EN CHAMADE

November 2026
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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Steven L. Cooksey

Young Organist Scholarship Fund

"Return our Gratitude".

Monday, NOVEMBER 23, 7:00 PM

WAGO SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING RECITAL

and Dessert Reception

Trinity Episcopal Church, Upperville, VA

9108 John S. Mosby Highway (on Route 50)

Sponsored by the Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

The recital is free.

Instead, you may support our goal to honor
Dr. Cooksey's legacy. All donations go directly into the fund for Spring 2027
Scholarships and the Scholarship Endowment Fund.
It would mean a great deal to have our WAGO members give donations in honor of Dr. Cooksey.
Checks should be made payable to
WAGO Scholarship Fund. Bring them with you, or mail to
WAGO, P. O. Box 1398, Winchester, VA 22601

CAN LIFE GET ANY BETTER? I feel that this year's fall has been one of the most glorious. It is even more beautiful than the dawn and dusk of each day. I have come to a crossroads when it is the intangible that I treasure, though it is just that element that makes my days priceless. I have been in Winchester for around 15 years, and I can heartily say it is my friends and colleagues that have made those moments what I now treasure. How much is it worth? Priceless!

I read once that money is just a bit of paper that represents how much what we have done is valued. If we have squandered the money, we are apt to be little impressed with what value we end up with. However, if we have sacrificed and worked hard to invest in a treasured moment or a gift from the heart, then the gift's value becomes more priceless. Our next program will be a special recital featuring young organists from around the Chapter region. Our WAGO Chapter has a membership that includes Winchester, Loudoun County, Clark County, Warren County, portions of Fauquier County and including the jurisdictions of Leesburg, Berryville, Front Royal, Warrenton, and Woodstock.

Our 2026 Scholarship Recipients are our featured performers at the Scholarship Fundraising Concert, and they will be joined by four student organists, who also study with WAGO guild members. The teachers whose students are performing are:
Dr. Wayne Wold, Adjunct Associate Professor of Organ Performance at Shenandoah University and Director of Music at First Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, MD.
Dr. Jeffrey Alban, Adjunct Professor of Organ at Christendom College and Director of Music/Organist at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Front Royal;
Michael Galdo, Director of Sacred Music at Saint Francis De Sales Catholic Church in Purcellville.
Also lending their talents to our program of young organists are Emily Mason, composer, harpist, and Music Director/Organist at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Middleburg; and Joshua Benkendorf, Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Martinsburg, WV.

This is a great opportunity to introduce our young organists to a fabulous organ in our area, and also enable them to meet other young organists working in local churches in the area.
Help us welcome our performers and guests with a lovely reception following the recital. Bring nice, tasty desserts, cheese and crackers, fruit or veggie trays, plated and ready to serve, to the parish hall by 6:30. Call Carol Westervelt (540-303-2426) to let her know.

We hope that you will make a donation to the Scholarship Fund in memory of Dr. Cooksey.
Think of us as the farmers and the donations to this scholarship program as the seeds.

The members of the WAGO wish to thank all those who came to the Bach Dynasty Concert last month. About 80 guests came to enjoy an extraordinary program. Our special gratitude goes to George Amos, Minister of Music at Braddock Street UMC, who helped us immensely to provide

rehearsal times, setup expertise, and hands-on assistance for our program. We raised $1500, which will be divided equally between W.A.T.T.S. and the Winchester Rescue Mission.
We thank you for your support to our community.

Kudos to:

Marilyn Shenenberger for her member exchange with the Chambersburg AGO chapter. Marilyn did an Improvisation workshop for them based on chord progressions. They paired up with all pairs at a keyboard. Fun and a good bit of learning was the order of the day.

Carol Westervelt, Melody Harmon, and the many bakers who contributed to our Bach Dynasty reception. Let's do it once more for the young organists this month. Please spread the word about this fantastic November program –

Monday, November 23, at 7 pm.
Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, Middleburg, VA
9108 John S, Mosby Hwy, Upperville, VA

See you there,

Linda

Bach Family Dynasty Concert

On Friday, October 16, 2026, our chapter presented a spectacular musical and historical program entitled **"Bach Family Dynasty,"** written and narrated by Terry Sisk.

Thirteen talented performers—Jim Moon, JD Brewster, Josh Benkendorf, Dan Miller, Samantha Anthony, Terry Sisk, Ted Dix, Emily Bentgen, Marilyn Shenenberger, Charlene Romano, John Romano, Mimi Minagawa, and Mark Pichowicz—brought the music of the Bach family to life. The program featured compositions by nine members of the Bach family, spanning six generations of composers born between 1615 and 1759.

