

# The Greater Columbia Organist



**March 2025**

A Publication of the Greater Columbia Chapter of the  
American Guild of Organists

## Young Organist Competition 2025 Canceled

This year we had only one entry in the Young Organist Competition, Alisdair Welty. In accordance with our policy, we awarded him the title of "Featured Performer" with a monetary award of \$2500. He will return in November to perform a solo recital.

Alisdair is an 18-year-old graduating senior from Cleveland, Ohio who is applying to the Cleveland Institute of Music beginning this Fall. His teacher is Kelsey Bergf who is a doctoral candidate in Organ Performance at the conservatory studying with Professor Todd Wilson.

He submitted a video performance of the following literature:

J.S. Bach - Prelude and Fugue in F minor, BWV 534

Maurice Durufé – Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons

Hymn Tune: St. Clement

Please enjoy his performance on the YouTube link provided below.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6sRN3Cj2zstBtJX8U1Ko1LmE0lolCqOO>



## Columbia Area Student Organists Showcase

**Sunday, March 23 3:00 PM**

St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church  
5220 Clemson Ave.  
Columbia, SC 29206

This program will allow chapter members to meet area organ students of all ages and levels of study and to hear a sample of the work they are currently doing. It is also a time offer encouragement to the students to continue their studies!

# Upcoming AGO Programs 2025

## PLANS FOR SPRING PROGRAMS

### Monday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.: Zoom Presentation on AGO Certification

Presenters from National AGO: Michelle Kardos, Director of Education, and Russell Weismann, Councilor for Education.

**Topics: Benefits, Basic Requirements, and Basic Steps for Preparation.**

[Check out Certification Requirements here!](#)

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84963876756?pwd=4VLyOIAbCtSNzBtkDoRfJbzaNNtSI4.1>

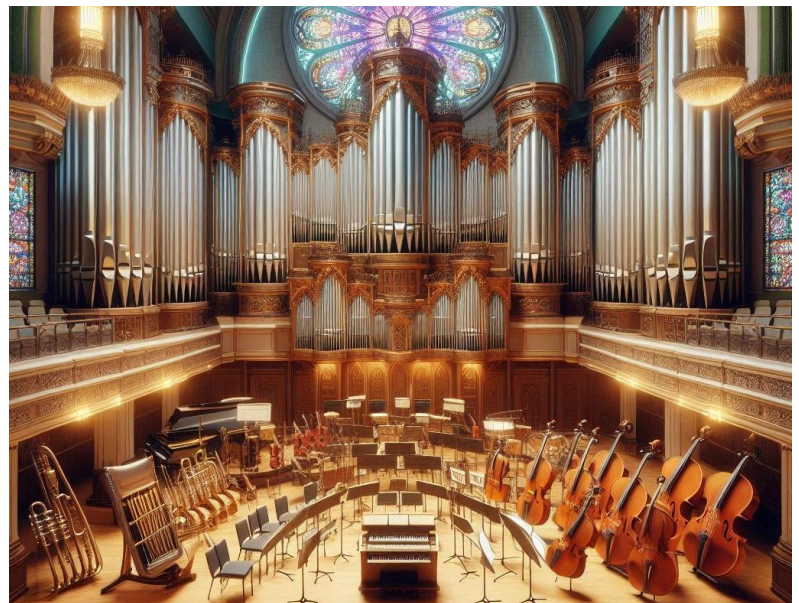
### Friday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.: Dinner followed by a Program of Music for Organ and Instruments

This will be a repertoire sharing time with selections presented by chapter members and their guest instrumentalists. (Watch for more information about the dinner in upcoming newsletters.) Location: St. David Lutheran, 132 St. David's Church Rd., West Columbia, SC.

## Program Participants Needed and Welcomed for May Program!

Chapter members who would like to present “**organ with instrument(s)**” selections on May 16 are invited to email Al Roberts at [akrdmd@gmail.com](mailto:akrdmd@gmail.com) **by April 1.**

Non-member instrumentalists who perform with organists are welcome to join us for the dinner as guests of the chapter. If you'd like to present an organ with instruments selection, but the instrumentalist is unavailable, please contact Al Roberts. He has graciously offered to check with instrumentalists at St. David.





## Sunday, March 9, 2025

March 9 is Woman Composer Sunday. Established in 2021 by the Society of Women Organists and Royal College of Organists in the United Kingdom and adopted a year later by the American Guild of Organists, Woman Composer Sunday raises awareness of the contributions of female composers during Women's History Month.

