

EN CHAMADE

DECEMBER 2024
NEWSLETTER

"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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(Deadline: 20th of previous month to
george@bethelwinchester.com)

Webmaster	Ms. Emily Bentgen maxtheoboe@mac.com
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Program Committee	Marilyn Shenenberger, Chair Dr. Steven Cooksey Melody Harmon George Donovan, Jr. Mark Lindgren Terry Sisk Linda Beville, Ex Officio
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From the Dean...

A MOMENT OF PEACE

December gets swept away with the endless plans for all our Christmas holiday activities. My calendar is packed with “to-do” things that keep me bustling along. When I do have a moment’s peace, I collapse in my lounge chair and try to empty my mind.

At this time in my life, I don’t want or need much of anything except for a precious moment of peace. Christmas is a time for giving to others and so it is easy to forget to save something for us. There is even more pressure put on our shoulders at this time of year. Those moments of peace get buried. Perhaps it started with the Biblical story of the three wise men presenting the baby Jesus with the best gifts they had. Gifting something to those special people in our lives can be one of the most meaningful things we do. So, I wanted to find something to give to all my colleagues in the Guild for you have given much to me. I am neither the most educated, technically advanced, or experienced organist among you by any comparison. I was trying to come up with something either fun or poignant, whimsical or moving. I felt like the couple in the O. Henry short story “The Gift of the Magi”: anything I came up with fell short. Then, as I happened to be listening to Bach in a moment I had taken to catch my breath, I found for you the perfect gift: your own moment of peace.

It has been almost two years since I represented our chapter at the Quimby Competition preliminary round at Christ Episcopal Church in Old Town Alexandria. This past fall during a WAGO planning committee meeting, I was thinking of contacting the local winner for a possible program. So far my efforts have not paid off but the search led me to her teacher, Dr. Ann Levar who is Associate Professor of Applied Music and Performance (organ) at Syracuse University. Dr. Levar is a graduate of Brown University and Eastman School of Music. I have been listening to some YouTube recordings of her performances.

Because it is the Christmas season, I selected from the repertoire clips listed Bach’s “In Dulce Jubilo” (BWV 608) from the Orgelbuchlein. Especially in this frantic season, I find music can engage me almost completely. So, I let go of any mind wanderings, taking the opportunity to focus on the deeper meaning of the Christmas season through this chorale prelude. I have listened to this piece several times. What I have given myself is the perfect answer to become my gift to you. It is a reminder that you must keep discovering musical beauty.

And so, I gift you with the idea to select a special listening piece-- one that can be new or familiar, one that brings you back to your own profound connection to life through music. One that makes you stop any other activity and allows you to have a moment of peace. And it will be that gift to yourself, a reminder from me that this is your nourishment for Advent and Christmas.

Peace and blessings,

Linda

 **Peace**

Christmas
Concerts

Christmas Favorites from Us to You



- **Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 pm** Grace Episcopal Church, The Plains
6507 Main St., The Plains, VA
- **Sunday, Dec. 8, 4:00 pm** Grace Episcopal Church
110 N. Church St. Berryville, VA

Free and open to the public. Donations gratefully accepted.

Lux Aurumque ~ Golden Light



Friday, December 6, 2024
7:30 pm


Front Royal Presbyterian Church
115 Luray Ave., Front Royal, VA

Sunday, December 8, 2024
3:00 pm

Trinity Episcopal Church
9108 John S. Mosby Hwy., Upperville, VA

Sunday, December 15, 2024
3:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Winchester
141 N. Washington St., Winchester, VA

 FREE CONCERT
Suggested Donation \$15



Marion Park Lewis Foundation



ARTS CHORALE OF WINCHESTER
presents

MERRY MUSIC

For The Holiday

Dr. Karen Keating, artistic director

December 7, 2024 7 pm
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 8, 2024 3 pm
Braddock St United Methodist Church

Tickets Online/At The Door

\$20 Adult

\$18 Senior/Student



www.artschoralewinchester.org

From the Program Committee...



No WAGO program in December this year. Enjoy the myriad of concerts and have a wonderful Christmas!

Join us on **Friday, January 10 from 5:30-8:30** for our annual **Epiphany Potluck Dinner**. It will be a fireside gathering **at Cross Creek Village Clubhouse, 100 Cranberry Court**. Daniel Hannemann is our host, and we'll have some fun activities planned. Put it on your calendar NOW!

February 9 is a special program. **Dan Miller will treat us to a demo of their latest acquisition: the 1977 3-rank Continuo organ made by Alfred Fuhrer Orgelbau**. After the demo and some explanation, we will be treated to a brief concert with soloists and the continuo. Dan would like to invite the public to this, so please invite your choir members, parishioners, etc. It would be great if all of our WAGO members could be there, and we'd like to invite the NOVA members as well.



