



The VOLUNTARY TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHARLESTON CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. 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.

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DEAN'S LIST

Dear Chapter Members,

Since March, our world has stopped and started in unpredictable jolts, and the ways we practice our craft have been forever transformed. We are leading hymns for few if any live singers, learning more about the digital world than we ever wanted to know, and experiencing our own struggles, griefs, and milestones while doing it. Although I am not one of those people who watch hours and hours of YouTube church on Sundays, I have gotten to experience other musicians' hard work and, I have to say, I am impressed.

Organists are resilient folk. We love leading hymnody, getting a registration right, experiencing the gifts each instrument uniquely offers its space, the craftsmanship that has gone into the instrument, and even, dare I say, practicing (sometimes). And yet, it is like the old saying, "If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears it, did it really happen?" If we continue playing our hearts out and no one hears, does it really happen? We rely, more than we ever thought, on the people who witness the fruits of our labors. Who is the organist without a community of music lovers?

We are challenged to take the organ out of the building and to bring the sounds of the organ into living rooms, onto iPads and smartphones, and wherever else our audiences and congregations might be. We have this unique opportunity to expand the presence of the pipe organ in

people's lives—including our own. If time, travel, expense, driving in the dark, or dreading downtown parking has kept you from an AGO program before, let's try something new. This year, we are committed to having all programs available virtually, and, if circumstances allow, in person. The Charleston



Chapter of the AGO and our national headquarters are committed to helping you thrive in this new setting by offering national resources on topics of interest including promises of virtual organ crawls of some of the finest instruments in the country, virtual skill building opportunities and local offerings as well. And, in this issue of the *Voluntary*, we hear from you about your experiences and successes.

I look forward to being on this journey of discovery with you, seeing new faces, and experiencing the expertise and creativity of our membership in this new setting. I know this is just the beginning of great things.

Optimistically,

Deacon Katie Holland

Dean

EMILY REMINGTON, 1916–2020



by Porter Remington

Emily Remington, 103, of Mount Pleasant, left us on July 28, 2020, 24 days before her 104th birthday. She was surrounded by her daughters. Coincidentally, she died on the same date and same day of the week (Tuesday) as J. S. Bach.

Born on August 21, 1916 in Jordan, South Carolina, Emily was the daughter of the late Reverend William Olin Henderson and Mittie Hinnant Henderson.

Emily spent her life as a professional musician. In Charleston, she was organist/choirmaster for the former Grace Episcopal Church, now Grace Church Cathedral. She was founder and conductor of the Singers Guild for the Charleston Symphony (now the Charleston Symphony Chorus). The chorus was known for the presentation of great choral literature, and the

colorful Christmas concerts for the symphony.

Emily was an adjunct professor at the College of Charleston, then later named Assistant Professor. She taught piano, music appreciation, conducting, and served as accompanist for the vocal studios, the College Choir and many college concerts. A charitable fund which now supports the International Piano Series was established in her name by Dr. William Tate.

Emily served a term as Dean of the Charleston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and earned the ChM and AAGO certificates in that organization. As a concert pianist who came to the organ rather later in the 1940s, she was justifiably proud of these certificates. She was also a member of the Charleston Music Club. Both organizations have a scholarship in her name.

Of her many activities, Emily worked with Gian-Carlo Menotti when the Spoleto Festival began, accompanying rehearsals and performances the first two years. She was on the original planning committee of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston which began in 1978. Later, at an opening concert of the Charleston Symphony, Mayor Joe Riley and conductor Joseph Flummerfelt presented her with the Key to the City of Charleston, recognizing her unflagging work in making these two festivals a success. After moving to Franke at Seaside, she organized the Remington Concert Series there, in addition to her

Christmas and July 4 celebrations for the residents. Just last year she was named the second runner-up as “Classical Woman of the Year” on NPR’s *Performance Today* with Fred Child.

Among her many experiences, Emily accompanied artists for the National Opera in Munich, Germany including James King and Jessye Norman. While living in Germany, she was commissioned by the Army Headquarters in Heidelberg to be director of the Protestant Institute of Music held each year at the General Walker Hotel in Berchtesgaden. For this commission she was given the privilege of Brigadier General benefits. She presented many workshops and recitals at American post chapels.