AGO Members are encouraged to include works by women in their services and other performances on this day and hundreds of organists are expected to participate. The AGO Task Force for Gender Equity has compiled a number of resources, including repertoire lists, and three winning compositions from the 2025 Woman Composer Sunday Organ Competition Contest were published in the January, February, and March issues of The American Organist magazine.

Still looking for interesting pieces you can perform? Members of the AGO Young Organists (AGOYO) recorded many works in 2023 as part of their Women Composers Project, and the individual selections are being posted daily on the official AGO Facebook page, [www.Facebook.com/AGOHQ](http://www.Facebook.com/AGOHQ). You can check them out and don't forget to "like" and share them with your friends.

You can also spread the word by posting a video of your performance (observe copyright restrictions) or photographs on your Facebook or Instagram account. The video doesn't have to be fancy, a smartphone will do the job. And, don't forget to include the hashtag #WomanComposerSunday with your post, so AGO National can share your videos on their social media feeds.

The Greater Columbia chapter is proud to support this important global event.

## Catching Up with YOC Alumni



Since beginning his musical training at age ten, **Raymond Hawkins** has honed his skill at the organ through an active career in both solo performance and sacred music. As a performer, Raymond has given recitals at venues across the United States, including the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco and Adolphus Busch Hall at Harvard University. His performance at the 2015 Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina was praised in *The American Organist* as being “superbly played and registered.”

Since 2019, Raymond has served as Director of Music and Organist at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Marblehead, Massachusetts. There, he oversees choral and organ music for weekly Mass, monthly Evensong, and a variety of other occasions. Raymond also serves as Member-at-Large and Newsletter Editor for the Merrimack Valley Chapter of AGO.

Raymond began his career in church music at the age of fourteen as organist at the First Baptist Church of Holly Hill, South Carolina. While studying in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, he served as music intern at Augsburg Lutheran Church and subsequently as organist at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.

Raymond has also won prizes in a number of regional and national competitions. As a high school junior, he received First Prize and the Hymn-Playing Prize in the 2014 UNCSA/Salem College High School Organ Competition as well as Third Place and the Hymn-Playing Prize in the Greater Columbia AGO Chapter's Young Organist Competition; the following year he earned Second Place in the same competition. In 2014, he won Second Place in the Senior Division of the Peter Perret Youth Talent Search and consequently performed with the Winston-Salem Symphony Orchestra.

In 2019, Raymond completed his undergraduate degree in organ performance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, where he studied as a Kenan Organ Scholar under Dr. Timothy Olsen and had previously received his high school diploma. Earlier on, he studied organ with Donna Swanson, Angela Kraft Cross, and Porter Remington. Raymond has also studied abroad in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the Netherlands, advancing his skills as both musician and language aficionado.



*Congratulations to*  
First UMC in Salisbury, NC and  
St. Michaels Catholic Church in Murrells Inlet, SC.

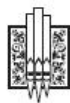
Both churches selected custom **Rodgers Infinity 489**  
four manual organs to lead their music for worship.

**RODGERS®**



Both organs were installed with moving draw knobs, two-tone finishes, adjustable music racks and benches, rolling platforms, 97 stops, velocity keys boards and pedal boards, USB technology, and Rodgers' exclusive DS Core Direct-Streaming technology.

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THE  
MUSIC MINISTRY  
of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# MUSIC SERIES

## 2024-2025

FIRST FRIDAY ORGAN CONCERT  
**MARCH 7, 2025**

**11:45 LUNCH**  
JACKSON HALL

**12:30 CONCERT**  
SANCTUARY

*Lenora Jeffcoat plays  
music of Bach, Hakim,  
Laurin, Mulet, and  
Widor*





# Folk Songs

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

*Masterworks*  
Choir

*featuring our*  
Children's Choir

MARCH 9, 2025  
Sunday • 4:00pm

Central United Methodist Church  
167 South Irby Street  
Florence, South Carolina

# CHORAL COMPLINE

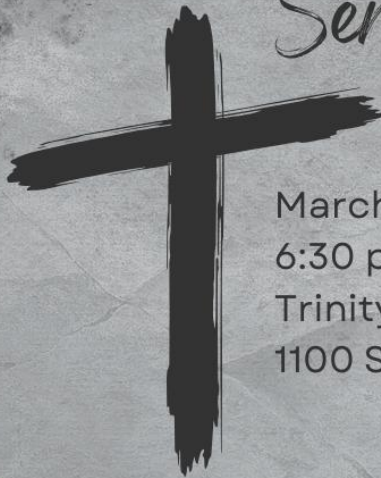
A meditative service by candlelight  
each Thursday during Lent

March 6, 13, 20, 27,  
and April 3 & 10  
8:00 p.m.



