

Principal Pipings

December 2020, Vol. 76, Issue 5



Dean's Message

Greetings of the Season, AGO Friends!

It's hard to believe that December is here. Wasn't it just a few weeks ago that we had our picnic at Walnut Hill Church to kick off the year, followed by our virtual theatre organ program and Jillian Gardner's wonderful recital at Christ the King? Your Executive Committee has more fun events planned for the rest of the year. Some of these will be virtual, like our Christmas Pipes member recital which will be coming to you later this month (watch your email!) We hope to be able to bring Pedals, Pipes and Pizza to young people in the community who are interested in finding out more about the King of Instruments. A choral and organ reading session will give you a chance to check out some new music. And we'll wrap up the year with recitals and programs sure to be of interest. Covid-19 continues to influence how we bring you these events, but your Executive Committee is creative in finding ways to adapt. And we will soon be starting to plan for 2021-22! So if you have ideas for programs that you'd like us to consider, please let any of your officers know. This is your chapter, and we want to make sure that your ideas are heard!

With the arrival of the holiday season, many of you are working overtime to prepare the best music possible for your congregations and audiences, whether in person or virtually. Through your efforts, you are fulfilling the mission of the Guild by enriching people's lives with your organ and choral music. Thank you, and Merry Christmas! See you in the New Year!

Jane

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Upcoming AGO Events

Your Executive Committee has come up with a terrific slate of chapter events which we hope we will be able to hold, particularly during this, our 75th anniversary year. Watch your upcoming chapter newsletters for updates on these and other area programs as we continue to cope with Covid-19 and its impact on the arts.

Week of Dec. 21 (or possibly sooner!)	VIRTUAL EVENT: Christmas Pipes Member Recital For more information please read the Announcement on the following page.
Friday, 02.05.21	<i>The Marcelo Giannini concert has been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.</i>
Saturday, 02.27.21 9:30am	Pedals, Pipes and Pizza Central Christian Church (DOC), Lexington
Saturday, 03.06.21 9:30am	Choral and Organ Reading Session First Christian Church (DOC), Winchester
Saturday, 04.17.21 12:00pm	Elizabeth George, Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development, AGO National Headquarters Location TBA
Friday, 05.21.21 7:00pm	Katie Minion Scheetz Recital Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

For inclusion in the newsletter calendar for local music events, please contact Lynn Vera at LynnVera@ymail.com by the 20th of the month prior to the publication date. Due to space limitations, events will be listed for the current and following month. You can find events beyond that timeframe on our website, www.agolexington.org.

Announcements

DECEMBER VIDEO EVENT: Christmas Pipes Member Recital

CHRISTMAS PIPES GOES VIRTUAL!

Our annual Christmas Pipes member recital was scheduled to be held at Southern Hills United Methodist Church on their new Randall Dyer organ. But due to the pandemic, the church is not currently hosting any outside groups. We have decided instead that it would be fun to do the recital virtually!

Eleven LexAGO members have submitted videos of themselves playing Christmas and holiday organ pieces at different locations in and around Lexington. Lynn Vera is assembling these individual videos into one full-length recital video. It will be available for viewing sometime on or before December 22. Watch your email for the link, and enjoy this beautiful music! Merry Christmas!

Requesting Your Input for the JANUARY FEATURE!

We originally did not have a program event scheduled for January. Instead we will have a special Feature in this newsletter, and we need your help!

As you reflect upon your projects, challenges and victories of 2020, please write a short summary paragraph and email it to Brian Hunt at bbhuntky@gmail.com. For example, did you learn a new skill during this lengthy time at home? Complete a long-delayed project? Did you make any permanent life changes? What was your biggest challenge in 2020? What were your most joyful moments? Is there anything else you'd like to share? Do you have a prayer or a message of hope for all of us for 2021?

As Governor Andy Beshear has stated so many times, "We will get through this together". Yes, we have so far, and we'll continue to do so. Thank you, Brian, for compiling our responses. We look forward to reading a big dose of inspiration that will help guide us back on course for the New Year.

Recital Cancellations at Campbellsville University and in Lexington

Due to the pandemic the remainder of the noon organ recitals for the 2020-2021 program year have been canceled. The February Marcelo Giannini recital at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Lexington has also been canceled.

