

Principal Pipings

May 2021, Vol. 76, Issue 10



Dean's Message

Hello AGO Friends,

Wow—it seems like this year has gone by very quickly. We have managed to have some interesting and varied programming despite the pandemic, and we're not finished yet! As the CDC eases Covid-19 restrictions on outdoor gatherings, your Executive Committee has decided that we can meet in person for a picnic! You'll find all the details elsewhere in this newsletter. It will be great to be together again!

Looking forward, we are putting finishing touches on programs for next year. We have an assortment of recitals (some postponed from 2019 and 2020) as well as educational programming and a few traditional favorites like Christmas Pipes and some fun social activities. There will be something for everyone to enjoy, and hopefully the majority of them will be live and in-person! We will send all the details to you as soon as the calendar is finalized, so be watching for that coming to your email in-box this summer.

Also thinking ahead to next year, if your membership expires in June you should be receiving notification from AGO National to renew your membership via ONCARD. It's fast and easy, so when you receive the renewal notice please don't delay—renew today. Tell your organ-loving friends about AGO too. They can become a friend of Lexington AGO for only \$25/year.

As we finish this year, I want to give a huge shout-out to our Executive Committee. They have been invaluable with their expertise and excellent ideas as we looked for ways to reinvent our programming during Covid-tide. Many thanks to Zach Klobnak, who is finishing a three-year term as member-at-large. Huge thanks also to Scott Heydinger for his work in designing and maintaining our chapter website. And lastly, I know that we all owe our thanks to Lynn Vera who not only served as our newsletter editor this year but also initiated and brought to fruition our Christmas Pipes and Easter Exultations video productions and set up our chapter's YouTube channel. Lynn will be stepping down as newsletter editor after this issue, so if you are interested in serving your chapter by taking on this role next year please let me know.

It is an exciting time to be a member of Lexington AGO, and I am so happy to be serving as your dean for another year. I hope to see you at our picnic in June!

Jane

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Upcoming AGO Events

Your Executive Committee came 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 begin to schedule in-person events for the 2021-2022 program year.

| | |
|---|--|
| Saturday, 06.05.21 3:30 - 6pm | Picnic at Pisgah Presbyterian Church Details on page 5. See you there, IN PERSON! |
| Summer Virtual Event | LexAGO / BGATOS Collaborative Video: "Summer Lights" Details on page 4. Sign up now! |
| <p><i>For inclusion in the summer newsletter calendar for local music events, please contact Jane Johnson. 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.</i></p> | |

Announcements

Election Results

Election results are in and we are happy to announce that **Gwen Frazier** has been elected to serve as member-at-large for 2021-24!

Before returning to Lexington in September 2020, Gwen previously held dual AGO memberships in the Northern VA and Lexington chapters, having resided in Northern VA since late 1986. She holds Bachelor and Master degrees in Organ Performance from UK (studied with Schuyler Robinson and Arnold Blackburn) with postgraduate work, and has earned the AGO Service Playing and Colleague certificates. This year she served as co-chair of the Hospitality Committee. Gwen, welcome to the Executive Committee, and we look forward to finally meeting you in person!

Announcing the new Lexington Chapter AGO YouTube Channel!

Because there have been so many virtual events during this pandemic year, Lynn Vera created an official **Lexington Chapter AGO YouTube Channel** for easy access to our videos. **Now we need your help!** If we can get more than 100 Subscribers, after 30 days we'll be able to register a custom URL (URL = "Uniform Resource Locator", which is a unique address for every entity on the web). The custom URL will be a meaningful and easy-to-remember text string that will replace the random sequence of letters and numbers that we now have. Please visit the Lexington Chapter AGO YouTube Channel [HERE](#) and become a Subscriber. While you're there you can also view our **75th Anniversary Zoom celebration** with Elizabeth George and other National Officers that took place on April 17, 2021 and see the special certificate and letter that were presented to us. More videos will be uploaded in the coming weeks.



