

American Guild of Organists
Nashville Chapter



PIPELINES

Nashville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

January 2026



DEAN'S NOTE

Van Cliburn's first love was for the voice and he loved opera. His piano teacher (his mother) taught him to sing each piece before he could play it on the piano. He took the phrasing and nuance of singing and transcribed it to the piano. Pianist Olga Kern reflects: "When he was playing, the piano sang. In his music, there was so much nuance and melody and phrasing and dynamics—it was pure love and passion."

I once heard the story that upon retirement Van Cliburn stated that he "could not continue to bear his soul on the performance stage." Likewise, Michael Bubl  in an NPR interview explained "I'm an artist. I'm sensitive. I go inside out—get naked for the whole world."

Performing music in public is exactly that! An act of vulnerability. While we arrive at our interpretation through knowledge and experience, our final presentation is "going inside out", speaking from the personal voice of the soul. Perhaps this 'love and passion' is at the core of any performance anxiety which we discussed at our January meeting? While we had a rough start to our zoom call with Don Greene, the time we did have with him was helpful. We got some excellent information and good reminders about intention. Centering. Commitment. Breathing. Positive and Forward thinking.

Thank you to Melissa Emerson for hosting us at Calvary UMC and for saving our meeting!

One purpose of our guild is to grow in community. The more acquainted we are, the better we can uphold each other in all of our musical exposure. On Monday, February 2, at Immanuel Baptist Church five of our members will brave the vulnerable organ bench to present a recital that includes a wide variety of selections. We look forward to hearing from Richard Shadinger, Jennie Smith, Christine Welchel, William Taylor and Steven Cook.

I look forward and hope you'll join me in this opportunity to support these organists who have generously prepared to play for us.

See you then!

Gayle

NASHVILLE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS PRESENTS

MEMBERS' RECITAL



RICHARD SHADINGER
(JOHANN WALTHER, RAYMOND HAAN)

JENNIE SMITH
(HENRY PURCELL, A. MARCELLO, FREDERIK MAGLE)

CHRISTINE WHELCHER
(JEANNE DESMESSIEUX, FLORENCE PRICE)

WILLIAM TAYLOR
(CRAIG PHILLIPS, WILBUR HELD)

STEVEN COOK
(MAX REGER)

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
222 BELLE MEADE BLVD
NASHVILLE, TN 37205

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
7:00 PM

THIS CONCERT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

To do this, we encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors; provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support; nurture future generations of organists; promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

Dinner
6:00 p.m.

February
2

Program
7:00 p.m.

ITALIAN NIGHT!

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
222 BELLE MEADE BLVD
NASHVILLE

Dinner Reservations
due by
Monday, January 26

**NASHVILLE AGO
MEMBER RECITAL**

RICHARD SHADINGER
JENNIE SMITH
CHRISTINE WHELCHER
WILLIAM TAYLOR
STEVEN COOK



MEMORIES OF 1978

Our chapter started its year with a picnic in September at the home and shop of Dennis Milnar in Eagleville. The October meeting featured Wolfgang Rubsam with a recital and workshop at Scarritt. In November, we had dinner and an open house at Hillsboro Presbyterian hosted by Ray Luther. In January, members played selections at Woodmont Christian with a covered dish dinner. In February, we hosted the MTSU choral groups at the Cathedral of the incarnation. Our March meeting was held

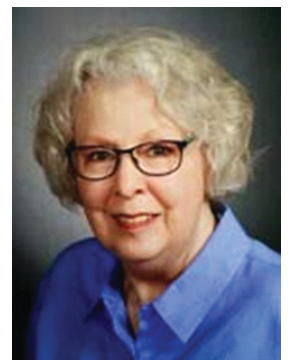
at St. David's Episcopal where David Riley presented a slideshow. At the end of the month Belle Meade United Methodist hosted Peter Hurford in recital and workshop. We ended the year with an all-day outing at Sewanee.



SANDRA COHRON and husband Jim have lived 22 years in a 100+ year-old house in Whites Creek that previously was the neighborhood feed store on the farm where they live. After 56 years of marriage, 2 grown children and 3 grands, the welcoming home is decorated with beautiful handiwork and quilts that Sandra has made.

She is a '61 Vanderbilt graduate in psychology, taught English at North High School, and studied piano with Enid Katahn for several years at the original Blair School of Music. Life's path changed while she was singing in the Calvary UMC choir and was asked to direct the choir as a sub one Sunday. Deciding to seek more instruction, she learned about Scarritt, dropped in to sign up for a conducting class and walked out enrolled as a full-time grad student under Sandra Willetts, graduating in '87 with now life-long friends.

