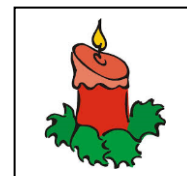




# EN CHAMADE



## Winchester Chapter American Guild of Organists

### December 2020 Newsletter

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Membership Committee: Alan Moser, chair*

*Heather Ankerbrand, Daniel Hannemann*

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[misterdan51@gmail.com](mailto:misterdan51@gmail.com)

Ms. Emily Bentgen  
[ebentgen@mac.com](mailto:ebentgen@mac.com)  
[winchesterago.com](http://winchesterago.com)

## THE DEAN'S MUSINGS

### OUR GIFT OF THE MAGI

*T*he story titled “The Gift of the Magi” was written by O. Henry and published in 1905.

The tale is of a young couple deeply in love. To show just how much they love each other, each sacrifices his/her most prized possession in order to buy a very special Christmas gift: she sells her beautiful hair to buy him a gold chain for his watch; he sells his watch to buy a beautiful comb for her hair. It is a seasonal classic. On the surface it seems a sad, poignant mistake. But, to get to the nugget of the story takes a point of view higher up the mountain. The phrase lifted from the Prayer attributed to St. Frances: “For it is in giving that we receive.” comes to mind.

Christmas this year is a season of contrasts and contrary emotions. It’s been a year of extraordinary tumult. For church musicians the beginning of Advent heralds a wary thrill—usually it’s like too much of a good thing. We have stored enough memories into our lives like strings of lights and a gloriously decorated tree. That is what we expect. And, things are expected of us in return. There is a goodness expected of us at Christmas: charity, gift giving, wishing each other the best of the season, kindness and generosity. What we’ve come to understand as the meaning of Christmas should be everywhere.

How can the Guild foster this in us? In December as church musicians, we typically look forward to planning each worship gathering, rich in beloved traditional music. We connect with our favorite guest musicians; we expand our service music settings, mix old and new anthems and tell our choir members and instrumentalists just how much they mean to us. Practice accelerates, and our organizational skill is the primary thing that helps us confidently put one foot in front of another. Add to these tasks what we do for family and friends, and we really have a plate full.

I have just finished listening to a draft of the Advent portion of our **Lessons and Carols**. It is splendid, and is truly a work of art. I have even closed my eyes just to isolate the music that our members have chosen. This is going to be the gift like none we have produced before. And, the many, many members, clergy, friends and supporters who have helped with this project just may be the face of the real meaning of the Christmas spirit.

Please spread the good cheer by promoting this Christmas musical gift. Reach out to your neighbors, family, and other organizations by sending them the link to our web site: **[winchesterago.com](http://winchesterago.com)**. Remind them of the opportunity to give to WATTS and the Winchester Rescue Mission. And, take a moment to give your thanks to **Marilynn Shenenberger** and **Jim Moon** in particular. Their creative talents are eclipsed only by their work ethic.

May you have good health, wealth and happiness, and may you fully know that each of you in giving to our chapter will be gifted in kind. As the angels brought their music to earth announcing the birth of the Christ Child. so we will use our music. Remember: we are all the face of the true meaning of Christmas. **Gloria in excelsis Deo!**



Blessings,  
*Linda*





# *A December Lessons and Carols*

## *Featuring 15 Local Churches\**

Due to Covid restrictions, WAGO will be offering a

**Virtual Lessons and Carols program on our website, [winchesterago.com](http://winchesterago.com)  
from Dec. 1 through January 6**

to raise money for **WATTS** and the **Winchester Rescue Mission**. This is in lieu of our annual after-Christmas Progressive concert.

Since we aren't limited by travelling from one church to another, we will be able to highlight

**15 local churches in our Advent-Epiphany Lessons and Carols.**

- The scripture lesson will be read by one of the clergy,
- The music performed by the organist, harpsichordist, pianist, or virtual choir, and
- The background pictures will show the church in a variety of seasons, including Christmas, as we remember it from last year and before.

**✠ Churches featured in our December Lessons and Carols ✠**

### Winchester Churches:

First Baptist, Sacred Heart Catholic, Christ Episcopal, Bethel Lutheran, Grace Evangelical Lutheran, Our Savior Lutheran, Braddock Street United Methodist, and First Presbyterian

### Near Winchester:

Emmanuel Episcopal in Delaplane, Front Royal Presbyterian, Leesburg Presbyterian, St. James Episcopal in Leesburg, Emmanuel Episcopal in Middleburg, Trinity Lutheran in Stephens City, and Trinity Episcopal in Upperville

