

"TO FOSTER A THRIVING COMMUNITY OF MUSICIANS WHO SHARE
THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRE PASSION FOR THE ORGAN."



THE WINCHESTER CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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Sunday, March 3

2:30 pm

Goodson Chapel, Shenandoah University

Sunday, March 3 at 2:30 PM

FREE

Adjunct Associate Professor of Organ Wayne L. Wold performs organ literature from the Baroque era to the present on Shenandoah University's magnificent pipe organ in Goodson Chapel – Recital Hall, as well as music for harpsichord.

Program

Toccatà in A Minor
Echo Fantasia in D Minor
Jan Pieter Sweelinck (1562–1621)

Prelude in C Minor, BWV 546a
Chorale O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde gross, BWV 622
Fugue in C Minor, BWV 546b
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Suite in G Minor, G 250-255
I. Overture: Adagio - Presto - Adagio
II. Andante
III. Allegro
IV. Sarabande
V. Gigue
VI. Passacaille
George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Sonata No. 3 in C Minor, op. 56
I. Allegro maestoso e con fuoco
II. Adagio
III. Fuga, allegro
Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911)

Spaindango: Caprice for Harpsichord
Barbara Harbach (b. 1946)

Trumpet Tune in C Major
Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)



Women Composer Sunday: March 10, 2024

The American Organist magazine has published some scores by women composers in the run-up to Women Composer Sunday – March 10 this year. To say that the quality of those pieces is disappointing is understatement. English composer Elizabeth Stirling's "Largo" (TAO Jan. 2024 p. 38) is dull as dishwater, and shame on the editors for not offering a scrap of information on how to register it. Roberta Bitgood's "Children's Prayer from Sweden" (TAO Feb. 2024 p. 36) is not a free composition, rather a chorale prelude based on the children's hymn "Children of the Heavenly Father".

It is innocuous as can be, and the left hand in the middle section travels all the way up to the top octave of the choir keyboard (on most 3-manual organs, the bottom manual), thus extremely awkward to play by crossing high under the right hand. She indicates which stops to use, but who knows what to do as a replacement for an "Unda maris" stop, intended to create a "flat" celeste when paired with a Dulciana? It's been decades since I encountered an Unda maris. Again, the article makes no suggestions on how to adapt this piece to a two-manual instrument or how to choose stops found on modern instruments.

Bearing this in mind, I'd like to propose a couple of alternatives. The first is an organ piece titled "Präludium in F-major" (1829) by Fanny Mendelssohn (Hensel), the elder sister of German composer-conductor Felix. The Wall Street Journal recently ran a feature article on her. It mentioned that she was not allowed to play the organ, because it required spreading one's legs, considered unladylike at the time. Nevertheless, there is an intriguing story about her writing her own wedding marches, which were written for and played on the organ. This F-major prelude is one of them, and it makes a superb postlude for a church service, played on a sturdy plenum. Intimate, it is not.

Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel (1805-1847) was a noted conductor and pianist, but as a female, she had to publish musical compositions under her brother's name, who was a willing co-conspirator in this practice. Felix considered her a better pianist than he (contemporaries said she "played like a man") and encouraged a musical career for his older sister, but all other relatives strongly opposed a career of any sort for a woman of her wealth and social standing. Conducting and performing her compositions during private invitation-only musical salons (Sonntagsmusiken) was one thing, but accepting money from a publisher was out of the question. A similar fate befell Jane Austen, another nineteenth-century woman who published her works anonymously. When Queen Victoria, an ardent fan of Felix Mendelssohn's music, named her favorite Mendelssohn song ("Italy", from his Op. 9 collection of art songs), Felix had to admit that his sister had written it. The Prelude in F-major for organ solo is from Fanny's catalogue of more than 460 compositions, many of them yet to be performed in public.

Fanny was married to painter-illustrator Wilhelm Hensel on October 3, 1829, but there were some painful complications. Her parents discouraged the union, because he was eleven years her senior and was Catholic. The Mendelssohns were Jews recently converted to Christianity as Lutherans, and the German Lutherans discriminated against Catholics. When Fanny announced her engagement, Felix agreed to write the music for the ceremony. However, while in London he was involved in a carriage accident and severely injured his leg, leaving him unable to travel back to Germany in time for the wedding, which she did not reschedule. On the eve of her wedding Fanny discovered that she had misplaced the score of Bach's Pastorella (BWV 590, final movement), her choice for a postlude. Unalarmed, she astonished her guests by composing a wedding recessional march in their presence, finishing it in the early morning hours of the day of the ceremony. This has been published as Präludium in G-major. My recommendation, the Präludium in F-major, had been composed six days earlier. Neither is available on IMSLP, but both are in print. Several excellent YouTube performances are available for your listening pleasure.

