



# CNCC NEWSLETTER

*Oldest Chapter in the Carolinas*

*Chartered November 23, 1922*

Central North Carolina Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Raleigh, North Carolina

December 2024

## Dean's Letter

Friends,

It's hard to believe that Advent is here and Christmas is right behind it! This year seems to have gone by so quickly, but as we enter into this season, I hope we can all find the opportunity to slow down and enjoy the still and quiet beauty of the Christmas season!

As 2024 comes to a close and I consider the past few months as Dean, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities I've had to get to know many of you and hear about your musical journey! Seeing many of you at our fall events has been so encouraging, and it reminds me of how grateful I am to be a part of this chapter with you all!

I also think back to our recent Cooper-Miller and Andersen Scholarship recital at Meredith College, where we were inspired to see the next generation of organists who have quickly become artists in their own right. The Cooper-Miller Scholarship was established in 2008, when our chapter leadership reflected on the heritage we have been given to steward and, in response, made a commitment to invest in the next generation. Since then, the Cooper-Miller scholarship has provided funding to over 25 students for their pre-college musical education. As an additional commitment to the next generation, the Andersen scholarship was established in 2020 to support organists as they begin their college education. These scholarships have quickly become a hallmark of our chapter.

As we continue to build on our commitment to investing in the next generation, we are excited to announce a special concert entitled A Festival of Piano and Organ Duets on February 22nd, 2025, at 3 pm to highlight and benefit our scholarship programs and once again invest in the future of young organists. AGO members and their friends are invited to present a piano and organ duet. If you don't have a duet partner in mind, we can also help pair you with another duo partner. If you are interested in participating in this event, email John Massenburg (jmj777@att.net) to indicate your interest. This performance will be open to the public, and we hope you will be able to join us and invite your friends to attend!

As the year draws to a close, I am once again grateful for your partnership and support of the AGO. We are fortunate to have such a vibrant chapter, which is directly because of each of you and the many ways you share your gifts through this music we all love!

Merry Christmas and I will see you next year!

Tanner Winchester

919-900-0630

tanner.winchester@gmail.com

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The Chapter is very grateful for the generous  
contribution to the  
**Cooper Miller Scholarship Fund**  
by **Tanner Winchester**



## CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

*Newsletter* published monthly by the Central North Carolina Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Submission Deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> 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



*The Central NC Chapter of the  
AGO presents*



***“The Art of Hymn Playing  
and Registration”***  
by Dr. Timothy Olsen



**Saturday, January 24**

General Session 10:00 am until noon

Master class: 1:30 pm until 3:30 pm

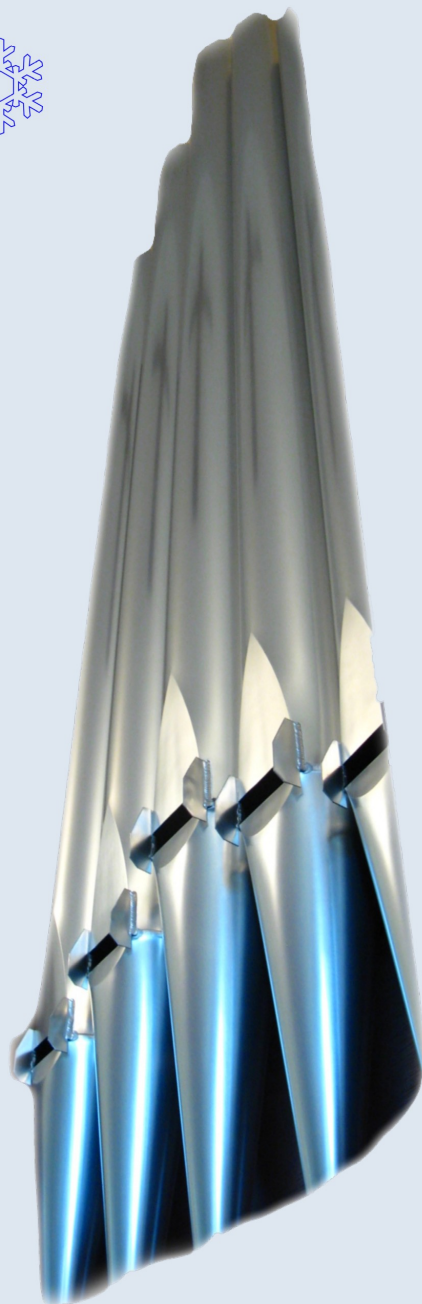
at Edenton Street UMC

(228 W Edenton St, Raleigh)

Whether you are a veteran organist or simply looking for new ideas, you won't want to miss this creative workshop with Dr. Timothy Olsen. Following the morning session and lunch together, we will regather for a masterclass open to all levels with Dr. Olsen. To RSVP to attend or participate in the masterclass, please email John Massenburg ([jmj777@att.net](mailto:jmj777@att.net)).