Looking Ahead to January and Beyond

As we continue to slog our way through this time of Covid-19, we are faced with more cancellations of our scheduled programming. Having any sort of in-person gathering to celebrate making it through the Advent/Christmas season isn't possible because of current restrictions on these types of gatherings. We don't want to be responsible for spreading the virus! Our February recitalist Marcelo Giannini is unable to travel to the United States at this time, so his program has been cancelled. We have no idea if we will be able to hold our Pedals, Pipes and Pizza event for young people in late February. We will have to make a determination soon, though, because it takes time to get the word out to local piano teachers and recruit students for the event. So what do we do in the meantime? Your Executive Committee will be meeting soon to discuss possible virtual programming to fill in the gaps. We will keep you informed as plans progress, so watch your email for Lexington AGO updates. And thanks for your patience as we all navigate this uncharted territory.

A Note from Jillian Gardner

Dear Lexington AGO,
Thank you so much for hosting me for a recital last Friday! I greatly enjoyed the organ at Cathedral of Christ the King, meeting you all, and seeing your wonderful city. I hope to be back sometime soon!
Jillian Gardner



Member News

CONGRATULATIONS to Nancy Dunn, SPC

We are delighted to announce that **Nancy Dunn has successfully completed the Service Playing Exam!** Nancy took the exam in October at First Christian Church in Winchester where she serves as organist. Last month she received notice from AGO National Headquarters of her passing grade. Nancy has written a short piece elsewhere in this newsletter about her experience in preparing for the exam.

Will 2021 be the year that you decide to take the Service Playing Exam? A small group of Lexington AGO members have started working together on the requirements. Your chapter can help you by supplying a study guide and exam preparation materials. Just contact Education Committee Chair Bill Webber or Dean Jane Johnson for more information. Becoming certified would make a great New Year's resolution for 2021!



Carolyn Craig was one of three finalists in the **Poister Competition**. Chosen from the twenty-four entrants in the preliminary round, the finalists pre-recorded their programs for Zoom at different times, in different places, on different instruments, with different recording devices, so it was decided to not award prizes this year. Instead, the recordings were edited for the Zoom audience to view and decide upon a recipient of an Audience Prize. **Carolyn won the Audience Prize, worth \$1000.**

From Carolyn:

Friends! I am so honored to have won the Audience Prize of the Poister Competition yesterday evening. (1st, 2nd, 3rd were not awarded due to Covid.) THANK YOU all for your incredible support. I was touched and surprised by the many people from every chapter of my life who attended. You can't know how very grateful I am. Thank you.

This is one of those "I just wanna thank my mom" moments, but seriously, thanks to my parents who support all I do (to put it mildly), to my organ professors Martin Jean, Jon Laukvik, Chris Young, and John Brock, to my dear piano teachers Fay Adams and David Brunell, and to all those who've supported me and believed in me. I'm proud to have participated in this competition and could not have done it without so many wonderful people.

Thank you!

Congratulations, Carolyn!



Clif Cason has been hospitalized at St. Joe with Covid-19. He has double pneumonia, and is receiving a 5-day cycle of Remdesivir. Richard Sowers talked to him by phone and said Clif's spirits are high. Get well soon, Clif!!



*If you have any member news that you would like to report, please email it to
Jane Johnson: jhjohn@email.uky.edu*

The Service Playing Exam: Why You Should Take It Too

I have been participating in AGO off and on since I was a high school student in the 1970s in Fairmont, West Virginia. I did not major in music in college, so through the years as I played the organ here and there and off and on (I sound like a light switch!) I felt as though I really should take the Service Playing exam so I could be "legitimate." It was *really* easy to make up excuses why I did not have time to prepare, and so I kept putting it off. I was so good at putting it off that it ended up taking me 30+ years to finally get around to setting a date. I'm so glad I did! (I have Larry Sharp and his relentless encouragement to thank for this.)

The preparation for the exam was really enjoyable, and so was the afterglow. I have not played one single wrong note since the day I took the exam! (Actually that is a lie.) Honestly, I learned a lot; it was almost as good as having lessons again. For instance, by practicing a Vierne piece that had a lot of busy right-foot passages, I was able to train myself to use the swell expression pedal with my left foot, something I have always been too lazy to learn (but knew I should). When the time came for the exam, I was pretty terrified; but the experience was not NEARLY as bad as I imagined. Even the dreaded transposition didn't seem like a big deal - I chose an extremely easy hymn and only had to be prepared to play it in four keys, which I knew ahead of time. Wow. I can't believe I waited so long to take the exam. Don't wait like I did - do it NOW!

