

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER

American Guild of Organists

Soli Deo Gloria



Executive Board Members

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Sub Dean: John Wigal

Treasurer: Virginia Marion

Secretary: Linda Thompson

Prof. Development: Jim Bailiff

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Newsletter: Joshua Bracken

P.O. Box 80055, Chattanooga, TN 37414
<http://www.agochattanooga.org>

American Guild of Organists: Mission and Vision

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

The vision of the American Guild of Organists is to engage, support, and uplift every organist.

The American Guild of Organist website: <https://www.agohq.org/>

Please join us for our next monthly program!

2nd Annual Halloween-themed “Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza”

Monday, October 24, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, 630 Mississippi Ave., Signal Mountain, TN 37377



All school-age children are cordially invited to celebrate Halloween and the spooky sounds of the pipe organ with the Chattanooga AGO chapter at our second annual “Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza” event. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for pizza, Halloween candy, and an indoor music-themed Trunk or Treat. Chattanooga AGO members and friends, dressed in their Halloween costumes, will then present an organ demonstration and a brief musical program of spooky selections. Prizes will be awarded for best costume in all age categories, so please dress festively!

We are still in need of volunteers in the following areas:

- Sit at a Trunk or Treat table and hand out treats
- Bring candy or music-themed treats to hand out to the kids
- Play a short “spooky” piece on our Halloween program (ALL skill levels are welcome!)
- Wear a costume to meet and greet attendees

If you are willing to volunteer, please email Sarah Harr (sarahharr@ymail.com) and let her know ASAP.

The cost for this program is \$5.00 per person. Please RSVP to program@agochattanooga.org no later than Friday, October 21, so we can have enough food and candy for everyone.

Thank you SO much!

We’ll see “BOO” there!



From the Dean

“What’s Our Legacy?”

I recently began a new position as organist at First Lutheran Church in Chattanooga. I was asked to write an article for the church newsletter, introducing myself to the congregation. Whenever I begin working in a new church, I always like to tell the story of how I became a church musician.

My father, a Lutheran pastor, served one congregation for over thirty years. My godmother, Shirley Witte, was the organist at his church, and I sat on the organ bench with her every Sunday until she passed away from cancer when I was a teenager. For as long as I can remember, Shirley had a vested interest in every aspect of my life, particularly my curiosity about music and the organ. Once I was tall enough to take organ lessons 😊, she took the initiative to connect me with the organ professor at the University of Memphis, John Peterson, who technically only worked with college students and adults. Thanks to his instruction and my godmother’s encouragement, I was working on college-level organ repertoire in middle school. After Shirley passed away, I began playing the organ at my dad’s church and remained there as organist for six years, until I graduated from high school. And the rest, as they say, is history!

Without the gentle “push” of my godmother, my friends, my family, and the Memphis AGO chapter during those formative years, I wouldn’t have discovered my professional calling as a church musician. Over the past few weeks, as I have been planning our upcoming “Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza” event on October 24, I can’t help but think about the Memphis AGO events I attended as a teenager, meeting other church musicians, watching them play for each other, and hearing their stories. I knew I wanted to do what they were doing for a living because I witnessed the joy they experienced in their profession, and I wanted to spend my life experiencing and sharing that joy, too.

If you’ve ever wondered whether it makes a difference if you attend an AGO event, think about the person who first introduced you to the organ. What would your life be like had you not met that person? YOU can be that person for a child, a young adult, or any aspiring church musician who may be questioning what they are called to do. Your example makes a difference and your presence matters! Please join us on October 24—wear a costume, sit at a table, play a “spooky” piece, or just introduce yourself to a child or a parent and tell them why you love being an organist. I guarantee they’ll remember your interaction, and you may change the direction of their lives, just as Shirley Witte did for me.

