

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.



Influenced by Robert and Clara Schumann and Joseph Joachim, Johannes Brahms not only learned to play the organ at the beginning of his career, but also wrote significant compositions for the instrument as a result of his early counterpoint study. He composed for the organ only sporadically or as part of larger

choral and instrumental works in his subsequent career. During the final year of his life, however, he returned to pure organ composition with a set of chorale preludes--though many of these are thought to have been revisions of earlier works. Today, the organ works of Johannes Brahms are recognized as beautifully crafted compositions by church and concert organists across the world and have become a much-cherished component of the repertoire. Until now, however, most scholarly accounts of Brahms's life and work treat his works for the organ as a minor footnote in his development as a composer.

Precisely because the collection of organ works is not extensive, the pieces--composed at different times during Brahms's lifetime--help to map his path as a composer, pinpointing various stages in his artistic development. Join us as University of Tennessee graduate student in musicology and organ Andrew Morehead will talk about the life and works of Johannes Brahms. Knoxville AGO members will perform Brahms' Chorale-based organ works: Chorale Prelude and Fugue on O Traurigkeit and the complete Opus 122 Chorale Preludes. Performers will be Elsilynn Barber, E.J. Choi, Brenda Goslee, Karl Jacob, Jason Overall, Theresa Pepin, Dwight Stooksbury, and Peter Van Eenam.

The Music of Johannes Brahms

Monday, November 5

Messiah Lutheran
6900 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN

6:30 Dinner
7:30 Program

hosted by
Joan McGinnis





“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”, in recent years this little Christmas ditty has become popular in August/September thanks to a Staples commercial about kids going back to school. But, as a church musician for over 25 years, when I hear this little tune I think of the weekend in the Fall when the clocks “fall” back and we as church musicians get an extra hour of sleep; what a magical time of year, don’t you think?

That being said, don’t forget to reset your clocks the first Saturday of November before you retire for the evening. And if you are one of those that don’t have to be up for a church job that first Sunday of November, hopefully by that first Monday you will realize that the time change has occurred and you won’t be late for our monthly meeting where we will hear Brahms at Messiah Lutheran.

Dean's Message

Now, for this month’s installment of “meet a chapter member”, here’s Sandra....

Although I was born and grew up in Chattanooga, I have now lived a little over half my life in my second home, Knoxville. As a child, I quickly fell in love with classical music, most probably because of my experience of being taken by my older sister, Doris, to see Walt Disney’s *Fantasia*. And I honestly cannot remember when I did not want to play the piano. But, although first majoring in piano at the University of Chattanooga, I decided after two years to switch my major to mathematics. I was also totally enamored of science and Sputnik had just been launched into space. In fact, my freshman English paper was on a proposed satellite for Earth. I envisioned working with computers and doing lots of exciting things, but keeping my music for my pleasure and relaxation rather than earning a living at it. I eventually completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics and then a Master of Science degree in mathematics and physics while working full time at TVA. New developments in science and new discoveries about interstellar space continue to excite and fascinate me after all these years.

For 37 years I worked at TVA in a variety of positions, primarily in scientific computing and later as a manager. During my time at TVA I met and married my husband, Robert (who died in 1986). We both loved nature and particularly enjoyed hiking and backpacking on the Appalachian Trail and in other areas. We also did a lot of traveling, visiting many different countries around the world.

By the time I decided to take early retirement from TVA in 1994, I had been involved working in lots of professional organizations related to computing and had also served for some time as a member of the Board of the Wine Society of East Tennessee, both as Newsletter Editor and as a wine judge. The latter position in WSET gave me an opportunity to develop and extend my interest in, enjoyment of, and knowledge about wines. However, following my retirement from TVA, I soon became involved in a number of different organizations supporting music and the arts in Knoxville and that was to become my primary focus. I still continue to support those organizations dedicated to encouraging young people to develop an interest in and love for music.

