

The Greater Columbia Organist



February 2025

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

Chapter Program for February

CHORAL METHODS WORKSHOP & READING SESSION CONDUCTING FROM THE KEYS DEBORAH K. BAUER

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025
10:00 A.M. - NOON**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
3909 Forest Dr.
Columbia, SC 29204**



Directing church choirs in these changing times is often challenging. Many of us are still building our numbers post-Covid. Aging voices are increasingly the norm, and we constantly compete for the time of available volunteers. The challenges are even greater for those of us who have combined positions as director and organist. This workshop will address the unique challenges of the organist/director, including finding good music for smaller choirs and successfully conducting it from the keyboard. A packet of anthems will be available, including accessible music for various voicings.

Deborah K. Bauer is the Director of Music / Organist at Carteret Street United Methodist Church in Beaufort, SC. For seven years prior to that, she served as Organist and Music Associate at Shandon United Methodist Church in Columbia, SC. Originally from Aiken, SC, Debbie earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from Winthrop University and a Master of Music in Organ and Church Music from Indiana University, Bloomington. She has held many organist and choir director positions in various denominations and has enjoyed teaching piano and organ students of all ages. She currently serves as President of the SC Chapter of the Fellowship of Worship Artists, formerly known as the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts. She is a member of the Greater Columbia and Low Country Chapters of the AGO and serves as an at-large member of the Low Country chapter executive board. Debbie and her husband Tom are now enjoying his military retirement in beautiful Beaufort, SC.

Upcoming AGO Programs 2025

PLANS FOR SPRING PROGRAMS

Saturday, March 8, 10:00 a.m.: Young Organist Competition Exceptional young organists from across the U.S. will compete for cash prizes.

Location: Shandon United Methodist Church, 3407 Devine St., Columbia, SC 29205.

Sunday, March 23, 3:00 p.m.: Columbia Area Student Organists' Showcase

We'll meet Greater Columbia area organ students of all ages and levels of study, hear a sample of the work they're doing, and offer encouragement.

Location: St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church, 5220 Clemson Ave., Columbia, SC 29206

Monday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.: Zoom Presentation on AGO Certification

Presenters from National AGO: Michelle Kardos, Director of Education, and Russell Weismann, Councilor for Education.

Topics: Benefits, Basic Requirements, and Basic Steps for Preparation.

Friday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.: Dinner followed by a Program of Music for Organ and Instruments Location: St. David Lutheran Church, 132 St. David's Church Road, West Columbia, SC 29170.



The poster features a light blue background with a dark blue decorative shape in the top left corner containing yellow dots. The title 'YOUNG Organist Competition' is centered in a teal and grey font. Below the title, text provides details about the event, including the sponsor, date, location, age range, and prize amounts. A photograph of hands playing an organ is positioned on the right side of the poster.

**YOUNG
Organist
Competition**

Sponsored by the
Greater Columbia AGO Chapter

Saturday, March 8, 2025
Columbia, S.C.

Open to grades 8–12

First Prize \$3,000
Second Prize \$2,000
Third Prize \$1,500
Hymn Playing Award \$500

For rules and application see
Young Organist Competition 2025
at www.columbiaago.org

Catching Up with YOC Alumni



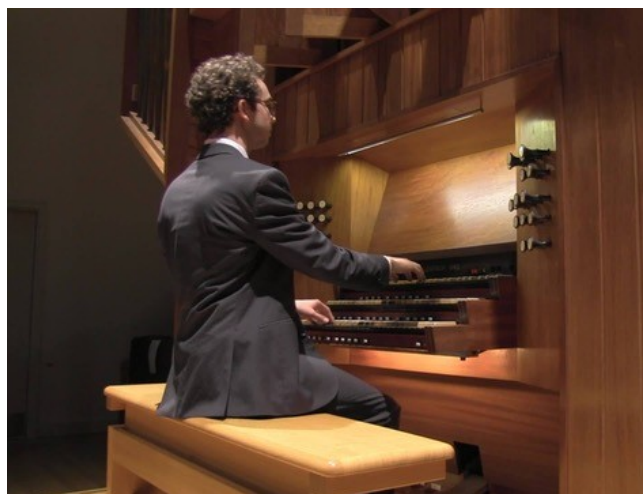
Since beginning his musical training at age ten, **Raymond Hawkins** has honed his skill at the organ through an active career in both solo performance and sacred music. As a performer, Raymond has given recitals at venues across the United States, including the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco and Adolphus Busch Hall at Harvard University. His performance at the 2015 Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina was praised in *The American Organist* as being “superbly played and registered.”

Since 2019, Raymond has served as Director of Music and Organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Marblehead, Massachusetts. There, he oversees choral and organ music for weekly Mass, monthly Evensong, and a variety of other occasions. Raymond also serves as Member-at-Large and Newsletter Editor for the Merrimack Valley Chapter of AGO.

