

# Principal Pipings

February 2021, Vol. 76, Issue 7



## Dean's Message

Hello AGO Friends,

I hope your New Year is off to a good start! There's just that pesky groundhog's prediction to deal with, and then we can look towards springtime!

As we enter into the season of Lent, we are delighted to be presenting a special Lenten organ recital that will be livestreamed for your enjoyment. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

If you haven't already contacted Lynn Vera with a piece that you'd like to play for our collaborative Easter Exultations video, please give it some thought and sign up by February 15<sup>th</sup>. You'll have until March 15<sup>th</sup> to give her your video. We look forward to hearing your joyful Easter music!

Your Executive Committee is beginning to collect information for potential 2021-22 programs. We welcome your input so if there's a recitalist you'd like to hear or a subject you'd like to have covered in a workshop, please let me know and we'll consider it as we make programming decisions for next year.

Think Spring!

Jane

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# Upcoming AGO Events

Your Executive Committee continues to come up with terrific chapter events during this, our 75th anniversary year, in the midst of a global pandemic! 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.

Saturday, 02.13.21 9:30am – 1pm EST	<p><b>Virtual February Flourish 2021</b> Sponsored by the St. Louis and Gateway Confluence Chapters of the AGO. (More information under “Announcements”, next page.)</p> <p>*** Our previously-scheduled February events have been canceled due to the pandemic: the <b>Marcelo Giannini</b> concert and <b>Pedals, Pipes and Pizza</b>. ***</p>
Thursday, 03.25.21 12:00pm	<p><b>NEW! Live Organ Recital Broadcast by Dr. Mattilda Middleton: “Music for the Feast of the Annunciation”</b> (More information under “Announcements”, next page.)</p>
March Virtual Event	<p><b>Portable Pipes: “Celtic Celebration”</b> (Deadline to submit: <b>February 15</b>. More information under “Announcements”.)</p>
April Virtual Event	<p><b>Multi-AGO Chapter Collaborative Video: “Easter Exultations”</b> (Deadline to sign up: <b>February 15</b>. More information under “Announcements”.)</p>
Saturday, 04.17.21 12:00pm	<p><b>Elizabeth George, Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development, AGO National Headquarters</b> Location TBA</p>
Friday, 05.21.21 7:00pm	<p><b>Katie Minion Scheetz Recital</b> Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington</p>

For inclusion in the newsletter calendar for local music events, please contact Lynn Vera at [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com) by the 20th of the month prior to the month of publication. Due to space limitations, events will be listed for the current and following month. Events beyond that timeframe can be found on our website: [www.agolexington.org](http://www.agolexington.org).

# Announcements

## ***FEBRUARY FLOURISH: A Virtual Church Music Conference!***

The **St. Louis Chapter of the AGO** has invited us to their virtual **February Flourish** on Saturday, February 13, 2021. This Virtual Church Music Conference promises to be an interesting and helpful experience for Church Musicians, Organists, Singers, Bell Ringers, and anyone who appreciates sacred music. The speakers for the five pre-recorded seminars have a great deal of valuable information to share. Those recordings will be made available for viewing on February 4; watching them before the live Zoom gatherings on the 13th is strongly encouraged.



The live Zoom discussions with the presenters on February 13 between 9:30 a.m. and 1pm (EST) will uplift and enlighten. Of course, there will be AGO news and happenings, some fine organ music to listen to, and even a few moments to chat on Zoom between sessions.

In order to make this event available to as many people as possible, the registration fee is just \$10. Registration is now open via Eventbrite at [www.eventbrite.com/e/february-flourish-tickets-128018317233](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/february-flourish-tickets-128018317233).

Updates and a registration link can be found on the Saint Louis Chapter website: <https://www.agostlouis.org/february-flourish/>

Their Facebook page is here: <https://www.facebook.com/agostlouis/>

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## **March Newsletter Event: a special “Celtic Celebration” edition of “Portable Pipes”! Deadline to submit: February 15, 2021**

YouTube and other music video websites have expanded to the point where there's almost nothing you can't find! Please submit a video link of your favorite Celtic piece to Lynn Vera for the March newsletter. It doesn't have to be organ music! These links will be featured in an expanded version of “Portable Pipes” in the March newsletter. If you can't find it, tell Lynn what you're looking for and she will search in more obscure websites. Her email address is [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com).

