

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER

American Guild of Organists

Soli Deo Gloria



Executive Board Members

Dean: Sarah Harr

Sub Dean: John Wigal

Treasurer: Paul Hesselink

Secretary: Joy Gibbons

Prof. Development: Jim Bailiff

Membership: Anne Aycock

Publicity: Buddy Shirk

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 event:



**An Evening at Sewanee:
Evensong with the University Choir, Faculty Organ Recital, & Dinner
Sunday, February 25, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
All Saints Chapel, Sewanee University of the South**

On Sunday February 25, 2018 the University of the South will host the Chattanooga chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The University Choir will present Choral Evensong followed by an organ recital at 4 pm. The choir has 50 undergraduate students and is preparing for its first tour to Canada in May 2018. The University Organist and Choirmaster is Geoffrey Ward and the choir will be accompanied by the Assistant Professor of Church Music Ken Miller. Both Drs. Ward and Miller will play for the recital following evensong. Music included for the service will include preces and responses by Ayleward, canticles and motets by Charles Wood and organ music by J.S. Bach. The program will be 75 minutes in length and dinner will follow at McClurg dining hall. McClurg is located directly across from the chapel and the cost for dinner is approximately \$11.00. If you plan to join us for dinner, please RSVP by **Monday, February 19** to program@agochattanooga.org.

2017-2018 AGO Program Calendar Dates:

February 25, 2018: 4:00 p.m.:

Evensong and Dinner, Sewanee University of the South (Please RSVP by Monday, February 19, if you plan to join us for dinner after the program: sarahharr@ymail.com)

March – No Program

April 27 and 28, 2018: Recital (7:00 p.m.) and Masterclass (10:00 a.m.):

Katherine Meloan, First-Centenary United Methodist Church

May 2018:

End of Program Year Dinner and Worship, TBD

From the Dean

“Belong. Behave. Believe.”

During the worship service at First Christian Church today, our pastor, Rev. Brandon Gilvin, referenced an author named Diana Butler Bass, who wrote a book called “Christianity After Religion.” After a great deal of research, she concluded that the process of becoming a Christian has evolved over the centuries to the point where the order of that process is now reversed.

According to Bass, the old order was “Believe. Behave. Belong.” I distinctly remember reciting and memorizing doctrinal statements when I was a child that I couldn’t fully understand or comprehend – first, believe. However, after I developed an understanding of these doctrines, I was able to follow and teach them – behave. Finding a community of faith is a lifelong journey, and my community of believers has greatly evolved over the years – belong. My perception has primarily been that doctrine (i.e. Jesus’ teachings) should come first, even though it didn’t mean as much until we are able to follow it and share it with others. Pastor Gilvin’s sermon made me think differently about this.

The new order: “Belong. Behave. Believe.” Has the process of becoming a Christian changed to the point where feeling a sense of belonging must come before learning about Jesus’ teachings? What specific characteristics draw us to a faith community? Is it easier to believe after you’ve witnessed others behaving in a Christian way? Do these things happen simultaneously or in a different order? Does the order affect the strength of our beliefs?

These thoughts led me to ponder the meaningfulness of that important sense of belonging. We all want to belong. We may come together to promote a teaching, a cause, or even something we are fighting against. That sense of belonging can lead to a strong sense of community or divisiveness, depending upon the behavior and the beliefs that go with it. The latter is, tragically, more newsworthy, and seemingly more prevalent in our current political and social climate. However, the communities advocating for the rights of the oppressed (women, immigrants, indigent, etc.) have also recently gained momentum and brought important beliefs to light.

I recently travelled to Knoxville to give a lecture recital to their AGO chapter on my dissertation, which discussed liturgical organ music in France in the wake of two significant church reforms. The chapter members were warm, welcoming, and perceptive. They even planned a French meal to go with my program, which I thought was especially thoughtful! After only one evening together, I felt a strong sense of belonging in this group because of our shared behaviors and beliefs. I realized that I have experienced similar feelings in all the AGO chapters of which I’ve been a member over the last twenty-five years, for a variety of reasons. I vividly recall as a teenager meeting other organists in the Memphis AGO chapter and thinking, “These people are hilarious and super fun! I want to do what they’re doing!” I wanted to belong – not just in the organist community, but in my immediate and extended family, among my academic colleagues, my small group at church, my stay-at-home moms group, and so on. No man (or woman) is an island, and it takes a community, right? How quickly we forget!

We, as church musicians and organists, have very unique needs, questions, and concerns, that only others in our field can truly understand. Therefore, it’s important that we support one another, confide in one another, and build each other up. To that end, I am immensely grateful for the volunteers who have made a commitment to serve on the Chattanooga AGO board, and I am looking forward to the perspective, experience, and support they have to offer. The sum of our parts is greater than the whole, and I am certain we will continue to have a positive effect on the music community in Chattanooga and beyond.

Please take some time to ponder these questions in the coming weeks and let me or another board member know your thoughts.

