



# Dayton Ohio Chapter The American Guild of Organists



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January 2018

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## Dean's Note: By Jerry Taylor

If you're reading this you survived the holidays; Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and it seems Easter is tomorrow. And, yes we love every second of it. However, no matter how much we love our work, the power bill still needs to be paid and they won't pump gas in your car for free. So many of us ask for compensation for playing services at our churches. If we are asking for compensation then how do you prove that you have studied and practiced and worked to refine your skills making you a skilled professional worthy of your pay?

One of the easiest ways is to pass the AGO Service Playing Exam. It's really what you do every Saturday or Sunday morning: Play a service for an examiner and prove you know what you're doing. Effie Sue Kemerley and Janet Burkett have done it. Judy Bede is our chapter's examination officer. This is what the test is about.

1. Play a prelude. This year it's something from Bach's Liturgical Year or one of the Fugues from the Bach Eight Little Preludes and Fugues.
2. Play a hymn – which you will transpose up or down. Agreed this is the hardest thing on the exam. Fortunately there are tricks to help you do this easier.
3. Accompany two anthems. (Yes, there is a list for you to choose from.)
4. Accompany a Psalm (piece of cake when you actually know what you're doing.)
5. Two more hymns as though we were singing.
6. A piece from the list for the offertory
7. A piece from the list for the postlude.

Yes, you probably do all of this every Sunday. Doing it in front of an examiner proves that you are a certified service player and play to a certain standard worth your compensation. Want to know more?



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If you change your address, telephone number, or e-mail address, please call or email Ellen Bagley, Membership Chair, (See phone & email above) to update our directory database and mailing list.

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**EXTRA! EXTRA!  
COMING NEXT ISSUE!**

If you have an announcement for an upcoming program or event, send it to Matt Dierking at [matt.dierking@agodayton.org](mailto:matt.dierking@agodayton.org) and we will add it to the next Trumpetings, the Dayton Chapter website and Facebook page.

Also, you are more than welcome to write articles to appear in Trumpetings. Send your articles and pictures to Matt and he'll make sure they get in. The articles can be on a wide variety of topics that would be of interest to the chapter.

On Sunday afternoon, January 21 at 3:00pm at Christ United Methodist Church on Shroyer road, several of your colleagues will demonstrate various parts of the exam and I'll give several reasons why you should take the time to take it. We will also share some tips for the transposition of the hymn and we have the hymnbook from the AGO to give to you. Hope to see you there!

---Jerry

**Our Next Program**  
**The Service Playing Exam – The First Step!**  
**January 21, 2018 at 3:00 pm**  
**Christ United Methodist Church**  
**3440 Shroyer Rd, Dayton, OH**

You can review the overall AGO Certification information at:

<https://www.agohq.org/certification/>

The Manual Of Procedure For The Service Playing Test can be found at:

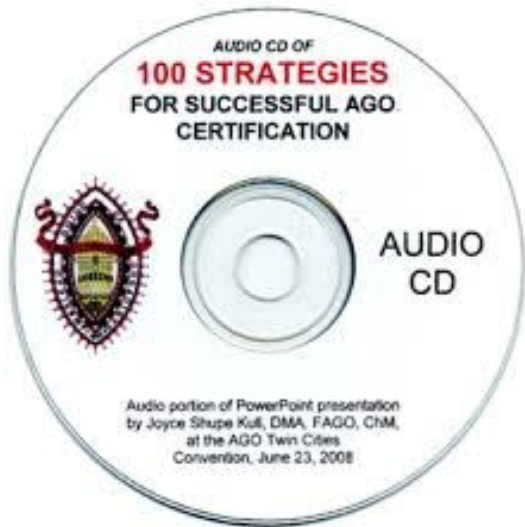
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Dayton Member Janet Burkett recently completed the SPC certifications. Her impression of the process was published in the April 2017 Trumpetings and is repeated below for your convenience.

**So, what about the Service Playing Certification  
by Janet Burkett**

Many useful and satisfying skills would come from preparing for the Service Playing Exam, I was told in the AGO information online. As I read the material about preparing for this exam I was promised that, as I practiced, my skills would improve. And that's what happened. With the help of a great teacher and with lots of practice, the music became easier. I learned some very basic transposing skills and to play a Psalm. I reviewed hymn playing and choir accompanying. My congregation and I both learned to appreciate some of the classic organ music. I have become a better organist. The American Guild of Organists central office has lots of material available.

When I requested materials I received them quickly. Some, like the required hymn exam book, were free and some, like the CDs and information booklets were available at a reasonable cost. A booklet or CD or both was available for every section of the exam. Articles about some of the music were easy to get from the AGO website. Even the procedure for the test was spelled out in detail.



