

# The Tracker

A publication of the  
Knoxville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Knoxville, Tennessee

[www.knoxago.org](http://www.knoxago.org)

February 2012

## KAGO Program



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Glory to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.



## National Convention 2012



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Pre-register by  
February 15 for the  
AGO National  
Convention held in our  
own backyard –  
Nashville TN!!

## CHORAL EVENSONG

SUNG BY THE CHAMBER SINGERS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6  
7:30 PM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH  
414 WEST VINE AVENUE  
KNOXVILLE, TN

## Conte, Hamilton, and Garrett! Oh My!

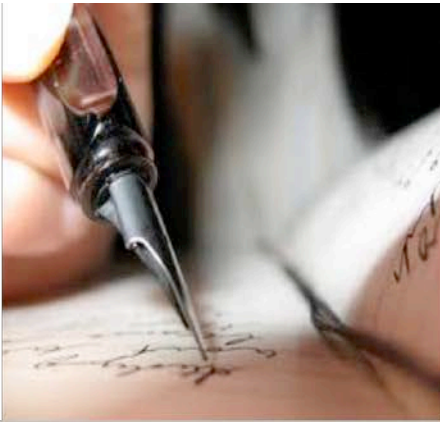


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Three great  
choices for  
recitals this  
month.

The purpose of the  
American Guild of  
Organists is to promote  
the organ in its historic  
and evolving roles, to  
encourage excellence in  
the performance of  
organ and choral music,  
and to provide a forum  
for mutual support,  
inspiration, education,  
and certification of  
Guild members.





## FROM THE DEAN

*In the bleak midwinter,  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone.*

The Tennessee Theater is truly a treasure beyond words. Just entering the theater is an overwhelming experience. Our chapter members and guests enjoyed all the sights as well as the sounds of the organ, plus back stage and dressing room tours. Dr. Bill Snyder, Freddie Brabson and Tim Burns gave us an enlightened explanation of the restoration and rejuvenation that has taken place.

Many thanks to the “house organists” and all who played for our enjoyment.

Next month we travel to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church for an evening of Choral Evensong. That will be Monday, February 6, with dinner at 6:30 pm and program at 7:30 pm. The church address is 414 W. Vine Ave. in downtown Knoxville. See you there.

*Charles Parham*

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If you desire to be added to this list please email our Registrar, Sandi Henry at sandi1957@gmail.com.



# CHORAL EVENSONG

SUNG BY THE CHAMBER SINGERS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6  
7:30 PM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH  
414 WEST VINE AVENUE  
KNOXVILLE, TN

DINNER 6:30 PM

PROGRAM 7:30 PM

What is Evensong? It is the nickname for the service of Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. Its sister service is Mattins, which is the nickname for the service of Morning Prayer, also from the Book of Common Prayer. Together with the Holy Eucharist (also known as the Mass and Communion Service and instituted for his disciples by Jesus himself), these three services are the principal liturgies of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition since the year 1549, which was when the Book of Common Prayer was first authorized for the Church of England.

Choral Evensong is a service of reflection—of leaving ourselves open that God may speak to us through the psalms, readings and canticles, which are the core of the service. Cathedrals with a great choral tradition draw upon a rich inheritance of music, much of it sung by the choir alone. Here, beauty in language and music can speak to us of God in a rich and diverse way. Within this hallowed space you may forget the ceaseless activity of daily life and be still.

The Chamber Singers of the University of Tennessee, under the baton of Dr. Angela Batey have been invited for a choral residency in historic Dublin, (Republic of) Ireland and in Northern Ireland. This ten-day residency will find us singing at the cathedral Evensong services of Christ Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Downpatrick Cathedral, as well as presenting public concerts at St. Nicholas Church and Bangor Abbey. We seek to gain a worldview that recognizes, understands and celebrates the complexity of the cultures and people of both the Republic of Ireland as well as Northern Ireland.

