



CNCC NEWSLETTER

Oldest Chapter in the Carolinas

Chartered November 23, 1922

Central North Carolina Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Raleigh, North Carolina

October 2024

The Dean's Column

Friends,

Fall is always an exciting time of year! The sound of Christmas music is in the air as we begin to look for new and exciting music, or maybe it's the old familiar joy of reacquainting ourselves with our favorites from years gone by. Or maybe you just received the stack of cantata music that needs learning... but find yourself unmotivated because "Christmas can't really be that close yet." Haha, well, yes, Fall is here, and quickly after that, it's Christmas! While it can feel like a long season for musicians, we are also so quickly reminded through the beautiful music of Advent and Christmas the power of music and how it has so deeply changed our lives.

For me, growing up in a church without an organ and in a family that thought "organs only belong in a funeral home," it was at a Christmas concert that I was first introduced to the organ. I still remember that concert, and all these years later I still remember the organist playing "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus". Needless to say, that experience had quite a profound impact on my life. I went on to drag my parents from organ concert to organ concert while they usually slept or stared at the ceiling in sheer agony as I immensely enjoyed the music from an instrument they said "only belonged in a funeral home." Later it was through an AGO scholarship that I had the opportunity to begin my studies on the organ.

Well, all that to say, if that organist had decided not to take on that extra concert, my introduction to the organ may have looked different or may not have happened until many years later. Yes, the Christmas season can be exhausting (and it often will be), but it's one of the most special times for us to share the beautiful joy we have found in music with the world.

As we begin this busy season together, let us not forget the impact this special season will have on someone's life. As one friend put it, "Someone is hearing this music for the first time, and someone is hearing it for their last. Let's do it well". Now, I certainly hope it's not someone's last Christmas, but I agree, let's do it well!

Thank you all so much for all the excellent work each of you do! If you ever have questions or thoughts, or if I can help in any way, don't hesitate to let me know!

Thanks,

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IN THIS ISSUE

Chapter Communications.....	2
Preludes, Pastries, and Postludes.....	3
New Members.....	4
Pump Organ Available.....	5
Cooper-Miller Celebration.....	6
Chapter Events Calendar.....	7
Laura Ellis in Recital.....	8
Duke Events.....	9
Available Positions.....	10



The Chapter is very grateful for the generous contributions to the **Chapter Operating Fund** and especially to

Eddie Abernathy for contributing to the **Cooper Miller Scholarship Fund**



CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter published monthly by the Central North Carolina Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Submission Deadline: 24th of preceding month. Submit items by email (preferred), phone, or mail to the Newsletter Editor.

You can also find us on Facebook, thanks to Lyn Francisco's administration:

<https://www.facebook.com/cnccago/>



Chapter Event

Preludes, Postludes, and Pastries

October 19th, 10 am-12 pm
Hayes Barton Baptist Church
1800 Glenwood Ave, Raleigh, NC

AGO members and non-members are welcome!

This is a time to connect, reconnect, and share pastries and coffee along with some of the resources that we have found helpful in our musical work. Feel free to share a piece or two on either organ or piano. Also, if you simply want to attend and not play, that is completely fine!

Please RSVP to Lee Harris (pichpipe45@gmail.com) or John Massenburg (jmj777@att.net) so we have an accurate head count and also know who is planning to share a piece!

Image: <https://creazilla.com/media/digital-illustration/1656926/muffin-cake-bun>



Betty Fuller

Betty Fuller is a retired public school music educator and church choir director. She taught general music for grades K-8, was the Choral Director at Sanderson High School, Raleigh and served both First Presbyterian and Westminster Presbyterian in Raleigh as Director of Music. She is a classically trained pianist having studied piano since age 7.

Her love for choral music began at age 4 singing in the church children's choir under Dr. John Laverty in Durham, and while in high school, she studied voice with Dr. John Hanks at Duke. Betty grew up in Durham and rarely missed an organ concert at Duke Chapel. She studied organ for one year with Dr. Nelson Adams at The Brevard Music Center.

