





Winchester Chapter American Guild of Organists

April 2021 Newsletter

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<u>Program Committee</u> : Steven Cooksey, chair	
Linda Beville, Mark Lindgren, Marilyn Shenenberger	
<u>Membership Committee</u> : Alan Moser, chair	
Heather Ankerbrand, Daniel Hannemann	

Immediate Past Dean

THE DEAN'S MUSINGS

Living FAITH in (Cyber) Action

Listening to a nationally broadcast radio program today, I heard an interview with a union representative for professional musicians in the Philadelphia area. She was asked about how these first-class artists fared this past year. The stories were dismal. Although performances are now starting to come back, many musicians have had to relocate in order to survive. It leaves several top-notch groups without players. The message was clear: musicians are some of the hardest hit professions affected by the Covid-19 virus. This whole year has been a wilderness. I was lucky that my job as a church organist and director of music continued uninterrupted, even thrived because of the faith that my congregation had in me. Technology was the path out of the wilderness.

From now on, every Lent will mark the frightening lockdown restrictions caused by the Covid-19 virus. Though we are weary of every aspect of our lives being tied to the pandemic, it is exactly the place to start seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. I want to share with you some of my musings that helped me to return to FAITH in ourselves.

April 2021 marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of the American Guild of Organists. Its relatively short existence represents a tradition that has evolved over thousands of years. The majority of organists worldwide seek employment in some type of association with churches. The church's central tenet of faith is what we honor. Magnificent organ music lifts our souls to a higher spiritual plane. When the pandemic quarantine was imposed, it threatened to bury that world underground.

So, I was coincidentally attracted to April's TAO (<u>The American Organist</u>, magazine of the AGO) and specifically the articles by President Michael Bedford and Elizabeth George, Director AGO Member Engagement

and Chapter Development. Both wrote of the surprising and very successful developments in technology that not only kept alive our profession but made it thrive. And, I have been the recipient of their efforts. I attended *OrganFest* and saw the entire virtual convention-- something I have never done. I attended the first *Virtual Leadership Conference* along with several of our chapter members. Our own WAGO Chapter has seen an increased and *more diverse membership attendance* because of Zoom technology. It is said that hindsight is 20/20. So, pausing momentarily to look backwards, I am uplifted by testimonies of how we built on the many creative ideas that found solutions through technology. Lemonade out of lemons!

Faith has always told us that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. God's hands are always there to catch us when we stumble. Believe: trust and have faith. That is the unwavering message of Holy Week. It comes at the end of a long Lent. There is an Easter! I have read the TAO several times and I continue to find little gems that inspire and boost confidence. Somehow, these tie into the Easter message. The Serenity Prayer surfaced in my thoughts as a place to pause and express gratitude for discoveries of new ways of doing things this past year. Attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr, it pulls together what I have felt when meditating on this pandemic anniversary and how we now come to the Resurrection story. FAITH is not just a word for the Easter season. FAITH is the year-round living bedrock that we stand on – and it now inspires from and lives in Cyberspace.

May you have a blessed Easter,

The Serenity Prayer

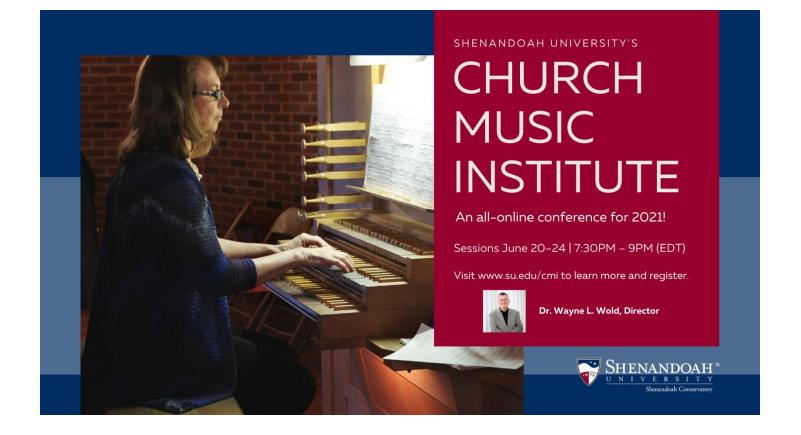
God, grant me the Serenity To accept the things I cannot change . . . Courage to change the things I can, And Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace. Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it. Trusting that He will make all things right, If I surrender to His will. That I may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen.