This program will begin with a short presentation by one of our own members, and UT International Student, Simon Hogg. Simon is from Northern Ireland, a student in the School of Music Graduate program, studying Organ with John Brock and Conducting with Angela Batey. Simon will share with us his vast knowledge of this choral genre as well as a little about his country.

*(A portion of the above text has been borrowed from Christ Church Dublin and St. Thomas Church New York)*



## Welcome!

The Nashville Chapter of the AGO invites you to Tennessee for a world-class convention, July 1-6, 2012. We have planned the schedule with your convenience in mind:

- Convention hotels in the heart of downtown @ \$168 per day
- Luxury motor coaches, with no need for early-morning departure times
- Ample time between events for meals
- All venues air-conditioned
- 65 workshops, all in the morning and just steps from your hotel room
- Recitals and worship services in the afternoon

Famous for our Southern hospitality, Nashville offers you a week you will long remember: Great City. Great Music. Great Organs. A Great Convention.

*William E. Gray, Jr., Coordinator*

www.ago2012.org  
Nashville AGO 2012  
P.O. Box 331128  
Nashville, TN 37203  
615-800-8949

# The Mighty Wurlitzer

*The story of a theatre legend.*

On Monday, January 9 we were treated to a thrilling evening at the Tennessee Theatre with our gracious hosts, Dr. Bill Snyder and Freddie Brabson. It is not often a group of organists has the beautiful Tennessee Theatre all to themselves. There was a childlike magic in the room as the organ rose from the bowels of the theatre and we were all enraptured with its opulence and unique sound. It truly was a one-of-a-kind experience. If you missed this event, perhaps we can persuade our hosts for a repeat performance some time in the future.

Bill shared with us his wealth of fascinating history about the theatre and the Wurlitzer organ. We were extremely fortunate to have with us Technical Director Tim Burns, who took time out of his very busy schedule to speak to us about the renovation. We are very blessed indeed that someone recognized the importance and rare beauty of our local theatre house, saving it from ruin and possibly destruction. Included here is the story of the Mighty Wurlitzer. Please visit the website for more information about the theatre and a schedule of the many events including the Mighty Musical Mondays. <http://tennesseetheatre.com/>

For decades, a favorite element of the Tennessee Theatre experience has been the golden-voiced Mighty Wurlitzer organ. The Wurlitzer was installed in the Tennessee Theatre at the time of the building's opening in 1928. The organ was built by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company in North Tonawanda, New York, and cost about \$50,000 at that time. Today, it is one of the few theatre organs still installed in its original location.

Jean Wilson was the Tennessee Theatre's first house organist, and many have followed her--most notably Billy Barnes, who entertained at the console four times daily in the '30s and '40s; and the Tennessee's current organist, former Chancellor and Dean of Engineering at the University of Tennessee, Dr. Bill Snyder

The instrument is a 3/17 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ, and is set apart by its magnificent console, an original red Balaban 2 Style Wurlitzer done in a French Moorish motif. Only one other Wurlitzer organ in the world was manufactured with such a console--the 4/24 Mighty Wurlitzer installed at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham, Alabama.

In October of 2000, virtually the entire organ--all the pipes and the console with its manuals, stops, and pedals--was shipped to Reno, Nevada, to master organ rebuilder Ken Crome. Mr. Crome and his technicians painstakingly restored the instrument piece by piece, and artisans and craftsmen returned the organ's appearance to its original 1928 color scheme and design. The chambers on either side of the stage, which house the pipes, have been re-plastered to fully ensure the protection and preservation of the restored instrument.

While the organ originally came from the factory with 14 ranks of pipes, Mr. Crome expanded these to 17 ranks during the rebuild, giving the Mighty Wurlitzer a world-class voice. The Wurlitzer returned to Knoxville on August 27, 2001, and was re-installed by Mr. Crome and his staff during the entire month of September. Acclaimed theatre organist Lyn Larsen was involved in much of the configuration and tonal regulation of the organ, and he was the first to publicly perform on it at a sold-out gala concert on October 1, 2001.