- Nancy Dunn



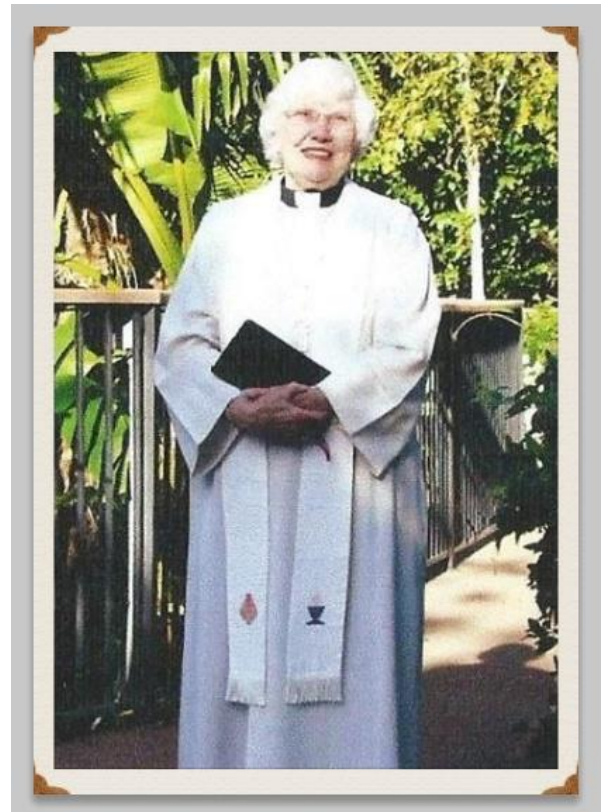
by Dr. Ted Gentry, Lexington AGO Chapter Historian

In 1954 the chapter discussed ways to recruit members from towns surrounding Lexington. That year all chapters in the nation were urged to participate in a national membership drive. As a result of those early initiatives, today our chapter enjoys the benefits of many valuable members from central Kentucky that don't live in Lexington. The annual dues of five dollars were split three ways. The chapter sent \$1.25 to national headquarters and \$1.75 for subscription to Diapason (this was before The American Organist was founded). Two dollars were retained by the chapter for local expenses.

In the mid-1950's the chapter minutes first mentioned several names that are familiar to many of us today. For example, at the meeting on October 8, 1957, **Betsy Steiner**, Membership Chairman, introduced Melvin Dickinson to the group. Betty Mahan and Arnold Blackburn were also mentioned in 1957 minutes.



All four of these individuals made valuable contributions to our chapter for decades, and 63 years later Betsy Steiner is still an active and important member.



The Rev. Betsy Steiner



A Virtual Concert Series for our 75th Anniversary Year

During this time of social isolation many of us are sorely missing live organ performances. Every month during our 75th Anniversary program year we'll present a set of video links of organ performances selected according to various themes. To watch the videos do a Ctrl + Click on each blue link.

~~ "Christmas" + "December Holidays" ~~

"A Christmas Fantasy for Organ" written and performed by **Jonathan Scott**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtJZV5iJ3ds>

"Stille Nacht (Silent Night)" arranged by **Virgil Fox**

Performed on the Macy's Center City Grand Court Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia;
a Philadelphia Brass recording

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5mLoq0LNqc>

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain" arranged and performed by **Richard Elliott**

at the Mormon Tabernacle

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_HdrywerGE

"The Twelve Keys of Christmas" arranged and performed by **Jonathan Moyer**

Performed on the E.M. / Aeolian Skinner / Holtkamp Organ at the Church of the Covenant,
Cleveland, Ohio

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_f0H0rIHMs

"Sleigh Ride" by **Leroy Anderson**

Performed by **Cameron Carpenter** on the Marshall & Ogletree organ at Middle Collegiate Church in New York City. The organ is Marshall & Ogletree's Opus 4 and was designed by Cameron Carpenter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvaJAJOi2ug>

January's themes are **"New Year"** and **"Hope"**. Please email your submissions for the January newsletter to Lynn Vera at LynnVera@ymail.com.