Sometime in early 1995 after spending some post-retirement time traveling and doing lots of other things, I finally worked up the courage to ask Jim Garvey, our wonderful organist/choirmaster at Church of the Ascension if he would be willing to take a senior citizen as an organ student. Lessons began in May after purchasing my first organ shoes and my requisite copy of Gleason. As a member of the Parish Choir at Ascension since sometime in 1992-93, I had come to love the sound of our marvelous Karl Wilhelm tracker as played by Jim, and I wondered if I would ever be able to play even a small bit as well on that instrument.

During my first year of study, even though I was still struggling to put my hands and feet together at my lessons, Jim encouraged me to attend the 1996 AGO National Conference in New York. Well, the rest is history. I went and was hooked for life. Jim has been such a superb teacher, and I credit any accomplishments I have had to his outstanding musicianship and teaching ability, his encouragement, his high standards, and his honest criticism.

Since 1996 I have been actively involved as a member of the AGO and more recently the Association of Anglican Musicians. What a thrill it has been to participate in organ master classes with world-class organists and to attend inspiring AGO and AAM conferences. I have had the great pleasure of serving as a substitute organist at churches in Knoxville and Maryville and later as interim organist at Messiah Lutheran Church in Knoxville and All Saints' Episcopal Church in Morristown. It has been a joy to have the opportunity to watch young and older musicians in our chapter grow and develop. It has been especially thrilling to see our own Malcolm Matthews continue to develop his amazing gifts as a musician and to be one of the finalists in this year's AGO NYACOP competition. My life has been made so much richer through music and I wish that for all. May we continue to identify, encourage, and support more young musicians through all our chapter's activities.

Sandra Powell Emond

The countdown continues 62 days til Christmas! Again don't forget to set those clocks back the first weekend of November. Then come out to support fellow AGO members as they play Brahms Opus 122 at our monthly dinner/program, the first Monday of November.

Karl

As I chronicled here at the end of last season, I was very fortunate this summer to travel with the University of Tennessee Chamber Singers to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland where, under the direction of Dr. Angela Batey and the expert travel commentary/guidance of Simon Hogg (NI is his native country), we embarked on 12 days of Cathedral Residency and Concerts. Traveling with us as part of UT's BIG ORANGE/BIG IDEAS initiative were Tom and Russ from UT Video and Photography who filmed hundreds of hours for a documentary soon to be released (the last Chamber Singers travel documentary won a major award.) Below are the links to seven (7) preliminary short films produced by Tom and Russ, each only 3-5 minutes. If you have ever wondered what it was like to travel out of the country with 40 college kids here is your chance to watch. What a privilege to work with these terrific musicians. The icing on the cake was the fabulous organs that Simon and I had the honor of playing in glorious cathedral settings.

Ireland Diaries #1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQKQfo_P1qU

Ireland Diaries #2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyrcweA745g>

Ireland Diaries #3: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-p4XIKI_G8

Ireland Diaries #4: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4GSx8kmxGc>

Ireland Diaries #5: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sDDiGS-c_k

Ireland Diaries #6: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAAgN9w99w8>

Ireland Diaries #7: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0_60iLY8U0



Tami Newsom

EVENTS

Sunday, October 28, 11 am Worship, Maryville college Concert Choir; and Off Kilter in concert, 12:15 pm in the Chapel. First Presbyterian, Knoxville.

Sunday, October 28, 5:30 pm, Procession for All Hallows' Eve, Church of the Ascension, Knoxville.

Wednesday October 31 All Hallow's Eve Choral Evensong All Saints' Remembrance. 5:30 pm Dinner, 6:30 pm Service in the Sanctuary. Responses Dan Locklair, Psalm 24 – plainsong, Requiem by Gabriel Faure, Volontaires Boellmann. Musica Sacra, Men of the Choir, Chancel Choir. First Presbyterian, Knoxville.

Sunday, November 11, Kemp in Concert - The Early Italian Violin. 12:15 pm Dinner in the Fellowship Hall, 1:15 pm, Concert in the Chapel. Music by Buonamente, Cazzati, Eustachio, Fontana, Frescobaldi, B. Marini, T. Merula, Negri, S. Rossi and Uccellini. First Presbyterian, Knoxville.

Monday, November 19, Noon. Edie Johnson in recital . St. Johns Episcopal Church, Knoxville.

