



THE EN CHAMADE

Newsletter of the American Guild of Organists, Memphis Chapter, September 2023

From the Dean . . .

Together on the Journey

The start of our new guild year is once more upon us. The lengthier periods of rest that the summer brings are being replaced with the work at hand. For those of us with more experience, August is the new September. Let us approach our work with a sense of expectation and enthusiasm.

I am eager to resume our monthly gatherings where we can learn from each other, and gain strength from fellowship with others in our mutual work. We can say welcome back to a few members who have returned to our area, and will miss a few who have moved away. Our sub-dean, John Palmer, and the Program Committee has led the organization of an excellent year of varied programming. I am excited to learn from the presenters. Please note that a few of the programs are on different dates, and I hope that will accommodate those who cannot be with us at the standard meeting times. Let us approach our year with vigor.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Terry McRoberts, Dean

From the New Chapter Registrar

You will be receiving newsletter reminders on the 15th of each month from Sondra Tucker, our new Registrar. Additionally, you will receive a dinner reservation notice on the second Thursday prior to each meeting. Reservations must be made by the Thursday immediately prior to each meeting.

Please check your ONCARD information for any updates, because our Chapter Directory will be taken directly from that information. The Directory will be compiled in mid-September.

Thank you, Sondra Tucker, sondratucker@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Memphis Chapter – American Guild of Organists
Entering our 110th Year!

ANNUAL GUILD SERVICE

Monday, September 11, 2023

St. Peter Church – 190 Adams, Memphis

6:00 PM – Gathering, name tags, dinner payment (\$15)

6:15 – Dinner (with a vegetarian option) Reservations needed. Please respond to Sondra Tucker, Registrar, sondratucker@gmail.com, if you have not already done so.

6:45 – Chapter Business Meeting

7:15 – break; proceed to church

7:30 – Guild Service led by Chapter Chaplin Dr. Ray Hatton, with Dr. Kristin Lensch and Dr. Patrick Scott as Organists.

Following the service: optional visit to St. Martin de Porres Shrine Chapel for a ‘musical night-cap’ on the Milnar Portative.

PLEASE NOTE: Parking

There is NO FREE PARKING in the lot across Adams from St. Peter’s. You must pay \$5 using a phone. On-street parking at meters IS free after 6 PM.

Also, Calvary Church has arranged for us to park for free in their lot behind their church.

A Security Guard will be present on Adams.

Dinner Menu

-BBQ Beef (off the bone)

-BBQ Black Bean Patties (vegetarian)

-Baked Beans

-Sautéed Farmers Market Corn

-Cole Slaw

-Chocolate Sheet Cake

-Lemon Tea Cookies

MEMPHIS AGO PROGRAMS, 2023-2024

With many thanks to Sub-Dean John Palmer, and the Program Committee, Jane Scharding Smedley, Walton Griffin, Phil Brown, and Patrick Scott.

6:00 PM – Gathering, name tags, dinner payment (\$15)

6:15 – Dinner (with a vegetarian option) Reservations needed. Please respond to Sondra Tucker, Registrar, sondratucker@gmail.com (see note on page one).

6:45 – Chapter Business Meeting

7:15 – break

7:30 – Program

Monday, September 11

At. St. Peter Church (see information above), **Guild Service and Chapel Portative Demo**

Monday, October 2

At First UMC, Downtown Memphis, **Perry Redfearn on Organ and Choral Skills**

Monday, November 6

At. St. Louis Church, on White Station Rd., Memphis, **Demonstration of Refurbished Casavant Organ**

Monday, December 4

At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Poplar Pike, **Play Your Favorite Carol on the Martin Ott Organ**

Monday, January 8

At All Saints Episcopal Church, **Twelfth Night Party**

Monday, February 5

At Bartlett UMC, Stage Rd., Bartlett, **Sarah Harr, on Keyboard Skills for Guild Exams**

TUESDAY, March 5 (NOTE DAY CHANGE)

At St. Mary's Cathedral, 690 Poplar Ave., Memphis, **Colin McKnight Organ Concert**

Monday, April 15

At. St. John's Episcopal Church, Central at Greer, Memphis, **David Briggs on Improvisation Skills**

Monday, May 6

At Richard Tanner's home, 698 N. Trezevant, Memphis, **Demonstration of his Residence Organ**

AROUND THE CHAPTER

Centennial Celebration - Casavant, Opus 968 - St. Peter Church, Memphis, TN



Left to Right: Dr. Jennifer Pascual, Dr. Terry McRoberts, Dean of the Memphis Chapter, Todd Milnar, long-time curator of the instrument, Jane Scharding Smedley, host member.

