

CNCC NEWSLETTER

Oldest Chapter in the Carolinas

Chartered November 23, 1922

Central North Carolina Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Raleigh, North Carolina

April 2026

Friends,

On this most cold and sacred night of darkness, I pray that in the busyness of our collective calling of serving through music, there is still a moment to personally reflect on how Christ's death is for you. It's a privilege to serve, but it's beautiful to remember how these sacred moments are part of our own story, too.

In our various faith traditions, we often leave our services tonight in a cold, heavy stillness. For many, a gutting question lingering in our mind: "If I had been there that night, what would I have done?" We all want to believe the right answer, but truthfully, in our hearts, we know. Standing by, scared of drawing attention to ourselves, our weak and complicit silence, allowing a dark evil to barge forward and crucify the only one who has truly loved us. It is a somber picture, difficult to fully accept. But tonight we sit in that solemn, gutting truth we know deep in our hearts. We would have done nothing.

And yet my friends, Christ knew all of this that night. Our Lord did not go to the cross to test our willingness to speak up, or hoping we would stop the throngs that were unrelentingly shouting for His death. No. He did not go to the cross hoping to condemn us or to prove our shortcomings. Our Lord went to that cross for one reason—Because He loves you deeply, completely, and unconditionally.

He knows your weaknesses, your inabilities, your failures, your disappointments, your brokenness, your insecurities, and all of the things that are too tender to even put into words for fear people will turn against you. And yet, He chose to walk the road to the cross knowing everything shameful about you, and chose to love you so deeply by giving His life for yours. On this darkest night of the year, it becomes the most beautiful portrait of love we will ever know—the one who knows us completely, **chose** to love us unconditionally.

He is God, our Creator, Lord of all that is, but tonight, He is our loving Friend who laid down His life so we could live with Him eternally.

Tonight and always, He loves you,

Tanner Winchester

Dean



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Special thanks to William Gard for his generous contribution to the **Chapter Scholarship Funds.**



CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter published monthly by the Central North Carolina Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Submission Deadline: 24th of preceding month.

The Chapter website is

<https://www.centralncago.org/>

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

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

Chapter Event



DUKE CHAPEL ORGAN CRAWL WITH JOHN SANTOIANNI

Saturday, April 18

at 9:00 am

Duke Chapel, Durham

Space is limited.

R.S.V.P. REQUIRED

to Tanner Winchester

tanner.winchester@gmail.com

Pianist's Primer for Organ



An appreciative crowd gathered at North Raleigh United Methodist Church to get organ playing tips from Chapter member. Kirsten Homdrom. Chapter members and friends (old and new!) profited from Kirsten's insights and shared some of their s as well.

New member **Michael Barnes** offered the following reflection:

The Pianist's Primer on Playing the Organ was the perfect experience for me. As a piano student working to transition to organ, Dr. Homdrom provided a great overview and demonstration of key concepts for aspiring organists. We reviewed differences between the piano and organ and how those characteristics impact playing the instruments, including touch, articulation, and phrasing.

With the piano and organ side-by-side, Dr. Homdrom provided examples throughout our time together. We also had a very interactive discussion for how to approach playing hymns in a congregational setting.

Many of the attendees at the event were able to share personal experiences and denominational differences in how hymns might be played. As a new student, it was also very helpful to hear tips and suggestions on how to approach practicing hymns and other pieces, as well as several resources to assist in both learning and building a repertoire.

I appreciate how the AGO offers support for a broad range of organ enthusiasts, from beginner to expert. Thank you to Dr. Homdrom, AGO members, and attendees for the collaboration and support at today's event!



The Central North Carolina Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists
Announces Results of the 2026
Cooper-Miller Organ Scholarship



The 2026 Cooper-Miller Scholarship Auditions took place on March 7 at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Raleigh. Congratulations to all who auditioned. The candidates this year were outstanding. We wouldn't be surprised to see all of them "on the bench" for the rest of their lives.

