

American Guild of Organists  
Nashville Chapter



# PIPELINES

Nashville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## October 2025



### A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

Greetings for the new season!

It was a joy to be with you and to get our year off to such a fantastic start! Excellent attendance, a delicious meal and meaningful, energized fellowship followed by a stellar concert by Caroline Robinson. It was truly a celebration. Thank you to Dale Nickell for hosting us at Westminster Presbyterian Church. In case you missed it: the possibility of hosting a convention is on hold until guidelines from National become more definitive. Stay tuned.

Up next: David Higgs in concert at First Baptist Church, October 13, 7:00pm. I encourage you to read more information about David on our website. A reception will follow the concert with no reservations necessary. Church Parking is reserved for us. Please(!) We need everyone to help with publicity. Invite your friends, family, your church, business or... everyone you know. Also, sharing the Facebook Event will really help get the word out. (Nashville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists).

This concert will be presented in memory of our beloved member Sharron Lyon. Sharron was the organist at First Baptist Church for 40 years 1964-2004. She was also music editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board/Life Way Music in Nashville from 1973-2003, where she was recording producer of music for churches and music editor for choral, keyboard, handbell, instrumental and worship materials.

In her final arrangements, Sharron remembered our chapter with generous financial gifts. These funds have been designated for use in various ways that represent Sharron's values. Performance, education, and promotion of the organ especially to young musicians.

It is a privilege for us to host this event in honor of Sharron and in appreciation for her dedication to our chapter and for her contributions to furthering enthusiasm for our instrument. Let's honor Sharron's legacy with strong attendance to hear one of our nation's most prominent organists. See you on the 13th!

Gayle Sullivan  
Dean, Nashville AGO



**DAVID  
HIGGS**  
**ORGAN CONCERT**  
**7:00 PM » OCT 13**

Sharron Lyon Memorial Concert

Nashville First Baptist Church  
108 7th Ave S  
Nashville

*presented by*  
*the Nashville Chapter of AGO*





## DAVID HIGGS

### BIOGRAPHY

One of America's leading concert organists, David Higgs is the Minehan Family Professor of Organ and Chair of the Organ Department at the Eastman School of Music. He performs extensively throughout the United States and abroad and has inaugurated many important new instruments including Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas, St. Albans Cathedral, England, Church of St. Ignatius Loyola New York City, and most recently, Christ Church Cathedral Cincinnati. For over twenty years he performed annual holiday organ concerts to capacity audiences at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco and at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. His performances with numerous ensembles include Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Orpheus Ensemble, Chanticleer, and Empire Brass.

Mr. Higgs appears at organ festivals and competitions around the world, including the Stockholm *Organspace* Festival, Sweden; Fribourg International Organ Festival, Switzerland; in Germany, the European Organ Academy Leipzig, the Leipzig Bach Competition, Gottfried Silbermann Competition Freiberg, and Bremen Musikfest. Festivals of Calgary, Dublin, Odense, Varzi, Redlands and San Anselmo, California; and the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival. In England, several times at the Oundle International Festival, the St. Albans International Festival, and the Cambridge Summer Festival; in France, the Xavier Darasse International Competition in Toulouse; and Japan at several venues, most recently an all-Bach recital for the composer's birthday at Izumi Hall in Osaka. He often performs at national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, and in 2010, performed the inaugural St. Cecilia Recital, a series endowed by Marianne Webb that presents world-renowned concert organists in recital during the biennial National Conventions of the American Guild of Organists. In 2018 he performed several concerts in France, including a solo recital at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, and as guest teacher at the Paris Conservatoire.

In addition to his significant performing career, Mr. Higgs has distinguished himself as a pedagogue. He was appointed to the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music upon graduation from that institution, and has been a member of the faculty of the Eastman School of Music since 1992. His students have won prizes in prestigious international competitions, and hold important positions in leading academic and religious institutions.