## **NEW!** Live Organ Recital Broadcast on March 25 at 12pm

Featuring music for the **Feast of the Annunciation**, including Magnificat settings by J.S. Bach and Marcel Dupré.

Played by **Dr. Mattilda Middleton** at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, on their 4-manual 2013 Goulding & Wood pipe organ.

The recital will be broadcast live online in the following three locations:

1. Facebook page of the AGO Lexington chapter: [www.facebook.com/AGOLexington/](http://www.facebook.com/AGOLexington/)
2. Good Shepherd's website: [www.GoodShepherdLex.org](http://www.GoodShepherdLex.org)
3. Good Shepherd's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLex](http://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLex)

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## **April Collaborative Event: “Easter Exultations” Video!**

Inspired by the recent national AGO Leadership Conference, this project has morphed from a virtual reading session into a **collaborative recital video with friends from other AGO Chapters!** As of this writing members from at least four other Chapters are taking part, and three videos have already been received!

Because most Easter services were virtual last year, you already might have a video to submit. Also, do you have friends in other Chapters who'd like to participate? Please spread the word! This project is quickly generating interest, so to reserve your spot on the program please email Lynn Vera ASAP at [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com). Your video can be organ and/or choral music, and anything appropriate for the Easter Season. The completed video will be similar in format to our [2020 Christmas Pipes member recital video](#).

**Deadline to sign up: February 15, 2021**

**Deadline to submit a video: March 15, 2021**

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## **January Contest Winner**

Less than ten minutes after the January newsletter went out, we had a winner! **Matthew West** of Lexington, a Chapter Friend, correctly responded: *“The organ is an Austin (1960) at Church of the Ascension in Frankfort, KY.”* -and, in a subsequent email- *“I grew up at Ascension in Frankfort and knew that façade immediately.”* Congratulations, Matthew! Enjoy your new organ mug! We look forward to seeing you at our next live event, whenever that will be.

# Member News

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We received this thank-you note from **Barbara Rogers**:

*Dear Jane,*

*Many thanks to you for your help with house-sitting today, and to LexAGO for the contribution in memory of Rich to the Nature Conservancy. Like you, he enjoyed watching birds.*

*Sincerely, Barbara*

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

***Did You Know.....***

## **The AGO has a YouTube Channel!**



There are well over one hundred videos on all different topics, including concerts, convention and conference presentations, leadership training, Master Series, Lessons for the New Organist, and more! Click on the following link to view the videos and become a Subscriber.

**[Official Video Channel of the AGO](#)**

## AGO CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS: Why They Matter

By William Webber, SPC, CAGO  
Chair, Education Committee  
Lexington Chapter AGO

I am excited to hear from our chapter Dean, Jane Johnson, that some of our members are considering certification exams for the **Service Playing Certificate (SPC)** and the **Colleague Certificate (CAGO)**.

Across our nation each year, organists of varying levels of skill in the AGO membership take the Service Playing Test. Obtaining this certificate shows employers (churches, synagogues, and other organ-related positions) that the organist has demonstrated proficiency at the organ console. A practical test, it highlights many of the required skills for playing the organ for a religious service, funeral, wedding, or civic ceremony.

My own journey with the AGO Examinations began after I had already been a church organist for several years. Having taken organ and voice lessons from middle school through high school at Georgetown College (Daniel Tilford, professor of organ), I had decided that my applied area in college would be voice. I served as a church organist and choir director during and after college, so I decided to take the Service Playing Test in my early thirties. I hired Gerard Faber, AAGO (former professor of organ at Asbury College and Dean of the Lexington Chapter 1974-1976) to prepare me for the exam. To my surprise, it was interesting and challenged me to return to my earlier training as an organist and to ditch some bad habits in hymn playing that I had developed over the years. There were also sections on basic transposition of hymns, organ literature from various periods that I revisited, accompanying psalms and choral anthems, and a short sight reading test. In the end, after studying with Mr. Faber for a few months, I was ready to take the Service Playing Test. I passed, and studied further with Mr. Faber for my CAGO certification exam the following year.

Gerard Faber, my instructor, was from Holland. His master's degree equivalent was not recognized in the United States by some colleges and universities. However, Asbury College did recognize his AAGO certification from the AGO as equivalent to at least a master's degree in organ, so he was able to teach there. So you can see that AGO certifications are indeed useful.

