

# The Tracker



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

## Members Recital

Monday, May 1  
7:30 p.m.

New Providence Presbyterian Church  
703 West Broadway Avenue  
Maryville, TN 37801

Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Installation of Officers 7:00 p.m.

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.





### 2016 Board Members

Andrew Morehead, Dean

[bamorehead@gmail.com](mailto:bamorehead@gmail.com)

Simon Hogg, SubDean

[Shogg86@me.com](mailto:Shogg86@me.com)

Sandi Henry, Secretary

[Sandi1957@gmail.com](mailto:Sandi1957@gmail.com)

John Brock, Treasurer

[jbrock@utk.edu](mailto:jbrock@utk.edu)

Jim Mason, Registrar

[masonjd@icx.net](mailto:masonjd@icx.net)

### Members-at-Large

Terrye Danner, 2017

[tadanner@charter.net](mailto:tadanner@charter.net)

Cynthia Moses, 2018

[Cynthia@c21mmr.com](mailto:Cynthia@c21mmr.com)

Gail Hafner, 2019

[gailandart@charter.net](mailto:gailandart@charter.net)

### Auditors

Eileen Rudd

[Emrudd823@comcast.net](mailto:Emrudd823@comcast.net)

Joy Fournier

[sergefournier@att.net](mailto:sergefournier@att.net)

## A WORD FROM THE DEAN

To the Members, Chapter Friends, and Supporters of the Knoxville AGO:

“It is finished,” the organist sighed on the last chord of the Hallelujah Chorus. Sore feet and aching backs trudged their way home for the most sacred day of the year, Holy Easter Monday, the great Sabbath day of church musicians, clergy, and staff. The snail’s pace of Lent then the sudden lightning bolt race of Holy Week leaves the church musician with the sensation of having jumped from the sauna to the polar bear dip and back again. We can only feel that we have run, to some extent, Paul’s good race and have made it to the finish line of Eastertide.

The service rendered through our playing in worship throughout Lent and Holy Week is immeasurable, and rightly so. There is no knowing the impact we have had on the souls in our midst. They aren’t ours after all. We only craft and create the space for worship, and Holy Week is the greatest time for enriching the spiritual lives of our parishioners. At the end of it all, I find myself saying it was good, because the simplest yet greatest of news has been proclaimed, that Christ is risen and salvation is brought to all. The little mistakes we make in our work, the notes we missed, the squeaky voices of the choristers that could have used another rehearsal, and our criticism thereof, pale in the face of joy. I invite you to sit back and reflect on the success and blessings of another year lived, of another year played.

While the coming weeks bring fewer choir rehearsals, lighter work loads, and pending conferences, the work never truly ends. Before us is the renewal of our membership in the AGO, the updating and production of the yearbook (which will be done much earlier this year), the installation of officers for the 2017-2018 program year, and an annual report on the state of the chapter. Our new bylaws are now in the hands of our regional and national leadership for approval. The greatest challenge ahead is membership and fundraising, which you will hear more about in the coming weeks. I wish to cover, briefly, some preliminary ground on finances.

To put it simply, our chapter is in need of continual giving on multiple fronts:

The annual operating budget and latent account balance, which was recovering from a period of heavier expenditures, has made a stable recovery. This, however, does not mean that the budget can sustain any large projects. The annual budget is set according to membership fees collected and any donations to the chapter that are not directed towards the BOEF (see below). Thus, our annual budget is roughly proportionate to the membership base, at this time nearly 80 members. As our chapter has shrunk, so too has our budget capacity and the ability to provide content rich and chapter-sponsored programming. For the most part, our chapter can only sustain “in-part” sponsorship of events that are largely underwritten by individual church art series in Knoxville. To continue growing past this stage of recovery and, hopefully, begin delivering better programming and, dare I say it, workshops, our chapter needs two things. First, more members, and second, contributions towards the operating budget of the chapter, especially at the time of membership renewal.