Betty graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from UNC-CH where she sang in the Carolina Choir. She received her Masters in Music Education with emphasis in secondary choral music from the University of Georgia, Athens.

One Sunday at FPC, Betty ended up having to play the organ for worship when no substitute was available for that summer Sunday. She had not been at the console since her one year of pipe organ lessons at Brevard, so the church organist made it as easy as possible setting the stops for the congregational hymns. She learned very quickly that one cannot have the crescendo pedal on when playing the chimes! Everyone started laughing at the end of the service wanting to know if the chimes were broken! The church service was televised live on WRAL-TV and TV congregants wrote in and called for days wanting to know if the church sound system could keep the truck horns from blaring at the end of the service! What an unforgettable musical memory mishap!

Following FPC, Raleigh, Betty went to work full time as a Retirement Counselor at the Dept. of State Treasurer. It was during that time that the expected 3-month part time position as church choir director at Westminster Presbyterian lasted 17 years! After 32 years of school and church choir work, she has retired from active duty.

In retirement years, Betty enjoys singing in the Chancel Choir at Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh. She will play in the Handbell Choir this coming season, and she has served as one of the 7 pianists who played in the Festival of Keyboard Concerts held at HBBC. She has enjoyed being an At Large Member on the Board for the Lamar Stringfield Music Institute that provides children with orchestra and chamber music opportunities.

Betty is grateful for the wonderful organists she has worked with in church choir director positions and is looking forward to being a member of the AGO. She subs as pianist in other churches when needed. One of the fringe benefits of being a choral director is the lasting friendships made over the years from school and church musical experiences.



Gail Hrobuchak

Greetings Central NC Chapter of the AGO.

I relocated to the Triangle area with my husband in June. He had wanted to return to NC after being stationed here while serving in the USAF. Once we learned that our oldest daughter was relocating to Durham, we decided to make the move. We have another daughter who lives in Brooklyn, NY, so we are grateful she can take a short flight to RDU!

I hold a BA in Music-Voice and an MEd in Counselor Education-Rehabilitation Counseling, both from Penn State. I came to the organ as a pianist and vocalist, having studied organ for year while at Penn State and then returning to lessons again in 2016. I took a gap to raise our daughters and shepherd them to their own music lessons!

In 2019, I began work as Director of Music at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Linglestown, PA-a suburb of Harrisburg. Prior to relocating to NC, I was hired as the Music Director at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Garner, NC. I began my position there in June.

I also worked as a counselor for over 30 years, most recently for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Harrisburg, PA. It has been a gift to have two rewarding careers-that are really just two different forms of communication!

In August, 2021 I attended the AGO POE+ week in Richmond, VA. I describe it as a combination of band camp and church camp-and I came away with many useful tools. And one of the best parts of the week-I was also paired to travel with none other than Tamara Lewis!

I enjoyed my involvement with an active Harrisburg, PA AGO chapter. They are a talented, lively and fun group of people. Most recently, I was part of a committee working to grow membership. The Harrisburg Chapter is now committed to hosting a POE event in 2025.

Thank you for your warm welcome-as I heard from Tanner within hours of reaching out! I look forward to getting to know all of you!

Pump Organ Available

Leah Beeson writes:

I am trying to find a new home for my grandmother's organ located in Raleigh in my parents' home. My father passed away last year and my step mother is moving soon to a smaller place and will not have room. I

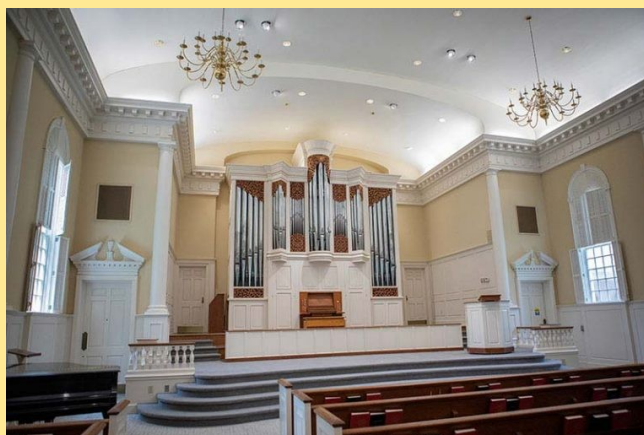
It is a Wilcox & White pump organ. This company existed from approximately 1890-1920. The organ works and is in beautiful condition as it was repaired to working condition in the last 5-10 years. Please feel free to reach out to me via email at leah@davidbeeson.com or 847-502-2452.



