



# Dayton Ohio Chapter The American Guild of Organists



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## Dean's Note: By Jerry Taylor

One of the major reasons the American Guild of Organists exists is to promote the playing and hearing of organ music. On Sunday, February 26, at 4:00 pm one of the young organists who got his start in Dayton is coming back to town to play an organ recital for us.

I clearly remember the day that Matthew Phelps, then a young member of the tenor section of the Westminster Choir and a piano major at Wright State University, came to me and said, "I'm auditioning for a job as a church organist and I don't know how the pedals work or which foot goes where." After (privately rolling my eyes) we found some organ music with very easy pedaling and some hymns requiring only two pedal notes. I don't know if Matthew or I were more surprised, but he got the job.

For the next two years, Matthew took organ lessons, practiced very hard, and converted from a fine pianist to a very fine organist. After some time in New York City and a doctorate from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, he landed a major job in Nashville, Tennessee playing the largest organ in the state as well as directing one of the most distinguished choirs in the state of Tennessee.

This is what the Guild is all about. Helping a young person who has great interest in Organ and Church music become a successful professional.

What fun it will be on February 25<sup>th</sup> to have him return to Dayton (where it all began) and play a concert for us. Hope you can come and witness another one of our own that Dayton has added to the organ world.

-- Jerry



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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.

Our Next Program:

## Matthew Phelps Organ Recital

Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 4:00 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church,

125 N Wilkinson Street, Dayton



**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.

Matthew Phelps is the Minister of Music at West End United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN. At West End he conducts the Chancel Choir and oversees a multi-faceted music department for children, youth, and adults. Dr. Phelps’ performances have been described as “beautifully prepared,” “beautifully shaped,” and “moving and deeply meaningful.” He is a Cincinnati native where he finished his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. A freewill offering will be collected. **We will go to Uno’s Pizza (126 North Main Street, Dayton) after the concert. Join us for a chance to reconnect with Chapter members and Friends**

**Full Bio** - Dr. Matthew Phelps is the Minister of Music at West End United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN. At West End he conducts the nationally renowned Chancel Choir on a weekly basis and performs major concerts with orchestra. He also oversees a multi-faceted music department that includes two adult choirs, four choirs for children and youth, and two handbell choirs. As an organist, he is one of three organists on staff who plays the 136 rank Moller organ; the largest organ in the state of Tennessee.

This coming season, Dr. Phelps will lead the Chancel Choir in a performance of Bach’s Christmas Oratorio. He will also prepare the choir for a performance of Beethoven’s Mass in C, led by guest conductor Earl Rivers.

Dr. Phelps has put West End at the forefront of Nashville’s classical music scene.

Of West End's Christmas Concert last year, the Nashville Scene wrote: "In a season overloaded with dedicated repertoires, West End United Methodist Church reaches beyond the standard hymns and carols for an afternoon of festive selections that skirt Christmas norms." Dr. Phelps' performances have been described as "beautifully prepared," (Mary Ellen Hutton, Cincinnati Post) "beautifully shaped," (David Katz, Chief Judge of the American Prize) and "moving and deeply meaningful." (Walter Bitner, Nashville Symphony Orchestra)



Dr. Phelps is also the founder and artistic director of the professional chamber choir Vocal Arts Nashville. In their first season, the ensemble will present the complete Bach motets, along with American choral gems and Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes. An active organ recitalist, Dr. Phelps has played in churches around the country including regular engagements at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Manhattan. Dr. Phelps is also an active pianist, often performing with violinist Erin Hall and cellist Keith Nicholas as a member of the Ellison Trio. In the spring, he will join 15 other pianists in a complete performance of Beethoven's 32 Piano Sonatas. In June of 2018 he will perform Ravel's Piano Concerto in G with the Nashville Concerto Orchestra. He is on the faculty of Lipscomb University where he teaches courses in theory and church music.

Dr. Phelps is from Cincinnati, OH where he finished his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He worked extensively in New York City and Cincinnati before arriving to Nashville; and his choirs have performed at regional conventions of MENC and ACDA. Dr. Phelps was the winner of the 2015 American Prize in Choral Conducting and has placed in performance competitions as both an organist and pianist. He studied conducting with Earl Rivers, Mark Gibson, and Stephen Coker. He has studied organ with Jerry Taylor, Thom Miles, Matthew Lewis, and Michael Unger. He lives in Bellevue with his wife Colleen and son Noah; and is an avid chef.

