

Volume 80, Issue 2
February, 2025

Principal Pipings



American Guild of
ORGANISTS

LEXINGTON CHAPTER

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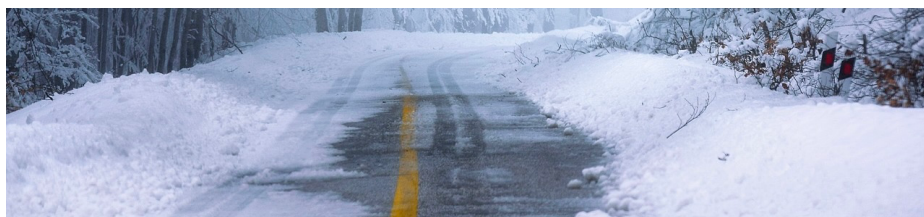
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January was a snowy, icy mess here in Central Kentucky, and February promises more cold days. But on the bright side, terrible weather gives us more incentive to practice! Here's hoping your practice time is enjoyable and productive, perhaps as deeply satisfying and joyful as what Madeline Bruser describes in *The Art of Practicing*:



“One of the Chinese symbols for the word *joy* (pronounced *lè*) also means *music* (*yuè*). . . . This synonymy rings true with everyone who loves music. Even if a piece is extremely sad we feel joy in the ability to experience and express such powerful emotion.” Bruner goes on to say that while practicing a piece we love, it's easy to become impatient and anxious: we want to be able to play it perfectly right away! But we must “let ourselves feel the pain of . . . having to wait to make music the way we want to. We can learn to relax with this longing and to enjoy its soft, warm presence in the heart. This warmth will then shine through the music we make and touch the hearts of others.”

- Michael & Nancy

Madeline Bruser, *The Art of Practicing: A Guide to Making Music from the Heart* (New York: Bell Tower, 1997)

UPCOMING AGO EVENTS

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT AGO EVENTS!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 12:00 pm: Lunch and Workshop with Dr. James Kibbie at Christ Church Cathedral, 166 Market Street, Lexington, KY 40507



Those who have reserved a spot for lunch will meet at 12:00; no reservation is required for the workshop at 1:00.

Dr. Kibbie, a formidable and world-renowned Bach scholar, will present a 60-minute workshop on Bach performance practice and introduce some recently-authenticated works.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 4:00 pm: James Kibbie Recital and Rededication of the Dirksen Portativ Organ at Christ Church Cathedral

Dr. Kibbie's recital will include works by Bach, Handel, Haydn, Distler, and much more! At the center of Kibbie's recital will be the Dirksen portativ organ. The instrument has been delivered to Christ Church Cathedral following a complete and superb restoration by Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, Champaign, Illinois.

<https://rwdirksen.com/life-times/the-dirksen-portative-organ/>



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 3:00 pm: Owen Tellinghuisen Recital at First Presbyterian Church, 174 N. Mill St., Lexington, KY 40507



Owen graduated from Indiana University in May 2024 with a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance, studying under Janette Fishell. He has now returned as a student in the new Performer's Diploma in Organ Improvisation program. He has been named Associate Instructor of Carillon and University Carillonneur for the 2024-2025 school year!

A native of Grand Rapids, MI, Owen has performed in organ recitals throughout the Midwest. Most recently, he represented the Great Lakes Region as a Rising Star at the 2024 AGO National Convention in San Francisco. Additionally, he is a lifelong church musician and organist, and a long-time member of the Grand Rapids chapter AGO.

To hear Owen play and whet your appetite for this recital, [click here](#).

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 11:30 am: Post-Easter Celebratory Lunch (TBA)

Let's get together after Easter and heave a collective sigh of relief (and perhaps swap some scary Easter stories!)

FRIDAY, MAY 23*, 7:00 pm: Andrew Johnson Recital at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 533 East Main St., Lexington, KY 40508

Andrew Johnson is currently pursuing a DMA degree in organ performance and literature at the Eastman School of Music. Andrew previously earned an MM degree and a graduate performance diploma from the Peabody Conservatory. He was a finalist in this past summer's National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP). He has already earned his AAGO and ChM certifications, winning the award for the highest marks on the ChM exam.



