

The Tracker

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



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.

Monday, January 13

Anthem Reading of
Lenten and Easter Repertoire

Farragut Presbyterian Church
209 Jamestowne Blvd.
Knoxville, TN

Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Program 7:30 p.m



Join us as several area choir directors share a few of their favorite anthems for the Lenten/Easter season.





Happy New Year! I hope that 2014 is off to a good start for all of you.

As we begin this new year, I would like to highlight the way that the Knoxville AGO is encouraging new organists. Our Student Organ Encounter Day will take place on Saturday, February 8 at First Presbyterian Church. This event is geared toward young piano and organ students ages 8 to 18. Ashley Burrell, Brenda Goslee and Brad Rule will be teaching.

Dean's Message

We will also have high school and college students there to play a demo recital for the young musicians. EJ Choi and Carolyn Moser are assisting with the event.

Please encourage any young musicians that you know to attend. Registration forms are available by calling or emailing Carolyn Moser, 865.690.3801 or moserci@hotmail.com. The cost is only \$15 per student and lunch is included.

If you would like to sponsor a student, please contact me at: ejohnson@churchstreetumc.org. Last year, we had eight students from Joy of Music attend and your contribution would help to offset the cost for a young musician.

Edie Johnson

Important Date Change:

Saturday, February 8 will be our Student Organ Encounter Day at First Presbyterian Church. This event is open to young people ages 8 through 18. If you know a budding piano student who would be interested in an introduction to the organ, please let Edie Johnson know (ejohnson@churchstreetumc.org) and the student will receive an invitation and more information.

10 Easy Ways To Optimize Your Music Practice

From a week-long series called "The Young Person's Guide to Making Music" on npr.org come suggestions for parents and kids just starting out in music, with ideas for everything from finding a great teacher to reducing audition anxiety. In anticipation of our SOE, here are tips for getting kids to practice.

Find somewhere quiet. This seems too obvious for words, but not only will you be far less likely to succumb to all sorts of distractions, but entering a special practice area, whether it's a certain room or just a corner of the living room, will help prepare you mentally for this very particular kind of work. Mindful intention is everything, and having the ritual of going to the same place every time can help set that intention.

Have your supplies nearby. I really love cellist David Finckel's "Cello Talks" 100-video series on YouTube; you don't have to play cello to get a lot out of many of them. Some of what he covers seems like impossibly basic advice — as in the discussion (below) of his practice space. Part of his advice is to keep a pencil sharpener and a very clean eraser within arm's reach, along with a pencil to mark up your music. Simple, right? But those little things are easy to forget, and if you have to go searching for them, add up to a big waste of time.

Technology can be an amazing aid — as long as you don't spend too much time futzing with it. Three free or low-cost apps I have on my phone and iPad: a metronome, a tuner and a timer, which are all essential tools for practicing. And I always have my phone with me (see above).

Begin with the end in mind: Have a goal for each practice session before you start playing. Just playing through your music isn't the same thing as practicing. Before you start, think: What do I want to accomplish today? If you're not sure what you need to focus on, ask your teacher for a few concrete goals to work toward before the next lesson — and write them down so that you can refer to them during your practice sessions.

Map a practice session out like a workout. Lots of musicians start with a few actual stretches and breathing exercises before they pick up their instruments. Even if you don't go quite that far, a pretty common scenario is to start with scales as a warm-up, to loosen up your muscles and get your brain thinking about technique; move on to the "working" part where you analyze and try to solve problems; then cool down by improvising or revisiting some music you already know well.

Practice smarter, not necessarily longer. You'll probably accomplish a whole lot more in a short amount of time if you have a very focused objective — and science tells us that we have a limited amount of willpower to draw upon anyway. So make the most of the time you have. Say you are having trouble with two very tricky measures. Set your timer for a short period (like five or 10 minutes), and then work just on one problem in as many ways as you can — break it down into even smaller and more manageable bits, go super slow, try to play the passage backwards, change the rhythm, whatever. If that trouble spot is still giving you *agita*, then make yourself a mental note to come back to that section again tomorrow. Chances are it will be much, much easier the next time around.