**Please use the flyer on the next page to advertise in your church:**



**Sponsored by the Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**

# **A December Lessons & Carols**

## **featuring 15 Local Churches**

### **Featured Churches**

**First Baptist**

**Sacred Heart Catholic**

**Christ Episcopal**

**Bethel Lutheran**

**Grace Evangelical  
Lutheran**

**Our Savior Lutheran**

**Braddock Street United  
Methodist**

**First Presbyterian**

**Emmanuel Episcopal  
Middleburg & Delaplane**

**St. James Episcopal  
Leesburg**

**Trinity Episcopal Upperville**

**Trinity Lutheran in  
Stephens City**

**Front Royal Presbyterian**

**Leesburg Presbyterian**

**Celebrate the Christmas Season in  
Word, Music and Pictures**



**Enjoy this program between  
December 1—January 6**

**Free of Charge at our website:**

**[winchesterago.com](http://winchesterago.com)**

**Donations may be made to WATTS or  
The Winchester Rescue Mission  
via the Link on the Program.**



# Saluting Dr. Stephen Cooksey AGO Winchester Chapter

*From AGO Chapter Leadership News for November 2020*

**Dr. Steven Cooksey** has been a strong influence in Sacred Music and Organ appreciation in the Winchester, Virginia area since 1974. He came to Winchester to accept the position of Professor of Church Music and Organ Performance at Shenandoah University. Although he has retired, he remains connected with the university and is a most important bridge between the school and the community regarding sacred music. He is a gentle person whose thoughtfulness is his hallmark. But, that is complemented by his unwavering expectation of excellence in music. He established a thriving (until the pandemic) concert series at a large Lutheran retirement center in Winchester. For 10 months each year, WAGO members and friends provide a diverse set of programs for the residents and the surrounding community. This has been ongoing for several years; WAGO members serve as the primary group of artists who perform at this series. This special programming is in addition to our regular meetings and monthly programs. Dr Cooksey has held the position of Dean of the chapter and retains his influence by chairing the Program Committee. His gifts to the chapter are countless. For over 45 years he has been the constant strength that makes our small chapter thrive. Do you have a chapter leader you would like to recognize? Please send me a photo and brief description of how she/he has enriched and positively impacted your chapter. [elizabeth.george@agohq.org](mailto:elizabeth.george@agohq.org) .



*With Dr. Irma Collins at the 2017 Shape Note Festival*

## Comments:

***Within a month after meeting Dr. Cooksey at an AGO meeting, he invited me to the Winchester Chapter Epiphany dinner at his house. Before I knew it, he had me playing a half recital at a Senior Living Center, and participating on the Program Committee! If something needs to be done, Dr. Cooksey knows who to call to get it accomplished. I haven't yet met anyone who could say "No" to him! Mariflyn Shenenberger, member***

***A person who makes a jewel out of every stone in his path. As the driving force in the conception of our chapter, he has served as a master of inspirational teaching for most of our members. He empowers others to use their gifts, the result of which has been creative and outstanding programs for the community. Audiences are delighted by his knowledge of musicology, his humorous personality, and his extraordinary musicianship. All of this is accomplished by a man of small stature, with a kind and selfless nature, devoted to service. Judy Connelly, member***

***Dr. Cooksey always has time for a quick call for a good word of cheerful encouragement. You can hear his smile over the phone and know his interest and friendship are genuine.***

*Daniel Hannemann, member*

***Dr. Cooksey maintains a visible passion for the organ and its active use in the life of churches and community. Because the members and friends of the WAGO know Dr. Cooksey as a teacher, mentor and colleague, they always are available to assist in WAGO programs.***

*Jim Charest, friend of the Chapter*



## **WAGO and RCYO Competition**

All **Regional Competitions for Young Organists (RCYO)** will be virtual next year. We recently received the new guidelines and a request for possible host chapters from the coordinator of the Mid-Atlantic Region competition, Clarice Snyder. Chapter responsibilities are a little less than in the past due to the competition not being "onsite".

After consultation with our dean, regional councilor and education chair, the Winchester Chapter will join the Potomac and NOVA chapters as hosts for our region. At this point, there are possibly 2 other sites in the region. Please note the following competition requirements:

- Open to students born after December 31, 1998.
- Applications must be submitted online no later than January 15, 2021.
- Online applications are available at [AGOhq.org](http://AGOhq.org).
- Recordings monitored by a proctor will be uploaded.
- The chapter pays \$25 to each proctor, decides on their own expenses for judges and the prizes
- Competition will be Sat., April 17.

The purpose of these competitions is to encourage younger organists to pursue excellence, to gain performance experience, to develop service playing skills, and to receive recognition for their achievements. These competitions begin at the chapter level and conclude at the seven Regional Competitions. The winner of each Regional Competition will be invited to perform as a Rising Star at the 2022 National Convention in Seattle, Wash. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, president, Quimby Pipe Organs Inc.

If you know of a young organist who might be interested, go to the [AGOhq.org](http://AGOhq.org) website for the list of required repertoire and other competition details. We will continue to provide updates as we move through this new process.

