

American Guild of Organists
Nashville Chapter



PIPELINES

Nashville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

November 2025



A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

Fall greetings!

In the midst of falling leaves and browning grass, things are alive and well with our AGO! We had another stellar evening together celebrating the life and legacy of Sharron Lyon with a concert by renowned organist, David Higgs. We enjoyed hearing the tributes to Sharron by our members Richard Shadinger and Darryl Miller. Both have known Sharron the longest and from differing perspectives. Kristen Hansen pulled together a beautiful reception and we embraced the opportunity to have a time of fellowship together.

A huge amount of gratitude for Michael Velting and Peter Rogahn in making all of the arrangements to accommodate this event with less than a week's notice. It was disappointing for First Baptist to cancel our engagement and with no fault of ours, especially with such short notice. Thanks to Michael and Peter and additional Cathedral staff for making it possible for us to still hold an extraordinary event hearing David on the fabulous Lively-Fulcher and in the sacred intimate space of the Cathedral. Thank you.

The concert on October 13 was a celebration of one of our longest term members and this month we turn the focus to one of our newest members. Joey Fala, newly appointed Assistant Director of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church and also new to our chapter will present a recital on November 10 on the Beckerath organ at First Presbyterian, 4815 Franklin Pike. You can read more about Joey on our website, nashvilleago.org and you can also hear him on YouTube. Look him up! Joey is a brilliant organist and we are fortunate to have him as a member of our chapter and also to have the opportunity to hear him in this concert on November 10. Remember to make your dinner reservation (information is included in Pipelines) - 6:00 p.m. dinner and 7:00 p.m. concert.

Plan to attend this final concert of 2025 to support the work of our chapter and our new member, Joey. We will also be sure to introduce other new members during our dinner hour. The first key to group revival is....making acquaintance!

In the meantime, best of thoughts to everyone bringing meaningful music together for the High Holy Day of All Saints. Your work is important and valued!

Gayle Sullivan
Dean, Nashville AGO

JOEY FALA

BIOGRAPHY

Joey Fala is the recently appointed organist at First Presbyterian Church Nashville where he loves to create community through new teaching-oriented choirs for adults and children. He comes to Nashville by way of Chapel Hill, NC, serving as Director of Music at University Presbyterian Church on the UNC campus. Joey studied organ with Martin Jean and Thomas Murray as a graduate student at Yale before undertaking a residency as organ scholar at Duke University Chapel where he also served as Carillonneur. Other formative places of his musical leadership include the Episcopal Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill, NC and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Norwalk, CT. Among his former teachers are Robert Brewer, Joseph Causby, Katherine Crosier, Alfred Fedak, Christopher Jacobson and Christian Lane.

A recipient of the AGO Pogorzelski-Yankee Memorial and the Institute of Sacred Music Robert Baker Scholarships, Joey was named one of "20 under 30" by *The Diapason Magazine* and has been a featured artist at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists and Organ Historical Society.

He has competed and won prizes in the Arthur Poister, Albert Schweitzer, and AGO Young Organist Competitions and has enjoyed the opportunity to perform in inspiring spaces including the Cathedral of St. John the Divine NYC, St. Patrick's Cathedral NYC, Trinity Church Boston, Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral LA, Harvard University's Busch Hall, and the Washington National Cathedral.

Joey, originally from Honolulu, received his bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture and lighting engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY and worked as a designer with Horton Lees Brogden Lighting Design and the Lighting Research Center. He is married to Sarah Fala, a doctoral student at Duke Divinity School. In their free time they have been pouring sweat equity into reviving a derelict house on the southern edge of town. Joey loves to swim and enjoys cooking Japanese, Korean and Thai cuisines. He is also an avid potter and runs a small-scale studio out of their home.



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.

SOME REALLY
GOOD FOOD

(MENU WILL BE POSTED
AS SOON AS ITS
AVAILABLE)

November
10

Dinner Reservations
due by
Monday, November 3

Program
7:00 p.m.