Don't always start at the beginning every time. Remember what I said about maximizing your time and your willpower? This. It can feel really good to hear yourself playing the beginning of a piece beautifully, but you may wind up wasting the limited time and energy you have. (Also, it leads to performances that start strong and then, well, wilt.)

Challenge yourself — physically. Especially if you're trying to wrestle down an element that you find problematic, scientific researchers say that if you add a physical challenge to the difficult task, such as trying to play that part while standing on one leg or while walking, your brain is likely to start carving out new neural pathways — and the original task will be easier when you return to just doing that.

Practice away from your instrument. Many musicians use visualization in the same way that athletes do

Practice away from your instrument. Many musicians use visualization in the same way that athletes do: They run through their music without touching their instruments. Try bringing your music along with you (either on paper or a mobile device) when you know you'll have some downtime, such as during a car or train ride, and read through the piece silently.

Reward hard work — in positive ways — to help your brain automate good habits. That sounds like out-and-out bribery, but again, science! Finding something that your brain likes helps it remember the "habit loop," writes Charles Duhigg, author of *The Power of Habit*.

Go to the npr.org Deceptive Cadence page for these other titles in the series (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/deceptivecadence/155272002/the-young-persons-guide-to-making-music>):

'Next!' How Do You Reduce Audition Anxiety?; How Do You Encourage Your Kid Without Being A Crazy Stage Parent?; Getting Kids To Practice Without Tears Or Tantrums; Finding The Right Teacher For Your Music-Loving Kid; How Does A Kid Choose The Right Instrument to Play?



Sunday, January 5, 6:00 p.m., Festival Eucharist for the Epiphany, Church of the Ascension, 800 S Northshore Dr., Knoxville. Rutter Gloria with the Choirs of Ascension, Brass Octet, Theresa Pepin, organ; F. Michael Combs and Robert Adamcik, percussion.

Tuesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m., The Cornell University Glee Club with conductor, Robert Isaacs. Church Street UMC, 900 Henley St., Knoxville. Admission is free!



This month's spotlight shines on Brian Daniel. Brian assumed the role of Treasurer for the Knoxville chapter at the start of the 2013/14 season. He is currently the Organist at First Baptist Church, Knoxville where his wife Debby is the pianist. Brian is also a funeral director with Rose Mortuary, Mann Heritage Chapel.

Brian graduated from Gupton-Jones College of Mortuary Science and attended Carson-Newman College. He is a certified Funeral Service Practitioner with the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice. Brian is a member of the British Institute of Embalmers, the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors Association and the Rotary Club of Knoxville. During his tenure at Carson Newman he studied organ with the late Mary Charlotte Ball, Ryan Garber and Gregg Bunn.

In his spare time, Brian enjoys music and traveling. He and his wife Debby have two children, Kristin and Tyler and are active members of First Baptist Church of Knoxville.





It is with great excitement that the Boston Chapter welcomes you to:

The 2014 National Convention

The four and a half day convention offers:

- Fifty concerts by thirty-seven performers, featuring internationally acclaimed musicians
- Boston's rich choral heritage, many new instruments, and our famous landmark organs
- Eight finely crafted worship services in a wide variety of styles, featuring music from Renaissance polyphony to Duke Ellington
- Ninety workshops and master classes on a vast array of topics
- Fifty-two scholarly research papers
- Fourteen commissioned works for every playing level
- Ten reading sessions of choral and organ music
- Over one hundred exhibits and exhibitors
- Two national competitions and opportunities to hear previous competition winners
- An opportunity to explore one of this nation's greatest cities

Headquartered in the heart of Boston's beautiful Back Bay, the Marriott Hotel at Copley Place is central to our many great churches and Symphony Hall. Boston's compact core allows for easy walking or use of our public transit system to events in Boston and Cambridge. Our teams of volunteers will easily guide you to find convention venues and to enjoy Boston's beautiful neighborhoods. On Friday we offer side trips to Methuen, Shanklin, and Wellesley for a limited number. Come to Boston to renew acquaintances and make new friends. Arrive early and enjoy a wealth of pre-convention activities.

