

The Tracker

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

Knoxville, Tennessee

www.knoxago.org

January 2012



Join us for a very special evening at the
historic

Tennessee Theatre

as we explore the many bells and whistles,
lights and levers of the

Mighty Wurlitzer Organ.

Bring your shoes, gather your music and
take a spin with Bill and Freddie as we get
a rare up-close look at a local treasure.

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 cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season,
Something God alone can see.*

Words are hardly adequate to express the joy we felt in the exquisite presentation given by the Knoxville Early Music Project (KEMP). The perfect blend of voices and instruments together and separately was breathtaking. To each musician we give a heartfelt thank you.

Our December meeting at First Presbyterian Church had many other delights besides KEMP. Our host, Ashley Burell, had double duty as host and performer. This oftentimes happens in our chapter and we are always grateful. The meal was delicious, prepared by church members and served to the 37 (if I counted correctly) AGO members. When I asked them to let us express thanks, their reply was this was a labor of love for Ashley. What a tribute!

Now, for something completely different. (Thank you Monty Python) We travel to the Historic Tennessee Theater January 9, for an evening with the Mighty Wurlitzer. Bring your music and shoes for open console and deep tremolos.

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.



**Have you ever wished
you could sit at the
console of a grand
theatre organ?**

**Now your chance is
here!!!!**

**Monday, January 9,
2012
7 pm
Tennessee Theatre
604 South Gay Street**

Join us on January 9, 2012 at 7pm when Bill Snyder and Freddie Brabson will host a Mighty Wurlitzer open console at the Tennessee Theatre for the Knoxville AGO Chapter. In addition to providing an opportunity for attendees to play the organ, Bill and Freddie will give brief histories of the Theatre culminating in the \$25 million restoration of the Theatre in 2003-2004 and the \$180,000 renovation of the organ in 2001.

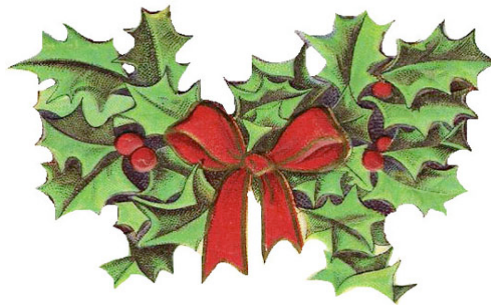
Bring one piece of music you would like to play, and Freddie and Bill will help you with registration. Unfortunately, we will not be able to visit the organ chambers due to the hazardous, fifteen foot vertical climb on ladders required to access the chambers. Or, just come and relax, listen and enjoy an evening catching up with fellow musicians.

Come to the Gay Street entrance to the Theatre by 7 PM. Free parking is available in the State Street parking garage. Dinner will not be served, but there will be ample wine.

Many of you have just finished another busy Advent and Christmas season. We do hope you will join us on January 9 for a relaxing evening. Although we will not be serving a regular AGO dinner, there are many wonderful restaurants in downtown Knoxville within walking distance of the theatre. If you have not visited downtown Knoxville in a while, now would be a good time to witness the great downtown revival.

Our Program Year

September 12	Liszt Celebration	Cedar Springs Presbyterian, Knoxville
October 3	Concerti Concert	Church of the Ascension, Knoxville
November 7	Historical Instruments	Fountain City Presbyterian, Knoxville
December 5	Knoxville Early Music Project	First Presbyterian, Knoxville
January 9	A Very Special Evening	Tennessee Theatre, Knoxville
February 6	Choral Evensong	Immaculate Conception, Knoxville
March 5	Durufié Messe cum jubilo, Op. 11	Church Street UMC, Knoxville
April 16	Student Recital	First Baptist, Knoxville
May 11	Musica Organi	Westminster Presbyterian, Knoxville



Important Dates

Program Date

September 12
 October 3
 November 7
 December 5
 January 9
 February 6
 March 5
 April 16
 May 11

Dinner Reservation Deadline

September 8
 September 29
 November 3
 December 1
 No Dinner
 February 2
 March 1
 April 12
 May 7

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS AWARDED \$15,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NEA Funding Will Support New Music, Workshops, and Performances at the 51st Biennial AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn., July 1–6, 2012

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) has been awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the 2012 AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn., July 1–6, 2012. The \$15,000 NEA “Art Works” grant is directed to new music, workshops, and performances, and carries a mandate that it be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources. The 2012 AGO National Convention is the third consecutive AGO National Convention that has garnered funding from the arts endowment.

