

# The Organizer

*American Guild of Organist - Atlanta Chapter*

**It's a GRAND Night for Playing!**

**Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church**

2715 Peachtree Road, NE

(404) 591-4371

(For emergency use only;

**not** for reservations)

Arden Starnes, host

**\$10**

## *Reservation Deadline*

Thursday, May 8

Q **(404) 233-7206** M

<johnsabine@bellsouth.net>

Telephone coordinator (770) 496-0719

## *Tuesday, May 13*

5:45 PM Punch Bowl

6:00 PM Anna Davis, organist

6:30 PM Dinner/Meeting

8:00 PM Timothy Wissler, Bruce Neswick, Eric Nelson, organists

## *Season Finale*

Three talented AGO members from the "Jesus Junction" churches will play for us on May 13 at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church. Dr. Eric Nelson is known here primarily as a choral conductor for Emory University, the Atlanta Sacred Chorale, and the host church. He is also an organist. Dr. Timothy Wissler is Organist at the Cathedral of Christ the King. He is a former dean, and has served us in many ways. Bruce Neswick is Canon for Music at the Cathedral of St. Philip. He came to us last year from Washington, and composed the anthem that the chapter recently commissioned.

The program is not yet settled, but participants have discussed these selections:

Song of May	Joseph Jongen
Toccata & Fugue in D Minor <u>and</u> Toccata & Fugue in D Major	J. S. Bach
Sleigh Bells	Frederick Delius
Piano Duet/Organ	N. Rimsky-Korsakov

Some of the organ duets commissioned by Ray and Beth Chenault

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Come early for the punch bowl, and hear our 2002 Undergraduate Scholarship winner Anna Davis play at 6:00 in the sanctuary. Her program is on page 5.

## *The Organizer*

Betty Williford, Editor  
Phone (770) 934-0238  
FAX (770) 934-0238; CALL FIRST!  
<bettylouw@mindspring.com>  
Liane Hunter, Graphics

Deadline for September issue:  
**August15**

Advertising space available:  
\$25 per quarter page per issue  
(beginning in September 2003)

### *Churches Presenting the Commissioned Anthem April 6*

Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta (Bruce Neswick)

Episcopal Church of the Nativity, Fayetteville

(Joanne Brown)

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Alpharetta

(John Sabine)

St. James Episcopal Church, Clayton (Ralph Lyda)

Lutheran Church of the Messiah, Decatur (Charles Redmon)

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, Atlanta (Dan Pruitt)

St. Matthew Lutheran, Atlanta (Philip Newton)

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta  
Church of the New Covenant Presbyterian, Doraville (Martha Clay)  
St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Stone Mountain (Charles Cohen)  
Church of Our Saviour, Atlanta (Daniel Pyle)  
Transfiguration Episcopal Church, Rome (Patricia DeWitt)  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fayetteville (Wm. A. Pasch, Ph.D.)  
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta (Sarah Hawbecker)  
Alpharetta Presbyterian Church, Alpharetta (Jeff Harbin)  
St. Edward's Episcopal Church, Lawrenceville (Richard Moore)  
Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church, Clarkesville (Barbara Luhn)  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Hagerstown, MD (Mark King)  
Northside Drive Baptist Church, Atlanta (Sue Goddard)  
Epiphany Lutheran Church, Conyers (Alice Griffin)  
St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, Dunwoody (Sue Mitchell-Wallace)

### ***Dues 2003-2004***

Please notice that there is no Membership Form included in this issue of *The Organizer*. You will receive it a separate mailing soon. You may also download the form from the chapter website, and submit it online.

The renewal deadline has been changed to June 30 to correspond with the chapter's fiscal year.

### ***Important Information***

AGO Voice Mail (404) 233-7206  
Dinner Reservations  
E-mail [johnsabine@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnsabine@bellsouth.net)  
Telephone coordinator (770) 496-0719  
Chapter Web site <[www.agoatlanta.org](http://www.agoatlanta.org)>  
National Web site <[www.AGOHQ.org](http://www.AGOHQ.org)>

Executive Board Meeting  
Saturday, May 10 9:30 AM  
Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church  
2715 Peachtree Road, NE

***From the Dean***

While attending a dedicatory recital on one of our recent installations, the organist took a moment to share insight on the music of J.S. Bach with the parishioners of the congregation. He described how Bach composed music for itestingî the new organs, which he was often asked to play. Passages would test the range of the voicing, cohesion of the ensemble, sensitivity of the action, and the capacity of the winding system. While reflecting on these comments, I realize that we are always subject to testing or scrutiny by our peers, congregations, and society in general.

