

# 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:**



**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](mailto:news@agochattanooga.org).

**2017-2018 AGO Program Calendar Dates:**

**April 27 and 28, 2018: Recital (7:00 p.m.) and Masterclass (10:00 a.m.):**  
Katherine Meloan, First-Centenary United Methodist Church

**Tuesday, May 15, 2018:**  
End of Program Year Dinner (6:00 p.m.) and Program (7:00 p.m.), Hixson United Methodist Church



**From the Dean**



*If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl,  
but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.*

*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*

*We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.*

*The time is always right to do what is right.*

*Only in darkness can you see the stars.*

*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.*

*Faith is taking the first step, even if you don't see the whole staircase.*

*I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.*

*In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.*

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in my hometown, Memphis, TN. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death is coming up in a few days, and I can't stop thinking about the effect he has had on the world, not just during his lifetime, but decades after his death. Can you imagine how much more he could've done had he lived a full life?

Having been born and raised in Memphis, Dr. King was a strong presence in my childhood and adolescence. I remember touring the Lorraine Motel, now the Civil Rights Museum, and feeling goosebumps while I looked at the actual balcony where he was killed. I remember listening to a recording of him preaching as I walked through his hotel room, the way the brand new Civil Rights Museum smelled when it first opened, touching the bus that Rosa Parks rode when she refused to sit in the colored section... It's amazing how those details can stick with you after so many years.

Strangely, a comment I recently made on Facebook struck me, after the fact, because of its connection to this important anniversary. I candidly asked how many of my organist colleagues had played Widor's *Toccata* on Easter Sunday. Of those that responded, most had either played it or heard it played, myself included.

As I reflected on my friends' comments, one word came to mind – solidarity. How often are we all doing the same thing at the same time in several different places? Almost never. What is the statement we are making

when we all perform the same task at the exact same time (other than showing off our impeccable organ playing skills)?

I'm often thinking (and talking) about the irony of our profession. Although it's necessary for us to be extroverts when we are working, we tend to look inward rather than seek out support when we need it. Not to sound trite but, by speaking up and supporting one another, the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts.

Here's one example. Even though it only took one person to begin the FTC investigation that altered our entire professional organization, it will take all of us working together to carve out a new path forward. I try to remind myself of that when I complain or get angry about something, I'm giving that complaint more energy and attention than it deserves. Instead, I need to point that energy I would have used to complain to find my voice and do something about it.

After the discriminatory experience I encountered last year, I now look at it as the opportunity I needed to find my voice. I've written letters, made phone calls, involved myself in local government, and joined the justice committee on the Chattanooga Mayor's Council for Women. Now, instead of walking away, I speak up. I've never done that until now.

Dr. King frequently preached about the transformative power of coming together under a single purpose. Take a moment to reread his quotes at the beginning of my article and choose one or two that most speak to you. Whether you were alive or not when he was assassinated, how would you have responded upon hearing what happened? How is our response to tragedy, as church-goers, different than those who have no hope? How can we differentiate ourselves from the world, while still supporting one another in our respective callings? How can we demonstrate that hope during this violent and divisive time in our country? Does what we do, as a profession, make any difference whatsoever? I'll go ahead and answer that for you – yes! Making a difference is easy; it just takes one person to get it started. Will you be that person?

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Sarah Harr

### **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

Class of 2020:  
Kristopher Schwinn, sub dean  
Ethan McGrath, treasurer  
Jim Bailiff, professional development  
Buddy Shirk, publicity  
Andrea Tierney, secretary

Class of 2021:  
Jeff Scofield, membership  
Evangeline Wycoff and Beth Nichols, hospitality co-chairs

**Upcoming Local Arts Events:**

**Handel: Messiah (complete)**

Chattanooga Bach Choir  
Sunday April 15, 3:30 p.m.  
First Christian Church

**Choral Arts Collaborative Concert**

With the Chattanooga Boys Choir, the Covenant College Chorale and Orchestra  
April 19, 7:00 p.m.  
Covenant College

**Nathan Laube Organ Recital**

April 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Southern

**Borodin: Polynesian Dances**

A collaborative concert with the Chattanooga Symphony, CSO Chorus,  
and the Chattanooga State Concert Choir  
April 26, 7:30 pm  
Tivoli Theater

**Choral Evensong for Ascension Day**

Thursday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**Chattanooga Music Club Former Scholarship Winners Concert**

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 2:30 p.m.  
Brainerd United Methodist Church

**J.S. Bach: Cantata 74 "Wer mich liebet, der wird mein Wort halten"**

Chattanooga Bach Choir  
Sunday, May 20, 4:00 p.m.  
Christ Church Episcopal

*\*If you'd like to add an event to our monthly calendar, please email us at [news@agochattanooga.org](mailto:news@agochattanooga.org).*

