The Greater Columbia Organist



September 2025

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

Greater Columbia AGO's September Program POTLUCK DINNER* AND A TIME TO SHARE

The Organist's Worst Nightmare

Friday, September 19, 2025 6:30 p.m. Location: Good Shepherd Episcopal 1512 Blanding St, Columbia, SC 29201

We all have an unforgettable story of a mishap from a wedding, funeral or on Sunday morning. We would love to hear yours. Maybe it felt like a horror story at the time but brings a chuckle in retrospect. If not a scary story, please share a delightfully funny one. We might even award a prize to the crowd favorite. After an exhausting summer of sweltering heat, please join us for a relaxing evening of good food, fellowship, and a few good laughs.

*DINNER: The BBQ Pork and tea will be provided.

Please bring a side dish or dessert.

*There is **no cost** for the meal, but **reservations are needed**. Please contact Susan Sturkie at <u>sloopystur@aol.com</u> by Friday, September 12 and notify her if you will bring a side or a dessert. Members are welcome to bring a guest if a reservation is made.

SAVE THE DATES

The Greater Columbia Chapter has planned a variety of programs for the upcoming year. Be sure to save these dates and plan to join us. Watch for more information on other programs in the works.

OCTOBER PROGRAM: Presentation on New Pipe Organ Projects in the Columbia Area

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Time: A catered dinner at 6:30 p.m., with the program following (approximately 7:15 p.m.)

Location: St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Presenters: Patrick Hawkins (St. Joseph's Catholic) and Thomas Russell (First

Presbyterian)

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: 2025 YOC Winner's Recital with Alisdair Welty

Date/time: Friday, November 21, 7:00 p.m. Location: Shandon United Methodist Church

The recital is open to the public and will be followed by a reception.



PISGAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1350 Pisgah Church Rd., Lexington SC 29072

September 27, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Registration opens 8:30 a.m.

- Choral Tune-Up Getting the best sound out of your choir. Bring your Choir members.
- Best Methods in teaching new music to a choir.
- Planning a Service-Start to Finish Planning a service (hymns, anthem, voluntaries).
- Choral Reading Session The packet of music is a generous gift from MorningStar Music.

COST: \$45-Church musicians \$20-Choir member \$20-Full-time students *(fees include the cost of lunch)*

You may register at the door but supplies and lunch may not be available.

Please register by September 10.

Click here to register.



Dr. Chris Sheppard-Presenter

Dr. Sheppard directs the Newberry College Madrigals and teaches conducting and private voice lessons. Sheppard served as chair of music from 2016 to 2024. During his tenure, he guided the department through its recent accreditation review by the National Association of Schools of Music, and helped enact initiatives that have more than doubled the number of music majors. The department broke its own record for incoming music students for three of the last five years under his leadership.

Dr. Sheppard's summer festival work includes twice working as chorus master and voice instructor at the Maud Powell International Opera Institute in Illinois and as the choral director for an international choir in the World Scholar-Athlete Games held in Kingston, Rhode Island. He

has held positions as music director at several churches, including three Lutheran churches and one Presbyterian church.



Shop the MorningStar

Music Display (No registration needed just to shop.)

CREDIT CARD OR CHURCH CHARGE ONLY – NO CASH PURCHASES

A LETTER FROM YOUR NEW DEAN

It is with profound gratitude and anticipation that I step into the role of Dean for the American Guild of Organists Greater Columbia Chapter. As I write this introductory letter for our newsletter, I am reminded of the extraordinary legacy that our chapter has built over the years—one of musical excellence, camaraderie, and the steady pursuit of artistry in organ/choral performance and education. I am honored to serve in this capacity and to walk alongside each of you as we move forward.

I wish to express thanks to each of the board members, both current, and those who have recently cycled off. What a great group of folks—I am so grateful for the talents and energy you bring to our organization. Special thanks to Lenora Jeffcoat for her leadership as Dean over the past two years.