Raymond began his career in church music at the age of fourteen as organist at the First Baptist Church of Holly Hill, South Carolina. While studying in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, he served as music intern at Augsburg Lutheran Church and subsequently as organist at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.

Raymond has also won prizes in a number of regional and national competitions. As a high school junior, he received First Prize and the Hymn-Playing Prize in the 2014 UNCSA/Salem College High School Organ Competition as well as Third Place and the Hymn-Playing Prize in the Greater Columbia AGO Chapter's Young Organist Competition; the following year he earned Second Place in the same competition. In 2014, he won Second Place in the Senior Division of the Peter Perret Youth Talent Search and consequently performed with the Winston-Salem Symphony Orchestra.

In 2019, Raymond completed his undergraduate degree in organ performance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he studied as a Kenan Organ Scholar under Dr. Timothy Olsen and had previously received his high school diploma. Earlier on, he studied organ with Donna Swanson, Angela Kraft Cross, and Porter Remington. Raymond has also studied abroad in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the Netherlands, advancing his skills as both musician and language aficionado.



WE CONSOLE THOSE WHO MOURN

Our sympathies to the friends and family of Greater Columbia AGO member, Dr. Keith Taylor, of Darlington

Dr. Keith Forrest Taylor, 77, of Darlington passed away on Friday, January 3, 2025.



Dr. Taylor was born in Orange County, Florida. He was the son of the late Wade Hampton Taylor, Sr. and Catherine Taylor. Dr. Taylor had a heart for music and was a renowned musician. He was Minister of Music at Trinity United Methodist Church in Darlington for many years. After his retirement from Trinity United Methodist Church he shared his musical talents with Welsh Neck Baptist Church in Society Hill until his health declined.

He is survived by his nephew, Blake Taylor. Dr. Taylor was preceded in death by his wife, JoAnne W. Taylor and his brother, Wade Hampton Taylor, Jr.

At the request of Dr. Taylor, no service will be held at this time. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made in memory of Dr. Taylor to a charity of one's choice.

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- ❖ **Our sympathies to Al Roberts upon the death of his mother, Jean Carroll Roberts, on January 6, 2025 [Link to obituary.](#)**
 - ❖ **Our sympathies to family and friends of organist, composer, and South Carolinian Robert J. Powell. [Link to obituary.](#)**
 - ❖ **Our sympathies to the Spartanburg AGO Chapter on the passing of their dean, Scott Foppiano on December 17, 2024. [Link to obituary.](#)**

2025 PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER LOCATIONS ANNOUNCED



Pipe Organ Encounters (POE) are six-day "summer camps" designed to introduce the organ to both young musicians, aged 13–18. Participants receive private instruction, learn about the construction and mechanics of pipe organs, perform on world-class instruments, and are introduced to careers in music.

June 15-20, Twin Cities, Minnesota

[Twin Cities Chapter](#)

David Jenkins, Director / Catherine Rodland, Co-director

June 22-27, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

[Harrisburg Chapter](#)

Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, Director

July 20-25, Houston, Texas

[Houston Chapter](#)

Jeong-Suk Bae, Director

POE-Advanced

July 6-11, Worcester, Mass.

[Worcester Chapter](#)

[Kevin Neel](#), Director

Need-based scholarships are available to students who have applied for and been accepted into a POE program. Funds are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. To apply, applicants should first register for the POE location of their choice, then request the link to an online scholarship application from the director. Deadline to apply is April 15, 2025. Assistance may also be available from the Greater Columbia chapter for students in the Columbia area. Contact [Tony Roof](#) for more information.



AGOGO LIVE 25 Virtual Conference

Friday, Feb. 7, 4:45 - 9
p.m. (ET)

Saturday, Feb. 8, 9:45 a.m.
- 3:45 p.m. (ET)

Join other young organists for two days of inspiring guest speakers, research and panel discussions, and networking opportunities.

FREE for AGOGO members
[Click here](#) to register.

Keynote Speakers & Panelists

- Connor Chee
- Katelyn Emerson
- Faythe Freese
- Jonathan M Gregoire
- David Hurd
- Brett Milan
- Mark Miller
- Brenda Portman
- Sol Rizzato

AGOGO Presenters

- Valentina Huang
- Andrew Johnson
- Layla Joshi
- Justin Oei
- Yu (Tracy) Qian
- Nathan Shelton

Presentations & Panels

- Alternative Career Paths for Organists
- Compositional Styles & Techniques
- Hauptwerk Workshops
- Never Too Young: Leading Church Programs as a Young Adult
- Life as an International Organist
- Professional Concerns for the Young Organist
- Protecting Organists: Injury Prevention & Hearing Health
- Mindfulness & Creative Coaching



A CEREMONY OF CAROLS FOR CANDLEMAS

Sunday, February 2, 4:00 p.m.
followed by a reception on the Cathedral Lawn

 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
1100 Sumter St.
Columbia, SC 29201

CHORAL EVENSONG

AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Sunday, February 9 & 16 at 4:00 p.m.



