



MARCH 2025

Newsletter

EN CHAMADE

"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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A New Day!

I never thought I would say this but I work best in the early hours of the morning darkness. I often am up earlier (at least it has helped my photography hobby). The best light is at dawn when the angle of the sun's rays is shining low from the horizon. It is intense and each object casts a long shadow across the landscape. The liturgical season of Lent begins today, which brings us to Easter. It was in that faint light that the resurrection was revealed to a few women who went to the tomb at the dawn of the new day. Museums and concert halls are filled with examples that are searching for how to express the feeling of that first light following a most horrifying time of suffering and loss.

For church musicians, Easter is arguably the longest working day on our calendar. Adding in the days of Holy Week' it feels like we live on the organ and piano bench, and even nap sometimes in an adjacent room.. Late hours are not new. But it is the dawn—those sunrise services—that separates how we feel about the different demands on our time and energy. Sometimes it is enough not to ask too many questions about the things we don't understand. We just know that things have a purpose...

During Lent and Easter everything is more intense: our fatigue, our being behind, our pressure to just add another thing to our days. It could be extra practice, copying one more piece of music, or rehearsing one more soloist, If we take a step backward and get enough distance to be able to see what has purpose or creates opportunity then we have proven to ourselves what about our life has meaning and how our life is to be fully lived.

This month we are hosting our Progressive Dinner and Concert Gala – **A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN COMPOSERS on March 21**. This is the most outstanding concert event we put on for the community each year. Previous years have been sold-out and the Guild is proud to show our extraordinary top talent. This year is even more amazing because we have our own composers in residence.

I always look forward to my conversations with Dr. Steven Cooksey. It seems like Dr. Cooksey has influenced so many for so long, both in the academic realm and in social friendships. He is a former Dean of our Chapter. He always asks about my church services, soloists, choir anthems, and, of course, the people in the choirs. Those are the people in our lives who share with us that love of beautiful music. I asked Dr. Cooksey months ago if I could borrow a piece I knew to be a candidate for the Gala. It is titled “My Master from a Garden Rose” by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley. It is one of his favorite pieces and it is to be the Easter anthem at St. James Episcopal Church in Leesburg, where he has been music director for over 30 years.

I invite you to promote the Gala. Remember to celebrate the light as we walk through the days of Lent to Easter. And, remember that each sunrise is a new day that starts with the brightest purest, most radiant light. I am sure that there are more reasons why God chose Jesus' resurrection to be at dawn . . . we are reminded of it every morning. Here is the text by Gordon Young which Eleanor Daley set to music.

Blessings,
Linda

MY MASTER IN A GARDEN ROSE

Text by Gordon Young

composed by Eleanor Daily

**My master in a garden lay, perfumed with spices rare,
For tender hands had laid him there to rest amid the roses.**

**'Was on a cross they laid him bare
and pierced his hands with nails that we poor men might live again
and be with him in glory. Alleluia!**

**My master from a garden Rose to go for us to heaven
And He will come and take us there
To be with him forever. Alleluia!**

THE 2025 PROGRESSIVE DINNER AND CONCERT GALA

AN EXTRAORDINARY MUSICAL PROGRAM HOSTED BY THE WINCHESTER CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND MARKET STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025
DINNER BUFFET FROM 5:30 TO 6:45 PM AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
116 S LOUDOUN STREET (FACING THE WINCHESTER PEDESTRIAN MALL)
CONCERT PROGRAMS FROM 7:00 TO 8:40 PM
(HELD AT FPC AND MARKET STREET UMC JUST A HALF BLOCK OF WALKING)

TICKETS ARE ON SALE ONLINE FOR THE ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER AND CONCERT. THEY ARE BEING SOLD ONLINE THROUGH TUESDAY, MARCH 18. ALL TICKETS ARE \$50. THIS INCLUDES A MODEST AMOUNT FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

