



## Delaware AGO Chapter Officers

**Mike Bareham**, *dean*

**Jane Van Valkenburg**, *sub-dean*

**Barb Bayers**, *secretary*

**Ryan Pryslak**, *treasurer/registrar*

### Members-at-large

Robert Furr

Joe Loudon

Steven Patchel, *newsletter*

Keith St. John

T.J. Thomas

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# The Windchest

Newsletter of the Delaware Chapter,  
American Guild of Organists

**MARCH 2025**

[www.delawareago.org](http://www.delawareago.org)

## So far, 2025 has been packed

with opportunities for our chapter to experience the organ in fun and exciting ways. On Friday, January 10, seventeen members and friends of our chapter visited Longwood Gardens to experience the beauty of Christmas as well as the glorious strains of carols and popular holiday songs performed by our very own member, David Christopher.

On Saturday, January 25, eleven members attended the twentieth January JumpStart at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Maxine Thévonot led the choir from Redeemer Episcopal Church, also in Bryn Mawr, in Morning Prayer, featuring the premiere of a choral introit and two hymn preludes composed for this anniversary event. After workshops and reading sessions led by area musicians and technicians, Renée Anne Louprette presented a closing recital featuring the premiere of five more hymn preludes, including one by David Schelat, Regional Ambassador and member of the DE AGO.

On February 22 and 23, seventeen members took advantage of the service playing workshop led by Bryan Anderson. His insights on leading hymns and psalmody were inspired by his incredible ability to provide masterful accompaniment from the console. (In fact, I actually used several of his tips on that following Sunday morning!) The next afternoon, the winner of the 2023 Longwood Organ Competition played an exciting and varied organ recital "with something for everyone." I heard this phrase several times at the reception that followed. Besides his musical interpretations and technical adeptness at the keyboards, it was his flawless footwork at the pedalboard that blew everyone away. You can view the YouTube recording here

[https://www.youtube.com/live/\\_TDDuK\\_vMOM?si=aSShcYZ2magyCEeG](https://www.youtube.com/live/_TDDuK_vMOM?si=aSShcYZ2magyCEeG)

Please plan to take advantage of the upcoming events your chapter colleagues are sponsoring. Check out our upcoming chapter offerings as well as the calendar of events presenting area programming.

*Mike Bareham, Dean*

## Woman Composer Sunday

March 9 is Women 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. Links to these resources, music, and more can be found at [www.agohq.org/task-force-gender-equity/](http://www.agohq.org/task-force-gender-equity/)

Also, check out the Index of Composers/Compositions on our DE AGO Events Page [www.delawareago.org](http://www.delawareago.org)  
The following Sunday, March 16, ten members and friends of our chapter will present an organ recital at 4:00 PM at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew.

## Members' Recital: Women Composers

Sunday, March 16, 2025 4:00 PM at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew  
719 N Shipley St, Wilmington, DE 19801

Join us for a delightful, varied and informative program celebrating Women Composers, performed by 10 of our members, including music by Edith Lang, Nadja Boulanger, Florence Beatrice Price, Mary Beth Bennett, and many others. Reception to follow.

## Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

Children and youth in Grades 4 – 12, who have experience playing the piano, are invited to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 701 S. College Avenue in Newark, on Saturday, April 5 to hear, play, and learn about the "king of instruments." This free event will include a presentation by Vince Ryan who will help participants to build a small tracker pipe organ using his OrgelKids instrument. Following an introduction to the pipe organ and the opportunity to play favorite piano pieces on St. Paul's 2001 Walker tracker organ, students will meet various local organists and enjoy a pizza lunch together. Piano teachers and parents are asked to reserve a place for their child(ren) by sending an email message to: [music@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org). A registration form will then be sent out to families to be returned the day of the event.

## Investing in the Future

FYI—AGO National will be raising dues effective July 1 of this year. The additional \$7.00, across all membership categories, will provide an additional \$2.00 to local chapters and the remaining \$5.00 will go to Guild headquarters. The investment will ensure longevity and success into the future, as well as a commitment to technology in a dynamic and forward-thinking way for members today and for generations to come. Read more about this in the March issue of *The American Organist*.