Concerts

GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral

December 2020



A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Online Presentation

Hear the story of Christmas
through Scripture and music

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:00pm

The Cathedral Choir



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on the Cathedral Choir, Great Music Series, and Friends of Cathedral Music.

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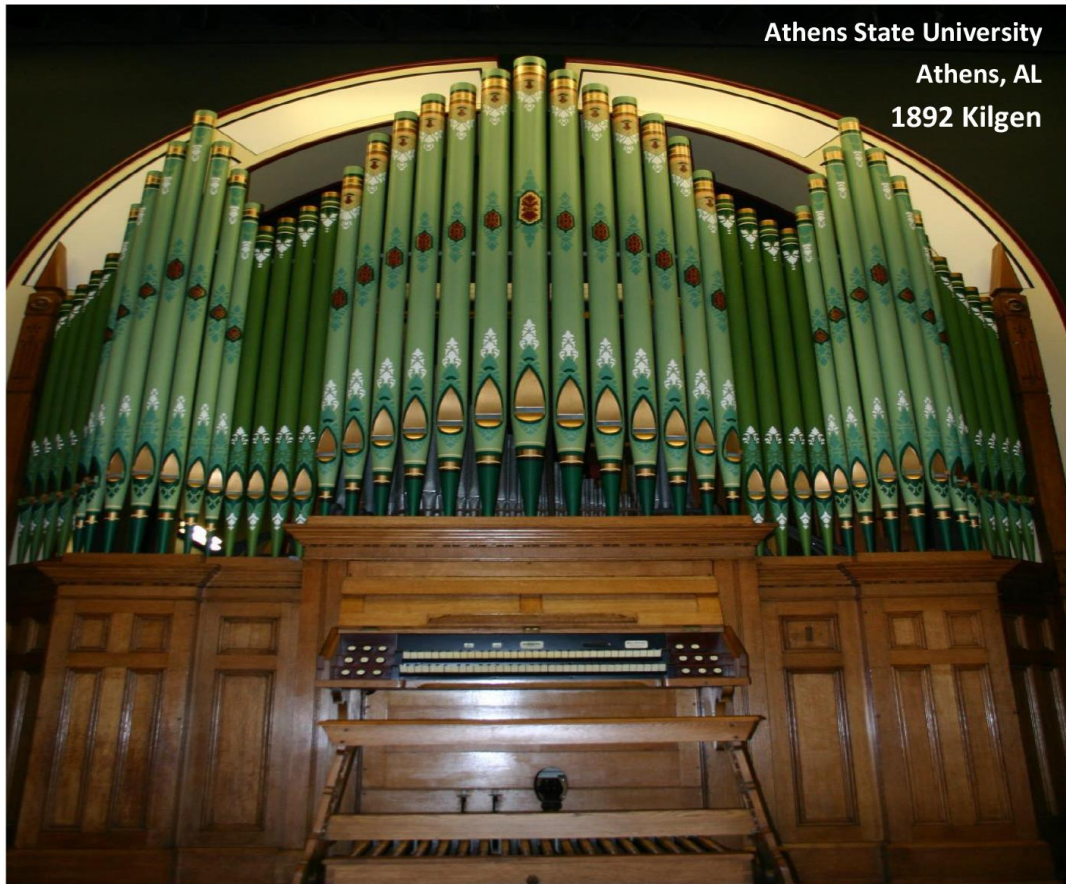
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GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral



Evensongs

Digital Presentations

Sunday, September 20, 2020

Sunday, October 11, 2020

All Souls Evensong

Sunday, November 1, 2020

4:00pm

The Cathedral Choir

Concerts

Digital Presentations

Sunday, October 18, 2020

4:00pm

Concert with Katharine Dain, soprano



Sunday, November 15, 2020

4:00pm

Organ Concert with Maxine Thévenot

The Cathedral of St. John

Albuquerque, New Mexico

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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Divertimento

During this challenging season of Covidtide we all need a chuckle now and then! Do you have a good one for the next newsletter? Please email it to Lynn Vera at LynnVera@ymail.com.

New arrangement of Advent favorite ...

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence'. It is written in 4/4 time and consists of six staves. The first staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics: 'Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence'. The remaining five staves (numbered 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21) are empty, indicating that the arrangement is for instruments that play a sustained note or are silent throughout the piece.