What is it about the AGO (our chapter, specifically) that gives you a sense of belonging – your fun-loving personality, your teaching ability, your organizational skills, your unique perspective, your talent for setting up for a reception or printing programs for a recital?

How can you help to promote the beliefs and behaviors that you feel are important to the future of our chapter and our profession?

How do we, as members of the Chattanooga AGO chapter, effectively convey our beliefs and our behaviors in a way that compels others to want to belong?

Have a blessed Lent and Easter season!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Sarah Harr

Coming up in April:



Recital by Katherine Meloan: Friday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. (Reception following.)

Masterclass with Katherine Meloan: Saturday, April 28, 10:00 a.m.

First Centenary United Methodist Church
419 McCallie Avenue, downtown Chattanooga

The recital on Friday is free and open to the public. If you are interested in playing for the masterclass, or for more information about this event, please email us at news@agochattanooga.org.

Chattanooga AGO Slate of Officers 2018-2019

Class of 2018 (rolling off in June):

John Wigal, sub dean
Anne Aycock, membership and hospitality
Paul Hesselink, treasurer

2018-2019 Proposed Executive Board:

Class of 2019:

Sarah Harr, dean
Joy Gibbons, secretary

Class of 2020:

Kristopher Schwinn, sub dean
Ethan McGrath, treasurer
Jim Bailiff, professional development
Buddy Shirk, publicity

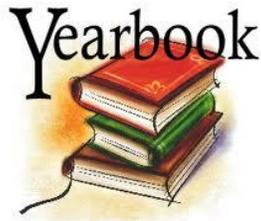
Class of 2021:

Jeff Scofield, membership
Evangeline Wycoff and Beth Nichols, hospitality co-chairs



AGO Certification Classes

Are you interested in working toward one of the AGO levels of certification? Several of our members are working toward various levels of certification (Service Playing Certificate, Colleague, Associate, etc.), and are finding it helpful to meet as a group to share ideas, perform for one another, and learn from members who have successfully completed the certification process. We are meeting every other Saturday at Brainerd United Methodist Church from 10 a.m. until noon. Our next meeting is on Saturday, February 17. If you have previously worked toward AGO certification and would like to volunteer, or if you are interested in beginning the certification process at ANY level, please contact Anne Aycock (anneaycock@icloud.com) or Sarah Harr (sarahharr@ymail.com), or just show up at our next certification workshop. We'd love to help guide you through the practical and rewarding process of AGO certification—chapter support makes all the difference!



Volunteers Needed: AGO Chattanooga Yearbook Committee

Now that we have our updated member pictures and contact information, we need some folks to put it all together, format it, and print it for our membership. If you would like to help in **any** way (advertising, word processing, printing, etc.), please let Sarah Harr know as soon as possible. We hope to get the process underway as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your help!

Upcoming Local Arts Events:

Chattanooga Symphony: Big Band Fever

February 16 and 17, 7:30 p.m.
Tivoli Theater

Handel: Chandos Anthem, No.3 / (Psalm 51 *Have Mercy upon Me, O God*)

Chattanooga Bach Choir
Sunday, February 18, 4:00 p.m.
Christ Church Episcopal

John Hamm Performing Arts Series: Lysander Piano Trio

Thursday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.
Covenant College

Chattanooga Symphony and Chattanooga Youth Symphony: Side by Side Concert

Sunday, February 25, 3:00 p.m.
Tivoli Theater

Choral Evensong to benefit Metropolitan Ministries

Sunday, February 25, 4:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Chattanooga Symphony: Sibelius Symphony No. 5

Thursday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.
Tivoli Theater

CSOYO Symphony and Philharmonic Winter Concert

Monday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.
Brainerd Baptist Church

Chattanooga Symphony: European Tour

Sunday, March 11, 3:00 p.m.
Chattanooga State Humanities Building Auditorium

Chattanooga Symphony: Women Rock
Saturday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.
Tivoli Theater

Chattanooga Symphony: Etude and Prelude Winter Concert
Monday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.
Chattanooga School of Arts & Sciences

John Hamm Performing Arts Series: Didge Evolution
Thursday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.
Covenant College

**If you'd like to add an event to our monthly calendar, please email us at news@agochattanooga.org.*

Available Positions:

Grace Episcopal Church in Chattanooga seeks quarter-time Interim organist. Responsibilities include accompaniment for the principle Sunday Eucharist and one weekly choral rehearsal (September – May). Additional duties consist of providing music for occasional services such as Holy Week liturgies, quarterly Evensongs, and weddings/funerals as available. Familiarity with Episcopal worship or similar liturgical traditions is preferred. Compensation will be competitive and commensurate to education, skill level, and experience. The Interim Organist WILL be eligible to apply for the permanent position. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume with at least three references to saygracemusic@gmail.com as soon as possible. Grace is home to a 400-seat nave and 3-manual Moller pipe organ.

Many thanks to all our talented organ students
for a beautiful program on January 29!