Yun Kim helped me prepare for this exam and has been my teacher for several years. She recommended great music for me to work on, suggested practice strategies, corrected mistakes, and encouraged me at every turn. For me, a teacher or coach was a necessity and Yun has been a great teacher. I needed someone to listen to my playing, show me the right way to do things, and to give me a viewpoint other than my own.

Judy Bede was the proctor for the exam. Even though I was excited and anxious a few weeks before the exam, she was very patient and encouraging.

My congregation was patient too. They listened to most of the music for the exam several times during the course of five or six months. I even played some of the choir accompaniments as offertories. Of course, who could complain about Mendelssohn? One Sunday I played the exam Psalm as an offertory and they even liked that. The postlude piece,

Pasticcio by Langlais, became one of their favorites. On more than one Sunday I played Berceuse by Vierne for a voluntary. The required hymns I worked into the list of hymns for Sunday worship and played them as interludes. When I warmed up before the service, I played my transposition hymn. I think they may be glad that I am done with the exam. They really are patient.

Around November of last year I thought that I was being patient too. A guitar player who didn't read music was interested in playing with the worship service. So, I started recording the hymns for him to practice with. Since the exam is recorded and the recording sent for evaluation, I think that recording those hymn accompaniments helped me to be more at ease with the whole process.

Another thing that helped me was my friends who prayed that I wouldn't be nervous and I wasn't. The guitar player even told me not to worry. After all, he pointed out, I played in front of people every week didn't I?

An expected benefit of preparing all this music was that I could indulge my perfectionist tendencies. Long ago I gave up my desire to play perfectly in exchange for playing the music required. I knew I would make mistakes and I did the best I could knowing that it wouldn't be even close to perfect. This exam music gave me an opportunity to practice longer, try to pay attention to more details, and hopefully do better.

About a month ago, as a reward for completing the exam I bought some new music. I did not open the books until the exam was over. This evening at a Lenten service I started using the new music and received positive comments. The music I purchased was suggested by the columnist in the AGO magazine. New music is fresh and for me, the right reward for finishing the exam.

The exam is over and it feels a bit strange, but I am glad that I did it. Thank you to everyone who helped

along the way: Yun, Judy, my husband and family, my church family, AGO for providing this opportunity, and to God who blessed me with you all, some talent and fortitude.

**Thanks again,**

**Making a joyful noise,**

**Janet Burkett, SPC**

## Visit the Dayton AGO Music Library

The Dayton Chapter has a growing music “library” that is currently housed at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The library is primarily composed of organ literature, but has piano works, choral music and method books as well. The music is arranged by composer for much of the work but also has groups organized by holiday, collections, anthology, wedding music, sheet music and lots of monthly’s like the Organ Portfolio.



The library is open to everyone. Just stop in and peruse the music. Take what you would like to use and leave a donation. We highly encourage teachers (and students) to use the library. There is a lot of the standard literature for study spanning all levels of difficulty.

To access the library, visit Westminster on a weekday. Enter through the Office door on the east side of the church and let the administrator know you would like to go up and review music in the AGO library. It is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor in room 301.

## DAI Organ Service Project By Matt Dierking

The last Trumpetings announced that the DAI organ restoration was complete, and outlined the upcoming opportunities to play at the DAI. Thanks to those who said you’d be willing to play. I played over the holidays and had a great time.



Unfortunately, there will be another delay before we can begin playing on a more regular basis. The NCR Auditorium will now undergo a relatively major remodel including all new seats, lighting upgrades, new carpet, as well as wall and ceiling updates. The room and organ will be closed for two to three months (hopefully) while the renovations are done. The organ will also require a bit more work before it is ready to play which should be done by the time the room is ready.

Once the renovation and organ repairs are complete, the Museum still plans to have the **Informal Afternoon Organ Music, the Oktoberfest Organ Music and hopefully full recitals.**

This is just the beginning. These activities help both the DAI and the AGO by increasing awareness of the organ, its literature and the museum as well as the Dayton Chapter and its programs. **Send Matt Dierking an email ([matt.dierking@agodayton.org](mailto:matt.dierking@agodayton.org)) and let him know if you would like to participate.** I will work with the Chapter and DAI to put a schedule together once the work on the auditorium and organ are complete.