Fred Swann recently wrote in his monthly column of the changes that we are experiencing in the field of church music: changes that will no doubt be subjected to the test of time, people, religion and yes, personal taste. Religion has been vital to music and art for thousands of years. As one colleague taught years ago, art is the reflection of society. This reflection ranges from the surface to the subconscious of our society. These reflections are apparent from the music we embrace to the music we create. The organ itself has not escaped the impact of such changes. Change is inevitable; it always has been and always will be.

However, I stop to ponder the effect of change and attitude on the basic structure of education and skills. I feel that I share the same concerns as some of my colleagues regarding service playing. Many ideas and theories have been set forth regarding the changes that have impacted church music. However, one thing continues to surface regarding the function of the church organist; preludes, postludes, and itravelingî music aside, hymn playing still remains one of the most important skills the organist must possess. Many of our professors and instructors take this very much to heart in their teaching, but unfortunately many of them have discounted it. I personally was privileged to sing in the choir where my own organ instructor was Choirmaster and witnessed first hand the beauty and grace that elegant hymn and service playing added to the service each week.

The Guild offers a tremendous service to you in the capacity of certification training and exams. This training may reinforce previous training or fill a void not covered in past studies. All who have participated in the process have commented about the benefits and insights these classes offer. After all, the acquisition and development of skills still

requires study and practice, regardless of the applied form.

Of course, change has also propelled many other things, including such wonders as multi-level console capture actions. New systems offer ten times the memory capacity for programming the service music registrations. As a builder, we often find the systems fascinating in our shop and in the field. The capture action is indeed the diary of the organist, and one to be read by those of us who work with the console! Despite the requests for "super" systems, how many of you utilize the tools you have? Do you use multiple stop changes over the course of a hymn, or have you worn out the one hymn piston? Our company uses "test" patterns to check the operation of pistons whenever we install or rebuild a combination system. I continued to be amazed when I find these test patterns still exist on combination systems years after installation. Take time to reflect on these thoughts as you prepare for the Easter Season. If you would like to expand your service-playing skills, perhaps Guild Certification classes might be in order.

**Phil Parkey**, Dean

*Don Robinson Honored*

Don Robinson has been made a Lowell Mason Fellow by the Music Educators National Conference. The award was presented at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in Savannah in January.

After teaching in Fulton County, Ann Arbor, and Wiesbaden, and doing graduate work, Don served as Director of Music Education in the Fulton County Schools from 1958 until 1980. He has served as music director of several Atlanta choral groups, and was music director at Central Presbyterian Church from 1958 until 1990.

Don has always been active in professional organizations, including AGO. He was president of the Southern Division of MENC when the MENC national convention was held in Atlanta (1972).

*Sub-Dean's Corner*

Program plans for the 2003-2004 season are almost finalized. Although they have not been approved by the Executive Board, they are included so you can plan your events around them. We have many members who cannot attend Tuesday events, so some events are being planned for other days. It should be an exciting year.

Tuesday, September 9, 2003  
AGO Guild Service  
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Atlanta

Tuesday, October 7, 2003  
Hymn Festival led by Paul Oakley  
on the 1928 E. M. Skinner organ  
Sandy Springs United Methodist Church

Saturday, November 15, 2003  
9:30 AM Breakfast and chapter meeting  
11 AM Master Class with Alan Morrison  
First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta  
(Alan will be playing a concert at 2 PM Sunday as a part of the concert series at First  
Presbyterian Church.)

Tuesday, December 9, 2003  
Christmas Party  
Home of Lamar Savage

Tuesday, January 13, 2004  
The Emory University Aquinal Center presents  
Atlanta AGO member Kelly Whittier  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Atlanta

Tuesday, February 10, 2004  
Members' Recital  
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Atlanta

Saturday, March 20, 2004  
Choral Workshop with Eric Nelson  
Emory University

April 2004  
Simultaneous premiere of a commissioned organ work

Tuesday, May 11, 2004  
Paul Jacobs, organ

Spivey Hall

Tuesday, October 12, 2004

David Briggs, organ

All Saints Episcopal Church

Plan now to attend every chapter event.