The Brock Organ Education Fund has frequently been declared self-sufficient. However, it is only declared thus in that roughly half of the amount of the yearly awards are taken from the gained interest from investments and the remaining amount is provided by donations made in that year. Thus, annual donations made to the BOEF are held as cash holdings to cover expenses that year. Only once the expenses are met can any additional funds donated in the current year be directed towards investment. It is my hope that chapter members continue giving to the BOEF in addition to the other campaigns so that the BOEF can be truly self-sustaining and self-sufficient. You can make donations to the BOEF at the time of membership renewal.

Lastly, the board has been investigating the efficacy of an endowment. While the operating budget provides an active, immediate return on donation, and the BOEF is an investment in the future of our young organists, an endowment is a passive, long term investment in the chapter. Endowments have been likened to the planting of trees. You plant them now for future generations to enjoy. In the coming months and years, you may hear more about legacy giving and how your donations will continue providing for the chapter year after year.

While I have painted in broad brush strokes, I hope this has provided a picture of the financial and membership challenges ahead. Please, if you have any difficulty with membership, please see Jim Mason or myself and we can work on your membership or provide paper membership copies to send to the National Headquarters. If you have incorrect information in the yearbook, please send me an email at [andrew@knoxvilleascension.org](mailto:andrew@knoxvilleascension.org), and I will correct/modify your information before we publish.

Make sure to remember the chapter in your conversations with fellow organists, choral conductors, and friends who may wish to support our endeavors. Our gains in membership are multiplied through the interactions our members have on a personal level. Thank you all for providing the board with the opportunity to serve you better this year.

Many thanks,

Andrew Morehead, *Dean*



Join us Monday, May 1 for the annual Member's Recital. This years venue will be New Providence Presbyterian Church in Maryville, TN. Our host is Peggy Rogers, program chair is Karl Jacob. Performing will be Freddie Brabson, Brenda Goslee, Karl Jacob, and Rob Lynch playing the music of Mulet, Mendelssohn, and Vierne.

The New Providence organ is a Casavant Freres, Opus 2293. The church contracted with the Casavant Company, a Canadian firm, on September 15, 1954. The dedication took place at worship on Sunday, November 6, 1955.

On September 15, 1954 a contract to build the New Providence Presbyterian Church organ was made with the Casavant Organ Company of St. Hyacinthe, Province of Quebec, Canada. This Canadian firm was established in 1837 by Joseph Casavant, who was succeeded by his two sons in 1879 and continues operations today.

An organ dedicatory recital took place Sunday, April 15, 1956. It was sponsored by New Providence Presbyterian Church and the Knoxville Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Claudia Carter was the recitalist, and the organist at New Providence from 1952 to 1964. (history by Ed Best, Jr.)

### Technical Details

- Electro-pneumatic (EP) pitman chests.
- Three manuals. 4 divisions. 32 stops. 43 registers. 37 ranks. 2390 pipes. Manual compass is 61 notes. Pedal compass is 32 notes.
- The organ is in chambers to the sides at the front of the room. There are no visible pipes. Traditional style console with roll top. The console is in a fixed position, center.
- Drawknobs in vertical rows on angled jambs. Balanced swell shoes/pedals, standard AGO placement. Adjustable combination pistons. AGO Standard (concave radiating) pedalboard. Crescendo Pedal. Reversible full organ/tutti thumb piston. Reversible full organ/tutti toe stud. Combination action thumb pistons. Coupler reversible toe studs.

### Our 2017–2018 BOEF Scholarship Winners

The KAGO Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce we have awarded two scholarships for the 2017–2018 academic year.

Our college scholarship recipient is Chase Benefiel, a freshman at Carson-Newman College, where he is majoring in sacred music and organ. He is an organ student of John Brock. Chase began studying organ with John while still in high school—which meant a two-hour commute from his home in Pineville, Kentucky. He is currently the organist at Fountain City Presbyterian Church.

Our high school scholarship goes to Nicholas Stigall, a junior at Berean Christian School. Nicholas has studied piano since the age of three and currently studies with David Brunell. He began organ studies with Edie Johnson last summer. Nicholas also attended the Tennessee Governor’s School of the Arts last summer. He is the accompanist for the Carol Choir at his church, Concord United Methodist.