Before coming to Charleston, Emily lived in Augusta, Georgia, and there she served as organist/choirmaster for the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. She was the founder of the Augusta Choral Society in 1951. In 2001 at the 50th anniversary, she was named Conductor Emerita. For many years she taught at Paine College and Augusta College (now Augusta State University). She was a founding member of the Augusta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and also served as the Georgia State Chairman.

In 1955, Emily had one of the first weekly LIVE TV shows called *In the Music Room* where she played classical piano music with commentary. Over her entire career she taught piano and organ to countless students.

Emily was a graduate of Coker College (now University), class of 1937, in Hartsville, South Carolina and later studied at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and the Juilliard School in New York City. In 1983, she was awarded the Coker College Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award.

Emily was married to the late Dr. John Wood Remington, Professor of Physiology at the Medical College of Georgia. She is survived by her daughters, Porter Remington of Mount Pleasant and Martha Scharnitzky of Goose Creek; her two grandsons, W. A. “Andy” Scharnitzky, III and wife, Jennifer of Daniel Island and their children, Emily, Matthew and Andrew; John F. Scharnitzky and his children, Alex, Samuel and Abigail of Virginia Beach, Virginia. Emily is also survived by many members of her extended family.

A private graveside service will be held at Suttons SC, the family home. At a future date, a memorial concert is being planned to remember her legacy. For those who may be interested, memorial contributions in Emily’s memory may be sent to Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation (300 Ministry Drive, Irmo, South Carolina 29063) or to any of the organizations named above.

Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or submitted online at <https://www.palmettocs.com/obituaries/Emily-Remington?obId=17682847#/celebrationWall>



COPING DURING A PANDEMIC



**PAT GOULD, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST
ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH**

When this pandemic caused us to close churches way back in March, I truly believed it would be for two weeks. The rector and I met and planned a Morning Prayer service and decided we wanted it to be as much like Sunday morning as possible. We also decided to bring in a quartet of singers (called lovingly our Covid Quartet) to sing hymns, canticles and anthems. We are still doing that service, although the church reopened on August 23.

Each week we have recorded the Sunday service, usually on Friday, but at times on Thursday. The services include prelude, introit, opening hymn, canticles (the 2nd one usually an anthem), sermon and anthem after the grace, final hymn and postlude. The services have been very well received — over 1000 views most weeks. Our videographer is amazing and captures the beauty of the church as she records.

Personally, it has been both a huge challenge as well as a great blessing. The challenge is to perfect lots of music sometimes by Thursday when Thursday and Friday are my usual busy practice days. The blessing has come in many ways: getting to know and share with our quartet of singers, hearing sermons and favorite anthems multiple times, hearing what works on our organ and what does not, and it has made me practice much better and more fully.



**NIGEL POTTS, ORGANIST AND MASTER OF THE MUSIC
GRACE CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

Fortunately for Grace Church Cathedral, we already have been live-streaming services for about three years, so with the services suspended to the public, we have simply continued live-streaming, but reduced to just one Sunday morning service at 11am. Since lockdown in March, this service has consisted of a quartet singing the usual numbers of anthems, etc., and we therefore have been keeping the number of persons in the Cathedral to approximately 10. I have been grateful to our staff singers who have been willing to come in and sing socially distanced. Services may be watched live or at a later date on our Grace Church Cathedral YouTube page.



**CHARLES LIPPY, ORGANIST
ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

When it became clear that in-person worship would not return anytime soon, St. Francis began to record material for a weekly YouTube service; now that service is done via Zoom. It took a bit of maneuvering, but I learned to record a prelude, hymns, and service music, using the Allen I have in my home, and then send them by phone to our senior warden, who is a tech guru. Somehow, he is able to download the music and then incorporate it in appropriate places in the online service. Strictly a service organist, I have also learned about four or five new pieces that I will be able to use down the road. But I've spent more time reading, cooking, and walking the dogs than I did before. The difference is now I feel no guilt in doing so!