**Call for Video Submissions for “Summer Lights”,
a light-hearted collaborative concert video featuring members
of the Lexington Chapter AGO and Bluegrass Chapter ATOS!**



As we close out this 2020-2021 pandemic program year, we thought it would be fun to do a second video collaboration with our friends in BGATOS. Lynn Vera will produce a summer-themed video featuring contemporary “jazzy” arrangements of favorite hymns and non-liturgical music such as ragtime and marches.

Timeline and deadlines:

by May 14: sign up

by May 28: notify Lynn of your selection(s) – up to 3 per person

by June 28: submit your videos in ready-to-use format (your pieces only; not entire church services with talking and text overlays)

Lynn’s target date to publish the completed video is July 15. She might need a little extra time, depending upon when all videos are received.

Our “Easter Exultations” video was a great success and gave us a national audience! This virtual audience will also enjoy “Summer Lights”, and we encourage you to participate. If you need help recording your video(s), just ask. To sign up for this project please email Lynn Vera at LynnVera@ymail.com . Thank you.

Come Join Us for a Picnic and some FREE MUSIC!

Now that more people are being vaccinated we feel that it's safe to have a social activity to close out our program year. Anna Pan, organist at Pisgah Presbyterian Church, has arranged for us to picnic on the grounds at the church on **Saturday, June 5th, from 3:30 to 6 pm.** The church is located at 710 Pisgah Pike in Versailles; turn off Versailles Rd. at the Castle and follow the road just a little ways and the church will be on your right.

Six boxes of various organ scores from Priscilla Hepburn's estate have been donated to our chapter. We will have this music available in the parish hall for you to look through and take whatever you can use. The music will be set out by 3:30 pm, so you'll have plenty of time to browse before we eat around 5 pm. After we eat, we'll have a brief installation service for our new member-at-large, Gwen Frazier.

So mark your calendars now for June 5th — you won't want to miss this final gathering of the 20-21 program year. Bring your own food and drink, a chair, and a table if you desire. Covid-19 protocols will be observed while inside the parish hall, so don't forget to bring a mask. We are predicting beautiful weather, but in case of rain we will defer to our rain date of Saturday, June 19th.



Member News

If you have any member news (including virtual concerts!) that you would like to report, please email it to Jane Johnson: jhjohn@email.uky.edu

Congratulations to **Gabby Manion**, who recently passed the AGO Service Playing Exam! Elsewhere in this newsletter is a short article Gabby has written about her experiences in preparing for and taking the exam. If you've wondered about the AGO certification process, any of our members who are certified would be happy to get you started. Let us know how we can help you along the path to certification!

Bill Webber has recently completed the last of his recording sessions on the Robert Morton organ at The Carolina Theatre in Greensboro, NC. We are looking forward to Bill's new CD, which will be coming out soon.

Congratulations to **Grant Holcomb**, who is graduating from the University of Kentucky with a B.A. in Organ. Grant's senior recital featured works by Couperin, J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Mathias, Fauré, Vierne, Locklair and Gigout. For those who didn't get to watch when it premiered, [HERE](#) is the YouTube link to Grant's senior recital at Singletary Center for the Arts.

Central Christian Church is embarking on a long-awaited effort to renovate and enhance their 60-year-old Holtkamp organ. A video presentation about the need for and scope of the renovation and enhancement, featuring Director of Music **Michael Rintamaa** and student organist **Grant Holcomb**, may be viewed on [Central Christian's Facebook page](#) and YouTube channel.

New Acquisitions!

Larry Sharp has become the proud new owner of Priscilla Hepburn's two-manual, 4 rank Randall Dyer organ. This instrument was built in 1987 and was installed in Priscilla's home for about 30 years. With her death last fall, the family put it up for sale. We are so happy it has found a home in the region. Larry reports that it is wonderful to not have to beg for practice time at area churches.