Mr. Higgs has recorded for Delos International, Pro Organo, Arsis, Loft, and Gothic records.



## ORGAN KIT

Prior to our September 15 meeting four of our Young Organists put together our organ kit and then had fun playing it. Our fifth Young Organist, Simon Bruinsma, though at our dinner meeting was unable to meet at the earlier time.

Left to right: Parker Bowland, Gideon Brauch, Elyse Cahill, and Kieran Frandle.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Forty-nine years ago in 1986, our Chapter started off the year in September with a picnic at Brentwood UMC hosted by Jim Ward. Our October meeting was held at First Lutheran and featured Bernard Hunter playing the Bach Schübler Chorale Preludes. The November meeting presented Wilbur Held at Scarritt College. January had several members sharing resources, both organ and choral, at West End UMC. February showcased the Pearl High School Concert Choir at Belle Meade UMC. March was at the Hume Chapel on the Peabody Campus and presented students of Scott Withrow. April was at Westminster Presbyterian Church with members' students in the lineup. May featured our Annual Meeting at First Baptist as well as Marilyn Keiser at the Schantz organ.

Dear Nashville AGO Chapter,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to do this amazing experience!

I have had lots of fun hanging out with other people who love the same thing as me, playing all these different pipe organs, and having lessons from college teachers.

This has been so important to me and I will remember this for a long time. Thank you again.

- Parker Bowland 🎵

## THANK YOU

Two of our Young Organists who have particularly benefited from additional incentives from our initiative have written our chapter thank you notes. Parker Bowland received a tuition scholarship for the POE in Houston this past summer. Kieran Frandle received a scholarship for organ lessons and a stipend for organ music. Our initiative is being funded by an annuity that Sharron Lyon left to our chapter.

American Guild of Organists,

Thank you for the scholarship and the organ lessons. I have been learning about canons, and I am playing two hymns that are really fun to play. Dr. Rudy said that I could play organ for festival in March!

For all you've done  
in the service of others,  
may God grant you  
a lifetime of happiness.

In Appreciation  
& Admiration

- Kieran

Frandle

# Meet Our Members



**DAVID MOORE** has been a long time Chapter Friend and is now serving as our Membership Chair. (Ask HIM what he hopes to be doing in 5 years...)

David grew up in Illinois and went to 13 schools in twelve years because his father was a Nazarene pastor who moved frequently. Some of his favorite memories are living with his mother and grandmother. David was adopted at birth and found his other 10 siblings when he was forty-six years old. For twenty years he taught 4th, 5th and 6th grade and then for sixteen years was the Executive Director for Professional Development and Instruction for seventy-five elementary schools for METRO Public Schools. During this busy tenure he earned a doctorate in education from Trevecca University. He is now adjunct professor at Vanderbilt and Lipscomb Universities supervising educational seminars and classes in the Master's programs which help teachers transition to their careers, and visits several of his students and their schools weekly.

He and Rocky Craft, during their thirty-nine years together, have established a beautiful home in Pleasant View, rescued thirty-seven dogs, and now are parents to five of those. David plays piano and the accordion and he and Rocky love to travel.

Growing up in Iowa, **MELISSA EMERSON** was surrounded by a family that loved music — her grandmother was an organist/pianist, her mother played the piano, and all of her



aunts played instruments — one aunt was a soloist with the Cedar Rapids Accordion Aces. Her favorite memory was going to the family farm. She has one brother in L.A. pursuing acting.

After earning her Bachelor of Music in horn performance at U. of Iowa, she spent four years teaching middle school band. She then moved to Boston University and earned a Master of Sacred Music with an emphasis in Choral Conducting. The next ten(ish) years were spent in Maryland and Ohio, also caring for her mom until 2011. She moved to Nashville in 2013 and is Director of Music Ministries at Calvary UMC. She rings with the Music City Bronze handbell choir, plays in Capitol Horn Hang, a local horn choir, and is on the design team for The Fellowship's Music & Worship Arts Week at Lake Junaluska.

