

The Greater Columbia Organist

April 2024

A Publication of the Greater Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists



Upcoming AGO Chapter Event - Free and open to the public

Chelsea Chen in Concert

Friday, April 12 7:00 PM

Trinity Cathedral
1100 Sumter St, Columbia, SC 29201



Photo by Darius Liktorius

Help Spread the Word!

Please print a copy of this flyer and post in your church.

[Chelsea Chen Concert Flyer](#)

Chelsea Chen

Chelsea Chen's dynamic playing has taken her to the far corners of the world. Her solo concerts offer a unique mix of traditional organ repertoire along with piano/orchestral transcriptions and contemporary music. The *Los Angeles Times* has praised her "rare musicality" and "lovely lyrical grandeur," and a compositional style that is "charming" and "irresistible."

Recent highlights include performing as soloist with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (a traditional Chinese instrument ensemble), the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, and the Lou Harrison Festival Rutgers Orchestra at Trinity Wall Street. Recent and upcoming recital venues include the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas Texas, St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York City, and Christ Cathedral, Garden Grove CA. She will also present concerts in Taiwan and northern Europe.

Chelsea originally hails from San Diego, where her formative music teachers were organists Leslie Robb (St. Paul's Lutheran, San Diego) and Monte Maxwell (U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis) and pianists Baruch Arnon (New York City), Jane Bastien and Lori Bastien Vickers (San Diego). She studied under Paul Jacobs and John Weaver at The Juilliard School in New York, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She also won the John Erskine Prize for academic and artistic achievement, awarded to one graduate per year. After college she moved to Taiwan under a Fulbright scholarship, whereupon she collected folk songs and wrote organ solo and chamber music. She returned to the U.S. to study with Thomas Murray in the Artist Diploma program at Yale University. From 2013-2017 she served as Organist and Concert Series Director at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale. She currently resides in New York City as Artist-in-Residence at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church.

Ms. Chen has recorded multiple CDs: *Reveries* (2011) at Bethel University, *Live at Heinz Chapel* at the 2005 Convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders, *Eastern Treasures* with violinist Lewis Wong in 2010, and *Live at Coral Ridge* in 2014. Her playing has been aired on CNN.com, "Pipedreams" from American Public Media, Hawaii Public Radio, and Taiwan's Good News Radio. Committed to new music, she has premiered works by composers throughout the world including Ola Gjeilo (Norway/USA), Yui Kitamura (Japan/USA), Paul Desenne (Venezuela), Roderick Gorby (USA), Vincent Rone (USA), and Viviane Waschbüsch (Germany). Her compositions are available exclusively from Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc. She performs regularly with cellist Joseph Lee. Together they released an album entitled "Explorations for Cello and Organ" in 2018. Learn more about her at chelseachen.com.

Rev July 2021



Save the Date for the Final 2023/2024 Event

FRIDAY, MAY 10*, 7 p.m.

Great Hymns of the Faith: A Hymn Festival

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

On Friday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m., the Greater Columbia AGO will present a hymn festival at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (1416 Broad River Road). This will be a great way to wrap up our 2023-2024 AGO season.

Here are some ways AGO members can help:

- If you would like to participate in the hymn festival as one of the **organists** and/or **sing in the choir**, please contact Huger Caughman [hpcaughman@gmail.com or (803) 924-7619] **by Sunday, April 15.**
- If you have **choir members** who would like to participate in the festival choir, please send the total number and the parts they sing to Huger Caughman by **April 15.**
- We're preparing a "how to" handout for AGO members about planning hymn festivals. If you have experience with this and would like to contribute ideas, please send a brief summary to Huger Caughman by April 20.

Help Us Spread the Word

Please share this date with your church, friends, family, neighbors, and any others that may be interested. Here is a link for a flyer to advertise the festival and to recruit choir members: [Hymn Festival Flyer](#)

**Change from original date*



FEBRUARY SILENT FILM REVISITED

Veteran theater organist Ron Carter delighted an audience of 100 at our February 23 silent film featuring Keaton's 1928 comedy classic, *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* Ron received a well-deserved standing ovation for his whimsical improvisatory accompaniment.