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
1100 Sumter St., Columbia, SC

## *Ash Wednesday Service*



March 5, 2025

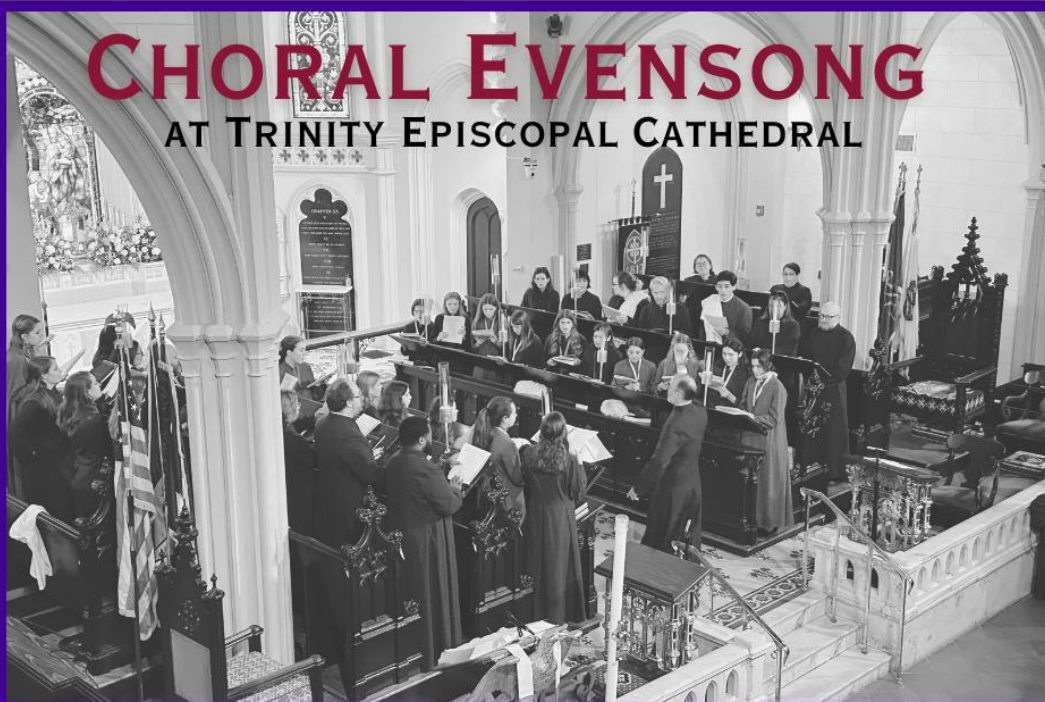
6:30 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
1100 Sumter St., Columbia



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL





# CHORAL EVENSONG


AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

MARCH 2, 9, 23 & 30  
4:00 P.M.  
(RECEPTION TO FOLLOW ON MARCH 2)



1100 SUMTER ST., COLUMBIA  
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL  
[TRINITYSC.ORG/MUSIC](http://TRINITYSC.ORG/MUSIC)



  
TRINITY  
EPISCOPAL  
CATHEDRAL

Choral Evensong  
with special guest director,  
Andrew Lumsden

Sunday, March 16  
4:00 p.m.  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
1100 Sumter St. Columbia

The background of the entire page is a colorful stained glass window with various geometric shapes in shades of red, orange, yellow, blue, and purple.

THE  
**MUSIC MINISTRY**  
of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# **MUSIC SERIES** 2024-2025

CHORAL CONCERTS AND SERVICES

Company of Singers  
St John Passion, BWV 245  
Friday, March 21, 2025, 7:00pm

Tickets available at  
[companyofsingers.com](http://companyofsingers.com)

First Presbyterian Church  
1324 Marion Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

# *Dedication Concert*

**APRIL 25, 2025 | 6:00PM**

**ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
542 Cypress Avenue | Murrells Inlet, SC



**David Ball**



**RODGERS** | CUSTOM INFINITY 489  
FOUR MANUAL

## Newsletter Deadline

The **20<sup>th</sup>** of every month is the deadline for the following month's AGO newsletter. Information received after that time may not appear in that month's newsletter.