Save the Date: Chapter Event



Cooper-Miller Celebration Recital



Saturday, November 9

2:00 pm

Jones Chapel

Meredith College

Come celebrate the progress of five
Cooper-Miller Scholarship Winners
and see how far they have come!

The recital will be followed by open console time for all young
(and young at heart) organists on the
Andover Organ Company Opus 91 tracker organ, installed in 1983.



Central North Carolina AGO Chapter Events 2024-2025

Saturday, October 19

Preludes, Postludes and Pastries

Hayes Barton Baptist Church (1800 Glenwood Ave.)

See flier in this issue.

Contact John Massenburg for more information at jmj777@att.net.

Saturday, November 9

Cooper-Miller Celebration Recital

Jones Chapel on the Meredith College campus

See flier in this issue.

Contact Lorraine Magnuson for more information at raineymag@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 25

"The Art of Hymn Playing and Organ Registration"

Dr. Timothy Olson presenter

Details to follow

Saturday, February 8

Cooper-Miller Scholarship Competition

Details to follow

Contact Lorraine Magnuson for more information at raineymag@gmail.com.

Quimby Competition Auditions

Details to follow



LAURA ELLIS in Recital

Sunday October 13th at 5 pm.

North Raleigh United Methodist Church
(8501 Honeycutt Rd, Raleigh)

Reception to follow

Laura Ellis is Professor of Organ and Carillon and Associate Director of the School of Music at the University of Florida. She teaches courses in Sacred Music and applied lessons in organ, harpsichord, and carillon. Her research profile falls into two areas: organ performance & carillon performance. While not the sole focus, much of her research and performing includes representation of women composers.



Her carillon recital schedule has taken her across the US, Canada, Australia, and Europe. She recently released “Jubilant Bells: Carillon Music of Alice Gomez” which was recorded on the 48-bell carillon at Central Christian Church in San Antonio. In the past year, she has presented carillon recitals throughout the Northeast and Midwest, including such prestigious venues as the University of Chicago, Indiana University, Princeton University, Longwood Gardens (Philadelphia), Bok Tower Gardens (Lake Wales, FL), and Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge, PA. She served as president of The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA) from 2021-2023.

Her double album “Music for the Testaments Old and New” was recorded on the Andrew Anderson Memorial pipe organ housed in UF’s University Auditorium. Accolades for this recording include “plays brilliantly” and performs “with insight and expressive control.” The album features organ compositions which depict or “bring to life” scripture, liturgical actions, and sacred actions. Her March 2024 faculty organ recital included three thematic elements: 1. “The Journey from Lent to Easter” (including a performance of Anguished American Easter, 1968, a work dedicated to the memory of Martin Luther King & composed by African American Thomas H. Kerr); 2. “Songs of Inspiration” (including selections composed by African American composers and featuring a setting of “Lift Every Voice and Sing”); and 3. “Prayers for Our Time” for our fractured world.

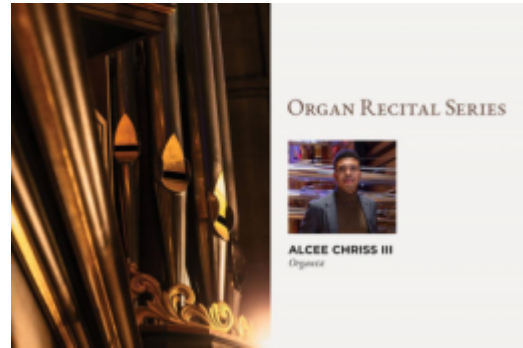
Ellis is in the planning stages for the 2025 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Andrew Anderson Memorial Organ housed in the University Auditorium. During this celebration, she will recreate one of the concert programs of UF’s first organ professor, Claude Murphree.