A little known but proud fact: she came in second in her division in the 2017 Music City Triathlon — 400 meter swim, 20K bike, and a 5K run. Melissa also serves as our AGO Chapter's Newsletter Editor and Publicity Chair - a busy and thankless job!

## **NASHVILLE CHAPTER BENEFACTORS**

*Contributions made February 2025–September 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

Christ Church Cathedral

SERIES 25|26

SUN  
OCT

5

3:30

## Dr. Alcée Chriss III Organ Concert

First-prize and Bach prize winner at the 2017 Canadian International Organ Competition, Dr. Alcée Chriss III is widely regarded as one of the leading young organists of our time. Dr. Chriss serves as University Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Wesleyan University..

*\$20, \$10 students*

[christcathedral.org](http://christcathedral.org)



# ARTS Calendar OCTOBER 2025

10/5/25, 3:30 p.m.  
Organ Concert by Alcée Chriss III  
Christ Church Cathedral  
900 Broadway, Nashville  
\$20, \$10 student

10/12/25, 4:00 p.m.  
Sacred Opera  
Jonathan Dove *The Walk From the Garden*  
(Regional Premiere)  
Dr. Mark Ring, Conductor;  
Strings, Timpani, and Organ  
Rebekah Alexander, soprano  
Nicholas Branson, tenor  
Choir of the Church of the Resurrection

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection  
1216 Sneed Road, Franklin

10/14/25, 7:00 p.m.  
Polyphony  
Directed by Stephen Layton  
*Free to public and reception to follow*

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

## 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, 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



Image by Jan-Paul Michaelsen from Pixabay

The November Pipelines  
will be published on  
October 27.

Submit your articles,  
pictures, member updates  
by **OCTOBER 20** to  
[pipelines@nashvilleago.org](mailto:pipelines@nashvilleago.org)

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:melissa@calvaryumc.com).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:zach@fumcpulaski.com).

## **Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN**

is seeking a part-time Organist and Choir Director. Positions may be combined (preferred) or separate. Responsibilities include playing for one Divine Service on Sunday morning as well as seasonal evening services and feast-day observances throughout the Church Year. Choir directing (with weekly rehearsal) and accompaniment are needed at least fall through spring. Candidates should have significant experience in organ performance, a commitment to a traditional/classical, Christian music program, and a knowledge of the Lutheran liturgy. A more detailed job description will be provided at the interview. Applicants should send their resume to Rev. Philip Young at [revphyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:revphyoung@yahoo.com) by October 15.



## JOB POSTINGS CONTINUED

### **St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Tullahoma, TN**

is seeking a Part-time Organist dedicated to exemplifying the Christian spirit by leading liturgical music through our pipe organ (Casvart Freres LTD of Canada organ, designed, and built especially for our parish. This fine instrument has 18 ranks and approximately 900 pipes). The Organist is expected to be diligent in preparation and performance; and cooperate with the Rector, Choir Director, and Chancel Choir to enable the highest possible standard of worship in our Sunday 10 AM Holy Eucharist Service and any other additional services. A more detailed job description will be supplied during the interview. We hope to fill this position before Sunday, October 6. Salary based on experience and mileage is also paid. Please email your resume to [stbarnabas@lighttube.net](mailto:stbarnabas@lighttube.net) or mail it to 110 E. Lincoln ST, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

### **Trinity Parish (Trinity Episcopal Church), Clarksville, TN**

is seeking a part-time Organist who is committed to excellence in leading liturgical music through the pipe organ and piano. To see the complete job description and information about the organ, see [Trinityparish.com](http://Trinityparish.com) and click on New & Events/Blog. Interested applicants should send a résumé and cover letter to [info@trinityparish.com](mailto:info@trinityparish.com) or mail to: Trinity Parish, 317 Franklin St, Clarksville 37040.