*This recital was originally scheduled for May 30. We have moved it up a week so that Andrew can participate in an organ tour of Germany organized by his alma mater.

MORE LOCAL EVENTS

Sunday, February 16 - Christ Church Cathedral

3:30pm - Concert - Altissimo String Quartet, Lexington

4:00pm - Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7:30pm - Cincinnati Museum Center, featuring the 1929 E.M. Skinner Organ in the rotunda:

Jean-Baptiste Robin, with Xavier University Concert Choir

cincymuseum.org

Sunday, March 2, 7:30 pm - Kentucky Bach Choir Concert

First Presbyterian Church, Lexington

Vicki Bell, Guest Conductor

kentuckybachchoir.org

Sunday, March 9, 5:00pm - Lexington Chamber Chorale

Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington

“The Power of Singing: Poetry and Music”

<http://lexingtonchamberchorale.org/>

Spring Quartet - Amadeus Lex

Thursday, March 13, 7:00pm - St. Mark Catholic Church, Richmond

Friday, March 14, 7:00pm - Union Church, Berea

Saturday, March 15, 7:00pm - St. Luke Church, Lexington

<https://www.amadeuslex.com/home>

Sunday, March 16 - Christ Church Cathedral

3:30pm - Concert - Hayden Ives-Glasgow, organ, Indiana University

4:00pm - Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

Sunday, April 13 - Christ Church Cathedral

4:00pm - Gabriel Faure’s Requiem with the Cathedral Choir, organ and orchestra

Wednesday, April 30, 7:30pm - Cincinnati Museum Center, featuring the 1929 E.M.

Skinner Organ in the rotunda: Bryan Anderson, with Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

Principal Flute, Randolph Bowman

Cincymuseum.org

Friday, May 16 - Christ Church Cathedral

7:30pm - Madrigal Singers Choral Concert, SCAPA, Ryan March, conductor

Sunday, May 18 - Christ Church Cathedral

3:30pm - Concert - Neal Campbell, organ, Trinity Episcopal Church, Vero Beach, Florida

4:00pm - Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

Sunday, June 8 - Lexington Chamber Chorale

5:00pm, Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate, Lexington

“The Power of Singing: Celebrating Lexington”

<http://lexingtonchamberchorale.org/>

Friday, June 13, 7:00pm - William Robinson Recital

Cathedral of Christ the King

MEET OUR YOUNG ORGANISTS

We were curious to know more about our younger members. Here is the second installment of “Meet Our Young Organists”; be sure to watch for more in future newsletters!

What is your name and music position?

Hayden P. McNeal; I serve as Music Director and Organist at Troy Presbyterian Church, Versailles, KY.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Nicholasville, KY and attended West Jessamine High School where I started my musical career in marching band playing keyboard percussion. I was a KMEA All-State Percussionist and am a Percussion Governor’s School for the Arts Alumni.

What drew you to the organ and how did you get started?

I had a childhood fascination with the instrument since elementary school



when my music teacher showed the class a video presentation about the organ. It was a Halloween music tie-in that included an organ crawl and a demonstration of BWV 565. I was taking piano lessons at the time, but as a child I wasn't particularly interested in practicing at all, so I didn't make much advancement in my younger years. When I started my percussion and music education studies at the University of Kentucky, I took interest in furthering my keyboard skills during my piano proficiency classes. I decided to knock on Dr. Robinson's door and managed to convince him to teach me. I ended up switching my primary instrument the next year to organ, and the rest is history.

How did you land in the Central Kentucky area?

I was born and raised here, and I couldn't imagine living anywhere else!

If you could learn any skill instantly, what would it be?

Related to music, I would have to say completely effortless aural skills. Being able to hear a piece of music and repeat it after only one or two listens. Otherwise, I would like to be able to ice skate. Can't seem to get the hang of it despite my efforts.

Is there something about you that might surprise people?

I am an avid weightlifter and enjoy a challenging workout. I also enjoy attending Renaissance Faires and have a suit of armor!