It was a fun evening for all, and over \$370 in donations were collected for the chapter's scholarship fund for beginning/developing organists.

We're most grateful to Al Roberts and St. David Lutheran Church in West Columbia for hosting the event, and especially to their technical "crew." Everyone went above and beyond to make us feel welcome and to make it all work. We are also grateful to St. John's Episcopal Church in Columbia for allowing us to use their large screen. "It takes a village..." is certainly true for this event!



Young Organist Competition 2024 Recap

On Saturday, March 9, three contestants performed for significant prizes in the Young Organist Competition held at Shandon United Methodist Church. Judges for the event were Tate Addis, (Asheville N.C.), Marya Fancey (Greensboro N.C.) and Charles Tompkins (Greenville S.C.). Winners were as follows:

First Place (\$2500) and Hymn Award (\$500): **Henry Dangerfield**,
Mendota Heights, Minnesota
Second Place: (\$2000) **Abigail Crafton**, Savannah GA
Third Place: (\$1500) **Layla Joshi**, Moorestown NJ.

Pictured below left to right: Tate Addis, Marya Fancey, Abigail Crafton, Layla Joshi, Henry Dangerfield, Charles Tompkins





The 20th of every month is the deadline for the following month's AGO newsletter. Information received after that time may not appear in that month's newsletter.

THE MUSIC MINISTRY
of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

FIRST FRIDAYS

CONCERT SERIES

LUNCH AND ORGAN CONCERT

11:45 AM
JACKSON HALL
12:30 PM
SANCTUARY

First Friday Lunch and Organ Concerts
First Presbyterian Church
1324 Marion Street, Columbia, SC 29201

11:45am Lunch in Jackson Hall
12:30pm Organ Recital in the Sanctuary

May 3: The Organ Scholars of First Presbyterian Church will present a variety of repertoire as the culmination of their Spring semester.



Interested in giving back by sharing your musical talents?

Prisma Health Children's Hospital- Midlands is seeking proficient pianists to volunteer and enhance the atrium through music! All musicians must be available to sign up for a minimum of a 30-minute time block.

- **Musicians will complete a brief orientation with a music therapy or child life team member on their first visit.**
- **Musicians must be at least 18 years or older and at an advanced skill level on the piano.**
- **Music qualities should include slow to moderate tempo, low to medium decibel levels, and soothing in nature.**
- **Sign up slots will be Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm.**

Contact Janelle Mitchell at janelle.mitchell@prismahealth.org for more information





4/02 Joyce Shaw
 4/08 Margaret Monroe
 4/08 Lawrence Melton
 4/08 Susan Wilson
 4/11 Gary L Meyers
 4/13 Beverley Anderson
 4/15 Harriet Taylor
 4/19 Anastasia Egan
 4/20 Laura Rosier
 4/21 Al Roberts

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JUNE 30 – JULY 4, 2024

CHORAL EVENSONG

AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
April 7, 14 and 21 at 4:00 p.m.



1100 SUMTER ST., COLUMBIA
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
TRINITYSC.ORG/MUSIC



Organ Recital

Debbie Bauer

Sunday June 16, 4 PM
Shandon United Methodist Church
3407 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29205



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Music for a Royal Occasion

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Trinity Cathedral performing music from
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SUNDAY, APRIL 28 AT 4:00 P.M.
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
1100 SUMTER ST., COLUMBIA, SC

Tickets: trinitysc.org/music



Program Planning for the 2024-25 Year

Our Executive Board will soon begin planning programs for the 2024-25 program year. If you have suggestions for consideration, please contact a member of the Executive Board, or send the information to Susan Sturkie at sloopystur@aol.com by May 31.

Planning for 24-25



AUGSBURG MUSIC

Leading the Church's Song

Summer 2024 Music Clinics

Register now for this **FREE** Workshop

FEATURED CLINICIANS



David Cherwien



Mark Sedio

David Cherwien and Mark Sedio will lead new music reading sessions for adult choir, organ/piano, and children's choir, as well as lead workshops and a hymn festival. Choristers Guild will also sponsor a handbell repertoire session led by **Marcia Brantley**

Columbia, SC - JULY 19-20

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1715 Bull St.
Columbia, SC 29201**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Please contact Susan Sturkie (803-788-6807 or sloopystur@aol.com) to update this information or for more information on these openings.

