



The Organizer

The Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.agoatlanta.org

September 2020

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- 1/8 page: \$15
- 1/4 page: \$30
- 1/2 page: \$60
- Full page: \$120

September Chapter Meeting Saturday, September 26 7:00 PM via Zoom

Greetings AGO Friends and Colleagues,

All AGO members are cordially invited to join us for our first Zoom Social Gathering on Saturday, September 26th at 7:00 pm. This will be a time to check in with each other and to see just how many beautiful faces we can show at one time without blowing up Zoom!

I, personally have been attending Zoom Socials with family and church members, and have had a great time getting to see everyone and catching up, so this upcoming Zoom with all of you can be a perfect time for seeing and talking with members and meeting new members of our Chapter.

You all will be receiving an email with the link to join a day or two prior to the meeting, so PLEASE put this date on your calendars!

You all will also be receiving another "SPECIAL" email from me regarding a Christmas Progressive Virtual Organ Recital Evening to be held in December, so make sure you check your emails for further details on this exciting event!

Warmest regards to you all!

Cliff Frierson
Sub-Dean, AGO Atlanta

From the Dean

“So long as the human spirit thrives on this planet, music in some living form will accompany and sustain it.”

Aaron Copland

Dear Friends,

Greetings! I hope this finds you well and adapting to life during the pandemic as best as possible. We are all living in a different world right now. Our routines have been interrupted, our services and programs are on hold, or are taking very different forms than usual, and there are ongoing concerns about our families, friends, job security, and future.

In times like this, I believe our purpose as the AGO is very clear. We are here first and foremost to support our members. Most of us have been affected, either directly or indirectly, by the pandemic, and below are a few ways we plan to offer support to our chapter this season:

- 1.) Staying in touch. Remaining connected with chapter friends and colleagues is especially important right now.
- 2.) Providing virtual access to our programs. We are planning a variety of events focusing on continuing education and professional concerns as well as virtual performances.
- 3.) Offering financial assistance. Thanks to the generosity of past and present members, we are fortunate as a chapter to have a healthy financial position, making it possible for us to offer help to our members who have lost significant income due to the pandemic.

Our programs for the season will be offered as live-streamed or pre-recorded events which will be available to everyone through our chapter website and Facebook page. If conditions improve, making it possible for us to meet in person at some point, we will adjust accordingly. We will also provide two opportunities to meet virtually as a chapter and “check in” with everyone via Zoom.

We are all having to adjust and reimagine our gatherings, and I want to highlight the work that went into the first AGO OrganFest in July, which was a huge success! Members of our own 2020 Convention Steering Committee, in coordination with AGO National Headquarters, worked to organize and construct a “virtual convention” of sorts with impressive results. The programs included performances by several Atlanta Chapter artists, and our AGO President, Dr. Michael Bedford, presented the 2020 Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award to Dr. Joyce Johnson, Professor Emerita and Organist at Spelman College. Congratulations, Joyce!!!

A 2020-2021 Schedule of Events is included in this issue and program books will be available in both electronic and physical form soon. Also, please note the announcement regarding a new grant program available to chapter members who have been financially impacted by the pandemic. The application process is completely confidential, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information.

Best wishes to you all for a healthy and successful fall season.

Peter H. Waggoner
Dean, AGO Atlanta

Dr. Joyce Johnson Receives Award

On July 23rd Dr. Michael Bedford, President of the American Guild of Organists, presented **Dr. Joyce Johnson** with the Edward A. Hansen Award for Leadership in recognition of her many years of outstanding leadership with the AGO. Many congratulations to Joyce on this well-deserved recognition of her life and work!



AGO Atlanta 2020-2021 Chapter Events

September 26: Chapter-wide Zoom Meeting – 9/26, 7:00 p.m.

October 24: Organ Music for Advent and Christmas with Matthew Brown – 10/24, 10:00 a.m.

November: Improvisation with Herb Buffington – TBD

December 12: Atlanta Chapter Virtual Christmas Recital – 12/12, 10:00 a.m.

January 23: Chapter-wide Zoom Meeting – 1/23, 7:00 p.m.

February 13: Organ Music for Lent and Easter with Vicki Fey – 2/13

April: Young Members' Recital at Dunwoody United Methodist Church – TBD

May 1: Chapter Meeting & Guild Service at St. David's Episcopal Church – 5/1, 11:00 a.m.