Continued on next page...

An aside: When Felix later asked Fanny to retrieve the score to the wedding march he had written for her but could not deliver in time, she could not find it. So Felix re-wrote it from memory, and it now serves as the opening movement of his third organ sonata.

My other suggestion comes from the pen of Arkansas native composer Florence B. Price (1887-1953), an organ composition titled "Adoration" (1951). It is available as a free download from IMSLP:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Adoration_\(Price%2C_Florence\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Adoration_(Price%2C_Florence))

At three and a half minutes, this organ piece was intended to be used in church services, and it makes a splendid prelude or offertory. The fascinating story of the life of this mixed-race musician is described on her Wikipedia web site.

One *important* note: the "Sicilienne" in E-flat major attributed to Maria Theresia von Paradis (1759-1824) is a hoax perpetrated by Polish-American violinist Samuel Dushkin (1891-1976). It is instead based on the Romanze-Larghetto movement from Carl Maria von Weber's Violin Sonata in F Major, Op. 10 No. 1 (violin and piano). Unfortunately, this Sicilienne has been erroneously published as an organ solo work under the name Maria Theresia von Paradis. Do not be deceived.

Astonishingly, I earned a four-year degree in piano performance alongside post-graduate organ instruction without once studying a score composed by a woman. Granted this was in the early 1970s, but today the Internet makes finding lists of female composers as easy as using a basic search engine. A British organization, the Society of Women Organists, provides a comprehensive list of composers and selections from their repertoires. You will be rewarded for the time you spend perusing their web site:

<https://www.societyofwomenorganists.co.uk/women-composers>

Terry Sisk

Winchester Chapter AGO



Fanny Mendelssohn



Florence B. Price

WAGO MARCH 2024 PROGRAM

with the Northern Virginia Chapter AGO

Gabriel Galdo

Sunday, March 17, 2024, 8:00 p.m.

**Chapel of Christ the King
Christendom College, Front Royal VA
New Kegg Organ**

music from Elgar Sonata No. 2, Reger, Hakim



Tenebrae:

A Service of Darkness

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 pm
Grace Episcopal Church
110 N. Church St., Berryville

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

The service of *Tenebrae*, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. *Tenebrae* is a meditation in word and music on Christ’s suffering. Please join us for this special service of scripture, prayer, and music presented by our partners in ministry:



Grace Episcopal Church
110 No. Church St., Berryville
The Very Rev. Justin Ivatts, Rector



Grace Episcopal Church
6507 Main St., The Plains
The Rev. Weston Mathews, Rector

The Winchester Chapter
American Guild of Organists Presents

THE
Phantom
OF THE
Opera

Go back in time! See Phantom of the Opera, American silent horror film, released in 1925, starring Lon Chaney in his most famous role!

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 at 8 PM

Relive that moment with Paul Fleckenstein at the organ console
at **Braddock Street United Methodist Church.**

TICKETS \$20 EACH

To pay by cash or check for tickets, please email Linda Beville
(beville@verizon.net)

Stay Tuned for Online Ticket Sales **COMING SOON.**



MEET PAUL FLECKENSTEIN

THE
Phantom
OF THE
Opera

SILENT MOVIE ORGANIST

A native of California, Paul holds degrees from the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music and Westminster Choir College. He has performed extensively as a solo concert organist, choral conductor, piano and organ accompanist, organ soloist with orchestras, organ accompanist for silent movies, cocktail pianist, and professional choral singer. Organ-bench engagements have ranged from playing a solo recital at the Washington National Cathedral to presiding at the “Mighty Wurlitzer” at New York’s Radio City Music Hall for performances of the Christmas Spectacular. At the end of 2019, he retired from his position of 27 years as Organist and Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware. Currently, in addition to being in considerable demand as a substitute and interim organist in church circles, he is enjoying his new career as a table games dealer at Delaware Park Casino.

Dear Members and Friends of our Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists,

This spring, instead of a Progressive Dinner and concert, we have a fabulous treat in store for you. We are going back to the year 1925, and we are hosting the silent movie Phantom of the Opera, starring Lon Chaney in his most famous role. Live organ music will accompany the silent movie and will be written and performed by organist Paul Fleckenstein, from Wilmington, Delaware.

The date is April 12 from 8 pm – 9:30 pm, the venue is Braddock Street United Methodist Church sanctuary (115 Wolfe Street, Winchester), and the doors will open at 7 so you can choose where you would like to sit. We will not be serving any food or beverages since the program is in the sanctuary, and there is no intermission. Tickets may be purchased online from Ludus.com at a cost of \$20 per ticket with a \$1.35 service charge.