**Dr. Timothy Olsen** is the Kenan Professor of Organ at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Associate Professor of Organ at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Dr. Olsen also serves as Cantor at Augsburg Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem, where he oversees the music staff, directs the adult choirs, and plays for services.



## *Meet the Clinician...*



**TIMOTHY OLSEN**

Timothy Olsen serves a joint faculty position as Kenan Associate Professor of Organ at UNCSA and Associate Professor of Organ at Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC. He also serves as Cantor (Organist/Music Director) at Augsburg Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem where he oversees a thriving music program.

As a recitalist, Dr. Olsen performs solo organ recitals, as well as trumpet/organ duo recitals with Judith Saxton. He also frequently presents masterclasses and workshops for universities and chapters of the American Guild of Organists, and has been a featured artist at AGO Region conventions as recitalist and workshop presenter.

Dr. Olsen holds degrees from Concordia College (Moorhead, MN) and the Eastman School of Music (MM and DMA). Past faculty positions include Ithaca College and Oklahoma City University, as well as sabbatical replacements at Cornell University and Binghamton University.

Dr. Olsen was the first-prize winner of the 2002 AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP). He has recorded compact discs on the NAXOS and Raven labels (including works recorded for the first time), and has been featured multiple times on American Public Media's Pipedreams, WCPE's (Raleigh, NC) Great Sacred Music, and WXXI's (Rochester, NY) With Heart and Voice.

He currently resides in Pfafftown, NC with his wife, Daniele, their three boys, and their fierce six-pound Chihuahua, Milo Bjørn.





## MAUREEN HOWELL WINS FIRST PLACE IN AGO COMPOSITION COMPETITION

The AGO Task Force for Gender Equity has named local chapter member Maureen Howell as first place winner of the 2025 Woman Composer Sunday Organ Composition Competition in the category of Short Composition for Worship Services.

Her winning composition, *Reflection on Kingsfold*, will be published in the January issue of *The American Organist Magazine*. The competition is in celebration of Woman Composer Sunday on March 9, 2025.

Congratulations to Maureen whose big news came in right before the deadline for this issue of the newsletter. We look forward to hearing more details about you and your piece--and to opening our January issue of TAO!

JUST FOR FUN!  
(And where can I get one?)



(reprinted with kind permission from  
Clay Whittington)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?  
**Brody Bett**  
Cooper-Miller Scholarship  
Winner 2024



Brody was the featured performer at the half time show for the Carolina Panthers Dec 1st.

He started on drums while singing then transitioned as he sang to the keyboard. He sang the National Anthem for the team two years ago, and this year they asked if he would like to do the halftime show.

He's also the guest performer for the Greensboro Symphony holidays concerts on December 12 and 13th. (See flier next page.)

This is a screenshot from Brody's Instagram page showing him on the Jumbotron at the halftime show at the Panther's game in Charlotte.

Video of his performance, drums, keyboard, singing will be posting soon on Instagram.





**GREENSBORO SYMPHONY**

# Holiday CONCERT

SPONSORED BY  
DEAN AND MARILYN GREEN

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT | **labcorp**  
Charitable Foundation

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024**  
WESTOVER CHURCH, 505 MUIRS CHAPEL RD, GREENSBORO  
CONCERT 7PM; DOORS OPEN 6PM

Greensboro Symphony Orchestra | Evan Feldman, conductor  
Hosted by **WESTOVER**  
CHURCH

Celebrate the holiday season with the  
**Greensboro Symphony,**  
featuring  
**Brody Bett, 14 year-old multi-instrumentalist,**  
**singer, and actor,**  
plus beautiful Holiday music  
with sing-alongs, and a  
special appearance by Santa Claus.

**Admission is FREE**  
with the donation of non-perishable  
food items for the benefit of the  
Greensboro Urban Ministry.

– Assisted by Boy Scouts Troop 230 –

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**  
Register for your **FREE** tickets visiting  
[greensborosymphony.org](https://greensborosymphony.org)  
and clicking the Greensboro Holiday Concert  
registration button on the home page.

Please call (336) 737-5528 for more information.

*Celebrating our  
**Cooper-Miller Scholarship Celebration**  
November 9  
Meredith College*



Congratulations to our Cooper-Miller and Andersen scholarship recipients for sharing an excellent recital with us.

