



Antiphon

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

September 2026



Dear Colleagues,

September means back to business, school, rehearsals and a return to more frequent chapter events. We close out the summer with a Jousting Festival Concert (29 AUG) and start the Fall with our Chapter Installation of Officers (27 SEP) and America 250 Concert (18 OCT). I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and had the opportunity to take a break from your busy schedules.

This start of a new fiscal year is a good opportunity to participate in the various AGO certification programs. As stated on the AGO National website, "Achieving certification is the culmination of months, and often years, of dedicated preparation, and it demonstrates a commitment to excellence in organ and related disciplines. Earning certification is also a significant personal milestone that brings a tremendous sense of accomplishment. While some begin this journey early in life, the pursuit of new skills and professional growth can begin at any stage. Certificated Guild members strengthen our profession by demonstrating the value of continued learning, and they help to increase public awareness and appreciation of our profession". I will keep you posted on future workshops offered by AGO National to assist with this endeavor.



Continuing on our recent topic of unusual organs, this month we'll delve into the concept of the "smell organ". Throughout history, there have been several examples - both real and imagined of attempts to make a smell instrument. Sometimes referred as a 'perfume organ', it was thought the instrument could be used to create symphonies of smell that either took the audiences on a journey using scent or allow them to appreciate the aesthetic pleasures of perfume. The June 1922 issue of *Science and Invention* magazine featured a rather peculiar invention which envisioned an entirely new (and entirely silent) kind of concert.

The invention was based on the theories of Dr. Septimus Piesse, a French chemist and perfumer who wrote the 1857 book *The Art of Perfumery*. Piesse often used music as a way to talk about how certain smells could work together. Just as certain notes could be played together in harmony, while others caused discord and were unpleasant to the ear, so too could certain smells be combined to create a beautiful bouquet while others smell terrible when combined. Heavier odors (rich, warm or earthy scents) were assigned to lower notes on the keyboard and sharper, pungent odors (bright, citrusy or medicinal scents) assigned to the higher notes. This mapping was meant to mirror how in music, low notes convey depth and resonance, while high notes convey brightness and clarity. The perfumer's role would be like a colorist or florist—balancing and blending scents so that in "soft, dreamy" compositions, the mix harmonizes, avoiding unpleasant "discords".

There are several famous composers and organists celebrating birthdays this month. They include Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706) 1 SEP; Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) 4 SEP; Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904) 4 SEP; Johann Christian Bach (1735-1782) 5 SEP; Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643) 9 SEP; Henry Purcell (1659-1695) 10 SEP; Gustav Holst (1874-1934) 21 SEP; Leon Boellmann (1862-1897) 25 SEP; George Gershwin (1898-1937) 26 SEP and Johann Peter Kellner (1705-1772) 28 SEP.

Warm Regards, Bill

CHAPTER EVENTS



Sunday, September 27, 4pm: Chapter Installation of Officers at the historic and charming small church of St Thomas Croom in Upper Marlboro with the big pipe organ. David Shelat, AGO Regional Ambassador, will be

leading. Cindy Carlton will be hosting. If you are able to sing an anthem with the small choir, please let Cindy know. Rehearsal will directly precede the service. The installation service will be followed by a light reception. Those interested in joining for supper at Rips Restaurant on Rt 301, please contact Cindy at ccarlton1@gmail.com. 14300 St. Thomas Church Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD.

Sunday, October 18, 3pm: America 250 Member Recital at USNA Chapel, Annapolis. Monte Maxwell, hosting; Performers: Paul Griffin, Isaac Borocz, Grace Oh, David Beatty and Monte Maxwell; Paul Griffin, coordinating.



Sunday, November 8, 2:30pm: Organ Maintenance Workshop (and Chapter Meeting) at Calvary UMC, 310 Rowe Blvd., Annapolis. Betsy Lord, POC; Asher Hammond, clinician.

Saturday, January 23 (Snow Date January 30), 10am: Sharing Choral Repertoire at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 25 Church Street, Prince Frederick. Susan Yoe, hosting.

Saturday, March 6, 10am-1pm: Informal Gathering & Social with Presentation: Church Modes & French Baroque Repertoire. Brown Bag Lunch and **Chapter Meeting** at St. Matthew's UMC, 14900 Annapolis Rd., Bowie; Isaac Borocz, hosting & coordinating. Chapter supplies chips/dessert, church provides coffee/etc.