3/02 Barbara Taylor  
3/12 Sharon McCroskey Witherell  
3/14 Aaron Dixon  
3/16 Floride McKoy  
3/28 Jeff Clearman  
3/28 Debbie Bauer

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## 2024 - 2025 CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

### DEAN

**Lenora Jeffcoat FRCO**  
C: (901) 604-8260  
E: [lmorrow101@gmail.com](mailto:lmorrow101@gmail.com)

### SUB-DEAN

**Joy Ackerman**  
H (803) 781-9781  
E: [jpackerman@att.net](mailto:jpackerman@att.net)

### SECRETARY

**Frances Webb**  
H (803) 772-1492  
E: [FrancesWebb@sc.rr.com](mailto:FrancesWebb@sc.rr.com)

### TREASURER

**Tony Roof**  
C: (803) 606-1596  
E: [email@tonyroof.com](mailto:email@tonyroof.com)

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Don Grice ARCCO**  
C: (520) 481-0037  
E: [dgrice@alum.emory.edu](mailto:dgrice@alum.emory.edu)

**Huger Caughman, Jr.**  
C: (803) 924-7619  
E: [hpcoughman@gmail.com](mailto:hpcoughman@gmail.com)

**Al Roberts**  
C: (803) 603-6568  
E: [akr\\_dmd@windstream.net](mailto:akr_dmd@windstream.net)

### MEMBERSHIP

**Susan Sturkie**  
H: (803) 788-6807  
E: [sloopystur@aol.com](mailto:sloopystur@aol.com)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Tony Roof**  
C: (803) 606-1596  
E: [email@tonyroof.com](mailto:email@tonyroof.com)

# POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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### **\*\* NEW LISTING OR CHANGES**

Please contact Susan Sturkie (803-788-6807 or [sloopystur@aol.com](mailto:sloopystur@aol.com)) to update this information or for more information on these openings.

### **BENNETTSVILLE**

**First Methodist Church**, Bennettsville, SC, seeks a Music Director to lead the music program of the church. Primary duties include providing appropriate weekly service music on the 43-rank Casavant organ and leading the adult, handbell, and children's choirs. Flexibility in job structure. Will work primarily with minister to oversee an active music ministry. Salary commensurate with training and experience. Optional opportunity to earn additional income providing music classes for church day care program. Please send cover letter and resume to church office ([wandaweaverfumc@gmail.com](mailto:wandaweaverfumc@gmail.com)). For additional information, contact Rev. Taylor Coates (843-479- 3231) or Virginia Fowler, PPRC Chairman ([heyva2@yahoo.com](mailto:heyva2@yahoo.com))

### **CHESTER**

**Presbyterian Church** in Chester - Interim organist or substitute organist. Magnificent organ, 1976 Austin with the console rebuilt two years ago. It is a two manual 36 rank instrument. There is also a 1938 Steinway Grand Piano in the worship space. Prelude, Offertory, Postlude, Doxology, Gloria Patri, and three hymns are required for each service. Interested persons should send their resume or background information to [maestrocto@gmail.com](mailto:maestrocto@gmail.com).

### **COLUMBIA**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**, 2200 Lee St., Columbia (Five Points), SC 29205. HTLC is a confessional liturgical congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and as such we practice closed communion. An organist is needed for our 10:30 Sunday as well as seasonal services. We follow a liturgical order of worship, and have a two manual pipe organ. A permanent commitment is ideal, however, we are willing to consider short-term contracts such as 3 or 6 month. If you are interested in this position please contact Rev. Christopher Burger at (803) 799-7224 or via email at [Rev.Burger@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Burger@gmail.com)

**Incarnation Lutheran Church**, 3005 Devine Street, Columbia 29205 is seeking to hire a music director/organist. The position will be part time (25 hours per week).

Preparation and performance (Flentrop Organ) of weekly Sunday worship at 10 a.m. as well as other special services during the liturgical year such as Advent and Lenten midweek evenings, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter. Serve as organist/music director for all funerals and weddings as able.

Organize, direct, enhance and maintain a joyful spirit among our existing musical ensembles, the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir. Oversee and maintain our musical instruments, music library and rehearsal spaces. Attend weekly staff meetings and engage in planning and supervisory meetings with the Pastor as mutually agreed to.

Other opportunities for leading the congregation in song to include growing a children's music program: Children's Choir – 3rd -5th, Youth Choir – 6th - 8th

Please send resume to office@incarnationlutheran.com .

**\*\*St. Luke Lutheran Church**, 1127 Olympia Ave., Columbia, SC 29201. St. Luke Lutheran Church (Olympia) is seeking a part-time Director of Music / Organist. The Director is expected to rehearse, direct and accompany the adult choir on piano and/or organ and to coordinate with the pastor on worship music selections. 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. Special services. Extra pay for weddings and funerals and the pianist/organist has first right of refusal. Please send resumes and contact information to St Luke Lutheran Church at 1127 Olympia Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201, or e-mail to [carenhazelwood@bellsouth.net](mailto:carenhazelwood@bellsouth.net).