That brings us to the Colleague Certification exam (CAGO). Once an organist has passed the Service Playing Test or already has sufficient proficiency, the next step can be the Colleague exam. The CAGO examination is geared to demonstrating the skills of the professional church musician. Each section of the typical worship service is explored in this test; organ literature of moderate difficulty, accompanying a choir or a soloist, leading and accompanying congregational hymns, sight reading, transposing, harmonizing, and improvising. Mr. Faber had to work with me for several months in order to prepare me for this exam. Those of you with a college degree in organ should have no trouble passing this exam, but you will still need to prepare for the exam given the wide variety of skill sets involved.

Passing my two AGO certification exams made me realize that I wanted and needed further study as a church musician. This realization led to my graduate studies of sacred music in seminary. Over the years, I have heard from others who have taken AGO exams that they found them to be beneficial in their work and whetted their appetites for further study. It is my hope that it will be the same for some of you, the members of the Lexington AGO Chapter.

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## Helpful Resources on the National AGO website



Click on the following links to learn about the SPC and CAGO Certifications:

[AGO Service Playing Certification](#)

[AGO Colleague Certification](#)

[Professional Certification Requirements for 2021](#)

[Summary Chart of Requirements](#)

[General Information with videos and resources](#)



## by Dr. Ted Gentry, Lexington AGO Chapter Historian

By the late 1950s the Lexington Chapter had grown from 15 to 41 members, as reported by Betsy Steiner on September 8, 1959. To facilitate growth, in 1958 the chapter appointed area representatives for the purpose of recruiting new members from surrounding communities. Winchester, Georgetown, Paris, Frankfort, Danville, and Wilmore/Nicholasville had official representatives. Richmond, Versailles, and Mt. Sterling did not because there were no AGO members living in those towns.

In the fall of 1959, the chapter began exploring the possibility of hosting the 1963 AGO Regional Convention in Lexington. There was much enthusiasm for the idea expressed at the September meeting, and comments were made about the wealth of fine organs in the Lexington area. Apparently, the idea soon died because the 1963 convention was held in Columbus instead. As you know, the dream finally became a reality in 2011, nearly a half century later.



*Phyllis Jenness*

Of special historical interest, at the meeting on October 13, 1959, a new member was introduced who was on music faculty at UK. The legendary Phyllis Jenness joined the guild that semester. At that time she was also choir director at Everybody's Church in Lexington. Phyllis was a soloist at the chapter's Christmas meeting at Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church on December 8 in a program featuring Bach's Magnificat with Betty Mahan, organist, and Jean Marie Chrisman, choir director. Sadly, Ms. Jenness passed away less than a year ago on March 21, 2020.





## A Virtual Concert Series for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

During this time of social isolation many of us are sorely missing live organ performances. Every month during our 75<sup>th</sup> 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.

### ~~ "Love" ~~

An elegant processional on **"Can't Help Falling in Love"** by Elvis Presley  
arranged and played by **Martijn Koetsier**

Sampleset: Laurenskerk Rotterdam (NL), recorded & played with Hauptwerk Virtual Pipe Organ  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoeYkGBYF4o>

Improvisation on **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (BEECHER)**  
arranged and played by **John Hong** at Juilliard (2009)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vn3Z8Kegd0w>

**"Salut d'Amour (Love's Greeting Op.12)"** by Edward Elgar  
arranged and played by **Aubrey Tucker**

Sampleset: St. Michel en Thiérache organ by Sonus Paradisi, recorded & played with Hauptwerk  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bishPna7u7w>

**"The Gift of Love"** Improvisation by **Cathy Blanchard**

Rodgers Infinity Series 361 at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Hudson, FL  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QG-CLZAEROE>

**"Hyfrydol Happiness"** arranged and played by **Phil Lehenbauer**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il228nnV89Q>

March's theme is **"Celtic Celebration"** and it will be an expanded feature. Please email your submissions by **February 15** to Lynn Vera at [LynnVera@ymail.com](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com).