What are your favorite things?

Traveling (Specifically by train)
Baseball, Soccer, Formula 1
A good book enjoyed at a brewery
Gardening
Playing in a musical pit orchestra
A hearty Bolognese with fresh Tagliatelle

Who do you like better: Jethro Tull or Pink Floyd?

Pink Floyd



NEWS & MISCELLANY



CONGRATULATIONS . . . AND FREE MUSIC!

Congratulations to Brenda Portman (Cincinnati Chapter) and Maureen Howell (formerly Lexington Chapter) who were both first place winners in the 2025 Woman Composer Sunday composition

contest sponsored by the AGO's Task Force for Gender Equity. You can view and download their winning compositions [here](#) for free!



Brenda Portman Maureen Howell

Woman Composer Sunday is March 9 this year. Join organists around the globe by including works by women composers in your services and recital programs that day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KATE COVINGTON for her appointment to the AGO Great Lakes Region nominating committee! Thank you for representing our state in this way.

VOLUNTEER DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR PUBLICITY / SOCIAL MEDIA for our chapter!

If you have any skills in this area, or even NO skills but a willingness to help publicize our chapter, we need you! Lynn Vera, Grant Holcomb, and Jane Johnson have given us an online presence for several years now, but are unable to continue. Expert assistance is available from the (national) AGO Chapter Specialist Support Team for someone willing to take this on. Please call or text Michael Dunn at 859.749.6971 or email dunn.michaelr@icloud.com.

TREAT YOURSELF and attend one (or both) 2025 Regional AGO Conventions this summer. . .

The West Regional Convention is in Phoenix, AZ, June 16-19, and the Southwest Regional Convention is in Fort Worth, TX, June 30-July 3. For more information:

[Regional Conventions](#)

INTERESTED IN AGO MEMBERSHIP? OR (OOPS) FORGOT TO PAY YOUR DUES? Click here: [Join AGO](#) or contact AGO Headquarters at 212-870-2310. The AGO has a new website (agohq.org/) which is very attractive and more user-friendly than the previous one. When you attempt to sign in to the new site for the first time you will receive instructions on how to create a new login and password.

ADD THOSE COVETED AGO LETTERS AFTER YOUR NAME!

For more information on AGO exams and certification, [click here](#)



ORGANISTS WANTED!

An opportunity to stretch your playing skills!

The Bluegrass Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (BG ATOS) is looking for more organists willing to play the organ at the Kentucky Theatre on Friday nights and, next summer, for their Wednesday Classic Movie series. If you are interested please contact Bill Webber at 859.298.8962 or williamwebberiv@gmail.com

For more about the Kentucky: kentuckytheatre.org

agohq.org/ The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ, and its vision is to engage, support, and uplift every organist.

JOB OPENINGS

First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster:

Our church is searching for a part time **organist/pianist** starting immediately. This position is for Sunday worship and special events. Pay is negotiable. Musicians will have the option of playing a 2 manual pipe organ or a baby grand piano.

Interested parties may contact Donna Powell dmpowell44@roadrunner.com or Kitty Barsotti barsotti@windstream.net

[posted 9/1/24]

First Baptist Church, Winchester:

Choir Accompanist

The successful candidate must:

- *Rehearse with choir and Director of Music every Wednesday at 5:30 for 60-90 minutes
- *Be present for short choir rehearsal Sunday mornings at 10:45 to prepare for services that last from 11:00 -12:00. Play piano for three hymns plus choir anthem(s) each week. Play occasional offertory solo or duet with organist.
- *Meet with Director of Music on regular basis
- *Devote several hours per week to prepare accompaniments for rehearsals
- *Have experience as accompanist for soloists, choirs, and small instrumental ensembles

.....

This position requires advanced piano and sight reading skills and preparation of 5-6 anthems for weekly rehearsals. Candidate must have excellent interpersonal skills and be willing to work collaboratively.

Pay is based on experience and qualifications.