She was organist at St. James the Less for two years, and St. Andrews for twelve years, where she was responsible for the installation of the Visser-Rowland organ. Upon retirement she has now been a faithful chorister at Christ Church Cathedral for 20 years.



None of this is as interesting as her ownership of a white '57 Corvette that she raced for years at the Nashville Fairgrounds. She was also encouraged by her father to earn her air pilot's license. She also doesn't like cooking, but who has time?

Introducing **NEW MEMBERS**

A fairly new chapter friend is Dr. Eric Egli who is a physician in Murfreesboro practicing internal medicine. Though he does not play the organ, he developed a love for organ music during his college years at Vanderbilt in the mid 80s with Pat Molloy at Woodmont Baptist Church and AGO concerts in Nashville. After leaving Vanderbilt, he went to Memphis for medical school and his residency years. While there he continued his love of the organ with Lamar King and then Michelle Dixon Cronk at First Baptist Church with its five manual Moller organ and AGO concerts there. He is active at First Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro where he has enjoyed being involved with the recent improvements and additions by Luley and Associates to their organ. We warmly welcome him!



We are glad to welcome Zac Schurman to our chapter! Zac is the newly appointed Cathedral Organist at the Cathedral of the Incarnation here in Nashville. Zac has appeared in performance in a variety of venues, notably including the Church of St. Mary the Virgin (New York), St. Ignatius Loyola (New York), the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (New York), and L'Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal (Montréal).

His previous liturgical appointments include Organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Queens), Director of Sacred Music and Organist at Saint Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church (Trumbull, CT), Director of Music at Immanuel Lutheran Church (Manhattan), Organ Scholar at St. Patrick–St. Anthony Church (Hartford, CT), Assistant Chapel Organist (Trinity College), and Associate Organist at Église St-Jean-Baptiste (Manhattan).

Zac holds a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs. He completed his undergraduate studies at Trinity College under Christopher Houlihan, where he was awarded a full scholarship. Reflecting his wide-ranging intellectual interests, Zac pursued studies in Hebrew, Greek, and religion alongside his major in music, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 2022, he was named President's Fellow in Music and received both the Helen Loveland Prize and the John Rose Organ Scholarship.

Born on Long Island, Zac studied with Mark T. Engelhardt and served as Organ Scholar at St. Peter's-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church (Bay Shore). We are pleased to have Zac join our chapter. Please extend a warm welcome to him.

ArTS Calendar

JANUARY 2026

Friday, January 23, 12:00 p.m.

Mozart Birthday Concert

Annual concert featuring Nashville musicians celebrating music of Mozart led by Roger Wiesmeyer. All free-will offerings go to local charity.

St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

Sunday, January 25, 3:00 p.m.

Candlemas Compline - a quiet service of candlelight and chant

Cantorei of First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Free parking is available in the small fenced lot directly connected to the church. Join us for a service of light and hope in the dark of winter.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
113 8th Avenue South, Nashville

Sunday, January 25, 6:00 p.m.

Dueling Organists: Round 2

Featuring Dr. Woosug Kang and Gerry Senechal
Freewill offering will raise funds for their 2027 Lincoln Cathedral residency in the UK with their choristers.

St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

Saturday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.

Luther College Nordic Choir Concert

Belmont United Methodist Church
2007 Acklen Avenue, Nashville

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday, February 15, 3:00 p.m.

Birthday Concert by Wilma Jensen, Organist Emerita of St. George's

Nashville's own Wilma Jensen will present a solo recital celebrating her 97th birthday!

St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

Sunday, February 22, 3:30 p.m.

Organ Concert and Solemn Choral Evensong on the First Sunday of Lent

The Cathedral Choir, Canon Dr. Michael Velting, Director; Dr. Peter Rogahn, Organ.

Organ concert by Dr. Edie Johnson, Music Director/Organist, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Knoxville

Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway, Nashville

Sunday, February 22, 5:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong at All Saint's Chapel, Sewanee

St. George's Choir & Choristers will join Sewanee's University Choir and will lead a special Choral Evensong

Led by Dr. Geoffrey Ward, Dr. Woosug Kang, Mr. Gerry Senechal.

All Saint's Chapel
736 University Avenue
Sewanee, TN, 37383

Thursday, February 19, 12:00 p.m.