Blessings, Linda





POSITION AVAILABLE

Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church in Herndon, VA is currently seeking candidates for an <u>organist/choirmaster</u> position. This is a part-time position beginning May 1, 2021. During the pandemic, we are on Zoom and prerecord the music during the week. We have one worship service at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We have a tracker organ and pianos available. Soloists are permitted to record with the organist until we gather in person for worship. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please send me a response indicating that with a resume.

Thank you for your consideration. Carmela Condro, Chair of the Search Committee St. Timothy's, Herndon, VA <u>ccondro@verizon.net</u> March 4, 2021

Episcopal Church in Roanoke seeks Music Director

Consult the following website if interested: https://www.christroanoke.org/Employment/job-openings.html

RCYO NEWS

The RCYO (Regional Competition for Young Organists) will be a virtual presentation on April 17. Committee members from Potomac, NOVA and WAGO chapters of AGO have been planning the event. You may refer to the national website, agohq.org, RCYO section, under competitions for procedure, required musical selections and competition rules.

Basically, contestants will submit recordings 1 week in advance – with the aid of an approved proctor. 3 Judges will review entries anonymously and confer to choose winner and runner-up. After announcement has been made, and contestants have been identified, (the contestants names and teacher will not be disclosed until decision has been made), judges will contact contestants personally to discuss their performance. Competition Videos will be released to host chapters to add to their website.

The cost of the competition – prize money and judges honorariums – will be divided between the 3 chapters. Plans are well under way and we look forward to sharing in this important opportunity for young organists.

WAGO TO BE HONORED AT WEBINAR

During the AGO leadership conference held earlier this year, I spoke in a small breakout session about the importance of AGO chapters establishing a community presence. The virtual "Lessons and Carols" service was the perfect example - so I shared some information about the wonderful work I had witnessed - by my home chapter in Winchester, VA.

A few weeks later, I received an email, asking me to prepare a short video (2 minutes) that might be played at the next webinar. The video explains in more detail the information shared at the breakout session. The task of reporting on your masterpiece, in such a short time, was impossible – so it ended up being about 3:39 minutes.

The webinar – "Re-igniting, Re-imagining and Re-emerging from Covid 19"- will be held virtually on Monday, April 19, 4:00 pm. I assume the video will be played early on, before the panel discussion. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the National AGO website. I have the honor of being a panelist.

I am so proud to be a part of this creative and innovative chapter. I lift you up as a model to other chapters and admire the many gifted members. Thank you so much for all that you are doing in support of the AGO mission.

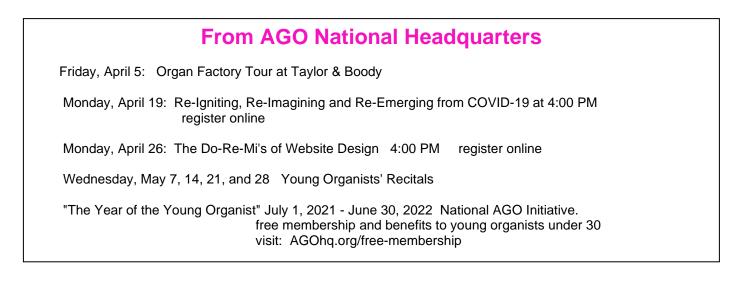
Blessings, **Judy Connelly** Mid-Atlantic Region AGO Education Chair





No Meeting in April or May







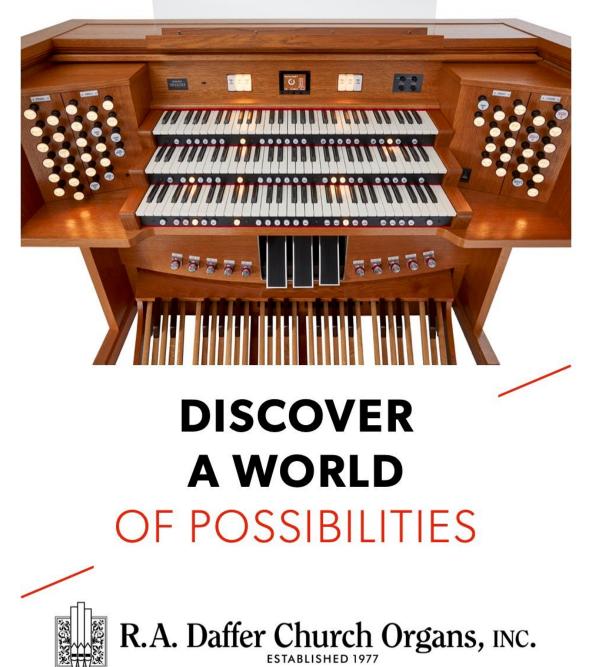
GIVEAWAY

Lowery Carnival with Magic Genie home organ. Free for a student, church or anyone. Contact Alice Krum at 703-867-2991 or <u>alice_krum@yahoo.com</u>