First Baptist, Winchester, is an unaffiliated Baptist church whose members strive for excellence in traditional worship and:

- We believe Jesus is Lord.
- We are diverse, but unified in love.
- We value women in leadership.
- We appreciate our history.
- We look to reach the community.

Email inquiries or résumés to:

fbcinchesterky@hotmail.com, attention Anne Willis, Director of Music

First Baptist Church, 32 E Lexington Ave

Winchester, KY 40391

[posted 1/1/25]

JOB OPENINGS Continued

First Presbyterian Church, Winchester: Choral Director/Organist/Pianist

We will consider hiring one person or dividing the position, depending on the applicant pool.
We have a nice 1975 2-manual Schlicker organ; 9 ranks.

Please direct inquiries to:

Rev. Wanda Olive

859/744-3722

fpcwinchesterky@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Church

130 Windridge Dr.

Winchester, KY 40391

[posted 1/1/25]



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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

4:00pm

Co-sponsored with
the Lexington Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists



Concert & Evensong



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

3:30pm CONCERT

Altissimo String Quartet

Lexington, Kentucky

4:00pm EVENSONG

with the Cathedral Choir

Please visit our website www.ccclex.org/music for more information on the Cathedral Choir, Great Music Series, and Friends of Cathedral Music.



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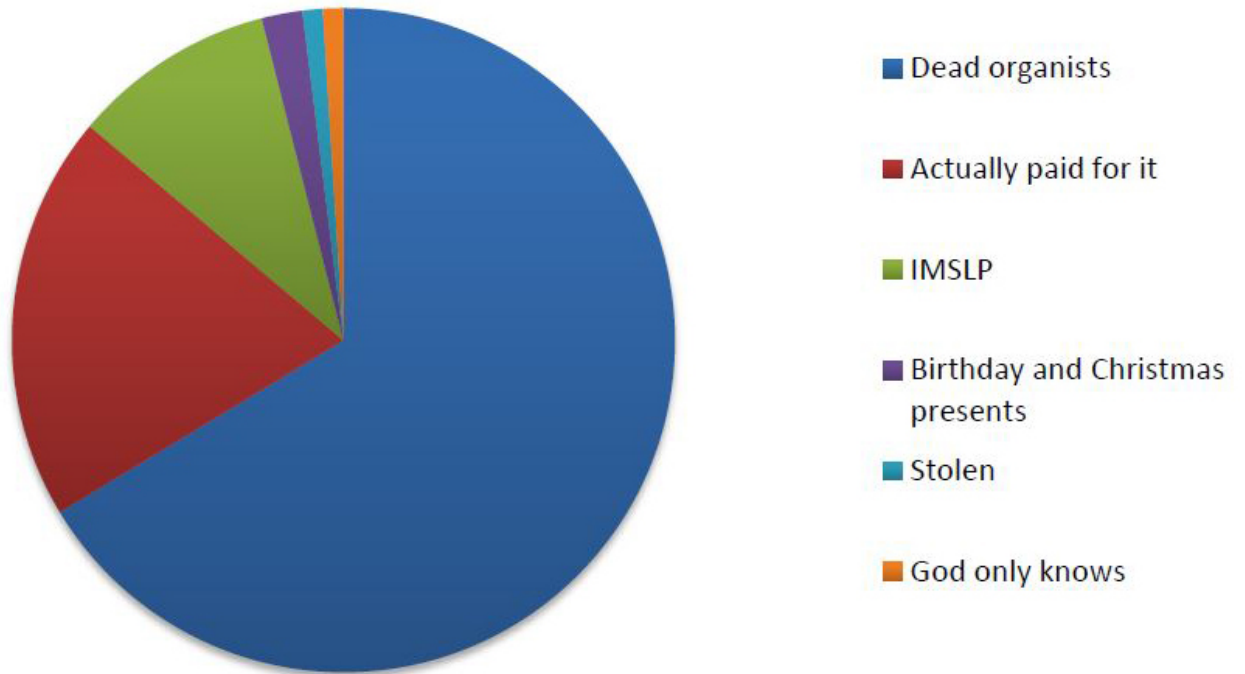
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