Our congratulations to both Chase and Nicholas!

Carolyn Moser, Eileen Rudd, and Freddie Brabson  
KAGO Scholarship Committee



Nicholas Stigall



Chase Benefiel

University of Notre Dame presents

# Reformations and the Organ, 1517–2017

September 10–13



The University of Notre Dame and the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies will host a conference to celebrate the new organ by Paul Fritts.

Learn more:  
[sacredmusic.nd.edu/organ-conference](http://sacredmusic.nd.edu/organ-conference)



The University of Notre Dame and the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies will co-sponsor a conference to celebrate the new Fritts Organ on the University of Notre Dame campus.

The conference will take place beginning the afternoon of September 10, and ending at 1:00 p.m. on September 13, 2017.

You can register for the conference at:  
<https://westfield.org/notre-dame>

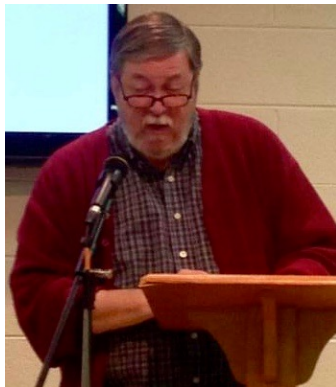
You can also learn more at:  
<http://sacredmusic.nd.edu/sacred-music-events/reformations-and-the-organ-1517-2017/>

I hope to see you in September!

Craig Cramer  
University of Notre Dame

Congratulations to the 2017-2018 officers who were elected at the April meeting. These officers will be installed at the May meeting. We look forward to a wonderful year under their leadership. Look for introductions in next months newsletter.

Dean- Simon Hogg  
Sub-Dean- Terrye Danner  
Secretary- Rob Lynch  
Treasurer- John P. Brock, Jr.  
Registrar- James David Mason  
Membership Coordinator- Andrew Morehead  
Members at Large-  
Karl Jacob (2020)  
Gail Hafner (2019)  
Freddie Brabson (2018)  
Auditors- Deborah Sanders and Cynthia Moses



Knoxville AGO Member Stanley Fann "Mr. Book" Stooksbury, age 64, of Powell, passed away April 11, 2016. He was organist at Beaver Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church for nearly 40 years.

Services will be announced at a later date by Mynatt Funeral Home Halls Chapel.

## JOB OPENING

### First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge

#### Music Associate Job Description

#### Qualifications

Bachelor's Degree in music, preferably with an emphasis in organ performance, and worship service playing with a minimum three to five years work experience in the field of church music.

**Description Supervisor** 24-28 hours per week, part-time Director of Music

#### Responsibilities

- Accompany Sunday traditional worship on organ/piano
- Plan music and rehearse Children's Choir(s)
- Plan music and rehearse Adult, Youth, and Children's Handbell Choirs
- Accompany funerals and weddings as needed and available
- Accompany Adult Chancel Choir at weekly rehearsals and performances
- Accompany Parish Youth Choir at weekly rehearsals, performances, and summer tour
- Help plan logistics of Parish Youth Choir Tour
- Help plan logistics of Adult Chancel Choir and Wesley Singers Tour
- Maintain Music Library
- Help coordinate Newsong Concert Series
- Create weekly choir supplements
- Attend weekly staff meetings and worship planning meetings at supervisor's discretion

#### Important Notes

- Position will have first right of refusal to play for weddings or funerals which are held in the church sanctuary.
- Church property may not be used for private remuneration lessons.
- Position will be compensated by participating families (over and above his/her regular salary) for music provided at FUMC weddings or funerals. The organist will handle these services as an independent contractor.