RODGERS

SERIES



Contact Steve McBride for more information: SMcBride@DafferOrgans.com | 484-886-8215 Also representing Johannus, Makin, Copeman-Hart, and Fratelli Ruffatti

May Scholarship concert:

Saturday, May 15-June 15 Continuous

Our May Scholarship concert will be a virtual memorial concert to honor those who have died from COVID as well as those who died in other circumstances and those who have died defending our nation. Our goal is to bring comfort and healing to those who remain. The title of the concert will be called "In Memory" and will feature performances by our members, scenes of various memorials around the country, along with some Bible verses and poetry. We are looking for pictures from a variety of memorial sights, including beautiful cemeteries, 9-11 memorial sights, and places of worship.

<u>Any pictures you may have taken</u> that would fit into one of our 4 categories: Grief, Remembering, Comfort, or Hope would be welcome additions. Please email any photos you think we might be able to use to **Marilyn Shenenberger**: <u>handbelle@comcast.net</u>. If you have any suggestions or questions, please call or text her at 609-502-3642. And, please pass the word to your congregations and friends. See the **In Memory Flyer**, following page.

Appreciation

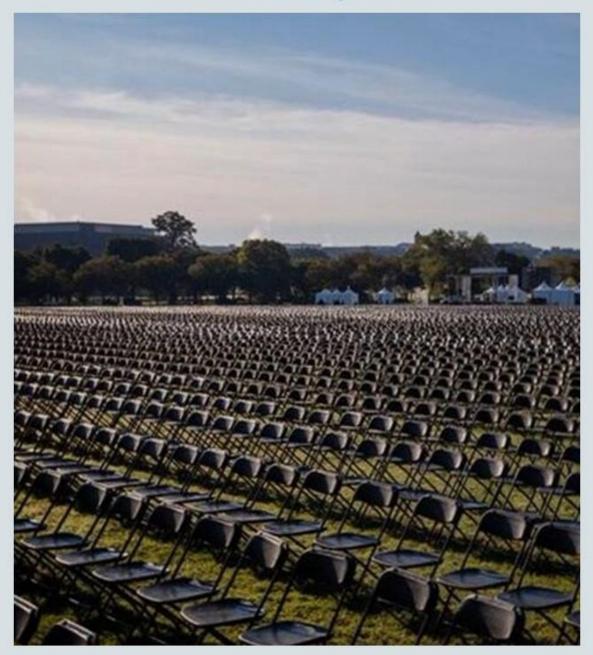
<u>Many thanks</u> to **Terry Sisk**, **Marilyn Shenenberger**, and our webmaster **Emily Bentgen** for the new WAGO website. Please take time to explore all the areas on the home page. If you have something to post, forward it to Terry Sisk at <u>terrysisk@aol.com</u>

WAGO Board Meeting Sunday April 18 at 3:00 PM ZOOM More info to follow



IN MEMORY

Online May 15-June 15 Winchesterago.com



Presented by the Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



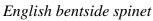


Clavichord

Flemish single manual harpsichord

Historic Keyboards: a presentation by Dr. Steven Cooksey on June 11







English forte-piano



THE NEW ALPHABET

A is for apple, and **B** is for the boat, That used to be right, but now it won't float! *Age before beauty* is what we once said, but Let's be a bit more realistic instead.

Now, The Alphabet:



A's for arthritis; B's the bad back, C's the chest pains, perhaps cardiac?
D is for dental decay and decline, E is for eyesight, can't read that top line!
F is for fissures and fluid retention, G is for gas which I'd rather not mention.
H means high blood pressure--I'd rather it low; I for incisions with scars you can show.
J is for joints, out of the socket, won't mend, K is for knees that crack when they bend.
L 's for libido, (what happened to sex?!) M is for memory, I forget what comes next.
N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low; O is for osteo, bones that don't grow!
P for prescriptions, I have quite a few; just give me a pill and I'll be good as new!
Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu? R is for reflux, one meal turns to two.
S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears, T is for Tinnitus; bells in my ears!
U is for worry, now what's going 'round? X is for X-ray, and what might be found.
Y: another year I'm left here behind, Z is for zest I still have-- in my mind!

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed, And I'm keeping twenty-six doctors fully employed!

Enjoy life while you can!