An illustrated family tree and map helped the audience follow the composers' family connections and discover where each lived and worked. Through engaging historical commentary and outstanding musical performances, Terry and the performers provided a fascinating glimpse into the lives, times, and musical contributions of this remarkable family.

The concert was held at Braddock Street United Methodist Church, followed by a dessert reception that gave attendees an opportunity to socialize and share their appreciation for the program.

With approximately 80 people in attendance, the event was a tremendous success. Even more gratifying, the concert raised **$1,500**, which was divided equally between WATTS and Winchester Rescue Mission.

Congratulations to Terry and all thirteen performers for an outstanding program and thank you to everyone who attended and supported this worthwhile event. It was truly a spectacular evening of music, history, fellowship, and community generosity. We hope you were able to be part of it!

-Mark Lindgren



Melinda Russell, Dan Miller, Marilyn Shenenberger

2027
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Featuring Winchester AGO's 2026 Scholarship Recipients

Anna Smith
& JD Brewster

Along with young organists and students of local teachers

Monday
November 23rd
7:00 pm

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



2026-27 WAGO Schedule of Events

Monday, Nov. 23 - 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church, 9108 John S. Mosby Hwy, Upperville
Scholarship Concert featuring 2026 Scholarship Recipients Anna Smith and JD Brewster along with young organ students of local teachers

Dec. - No program

Sunday, Jan. 10 – 4pm l at Cross Creek Village Clubhouse, 100 Cranberry Court.
Epiphany Potluck Social **-** Bring a munchy, appetizer, salad, side, main dish or dessert to share. Come prepared to have a good time.

Saturday, Feb. 20 – 9am to Noon Location TBD
The Art of Accompanying using Laban efforts to create variety in touch and sound, presented by Marilyn Shenenberger

March - No program

Friday, April 9 – 7 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Loudoun St., Winchester
Jubileeconcertwith Bryan Kirk performing on the Austin organ in Celebration of its 70th Birthday

Saturday, April 10 – 9 am to Noon Workshop at The Village at Orchard Ridge ,400 Clocktower Ridge,Winchester
BryanKirkWorkshopforusonMakingFriendswitha New Organ and Literature-appropriate Registrations on the TVOR organ

Saturday, May 22 – 9:30am to 12:30pm Location TBD
SteveKalnosky willpresentImprovisationforEVERYONE ! Be there to participate or watch and getsome new ideas
Saturday, June5– 8:30am to 3:30pm We need all hands on deck to ***Welcome the ChambersburgAGO chapter for an Organ Crawl***. We will meet them at Josh Benkendorf's FirstPresbyterian Church on 220 S.Queen St. in Martinsburg . Then we will come to Winchester to have a potluck lunch together visit 3 or 4 additional churches.



Arts Chorale of Winchester

The Clarke County Community Band will be presenting a FREE CONCERT of patriotic music, as we continue to honor our country's 250th-year celebration. This concert will be presented at 3 PM in the auditorium of Clarke County High School in Berryville, VA.

The Arts Chorale of Winchester, an accomplished large choral ensemble, will be our guest for this momentous occasion. The band and choir will each perform some individual pieces, and then they will join together in song for several combined selections.

This will be a powerful and moving performance that everyone will enjoy.

Come celebrate USA250 with us!

https://www.clarkecountycommunityband.com


The Singing Seniors
of First Baptist Church
present
A GAITHER HOMECOMING
CONCERT
In Honor Of John Beavers
Sunday - November 8, 2026
4 pm
Free will offering being observed
First Baptist Church
205 W. Piccadilly St. Winchester, VA
www.fbcwinc.org
(540) 662-5367
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Winchester, Virginia

ARTS CHORALE OF WINCHESTER

presents

SOUNDS of the SEASON

Featuring Daniel Pinkham's
Christmas Cantata (Sinfonia Sacra)



Dr. Karen Keating,
Artistic Director

November 21, 2026 7 pm
First Baptist Church - Winchester, VA

November 22, 2026 3 pm
First Presbyterian Church - Winchester, VA

TICKETS AVAILABLE
ONLINE
OR AT THE DOOR

www.artschoralewinchester.org

Sponsored in part by

Marion Park Lewis Foundation

The Stearns Endowment

Old Town Creative Communities Partnership Grant

ARTS CHORALE OF WINCHESTER
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS


ARTS CHORALE OF WINCHESTER
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
ARTS CHORALE OF WINCHESTER
PRESENTS
G. F. HANDEL'S
MESSIAH
SING ALONG
with orchestra & soloists
Dr. Karen Keating,
Artistic Director
November 29, 2026
7 pm
First Baptist Church
Winchester, VA
FREE WILL OFFERING IS BEING OBSERVED

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