**DEACON KATIE HOLLAND, MINISTER OF MUSIC
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

I am much more efficient with my time. I work on the menial tasks of my job: emailing, scheduling, sometimes processing recordings while watching a Netflix with my husband and son. The choir's focus previously was mainly anthems and special music. Now, the primary focus is truly leading the hymns (I either have small groups record live or individuals record at home with my recorded organ accompaniment). Lack of stable high speed internet connections has been a challenge for Zoom meetings, rehearsals, and worship services. I think having members of the choir do individual recordings is

good for us all. I can hear where they are struggling with breath support, going from head to chest voice, rhythm much more clearly. It also forces them to be stronger singers themselves — and me, too. I have learned A LOT about recording and editing sound files! SO MUCH! I also have much higher standards about my hymn accompanying. Shamefully, I spend a good chunk of each week practicing alternative hymn accompaniments and playing with registrations — skills that I probably should have well-honed at this point in my career. And I record probably 7 takes of each hymn before I am happy with what I am going to send the choir.

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Sometimes we may feel like Alice after she fell down the rabbit hole. Things are just not the way they used to be. Yet forward we go, fairly certain that we will exit this rabbit hole at some point and that life will become as it was before. Let us hope that that life will be without masks! In the meantime, be sure to get your flu shot.

The chapter now has a Zoom account. We have been using it for board meetings with great success. And we used it for the service of installation of officers, combined with YouTube video footage for the musical portions. If you missed it, you can access the YouTube video and download the bulletin. Go to <https://www.agocharleston.org/chapter-programs-2020-2021.html>, and click on the links. Kudos go to Michael Varnadore for splicing that video together and hosting the Zoom portion.

Although 2021 remains an unknown regarding how chapter events will unfold, we have two events this fall that will be Zoom events.



**THE UNTOLD STORIES: RICH BACKGROUNDS
OF SOME FAVORITE HYMNS**

**WITH FR. BRIAN MCGREEVY, ASSISTANT FOR HOSPITALITY
MINISTRY, ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 (ZOOM)
7:00 PM**

All of us who are involved in worship interact regularly with many of the great hymns of the Church, but often we do not know the personalities and circumstances behind their writing. Join Father Brian McGreevy for an enriching journey through the little-known background of some favorite hymns and the beauty of their theology.

The Rev. Brian K. McGreevy, J.D., serves as Assistant to the Rector of St. Philip's Church, where he oversees hospitality ministry, teaches some adult classes, and serves in the preaching rotation. Previously, he served as Head Chaplain at Porter-Gaud School, where he was also Chair of the Religion Department. He serves currently as the synoptics professor in the Diocesan theological education program for deacons. He attended Duke University, and holds a B.A. with high honors from Furman University and a J.D. with Honors in Family Law from Emory University School of Law, where he did work in the law and theology program and founded the Emory chapter of the Christian Legal Society. Rev. McGreevy teaches and speaks regularly on C.S. Lewis and the Inklings and has led several study tours to the U.K. in association with Inklings expert Colin Duriez. He is married to the former Jane Hollis Whitney, and they have four children and three grandchildren.



CORNEL ZIMMER AND THE CITADEL ORGAN

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16 (ZOOM)
7:00 PM**

Join organ builder Cornel Zimmer as he leads us on an exploration of the pipe restoration work in The Citadel's Summerall Chapel accomplished by his organ building company.



CALENDAR

No one has reported upcoming concerts, alas! This area remains empty for the month.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

We welcome the following new member to the Charleston Chapter: **VIRGINIA ROEDIG, AAGO.**

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

JAMES ISLAND, SC: SAINT JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH



Saint James is seeking a full-time worship leader comfortable with traditional and contemporary music. The person should be skilled on the piano and the organ. The ideal candidate will have the opportunity to help cast a new vision for our worship ministry as we move through these times of change and into the future. For a full description of the position's responsibilities, click the link on the AGO website <https://www.agocharleston.org/positions-available.html>. Salary range commensurate with experience. Please respond to the Rev. Louise Weld at lweld@saint-james.org (Posted 6/23/20)

SAINT MATTHEWS, SC: ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

St. Paul UMC, 1808 Bridge St, Saint Matthews, SC 29135 is seeking an organist/choir director. The job requirements include choir practice at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings (or another time during the week) and one worship service on Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Some additional services throughout the year (Christmas Eve, funerals, etc.) may also be requested. The instrument is a 1937 Möller Pipe Organ.

Please call (803) 874-2166 or email at stpaulsmumc@gmail.com for more details. Pastor: Rev. Sara Relaford. Church Secretary: Lori Worsencroft. Church Website: www.stpaulsmumc.com. (Posted 5/28/19)



LEXINGTON, SC: SAXE GOTHA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church of Lexington, SC is seeking applications to fill the part time position of Organist/Music Associate. SGPC is a thriving ECO non-liturgical congregation in the heart of Lexington, SC, with an engaging music and arts ministry.