Friday, April 23, 7:30pm: Member Recital at St. Martin in the Field, 375 Benfield Rd., Severna Park. Betsy Lord, coordinating.

MORE EVENTS

Wednesday, September 9, 7pm: AVAS Meet & Greet at Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church, (see flyer below)

Come Sing With AVAS 2026-27

The Arundel Vocal Arts Society (AVAS) begins its 26-27 Season and invites singers of all backgrounds to be a part of this resonant and captivating choral group! Under the direction of Ruslan Bondar, now in his second season with AVAS, you'll enjoy sharpening your choral skills as we prepare for the upcoming holiday concert with a diverse selection of music ranging from sacred to sentimental and more! Check us out – no obligation to join!

Meet & Greet
First Rehearsal: Wednesday, Sept. 9
7 p.m. for Registration, Music & Light Fare
Gloria Dei! Lutheran Church
461 College Parkway
Arnold, MD 21012

Regular rehearsal are on Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
AVAS strives to create a fragrance-free environment!

Friday, September 11, 7pm: Organ Concert, Peter Conte, organist with Andrew Ennis, Flugelhorn at USNA Chapel. (see flyer below)

Organ Concert

WANAMAKER ORGANIST PETER CONTE IN CONCERT
WITH ANDREW ENNIS, FLUGELHORN

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR!

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY CHAPEL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2026
7:00 PM

CONTACT US:
+1 410-293-TIXS
<https://navyperformers.showare.com/>
121 Blake Rd, Annapolis, MD 21402

More Events next page.

September 14, 6:30pm: Queen Anne's Chorale Open Rehearsal. Centreville Methodist Church; no audition required. Now in its 39th year, the Chorale continues to bring together singers of all backgrounds, united by a love of music and performance. Community members interested in joining are invited to participate in the upcoming fall season.

The Chorale will return to the TPAC stage for its next concert, *"Kool Yule,"* on December 5. Music lovers and families are encouraged to attend—and perhaps even consider raising their own voices with the group in the months ahead.



The Queen Anne's Chorale is an all-volunteer, non-auditioned community chorus dedicated to *"Entertaining, Engaging, and Educating since 1989."* While the ability to read music is helpful, it is not required. Come check us out on September 14 and join the fun. Group choral singing provides joy and healthy outcomes for singers of all ages and experience.

Support for the Chorale is made possible in part through grants from the United Way of Queen Anne's County, the Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts, the Queen Anne's County Commissioners, and the Maryland State Arts Council, as well as generous corporate sponsorships from Shore United Bank, Coastal Pools, Preston Toyota Easton and Chesapeake Hearing Centers.

For more information, ticket purchases, or to learn about sponsorship and donation opportunities, visit www.qachorale.org or follow Queen Anne's Chorale on Facebook and Instagram (@queen_anne_chorale).

Sunday, September 20, 4pm: The Sound Of Liberty: Celebrating America 250, at St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis. A thrilling concert of music from and about the American Revolution by the critically acclaimed Empressa Ensemble.

Hear some of the songs and tunes that thrilled military camps and meetings, alongside letters and proclamations that pull you into the new country in the making. Featuring music from the collections of U.S. Presidents, common soldiers, and everyone in between, alongside new opera scenes exploring the untold story of what it means to fight for freedom. Hear the thrill of a domestic cello sonata, then plunge into the literal fires of Revolution with a rousing chorus on the burning of the Peggy Stewart in the Annapolis Tea Party! Follow the story of Deborah Sampson, a twice-enlisted veteran of the Continental Army who fought for a country in the making and, after her identity as a woman became publicly known, was awarded a military pension.

Co-sponsored by Carroll Museums and the American Friends of Lafayette.