# AGO Prepares 30 Instructional Videos for New Organists

The AGO has begun developing a series of 30 videos intended to teach basic skills and techniques to beginning organists including pianists who are making a transition to organ-playing. The videos will be available on the AGO 's YouTube channel. More information will be forthcoming shortly. In the meantime, here are the working titles of the videos:

1. A pianist's first steps in making the transition to the organ. The concept of 8' pitch.
2. The architecture and layout of the American pipe organ. Two-manual organs. Turning the organ on. The coupling of manuals.
3. Larger American organs of three or more manuals. Coupling manuals to pedal. Divisions under dynamic expression.
4. The organ score. Manual and pedal compasses. Varieties of pedalboards.
5. Families of organ tone. Naming the sounds and stops. Ranges of organ pitch.
6. Two basic contrasting organ registrations for leading hymn singing.
7. Using general and local pistons (thumb pistons and toe studs) to change registrations quickly.
8. Traditional use of mutation stops, the cornet, and mixture stops.
9. The crescendo pedal. Where is it? What does it do? When is it useful?
10. Does the shoe fit? A discussion of organ shoes.
11. Are you comfortable? A discussion of best bench height.
12. Basics of good pedaling. A few pointers from various organ methods.
- 13.-18. A keyboardist's guide to leading hymns with the organ.
  - 1)The use of organ pedals when adapting a hymn to the organ.
  - 2)Varying the organ registrations in hymn playing.
  - 3)The beauty of simple hymnal harmony. Using only time and touch to shape melody.
  - 4)The power of interpreting hymn texts with alternate harmony.
  - 5)The why, when, and how of key modulation in hymn playing.
  - 6)Responding to classic prose forms in hymn texts.
19. Getting a shy congregation to sing. Elastic tempo and variety of touch in hymn playing.
20. Pointers for hymn introductions, and on handling the time between stanzas.
21. Love that text but not that tune, and vice versa. A guide for using metrical indexes for finding alternate hymn tunes.
22. A little traveling music. Spinning out a liturgical procession and filling awkward silences. Is this called organ improvisation?
23. To Amen or not to Amen, and other traditional conventions in American hymn singing.
24. Varied textures in playing hymns. Soloing out melodies and symphonic hymn registration.
25. Getting a MIDI-capable instrument to play through the organ console.
26. The art of the organ substitute. Tips on adjusting to changing acoustics and unfamiliar congregations.
27. Getting around on the vintage Hammond B-3 and C-3 electronic organs.
28. Tips for adapting to historic replica organs and exotic tunings during worship.
29. Customizing your own American-style crescendo pedal.
30. Adapting folk, guitar, piano, and other non-organ music to the organ.



### Thursday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.

Knoxville Chamber Chorale, directed by John Orr  
Church of the Ascension, Knoxville, TN

### Sunday, May 7

Choral Evensong, 5:00 p.m.  
First UMC, Oak Ridge, TN

University of Tennessee Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Angela Batey,  
Tami Newsom, organ. The Chamber Singers will sing Evensong at the National  
Cathedral in Washington, DC on May 19.

A Service of Choral Evensong, 6:00 p.m.  
Church Street UMC, Knoxville, TN

Parish Youth Choir, Chorister Choir, and Primary Choir. Tim Ward, director and  
Edie Johnson, organ.

### Monday, May 8, 7:30 p.m.

Bowling Green State University A Cappella Choir  
St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville, TN

### Central UMC, 201 East Third Street, Knoxville, TN

Monday, May 15, 12:05 pm - Noonday Vocal Recital by Rev. Jimmy Sherrod,  
Pastor of Central United Methodist Church.

Monday, May 22, 12:05 pm - Noonday Choral Recital by the O'Connor singers.

Monday, June 12, 12:05 pm. - Noonday Duo Trumpet Recital by Stephen Collins  
and Joel Tillman.

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

Please make your dinner reservations for

May 1, 2017  
New Providence Presbyterian  
Maryville, TN

No later than  
Noon  
Thursday, April 27

Cost \$12.00

By contacting  
Karl Jacob  
865-335-1174  
karljake@aol.com

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

Chase Benefiel	chase.benefiel@gmail.com	615-457-4249
John Brantley	brantleyjf@comcast.net	865-617-3174
John Brock	jbrock@utk.edu	865-577-7153
Karen Ladd	kladd@utk.edu	865-690-9488
Beverly Landguth	bevlandguth141@gmail.com	865-671-3797
Ericka McCarty	erickamcc0523@gmail.com	423-562-2197

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