

# Antiphon

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



**June 2026**

Dear Colleagues,

The Rodgers and Hammerstein song from the musical Carousel, "June is Bustin' Out All Over" certainly rings true. This is the month for Flag Day (14 June); Father's Day (21 June); First Day of Summer and the longest day of the year (21 June). If the tradition of "June Brides" (which dates back to ancient Roman times) is still in effect, then many of us will be busy preparing wedding music this month. I did not receive any additional inputs for our list of 2026-2027 Executive Committee candidates, so the ballot was finalized, and voting is scheduled to be complete by May 31, 2026. The Tapestry of Music Spring Concert at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park will take place on June 6, 2026, at 7pm. I invite members to submit items of interest to Kerry Heyes (kadams61@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the monthly Antiphon newsletter. Suggested topics include upcoming events; personal stories; lessons learned; educational tips / opportunities and funny things that have happened to us over the years as organists. There are several job openings for churches that need organists listed in this newsletter, so keep training and encouraging our young folks to become competent organists.

The AGO National Convention will take place in St. Louis, Missouri July 6-10, 2026. Highlights include a spectacular opening concert celebrating America's 250th Birthday; seventeen performances at seventeen different venues (including eight newly commissioned works) and over thirty workshop sessions. The National AGO has digitized 60 years of magazine content in their online archive that can be accessed via [agohq.org/magazine](https://agohq.org/magazine). Just sign in using your AGO credentials and you can start researching past issues of The American Organist. The AGO National website currently offers many educational areas to explore, such as Substitute Organist Tips, Improvisation Training, Webinars and Performances via the 276 videos posted on AGO YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/guildoforganists>). Take a look, you may find something you like.

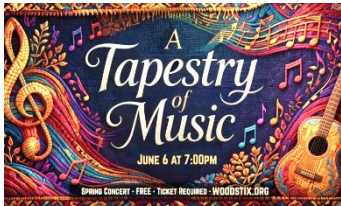
Composer's celebrating birthdays this month include Edward Elgar (2 JUN 1857); John Stainer (6 JUN 1840); Igor Stravinsky (17 JUN 1882); Charles Gounod (17 JUN 1818) and Jaques Offenbach (20 JUN 1819).

Warm Regards,  
Bill

## EVENTS

**Monday, June 1, 7pm: Organ Recital at St. Anne's.** The event is free and open to the public. After graduating from Mercer University in Macon, GA, with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, Ted Babbitt, a concert organist from Connecticut, will embark on a recital tour titled *The Next Chapter*. The tour consists of nine concerts across the East Coast as he makes his way home from Mercer. The program features the works he studied throughout his undergraduate degree with Dr. Jack Mitchener. This tour serves as an opportunity for Ted to express gratitude to those who have supported him and to celebrate the beginning of the next chapter in his life. In the Fall, he will begin pursuing a master's degree in organ performance at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA.

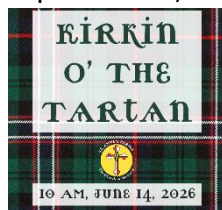
**Saturday, June 6, 7pm: A Tapestry of Music - Spring Concert - Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church Severna Park.**



Featuring American Composers and the great masters that influenced them. Come and hear music by Aaron

Copland, Leonard Bernstein, John Williams, J.S. Bach, L. Beethoven, J. Brahms and more — it's a concert truly interwoven through time. This concert will include a full orchestra, the Woods' Adult choir, Elysian Dance Theater, Vocal and Instrumental solos, and a special piano solo by Jung-hoon Park. This concert is free but a ticket is required - space is limited. Please register at [www.woodstix.org](http://www.woodstix.org). For additional information please email David Merrill at [dmerrill@woodschurch.org](mailto:dmerrill@woodschurch.org)

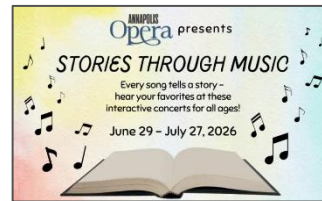
**Sunday, June 14, 10am Service: Kirkin' O' The Tartans** at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Church Circle, Annapolis. Join us for a beloved tradition as we host the Kirkin' O' The Tartans, led by the Chesapeake Caledonian Pipes & Drums and the St.



Andrew's Society of Baltimore! This special service honors Scottish heritage through the blessing of tartans—the historic family symbols

of Scotland. The pipe and drum band will lead the procession into the church, perform at the offertory, lead the recessional at the close of the service. Come early or stay after to enjoy the bagpipes in the St. Anne's Church Yard! All invited to join the Hospitality & Fellowship Committees for a church picnic after the service in the church yard. All of Scottish descent are especially encouraged to wear their family tartan with pride.

**Every song tells a story—hear your favorites at these interactive concerts for all ages!**



These family-friendly presentations at four Anne Arundel County Library

branches feature a professional opera singer sharing their favorite pieces that celebrate storytelling through music.