# Job Opening

## **CHURCH ORGANIST JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Settle Memorial United Methodist Church, Owensboro, Kentucky**

The organist is responsible for playing the organ (Moeller three-manual 33-rank pipe organ) for traditional Sunday morning services, other special services throughout the year, and weddings and funerals as needed. The church organist works under the direct supervision of the music director and reports to the music director, who reports to the lead pastor.

#### **Responsibilities**

- \* Play organ for traditional Sunday morning worship services.
- \* Accompany the Sanctuary Choir during Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning worship services.
- \* Rehearse with and accompany soloists and small ensembles as needed.
- \* Accompany Sanctuary Choir for seasonal programs/ composer weekends/ cantatas as needed.
- \* Play organ for weddings as requested by couples, for additional remuneration.
- \* Play organ for funerals as requested by survivors or funeral home, for additional remuneration.
- \* Work in conjunction with the music director to help coordinate service music.
- \* Maintain a regular schedule of organ practice, special studies, and self-improvement to be prepared for all services and rehearsals.
- \* Supervise use of the organ by any others (guest organists, etc.).
- \* Work with music director to ensure the care and upkeep to the pipe organ.

#### **Hours Per Week**

15 hours per week is expected.

#### **Vacation/ Absence**

The organist will be allowed to take off up to 8 weeks during the year. Three of those weeks will be considered paid vacation. It is understood that the organist will work the weeks preceding and including Christmas and Easter. Time off must be scheduled at least three weeks in advance, except for emergency situations. The organist will arrange for a substitute for absences.

## **Additional information:**

Settle has a long tradition of beautiful sacred and classical music. Besides weekly services, Settle also has a concert series, including an annual concert with the Owensboro Symphony. The music ministry also hosts a Living Composer Series. Recent composers who have come to Settle for weekend work with the choir include Mary McDonald, Lee and Susan Naus Dengler, Ruth Elaine Schram, Mark Cabaniss, and others. Settle is also blessed to have several music teachers and instrumentalists in the choir and congregation. Besides the pipe organ, the sanctuary also has a new Albert Weber grand piano and a one-manual harpsichord (8' and 4' stops.)

This is a permanent part-time position. Besides the church position, there are plentiful community opportunities for piano teaching and collaborative piano.

## **To apply:**

Please send vita and letter of application to: Dr. Diane Earle, Music Director, Settle Memorial United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1756 Owensboro, Kentucky 42302, or e-mail to: [sarah.settleumc@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.settleumc@gmail.com). A college music degree/s expected, preferably with organ or piano major/ concentration.

Position is expected to be filled by August 1, 2021, or earlier if possible. For additional information, contact Dr. Earle at 270-570-7575.