One of the most beautiful aspects of our chapter is its diversity. The American Guild of Organists welcomes individuals with a variety of backgrounds, united by a love for music and a spirit of discovery. I am committed to ensuring that our chapter is inclusive, accessible, and welcoming to everyone who wishes to be a part of our community. Whether you are an experienced organist, a student just beginning your journey, or a devoted listener, there is a place here for you. Our events will reflect the varied backgrounds and interests of our members, and we will continue to celebrate the full spectrum of organ and choral music.

As we begin a new academic year, it is worth reiterating the goal of the American Guild of Organists: The Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music.

We have a great program year lined up—you'll see details in this newsletter. There are a variety of events, and we hope you find something that resonates with you. I encourage you to attend whenever possible. Please reach out to me if you have program ideas that we can consider, or to discuss any concerns that you may have.

I hope to see you soon at one of our events. All best wishes,

Won

Don Grice, DMA Dean, AGO Greater Columbia Chapter



How/Where Do I?

Things To Know About Our Chapter



Website: ColumbiaAGO.org Webmaster: Tony Roof

National Website: agohq.org

If you are scheduling an event that you want AGO members to attend, please check the AGO calendar for that date to make sure there is not another event scheduled at the same time.

Newsletter Information:

- *Newsletter Editor: Tony Roof
- *Submit print ready material (Word or PDF documents. Pictures acceptable) for **newsletter** to Tony Roof (email@tonyroof.com).
- *Please proofread your information and include Who, What, When, Where, Why, and any other information.
- *Don't forget the name and address of the church sponsoring.
- *Deadline for information is the 20th of each month. (email@tonyroof.com)

AGO News Emails:

- *Submit print ready material (Word preferred) for **event reminders** that are sent a few days before the event to Susan Sturkie (sloopystur@aol.com).
- *Send information at least a week before the event.

Membership Information

- *Direct Membership questions to Susan Sturkie (sloopystur@aol.com)
- *Pay **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP dues** at <u>www.agohq.org</u> or call 212-870-2310.
- *Request information and dues form about **CHAPTER FRIEND MEMBERSHIP** from Susan Sturkie. Payment is sent to Susan Sturkie, 709 Southlake Rd., Columbia SC 29223.

Musician Job Openings

*Submit **Job Openings** to Susan Sturkie (<u>sloopystur@aol.com</u>). Please notify when jobs are filled.

Substitute List

*If you are a current member who would like to be listed as a **substitute** organist, pianist, choir director, or vocalist, contact Susan Sturkie (<u>sloopystur@aol.com</u>).

*If you need a sub, there is a list in your chapter directory, but you may get an updated version from Susan at sloopystur@aol.com.

Programming ideas may be sent to Joy Ackerman, Sub Dean, (jpackerman@att.net)

Scholarship information and applications - direct to Don Grice, Dean,. (dgrice@alumni.emory.edu)

ALL OTHER CHAPTER BUSINESS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO DON GRICE, DEAN, (dgrice@alumi.emory.edu)

Organ Recital

Kipp Gill

Shandon United Methodist Church 3407 Devine St, Columbia, SC 29205

Sunday, September 28, 2025 | 5:00 PM

Shandon United Methodist Church will present their Organist and Music Associate Kipp Gill in a program bridging the Baroque, Romantic, and contemporary organ repertoire.

The program will open in the Baroque period with two works by J. S. Bach: the Toccata in F Major, BWV 540, followed by the first movement Allegro from the Trio Sonata in G Major.

The Romantic portion will feature three contrasting movements from Charles-Marie Widor's Symphony No. 6: the powerful and expressive Allegro, the lyrical Cantabile, and the dazzling Intermezzo.

The program continues with two movements from Calvin Hampton's Five Dances: At the Ballet, featuring accompaniment in the hands and melody

in the pedals, and Those Americans, a piece with contrasting rhythm and calming passages.

For a modern touch, the program includes Anna Lapwood's arrangements of Michael Giacchino's "Test Drive" (How to Train Your Dragon) and Hans Zimmer's "Davy Jones" theme (Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest).

The concert will conclude with the Finale from Louis Vierne's Symphony No. 1, a grand, triumphant example of French symphonic organ writing.