**Concert Dates, Times, & Locations**

- **Monday, June 29th**  
6-7pm at the Mountain Road Library
- **Wednesday, July 15th**  
6-7pm at the Crofton Library
- **Monday, July 20th**  
6-7pm at Discoveries: Library at the Mall
- **Monday, July 27th**  
6-7pm at the Eastport Library

**Friday, July 3, 7:30pm: ASO Brass Quintet, Movie under the Liberty Tree – Hamilton**



Join the ASO Brass Quintet on the lawn of St. Johns College in Annapolis when we perform before the City of Annapolis' screening

of the hit movie *Hamilton*. This event is free and open to the public.

**Saturday, July 4,**

(<https://www.visitannapolis.org/events/annual-events-and-festivals/4th-of-july/>)

**1pm: One Country, Many Cultures: Live Music** at the People's Park. A vibrant showcase of Latin, Eastern European, and Irish music and dance.

**7:45pm: USNA Electric Brigade Concert** on the State House Grounds. High-energy patriotic and pop favorites from the Naval Academy band.

## ARUNDEL VOCAL ARTS CELEBRATES NEW DIRECTOR

After 18 years of singing under the baton of JoAnn Kulesza, the Arundel Vocal Arts Society performed its 2025-26 season with a new conductor on the podium. He is **Ruslan Bondar**, a Ukrainian national who was trained at the national conservatory in Kiev. He and his family came to America when his country was invaded by Russia in 2022. Ruslan received strong recommendations from colleagues at Washington's Capitol Hill Society, and his new ensemble quickly realized why he had engendered such positive support. The first concert presided over by the new maestro was a Christmas program sung at Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church in Arnold. Each piece told a story of winter traditions, ancient rituals, and the warmth of God's love experienced at the coldest, darkest time of year. With pianist Diane Kingsley providing expert support from the keyboard, seasonal favorites such as "Angels We have Heard on High", "Wassail, Wassail", "Here We Come a Caroling" and John Rutter's "Wexford Carol" were performed along with several Ukrainian songs performed in their original language. With consummate patience, Mr. Bondar inspired AVAS to master Cyrillic pronunciations so that our well-known "Carol of the Bells" could ring out as "Schedryk, Schedryk" and the folksy "Kolyada-Kolyadka" could ring out as festively as it might on a cold December night in Kiev. Most moving of all was the haunting "In the Dark Night" ("V temnu"), a Ukrainian lullaby for which the choir was joined by Yuliia Neduzhko, a Ukrainian soprano and wife of the conductor. Cellist Daniel Shomper's expressive musicianship rounded out the AVAS concert with the five atmospheric movements of Sarah Quartel's "A Winter Day".

For AVAS's spring concert, Mr. Bondar brought JS Bach's best-loved cantata, "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" to his appreciative Gloria Dei! audience with Diane Kinsley at the organ, soprano Tamara Tucker, baritone Philip Greenfield, and a small baroque orchestra joining the choir of 28. The program continued to live out the concert theme of "Awake to the

Light" with Elaine Hagenberg's "Illuminare", settings of Hildegard of Bingen's poem "Caritas", the Canticle of Zachariah, and other spiritually-rapt texts conveying the power and beauty of God's luminous presence entering the world. Once again, the choir was joined by Diane Kinsley on the piano and a small complement of instruments whose sound added to the beauty of Ms. Hagenberg's creation.

Arundel Vocal Arts is looking forward to its second season under Ruslan Bondar's leadership and invites singers interested in joining the group to visit the AVAS website ([arundelvocalarts.org](http://arundelvocalarts.org)) or past-president [carolynsonnen.mtbc@gmail.com](mailto:carolynsonnen.mtbc@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook for more news about our fall schedule. We welcome ALL as singers, audience and supporters. AVAS ~All Voices Are Significant!

*Submitted by Carolyn Sonnen*

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY'S  
**CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE**

Week One: June 14-19, 2026 with Clinician Marianne Kim  
Week Two: June 21-26, 2026 with Clinician Jan Kraybill

**ORGAN & PIANO**  
Plus other church music topics led by specialists and clinicians!

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY  
Dr. Wayne L. Wold, Director  
cmi@su.edu

su.edu/cmi

**Shenandoah University's Church Music Institute** continues with this summer's annual conference. Registrants may take for credit toward a Certificate in Church Music at either the grad or undergrad level, or they may choose to audit the sessions. Primary focus this year is on keyboard skills and repertoire, but topics including choral rep, handbells, worship planning, and philosophy of church music will also be covered. Guest clinician for Week One, June 14-19, is Marianne Kim, and for Week Two, June 21-16, we have Jan Kraybill. Bios of the clinicians, weekly schedule, registration info, and more info about CMI can be found at <https://www.su.edu/conservatory/conferences-institutes-2/church-music-institute/> Contact CMI Director Wayne L. Wold at [wwold@su.edu](mailto:wwold@su.edu) for further information. Join us!