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 peter.waggoner@stjamesmarietta, 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

The Music and Arts Program of Peachtree Road is pleased to announce a new concert series celebrating the incredible organs of Peachtree Road.

Details about upcoming virtual performances at prumc.org.

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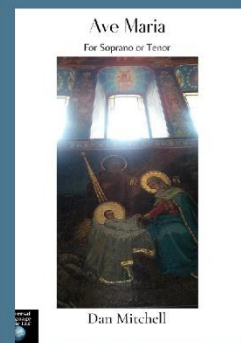
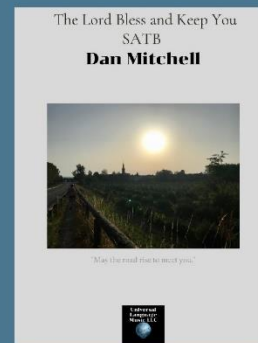
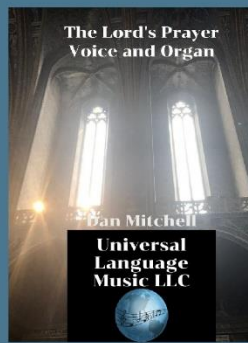
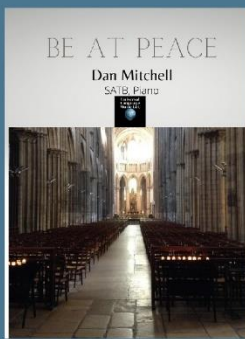
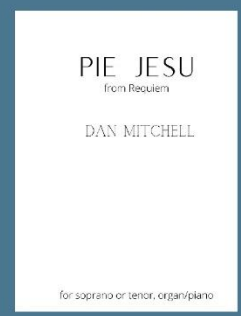
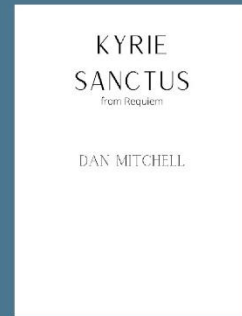
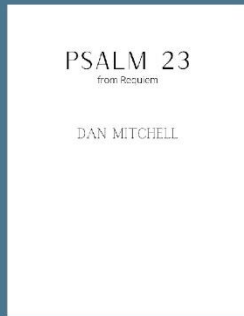
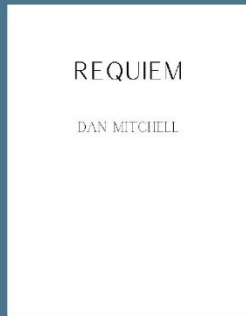
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In Memoriam: Emily Remington

Emily Remington, a pillar of the Charleston music community (and, earlier, the Atlanta music community) who helped ensure that choral singing would be a local mainstay, died on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, of natural causes. She was 103, a few weeks away from her 104th birthday. “Mama died at 7:28 p.m. on 7/28, the day Johann Sebastian Bach died, and I believe it was on a Tuesday in 1750!” her daughter, Porter Remington, wrote in an email. “I can’t believe she did that.” Emily Henderson Remington spent her last years living at Franke at Seaside in Mount Pleasant, SC, where she started a concert series that eventually became part of Piccolo Spoleto Festival. She was a stately woman with a sharp mind and warm demeanor who, during her choral heyday in Charleston, would sweep onto the old Gaillard Municipal Auditorium stage in an evening gown to greet symphony audiences.

Miss Emily, as she was called, was the founder of the Charleston Singer’s Guild, now called the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus, and a former accompanist at the College of Charleston, where she worked with choral groups. She also was organist and choir director at Grace Episcopal Church for nearly 20 years, starting in the late 1970s. It was Remington who helped to put music front and center at Grace, now the cathedral church of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, well known for its semi-professional choir and ambitious music programming. Ellen Dressler Moryl, former director of the city’s Office of Cultural Affairs and founder of Piccolo Spoleto Festival, said Remington inspired everyone she worked with. Moryl was most impressed by “her touch, her mastery of the music, and how she inspired all of her singers to rise to the occasion.” Moryl and Remington collaborated on a memorable 1980 performance of Ernst Bloch’s *Sacred Service*, presented during Piccolo Spoleto Festival at KKBE synagogue. The work is a transcendent exploration of the Hebrew liturgy. “Emily was a great life force,” Moryl said. “Emily prepared the choir, but she also gave the inspiration and the light and the vision to all of the performers as to what Bloch had in mind”—which was a universal expression of man’s artistic impulse. “Emily made that happen.”

