

The Greater Columbia Organist

March 2024

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



Upcoming AGO Chapter Event-Free and open to the public

Young Organist Competition 2024

Saturday, March 9, 2024

10 a.m. until noon

Shandon United Methodist Church

3407 Devine Street

Columbia S.C. 29205

In March, the chapter will celebrate the 14th annual Young Organist Competition. Open to students in Grades 9 through 12, this competition has produced winners from across the United States who have become concert organists, teachers, and church musicians. Having been screened through an audition process, finalists will present a program of concert literature and a hymn selection for a panel of outstanding judges.

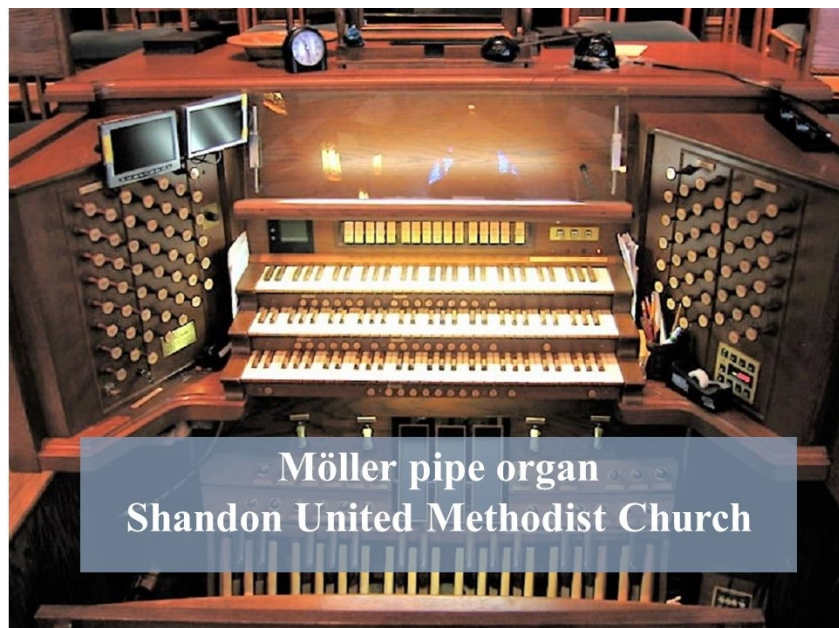
First Place - \$2500

Third Place - \$1500

Second Place - \$2000

Hymn Award - \$500

Join us as we support these budding young organists.



**Möller pipe organ
Shandon United Methodist Church**

Catching Up with YOC Alumni Katherine Johnson, 2016 YOC Winner

A native of Greenville, N.C., Katherine Johnson was awarded the First Prize, the Bach Prize and the Hymn Playing Award in the Young Organist Competition here in Columbia in March 2016. As a high-school student of Andrew Scanlon, she was awarded the AGO Central NC Chapter's Cooper-Miller Organ Scholarship, which enabled her to attend a Pipe Organ Encounter in Delaware. She also received the Fisk prize, the Bach prize, and the hymn prize at the eighth annual East Carolina Musical Arts Education Foundation Young Artists Organ Competition. That year she was awarded the first prize in the high school division of the Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition and performed on the Winner's Recital at the 2017 Schweitzer Festival. She spent the summer of 2019 working as Organ Teaching Assistant at Interlochen Arts Camp.

Katherine pursued her collegiate study at Oberlin Conservatory. A double-degree student in English and organ performance, Johnson studied organ with Professor Christa Rakich and also taught organ lessons at the school. She served as organist and music director at Church of the Redeemer in Lorain, Ohio. Previously, she had been an organ scholar at Plymouth Church UCC in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville, North Carolina, and had also been the Wilson Family Sacred Music Intern at the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City.

Following graduation from Oberlin in 2023, Katherine began her appointment as organ scholar in the American Guild of Organists Organ Scholar Program at Duke University Chapel. This ten-month position will run from August of 2023 through June 2024. As an organ scholar, Katherine will accompany the Evensong Singers and Vespers Ensemble, assist with weekly rehearsals and worship services, and receive regular coaching from the Chapel Organist and the Conductor-in-Residence. About this upcoming adventure, Katherine said, "I am looking forward to making music with the Duke University staff and community during this academic year."



Chelsea Chen in Concert

Friday, April 12 7:00 PM

Trinity Cathedral
1100 Sumter St, Columbia, SC 29201



PIPEDREAMS (Radio broadcast January 22, 2007) “... Chelsea played with confidence, style, and imagination at a level that many older performers would surely envy ... The [organ’s] future is in the hands [of] players such as Chelsea Chen who not only perform exceptionally well but also compose for the organ and encourage other friends of their generation to write for it too.”

Pipedreams host Michael Barone

Help Spread the Word!