Register early to assure the availability of your preferred choices. Early registration begins **October 1 and ends January 31, 2014.**

I invite you to explore our website at <http://www.agoboston2014.org> for details of this great convention.

Great City, Compelling Music,
Inspired Learning, Gracious Hospitality.
We welcome you!

Positions Available

West End United Methodist Church, located in an urban setting in Nashville, Tennessee, is seeking a full time Minister of Music. Our church of more than 2200 members strongly supports a traditional music program that is nationally known for excellence. The music ministry, which provides music for the weekly liturgical services, includes adult choirs, handbell choirs, and children's choirs along with concerts accompanied by orchestra and a variety of other worship services. All applicants will be seriously considered as the committee wishes to find the best fit for the position. Willingness for a long-term commitment along with ten years of experience and a Master's degree are preferred. For more details or to apply, please go to www.westendumc.org/musicdirectorsearch. All applications must be received by January 31, 2014 with an employment start date of August 2014.

St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Farragut, TN is seeking a highly qualified professional musician to serve as the Church organist. This position involves a minimum of three weekend Masses per week, all holy days of obligation, and provides primary support to the Church's special worship programs throughout the liturgical year. The organist must act in accordance with the mission and vision of St. John Neumann Catholic Church. Primary Responsibilities Include: acting as primary organist/pianist for three weekly Masses, plus special services, acting as primary organist/pianist for one rehearsal per week, involvement with the worship ministry team (planning music, etc.) Required Skills and Qualifications Include: excellent musical performance skills and competencies, which must include organ and preferably piano as well, substantial experience playing the organ, training, education, and/or background in liturgical music, someone who has a good understanding of the Catholic Mass. Salary will be based on the individual applicant's skills, qualifications, and experience. This is a part-time position (about 20 hours per week).

2013/14 AGO Board Members

Edie Johnson, Dean ejohnson@churchstreetumc.org; 865.521.0277

Debbie Sousa, Sub-Dean; sousa@esknoxville.org

Karl Jacob, Registrar; karljake@aol.com

Karen Ladd, Secretary; kladd@utk.edu

Brian Daniel, Treasurer; badaniel@rosemortuary.com

Members-at-large: Joy Fournier, E.J. Choi and Fred Pogue

Need a Sub!! Here is a list of those available in our area.

John Brantley	brantleyjg@comcast.net	865-617-3174
John Brock	jbrock@utk.edu	865-577-7153
EJ Choi	ejpure@gmail.com	614-432-3841
Janet Cook	jcook306@comcast.net	865-685-0173 (Clinton/OR only)
Sherry Hendrix	sherryhendrix23@gmail.com	931-398-8219
Beverly Landguth	bevlandguth141@gmail.com	865-671-3797
Nancy Wells	nwells07@att.net	865-686-3355
Jenice Yoder	jyoder1@comcast.net	865-603-5528



Newsletter Deadline: January 24

Please add these dates to your calendar or cut it out for a lovely addition to your refrigerator!

Program Date	Dinner Reservation Deadline	Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, September 12	September 9	
Monday, October 7	October 3	September 21
Monday, November 4	October 31	October 19
Monday, December 2	November 27	November 16
Monday, January 13	January 9	December 27
Monday, February 10	February 6	January 24
Monday, March 3	February 27	February 14
Monday, April 7	April 3	March 21
Friday, May 9	May 5	April 25

******* Dinner Reservations *******

Please make your dinner reservations for

January 13, 2014
 Farragut Presbyterian Church
 Knoxville, TN

No later than
 Thursday, January 9

Cost \$12.00

By contacting
 Jim Garvey
 865-588-0589, extension 216
jgarvey@knoxvilleascension.org