JOEY FALA
ORGAN CONCERT

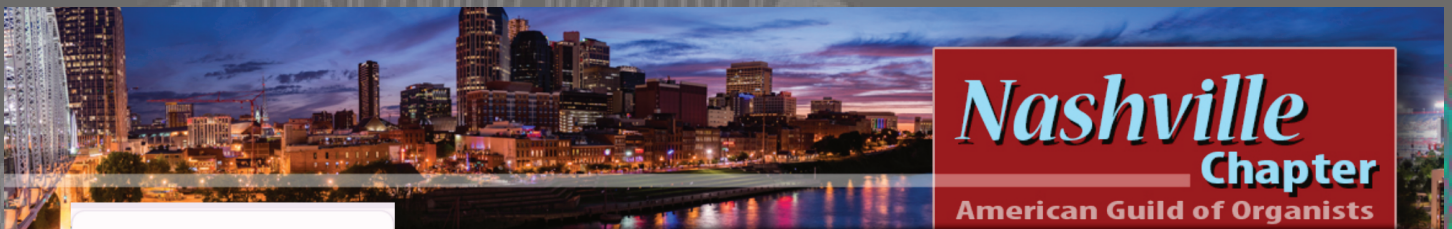
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
4815 FRANKLIN PIKE
NASHVILLE, TN 37220



Did You Know?

In 1977, 48 years ago, we kicked off the year with a Members Recital featuring Julia Callaway, Forrest McFatridge, Tom Moody, Dana Pride, Carl Berg, James Rogers, and David Boswell. October had Wilma Jensen at Scarritt College on the Casavant Organ. We also had a workshop at West End United Methodist Church presenting anthems and organ pieces. James Obetz was here for a recital on the 21st. On

November 14th, we presented William Whitehead at McKendree United Methodist. In January of 1978, a covered dish dinner was held at Lee Kuhnert's home. February featured Gerre Hancock in recital and a workshop the next day. March had a tour of Kurtz Piano, Streets, and Warden's Music shops to demonstrate their electronic organs. April had a demonstration on the Jardine organ at Tulip Street United Methodist. We closed out the year at St. George's with a program entitled "Church Musicians in Worship" led by Jim Rogers and Cyrus Daniel.



Sign in
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Username

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Members Area

Do you need the access info for the member area of the website? It will be available at our meeting or you can contact Don Marler if you need access sooner. For security reasons we are not publishing that information publicly.

nashvilleago.org

Meet Our Members



MELVIN POTTS was born in Franklin, TN, but moved to Nashville and graduated from Overton High School. He then began as a history major at Lipscomb College but the field was “too crowded”. Instead, he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees

in elementary education. Moving to Atlanta, he taught elementary and middle school from 1971-1989. Returning to Nashville in 1989, he then worked at ComData for 26 years. While in Atlanta, he served 4 churches (2 Baptist, a Lutheran and a Presbyterian) and studied with William Weaver (who coincidentally was in school with Wilma Jensen) organist at St. Ann’s Episcopal. He later studied with Marian Ross in Nashville. In 1995 he earned the AGO Service Playing Certificate under the tutelage of Angela Tipps and has been the organist at Concordia Lutheran Church for 20 years. His passionate hobbies are attending every musical concert he can and researching the history of Franklin and Williamson County. And he cooks only when he has to.



JULIA CLENDENIN CALLAWAY grew up in Barium Springs, NC, where her father worked at Barium Springs Home for Children (now Children’s Home Alliance) supported by the Presbyterian Church. Little Joe’s Presbyterian (no longer in existence) was the church for the Children’s Home and

housed a 2-manual Moeller organ. Julia’s first organ teacher, Charlotte Clontz, who is still alive, persuaded Julia as a high-school freshman to take lessons so she could substitute for her. Consequently, Julia played her first wedding, and her teacher’s, as a senior! After 2 years at Flora MacDonald College, later consolidating with St. Andrew College (which closed this year), her organ teacher encouraged her to go to Union Theological Seminary where she earned a Master in Sacred Music. She later married, moved to Baltimore, played for a small Baptist church, and taught piano. Moving to Nashville in 1967, she was Director of Music and Organist at Calvary UMC for 3 years and was organist at Woodmont Christian Church in 1974. That same year, she and her husband moved to East Tennessee. After his death she returned to Nashville. She took over as “interim” in 1976 at Vine Street Christian Church and then served 36 years...including a private piano studio. (An interesting tidbit: Hal Hopson served both a small church in Towson, MD, and Vine Street before Julia- a rare coincidence!) Julia earned the AAGO in the early 1970’s and is now Vine Street’s Organist/Director of Music Ministries Emeritus. She loves Nashville Symphony concerts (volunteering there until the Covid pandemic), reading, caring for her cat companions, and is an active member of the Nashville Woman’s Musicale.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER BENEFACTORS