# Concerts

## GREAT MUSIC

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February 2021



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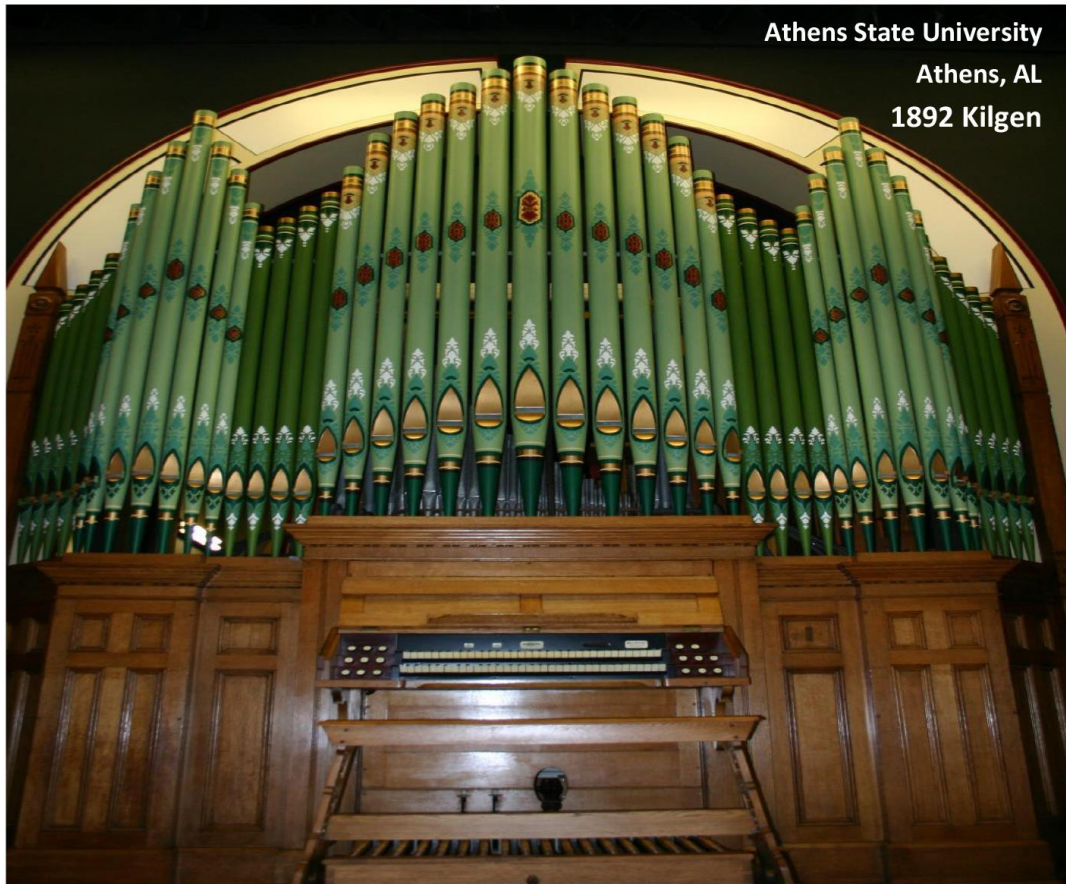
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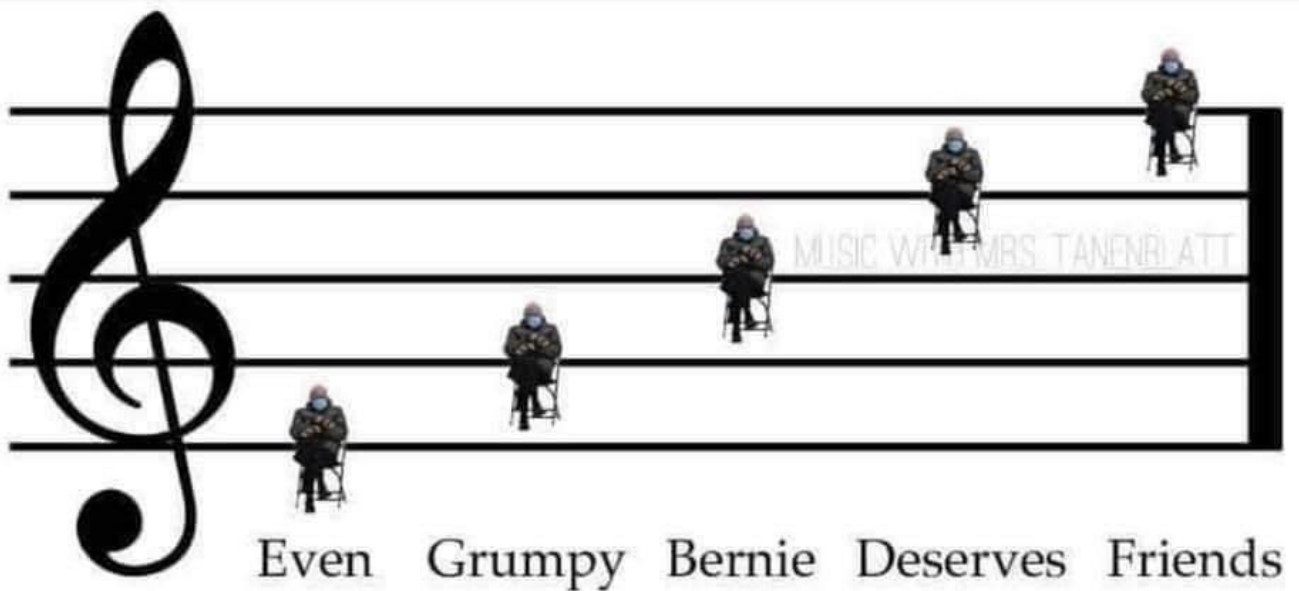
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# Divertimento

In recent weeks following the Presidential Inauguration, Bernie Sanders memes have been making the rounds in social media. Here is one for musicians!

## The newest in music instruction...



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](mailto:LynnVera@ymail.com).