JOIN US AFTER THE SERVICE FOR TOUCH-A-TRUCK + A PARISH SHRIMP BOIL \$10/MEAL - TRINITYSC.ORG/EVENTS 1100 SUMTER ST., COLUMBIA



JOIN US IN **WORSHIP!**

Sundays 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

11:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist*

4:00 p.m. Choral Evensong*

*livestream available at trinitysc.org/live

1100 SUMTER ST. COLUMBIA, SC



Join us for organ concerts this year!

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201

This season, we are delighted to introduce a new quarterly organ recital series, featuring our three-manual instrument built by Casavant Frères of Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec. This is an opportunity to hear repertoire of a larger scope and different context than that which you might encounter during a worship service, under the talented hands and feet of organists from around Columbia and further afield.

All concerts begin at 3:15 p.m. in the Cathedral and are free and open to the public. We invite you to stay after the recitals for our 4:00 p.m. Evensong service and reception.

- October 5, 2025: K\u00e4the Wright Kaufman, Associate Director of Music & Organist, Trinity Cathedral
- December 7, 2025: Paul Thomas, Director of Music & Organist, Trinity Cathedral
- February 1, 2026: Nicholas Quardokus, Canon Organist & Director of Music, Grace Church Cathedral, Charleston
- May 10, 2026: Lenora Morrow Jeffcoat, Concert Organist, Columbia



Lynne Davis October 12 | 3 PM

Though American by birth, Lynne Davis' career has been steeped in French music, culture, and style. Her career was launched by taking First Prize at the 1975 St. Albans International Organ Competition in England – the eighth organist to receive that honor since the competition's founding in 1962. Now a leading international concert artist and master teacher, she has performed in nearly every cathedral in France, numerous major cities throughout Europe, and from coast to coast in the United States. Her activities have included being a featured performer and lecturer at two national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, a member of Chartres, Dallas, St. Albans, Taraverdiev (Russia), and Montréal international organ competition juries, and giving master classes and lectures about French organ literature and its history.

Ms. Davis graduated with honors in organ performance from the University of Michigan where she studied with Robert Clark.

Shortly thereafter, she moved to France and for eight years she studied with Marie-Claire Alain. While there she also studied with Jean Langlais, Maurice and Marie-Madeleine Duruflé, André Fleury, Gaston Litaize, and Edouard Souberbielle and partook in classes with other European master organists.

Playing with precision and "le bon goût" (The Calgary Herald), Lynne Davis exhibits a "level of authority in playing French works that is virtually unmatched in this country." Her unique living, vast working experience, and lineage of study in France makes her an authority in all French organ repertoire and imbues marvelous refinement and joie de vivre to her performances.

Lynne Davis serves as Professor at Wichita State University and is currently Artist in Residence at the First Presbyterian Church in Wichita.

St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church

5220 Clemson Ave, Columbia, SC 29206



Lynne Davis is the Robert L. Town Distinguished Professor of Organ at Wichita State University. A former firstprize winner at the St. Alban's International Organ Competition in the UK, Professor Davis spent many years of her career living and teaching in France. Following the immense success of the American Alain Festival which she organized at Wichita State University in 2011 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jehan Alain, she was awarded as a French citizen the prestigious distinction of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture and Communication in 2012.

October 11, 2025 from 10:00 AM until Noon at the University of South Carolina School of Music – Recital Hall (2nd floor).

MASTERCLASS with LYNNE DAVIS

Luncheon to follow at St. Martins in the Fields Episcopal Church. To make reservations to attend the meal, please contact:

Ronnie Dale Wise, Music Director ronnie.wise@stmartinsinthefields.com

Those interested in playing (especially French repertoire), please contact:

Dr. Patrick Hawkins organos@gmail.com 803-404-3805 (cell)

Young Organist Update

Update on 2025 YOC winner, Alisdair Welty, from Cleveland, Ohio.