Submitted by **Judy Connelly**, Education Chair, Mid-Atlantic Region

# ♪ IN SEARCH OF A CHOIR DIRECTOR ♪

**OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2800 MILLWOOD PIKE  
WINCHESTER, VA 22602**

Ph. 540-398-7265 [www.oursavior-lcms.org](http://www.oursavior-lcms.org)

Our Savior Lutheran Church of Winchester is searching for a part-time choir director who will be ready to begin music ministry after the first of the year 2021. The following items apply for the position of choir director:

1. **To direct and maintain a choir** for church services as required by the Elder Board and Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church; the choir director reports directly to the Pastor;
2. **To hold weekly choir practices** based upon agreed day and time with the choir members, organist (when needed), and the Pastor;
3. **To have the choir offer an anthem** as part of 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship at least once per month from September thru May, again based on Elder Board, Pastor, and Organist agreement. Note that the months of June, July, and August are free months unless otherwise agreed to for specific purposes;
4. **To coordinate music and message** in consultation with Pastor and Organist;
5. **To maintain music library, and to recommend and obtain new music** from LCMS and similar sources via budget line provided.

Salary to be discussed at interview, and to be commensurate with experience and duties agreed upon.

Interested personnel should contact **Pastor Greg Cumbee**, 540-667-1458  
[oslc.lcms.2800@gmail.com](mailto:oslc.lcms.2800@gmail.com)



## Sharing A Slice of Organ History

My aunt, Carol Kantner, is deeply involved in the preservation of the Dieffenbach pipe organs built in Pennsylvania in the early days of our country. She was interviewed by a public TV program interested in Pennsylvania German history and culture. She talks about the history of the family and the remaining organs that were built by family members.

<https://youtu.be/ohKQMQ0rEmE>

The session is a bit long, but WAGO members may find it interesting.

Peace,  
**Laurie Dieffenbach**



# Assorted Thoughts



1. Ways to promote our Lessons and Carols Program:

- Church newsletter or web page
- choir list
- your church leadership council
- friends and family
- professional organizations
- as an extension to your Holiday Wishes

2. We received grateful letters of appreciation from **WATTS** and **WINCHESTER RESCUE LEAGUE** for our donations from last year's Christmas Recitals. This year's donations will be made online through our web site at [winchesterago.com](http://winchesterago.com).

From Robyn Miller, Interim Executive Director of WATTS:

*"Thank you for your recent generous gift . . . All donations are directly used to support WATTS's shelter operations. Your thoughtful donation and kindness assist WATTS in providing much needed shelter, nourishment and encouragement to those who are vulnerable and hurting during the coldest months of the year."*

From Anne Johnson, volunteer, Winchester Rescue League:

*"Thank you for choosing to support WRM!! Together we'll seek to end homelessness in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. . . We could not do all that we do without the incredible support of our generous community."*

3. **No December meeting.** Next **ZOOM** chapter meeting will be the **Epiphany Happy Hour, January 8, 2021**, featuring

- some surprise entertainment
- Covid Carols
- perhaps a game or two, and
- a challenging rendition of the Covid Carol of the Bells - text by Wayne Wold.

4. Please alert us to any interesting programs or recitals at the usual [misterdan51@gmail.com](mailto:misterdan51@gmail.com).





## RECOMMENDED\*

- I recently stumbled upon this work on *Sirius XM Symphony Hall*. It took some digging, but here is "Grand Concerto for Organ and Orchestra" by Stephen Paulus. Debuted in 2004 and was commissioned by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. This YouTube performance is from November, 2014 by the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra. The organist is Ken Kowan. Mr. Kowan has a BM from Curtis and a Masters and Artist Diploma from Yale. He is currently the head of the Organ Department at Rice University in Texas. The piece is in three movements and last about 21 minutes. The YouTube appears to be audio only. Brilliant piece. -- **Linda Beville**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNYtORxwWos>

- Armchair travel is cheaper and easier on the body than otherwise. January is a nice time to visit **the Holy Land**. Check out this eighteen-video series, "The Holy Land: Connecting the Land with its Stories", suggested by a friend of mine from Illinois who, like I, was most enthused and inspired to have visited the actual places some years back. I plan to watch them. – **Daniel Hannemann**

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPOUA7GLxXIGkhikntfiT4ida1IKbSNNB>

\*A recurring new feature! If you run across something you'd like to recommend and share in this space, please notify the newsletter editor at [misterdan51@gmail.com](mailto:misterdan51@gmail.com)





*Smile*



If you can't laugh at yourself, let me do it.

I may be wrong, but I doubt it.

At my funeral, take the bouquet off my coffin and throw it into the crowd to see who's next.

A little gray hair is a small price to pay for all this wisdom.

Some days the supply of curse words is insufficient to meet my demands.

I'm great in bed. I can sleep for days.

Buy the shoes – no point being the richest one in the cemetery.

Scientists say the universe is made up of protons, neutrons, and electrons. They forgot to mention morons.

My body is a temple. Ancient and crumbling, probably cursed or haunted....

I'm so busy I don't know if I found a rope or lost my horse.

How am I supposed to trust you when you keep running away every time I untie you?

My wife says I have two faults – I don't listen and something else....

*Imagine singing the following as the last verse of "The Twelve Days of Christmas"! ---*

On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, the choir came to be:

Twelve tenors trumping,  
Eleven old sopranos,  
Ten basses blinking,  
Nine mezzos munching,  
Eight country crooners,  
Seven altos snoring,  
Six cantors canting,  
Five – golden throats!!  
Four volunteers,  
Three sparkling divas,  
Two baritones,  
And a solo on Christmas Eve!