Contributions made February 2025–October 2025

SUPPORTER (\$1–\$49)

Hildegard Cox

DONOR (\$50–\$99)

Lisa Barry
Andrew Lynn
Judy Mahone
Marjorie Proctor

PATRON (\$100–\$499)

Carl Berg
Joyce Byrd
Julia Callaway
Rocky Craft
Eric Egli
Albennia Ladieu
Edgar Lowe
Gary Scott
Jonathan Setzer
Richard Shadinger
John Wells

SUSTAINER (\$500–\$999)

Don Marler

BENEFACTOR (\$1,000–up)

Sharron Lyon Annual Annuity
The Estate of Thomas Moody



Arts
Calendar
NOVEMBER 2025

11/2/25, 3:30 p.m.
Organ Concert and Solemn Choral Evensong
for the Feast of All Saints
The Cathedral Choir
Canon Dr. Michael Velting, Director
Organ concert & accompaniment by
Dr. Peter Rogahn, Associate Organist &
Choirmaster

Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway, Nashville

11/2/25, 6:00 p.m.
All Saints Evening Service featuring Howells'
Requiem
St. George's Choir
directed by Dr. Woosug Kang
Reception to follow

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

11/9/25, 4:00 p.m.
Choral Vespers
Rejoice in the Lamb - Benjamin Britten
Lo, I Raise Up - C. V. Stanford
Chancel Choir, Sanctuary Choir
Matthew Phelps, conductor
Andrew Risinger, organist

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue, Nashville

11/19/25, 9:15 p.m.
Compline
Led the Choir of St. George's
St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

DECEMBER 2025

12/5/25, 7:00 p.m.
Bel Canto Christmas Concert

Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway, Nashville

12/7/25, 6:00 p.m.
A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Led by all choirs of St. George's
This service begins with 30 minute
prelude at 5:30 p.m.
Led by Dr. Woosug Kang & Mr. Gerry
Senechal
Reception to follow

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

12/14/25, 4:00 p.m.
Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols
Cathedral Choir and Senior Choristers
Canon Dr. Michael Velting, Director
Dr. Peter Rogahn, Organ

Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway, Nashville

12/14/25, 5:30 p.m.
Annual Candlelighting Service
Chancel Choir, Sanctuary Choir,
Children's Choirs, Youth Choirs,
Adult & Youth Handbell Choirs
Early arrival is recommended

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue, Nashville

12/17/25, 9:15 p.m.
Compline
Led the Choir of St. George's
St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

12/19/25, 10:15 a.m.
An Advent Service of Lessons & Carols
Elizabeth Smith, Service Organist

First Presbyterian Church
101 Legends Club Lane, Franklin

JOB POSTINGS

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.

Calvary United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN

is seeking an Interim Organist for Sunday morning worship and special services from now to next May or June 2026. This is a part-time position that will work with the Director of Music Ministries to provide hymn accompaniment for the congregation, short moments of meditative music, and vibrant solos on occasion. This position does not accompany the choir, but may be asked to occasionally collaborate on organ/piano duets or the like. Please send resumes or inquires for the full job description to melissa@calvaryumc.com.

First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Cookeville, TN

is seeking an organist for Sunday worship services, including Christmas and Easter. Qualifications include proficiency in organ and piano, sight-reading and a variety of sacred music styles; experience in church music is preferred. Compensation is per service/rehearsal. Please contact Angie Knight at 931-261-3490.

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 churchasst@manchesterfmc.org or call the church office at 931-728-4624.

First United Methodist Church, Pulaski, TN

is seeking an accompanist who is proficient at the piano, and the organ if possible. Responsibilities include working closely with the Director of Music Ministries, playing for 10:00 AM Sunday worship services, playing for children's & adult choir rehearsals beginning at 5:30 on Wednesday evenings, casual worship services one Sunday evening per month, and special holy day services. Compensation: \$250 per week. Please send resumes/CVs to zach@fumcpulaski.com.

The JANUARY Pipelines
will be published in late
December.

Submit your articles,
pictures, member updates
by **NOVEMBER 17** to
pipelines@nashvilleago.org