The centennial of Casavant, Opus 968 at St. Peter Church, Memphis, was celebrated with a recital by Dr. Jennifer Pascual on Sunday, May 7, 2023 - 100 years to the day of its dedication by her predecessor at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, Pietro Yon. Her program included one composition by Yon played in 1923, as well as *Triptych on Salve Regina* by Lynn Trapp, commissioned for the organ's 75th anniversary. In her opening welcome, host Jane Scharding Smedley gratefully acknowledged Todd Milnar of Milnar Organ Company for maintaining the instrument for over 26 years. The next evening, Dr. Pascual presented a review of various organ works based on chant to 40 guild members. ~ Jane Scharding Smedley



Farewell and Adieu

All best wishes go to chapter member **Lucas Fletcher**, Organist and Director of Music at St. George's Episcopal Church, as he relocates to Lawrence, Kansas this month. His wife has accepted a tenure track position at the University of Kansas. Lucas will now serve Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, Missouri. We are grateful to Lucas for his engagement with our chapter!

The Memphis Boy & Girl Choir is currently beginning auditions for the 2023-24 season.

Open to girls 3rd grade – 12th grade & boys 3rd grade until voice change
Rehearsals on Monday and/or Wednesdays (4:15-5:15pm)

We've adjusted rehearsal times this year to only require ONE rehearsal per week. We hope this will encourage students who already sing in their church choirs and have Wednesday rehearsals or students who have any other prior commitments to still be able to be a part of the program. Students are more than welcome to attend both rehearsals, but only one is required.

Please see our recruitment video: <https://fb.watch/msBbMIExZV/>

We're also beginning a **Training Choir** this year for 1st & 2nd graders: to help teach singing and basic musical theory

Rehearsals on Monday (3:30-4pm)

All rehearsals are held at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Visit: www.memphisboyandgirlchoir.org

Contact: Dr. Patrick Scott, pconfig@gracestlukes.org for more information.

Thanks!

Patrick Scott & Debbie Smith, *Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church, The Memphis Boy & Girl Choir*
1720 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38104
901-252-6323 www.gracestlukes.org

Pipe Organ Needs New Home

Can you or your church use 1915 Williams Epworth Pipe Tone Organ, offered free of charge. Jeff Pope, who contacted me, wrote:

My late parents had a 1915 Williams Epworth Pipe Tone Organ that was the centerpiece of the home. Now that they have both passed and the home is going up for sale, we would like to find someone that

would appreciate such a nice piece of history. It works and is in nice shape. If any of your members are interested, I can provide pictures. It is located in Opelika, Alabama.

The stop list:

Bass Coupler	Perfection 2 Ft.	Cremona 8 Ft.
Pipe Diapason 8 Ft.	Aeolian Harp 2 Ft.	Celeste 8 Ft.
Dulcet Bass 8 Ft.	Sub Bass 16 Ft.	Dulcet Pipe 8 Ft.
Viola 4 Ft.	Vox Humana	Reed Pipe 8 Ft.
Violina 4 Ft.	Flute 4 Ft.	Treble Coupler

Jeff Pope
108 Butch Circle
Hazel Green, AL 35750 (USA)
256-714-3999

The Beethoven Club is having the fifth biennial vocal competition in memory of Las and Sara Savell. It is open to classical singers ages 18-29. There is \$1500 in prizes available.