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



BACH VESPERS



FEBRUARY 23 AT 4:00 P.M.
1100 SUMTER ST., COLUMBIA
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

The Cathedral Singers and the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra offer Cantata BWV 127, Herr Jesu Christ, Wahr' Mensch und Gott (Lord Jesus Christ, true man and God)



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

THE
MUSIC MINISTRY
of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FRIDAY ORGAN CONCERT
ORGAN CONCERTI
POULENC AND RESPIGHI

FEBRUARY 14, 2025
7:00 PM SANCTUARY

FRANCIS POULENC
*CONCERTO FOR ORGAN, STRINGS AND
TIMPANI*

OTTORINO RESPIGHI
SUITE FOR STRINGS AND ORGAN

THOMAS RUSSELL, ORGANIST
DANIEL COLE, CONDUCTOR

First Presbyterian Church
1324 Marion St.
Columbia, SC 29201

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Handbell Festival

Brian Childers, Director



Saturday, February 22, 2025

Shandon United Methodist Church
3407 Devine Street, Columbia, SC

9:30 am-1:00 pm



February's **Handbell Choir Festival** registration is open to all bell choir members and directors. Lunch is included with registration.

This event is sponsored by the *SC Chapter of the Fellowship of Music and Worship Arts*. Brian Childers, director of the festival, is an accomplished composer, conductor, and clinician. His choral, instrumental, and handbell works are performed throughout the world. Brian is the Artistic Director of the Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble. He also currently serves as Director of Handbells and Children and Youth Music at Myers Park UMC in

Charlotte.

The Festival Handbell music is available at Jeffers Handbell in Irmo. (800-547-2355). For additional information, please call Eddie Huss at Shandon UMC in Columbia: 803-722-1034.

For registration, schedule, music, and cost: www.southcarolinafellowship.org



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Newsletter Deadline

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.



2/02 Ed Brown
2/11 Janet Schmidt
2/11 Karen Shevenell
2/14 Mary Drew Bult
2/15 Don Alcorn
2/20 Frank Ballard
2/21 David Lowry
2/22 Chuck Wilson
2/26 James Johnson
2/28 Timothy Belflowers

2024 - 2025 CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**** NEW LISTING OR CHANGES**

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

BENNETTSVILLE

First Methodist Church, Bennettsville, SC, seeks a Music Director to lead the music program of the church. Primary duties include providing appropriate weekly service music on the 43-rank Casavant organ and leading the adult, handbell, and children's choirs. Flexibility in job structure. Will work primarily with minister to oversee an active music ministry. Salary commensurate with training and experience. Optional opportunity to earn additional income providing music classes for church day care program. Please send cover letter and resume to church office (wandaweaverfumc@gmail.com). For additional information, contact Rev. Taylor Coates (843-479- 3231) or Virginia Fowler, PPRC Chairman (heyva2@yahoo.com)

CHESTER

Presbyterian Church in Chester - Interim organist or substitute organist. Magnificent organ, 1976 Austin with the console rebuilt two years ago. It is a two manual 36 rank instrument. There is also a 1938 Steinway Grand Piano in the worship space. Prelude, Offertory, Postlude, Doxology, Gloria Patri, and three hymns are required for each service. Interested persons should send their resume or background information to maestrocto@gmail.com.

COLUMBIA

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2200 Lee St., Columbia (Five Points), SC 29205. HTLC is a confessional liturgical congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and as such we practice closed communion. An organist is needed for our 10:30 Sunday as well as seasonal services. We follow a liturgical order of worship, and have a two manual pipe organ. A permanent commitment is ideal, however, we are willing to consider short-term contracts such as 3 or 6 month. If you are interested in this position please contact Rev. Christopher Burger at (803) 799-7224 or via email at Rev.Burger@gmail.com

GILBERT

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 246 St. Paul's Church Rd., Gilbert, SC 29054 is seeking a Music Director for its Sunday worship services. The applicant may interview for the entire position (Organist/Pianist/Choir Director/Handbell Director) or for a single or any combination of these positions depending on their skill levels. The Music Director leads and directs the choir / praise band (when applicable) during worship. Also, is responsible for scheduling choir / praise band (when applicable) and handbell rehearsals, selecting appropriate music and managing annual music budgets. Music should be appropriate for use in the Lutheran service and follow the theme or the lessons appointed for the day. Hymns/Songs from the ELW and the Worship & Praise book should be used. Music selections shall be made in consultation with the Pastor whenever possible. Special programs are normally presented seasonally, i.e. Christmas Cantata/Children's Christmas Program, Easter, Community Thanksgiving services when held at St. Paul's, Lenten services and following special Lutheran celebration Sundays throughout the year. Compensation for this position is negotiable based on experience and merit. For more information and complete job description or to apply, contact Janet Boyd at boyd5janet@gmail.com or 803-634-0018.

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.

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. Resumes 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. Director of Music 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/>