PERFORMERS

Elissa Edwards, soprano

Wade Davis, cello

John Stowe, historical keyboards

Katrina Atsinger, orator

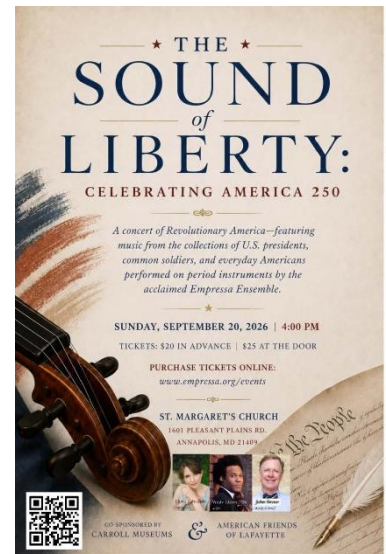
The performance features critically acclaimed soprano Elissa Edwards, Artist-in-Residence at the Hammond-Harwood House Museum, with cellist Wade Davis, a featured soloist and chamber musician with many of the region's leading early-music ensembles, and John Stowe, former Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tickets: \$20 in advance | \$25 at the door

TICKET LINK:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-sound-of-liberty-celebrating-america-250-tickets-1997021462954>

More Events next page.



Tuesday, September 29, 7pm: Music for a Cause (*see flyer below*). A St. Matthew's Handbell Choir, The Gloria Ringers, will participate, as well as professional musicians from the Bowie area. Isaac Borocz, Music Director and Organist of St Matthew's, and SubDean of our chapter, will conclude the program. 14900 Annapolis Rd., Bowie

Tuesday, September 29 | 7 pm



MUSIC FOR A CAUSE

a classical concert to benefit
local animals in need



Join local musicians for an evening of
classical music at St. Matthew's UMC.

There is no admission fee to attend!!

Instead, we ask that you bring a donation of
pet food or a monetary gift to support
Bowie C.L.A.W., the volunteer-powered group
advocating for animal welfare right here in Bowie.

Can't attend but still want to
support Bowie C.L.A.W?
Scan the QR Code or go to:
bowieclaw.org/donate-support-us/



venmo
@BowieCLAW

14900 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715 | Info: bowieclaw@gmail.com

AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION: ST. LOUIS, JULY 2026

Three members of our chapter attended the AGO National Convention this year: David Beatty, Adedotun Olayemi and me, Betsy Lord. I would like to tell you about the convention, and I hope you will consider attending the 2027 Regional Convention being held in Baltimore, especially if you have never attended an AGO convention in the past.

The convention itself started on Monday afternoon, but my husband Dave and I arrived a few days early. Our friend Andrew Johnson, currently a doctoral student at Eastman, was one of the semi-finalists in the National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP). Nine semifinalists each performed a program on Saturday at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, with a 56-rank, 3-manual organ completed by the London organ builder Mander in 2001. Andrew was selected as one of the finalists, so we saw the three finalists perform on Monday morning, July 6. It was very interesting to see three outstanding organists perform three of the same pieces on the same instrument, and they each rounded out their programs with pieces they had chosen themselves. Our friend Andrew Johnson

won second prize. Su Yuhe won the third prize, and Mitchell Miller was the first prize winner.

There were numerous concerts and recitals during the week. We travelled by bus to the different churches, and I enjoyed having time to chat with David and Ade! This was Ade's first convention and I think it's safe to say he was amazed! Ade is the Director of Music at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Annapolis, and he and his choir participated in our hymn festival in March. He took this selfie of Betsy, Ade and Daniel Aune, who many of you will remember from our hymn festivals.



Having never seen the Mississippi River in real life, I was happy when the bus took us across the river into Illinois and we enjoyed a scenic ride through the country, traveling north to Principia College, located in the town of Elsah, Illinois. There we saw Jan Krabill perform on a beautiful Casavant-Freres instrument along with the Brass Ensemble of the US Air Force Band of Mid America. They presented a concert called CELEBRATE AMERICA with an enjoyable variety of music. I particularly enjoyed *Fanfare Exaltate*, a commission for the convention, composed by Jessica Hunt.

We attended two events held at Manchester United Methodist Church, a huge church that holds over 1000 people! One night there was a Hymn Festival with a large choir and full orchestra directed by Mack Wilberg, with Richard Elliott on the organ (*shown in photo*).

Another night Chelsea Chen performed the annual St. Cecilia Recital. Her program was fascinating, with lots of new music, including another convention commission by Jonathan Dove.