Larry Sharp's Randall Dyer organ

Brian and Cathy Hunt have recently acquired a three-manual Allen digital theatre organ, which came from Alabama. An article about the organ and pictures of moving it to its new home in Lexington may be found on the next page.



Lynn Vera's Allen organ

Lynn Vera also has a new organ for her home studio: an ultra-compact Allen Historique I with 24 stops and four complete sound suites, including Theatre Organ. Lynn is enjoying being able to practice all different genres of organ music at home, especially during these months of social distancing.

From Brian Hunt: More About His 'House Organ' Acquisition!

As many of you know, I retired from full-time church music ministry in February 2020. One of my long-term goals in retirement is to become more proficient in the theater organ style of playing. This week, my goal is a huge step closer to being achieved! At an early March board meeting of the Bluegrass Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society I happened to mention that Cathy and I were thinking about acquiring an organ for home use - and I mentioned to them that we might be interested in purchasing the Bluegrass Chapter's Allen MDS III theater organ, that has been used for the past five years at the Kentucky Theatre - once the Wurlitzer pipe organ that the Chapter is still working on, has been reinstalled at the Kentucky.

Apparently, our interest in the Bluegrass Chapter's instrument was news to some of our board members - but Chapter President Tim Jones just mentally filed that comment away for future exploration. As it turned out, less than a month later a good friend of Tim's, Gary Jones (no relation), a member of the Birmingham AL chapter of ATOS, emailed Tim saying he had an Allen Theater organ come available and wondered if anyone in our chapter might be interested. Opportunity smiled on us! I had a pleasant chat with Gary and before we hung up, I had agreed to purchase this Allen MDS III theater organ! So... April 25, Tim Jones and I took off in his truck with a UHAUL trailer behind, and headed for Birmingham!

We had a lovely dinner visit with Gary Jones and his mom, then we loaded up the Allen to prepare a return trip to Lexington the next day. But the evening was not over! Gary is the house organist (and a fine one) at the amazing Alabama Theatre in downtown Birmingham. He took us for a late-night visit to the theater and let Tim and me play for an hour or so on the incredible 4 manual 32 rank 1927 Wurlitzer theater pipe organ. It was a magical experience! The organ fills up beautifully this palatial theater, with its seating for almost 2200!!! I highly recommend any of our members scour the [Alabama Theatre's website](#) and watch for future performances of nationally known theater organists. I promise, it will be worth making the trip! Needless to say, we had a LONG day - and night!



On Tuesday morning we got back on the road after a delicious breakfast at our motel. We had an uneventful trip home and arrived with plenty of daylight to unload the organ into our newly renovated basement family room. Another ATOS chapter member, Dana Ross, was able to come and give us a welcome third pair of hands and we carefully guided the organ parts and, finally, the console into the house. The organ console made it in - in no small part due to Brian & Cathy's daughter Sarah's boyfriend helping us - by removing the entire door frame - to allow the console to get into the house!! But we made it and you can see from the pictures that Brian and Cathy will have some fun for the future! Hopefully, post-pandemic, we can have small gatherings of folks over to enjoy our new purchase!!

Brian Hunt



AGO Certification



Congratulations to **Gabby Manion**, who recently passed the AGO Service Playing Exam! Here is a short article Gabby has written about her experiences in preparing for and taking the exam.

To learn more about this Certification, click [HERE!](#)

After a couple years of gentle nudges and encouragement from colleagues and mentors, it took a pandemic (and Jane Johnson's persistence) to convince me to prepare for the AGO Service Playing exam and I can now say I'm glad I did! As the pandemic has shifted and lifted some of the demands of my church job I've been handed one silver lining—lots of uninterrupted practice time. At the same time, I'm sure some of us can relate to a feeling of general malaise and lack of motivation during the past year. The Service Playing exam gave me plenty of motivation and a goal to work toward while so many other things have felt frustrating and stagnant. I would say the motivation factor and the opportunity to really evaluate my service playing and hymn playing were the most valuable aspects of preparing for the exam.