THE THEME OF THE PROGRAM IS CELEBRATING WOMEN COMPOSERS. HERE ARE SOME PARTICULAR HIGHLIGHTS:

- WORKS FOR VOICE AND CHOIR
- A SUITE OF MOVEMENTS FOR ORGAN SOLOIST WRITTEN BY A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE WAGO, BEVERLY CLARK;
- NEW JAZZY PIECE -THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD - SPECIALLY COMPOSED FOR THIS EVENT BY WAGO PROGRAM CHAIR MARILYN SHENENBERGER
- NINE ANTHEMS EACH DIRECTED BY A DIFFERENT LOCAL CONDUCTOR AND COMPOSED BY A DIFFERENT WOMEN COMPOSER
- ANECDOTES FROM THE COMPOSERS ABOUT THE INSPIRATION THAT GAVE THEM THE IDEA FOR THE PIECE
- FEATURING A YOUNG TALENTED ORGANIST

ORGAN WORKS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS
PLEASE JOIN US!

THE GALA INCLUDES A CATERED DINNER (ROASTED CHICKEN BREAST WITH SWEET RED PEPPER SAUCE, VEGETARIAN LASAGNA, RICE PILAF, OVEN-ROASTED MIXED VEGETABLES, GARDEN GREEN SALAD, FRESH-BAKED DINNER ROLL, BEVERAGES, AND A DESSERT BAR FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM).

OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HAS AWARDED MONETARY GRANTS TO STUDENT PERFORMERS, FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED SENDING A STUDENT TO ATTEND ONE OF THE NATIONAL AGO SUMMER CAMPS ----"PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER" AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL AGO ORGANIZATION. AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE WAGO GALA IS THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MUSICIANS, THE AREA CHURCHES, THEIR MUSIC DIRECTORS, AND THE COMMUNITIES THAT MAKE UP THE MEMBERSHIP REGION OF THE WAGO FROM LEESBURG, FRONT ROYAL, WINCHESTER, AND LOUDOUN, CLARKE, WARREN, AND SHENANDOAH COUNTIES.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS, GO TO WAGO-LUDUS-COM

FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION: CONTACT LINDA BEVILLE AT BEVILLE@VERIZON.NET



**The Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
presents**

The Annual Spring Progressive Dinner and Concert Evening

**A GALA CELEBRATION
OF
WOMEN COMPOSERS**

Friday, March 21, 2025

Tickets - \$50 on wago.ludus.com

Deadline for ordering tickets is Monday, March 17

5:30 PM - 6:45 PM buffet catered dinner at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM - First Concert in the FPC Sanctuary

7:50 PM - Second Concert at Marke Street UMC *

For information contact: LINDA BEVILLE at bevill@verizon.net

Mailing address: WAGO - PO Box - 1398 Winchester, VA - 22601

ARTS CHORALE OF WINCHESTER

PRESENTS

“CENTER STAGE”

Dr. Karen Keating, artistic director

May 16, 2025 , 7 pm

Guest Choir, Sherando High School

Pam Keim, Music Director

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 18, 2025 , 3 pm

Guest Choir, John Handley High School

Gloria Law, music director

Armstrong Concert Hall

Tickets: \$20 adult - \$18 senior/student

www.artschoralewinchester.org

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Marion Park Lewis Foundation



EXPLORING DA VINCI

APRIL 4, 2025 | 7:00 PM

BERRYVILLE, VA

THE BARNES OF ROSE HILL
95 CHALMERS CT

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
BARNESOFROSEHILL.ORG



CHORAL WORKS BY

JOSQUIN

MONTEVERDI

RAVEL

WHITACRE

HAGEN

APRIL 6, 2025 | 3:00 PM

WINCHESTER, VA

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

26 W BOSCAWEN STREET

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WINCMUSICAVIVA.LUDUS.COM



DR. BRYCE HAYES,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TICKETS \$20|25
STUDENTS FREE



WINCHESTER MUSICA VIVA IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE

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A Lighter Side of WAGO



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

