



Antiphon

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

October 2026



Dear Colleagues,

October is here and our Fall schedule of events are in full swing. A special thanks to Cindy Carlton and the Church of St. Thomas, Croom in Upper Marlboro, MD for hosting the Installation of Officers event on September 27, 2026. Our next event is the **America 250 Chapter Member Recital** at the United States Naval Academy (USNA), **3pm on October 18, 2026**. Please get the word out to your friends and colleagues so they have an opportunity to attend and enjoy the concert.

AGO National Certification monthly online study groups are once again being offered for the 2026–27 Service Playing Certificate (SPC) and Colleague (CAGO) exams. Sessions take place at 7pm ET on Zoom. Sessions will be recorded, but you must register to receive the recording links. Training dates are SPC: Monday 19 OCT 26 / Monday 9 NOV 26 and CAGO: Monday 5 OCT 26 / Tuesday 13 OCT 26. Please visit the AGO National website (<https://www.agohq.org>) for more information and links to the training.



Since October is the month of spooky organ music, this month's featured organ is the Walt Disney Haunted Mansion Organ. The organ is a fairly large organ with 12 pipes. It has a headboard in the shape of a black bat with outstretched wings and is lit by two candelabras. The first Haunted Mansion at Disneyland California opened in 1969 and the organ was a reused prop from the 1954 Disney film "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea", where it was an organ belonging to Captain Nemo aboard the 19th century submarine "The Nautilus". A second Haunted Mansion at Walt Disney World Florida opened in 1971 and uses a replica of the same organ design. Throughout the rides queue and pre-show areas, the organ's music can be heard playing the song Grim Grinning Ghosts, written by Disney composer Buddy Baker (1918-2002) and recorded by the famous American theatre organist Gaylord Carter (1905-2000). The organ is finally seen in the Great Banquet Hall where the ghost organist plays Grim Grinning Ghosts as an instrumental waltz. While the organist plays, the heads of banshees emerge from the pipes as ballroom dancers dance to its music.



Notable composers born this month include Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) 9 OCT; Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) 10 OCT; Charles Ives (1874-1954) 20 OCT; Franz List (1811-1886) 22 OCT; George Bizet (1838-1875) 25 OCT and Johann Strauss II (1825-1899) 25 OCT.

Warm Regards,

Bill

CHAPTER EVENTS

Sunday, October 18, 3pm: America the Beautiful: 250 Years of Organ Music at USNA Chapel, Annapolis. With Monte Maxwell hosting and Paul Griffin



coordinating, we gather to celebrate American composers and their contributions to the world. There will be music by Leo Sowerby, Carson Cooman, Florence Price, and many more. Featured performers will be David Beatty, Isaac Borocz, Paul Griffin, Monte Maxwell and Grace Oh as we celebrate the music, lives, and contributions of American organists. The concert is free, but donations to support the work of the American Guild of Organists will be accepted.

The Naval Academy Chapel is a cultural treasure of Annapolis, with one of the world's largest pipe organs and beautiful stained glass windows. Getting there can be a challenge. Those who have a DoD pass to enter military installations can drive onto the academy grounds. Civilians will need to park somewhere and walk to the chapel after you enter through the Visitor Center at Gate 1, near the City Dock. Photo ID is required. Those who have a handicap parking permit can enter through gate 8 and then park near the chapel.

Sunday, November 8, 2:30pm: Organ Maintenance Workshop (and Chapter Meeting) at St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis. Betsy Lord, POC; Asher Hammond, clinician.

Please note: This event has been postponed.

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

Friday, October 16th, 7pm: USNA Gospel Choir takes over Mahan Hall for its Fall Concert. The full-length performance features the Gospel Choir alongside special



guest artists for an evening filled with energy and uplifting music.

\$22; Child 11 & under \$10.

<https://navyperforms.showare.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=97>

Friday, October 30th, 7pm and 10pm; Saturday, October 31st, 7pm: Annual All Saints' Day/Halloween Concert at USNA. Led by Monte Maxwell, this enormously popular Chapel production combines music with lighting, drama, dance, special effects, and the soaring talents of the midshipmen. The program spans multiple genres and includes the famously eerie Toccata and Fugue in D Minor. It's musical. It's theatrical. It's like nothing else around, and it has drawn record-breaking crowds for good reason. \$40, Child 11 & under \$10. As of this writing, 7:30pm Friday is already sold out.



<https://navyperforms.showare.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=24>

Sunday, November 8, 4pm: All Souls' Mass for All Faithful Departed

at St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis, MD. Featuring the beloved Requiem setting of Gabriel Fauré, sung by members of the St. Margaret's Adult Choir and Choristers, with Annapolis AGO members Diane Kinsley accompanying, Jim Douglas directing, violinist

Brian Shoop of the Annapolis Symphony, and acclaimed harpist Nadia Pessoa of the U.S. Army Concert Band "Pershing's Own".

All Souls' Mass

for All the Faithful Departed

Sunday, November 8, 2026
4:00 p.m.

Gabriel Fauré: *Requiem*

St. Margaret's Adult Choir
St. Margaret's Choristers

Brian Shoop, violin
Nadia Pessoa, harp
Diane Kinsley, organ
Jim Douglas, conductor

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH | 1601 PLEASANT PLAINS ROAD | ANNAPOLIS, MD

INSTALLATION OF OUR OFFICERS, September 27, 2026

David Schelat
Mid-Atlantic Regional
Ambassador, Chair of
Council of Regional
Ambassadors



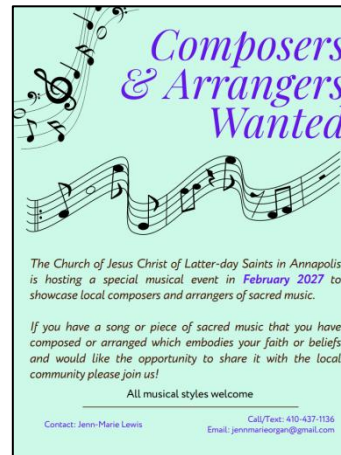
Isaac Borocz



Alex Luma



COMPOSERS AND ARRANGERS OF SACRED MUSIC WANTED



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Annapolis will be hosting a special event in **February 2027** to showcase local composers and arrangers of sacred music. If you have a song

or piece of sacred music that you have composed or arranged which embodies your faith or beliefs and would like the opportunity to share it with the local community, please contact Jenn-Marie Lewis at jennmarieorgan@gmail.com or 410-437-1136. All musical styles are welcome.

St. Thomas Episcopal
Church, Croom, MD



Bill Gilligan, Isaac Borocz,
Cindy Carlton, Kerry Heyes,
Susan Yoe and Michael A. Clarke

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/>

St. Thomas Episcopal Parish in Upper Marlboro, MD seeks a gifted musician to serve as Music Director, organist and choirmaster, for a single weekly liturgy service and special services as required beginning January 2027. 2-manual pipe organ, 10-12 hrs/wk, benefits not included. Please contact via email registrar@stthomascroom.org.

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

NOVEMBER 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 **October 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>