**** NEW LISTING OR CHANGES IN JOB DESCRIPTION OR AD**

COLUMBIA

Main Street United Methodist Church, Interim Organist / Accompanist for the Church Choir
Skills needed:

- Technical dexterity and accuracy on the organ, including skillful use of registrations. Knowledge of classical organ repertoire a plus
- Prior service-playing experience, ability to play hymns with proficiency and sensitivity. Improvisation skills a plus
- Strong accompanying and sight-reading skills
- Strong piano skills, ability to play in different musical styles

Responsibilities

1. Organist for one Sunday Service at 10:00AM.
2. Accompany choir rehearsal weekly, which occurs at 9:00AM on Sunday.
3. Provide organ music and accompaniment for additional services and special events as needed (paid separately)
4. Prepare organ and/or piano accompaniments in advance of choir rehearsals when possible

Contact Person: Almond Ponge, aponge@email.sc.edu

DARLINGTON

Darlington Presbyterian Church, Organist Position (PT) Darlington Presbyterian Church, EPC, is currently looking to hire an organist who is a committed Christian desiring to use his/her talents for the Lord. In addition to having skill in organ performance as a soloist, the position requires expertise in accompanying choir rehearsals, soloists, and congregational singing on both the organ and piano. The ability to sight-read and to play choral parts are needed skills as well. DPC has one worship service each week (Sunday 11:00 a.m.) and preparation for that service includes accompanying the Children's Choir rehearsal and Chancel Choir rehearsal on Wednesday nights. We also enjoy several seasonal special worship services during the year: Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise, Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols, 2 Christmas Eve Services.

Interested candidates are welcome to send a cover letter and resume to Dr. Irwin, the Dir. of Music Ministries at tirwin1685@gmail.com.

HARTSVILLE

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Hartsville, SC, is in search of a part-time Organist. Duties include Sunday services, Wednesday night choir rehearsals, and any special services during the year. Salary is \$300 per week (negotiable) and extra for additional services. The Organist gets two days paid vacation plus sick leave. Our instrument is a 32-rank, two manual, Casavant Freres Limitee. The Organist reports to the Music Director and the Rector. If interested in the position, please send your resume to St. Bartholomew's at 103 Campus Dr. Hartsville, SC 29550 or via email at stbartsepiscopal@gmail.com.

IRMO

****Mt. Olive Lutheran Church** in Irmo, SC is seeking to fill the organist/pianist and choir director positions. The organist/pianist duties include the following: provide music for regular worship services (includes Sunday 8 and 10:30 am) as well as special liturgies such as Advent, Lent, Holy Week etc. Strong organ/piano skills, ability to play in different musical styles, accompany the choir. The choir director's duties include leading vocal and handbell choirs for one liturgical service per week September through May. Both positions include Sunday afternoon rehearsals. For a full job description for each position, please visit: <https://mtolivesc.org/music/>.

Interviews for the organist/pianist position will include questions and an audition. The playing portion will include two verses of a prepared hymn, sight reading another (of parish's choosing) as well as a favorite prelude or postlude piece. The church will also complete a background check as required.

Interested candidates for either position may submit their resume to Liz Rosinski at lizrosinski@me.com. Any questions? Please call or text Liz at 803.413.3364.

LEXINGTON

Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Lexington, SC, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Lexington, is seeking a committed Christian to provide organ/piano music and accompaniment for scheduled worship services, rehearsals and other activities in support of the music ministry of the church. Having a pivotal role in the musical life of the church, this individual should be a strong team player with the ministerial staff as needed and with the Director of Music at Pilgrim Lutheran. Please submit a letter of recommendation and resumé to Susan Cafferty at susan@wearepilgrim.com.

****Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church**, 5503 Sunset Blvd., Lexington, South Carolina 29072. Church organist for an evangelical Presbyterian congregation with a rich and distinguished tradition of musical excellence. Part-time. Bachelor of Music (or equivalent) and previous experience as a church organist highly preferred.