Perhaps some of you can relate, but I frankly didn't see the point of undertaking the Service Playing exam since what I thought what I do every weekend speaks for itself. Now I can say I'm grateful for the opportunity, the feedback, the affirmation, and the challenge. The exam also forced me to work on skills that I will carry with me into the future. Finally, my sage advice is to read the requirements carefully. Don't be like me and accidentally pick two pieces from the same grouping and then frantically have to learn a new piece the week of the exam. Ha! Thankfully it all worked out in the end. Happy playing!

Gabby Manion



by Dr. Ted Gentry, Lexington AGO Chapter Historian

During the 1960s, the Lexington AGO chapter continued to host or cohost well known musicians, often in collaboration with one of the area colleges or churches. On May 13, 1965, Leo Sowerby was a guest speaker for a program at Christ Church, and in February 1964, Austin Lovelace, author of such classic reference books on church music as "Music and Worship in the Church" and "The Gospel and Hymns," lectured at Central Christian Church.

Since its inception, the AGO has served an educational mission in addition to performance and liturgical functions. The organization has supported young organ scholars in a variety of ways, including reduced membership fees and student recitals. On November 10, 1964, our chapter presented a student recital at Maxwell Street Presbyterian that featured two young organists that went on to enjoy church music careers in central Kentucky as well as exemplary service to the AGO chapter for decades. UK student Tim Oliver played Buxtehude's Prelude and Fugue in D, while Asbury student Richard Dwyer played Bach's St. Anne Fugue. Tim passed away in 2009, but Richard is still an active guild member and church organist, currently serving at Liberty Road Faith Fellowship.

Maxwell Street was particularly fitting for these baroque works as the church had recently installed its Rieger organ. At the April 1963 chapter meeting, Jean Marie Chrisman announced that the Rieger would be shipped from Amsterdam on April 12. Installed a few months later, the organ was dedicated on Tuesday, October 15, 1963, with a recital played by Wyatt Insko. At that time Betty Mahan was the church organist, but several area musicians have served as organist since, including Priscilla Hepburn, Loren and Dorothy Tice, Mary Anna Stepp, and Clif Cason.