Order your tickets early as there are a limited number of seats and this is a one night event not to be missed!!

Marilyn Shenenberger
WAGO Program Chairperson
609.502.3642



Let's Dance!

featuring Martín Palmeri's Misatango, with orchestra

Friday, April 19, 2024
7:30pm
Front Royal Presbyterian Church
115 Luray Ave.
Front Royal, VA

Sunday, April 21, 2024
3:00pm
First Baptist Church
of Winchester
205 W. Piccadilly St.
Winchester, VA

Tuesday, April 23, 2024
7:30pm
All Saints Catholic Church
9300 Stonewall Rd.
Manassas, VA


Sunday, April 28, 2024
3:00pm
Trinity Episcopal Church
9108 John S. Mosby Hwy.
Upperville, VA



Celebrating 15 Years of Choral Excellence



Marion Park Lewis Foundation



A Blessing for all Musicians this
Lent, Holy Week, and Easter...

As we journey through Lent, Holy Week, and into the radiant dawn of Easter, let our music be a sacred offering. In the reflective tones of Lent, may our melodies inspire introspection and draw hearts closer to the divine.

During Holy Week, may our instruments tell the profound story of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Let the music create an atmosphere of reverence, guiding our congregation through the somber moments of Good Friday to the glorious anticipation of Easter morning.

On this triumphant day, may our voices and instruments unite in joyous celebration, proclaiming the victory of life over death. May the music resonate with the resurrection narrative, uplifting the spirits of all who gather to worship.

May our musical offerings be a conduit for the divine, deepening the worship experience and filling hearts with the joy, hope, and peace of Easter. Amen.

BASILICA of the NATIONAL SHRINE
of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
America's Catholic Church



Octave Day of Easter

FREE ANNUAL CONCERT

in the Great Upper Church

Sunday, April 7, 6 p.m.



Eric Plutz, ORGANIST

University Organist
Princeton
University

The Basilica invites you to a free concert given by Eric Plutz, University Organist at Princeton University. This annual concert in joyful celebration of our Lord's Resurrection is performed each year by Guest Musicians on the Octave Day of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. **The Concert will feature the complete Fifth Symphony of Louis Vierne, as well as works by J.S. Bach and Gerald Near.**



Scan the QR code to see the full schedule of events happening during the Easter Season.

400 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC 20017 | www.nationalshrine.org | (202) 526-8300



WAGO PROGRAM CALENDAR 2024

Fri Feb. 9, 7 pm

Funeral Repertoire for Small Choir/Solo + Organ
Trinity Lutheran (810 Fairfax St., Stephens City)
featuring Dr. Steven Cooksey and Terry Sisk.

Sun. Mar. 17, 8 pm

Gabriel Galdo Recital with NOVA Chapter
Christ the King Chapel, Christendom College
(134 Christendom Dr., Front Royal)

Fri. Apr. 12, 8:00 pm

Phantom of the Opera Silent Movie @ Braddock St. UMC Winchester
Live Organ Accompaniment by special guest,
Paul Fleckenstein of Wilmington, DE

Fri. May 10, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Scholarship Progressive Dinner & Concert
EVENT CANCELED

CANCELLED

CANCELLED

Sun. June 9, 4 pm

Old Time Revival
Old Bethel Church (117 Bethel Ln., Boyce)

Upcoming Community Concert Events

Arts Chorale of Winchester:

Sunday, March 9 - Shenandoah University Armstrong Hall

Loudoun Chorale:

Saturday April 27 & Sunday April 28

Musica Viva:

Saturday, April 13 - 7:30 PM - Grace Episcopal, The Plains

Sunday, April 14 - 3 pm - Grace Lutheran Church, Winchester

UPCOMING

EVENTS

Meet Your WAGO Board of Directors & The Program Committee



Ms. Linda Beville
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Ms. Marilyn Shenenberger
SUB DEAN, PROGRAMS



Mr. Daniel Hannemann
SUB DEAN, MEMBERSHIP



Ms. Wendy Oesterling
SECRETARY, PARLIMENTARIAN



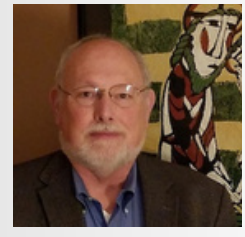
Ms. Carol Westervelt
TREASURER



Mr. Ted Dix
AT LARGE



Mr. Mark Lindgren
AT LARGE



Mr. Alan Moser
AT LARGE

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Marilyn Shenenberger, Chair
Linda Beville, Ex Officio



Dr. Steven Cooksey



Ms. Melody Harmon



Mr. George Donovan



Mr. Mark Lindgren



Mr. Terry Sisk