew@gmail.com.

Mountain View United Methodist Church, Marietta, seeks a part-time organist/pianist. Send resume to khginc@bellsouth.net.

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, Marietta, seeks a part-time music director/accompanist. Send resume to pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com.

St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church, Peachtree City, seeks a minister of music/organist. Send resume to rector@standrews316.org.

Rabun Gap Presbyterian Church, Rabun Gap, seeks an organist/choir director. Send resume to pastor.rabungappresbyterian@gmail.com.

First Church of Christ Scientist, Roswell, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume to jonathan911sc@hotmail.com.

St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, Sandy Springs, seeks a full-time Director of Music & Liturgy. Send resume to ctyner@judeatl.com.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Winder, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume to ejars7781@windstream.net.

Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church, Lexington, SC, seeks a part-time Organist/Music Associate. For more information, contact Hal McIntosh at hmcintosh@saxegotha.org, 803-359-7770.

Singers

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, seeks an alto staff singer. To schedule an audition, contact Jeffrey McIntyre at 404-805-4816 or jdmatl@aol.com.

First United Methodist Church, Atlanta, seeks a tenor staff singer. For an audition, contact Christopher Bryant at Christopher@atlantafirstumc.org.

First Church of Christ Scientist, Roswell, seeks a soloist. For an audition, contact jonathan911sc@hotmail.com.



The Organizer

Atlanta Chapter A.G.O.
Timothy Gunter, *newsletter editor*
2744 Peachtree Rd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30305

Chapter Officers

Peter Waggoner, *Dean*
Cliff Frierson, *Sub-Dean*
Pamela Radford, *Secretary*
Charlene Ponder Wall, *Treasurer*
Nancy Dickson, *Co-Treasurer*
David Barber, EdD, *Registrar*
Timothy Gunter, *Newsletter Editor*
The Reverend Dr. John Beyers, *Chaplain*
Lamar Savage, *Auditor*

Class of '21

Jeff Daniel
Tim Young

Class of '22

Vicki Fey
Justin Maxey

Class of '23

Bill Callaway
Mary Ruth Laverty Solem