A special thanks to Meredith College for the generous use of their space and instruments, and a huge thank you to Dr. David Lynch for his help in making this event such a success!

Also a special thank you to Lorraine Magnuson for her exceptional leadership as our Scholarship Chair!

Pictured left to right: Tyler Schodt, Jason Schodt, Joshua Sobel, Lorraine Magnuson (Scholarship Chair), Miles Fox, Cy Sagan, Brody Bett, Dr. David Lynch (Professor of Organ, Meredith College)

Participants not pictured: Zachary Peschken

*TANNER WINCHESTER*  
*DEAN*

*(photo by Lynn Andersen)*



## **SCHERZO SKETCH-JASON SCHODT**

Just for fun, we are getting to know our fellow AGO members a little bit better in a “Scherzo Sketch” column. We ask members to share a bit about their background in a lighthearted format. Some questions are musical, and some are not.

### **Age you started playing the organ.**

I began playing the organ in high school, when I was in the ninth grade. Thanks to many kind and encouraging people, I continued my musical journey in college and went on to earn undergraduate degrees in Music and Engineering at East Carolina University.



### **Town you grew up in?**

Youngsville, NC

### **Favorite hymn?**

This is a bit of a trick question that we organists get all the time! I like to dodge the question. I usually tell people “whatever is most appropriate for the given moment”. For instance, we all love to hear “Silent Night”, but it would not be my favorite for Easter Sunday. I love to play music that is meaningful and relevant to the occasion. So the hymn that is right for the moment is my “favorite”.

### **Favorite stop (can be organ specific)**

Apparently Austin Organ Co made some organs with a “Nitsua” stop. That’s just “Austin” spelled backwards. I’d love to have an organ with a “Nasoj” stop — that’s Jason spelled backwards! The “Nasoj” stop would be two-rank string celeste. One of my favorite sounds on the organ!

### **Funniest thing that ever happened during a service/performance?**

When I was in high school, I played a piano duet for a performance during the school day. Later that night I was going to play the same piece for a band concert. A kind person had left a sticky note in the middle of my sheet music that said “Good job!” after the first performance. I didn’t notice the sticky note, so during the second performance, while I was in the middle of the piece it became apparent that this huge sticky note was in the middle of my music blocking out a critical few measures of music! I had a bit of a fight with the sticky note mid-performance, but only a few people noticed and it didn’t impact my playing. It was pretty impressive in my mind, but I usually don’t do my own stunts!

### **Most unusual organ ever played?**

During my time working as an engineer in Virginia, I served at a church in Harrisonburg with a lovely Möller organ that had been renovated recently with some digital additions. It was a two-manual organ, but had a digital floating Positiv division that had been added. Very unusual for a smaller instrument to have a floating division; I’ve only seen this type of configuration in this one case. I really enjoyed playing this unique organ! *(cont. p.7)*

(cont. from pg. 6)

### **Nicest comment you've received about your playing?**

This isn't really a comment, but on a couple instances I've played for funerals at special request of the widow/widower after their spouse has passed. It is a humbling experience to know that someone felt my presence would be helpful and a reassurance during a time of devastating loss.

### **First paying job you ever had (music or otherwise) and what you learned?**

I think I'll just ignore that question and tell you a bit about my day job! I am an engineer by education and have been working in the pharmaceutical industry for nearly five years now. I began my career on the shop floor working with production equipment start-up processes, and I moved over to a supply chain role focused on pharmaceutical packaging a little over two years ago. I've learned how the support of a good team is crucial. We all need that support — whether it is working in a ministry setting or in industry. The people you work with matter more than the actual job responsibilities.

## **COOPER-MILLER AUDITIONS ARE COMING SOON!**

Let's spread the word and find the future  
**2025 Cooper-Miller Organ Scholarship** students!

- Auditions will be held in a Raleigh church on Saturday, February 8, 2025.
- Student must be between 13 and 18; if 18, they must still be in high school at the time of the audition.
- For prospective organ students, audition may be performed on piano.
- Complete application packet may be found at <https://trailsong.org/cnccago/>

Any questions?

Contact Lorraine Magnuson  
919-889-5639 or [raineymag@gmail.com](mailto:raineymag@gmail.com)





# Central North Carolina AGO Chapter Events 2024-2025

Saturday, October 19      Preludes, Postludes and Pastries at Hayes Barton Baptist Church

Saturday, November 9      Cooper-Miller Celebration Recital at Meredith College

**Saturday, January 25**

**"The Art of Hymn Playing and Organ Registration"** (see flier in this issue)

Dr. Timothy Olsen presenter

Edenton Street UMC

10:00 am until noon General Session and 1:30-3:00 pm master class

Contact John Massenburg at [jmj777@att.net](mailto:jmj777@att.net) for master class information

**Saturday, February 8**

**Cooper-Miller Scholarship Competition**

Details to follow

Contact Lorraine Magnuson for more information at [raineymag@gmail.com](mailto:raineymag@gmail.com).