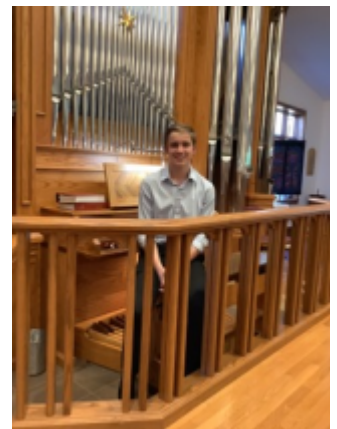
If you are inspired to make a donation to our scholarship fund, Please send a check made out to "Central NC Chapter" to our treasurer Lee Harris, Lee Harris (210 West Boulevard, Laurinburg, NC 28352).

LORRAINE MAGNUSON
SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR



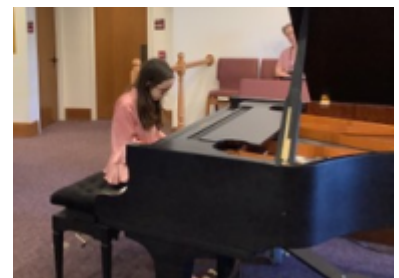
Calvin Stewart 15, from Hillsboro, auditioned on piano since he is not yet taking organ lessons. Then he went to the organ and played a Bach prelude and fugue that he borrowed from a friend five weeks prior to our audition date. YES he used pedals and did an amazing job. -

Miles Fox - 15, from Cary, showed his improvisation skills with his own free accompaniment to the hymn tune Aurelia. He is a student of Mark Andersen.



Sophia Tellier - 14, from Chapel Hill.

Sophia played her audition pieces on the organ for us and then went to the piano to demonstrate how she has learned to harmonize ascending and descending major scales.

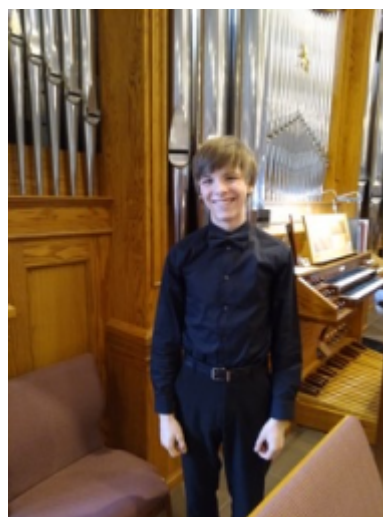




MORE COOPER-MILLER WINNERS

Brody Bett - 16, from Greensboro

Brody auditioned by video because he had to do an organ concert out of town on March 7.



Scott Collins 14, from New Hill

Scott played three hymns for his audition, and then went to the piano and played a swinging jazz number. He studies with Tanner Winchester.



Cy Sagan 16 from Raleigh.

Cy improvised a postlude for us based on two hymns that we picked out a few minutes prior;

then he showed off his musical socks!





Central North Carolina AGO Chapter Events 2025-2026

Saturday, October 18
Preludes, Postludes and Pastries
Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh

Saturday, November 8
Cooper-Miller and Andersen Scholarship Recital
Jones Chapel, Meredith College, Raleigh

Saturday, February 21
A Festival of Piano and Organ Duets
3:00 pm First Cary United Methodist Church, Cary

Saturday, March 7 (Rescheduled)
"The Pianist's Primer on Playing the Organ" with Kirsten Homdrom
10:00 am North Raleigh United Methodist Church, Raleigh

Saturday, March 7 (Rescheduled)
Cooper-Miller and Andersen Scholarship Competition
Church of the Nativity, Raleigh

Saturday, April 18
Duke University Chapel Organs and Workshop Crawl with John Santoianni
9:00 am Duke Chapel, Durham

Saturday, May 16
"Introduction and Fundamentals of Choral Conducting" with Mark Woodcock
10:00 am First Baptist Church, Raleigh

Saturday, June 13 End of Year Recital and Members Luncheon with Laura Ellis
11:00 am Hayes Barton United Methodist Church, Raleigh



**Welcome to our new
Chapter Member**

We are excited to add

William Gard

to our Chapter.