Remington started playing piano at age 5. She continued her studies formally at Juilliard in New York City and at institutions such as Peabody in Baltimore during the summers. “I was going to be a professional pianist until love got me,” she told Greg Everett on the TV show “Carolina People” in January 2003. Her career took a backseat to family (she has two children, Porter and another daughter, Martha Scharnitzky of Goose Creek). She moved to Augusta, GA, in 1942, taught at Paine and Augusta colleges, and founded the city’s Choral Society in 1951. While in Augusta in the early 1960s, she welcomed 16-year-old Jessye Norman into her choir. For a performance of Handel’s *Messiah*, Remington arranged the singers into two choirs, black and white. Someone said, “Why don’t the sopranos get together?” So they did, along with everyone else. Suddenly, the choir was integrated. Norman went on to become a superstar in the world of opera.

Remington spent about six years in Munich, Germany, coaching singers at the National Opera, and she might have stayed much longer had she become more familiar with the language, she said in a television interview.

She came to Charleston in 1976—when she was 60—to be closer to her parents, who lived in St. Stephen. Remington wasted no time pursuing her musical interests, and helping to bolster choral singing in her adopted city. “Emily and I were so tied together,” said Rob Taylor, director of the CSO Chorus, College of Charleston Concert Choir and professional Taylor Festival Choir. “She was like a grandmother to me. When I moved to town in 1998, she made it her business to find me and meet me. She took me to lunch at the Holiday Inn in West Ashley, then took me on a tour of the city in her old convertible, over what she called the ‘Cooper River Speedway,’ going like 80 miles an hour. From that point, she just took me under her wing. I was so impressed with that. She didn’t have to do that.... Whatever professional successes I’ve had I owe to Emily.”

In 2003, she started the concert program at Franke. A charitable fund at the College of Charleston, which now supports the International Piano Series, was established in her name by William Tate.

In February 2017, Taylor honored Remington and five other musical mentors—William Gudger, David Stahl, David Maves, Steve Rosenberg and Ellen Dressler Moryl—with a special Taylor Festival Choir concert titled “The 6 Pillars of Charleston Music.” It was a gesture of love “because those people played a huge role in my life, and in the life of the community,” Taylor said at the time. Remington managed to attend concerts and opera simulcasts well past her 100th birthday. “Music does something to your brain,” she said in 2016. “It keeps you alive. It also helps if you have a good attitude—that’s the other main thing—and a sense of humor.”

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

Central Congregational United Church of Christ, Atlanta, seeks a part-time organist/pianist. Send resumes to keyboardposition@central-ucc.org.

Cross of Life Lutheran Church, Atlanta, seeks an interim organist. Contact pastorterri@crossoflifelutheran.org for information.

Peachtree Road Lutheran Church, Atlanta, seeks a Director of Music Ministries. Send resume to: peachtreerd@earthlink.net.

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

First United Methodist Church, Dalton, seeks an organist/pianist. Send resume to daltonfumcmusic@gmail.com.

First Presbyterian Church, Dalton, seeks a Director of Music. Send resume to Rev. Will Scott at wscott@firstpresdalton.org.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Marietta, seeks an organist/pianist. Send resume to jamie.dick@epres.org.

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 pianist. Send resume to pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com.

Newnan Presbyterian Church seeks a Director of Music. Email lallagentry@gmail.com for information.

St. George Catholic Church, Newnan, seeks a Director of Music/Organist. Send resume to mcormier@stgeorgenewnan.org.

Christ Church Episcopal, Norcross, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume to office@ccnorcross.org.

Roswell Presbyterian Church seeks a part-time organist. Email resume to organistsearch@roswellpres.org.

Rivercliff Lutheran Church, Sandy Springs, seeks a part-time choir director. Mail resume to 8750 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30350.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, AL, seeks a full-time Assistant Director of Music & Organist. Send resumes to talAlexander@trinitypca.org.

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 Presbyterian Church, Cartersville, seeks a bass or baritone staff singer. To arrange an audition, contact pam@cartersvillepres.org.



The Organizer

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