Mr. Larsen had this to say about the Tennessee's Wurlitzer: "I am so excited about the newly restored Wurlitzer organ in the Tennessee Theatre, and I consider it to be among the handful of the very finest 'in-theatre' installations in the country. The unsurpassed craftsmanship of Ken Crome and his expert team of artisans, the perfect match of the auditorium's acoustics to the organ sound, and the commitment to 100% quality by everyone at the Theatre have all combined to produce this 'new-old' pipe organ that is absolutely sublime. I hope to be a part of the Tennessee Theatre for many years."

## Events

### Organ Dedication Recital

Peter Richard Conte, organist

Friday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.

Zimmer Opus 114 incorporating pipework from an 1862 Henry Erben instrument

Tellico Village Community Church

130 Chota Center

Loudon, TN, 37774

### Organ recital by Stephen Hamilton

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Knoxville

Friday, February 17, 8:00 p.m.

[http://web.me.com/masonjd/MusicaOrgani/2011-2012\\_Season.html](http://web.me.com/masonjd/MusicaOrgani/2011-2012_Season.html)

### Organ recital by C-N Alumnus Garrett Martin

Thomas Recital Hall at Carson-Newman

Tuesday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets not required, but donations will be accepted.

<http://hpbcaustin.org/About/Staff/Garrett.htm>

### Organ Concerts at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC

Join us as we celebrate the new Nichols & Simpson pipe organ at St. Michael's Episcopal Church with concerts played by John Scott and David Briggs. John Scott, Organist and Director of Music at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City, will play a recital on Friday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. John Scott previously served as Director of Music at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. He is an outstanding organist, and this recital is not to be missed. David Briggs, Organist Emeritus, Gloucester Cathedral, UK, will play a recital on Friday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. To purchase tickets for either concert, please visit:

[www.HolyMichaelMusic.org](http://www.HolyMichaelMusic.org)

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*!!!! Kudos !!!!*

Carolyn Craig, an organ student of John Brock, is a finalist in the Columbia, SC, AGO Chapter competition for high school organists. She will compete along with other finalists in Columbia on February 11. Carolyn is a piano student of Fay Adams and David Brunell, and sings in the Church Street United Methodist Church youth choir.



Gustav Leonhardt



Gerre Hancock

## The Organ world loses two masters

### **Gustav Leonhardt, Master Harpsichordist, Dies at 83**

Gustav Leonhardt, the Dutch harpsichordist, organist and conductor who was a pioneer in the world of period instrument performance and research into Baroque performance styles, died on Monday at his home in Amsterdam. He was 83.

Both as a keyboard soloist and as the founder and director of the Leonhardt Consort, Mr. Leonhardt made hundreds of recordings that, along with those of Nikolaus Harnoncourt, August Wenzinger and a handful of others, were the defining discography of the historical performance movement in the 1950s and '60s. He systematically recorded Bach's keyboard music, sometimes revisiting works like the "Goldberg Variations," which he recorded in 1952, 1965 and 1979. With his Leonhardt Consort, founded in 1955, he performed a broad selection of the Baroque chamber, orchestral and dramatic repertory, and helped revive works by Rameau, Lully, André Campra and other Baroque composers. But the group's most important project was a collaboration with Mr. Harnoncourt and his Concentus Musicus of Vienna on a complete traversal of Bach's church cantatas for the Telefunken (later Teldec) Das Alte Werke series. The cycle, started in 1971, took nearly two decades to complete. Installments were released in boxed sets that included full scores of the cantatas. He later recorded Bach's secular cantatas as well, for the Alpha label.