Remember to  our Facebook page  Delaware AGO!

# Delaware Chapter

## 2024–2025 Programs

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### Members Recital: Women Composers

**Sat. March 16, 4:00 pm**

Saints Andrew and Matthew  
719 N. Shipley Street  
Wilmington

### Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, with OrgelKids

**Sat. April 5, 10am-1pm**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
701 S. College Avenue  
Newark

### Organ Crawl and Banquet **Sat. June 7, 3:30 pm-7:00**

Christ Episcopal Church  
523 S. State Street  
Dover

## NOTABLE EVENTS



### Key Locations

- Christ Church, Christiana Hundred 505 Buck Rd, Wilmington
- First & Central Presbyterian, 1101 N Market St, Wilmington
- Immanuel Church on the Green, 50 Market Street, New Castle
- Immanuel Episcopal Church Highlands, 2400 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Wilmington
- Saints Andrew and Matthew, 719 N. Shipley St. Wilmington
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church 701 S. College Ave, Newark
- Trinity Episcopal Church 1108 North Adams St. Wilmington
- Westminster Presbyterian 1502 W 13th St. Wilmington

## MARCH

**Sunday 2 March 3:00 pm**  
**Copeland String Quartet**  
Westminster Presbyterian  
Church

**Sunday 2 March 4:00 pm**  
**Choral Evensong**  
James O'Donnell,  
*Musician in Residence*  
Christ Church Choir  
Organ Prelude: David Hearn  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Thursday 6 March 12:30 pm**  
**Center City Chorale: *Spirit Songs***  
Songs of the Spirit from  
many traditions  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Sunday 9 March 4:00 pm**  
**Progressive Organ Recital**  
Christa Rakich, Oberlin College  
(Chapel/Church)  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Sunday 9 March 7:00 pm**  
**Malone University Chorale**  
Presbyterian Church of Covenant  
503 Duncan Rd, Wilmington

**Thursday 13 March 12:30 pm**  
**Shiraz Ensemble**  
Sounds of Iran played on  
traditional instruments  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Saturday 15 March 3:00 pm**  
**Variant 6 and Sylvan Consort:**  
Six voices and six viols  
Music of Di Lasso and Kile Smith  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Thursday 20 March 12:30 pm**  
**James Fernando Jazz Trio**  
Composer and virtuoso pianist  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Sunday 23 March 3:00pm**  
**Piffaro Concert (Church)**  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Thursday 27 March 12:30 pm**  
**Dallas Vietty, accordion**  
Songs from French café tradition.  
First & Central Presbyterian

## APRIL

**Thursday 3 April 12:30 pm**  
**Copeland String Quartet**  
music of Villa Lobos and Brahms  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Friday 4 April 7:00 pm**  
**Tempesta di Mare Concert (Church)**  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Saturday 5 April 2:00 pm**  
**Wilmington Handbell Ensemble**  
Jonathan Beech Memorial Concert  
Kennett High School Auditorium  
Kennett Square, PA

**Sunday 6 April 4:00 pm**  
**Readings & Music**  
Christ Church Choir (Church)  
Organ Prelude: Cameron Kuzepski  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Sunday 6 April 4:00 pm**  
**Serafin Ensemble:**  
***Spring Reflections***  
Featured works include  
Beethoven Piano Trio  
Fauré Piano Quartet  
Trinity Episcopal Church

**Thursday 10 April 12:30 pm**

**Quey Percussion Duo**

Percussion works with energy,  
curiosity, whimsy  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Palm Sunday 13 April 3:00 pm**

***Light In the Darkness:***

A Lenten Cantata  
by Patrick M. Liebergen  
combined choirs and  
chamber orchestra  
St. Mark's, Stanton

**Wednesday 16 April 7:30 pm**

***Tenebrae: In the shadow of  
Holy Week***

The Men of the SsAM Choir  
Jonathan W. Whitney and  
The Whitney Project  
Saints Andrew and Matthew