A Virtual Concert Series for our 75th Anniversary Year

During this time of social isolation many of us have sorely missed live performances. Every month during our 75th Anniversary program year Lynn Vera presented a set of video links of performances selected according to various themes. This is her final Portable Pipes "concert". To watch the videos click on the underlined blue links.

~~~ "Mary" and "Pentecost" ~~~

"Ave Maria" by Vladimir Vavilov / Giulio Caccini

Performed by **Krzysztof Laskowski**, flugelhorn and **Tomasz Kalisz**, organist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6t87hjK5xww>

"Ave Maria (Méditation on Bach's First Prelude)" by Charles-François Gounod

Arranged for Piano and Organ by Jonathan Scott

Performed by the **Scott Brothers Duo** at Lancaster Priory, UK

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

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" by Joe Utterback

Performed by **Robert Hovencamp** at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church in San Marino, California

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvqItkUk64E>

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit" Trad. Spiritual

Arranged and performed by **Marianne Kim** at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3loXErDIJk>

Improvisation on "Veni creator spiritus"

Performed by **James Kennerley** on the Aeolian-Skinner at
The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Times Square, New York City

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7IPp9jdsWg>

Job Opening

Organist/Choirmaster (Part-time)

St. Raphael Episcopal Church

Lexington, KY

Responsibilities include:

- 1) Provide organ music for weekly 11:00 a.m. Sunday services, as well as Christmas Eve services, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services.
- 2) Conduct weekly 1 ½ hour choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings (summer excluded) and Sunday morning warm-ups at 10:00. The choir includes congregational members and four choir scholars/staff singers. During summer months, the choirmaster recruits cantors to lead the singing.
- 3) Select music appropriate to the lectionary readings and liturgical season for each service; provide a list of all music to the Rector in advance of the service, for inclusion in the bulletin. Applicants should have familiarity with the Anglican/Episcopal tradition of music as well as a diversity of historical and cultural styles.

The Organist/Choirmaster is directly responsible to the Rector. Salary is negotiable, depending on education and/or experience. The position will be open mid-August. Please send resume to:

The Rev. Dr. Helen Van Koevering
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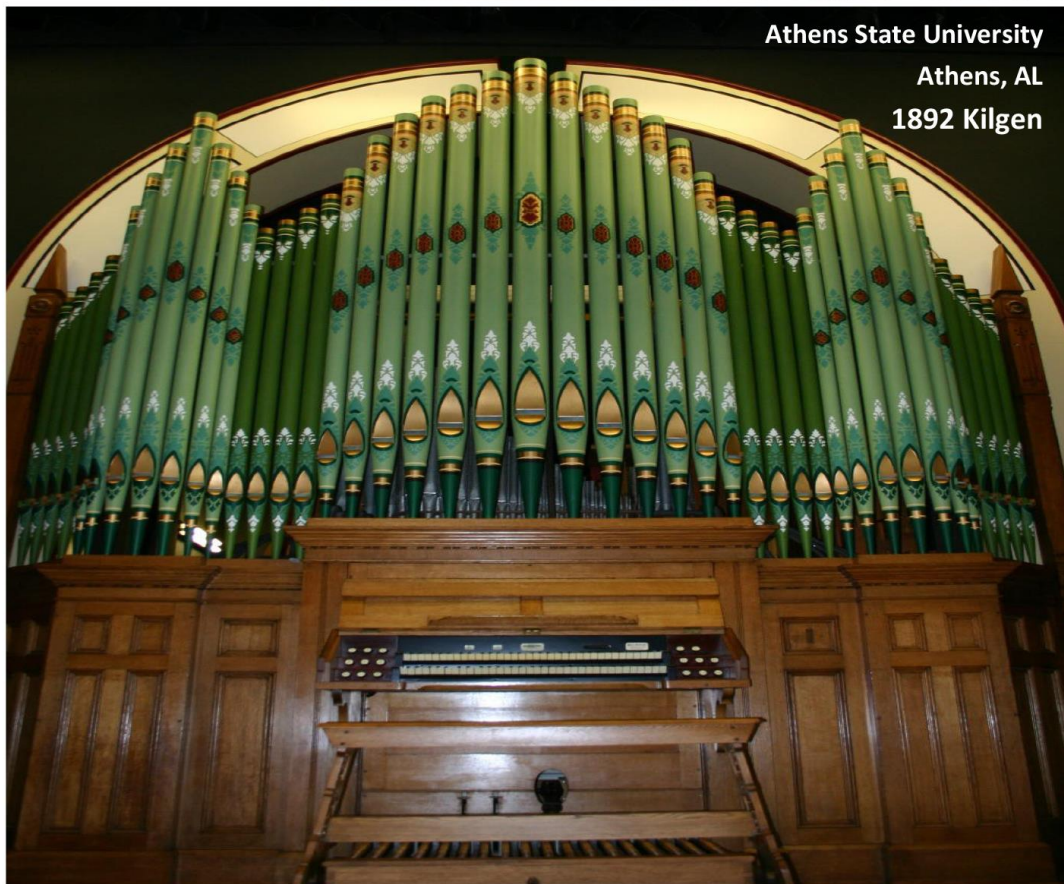
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meditation and for
information on the
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Divertimento

During this challenging season of Covidtide we all need a chuckle now and then! Lynn Vera has enjoyed sharing with you these bits of humor selected from several music groups on Facebook.

I'm not a robot 

Select all images where if you were to add a decrescendo it would add to the musicality of the piece without being interpreted as an overly heavy-handed metaphor within the context of the thematic material.



   [Verify](#)