Responsibilities include providing organ accompaniment for two traditional worship services, accompanying weekly adult and youth choir rehearsals, directing the handbell ensemble, and playing for funerals and weddings. The organist will serve on a team that includes the Director of Music and Arts, several audio/visual specialists and a staff pianist. Qualified candidates will possess at least an undergraduate degree in music and/or appropriate experience in a traditional worship setting. This position has the possibility for expanding for the right candidate to complete administrative tasks for the worship and arts ministry. This position can range from 10 to 30 hours a week with a salary based on education, experience, and hours worked. The organ is a 3-manual Allen Renaissance (1997). All interested candidates should contact Director of Music and Arts, Hal McIntosh at hmcintosh@saxegotha.org or 803-359-7770, extension 13. (Posted 2/18/19)



CHARLESTON: MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Martin Luther Lutheran Church is seeking a part-time Music Director to lead our music on Sunday morning and for other services. We need someone who plays organ and piano, can direct our choir, and can start a handbell choir. Directing a children's choir could be a possibility as we are slowly gaining children.

Mission Statement: "We are a caring people of God, brought together by grace and nourished by the Word. Led by the Spirit we are sent out in service to share God's love."

Profile:

- One service: 9:00a.m., and weekly Adult Choir rehearsal
- Other services as needed (Christmas Eve, Advent and Lenten Wednesday evenings, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, funerals and weddings as needed)
- An organ and a grand piano are in the sanctuary. Pianos in the choir room and fellowship hall.



For a PDF outlining qualifications, responsibilities, etc., go to our website and click the PDF link. Persons interested in applying should provide a complete resume and professional references. Send resume and references to Martin Luther Lutheran Church at MLLC@knology.net. Church Office phone: (843) 795-4855. The Rev. Thomas A. Cassem, 1605 Harborview Rd. Charleston (James Island), SC 29412. www.martinlutherchurch.org. (Posted 1/21/2019)

THIS 'N THAT

AGO MUSIC EXCHANGE

There is still much music in the AGO Music Exchange housed at Second Presbyterian Church, **and additional donations have been made in the last month**. Please email Julia for an updated listing. There are 200+ titles of organ music and many choral anthems. To get a PDF listing of organ (by composer), organ plus instrument, piano, wedding, Advent/Christmas, collections, etc., or to schedule a time to come browse the collection, please email Julia Harlow, juliah.6@juno.com. A listing of choral anthems (SATB, SAB) is also available. For either listing, email Julia, or use the link on the **Miscellany** page of the chapter website <https://www.agocharleston.org/miscellany.html>. As always, if you have organ or choral music or shoes that you do not need anymore, and want to donate to the Exchange, please let Julia know. **Currently, there is a pair of nearly new organ shoes, size 10M.**

Our website has clickable links to PDFs of the current holdings. Go here: <https://www.agocharleston.org/miscellany.html>.

NEW AT ST. PHILIP'S



St. Philip's Church welcomes **CHRIS WALCHESKY** as its new Assistant Director of Music. Formerly at Saint James Anglican on James Island, Chris will be assisting Pat Gould in St. Philip's music ministry.



Cathy Collins, Clara Godshall, and
Chris Walchesky
all have birthdays on

September 11

Something for everyone!
AGOYO virtual program year 20-21

FRIDAYS AT NOON EST

videos will be premiered at:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/GuildofOrganists>

August 14- Organ crawl: West Point Chapel

September 11- Workshop:

Church musicians and technology

September 25- Panel: Organists of colors

October 9- Panel: The Global Organist

November 13- Organ crawl: Longwood Gardens

December 11- Organ factory tour: Austin Organ Co.

January 8- Webinar:

Young conductors/organists guide to church music

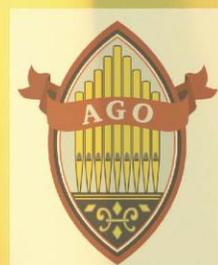
February 12- Organ crawl: Wanamaker

March 12- Panel:

Board positions in the guild/serving in leadership roles

April 9- Organ factory tour: Taylor & Boody

May 7, 14, 21, 28- Young organist recitals



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