Mr. Leonhardt was born in the Netherlands on May 30, 1928. He began his musical studies at the piano when he was 6, and the cello when he was 10. His parents and his brother and sister were avid chamber music players, and when he was a teenager his parents bought a harpsichord for Baroque music performances. Mr. Leonhardt, as the family keyboardist, took up the instrument and made it his specialty. In 1949 he enrolled at the Schola Cantorum, in Basel, Switzerland, to study organ and harpsichord with Eduard Müller. After a year he moved to Vienna to study conducting and musicology, spending most of his time in libraries, he said, copying musical manuscripts and treatises by hand. He made his debut as a harpsichordist in Vienna in 1950, performing Bach's "Art of the Fugue." He also met Mr. Harnoncourt and began playing with his group. He was soon engaged to teach the harpsichord at conservatories in Vienna and Amsterdam. He commuted between them until 1955, when he gave up the Vienna post. He also taught at Harvard in 1969 and 1970.

Back in Amsterdam, Mr. Leonhardt was appointed organist of the Waalse Kerk and later the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church), both of which have historic instruments. He continued to teach, and he edited the Fantasies and Toccatas of the Dutch Baroque composer Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck for the complete edition of that composer's work, published in 1968. He also had a brief screen career, portraying Bach in Jean-Marie Straub's "Chronicle of Anna Magdalena Bach" (1968), a role that did not involve any dialogue but required him to perform, bewigged, in locations where Bach worked.

## **Celebrated Organist and Sacred Music Professor Gerre Hancock Dies at 77**

AUSTIN, Texas — Gerre Hancock, one of America's most highly acclaimed concert organists and choral directors and professor of organ and sacred music at The University of Texas at Austin's Butler School of Music, passed away on Jan. 21 due to cardiac arrest. He was 77.

Prior to his appointment at the University, Hancock held the position of Organist and Master of Choristers at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York City for more than thirty years, and set a new standard for church music in America. Previous to his time at Saint Thomas Church, he held positions as Organist and Choirmaster of Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati, where he also served on the Artist Faculty of the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, and as Assistant Organist at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City.

"Gerre Hancock was a legend in his own time. We are so fortunate to have had him on the faculty in the Butler School of Music for nearly nine years," said Glenn Chandler, director of the Butler School of Music. "After a 32-year career at St. Thomas Church on Fifth Ave in New York City where he and his wife Judith built what was arguably the finest Anglican church music program in the United States, he came back to his alma mater to pass on to the next generation of organists the knowledge and skills that he had so wonderfully mastered during his lifetime. We will sorely miss him."

Hancock received his bachelor's degree in music from The University of Texas at Austin and his master's degree in sacred music from Union Theological Seminary in New York from which he received the Uitas Distinguished Alumnus Award. A recipient of a Rotary Foundation Fellowship, he also studied in Paris and during this time was a finalist at the Munich International Music Competitions. He studied organ with E. William Doty, Robert Baker, Jean Langlais and Marie-Claire Alain.

A Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, Gerre Hancock has been a member of its National Council and is a founder and past president of the Association of Anglican Musicians.

He has served on the faculty of The Juilliard School and taught improvisation on a visiting basis at the Institute of Sacred Music, Yale University and The Eastman School of Music. In 1981 he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music, and in 1995 was appointed a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Gerre Hancock has received honorary doctor of music degrees from the Nashotah House Seminary, and The University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. In May 2004 he was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from The General Theological Seminary in New York.

He is listed in "Who's Who in America," and his biography appears in "The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians (2nd edition.)" In 2004 he was honored in a ceremony at Lambeth Palace in London where he was presented the Medal of the Cross of St. Augustine by the Archbishop of Canterbury for his extraordinary service to the Anglican Church.

Gerre Hancock's consummate skill was clearly apparent in his concert appearances. Possessing a masterly interpretive ability, he was an artist of taste, warmth, perception and style. A featured recitalist and lecturer at numerous regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists and at national conventions of the Guild in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Washington, D.C., Detroit, Houston and New York City, he also represented the AGO as recitalist at the Centenary Anniversary of the Royal College of Organists in London. Considered the finest organ improviser in America, Hancock has been heard in recital in many cities throughout the United States, Europe, South Africa, and Japan. On occasion he performed in duo recitals with his wife, Judith Hancock.