**Good Friday 18 April 7:00 pm**

***Light In the Darkness:***

A Lenten Cantata  
by Patrick M. Liebergen  
combined choirs and orchestra  
Rob Kennan, Rocky Tejada, Dir.  
Newark UMC

**Thursday 24 April 12:30 pm**

**Jonathan Whitney Project**

Jazz from many facets of life of a  
Black person in America.  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Saturday 26 April 3:00 pm**

**Pyxis Piano Trio**

Music of Ravel, Rachmaninoff,  
and Neitzel  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Saturday 26 April 4:00 pm**

**Wilmington Handbell Ensemble**

Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
Newark, DE

**Saturday 26 April 4:00 pm**

**Bach Organ Extravaganza**

Alan Morrison with organ students  
from the Curtis Institute of Music  
Presented by the Friends of the  
Katherine Esterly Organ  
\$20 suggested donation  
Saints Andrew and Matthew

**MAY**

**Thursday 1 May 12:30 pm**

**OperaDelaware Preview**

Opera highlights old and new,  
including Derrick Wang's new  
opera, *Fearless*  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Sunday 4 May 3:00 pm**

***The Three Keyboardists***

A George Kirk Series Concert  
Three local organists-pianists-  
harpischordists will share the  
music of Bach, Mozart, Parry,  
Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Respighi,  
Gershwin, Lecuona and others.  
Rob Kennan, Chris Kraus, and  
Higo Rodriguez will take turns  
playing solos, duets and trios at  
each keyboard.  
Newark United Methodist Church  
*Freewill offering*

**Thursday 8 May 12:30 pm**

**Brad Rau, solo guitar**

Music of J. S. Bach and Joaquin  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Saturday 10 May 3:00 pm**

**Mastersingers of Wilmington:**

New-Era Romantics  
Music of Vierne, Holst, and  
the Duruflé *Requiem*  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Saturday 10 May 4:00 pm**

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert**

Guest Director, Michael Helman  
St. Paul's UMC  
Wilmington, DE

**Sunday 11 May 4:00 pm**

**Easter Lessons & Carols**

Christ Church Choir  
Senior Choristers (Church)  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Thursday 15 May 12:30 pm**

**Center City Chorale: Global Sounds**

Music from Canada, US, and Russia  
First & Central Presbyterian

**Saturday 17 May 7:00 pm**

**Delaware ChoralArts Concert**

David Christopher, Conductor  
Gabriel Benton, Piano  
Works by Bach, Thompson,  
Runestad, Robles, LaVoy, Hogan,  
Paulus and Wright  
delawarechoralarts.org  
Saints Andrew and Matthew

**JUNE**

**Sunday 1 June 4:00 pm**

**Choral Evensong**

Christ Church Choir (Church)  
Organ Prelude: Bruce Barber.  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Friday 6 June 7:00 pm**

***Singposium:***

Composers, Directors, Pianists  
Joseph Martin, Heather  
Sorenson, Joel Raney with  
orchestra and choir  
at Brandywine Valley Church in  
Wilmington  
Contact Rob Kennan  
[rkennan@newark-umc.org](mailto:rkennan@newark-umc.org)  
for a link to sing with the  
local choir on Friday night  
(rehearsal 5:00 – 6:30).  
Read through of new music with  
composers on Saturday  
June 7 at 8:30–4:00  
Brandywine Valley Church

**Friday 6 June 7:30 p.m.**

***Cooch's Bridge: The Battle***

Pre-concert conversation 7:00  
Original music composed and  
performed by Jonathan W.  
Whitney, Percussion  
with David Christopher, Organ  
Commissioned by The Friends of  
The Cooch's Bridge Historic Site  
Saints Andrew and Matthew

Happy Spring!





# PEDALS, PIPES & PIZZA

**Children and youth in Grades 4 – 12 who have experience playing the piano are invited to come hear, play, and explore the pipe organ**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025 | 10AM – 1PM**

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**701 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19713**

**FREE**

Reserve a place with an email message  
to: [music@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

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[www.delawareago.org](http://www.delawareago.org)



## Substitute List

KEY: (S) Sunday, (C) choir, (HB) Handbells, (SS) Special Services, (W) Weddings, (F) Funerals



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