Responsibilities: Provide organ and possibly occasional piano music in a professional manner for two traditional morning worship services and other special and seasonal services throughout the year. Facilitate the congregation to sing and worship through creative inspiring hymn accompaniments. Choose and perform preludes, postludes and offertories with occasional special music and work with other musicians. Per session compensation equal to approximately \$14,500/yr., commensurate with experience and negotiable. Option to plan music for and direct the handbell choir based on experience for additional compensation. 1997 Allen Organ, L DK console, 3 manual "Renaissance" 370 with Midi. Accountable to the Choir Director and Senior Pastor; liaison to the Worship Arts Committee.

Email resume to Cynthia Threatt, Assistant to the Director of Worship Arts, cthreatt@saxegotha.org. 803.359.7770 ext. 130

MOUNT PLEASANT

Hibben United Methodist Church, 690 Coleman Blvd, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

Organist and Choirmaster Part Time: Responsible for planning, leading and coordination for the overall music ministries of Hibben UMC Church. Principal duties are Sunday morning worship, special services such as Christmas and Easter, weekly Choir rehearsals, ensemble and volunteer coordination, and planning with worship committee, staff and other volunteers to create worship that is energetic and true to the value system of a congregation that strives to serve and grow in discipleship and mission. Principle report is to the Lead Pastor and administrative accountability is to Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Salary and hours will be determined based on experience and other qualifications. A successful background check is required for this position. To apply, please submit a resume with a cover letter and three professional references to srprice@comcast.net. Please contact Mr. Price or Rev. Sara White (revsara@hibbenumc.org) to request a complete job description.

ORANGEBURG

First Baptist Church of Orangeburg is seeking a part-time organist to provide service music for Sunday worship, as well as special occasions throughout the year. Regular duties include accompanying Wednesday night choir rehearsal (7:00 pm) and playing for Sunday worship services (11:00 a.m.). The organ is a Moller, 3-manual: swell; great; choir, with 31 ranks from the original installation. The pedal board was built to AGO standard. The organ was installed in 1968 and rebuilt by Schlueter Pipe Organ Company of Lithonia, Georgia in 2007, with additional Walker digital stops added. Resumés may be sent to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 637, Orangeburg, SC 29116 or emailed to jane@fbcorangeburg.org.

ROCK HILL

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Associate Reformed, 2132 Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill SC. This job opening at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill for Director of Music has been changed to a **full-time job** that is now titled **Director of Music Ministry/Organist**. The link below will take those interested to the specifics on how to apply, the specifications of our pipe organ, and the new job description with salary included.

<https://ebenezerarp.org/sermons-other-resources/job-opening-music-ministryorganist>

(Yes, without a "t" at the end)

SAINT MATTHEWS

St. Paul U.M.C., 1808 Bridge Street, Saint Matthews, SC 29135. We have an opening for an organist and choir director. Job requirements include choir practice at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings (or another time during the week) and worship service on Sundays from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Some additional services throughout the year (Christmas Eve, funerals, etc.) may also be requested. The instrument is a 1937 Moeller Pipe Organ.

Please call (803) 874-2166 or email at stpaulsmumc@gmail.com for more details.

WINNSBORO

Sion Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Winnsboro is seeking a part-time music director/organist or pianist to provide music on Sundays at the 11 a.m. worship service and at the 9:30 a.m. adult choir rehearsal preceding the Sunday service. Duties include preparing and playing a prelude, offertory, choral anthem, hymns and postlude. Additional services throughout the year include one Christmas Eve service. Any other services will be discussed on a one-to-one basis, with additional compensation for the musician.

The church instruments include a Kegg pipe organ, a Steinway grand piano and three octaves of handbells. Sion is a traditional church with a congregation who loves and appreciates quality music and the efforts of musicians. This position has potential for growth in the adult choir as well as the formation of a handbell choir.

Sion Presbyterian is 30 miles north of Columbia. The church is flexible regarding terms of employment and the music position can be permanent, part-time, interim or Sunday by Sunday. The salary is \$200 per week, and this may be negotiable depending on qualifications and commitment.

For questions or more information, please call the Sion church office at 803-635-3391 and leave a message for Lynne Douglass.