Registration packet available at

**Saturday February 22**

**Piano and Organ Duet Concert** (members and friends)

North Raleigh UMC

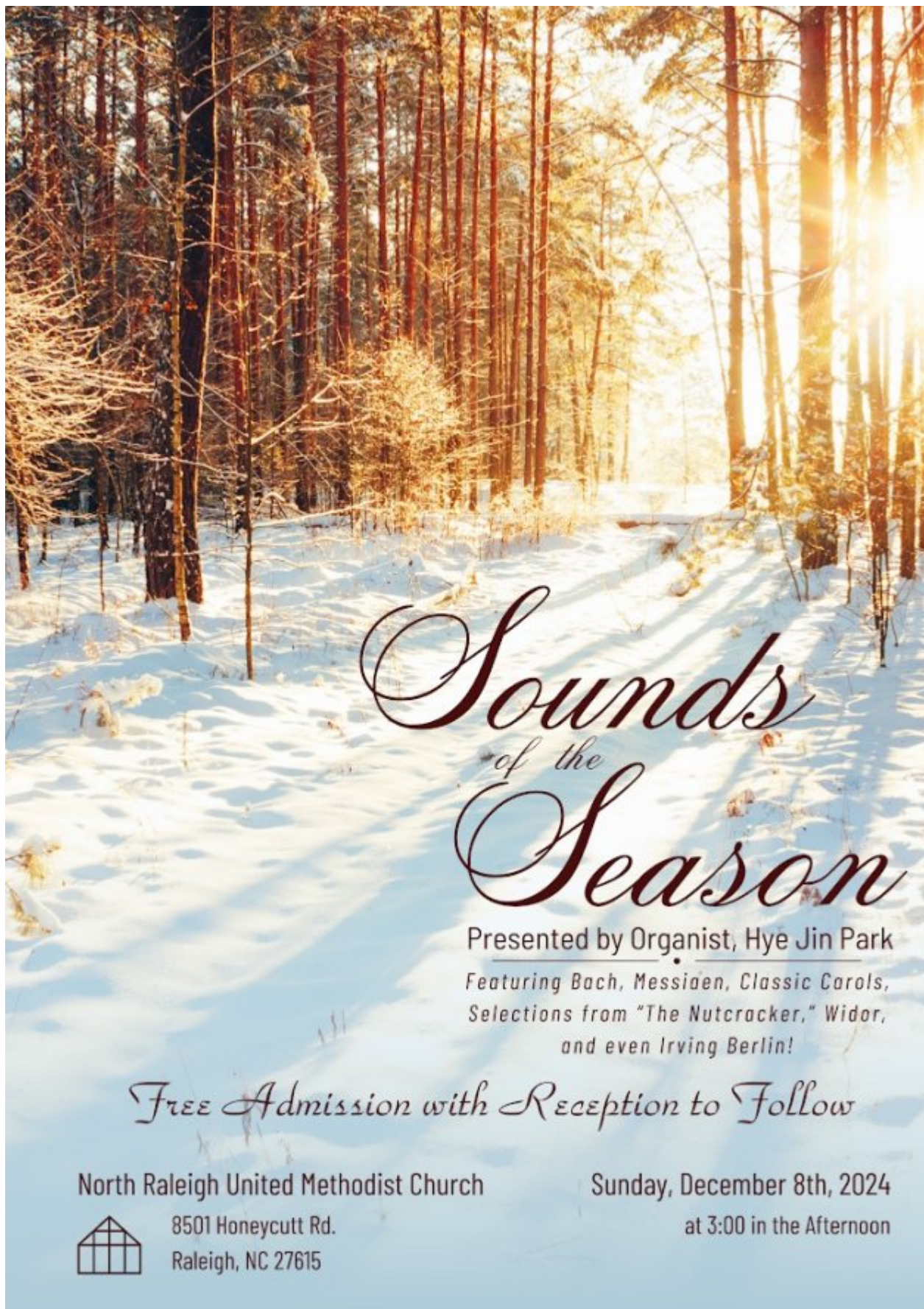
3:00 pm

**Quimby Competition Auditions**

Details to follow








# *Sounds of the Season*

Presented by Organist, Hye Jin Park  
*Featuring Bach, Messiaen, Classic Carols,  
Selections from "The Nutcracker," Widor,  
and even Irving Berlin!*