Additional research includes an organ CD project centered on the concept of “sacred space” and continued documentation of the American recital tours of French female organ virtuoso and composer Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968). Her well-known recording “Legacy: Laura Ellis Plays the Works of Jeanne Demessieux” was produced by ProOrgano and has been recently made available on multiple digital platforms.

EVENTS AT DUKE CHAPEL

Alcee Chriss III

October 6
5:00 pm



Alcee Chriss III opens this season's organ recital series on the Aeolian organ with music by J. S. Bach, Elgar, Litaize, and Rachmaninoff. Dr. Chriss is currently Assistant Organist at Trinity Church Wall Street, New York City, as well as University Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Wesleyan University. Winner of the 2017 Canadian International Organ Competition, he was featured in the PBS documentary *Pipe Dreams* (2019), and he appeared at the 2022 national convention of the American Guild of Organists. A review of his most recent solo recording, *Art et Rhapsodie*, stated that "he plays with clarity, imagination, musicality, virtuosity, and yes, personality" (American Record Guide).

Family Weekend Showcase Concert October 19 at 7:00 pm

The Duke Music community is excited to celebrate Duke's Centennial and the 50th Anniversary of Biddle with a special collaborative performance during Family Weekend. Join us on October 19 at 7:00 PM for an evening featuring the remarkable talents of our diverse student body in ensembles. Tickets are required and can be obtained at tickets.duke.edu.

The concert will open with J.S. Bach's BWV 191, movement 1, performed by the Duke Chorale and students from Chamber Music at Duke. Following this, the Duke Wind Symphony and Duke Opera Theater will present selections from opera. Additionally, Aaron Copland's *The Promise of Living* and Eric Whitacre's *Sleep* will be performed by the Duke Wind Symphony in collaboration with the Duke Chorale.

In the second half of the program, the Duke Symphony Orchestra will present Stephen Jaffe's *Cut Time*. The evening will conclude with Ludwig van Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, featuring pianist Ieva Jokubaviciute and vocal soloists Abigail Pickens, Faye Hardek, Lauren Strauch, Korland Simmons (alumnus), and Ted Federle (faculty), along with the Duke Chorale and Duke Symphony Orchestra.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) provides a professional opportunities service to its members by sharing information about Positions Available. This includes both permanent “open benches” and also one-time “substitute dates.” The Guild cannot endorse or recommend any person for a job or substitute date. Membership in the AGO is open to all who pay dues, regardless of education, experience, ability and/or skills. The AGO Professional Relations Director passes along information, which may include salaries offered by institutions and specifics about jobs/dates, as information is received from an institution. AGO members are encouraged to negotiate salaries and explore options with each offered position. The Central North Carolina Chapter, AGO does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of material provided for these listings, nor does inclusion of information in the listings imply endorsement by the chapter.

It has come to the attention of the Professional Relations Director that we have churches that do not understand that resumes are for the purview of the appropriate search committee. If confidentiality is critical to you, please make it clear in your cover letter that this is a requirement for you, at least in the initial stages of inquiry and dialogue.

If you are seeking a supply organist, the fastest method is to contact the Professional Relations Director with all the pertinent information. When sent to all members by email, many requests are filled within one hour. This method has saved a lot of time otherwise spent in calling an ever-changing list of names. Contact information is listed below.

If you are aware that a church/synagogue position is becoming available, (i.e., you are making a change), please advise the Professional Relations Director as soon as possible for listing and distribution. Contact:

Elizabeth Goldstein-Epstein
3700 Baron Cooper Pass, #307
Raleigh, NC 27612
(C) 941-928-0176
elizabethgoldstein@yahoo.com

The Professional Relations Director will neither recommend anyone for a position nor serve as an agent for any member. The Professional Relations Director is always available to members and to hiring institutions for the purpose of answering questions.