AGO President Eileen Guenther stated, “The recognition by the NEA reaffirms the importance of new music commissions to increase organ and choral repertoire available to future generations, and to increase the American public’s knowledge of and appreciation for contemporary classical music. The AGO is especially interested in supporting new music for the concert stage, as there are increasing numbers of American concert halls, including the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, with new concert organs.”

AGO Executive Director James Thomashower added, “It is an honor to be recognized by the NEA. We are highly grateful for this grant that will enable us to continue our tradition of presenting outstanding musical performances when we meet for our 2012 AGO National Convention in Nashville.”

NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman announced that the agency will award 863 grants to organizations and individuals across the country. The 863 grant awards total \$22.543 million, encompass 15 artistic disciplines and fields, and support projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. “Art Works is the guiding principle at the NEA,” said Agency Chairman Landesman. “And I’m pleased to see that principle represented through the Art Works-funded projects that demonstrate the imaginative and innovative capacities of artists and arts organizations to enhance the quality of life in their communities.”

For its 51st biennial National Convention in Nashville, Tenn., the AGO has commissioned new compositions from Diana Burrell, David Conte, Eleanor Daley, Craig Phillips, Rosephanye Dunn Powell, and Roberto Sierra. The NEA grant will support these newly commissioned works and their premier performances, as well as educational workshops and concert programming during the convention. The roster of convention performers will include organ recitalists Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin, Matthew Dirst, Ahreum Han, Hector Olivera, Jane Parker-Smith, Craig Phillips, Raul Prieto Ramirez, Cherry Rhodes, Tom Trenney, and Thomas Trotter, plus winners of the AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, the AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation, and the AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists; choral ensembles Choir of Trinity College (Cambridge) and Nashville Chamber Choir; and instrumental ensembles Nashville Baroque Ensemble, Nashville Symphony (with organists Nathan Laube and Todd Wilson), and Joseph Gramley/Clive Driskill-Smith (organ and percussion duo).

For further information about the 2012 AGO National Convention, please visit www.Ago2012.org. For further information about the National Endowment for the Arts, please visit www.Nea.gov. ■

Events

Friday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m., Festival Eucharist for the Feast of the Epiphany, Church of the Ascension, Knoxville.

Friday, January 13 at 7:30 p.m., Westminster Choir, Joe Miller, Conductor, in concert at Church Street United Methodist Church, 900 Henley St. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$5 students. Please call church office for advance tickets, 865-524-3048.

Thursday, January 19, 7:30 p.m., Heavenly Opera, a concert of Opera Prayers and Scenes at Religious Settings featuring Zulimar Lopez-Hernandez, soprano, Alex Bumpas, tenor, Andrew Wentzel, bass and Brian Salesky, piano, Church of the Ascension, Knoxville.

Monday, January 23 at 12:05 p.m., Jim Garvey, organ recital, St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville. A delicious, inexpensive lunch follows.

BOEF Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

As noted in the October edition of the *Tracker*, we in the Knoxville AGO are beginning the Brock Organ Education Fund (BOEF) scholarship program this year, with the first scholarships offered for the academic year 2012-13.

We will be awarding two scholarships, one to a high school student and one to an undergraduate in an area college. Applicants must be studying with, or accepted to study with, a member of the KAGO. The application form states specific eligibility requirements.

Applications will be accepted between January 1 and February 17, 2012. Recommendations are due no later than March 30. Application forms and recommendation forms are available on the KAGO website, at www.knoxago.org. The Scholarship Committee has also sent forms directly to those members teaching organ. If you have not received these forms, please contact me.

Carolyn Moser, Chair
KAGO Scholarship Committee



February Newsletter Deadline: January 15