He is a Young Organist from Raleigh.



Organ for Sale

This 8 stop tracker organ is at St. David's Episcopal Church in Laurinburg and is for sale.

It would be a great small practice instrument for a home or studio, or in a small church.

We are asking \$7,000 or best offer for it. It is still played for services on Sundays,

It is a 1971 Roderer and has been at St. David's since 1999.

The reason we are selling is that we are installing a new organ (not tracker) that will serve our congregation well.

Contact Lee Harris
(pichpipe45@gmail.com) for more
information



DUKE CHORAL EVENT



BACH AND HANDEL

APRIL 26, 2026

5:00 PM

Brilliance and immediacy from George Frideric Handel meet the depth and scale of Johann Sebastian Bach in this concert. Well-loved Handel works-"Arrival of the Queen of Sheba," "As Pants the Hart," and "Zadok the Priest"-are paired with "Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis" ("I feel great suffering"), BWV 21, one of Bach's most substantial and affecting cantatas.

Free admission. Paid parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis in the Bryan Center Parking Lot at 125 Science Drive. ADA parking is available at the surface lot at the same address.

Johann Sebastian Bach's cantatas are often considered the pinnacle of German sacred music, works whose theological depth and emotional resonance touch deep places in the human soul. This year's cantata series, Bach &, features cantatas, concerti, and organ works by Bach and his contemporaries, illuminating the connections and differences between these Baroque masters.

Learn more about the music in a pre-concert talk at 4:00 p.m. in the Divinity School's Goodson Chapel.

Families with young children, or those unable to attend the performance, are welcome to visit the dress rehearsal on Saturday, April 25, between 1:30 and 4:00 p.m. in Duke Chapel.

2026 Piedmont Triad Organists Symposium

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH — SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH



Presented by the
Piedmont NC AGO

Register today for a weekend of professional development workshops, along with a hymn festival and sessions on improvisation and publishing led by Tom Trenney. This brief symposium is brimming with exciting opportunities!

SPECIAL GUEST TOM TRENNEY

We're thrilled to welcome renowned organist, composer, and choral conductor Tom Trenney as our keynote presenter! On Friday night, Tom will lead a hymn festival, "Will You Come and Follow Me?", on the Dobson-Rosales organ at West Market Street United Methodist Church in Greensboro. The next day, he'll lead two workshops at Salem College in Winston-Salem: one on improvisation using hymn tunes and the other sharing his perspective and journey as a composer and arranger.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Along with Tom Trenney's workshops on improvisation and composing, participants can choose from additional workshops on the music publishing business, adapting registration to non-idiomatic organs, working with aging voices in your choir, and executing an organ-building project from start to finish. Symposium attendees of all ages and experience levels will find something to hone their professional skills.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

West Market Street UMC, Greensboro

4:00pm: Gathering & Greeting

4:30pm: Workshops (choose one)

a) **Working with Aging Voices**
w/ Robert Overman

b) **Getting an Organ Building Project Off the Ground** w/ Tom Lewtak & Timothy Olsen

5:30pm: Catered dinner

7:30pm: **Tom Trenney in Concert: Will You Come and Follow Me?**

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Elberson FAC, Salem College, Winston-Salem

9:00am: **ABRACADABRA: Discovering the Magic of Musical Improvisation** with Tom Trenney

10:00am: Coffee break

10:15am: **Perspectives on Composing, Arranging, and Publishing** w/ Tom Trenney

11:00am: Workshops (choose one)

a) **A Music Publisher's Perspective** with Wayne Leupold

b) **Registration at the "Wrong" Organ** with John Cummins

12:00pm: Symposium ends. Attendees encouraged to get lunch with someone they met at the event!