Sunday November 25, 3:00 pm. Jelani Eddington Organ Concert, Tennessee Theatre

Sunday, December 2, 11:00 am. First Presbyterian Knoxville.

Sunday, December 2, 5:30 pm. Candlelight Service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Church of the Ascension, Knoxville.

Wednesday, December 5, Advent Noonday Communion Service, 11:40 a.m. Recital, Darla Orr, Soprano, Edie Johnson, Organ. Church Street UMC, Knoxville.

Wednesday, December 12, Advent Noonday Communion Service, 11:40 a.m. Recital Don Trentham, Piano. Church Street UMC, Knoxville

Sunday December 9 at 5:00 pm. Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols. St. James Episcopal Church, Knoxville. Readings from the First Testament prophecies in anticipation of Christmas will be paired with congregational hymns and choral music by Francisco Guerrero, Orlando Gibbons, Tomas Luis de Victoria, and Sam Batt Owens. A festive reception will follow. This event is free and open to all. For more information, please visit www.stjamesknox.org or our FaceBook page: St-James-Episcopal-Church-of-Knoxville. Other inquiries can be made to jason@stjamesknox.org or by telephone: 865.523.5687.

Sunday, December 9, 5:00 Advent Lessons and Carols, St. Stephens Episcopal Church Oak Ridge with Second United Methodist Celebration Handbell Choir, Becky Kidd, Director.

Sunday, December 9, 6:00 pm. Advent Service of Lessons and Carols. Farragut Presbyterian, Knoxville.

December 9, 6:30 p.m. Festival Concert of Nine Lessons and Carols. First Baptist, Knoxville.

We are so fortunate in East Tennessee to have several outstanding musical outlets that are supported by members like you. Below are the website links to several in our area, each filled with a variety of offerings.

The Tennessee Theatre and the Mighty Wurlitzer presents:

Mighty Musical Monday with The Amherst Singers, November 5, 2012 at 12:00 pm.

This is a free concert! However, tickets are required. For more information, contact the box office at 865-684-1200. Doors open at 11:30 am. The guest performers for the November 5 James A. Dick Mighty Musical Monday Program will be The Amherst Singers. In addition to the performers, Bill Snyder and Freddie Brabson will play selections on the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ. Guest MC for the program will be John Becker. A boxed lunch may be purchased in the lobby for \$5.00 (while supplies last). In addition, several snacks may be purchased at the concession stand such as soft drinks, bottled water, popcorn, candy.

<http://www.tennesseetheatre.com/events/>

Knoxville Symphony Orchestra: <http://www.knoxvillesymphony.com/events/>

University of Tennessee, School of Music: <http://www.music.utk.edu/events>

Roane State Community College: <http://www.roanestate.edu/?5587-Events-and-Performances>

Pellissippi State Community College: http://www.pstcc.edu/music/schedule.php#.UInF_rTR3ww

Maryville College: <http://www.maryvillecollege.edu/about/arts-culture-calendar/fall/>

Greetings,

At the moment I am recruiting students for our Master of Sacred Music program at the University of Notre Dame. We are extremely excited about what is going on here. The degree combines music (two organ recitals, organ literature, music history) and liturgy courses. There are eight organ students in the MSM program—four in each class. The assistantships pay full tuition for two years plus a stipend of \$12,500 per year for two years. Typically a student on an assistantship works in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on campus. All students in our MSM program are supported with tuition grants.

Our new DMA program is nearly ready to accept applications. Watch for details soon. If you know of anyone who might be interested in applying, I am happy to hear from you. Or, give the prospective student my email address and/or phone number. There are details of the program on the website:

<http://www.nd.edu/~msm/>

Many thanks for your help, and all the best,

Craig Cramer, DMA
Professor of Organ
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana USA
574-631-7836

<http://music.nd.edu/faculty-and-staff/craig-cramer/>



Newsletter Deadline: November 16

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

Please make your dinner reservations for

November 5, 2012
Messiah Lutheran Church
Knoxville, TN

No later than
Thursday, November 1

Cost \$12.00

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