Sara and Las Savell Vocal Competition Finals: November 11, 2023 in Memphis, TN Deadline for entry – Saturday, October 21, 11:00 p.m. Finalists will be notified by October 25, 2023 Winners announced November 12, 2023 2023 Guidelines The Beethoven Club of Memphis is proud to announce the 5th Biennial Las and Sara Savell Vocal Competition. This competition is designed to provide financial awards and professional encouragement to singers between the ages of 19 and 28. Categories and Awards Young Artist Ages 24 – 28 • First Prize Young Artist Division (ages 24-28) – \$750 • Second Prize Young Artist Division (ages 24-28) – \$200 • Third Prize Young Artist Division (ages 24-28) – \$150 Student Ages 19 – 23 • First Prize Student Division (ages 19-23) – \$250 • Second Prize Student Division (ages 19-23) – \$100 • Third Prize Student Division (ages 19-23) – \$50 Requirements Entry Form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N6C959> This competition is open to classical singers who have completed a minimum of two semesters of college study in voice in an accredited music department. Applicants must be ages 19-28 by November 11, 2023. Deadline for entry and payment of entry fee is Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 11:00 p.m. CST. Each application form must be accompanied by a nonrefundable application fee of \$35 for Young Artists division and \$25 for Student division. Payment must be made through the PayPal button link. Be sure to pull the menu to the correct division. Applicants must be prepared to perform three selections from memory, one of which must be in English. Works must be from the standard classical art song or aria literature. Each applicant must have at least two (2) different languages represented. Finalist Screening Each applicant must include links to the three YouTube videos of their selections. These must be separate, unedited videos. Each video should begin with this introduction, “I will sing—Title of Composition---by— Composer—and if appropriate— from---Title of Work.” Upload to youtube.com. Be sure to upload YouTube videos as public. If it is listed as private the judges will not be able to access it. Applicants will be screened on beauty of voice, technical skill, musicality, accuracy, and presentation. Finalists will be notified October 25, 2023. Finals Finals will be held at The Beethoven Club of Memphis in Memphis, TN. If you are selected as a finalist you have 24 hours to confirm your participation. Finalists must audition in person before a panel of judges. Finalist auditions are closed to the public. Finalists must provide their own accompanist. We are happy to provide a list of local accompanists if needed. Winners will be

announced by November 12, 2023 at: www.beethovenclubmemphis.org. Prizes In addition to the monetary prizes, winners will be invited to perform in a live concert sponsored by the Beethoven Club in spring 2024. Please send questions or comments to beethovenclubmemphis@gmail.com

Patricia Gray, Ph.D.

Luna Nova Music, Executive Director

patriciagraysmusic@gmail.com

pgray@pgray.net, www.lunanova.org, 901-493-0958

EXAMS AND PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS

REPORT – Exams/ Professional Development

AGO's 2024 Certification examination schedule is now available:

- **Service Playing Examination:** Oct. 1, 2023, through Mar. 31, 2024 (application due between Sept. 1, 2023, and Feb. 1, 2024)
- **Colleague Examination:** Nov. 17, 2023 (application due by Sept. 15, 2023); May 17, 2024 (application due by Mar. 15, 2024); and Nov. 15, 2024 (application due by Sept. 15, 2024)
- **Choir Master Examination:** June 5, 2024 (application due by Apr. 1, 2024)
- **Associateship Examination:** June 6 and 7, 2024 (application due by Apr. 1, 2024)
- **Fellowship Examination:** June 6 and 7, 2024 (application due by Apr. 1, 2024)

As always, you can find detailed certification information on the AGO HQ site at <https://www.agohq.org/certification/>

The new 2023 Hymn Examination booklet is now available.

The 2013 Hymn Examination booklet is no longer valid. For a list of the contents (titles and tunes), you'll find a link at <https://www.agohq.org/certification/>.

Be aware... you can't just click and download the pdf file. To download the 2023 Hymn Examination booklet you must contact the Certification Program Administrator to obtain passwords (Email: exams@agohq.org; Tel.: 212-870-2311, ext. 4303). Once you have obtained the passwords, please return to this page and click **HERE** to access the page with the downloadable files of the 2023 Hymn Examination Booklet.

Grow your Talent...