Joanne Brown

### *2002 Scholarship Winner Performs*

Anna B. Davis will play a mini-recital at 6 PM on Tuesday, May 13. She attends graduate school on a full scholarship, and studies with Timothy Albrecht as a student in the Master of Sacred Music degree program at Emory University. Ms. Davis graduated summa cum laude in May 2002 with a Bachelor's degree in Organ Performance from Shorter College, where she studied with Peter DeWitt. Competing at the national collegiate level, she won First Place in the 2001 National Collegiate Organ Competition sponsored by the Music Teachers' National Association, and she received Runner Up in the American Guild of Organists' Southeast Regional Competition for Young Organists that same year. In the spring of 2002, she won First Place in the Undergraduate Division of the Atlanta AGO's Scholarship Competition. Ms. Davis holds the position of Music Associate and Organist at Heritage Baptist Church in Cartersville, Georgia.

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#### *Program*

Gigue Fugue in G Major      J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Jig for the Feet (Totentanz) William Albright (1944-1998)

Fugue in A-flat Minor      Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Nazard from Suite française      Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Symphony No. 1

VI. Final

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

## ***AGO Region IV 2003 Convention***

***Charleston, SC June 4-8.***

Hotel Reservations:

(843) 722-0600 or (800) 937-8461;

Identify yourself as AGO Region IV Convention.

Convention Registration is \$175. Send it to:

Ray Ackerman, Registrar AGO2003,

PO Box 6672

Hilton Head Island, SC 29938-6672.

[www.ago2003](http://www.ago2003)

### ***RCYO Report***

The Atlanta Chapter competition of the RCYO (Regional Competition for Young Organists) was held at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer on Friday, April 4th. Peter Dewitt, James Mellichamp, and Sue Mitchell-Wallace served as judges for the event.

The judges awarded a \$500 first prize to Matt Brown, a junior at North Carolina School of the Arts, where he studies organ with Dr. John Mitchener. Matt will go on to represent our chapter at the Regional competition held in Charleston in conjunction with the Regional AGO convention. The RCYO ends at the regional level, but each winner of a regional competition will be invited to perform at the 2004 National Convention in Los Angeles.

The judges awarded \$300 and second place to Malcolm Matthews. Malcolm is a 13 year old organ student from Knoxville, Tennessee, where he studies with Dr. John Brock at the University of Tennessee.

Both competitors performed Bach's Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 541, the hymn "Foundation," Samuel Barber's "Wondrous Love," and a piece of their own choosing. Malcolm Matthews played Durufle's "Fugue, Op. 12" and Matt Brown played Dupre's "Prelude and Fugue in B Major." They were both extremely well prepared, and it is obvious that they have great teachers and that they both love playing the organ. We wish Malcolm and Matt well as they continue to pursue their musical careers.



I would like to thank the members of the Atlanta AGO Chapter for supporting competitions and scholarships. It is extremely important that we continue to encourage young organists in this way.

Sarah Hawbecker  
RCYO Atlanta Chapter Competition Coordinator

### *From the Editor*

Thanks to Keith Huffstetter and Michael Morgan for their help in assembling last month's issue of ***The Organizer***. Thanks also for bringing your program pass to the March meeting.

Betty Williford, Editor

### *Philip Hahn Dies At Age 67*

PHILIP HAHN, AAGO, the Guild's immediate past president died peacefully at his home in San Francisco, Calif. on Sunday, April 13, 2003 from complications of myelofibrosis, a disease of the bone marrow.

A memorial service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ross, Calif. on Sunday, May 4 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Philip Hahn Scholarship at the American Guild of Organists, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, N.Y. 10115.

From 1990 until his death, Hahn served as organist-choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ross, Calif., where he was also the executive director of the Friends of Music Concert Series. From 1992 to 2002, Philip Hahn was a member of the National Council of the American Guild of Organists and served as president from 1998 to 2002.

### *Slate of Officers 2003-2004*

Chapter officers for terms beginning July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2004 will be elected at the May 13 meeting.