The Columbus AGO Chapter Proudly Invites You  
to Attend

# *February Flourish*



Dear Colleagues,

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding, the Columbus, Ohio chapter of the American Guild of Organists invites you to February Flourish! This is a day-long series of workshops that offers students, part-time organists, and pianists who have been drafted to serve as organists an opportunity to meet others in similar situations, enhance their existing skill set, and become acquainted with new resources that are available to help part-time musicians.

February Flourish will take place on Saturday, February 24, at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2070 Ridgecliff Road, Upper Arlington (Columbus), Ohio, 43221.

The complete schedule, a registration form, and other events for our celebratory year may be viewed [here](#).

We hope that you will share this information with others who might enjoy this opportunity and that you will join us for this and the other events celebrating our 100th anniversary!

Best wishes,  
The AGO Columbus 100th Anniversary Committee

## 2018 January Jubilee Lexington AGO

### **Holiday Greetings from your friends in the Lexington AGO!**

We are pleased to be hosting the upcoming **2018 Great Lakes January Jubilee**. Attached below is a copy of our registration brochure for you to share or distribute to your chapter members via email or newsletters, as you deem appropriate.

We have an exciting lineup planned for Saturday, January 27, from 8:00-4:00, at downtown Lexington's Christ Church Cathedral, 166 Market Street.

There will be eight workshops from which to choose, covering topics related to organ, handbells and choral music. Everyone will participate in a choral reading session. AGO President Dr. Michael Bedford will be on hand to deliver the opening keynote address, and Jonathan and Katie Rudy will be our closing recitalists. Lois Fyfe Music of Nashville will be our music vendor. The event will feature the Cathedral's Holtkamp pipe organ and a Johannus digital organ. All of this, plus a box lunch, for only \$25 -- quite a bargain!

We hope to have guests in attendance from each of the states in the Great Lakes Region -- Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio!

Of course, the costs associated with hosting an AGO Regional Event greatly exceed the modest registration fees. We would be greatly appreciative of your Chapter's financial contribution to the Jubilee. No amount is too large or too small. All donations will be acknowledged in a printed program, and, above all, you know it will be put to good use! Please feel free to contact me to discuss your Chapter's interest in contributing.

We welcome your input, questions and good wishes! Please let me know how we may be of service to you. Come and "Jubilee" with us! We'll look forward to seeing you in January!

Appreciatively,

Larry Sharp  
Dean, LexAGO  
2018 Jubilee Director  
307 The Woods Lane  
Winchester, KY 40391

**Get more Information online at:**

<https://www.agolexington.org/januaryjubilee.php>

## Dayton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists 2017-2018 Programs

**When: Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 4:00**

**Where: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 125 N Wilkinson Street, Dayton. 45402**

**What: Matt Phelps Organ Recital**

Matt Phelps is a “local boy done good” graduating from Wright State, and CCM before being hired at the West End Methodist Church, Nashville, as their Minister of Music. West End is possibly one of the largest UM churches in the U.S. with a very large choir and music program.

Matt began organ lessons with Jerry Taylor, was accepted into Juilliard to study with Paul Jacobs and spent two years as a Director of Music in New York before returning to Cincinnati and now Nashville. He sang in the Westminster Choir during his Wright State days and has composed several choral anthems that are sung by major choirs.

**When: Sunday, April 15, 2018 (Van Leaves Westminster at 2:00 pm)**

**Where: Details and directions will be published in the spring**

**What: Organ Crawl of three churches north and dinner together.**

**Leader: Sub-Dean Terry Donat.**

We enjoy touring a particular area in the greater Miami Valley with its interesting churches. Once at each location we get intros, background, see spectacular interiors, play one or more organs if we feel like it. Details, maps and churches will be announced in the spring. We will end the tour with dinner together.

**When: Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 4:00 pm**

**Where: Shiloh United Church of Christ, (Corner of Philadelphia and Main)  
5300 Philadelphia Dr. Dayton 45415**

**What: Organ Academy Student Recital and Installation of Officers**

Come hear our Academy students in recital followed by the installation of Officers  
A cookies and punch reception will follow.



Find us and “Like Us” on Facebook  
and the Chapter Website!



If you want the latest information about the Dayton Chapter of the AGO the best way to find it is through our website at [www.agodayton.org](http://www.agodayton.org) and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DaytonOhioAGO>. We post our programs, local area programs, lists of our officers, scholarship information and other news items there. We also post lots of pictures and videos from our events on the Facebook page. “Like Us” on Facebook and you will automatically get invitations and updates for our programs as well as when photos or comments are posted by our members. Both the website and the Facebook page are a great way to connect with the chapter! If you have an event to add to Trumpetings, Facebook or the website, contact Matt Dierking or Priscilla Acuff and we will make sure your information gets posted.



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