See you next Monday night! Soli Deo Gloria, Sarah Harr

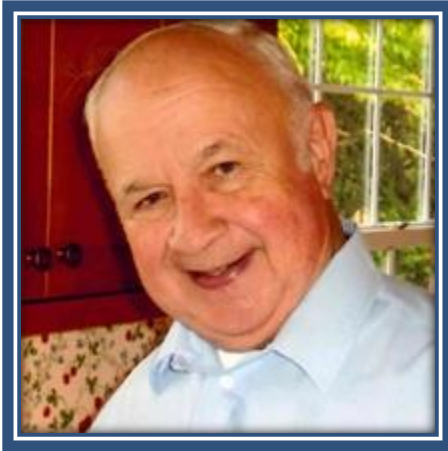
In Memoriam: Molly Sasse French



While Molly Sasse French held her "dream job" as executive director of the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera, she was a strong advocate for all arts in Chattanooga, her friends and colleagues said. "She was an incredible force for the arts and the community," CSO board President Don McDowell said. Sasse French died early Tuesday after a lengthy battle with cancer. Services were held Saturday, October 15, at 3 p.m. at First-Centenary United Methodist Church on McCallie Avenue. As part of its next Masterworks concert Oct. 20, the CSO will perform Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, a favorite of Sasse French's and a piece that celebrates art and life, said music director Kayoko Dan. McDowell and others said Sasse French was an advocate for more than just music. "She really believed in the arts, whether visual or music or arts education, and she knew how important art education is for kids because of what it did for her," McDowell said. Sasse French was active for many years with the local arts advocacy and fundraising organization Allied Arts, now ArtsBuild, before becoming interim executive director of the CSO in 2007. She was named to the position full time the next year and resigned for health reasons in January. "I am deeply saddened by Molly's death," said music director emeritus Robert Bernhardt. "I know she considered being executive director of the CSO her dream job. She loved her job. "She played a significant role for decades in the cultural life of our city," Bernhardt said. "Personally, she was both my friend and my colleague, and she was a great supporter of my work. For those things I will be forever grateful." ArtsBuild President Dan Bowers said her death is a big loss for arts in this area. "Chattanooga's arts community has lost one of its greatest champions," he said. "Molly has been synonymous with the arts in Chattanooga for the past three decades and was one of our greatest advocates. We in Chattanooga, and others across Tennessee, mourn her passing." Jo Coke, a longtime friend who served as past president of the CSO Guild and now is on the CSO board of directors, said Sasse French was an inspiration to others. "Molly was a special person, not only for the organizations and staffs with whom she worked, but for all of us who admired her fair and forthright attitude toward life and its challenges. She inherited a huge loss at the CSO, and managed to turn it around through her own dedication and her inspiration of others. She was a supreme fundraiser, and an excellent role model. I will miss her competent leadership." Sasse French was named a Woman of Distinction in 2011 by the American Lung Association in Tennessee. Former Chattanooga Music Club President Charlynn Fry said Sasse French was a "very supportive" member of that organization. "She initiated bringing the Veterans Day programs with the CSO to Memorial Auditorium, with the assistance of the Chattanooga Music Club, so that the restored Austin organ could be used in the programs," Fry said. "The concerts were held following the Veterans Day ceremonies in the National Cemetery." Sasse French's second husband, Jim Sasse, died in 2012, and she married Gaylord French in 2015. She had two children from her first marriage, Mary Coulter of Knoxville and Dave Teague of Chattanooga.

– Barry Courter, Chattanooga Times Free Press

In Memoriam: John Allen



John Allen's death is a tremendous loss to the music community of Chattanooga, and beyond. John's attention to human suffering, his big heart towards others, and his steadfast trust in Our Lord, all a bellwether for those who come after. John's scholarship not only encompassed his profession (clergy), but extended to church music where he was tireless in the discipline of learning. John's compliments were legendary. When he was a guest at our table, he exclaimed over the food, the company, the decor, and the hymn singing. Myriad were the cards and letters he wrote of encouragement and faith to others. His positive attitude encompassed hearty praise for Chattanooga musicians. His curiosity led him to attend every concert and program possible. Once, when I was

Director of Music at Rivermont Presbyterian, he quietly noted that the scale of the program demanded additional financial support, and he silently provided funds. Three years ago, in the deafening silence of grief on the loss of my father, John wrote me a magnificent letter of sorrow, laced with encouragement and peace. Shalom, John. – Muriel Phillips

Congratulations Dr. John Wycoff!



John Wycoff, husband of Chattanooga AGO member Evangeline Wycoff, is a professor of Music Theory and Composition at Lee University in Cleveland, TN. He has recently been commissioned to compose two new choral works for the 2017 inauguration of the President of the United States. Congratulations John!

Financial Report for 2015-16

Financial Report for 2015-2016

by Virginia Marion, Treasurer

INCOME

Dues, Local	\$1,811.00
Dinner Income	\$733.00
Workshop Income	\$440.00
Donation	<u>\$30.00</u>
Total Income	\$3,014.00

EXPENSES

Catering	\$1,648.78
Honoraria & Travel	\$718.80
Room rentals & Sexton	\$400.00
Software & Website	\$169.99
Supplies & Copying	\$97.06
Gifts and Prizes	<u>\$185.46</u>
Total Expenses	\$3,220.09
Net for the year	\$ (206.09)

CURRENT CHECKING BALANCE (as of 8/31/16):	\$2,909.45
INVESTMENT BALANCE (as of 8/24/16)	<u>\$26,438.90</u>
TOTAL WORTH:	\$29,348.35

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 14

Elizabeth Smith of Lois Fyfe Music, Nashville, TN

Presentation on choral music resources for all size choirs,
with a focus on the upcoming calendar of January through Easter.

Covenant Presbyterian Church
8451 East Brainerd Rd., Chattanooga

6:00 pm Chapter meal and fellowship at a local restaurant TBA

7:30 pm Program

Chattanooga AGO Music Sale

We are currently accepting donations of organ, piano, instrumental, vocal, sacred, classical, and any other music editions you have and are no longer using for an upcoming Music Sale. All proceeds from this sale will benefit a future organ scholarship fund. If you would like to make a donation or volunteer to coordinate the Music Sale, please call or email Sarah Harr to coordinate a pick up/drop off day and time. Please consider making a donation to help us establish a scholarship fund for future organ students to pursue their educational and professional goals. Thank you!