Dean: Phil Parkey  
Sub-Dean: Joanne Brown  
Secretary: Arden Starnes  
Treasurer: Mike Hutcherson

Registrar: Cynthia Forbes  
Newsletter Editor: Betty L. Williford  
WebMaster: Jim Wingate  
Auditor: Warren Williams  
Chaplain: The Rev. Ken Boone

### ***Executive Committee***

To fill unexpired term of Brad Cunningham (Class of 2004):  
Bill Callaway

Class of 2006 (choose two):  
Pamela Ingram  
Robert Mays  
Michael Morgan  
Hamilton Smith

### ***Nominating Committee***

Adele McKee, Chair  
Jeff Harbin                      Don Larson  
Robin Hensley                  Charles Redmon

**Cynthia (Cindy) Forbes** has been a member of the Atlanta chapter since 1979. She served on the Worship Committee for the 1992 National Convention, and the 1995 Pipe Organ Encounter Steering Committee and Faculty. While living in Rome, she served six years as Secretary to the chapter. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from Meredith College and a Master of Church Music in Organ Pedagogy from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She is now organist at the First Baptist Church of Decatur.

**Warren Williams** has lived in Atlanta since 1969, and has been a member of AGO since the mid-1970's. He received a B.S. from GSU, and did graduate work at UGA. He was Organist/Choirmaster at Shrine of Immaculate Conception 1978-1985. At St. Mark UMC, he sings in the chancel choir and served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He has worked at S. P. Richards Co., a subsidiary of Genuine Parts Company since 1982.

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**Bill Callaway** began his organ studies with Ray Martin. Later he studied with Russell

Saunders at the Eastman School of Music, and with Egbert Ennulat at the University of Georgia, where he received a BFA degree. He has served as principal accompanist for the Atlanta/Douglas Choral Society since 1987, and has been organist at several Atlanta area churches. He is now organist at First UMC of Chamblee.

**Pamela P. Ingram** has lived in Atlanta almost all of her life and has attended All Saints' Episcopal Church since infancy. A member of choirs since age 8, she is now Music Librarian and Choral Administrative Assistant to the Choirmaster. Pamela has also sung with the Choral Guild of Atlanta and the Festival Singers. She is retired from the Atlanta City School System after 30 years of teaching K-2 grades. Married for 45 years to Trevis Ingram, a computer programmer and system analyst, she has three sons and 3 grandchildren. She and Trevis live in Peachtree Hills.

**Robert L. (Bobby) Mays** has been a member of The Atlanta Chapter of AGO since 1972, a member of The AGO Endowment Committee since 2001, Publicity Chair, Atlanta AGO Regional Convention, 1975, and Chapter Secretary, in the late 1970's. He has been a member of The Atlanta Chapter AGO since he was a teen. He studied organ with Emilie Spivey while obtaining his BBA degree with a major in Accounting and his MBA degree majoring in Management. Currently, he is First Vice President of SunTrust Bank's Endowment & Foundation's Division administering a group of relationships in excess of \$1.5 billion; Chair of The Arts Committee, St. Luke's Episcopal Church; member of the Organ Task Force Study for The Atlanta Symphony Center; Board Member of The Atlanta Opera; Board Member of The Park @ St. Luke's, Inc.; and Life Board Member of The Henry Medical Foundation. In the past he was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to serve the 3rd Congressional District on The Georgia Council for The Arts, and, founding President of Peachtree Corridor Congregations from 1988-1992.

**Michael Morgan** has been organist at Central Presbyterian Church for 27 years. Prior to that, he served churches in Tallahassee (FL), Pacific Grove (CA), and Little Rock (AR). He also serves as Seminary Musician at Columbia Theological Seminary. His organ study includes degrees from Florida State University, independent study with Richard Purvis at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, and numerous master classes. He has played recitals and services in England, Spain, and Switzerland, and around the United States. Service to the Guild has included programs for both the Atlanta and San Jose (CA) chapters, and he has served previously on the Executive Committee as Editor of the newsletter. Currently he is librarian for the Guild. In 1999 the Presbyterian Church (USA) published his ***Psalter for Christian Worship***.

**Hamilton Smith** is an Atlanta native. He is a graduate of Emory University, where he received a B.A degree. He attended Summer Programs at Eastman School of Music and Harvard University. He has a M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a retired executive with Suntrust Banks. He has served as Director or Music Ministries at the Cathedral of Christ the King for many years. He is on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and serves as Chairman of the Organ Task Force to Select Instrument for New Symphony Hall. He serves the Atlanta Chapter AGO: Chairman on the Endowment Investment Committee. He is on the Atlanta Estate Planning Council and is a Life Member of A. Montag & Associates [Investment Advisors]: Advisory Board.