## ARE YOU PLANNING FOR AMERICA 250?

J.W. Pepper has resources for patriotic repertoire for many ensembles; click on this link: [Honor 250 Years of American Spirit Through Music](#)

## CHORAL SINGING IN AMERICA: Nurturing the Country's Soul

*Choral Singing in America* is now available worldwide for digital rental or purchase on Apple TV, Amazon Prime, and YouTube TV. After years of filming choirs and communities across the country, the film is ready to be shared with singers, educators, and audiences everywhere.

From classrooms and concert halls to churches, synagogues, prisons, and hospice centers, the documentary highlights how choral singing fosters connection, empathy, and a shared sense of purpose across communities.

Learn more about the film, its creators, and its release at the [official website](#)—and help spread the word with your singers and colleagues.

Watch the trailer:

<https://choralsinging.org/watch>

## ANTIPHON SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!

As members of the American Guild of Organists, we want to encourage and support each other in our church music ministries. We would like to list your concerts and special events in the Antiphon, this monthly newsletter. Please send details about your concerts and events to Kerry Heyes, our Antiphon editor, at [kadams61@yahoo.com](mailto:kadams61@yahoo.com) by the 20th of each month. Kerry would also like to include news about members, so send her your news. We what to know if:

- you recently changed jobs or retired
- you are traveling somewhere over the summer for a workshop, class or performance opportunity
- any personal news you would like to share

## JOB LISTINGS

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

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

**Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church** in Arnold, MD seeks an enthusiastic and passionate musician to lead the music ministry of the church. Duties include playing for 1 Sunday service, directing and accompanying the adult and children/youth choirs. Familiarity and experience in church music and liturgy are preferred. Musical instruments include a Baldwin baby grand piano and a Makin English Cathedral 2 manual digital organ. Salary commensurate with experience.

**Ginger Cove** in Annapolis seeks organist. 11am Sunday non-denominational service includes prelude, postlude, three hymns, no choir, no rehearsals. Our organ is a two-manual Rodgers with MIDI. Pay to be discussed. Applicants should send resume or questions to Fran Jackson, Religious Life Committee at [Franjackson756@gmail.com](mailto:Franjackson756@gmail.com).

**Lanham United Methodist Church, Lanham, MD** is seeking an organist to play their 2-manual pipe organ, which was rebuilt by R.A. Daffer in 1988. Currently the church does not have a choir, and there is one service each Sunday.

**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.

**Providence Presbyterian Church**, in Fairfax, VA is seeking Organist and Accompanist.

<https://www.providencechurch.org/employment/>

**Holy Family Catholic Church**, in Randallstown, MD is seeking Director of Music. [https://www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org/\\_files/ugd/76d452\\_1dc63885960d4905b4a93de874967523.pdf](https://www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org/_files/ugd/76d452_1dc63885960d4905b4a93de874967523.pdf)

## CONVENTIONS/CONFERENCES

### Hampton University Ministers' Conference and Choir Directors & Organists Guild Workshop

**June 7 – 11, 2026**

Hampton University, Hampton, Virginia

<https://home.hamptonu.edu/minconf/>

### Annual Worship & Music Conference Presbyterian Association of Musicians

**June 21- 26 and/or June 28 - July 3**

Montreat Conference Center, Black Mountain,  
North Carolina

<https://www.presbymusic.org/conference>

### American Guild of Organists National Convention

**July 6-10, 2026**

St. Louis, Missouri

[https://web.cvent.com/event/fdadaa37-8ca8-48de-ba86-](https://web.cvent.com/event/fdadaa37-8ca8-48de-ba86-373c87010edc/websitePage:6e12c009-3562-4eb4-8899-9e944836e4f7)

[373c87010edc/websitePage:6e12c009-3562-4eb4-8899-9e944836e4f7](https://web.cvent.com/event/fdadaa37-8ca8-48de-ba86-373c87010edc/websitePage:6e12c009-3562-4eb4-8899-9e944836e4f7)

### Association of Lutheran Church Musicians July 13-16, 2026

St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

<https://alcm.org/2026-st-olaf/>

### The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada

**July 19 – 22, 2026**

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New  
Jersey

<https://thehymnsociety.org/event/>

### National Association of Pastoral Musicians July 19-24, 2026

Catholic University of America, Washington, DC

<https://npm.org/2026-convention-information/>

### The Gospel Music Workshop of America International Convention

**July 25 - August 1, 2026**

Sheraton Greensboro at Four Seasons Hotel &  
Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, North  
Carolina

<https://gmwanational.net/>

## JULY ANTIPHON

Please send submissions for our next issue to Kerry Heyes, [kadams61@yahoo.com](mailto:kadams61@yahoo.com) by **June 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>

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

**Dean:** Bill Gilligan

**Sub-Dean:** Isaac Borocz

**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](http://annapolisago.org)

## CHAPTER EMAIL

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



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