Go to “Find An Organ Teacher – Memphis Area, “ posted on the Memphis Chapter site at <https://www.agomemphis.org/find-an-organ-teacher/>, and the AGO HQ site at <https://www.agohq.org/find-an-organ-teacher/> .

-- Lyn Joyner, Exam Coordinator/Professional Concerns, lyn.joyner@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2023

September 9, 5pm – Saturday, The cathedral has been restored and is OPEN!

Celebration of Remembrance & Renewal

A service of music and readings, from Sr. Constance and the Martyrs of Memphis, through the great leaders throughout the history of the cathedral. Reception following.

All are invited to join the choir! Arrive at 3pm Sat. Dec. 9th for rehearsal. Optional rehearsal Wed. Sept. 6th at 6:30pm. Contact Dennis Janzer at djanzer@stmarysmemphis.org for additional information.

St. Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral, 700 Poplar Av, Memphis, TN 38105

For more information: stmarysmemphis.org  [MusicSept9.pdf](#)

September 17, 2023 at 5:00pm

Choral Evensong observing Holy Cross Day

The Grace-St. Luke’s Choir

C.V. Stanford, *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis*

Maxine Thévenot, *Preces & Responses*

Lee Hoiby, *Let this mind be in you*

Grace-St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

1720 Peabody Ave

www.gracestlukes.org

Sunday, September 24th, 7:30pm

Compline

The Choir of Saint John's

Music of Byrd and Tallis

Saint John's Episcopal Church

3245 Central Avenue

Memphis, TN 38111

www.stjohnsmemphis.org/music

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Vernon Snyder, Organist-Choirmaster

901-323-8597, Ex. 26

vernon@stjohnsmemphis.org

Sun. Oct. 1, 2023; 5:00 p.m.

Evensong, Calvary Choir

Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd St., Memphis; calvarymemphis.org

Kristin Lensch, 901-312-5212, klensch@calvarymemphis.org

Music to be performed: Richard Ayleward, Martin Luther, J. S. Bach

Free parking in back lot

October 15, 2023 at 5:00pm

Choral Evensong observing the Feast of St. Luke

with guest Organist-Choirmaster, Dr. Maxine Thévenot (Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque)

The Memphis Boy & Girl Choir & The Grace-St. Luke's Choir

1720 Peabody Ave

www.gracestlukes.org

October 15th, 5:00pm

Choral Evensong

The Choir of Saint John's

Music of Ayleward, Stanford, and Ešenvalds

Saint John's Episcopal Church

3245 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111

www.stjohnsmemphis.org/music

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Vernon Snyder, Organist-Choirmaster, 901-323-8597, Ex. 26

vernon@stjohnsmemphis.org

October 27, 7pm - Friday

Phantom Phavorites

A Halloween concert featuring perennial delights and Webber's Phantom of the Opera.

Reception following.

St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, 700 Poplar Av, Memphis, TN 38105

For more information: stmarysmemphis.org

The next issue of *En Chamade* will be published at the end of September. A reminder will be sent prior to the September 25 deadline. Articles may be sent to me at iguanamom3@aol.com. ~ Angela Saunders, editor

Please forgive the late emailing. Both MSWORD and AOL have made major updates to their software, but I can now copy and paste PDF files.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2023-2024
MEMPHIS CHAPTER AGO

Elected Officers

Dean: Terry McRoberts
Sub-Dean: John Palmer
Recording Secretary: Dennis Wujcik
Treasurer: Karen Strawhecker
Registrar: Sondra Tucker

Members at Large

Finance: Carl Blankenship
Programs: Jane Scharding Smedley
Media: Marcus Browning

Appointed Officers

Chaplain: Ray Hatton
Chapter Photographer: Jean Jones
Dinner Greeter: Lyn Joyner
Education: Marcus Browning
Examinations/Professional Development: Lyn Joyner
Historian/Archivist: Jane Scharding Smedley
Librarian: Kelly Kramer
Membership Coordinator: André Duvall
Newsletter Editor: Angela Saunders
Nominations Committee Chair: Carol Craig
Placement Coordinator: Phil Brown
Scholarship Committee Chair: Carolyn Mason
Webmaster: Justin Little