*Free Admission with Reception to Follow*

North Raleigh United Methodist Church  
 8501 Honeycutt Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27615

Sunday, December 8th, 2024  
at 3:00 in the Afternoon

from Jackie Nappi Farrell

# CROSSING

EARLY MUSIC TRIO TOUR 2024

# THE ALPS

**TUES, DEC 10, 7PM  
WILMINGTON, NC**

Kenan Chapel  
510 Arboretum Drive

**WED, DEC 11, 6PM  
NEW BERN, NC**

Christ Episcopal Church  
320 Pollock Street

**THURS, DEC 12, 7PM  
DURHAM, NC**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
1200 W Cornwallis Road

Toshi Amano, baroque violin; Oliver  
Weston, baroque cello; Jacqueline  
Farrell, organ & harpsichord



# EVENTS AT DUKE CHAPEL

Tuesday, December 3  
7:00 pm

## **Duke Chorale Holiday Concert** with Special Guests Durham School for the Arts

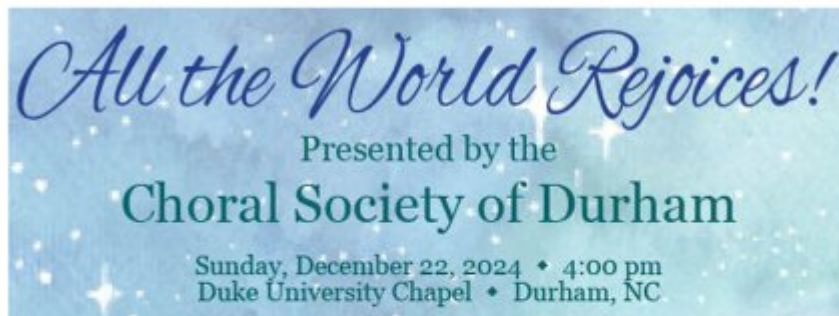
The forty-five-voice Duke Chorale, directed by Allan Friedman, presents holiday music from around the world sung by the Chorale.

Friday, December 6  
7:30 pm

## **Handel's Messiah**

Since 1933, Duke University Chapel has welcomed the holiday season with the sublime music of Messiah.

*Sunday, December 22, 2024*



4:00 PM

Choral Society of Durham: All the World Rejoices [Tickets Required]

**LOCATION: DUKE CHAPEL**

**The Choral Society of Durham** presents this concert featuring:

- Gerald Finzi (British 20c) – In Terra Pax, with chamber strings and soprano and bass soloists
- Daniel Pinkham (U.S. 20c) – Christmas Cantata, with brass ensemble
- Conrad Susa (U.S. 20c) – Carols & Lullabies of the Southwest, traditional Spanish carols, sung in Spanish and Catalan with guitar, harp, and marimba



## SELLING A WERSI OAX-800 ORGAN

Selling a high-end organ: Wersi OAX-800. Made in Germany, and is a current model that they still make and sell currently (very expensive to buy new). I'm moving to a new smaller place soon, so can't keep it. Lots more available on Web; search for "Wersi OAX-800" (or just "Wersi OAX organ").

This is a modern, high-end dual-keyboard musical instrument. It can sound like a great cathedral pipe organ ... or a theatre pipe organ ... or a Hammond B3 rock/gospel/jazz organ ... but it's also is a full-fledged modern keyboard instrument in that it can do things like drums (percussion), bass, synthesizers, guitars, orchestral instruments ... it's a very powerful and unique instrument.

Two 76-note (splittable) velocity-sensitive keyboards, 25-note pedalboard. It has very good internal speakers, so it could be completely "stand-alone" in a chapel or home. Optionally, I also have a power amp, speakers, and subwoofer for sale. They give it a MUCH bigger sound.

For a church, it can handle traditional pipe-organ sounds for hymns, but also sounds great for gospel and Christian-rock types of music. Or can augment a church's band/orchestra.

This organ would also be great for a home organ enthusiast, to play for home enjoyment or practice.

Also - if someone local to me buys it - I can show them how to use it (how to use the 'technical' aspects etc.) - I'd give a few free 'technical lessons' on how to get the most out of the instrument, to any local buyer. To come try it, or talk pricing, contact Jim"

### MY CONTACT INFO:

Jim Laing  
jimlaing@icloud.com  
919-264-5968



SIZE: 52"w x 44"d x 41"h  
(with bench in playing  
position; not including  
height of music rack)

## 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.