There was a wide variety of workshops, including choral music reading sessions presented by a few different publishers and sessions about children's choir, the aging voice, handbells, spirituals, improvisation, AGO Certification, and ways to encourage young people to study organ. If you would like to learn more, I have an extra copy of the convention program book, which lists all of the concert programs with information about the performers and the organs, along with descriptions of all of the workshops.

- Betsy Lord, Member-at-Large

JOB LISTINGS

(newest listings at top; older listings have been updated)

This link brings you to some detailed job descriptions for the job postings listed below.
<https://annapolisago.org/job-openings/>

The Christian Science Church of Annapolis is looking for a regular organist starting in September. Our current loved organist is moving out of the area. We have 2 services – Sunday morning at 10 and Wednesday evening at 7:30. We are located at the beginning of Epping Forest drive in Annapolis. We have a Viscount organ with many bells and whistles which is about 8 years old. The salary is negotiable. There is no choir, only a soloist during the Sunday service, along with three hymns at both the Sunday and Wednesday services. Musicians receive the music monthly, and arrive by about 9 to rehearse that day's hymns and solo, and the organist receives the hymns for Wednesday by that Monday. There are no other rehearsals. We are a small, warm, supportive congregation, and musicians love to play for us. If you play for us once, you'll want to come back. Please call or text 410.533.9655, or email aqowarfield@gmail.com for further information.

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, MD is seeking a dynamic and talented Bass-Baritone/Section Leader to lead their vocal ensemble and enhance our worship experience through powerful, expressive singing. This paid position offers an exciting opportunity to combine musical excellence with theatrical artistry, contributing to our vibrant community events and services. To inquire, please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org.

R.A. Daffer Church Organs in Jessup, MD is expanding their team and is seeking an experienced **Pipe Organ Builder / Technician / Tuner** to work on some of the Mid-Atlantic's finest instruments. Responsibilities include tuning, restoration, service, installations, and tonal work on both historic and contemporary pipe organs. Click here for [Full Job Description](#).

All Hallows Episcopal Church in Davidsonville, MD, an historic Episcopal community worshipping in two locations, is

seeking a new Director of Music/Organist. Currently this paid role is half time, but with potential to grow as the congregation and musical program grows. Office: 410-798-0808
<https://annapolisago.org/job-openings/>

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

Lanham United Methodist Church 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.
<https://annapolisago.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Lanham-musicdirector-ad-1.pdf>

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

BASS CLEFF	TREBLE CLEFF
C, patchouli	C, rose
D, vanilla	D, violet
E, clove bark	E, cassia
F, benzoin	F, tuberose
G, frangipane	G, orange flower
A, storax	A, new mown hay
B, clove	B, aurome
C, sandalwood	C, camphor
D, clematis	D, almond
E, rattan	E, Portugal
F, castoreum	F, jonquil
G, pergulaire	G, syringa
A, balsam of Peru	A, tonka bean
B, carnations and pinks	B, mint
C, geranium	C, jasmine
D, heliotrope	D, bergamot
E, iris	E, citron
F, musk	F, ambergris
G, pois de senteur	G, magnolia
A, balsam of tolu	A, lavender
B, cinnamon	B, peppermint
C, rose	C, pineapple
	D, citronel
	E, vervain
	F, civet

Key for which fragrances correspond to certain notes on the "smell organ" (1922) There doesn't appear to be any evidence that this particular smell organ was ever constructed, but 20th-century entertainers frequently experimented with smell-o-vision. Using smells to enhance 3D movies is par for the course at the Disney theme parks, with fragrances sprayed from the seats in front of each audience member so that not only do they see a stink bug on screen, they also smell it.
<https://psmag.com/environment/smell-organ-50062/>

OCTOBER ANTIPHON

As members of the American Guild of Organists, we want to encourage and support each other in our church music ministries. We would also like to include news about members. We want 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

Please send submissions for our next issue to Kerry Heyes, kadams61@yahoo.com by **September 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 2027: Kerry Heyes, Betsy Lord

Class of 2028: Ben Touzeau, Diane Kinsley

Class of 2029: Michael A. Clarke, Susan Yoe

CHAPTER WEBSITE

annapolisago.org

CHAPTER EMAIL

AGOAnnapolis@gmail.com



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