A Prayer for Church Musicians



O God of melody, rhythm, and light,
We lift our hearts to You this night.
As Advent's hope begins to glow,
Guide our hands to the songs we sow.
Through waiting's hush and yearning's cry,
Let our music rise like stars in the sky.

For Christmas joy, so radiant and clear,
Bless our voices to bring hearts near.
With each carol and each refrain,
May we proclaim Christ's holy name.
From manger's stillness to angel's song,
Make our harmonies steadfast and strong.

As the New Year dawns with promise bright,
Grant us courage to sing what is right.
For new beginnings and paths unknown,
Let our anthems reflect Your throne.
Through trials and triumphs yet unseen,
Tune our hearts to Your heavenly theme.

Bless our fingers, our voices, our minds,
And the Spirit that in music binds.
Bless each rehearsal, each sacred sound,
And the joy in each note that is found.
Through Advent's hope and Christmas cheer,
Be our guide in this coming year. Amen.



*Happy
New Year*



Congratulations....



Dr. Karen Keating

New Artist in Residence

Karen Keating has joined First Baptist Church, Winchester, VA as its Artist in Residence, a newly created position. In this role Keating will bring her knowledge, expertise and experience to the church as it invests in new ways in the ministry of music both at the church and in the community. Keating was a professor of music at Shenandoah Conservatory for over 30 years. She is currently artistic director for the Arts Chorale of Winchester. She earned a music degree from James Madison University and has diplomas in organ performance and choral performance from the University of Salzburg "Mozarteum." She has a doctoral degree in performance from Shenandoah University. She studied with Grammy Award-winner Robert Shafer, and she has been a music director and conductor for Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre since 1995.

Exciting Opportunity for an Organist and Associate Director of Music!

Church Street United Methodist Church (CSUMC), a vibrant congregation located in the heart of Knoxville, TN, is seeking a passionate and skilled Organist and Associate Director of Music Ministries to join their esteemed music program.

Why CSUMC?

- Adjacent to the University of Tennessee, with access to a thriving music culture.
- A rich tradition of excellence in music and worship, featuring:
- The Youth Parish Choir performing at 8:30 AM services.
- The Adult Parish Choir singing at 11:00 AM services, Evensongs, and concerts.
- A welcoming, diverse congregation dedicated to community and global service.

Position Highlights:

- Full-time role with a competitive salary of \$58,000–\$65,000 (based on experience).
- Opportunities to collaborate with talented musicians and lead a dynamic music ministry.

Responsibilities include service music, choir accompaniment, concert participation, and assisting with children's choir programs.

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in Music (emphasis in organ performance preferred).
- Minimum of five years of experience in church service playing.
- Strong organizational, educational, and spiritual leadership skills.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide music for worship services, funerals, and weddings.
- Accompany choirs and ensembles, including tours and camps.
- Collaborate with the Director of Music Ministries to enrich the church's musical outreach.

Join Our Legacy At CSUMC, you'll become part of a ministry that inspires faith through exceptional music while building lasting connections within the congregation and community.

For more details, visit churchstreetumc.org or contact:

Dr. Charles Goehring
Music Search Consultant
317-902-0416
goehringc@sbcglobal.net

Application Deadline: Position available January 2025, or Summer 2025 if needed.

Don't miss this chance to be part of something extraordinary. Let your music lead and inspire!

*Apply
Now*



W A G O C H A P T E R

Updates:



Our new address: we have a new address: WAGO or Winchester Chapter of the AGO, P.O. Box 1398, Winchester. FA 22601

DIRECTORY UPDATE INFO NEEDED

Your personal and church information as found in our chapter member directory, soon to be updated, is requested by Nov. 30 to **Daniel Hannemann** at misterdan51@gmail.com

Please check the 2023-24 issue and note any changes needed to the following: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/etc; spouse name, home address, phone, email address; church title, name, address, phone number, email address; and board affiliation.

Publication planned for spring of 2025. Many thanks for your help!



Substitutes needed: We are in great need of substitutes for our churches. Piano or organ. Wendy Oesterling is heading an initiative to get some students from SU to explore church music. If you or anyone you know of is willing to help out your fellow Music ministers, please send names to Wendy for publication. *Need immediately.*

Web Page upkeep: Our Web Page guru, Emily Bentgen needs your input. We post each month's En Chamade newsletter and archive some of the performances; go through Emily to post. Her email: maxtheoboe@mac.com.