Compositions by Dr. Hancock are published by Oxford University Press. His compositions for organ and chorus are widely performed and his textbook, "Improvising: How to Master the Art," is used by musicians throughout the country. He has recorded for Gothic Records, Decca/Argo, Koch International and Priority Records, both as a conductor of The St. Thomas Choir and as a soloist.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Judith Hancock, and their two daughters, Deborah Hancock and Lisa Hancock.



## **BOEF Scholarship Applications Deadline Approaching**

Applications for Brock Organ Education Fund scholarships are due February 17. We will be awarding one scholarship for an undergraduate and one for a high school student. If you know a student who would like to apply, information about eligibility as well as application forms are available on the KAGO website, at [www.knoxago.org/boef.html](http://www.knoxago.org/boef.html).

Carolyn Moser, Chair  
Scholarship Committee

## **Workshops**

The Eighteenth-Annual Robert and Joyce Jones Organ Conference, February 12 - 14, 2012  
Featuring: Joyce JonesMonte, Maxwell, Beverly Everett, Andrew Risinger, Mark Thallander, Swee Hong Lim. For further information, call (254) 710-1417, fax (254) 710-1191, or e-mail [Courtney\\_Faulkner@baylor.edu](mailto:Courtney_Faulkner@baylor.edu)

The organ/sacred music department at the University of Florida invites you to the upcoming Inspiring Worship workshop from May 6-8, 2012. Now in its fifth year, the University of Florida's School of Music is proud to host this continuing education event geared specifically towards organists, choral directors, and church musicians. This year's workshop features a carillon recital, choral reading session, a hymn festival, and exciting workshops by our nationally recognized clinician Dr. Jan Kraybill, Principal organist at Community of Christ (formerly RLDS) International Headquarters. Complete details may be found at: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/organ/SMW.shtml>

2012 Region IV's POE+, Charleston, SC, June 11-15, and Region IV's POE, Gainesville, FL, July 16-21, <http://www.agohq.org/education/indexpoe.html>

The Royal School of Church Music Carolina Course for Girls & Adults, July 9-15, 2012 in Raleigh, NC  
Saint Mary's School in Raleigh provides a beautiful setting for the Carolina Course, which offers an exceptional choral experience for all singers. David Briggs, Organist Emeritus of Gloucester Cathedral, will be the Music Director. Robert Ridgell, of the historic Cathedral of St. Paul in the Twin Cities, will be the Course Organist. Girls will enjoy inspiring and challenging rehearsals, as well as fun recreation with friends. Workshops will be offered for adults on a variety of topics, including the RSCM's Voice for Life choir training program. Closing services will be held at Raleigh's historic Christ Church and St. Michael's Episcopal Church, where a new Nichols & Simpson pipe organ was recently installed. We invite applications for the organ scholar position. This will be a unique opportunity for a college-aged organist to be coached by Mr. Ridgell and be immersed in the process of preparing music for liturgy. Contact Kevin Kerstetter at [Kerstetter@HolyMichael.org](mailto:Kerstetter@HolyMichael.org) for more information, or visit the Carolina Course website for registration forms, the repertoire list, and more detailed information. [www.CarolinaRSCM.org](http://www.CarolinaRSCM.org)

www.knoxago.org



**March Newsletter Deadline: February 15**

**Our Remaining Program Year**

March 5	Duruflé Messe cum júbilo, Op. 11	Church Street UMC, Knoxville
April 16	Student Recital	First Baptist, Knoxville
May 11	Musica Organi	Westminster Presbyterian, Knoxville

Program Date

March 5

April 16

May 11

Dinner Reservation Deadline

March 1

April 12

May 7

**\*\*\*\*\*Dinner Reservations\*\*\*\*\***

Please make your dinner reservations for

**February 6, 2012**

**Immaculate Conception Church**

Knoxville, TN

No later than

**Thursday, February 2, Noon**

Cost

**\$13.00**

by contacting

**Jim Garvey**

865-588-0589, extension 216

jgarvey@knoxvilleascension.org