Lenten Noon Series

Samuel Metzger, organ

Lunch follows in McWhirter Hall for \$12 per person; requires a reservation by contacting the church or Andrew Risinger:

arisinger@westendumc.org

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue, Nashville

*On Sunday, February 15, at 3:00 p.m., organist **Wilma Hoyle Jensen** will present a recital at St. George's Episcopal Church, 4715 Harding Pike, in celebration of her upcoming 97th birthday. She is the former Organist/Choir Master at St. George's. The program will include some of her favorite concert pieces ranging from French composers Franck, Vierne, and Dupré to Americans Philip James and Michael McCabe. Christi John Bye, former staff singer at St. George's, will join Wilma for a final segment with a highlight performance of Wilma's own arrangement for organ and vocalist of Philippe Rombi's *Ave Maria*. A reception will follow the concert.

ArTS Calendar

continued

Thursday, February 26, 12:00 p.m.

Lenten Noon Series

Elliston Trio

Erin Hall – violin, Keith Nicholas – cello,
Matthew Phelps – piano

Lunch follows in McWhirter Hall for \$12 per person; requires a reservation by contacting the church or Andrew Risinger:

arisinger@westendumc.org

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue, Nashville

Thursday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

**Organ Recital by Dr. Geoffrey Harris Ward,
Organist & Choirmaster of Sewanee**

All Saint's Chapel
736 University Avenue
Sewanee, TN, 37383

MARCH 2026

Sunday, March 1, 4:00 p.m.

Lenten Choral Concert

**Mass in Honor of St. Cecelia - Charles
Gounod**

Chancel Choir and Orchestra
Matthew Phelps, conductor

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue, Nashville

Thursday, March 5, 12:00 p.m.

Lenten Noon Series

Richard Todd, classical guitar

Lunch follows in McWhirter Hall for \$12 per person; requires a reservation by contacting the church or Andrew Risinger:

arisinger@westendumc.org

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue, Nashville

Sunday, March 8, 3:30 pm

Organ Concert

Kristina Rizzott, organist, Director of Music at
Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church in
Minneapolis

Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway, Nashville

Thursday, March 12, 12:00 p.m.

Lenten Noon Series

Joel Treybig, trumpet

Andrew Risinger, organ

Lunch follows in McWhirter Hall for \$12 per person; requires a reservation by contacting the church or Andrew Risinger:

arisinger@westendumc.org

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue, Nashville

Wednesday, March 18, 9:15 p.m.

Compline

Led the Choir of St. George's

St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

Thursday, March 19, 12:00 p.m.

Lenten Noon Series

Patrick Dailey, counter-tenor

Lunch follows in McWhirter Hall for \$12 per person; requires a reservation by contacting the church or Andrew Risinger:

arisinger@westendumc.org

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue, Nashville

Sunday, March 22, 4:00 p.m.

**27th Annual Christ Church Cathedral
Chorister Festival**

Chorister Festival Choir. Guest Director, Colin
Lynch, Music Director, Trinity Church Copley
Square, Boston.

Dr. Peter Rogahn, Organ

Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway, Nashville

Thursday, March 26, 12:00 p.m.

Lenten Noon Series

Stephen Cook, organ

Lunch follows in McWhirter Hall for \$12 per person; requires a reservation by contacting the church or Andrew Risinger:

JOB POSTINGS

First Methodist Church, Manchester, TN is seeking an organist/pianist (can be one person or two) to work cooperatively with the Director of Music and Media for Sunday morning worship services, rehearsals with the praise band on Tuesday night and the sanctuary choir on Wednesday night, as well as funerals, weddings and other special services. Qualifications include experience with blended style worship services and keyboard proficiency including accompanying, sight-reading and transposition. Applicants should have the ability to communicate well and to work as a team member. Please send resume to: churchassist@manchesterfmc.org or call the church office at 931-728-4624.

All Saints Episcopal Church, Smyrna, TN is seeking an organist for one weekly Sunday service (Holy Eucharist, Rite 2) and occasional weddings or funerals. Applicants should be familiar with liturgical worship and music. Salary is \$200 per service. Please contact Fr. Robert Rhea at 615-351-6426 or office@allsaintstn.org.

Idlewild Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Memphis, TN is seeking a Director of Music Ministry and Organist to provide leadership and resources for the total music ministry of the church. This includes organizing a multiple-choir program for all choral music and handbells. Requirements include a bachelor's degree in music (master's degree or equivalent experience preferred); experience in managing worship services in the Reformed tradition; proficiency in various musical traditions, genres and styles; and proficiency in organ piano, choral directing and vocal technique. Interested applicants should email a resume and letter of interest to musicsearch@idlewildchurch.org.



Submit your articles, pictures,
member updates or other news
by **February 16** to
pipelines@nashvilleago.org