Congratulations to incoming CIM (Cleveland Institute of Organ) freshman, Alisdair Welty, on skillfully performing works of Alain, Albright, Bach, Duruflé, Price, and Vierne at his high school senior recital om August 1, 2025. Kudos on this wonderful milestone!

For the past three years, Ali has studied with Kelsey Berg, who serves as Instructor of Secondary Organ at CIM. Kelsey is the Assistant Organist and Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio where Alisdair performed his recital.

We look forward to welcoming you in the Fall, Ali!





Congratulations to

First UMC in Salisbury, NC and St. Michaels Catholic Church in Murrells Inlet, SC.

Both churches selected custom Rodgers Infinity 489 four manual organs to lead their music for worship.

RODGERS®



Both organs were installed with moving draw knobs, two-tone finishes, adjustable music racks and benches, rolling platforms, 97 stops, velocity keys boards and pedal boards, USB technology, and Rodgers' exclusive DS Core Direct-Streaming technology.

For more information on Rodgers, Johannus, Makin, Copeman & Hart organs or Ruffatti pipe organs contact: Al Murrell, Vice President 443.812.5999 | AMurrell@DafferOrgans.com | www.dafferorgans.com



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.





9/01 Rick Knight

9/03 Jackson Morton

9/09 Patrick Hawkins

9/14 Jackson Stone

9/18 English Morris

9/21 Brad Cunningham

9/22 Craig Coelho

9/25 Robert Neese

9/26 Susan Sturkie

2025 - 2026 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.

CAMDEN

Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church, 1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden, SC, seeks a part-time organist and/or pianist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service (9:00 a.m.) and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals, plus seasonal services. There is potential to add accompanying services for the 11:15 contemporary service. For additional information please e-mail Patty Bellus at admin@lsumc.net or see our website, https://lsumc.net/about-us/employment. Organ specifications may be found here: https://www.columbiaago.org/ColumbiaOrgans/Organs/LYTTLETONUMCSumter.pdf.

COLUMBIA

**Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, 6500 North Trenholm Road, seeks a part-time organist-accompanist. The applicant should also be well-versed as a pianist/accompanist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 (preceded by choir rehearsal at 9:15); Wednesday evening choir rehearsals at 7:00 pm; seasonal services; and wedding and funerals (with additional compensation). Instruments: Casavant pipe organ (installed in 2017) with 2 manuals and 25 ranks, and a Yamaha baby grand piano. Interested persons should submit resume and questions to Beth Mears, Director of Music via email: bethmears@flpc.org or hard copy submission: Dr. Elizabeth M. Mears/Forest Lake Presbyterian Church/6500 North Trenholm Road/29206.

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

Rehoboth Global Methodist Church, located at 6911 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC, is seeking a parttime pianist/choir director for weekly choir practice and Sunday morning worship and special seasonal services. Email resume to office@rehobothchurchsc.com and for more information.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Shandon, (2827 Wheat Street Columbia, South Carolina 29205 seeks an organist to play in our 8 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday services and accompany our Chancel Choir in Wednesday evening rehearsals. Our twenty-eight-rank, three-manual Teller pipe organ was rebuilt by Lincoln Pipe Organs in 2016. The Organist reports to the Director of Music, who has overall responsibility for the music program and choral direction. The church was founded in 1912 and has an average Sunday attendance of 240. Our Chancel Choir typically includes 15-20 church members and four choral scholars (staff singers). Other ensembles the organist may accompany include two children's choirs and a Requiem Choir. The church employs two clergy and a lay staff of six, with a budget of \$1 million. To apply, please resume and three references to the Rev. **Nicholas via parishadmin@stjohnscolumbia.org. More information about the position and the organ can be found at https://tinyurl.com/bd84w558.

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Columbia, a predominantly African American Anglo-Catholic parish, is seeking a ¼ time - part-time Organist and/or Organist and Choirmaster for its 10:00 a.m. Sunday masses. The Organ is a 2-manual Allen Renaissance Quantum, Acoustic Portrait, 58 stops. Choir Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:30pm (the day and time can be adjusted by the new organist). Job duties include leading congregational singing, accompanying and directing anthems, ensembles, and soloists at organ/piano. Also accompanies the Cantor in singing the psalms, and the Gospel Acclamation.