## **GILBERT**

***St. Paul's Lutheran Church***, 246 St. Paul's Church Rd.,

Gilbert, SC 29054 is seeking a Music Director for its Sunday worship services. The applicant may interview for the entire position (Organist/Pianist/Choir Director/Handbell Director) or for a single or any combination of these positions depending on their skill levels. The Music Director leads and directs the choir / praise band (when applicable) during worship. Also, is responsible for scheduling choir / praise band (when applicable) and handbell rehearsals, selecting appropriate music and managing annual music budgets. Music should be appropriate for use in the Lutheran service and follow the theme or the lessons appointed for the day. Hymns/Songs from the ELW and the Worship & Praise book should be used. Music selections shall be made in consultation with the Pastor whenever possible. Special programs are normally presented seasonally, i.e. Christmas Cantata/Children's Christmas Program, Easter, Community Thanksgiving services when held at St. Paul's, Lenten services and following special Lutheran celebration Sundays throughout the year. Compensation for this position is negotiable based on experience and merit. For more information and complete job description or to apply, contact Janet Boyd at [boyd5janet@gmail.com](mailto:boyd5janet@gmail.com) or 803-634-0018.

## **HARTSVILLE**

***St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church***, Hartsville, SC, is in search of a part-time Organist. Duties include Sunday services, Wednesday night choir rehearsals, and any special services during the year. Salary is \$300 per week (negotiable) and extra for additional services. The Organist gets two days paid vacation plus sick leave. Our instrument is a 32-rank, two manual, Casavant Freres Limitee. The Organist reports to the Music Director and the Rector. If interested in the position, please send your resume to St. Bartholomew's at 103 Campus Dr. Hartsville, SC 29550 or via email at [stbartsepiscopal@gmail.com](mailto:stbartsepiscopal@gmail.com).

## **IRMO**

**\*\*Bethlehem Lutheran Church**, in Irmo, SC, is seeking a part-time Director of Music / Organist. The Director is expected to rehearse and direct the chancel choir and bell choir, and coordinate with the pastor on worship music selections. The salary for the position will be commensurate with the level of education and experience of the applicant. Please send resumes and contact information to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 10000 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063, or e-mail [bethlehemplutheranirmo@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemplutheranirmo@gmail.com).

**\*\*The Episcopal Church of St. Simon & St. Jude** in Irmo, SC, is an inclusive, medium-sized parish with an unwavering commitment to music, most recently shown by our 2024 refurbishment of the pipe organ and console. We seek one or more musicians to join our liturgy leadership team, as organist/choir master(s) in May/June 2025. The responsibilities include assisting in liturgy planning, accompanying choir and congregational singing for our main service, and assisting with the handbell choir. The salary range is commensurate with job scope and experience and is guided by American Guild of Organists standards. Four weeks of vacation are provided for this part time position. To be considered for the position(s) please email your letter of interest and resume directly to Rev. Jill Williams at [revjillwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:revjillwilliams@gmail.com) or call the office at (803) 732-0153.

## **LEXINGTON (Red Bank)**

**\*\*St. James Lutheran Church** (Red Bank, SC) is seeking a part-time Organist/Pianist to lead our music for our regular Sunday morning services and others. We prefer someone who plays piano and organ; however, we will entertain applicants who at this moment can only play piano. St. James' regular worship service time on Sunday is 10:30 a.m. and we have an Adult Choir rehearsal. Other services as needed include: Christmas Eve, Advent and Lenten services, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, funerals and weddings as needed. The organ is located in our sanctuary and pianos are located throughout the building. Contact the church office for details outlining qualifications, responsibilities, etc. Interested applicants ought to provide a complete resume and professional references to the church office. ([office@stjameslex.com](mailto:office@stjameslex.com)).

## **ORANGEBURG**

***First Baptist Church of Orangeburg*** is seeking a part-time organist to provide service music for Sunday worship, as well as special occasions throughout the year. Regular duties include accompanying Wednesday night choir rehearsal (7:00 pm) and playing for Sunday worship services (11:00 a.m.). The organ is a Moller, 3-manual: swell; great; choir, with 31 ranks from the original installation. The pedal board was built to AGO standard. The organ was installed in 1968 and rebuilt by Schlueter Pipe Organ Company of Lithonia, Georgia in 2007, with additional Walker digital stops added. Resumés may be sent to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 637, Orangeburg, SC 29116 or emailed to [jane@fbcorangeburg.org](mailto:jane@fbcorangeburg.org).

## **ROCK HILL**

***Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Associate Reformed***, 2132 Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill SC. Director of Music The link below will take those interested to the specifics on how to apply, the specifications of our pipe organ, and the new job description with salary included. <https://ebenezerarp.org/>