Upcoming Events at Sewanee

Choral Evensong with the University Choir

University of the South (All Saints' Chapel), Sunday October 30 at 4 pm
University Choir, Geoffrey Ward, University Organist and Choirmaster & William Stokes,
Assistant Organist

Catherine Rodland, Organ Recital

University of the South (All Saints' Chapel), Friday November 18 at 7:30 pm
There will be a reception following the recital at the Alumni House.
Masterclass on Saturday November 19 10 am to noon with students from Nashville and
Chattanooga.

Get ready for Student Sunday 2017!

5th Sundays usually occur four times a year and are ideal times for out-of-the-ordinary events. The first 5th Sunday of 2017 is Jan. 29th. (a "low" Sunday) and we are encouraging all members to support and promote a "Student Sunday" that day. The idea is for as many organists as can share the bench with a young person who has interest/talent in organ playing. The student can play a single piece to an entire service depending on their ability/familiarity with each individual worship service. With enough participation across the chapter we can get good media coverage and highlight the guild's outreach to the next generation. A note in the parish newsletter would be a great way to begin developing prospects for this event. Anyone needing assistance with training/coaching a prospective player is welcomed to contact the board for further help. If you are willing to join in this effort, please contact Jim Bailiff and let him know as he will begin a registry of participating churches and start the publicity process with the Times/Free Press. We are all keenly aware how busy the last quarter of the year can be for a church musician, so this ninth month is a great time to get this going. – Jim Bailiff

Chanticleer performing at Lee University on October 25

Back by popular demand, Lee University will welcome the all-male choral ensemble Chanticleer to Pangle Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m. for the next installment in Lee's Presidential Concert Series. Chanticleer is known around the world as "an orchestra of voices" for the seamless blend of its 12 male voices ranging from countertenor to bass and its original interpretations of vocal literature, from Renaissance to Jazz, and from Gospel to venturesome new music. Founded by Louis A. Botto in 1978, Chanticleer's mission is to perform music with excellence and encourage appreciation of choral performances. The ensemble, now in its 38th season, performs throughout the United States, Germany, Austria, Italy, Hong Kong, Singapore, Macao, the Republic of China, and the People's Republic of China. Since the group began releasing recordings in 1981, it has sold well over a million albums and won three GRAMMY awards. It was named Ensemble of the Year by Musical America in 2008 and was installed in the American Classical Music Hall of Fame the same year. Chanticleer returns to Lee after receiving a warm welcome during its spring 2015 performance. The ethnically diverse group features artists who have been with the company for 26 seasons to those who are in their first season with the ensemble. This unique blend of tradition and current voices creates an ensemble that stays relevant to culture while not giving up its roots. Chanticleer is directed by William Fred Scott, a native of Thomasville, Ga. Before directing the ensemble, he worked for the Opera Company of Boston and as director of Choral Music at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta. Mr. Scott has conducted numerous opera companies and orchestras like the Hawaii Opera Theater, Wolf Trap, and the New York City Opera, among others. For more information about Chanticleer, visit <http://www.chanticleer.org>. Tickets for the concert are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors. They can be purchased at the Lee University Box Office in the Dixon Center, or by contacting 614-8343, Monday-Friday, from 3-6 p.m. For more information about the Presidential Concert Series, visit <http://www.leeuniversity.edu/pcs/> or call the School of Music at 614-8240.

Program Year 2016-17

Monday, November 14, 2016 – Elizabeth Smith of Lois Fyfe Music, Nashville, TN

Presentation on choral music resources for all size choirs with a focus on the upcoming calendar of January through Easter.

Covenant Presbyterian Church, 8451 East Brainerd Rd., Chattanooga

6:00 pm Chapter meal and fellowship at a local restaurant TBA

7:30 pm Program

December 2016 – No monthly program

Monday, January 30, 2017 – Student Recital

Brainerd United Methodist Church, 4315 Brainerd Rd., Chattanooga

7:00 PM

Followed by a reception

In conjunction with the January 30 student recital, the chapter will promote “Student Musician Sunday” on January 29th. We encourage all chapter members to seek out local student talent to participate in worship that Sunday.

Thursday, February 16, 2017 – Katelyn Emerson, AGO 2016 NYACOP winner

AGO will sponsor workshop with Katelyn on Thursday evening entitled “Registering historic organ works on contemporary American organs”

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 305 W. Seventh St., Chattanooga 6:30 pm

7:45 pm Chapter meal and fellowship at a local restaurant TBA

St. Paul’s will sponsor Katelyn in a recital the following evening, Friday, February 17.

March 2017 – No monthly program

Monday, April 24, 2017 – Dr. Calvert Johnson Narrated recital on Minority Composers

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 211 Franklin Rd. at Scenic Highway, Lookout Mountain

7:00 pm

A reception will follow.

Monday, May 22, 2017 – Banquet, elections and chapter service. \$15/person

Reservation required

First Lutheran Church, 2800 McCallie Ave., Chattanooga

6:30 pm

*Please RSVP to all programs by emailing program@agochattanooga.org. Thanks!