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

[Chelsea Chen Concert Flyer](#)

Save the Dates for Winter/Spring Events

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 7 p.m.: **Chelsea Chen in Concert**, Trinity Cathedral

FRIDAY, MAY 10*, 7 p.m.: **Hymn Festival** at St. Andrews Lutheran Church

*Please note new date for Hymn Festival

Find the Greater Columbia Chapter online

www.ColumbiaAGO.org



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/138505356339>



Lenten Organ Meditations

Wednesdays during Lent
FREE CONCERTS @ Noon



Lenten Organ Meditations 1001 Fifth Avenue Conway, SC

Wednesdays at Noon during Lent A Free Event

Co-sponsored by First United Methodist, Conway and Grand Strand Chapter of American Guild of Organists

Organists are:

Kevin Uppercue March 6
Jim Hepler March 13
Billy Fallaw March 20



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 background of the poster features golden, stylized architectural elements of a church, including spires and stained glass windows, set against a dark background.

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

March 1: Thomas Russell will play works of J. S. Bach including his Fantasia and Fugue in G Minor and chorale preludes reflecting on Christ's Passion.

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

ASTRALIS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

BAROQUE LEGENDS

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 7:00 PM
ST. TIMOTHY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
900 CALHOUN ST, COLUMBIA, SC 29201



ANGELA MASSEY
FLUTE



RACHEL AGUILAR
VIOLIN



HILARY GLEN
CELLO



ALEXANDRA DUNBAR
HARPSICHORD

The award-winning musicians of the Astralis Chamber Ensemble; Angela Massey (flute), Rachel Aguilar (violin), Hilary Glen (cello), and Alexandra Dunbar (harpsichord); will present "Baroque Legends." The concert will include works by legendary composers from the Baroque period, including J.S. Bach, Telemann, Corelli, Scarlatti, Couperin, and Vivaldi. Join us for an unforgettable evening of music with the Astralis Chamber Ensemble.

2024 Tour

My Song As I Journey

2024 Tour to North and South Carolina



Learn more or purchase tickets!

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR IN THE CAROLINAS

March 2, 3:00 pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

119 North Church Street, Lexington SC 29072

Tickets \$25.00



Take a journey with the National Lutheran Choir! Join us for a concert of music from the Lutheran canon and works that explore the common struggle through life's journeys, both those chosen and those forced upon us. When the road gets long and our legs get heavy, we share the stories of those who have gone before us and pave the way for those who will come after. Works from the Lutheran choral tradition by composers such as Heinrich Schutz, Knut Nystedt, and F. Melius Christiansen will stand side by side with diverse selections from Florence Price, Stacey Gibbs, Alice Parker, Zanaida Robles, and others which highlight the stories of enslaved Africans, immigrants, and refugees in the United States.

**CLICK HERE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS**

Palmetto Bronze

Lowcountry Community Handbell Ensemble



Friday Night & Saturday

March 8-9, 2024

Fri. 6:00-9:00 PM Sat. 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Palmetto Bronze Mini-Concert on Friday night

Summerville Baptist Church

417 Central Avenue

Summerville, SC 29483

Clinician

Martha S. Matthews

Kalamazoo Ringers Director

Martha Matthews, Clinician



Martha Matthews holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Houghton College and a Master of Flute Performance from the University of Idaho. A 34-year veteran of handbells, Martha conducts the longest consistently running community handbell ensemble in the country, Kalamazoo Ringers. She founded and conducted Philadelphia Bronze, an advanced auditioned ensemble with the motto "elegant energy." Martha was Director of Sales at Malmark Bellcraftsmen, Inc. and served on Area II and IV boards of Handbell Musicians of America.

Early-bird Registration - \$45

Deadline: January 12, 2024

Regular Registration - \$50

Deadline: February 23, 2024

For more information, visit www.palmettobronze.com or scan QR Code





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



January Organ Crawl Revisited

On Saturday, January 27, Chapter members from Columbia and the surrounding area journeyed to Charleston, where they enjoyed hearing about and playing five of the many fine pipe organs in the “Holy City.” Members of the Charleston chapter joined the group. The churches included Summerall Chapel at The Citadel (1966 Reuter, Op. 1507, with Cornel Zimmer restoration/expansion); Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (1986 Bedient, Op. 22); Grace Church Cathedral (2008 Reuter); Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul (1976 Gabriel Kney); and St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church (1967 Austin, Op. 2465).

We are grateful to Charleston AGO members Michael Varnadore (dual Columbia), Nicholas Quardokus, and Lee Kohlenberg for serving as hosts/facilitators for the visits, and for giving helpful suggestions for the itinerary.





MARCH
BIRTHDAYS

3/02 Barbara Taylor
3/12 Sharon McCroskey Witherell
3/16 Floride McKoy
3/28 Jeff Clearman
3/28 Debbie Bauer

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JUNE 30 – JULY 4, 2024



American Guild of Organists
PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS

2024

Pipe Organ Encounters

for beginning and intermediate organists, ages 13-18

July 14-19, 2024

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Piedmont NC Chapter AGO

UNC School of the Arts

Director: Dr. Timothy J. Olsen

405-535-8124

Email the Winston-Salem POE Director

Registration Deadline: June 15, 2023

Pipe Organ Encounter-Plus

for adults, ages 19 and over

June 10-14, 2024

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Chattanooga Chapter AGO

Director: John Wigal, MM

423-821-1583

Email the Chattanooga POE+ Director

Registration Deadline: May 9, 2023

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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.

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.

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-ministryorganis>

(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.