



Antiphon

*News from the Annapolis Chapter
of the
American Guild of Organists*

February 2026



Dear Colleagues,

Charmaine J. Forde said, "February is short but filled with lots of love and sweet surprises". I personally find February to be the coldest month of the year with unpredictable weather but great Superbowl parties! There are not too many local or chapter events occurring in February, with our next event taking place on March 7, 2026, which is a workshop presented by Monica Berney at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Annapolis, MD. St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Capitol Hill (313 Second St NE, Washington, DC) just completed a one million dollar plus renovation on their 1891 Hook & Hastings (Opus 1487) organ by David E. Wallace and Company, returning it to near original condition. The re-dedictory concert occurred January 11, 2026; with monthly organ concerts commencing at 4pm the second Sunday of the month throughout calendar year 2026. The next concert at St. Joseph's is 4pm Sunday February 8, 2026, featuring Ben Laprairie, who is currently the Associate Director of Music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. I hope to be able to attend that concert.

The chapter received two applications for our \$500 Gilley-Stornetta Organ Scholarship, which our scholarship committee will be reviewing. In late February, I will be visiting one of my cousins in Phoenix, Arizona. Besides a one-week escape from the cold weather, I am looking forward to having dinner at the famous Organ Stop Pizza restaurant in Mesa, AZ. It opened in 1972 and hosts over 300,000 visitors each year. There is a 1927 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ with 6,000+ pipes that is played while the patrons enjoy their meals. While in Milwaukee last summer for the Theatre organ convention, I missed out on the trip to Organ Piper Pizza, a similar venue, so I this time am going to make sure I get this knocked off my bucket list!

Notable composers born in February include Felix Mendelssohn (Feb 3); Arcangelo Corelli (Feb 17); Charles-Marie Widor (Feb 21); George Frideric Handel (Feb 22) and Gioachino Rossini (Feb 29). Presidents Abraham Lincoln (Feb 12) and George Washington (Feb 22) also have birthdays this month.

Warm Regards,
Bill

MARCH 7th WORKSHOP WITH MONICA BERNEY



Monica Berney graduated from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, Texas in 2019 with Bachelor

and Master's degrees in organ performance. She then continued her studies at Curtis Institute where she earned an Artist Diploma after studying with Alan Morrison. She has performed in multiple AGO conventions and was the winner of the Regional Competition for Young Organists (Southwest Region) in 2015. She has also performed in venues nationwide including the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. See her website <https://www.monicaberney.com/> to learn more. She is a church organist who maintains an active calendar of performances around the country.

Monica will join us on March 7th to conduct a master class/workshop at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Annapolis. Bring your music and come ready to play for Monica, and she will give you guidance with registration, expression and interpretation. She is known as being a gifted teacher! Surely you have repertoire that you learned recently - this is an excellent opportunity to learn new ways to bring your music to life on the beautiful 3-manual Möller organ. Click here to see a video of the instrument:

<https://www.stmartinsannapolis.org/ministries/music-ministry>

We look forward to seeing you Saturday, March 7, 9:30am – 12 noon, at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 1120 Spa Rd., Annapolis. We will have a break for refreshments and fellowship; please email betsy.lord@iCloud.com if you would like to bring food. See you there!

A TOUR OF MORE APPROACHABLE WORKS OF THE CANONICAL COMPOSERS

April 25, 9:30am – 12 noon

**St. Martin's in-the-Field Episcopal Church,
Severna Park**

David Beatty, presenter

The Cambridge Dictionary documents one definition of "canonical" as "considered to be among the best and most important, and worth studying". With respect to composers, Google conveys, "Canonical composers, foundational to Western music, [are] defined by their enduring influence, technical mastery, and widespread recognition".

Similarly, Google conveys, "tour exertion levels categorize the physical demands of a trip, helping travelers assess if a tour matches their fitness. Ratings commonly measure walking distance, terrain, pace, and daily hours of activity. Understanding these levels prevents overestimating fitness and ensures an enjoyable experience."

On this tour within the realm of organ literature, we will visit works that are approachable in exertion level. Awareness of these sites can "ensure an enjoyable experience" for travelers when they craft their personal itinerary of practice, rehearsal, and performance.



AGO CERTIFICATION '26 REMAINING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

SPC Monthly Study Groups remaining February

Mondays at 7pm EST

5 Sessions Total

January 26th, 2026 -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/NiGUu1xSE6DBeAx1IEF9Q>

February 9th, 2026 -

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ihtejF6vRqWH_EN0yeqRLA

May CAGO and Upper-Level Exams Study Groups at 7pm EST

Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 - CAGO Written Exam -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/l8xLRco9Q36EO8wsbXfD5g>

Monday, April 20th, 2026 - CAGO Repertoire and Keyboard Skills -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/X6GDQkHZQbCudiSeRkifZQ>

Monday, April 27th, 2026 - Fugue (CAGO, AAGO, FAGO) -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/-Kq0mA2MRvidWUNzeDf1XQ>

Monday, May 4th, 2026 - Ear Tests (AAGO, FAGO, ChM) -

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/2J9Q25p8S4uhNh2l_2Mqsw

Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 - Compositional Techniques (AAGO, FAGO, ChM) -

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/k64-vtRkQ-iHW4_KDEE7nQ

MARCH ANTIPHON

Please send submissions for our next issue to Kerry Heyes, kadams61@yahoo.com by **February 20th**. Thanks!

AGO WEBSITE - agohq.org

Updates have made things easier when renewing dues. You may also want to explore new features on the website. Here is an easy step-by-step guide:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Welcome-to-our-new-website-.html?soid=1130570232331&aid=NRrPX8fKqLs>

JOB LISTINGS

This link brings you to detailed job descriptions for the job postings listed below.

<https://annapolisago.org/job-openings/>

St. James' Episcopal Parish in Lothian, MD seeks a gifted musician to serve as organist and choirmaster to plan, rehearse, and conduct the music for weekly liturgies and special services, with the assistance of regular volunteer musicians and instrumentalists hired for special liturgies.

Calvary United Methodist Church in Annapolis is seeking a talented and dedicated Organ/Piano Accompanist to support weekly worship services, choir rehearsals, and special events under the direction of our Music Director.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Waldorf, MD seeks a part-time Director of Music to play the piano and organ and direct a small all-volunteer choir.

Providence Presbyterian Church, in Fairfax, VA is seeking Organist and Accompanist.
https://www.providencechurch.org/.../Organist_Accompanist...

Holy Family Catholic Church, in Randallstown, MD is seeking Director of Music.
https://www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org/_files/ugd/76d452_1dc63885960d4905b4a93de874967523.pdf

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dean: Bill Gilligan

Sub-Dean: Paul Griffin

Secretary: Cindy Carlton

Treasurer: Scott Romanoski

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Class of 2026: Ben Garcia, Michael A. Clarke

Class of 2027: Kerry Heyes, Betsy Lord

Class of 2028: Ben Touzeau, Diane Kinsley

CHAPTER WEBSITE

annapolisago.org

CHAPTER EMAIL

AGOAnnapolis@gmail.com



<https://www.facebook.com/AnnapolisAGO>