## AGO Pipe Organ Encounters Provide Youth And Adults With opportunities For Intensive Study of The King of Instruments - AGOHQ

- Six Summer Programs for Teenagers and Adults
- Celebrate the Thirtieth Anniversary of the POE Program
- Supported by Organ Builders and the National Endowment for the Arts

NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is proud to announce five PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS (POEs) for students aged 13–18, and one POE+ for adults in 2018. Complete contact information for each weeklong Pipe Organ Encounter can be found in The American Organist Magazine and online at:

[www.agohq.org/education/poe](http://www.agohq.org/education/poe).

The summer schedule follows:

- POE (for ages 13–18)
- June 17–22 Phoenix, Ariz.
- June 24–29 Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.
- July 8–13 Philadelphia, Penn.
- July 16–21 Los Angeles, Calif.
- July 22–27 Deland, Fla.
- POE+ (for adults)

### The **PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER (POE)**

is an introduction to the pipe organ through instruction in organ playing, repertoire, history, design, and construction. These regional summer music camps for teenage students provide private and group instruction in service playing and solo repertoire, opportunities to learn about the musical heritage of various religious denominations, and a chance for young musicians to meet others with similar interests. Piano or organ proficiency ranging from intermediate to advanced is required. Scholarship assistance is available.

The POE+ is a summer program filled with practical information and instruction for adult keyboard musicians interested in improving their service-playing skills. Participants will be introduced to basic organ skills through private instruction and classes. The weeklong experience will lead to greater confidence and competence at the organ.

Generous funding from the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA), the American Institute of Organbuilders (AIO), the Jordan Organ Endowment, and the National Endowment for the Arts will support these summer educational programs from coast to coast. “The AGO and APOBA have enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship since 1975,” declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “Likewise, the AIO has been active in supporting the Guild’s educational programs, beginning with their partnership in Pulling Out All the Stops, a video produced jointly in 1996 by the AGO, AIO, APOBA, the Organ Historical Society, and the American Theater Organ Society and aired on PBS. In addition, we are delighted to have received support from the Jordan Organ Endowment at Columbus State University for our POE program, as well as a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts supporting our educational activities this year.”

In addition to the POE and POE+ programs, but not offered in 2018, is a POE (Advanced) that provides intermediate to advanced classes in areas such as organ literature, history, pipe organ construction and design, music theory, improvisation, conducting, and service playing for students who have achieved a high level of success in organ study. Also, there is a POE (Technical) designed for students who are interested in learning the art and craft of organ building. The event is hosted in the workshop of an organ builder working in cooperation with a local AGO chapter.

POE site locations are selected by the AGO Committee on Pipe Organ Encounters and approved by the AGO National Council. Applications for 2019 are available from AGO National Headquarters and online at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org).

## Service Playing Exam Program By Terry Donat

On Sunday January 21, several of the Dayton AGO Chapter members met at Christ United Methodist Church in Kettering for a workshop on preparing for the AGO Service Playing Certificate. Thanks to our gracious host Danielle Guilbault (Christ UMC) and presenter Judy Bede (Educational Concerns Chair).

The application deadline for this year is February 1st, and recordings submission is March 31, 2018. So, while it may be too late for some of us to pass this year, we have a great head start on preparing for 2019. New requirements for 2019 should be available in the July 2018 *The American Organist*.

We had some fine demonstrations of a Bach fugue, hymn playing and anthem accompaniment. Each of us received the "Examination Hymn Booklet- 2013" for hymn playing and transposition practice, as well as some great advice and Q/A from Judy. Also, Ellen Bagley had new chapter directories and gave us some up-dates on membership.

I am hoping that our chapter can be well represented with many successful SPC candidates.

Terry Donat, Sub-Dean

## 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.

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

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

**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.

**Need a Sub?**

Need a sub? You can find people willing to substitute in the directory, but there are also Chapter Members that are looking for sub work. If you would like your name published in this list, send an Email to Matt Dierking ([matt.dierking@agodayton.org](mailto:matt.dierking@agodayton.org)). Please indicate if you would like your name and contact information listed in the Trumpetings, on the Chapter website or both. Here are a couple of members willing to sub:

**Dr. Sharon H. Vander Gheynst:** [5.holweger@earthlink.net](mailto:5.holweger@earthlink.net), 937-938-7013 (home)

**Noah Carpenter:** [carpenter.160@wright.edu](mailto:carpenter.160@wright.edu), 330-663-6067 (New Chapter Member)

I have been playing the organ for about 6 years now. I have played weddings and funerals along with Catholic Masses and Vigils along with many other Protestant Worship services in almost every denomination. I am currently a freshman at Wright State University and would love to get more experience around this area! I look forward to meeting many more of you!!



## **Dayton Chapter**

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