REGISTRATION



To register, visit www.piedmontncago.org/symposium or scan the QR code to the left. Fee covers festival admission, all workshops, Friday's catered dinner and coffee/snacks on Saturday. Email piedmontncago@outlook.com with any questions.

Ages 30 & under	{	AGO members (any chapter): free Non-members: \$50, includes 1 free year AGO membership
Ages 31 & up	{	Piedmont NC AGO members: \$50 Non-members or members of other chapters: \$100

For more information, go to <https://www.piedmontncago.org/symposium-673890.html>

Festival Choir Registration for *Will You Come and Follow Me* A Hymn Festival with Tom Trenney

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH — 7:30PM



Register today to help lead hymn-singing under the direction of concert organist, composer, conductor, preacher, and teacher Tom Trenney!

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL:

"Will You Come and Follow Me?" is a hymn festival inviting us to "answer the call to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God". The event will take place on Friday, April 17 at 7:30pm at West Market Street United Methodist Church in Greensboro, NC.

FESTIVAL CHOIR INFORMATION:

Choir members will rehearse with Tom Trenney at West Market Street UMC from 6pm to 7pm, with a quick break before the hymn festival at 7:30pm.

Snacks and drinks will be provided during the break.

The choir will sing three of Tom Trenney's own hymn arrangements: "Will You Come and Follow Me", "Comfort, Comfort", and "How Firm a Foundation". There is a \$10 registration fee to cover the cost of this music. You are welcome to take the printed music home with you after the hymn festival.



SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

West Market Street UMC, Greensboro

6:00pm: Rehearsal with Tom Trenney in the WMS Sanctuary

7:30pm: **Tom Trenney in Concert: Will You Come and Follow Me?**

REGISTRATION

To register, visit www.piedmontncago.org/festival-choir-registration or scan the QR code below. The fee covers the cost of music. Snacks and beverages will be available to participants. Email piedmontncago@outlook.com with any questions.



*Presented by the
Piedmont NC Chapter of the American
Guild of Organists
and
West Market Street United Methodist
Church
Greensboro, NC*



PIPE ORGAN
Encounter
& Intensive
for youth ages 13-18

www.uncsa.edu/summer/music-summer-intensives/organ/

July 12-17, 2026
Winston-Salem,
NC

Field trips to local instruments

Individual & group instruction

Daily improvisation lessons

Recitals by accomplished performers

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER AND ORGAN INTENSIVE

Winston-Salem will again host two workshops for youth organists and those interested in learning about the pipe organ. Youth must be ages 13–18. The events will be partially on the campus of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and in the greater Winston-Salem area.

<http://www.uncsa.edu/summer/music-summer-intensives/organ/>

Registration is currently open. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.uncsa.edu/summer/music-summer-intensives/organ/>

CHAPTER LISTINGS FOR ORGAN INSTRUCTION

The following AGO members are available for organ lessons.
Please contact the teacher you are interested in for more details and information.

Dr. Mark Andersen

910-739-5481
emarka@me.com

Dr. David Baskeyfield

585-880-0343
dbaskeyfield@gmail.com

Dr. Filippa Duke

919-691-0463
fmd0611@gmail.com

Lee Harris

919-757-2469
pichpipe45@gmail.com
Scotland, Richmond and Robeson Counties (NC)
Marlboro County (SC)

Dr. W. David Lynch

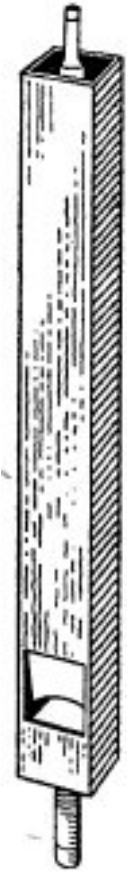
lynchd@meredith.edu

Dr. Timothy Olsen

olsent@unca.edu

Dr William J Weisser

919-812-2986
wjweisser@gmail.com
Wilmington, NC



*Please forward any updates to this list to the Tamara Lewis at
trailsong26@gmail.com.*

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.