Special services include Epiphany Lenten Wednesdays, Holy Week, Ascension Day, Christmas Eve Mass, etc. The organist also plays for weddings and funerals per church policy. We seek someone with vision, imagination, creativity, flexibility; a self-motivator with the ability to teach and inspire our eightmember choir (four of whom are paid professional staff singers). The ability to work independently and in conjunction with the priest as well as an openness to versatility during special times of the Church year is a must. Hymns used come from *The Hymnal 1982*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, *II*, Wonder, *Love*, and Praise, and other liturgical resources that lend themselves to the appropriateness of the liturgy. Knowledge of the Anglican/Episcopal liturgy, classical solo and/or choral vocal pieces/works, and the literature and works of African American composers is highly desired but not required. Salary negotiable depending on experience and ability. Please submit Cover Letter and Resumé along with two or three references to fr.raphiell@gmail.com with the word Organist/Choirmaster in the subject line: You may also call the church office (803) 254-2327 to speak with the priest, Fr. Raphiell Ashford, for more information, or email me directly at the email address above if you have any questions regarding the position.

Shandon Presbyterian Church (USA) seeks a part time Chancel Choir Director. The Chancel Choir Director will develop and lead the chancel choir program at Shandon Presbyterian Church in a manner that supports, complements, and enhances the church's Worship and Music Ministry. This work will be completed in collaboration with the Director of Music and Media and Senior Pastor. Masters Degree (or higher) in choral conducting or similar; prior experience successfully leading high-level choral programs in a religious setting. Piano and/or organ competence is preferred but not required. Compensation is \$13,000 minimum. More information, including full position description is available at www.shandonpresbyterian.org/employment. To apply, submit resume and short cover letter to shandonpersonnel@gmail.com.

**Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1715 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC seeks a part-time pianist/accompanist and/or organist/accompanist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service (10:30 am) and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals (7:00 pm) plus seasonal services. Instruments: Zimmer pipe organ with 12 ranks of pipes and 12 general programmable pistons, and Yamaha baby grand piano. Interested persons please submit resume and questions to: music@westminsterpres.org

GARDEN CITY

Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church is seeking a talented and dedicated Organist/Pianist to join our vibrant and growing music ministry. This position involves playing both traditional hymns and liturgical music on the organ, as well as accompanying the choir and Contemporary Service group on piano. Responsibilities include:

- Playing for two Sunday morning services (one Contemporary, one Traditional)
- Accompanying the adult choir (Wednesday night rehearsals)
- Supporting the Contemporary service group (Thursday night rehearsals)
- Additional availability for funerals, weddings, and special seasonal services (e.g., Christmas, Lent) is highly desirable

The successful candidate will be musically versatile, collaborative, and committed to enhancing worship through music. This position reports to the Director of Music and works closely with clergy and volunteer musicians. To apply or learn more, please contact Jane Whithem, Personnel at janemjaws@gmail.com or Sean O'Malley, Director of Music at music.shepcluth@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 <a href="mailto:storage: storage: stor

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/

WEST COLUMBIA

Our Saviour Lutheran Church in West Columbia, SC, is seeking an organist to begin work in January 2026. The applicant must be accomplished in playing a pipe organ and other keyboard instruments. The church has a small 1974 Zimmer two-manual pipe organ. An electronic keyboard (Clavinova) is available for occasional services in the Chapel or Fellowship Hall. The applicant should be acquainted with the liturgy and hymns of the Lutheran Church and must be able to provide organ accompaniment for the liturgy and hymns, as well as preludes and postludes, at each Sunday Service and at special services during Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. The organist is also expected, if schedule allows, to provide organ music at funerals and weddings at the church.

The church has one service each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. It is a traditional service using the Evangelical Book of Worship (ELW). Average Sunday morning attendance is 40.

Salary is negotiable commensurate with training and experience. Please contact the church at 803-794-8180 or email the pastor at pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com.