



August 2025

**Dayton Chapter  
American Guild of Organists  
NEWSLETTER**

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## **New Leadership for 2025-2027**

We welcome Karen Bocko as our Dean for the next 2 years. Karen has been a member since the mid 1980's and became active in our Chapter as Sub-Dean during the 2023-2024 term. She currently serves as organist at Salem Lutheran Church in West Alexandria OH.



### **A Message from our New Dean**

Get ready . . . get set . . . Dayton AGO is gearing up for an exciting 2025-2026 season and I am honored to be serving as Dean. I might have a different opinion if my term wasn't bookended with two very dedicated, experienced and patient leaders. Past Dean, Mary Ellen Clinard, took me under her wings and with great kindness and perseverance got me through two years of learning the ropes. The next time you see her, please be very gentle with Mary Ellen – she's still recovering from the experience!

For the next two years, Matt Dierking will return to leadership bringing his vast experience to the role of Sub-Dean. In just a few short months, he has already proven his knowledge of and passion for all things AGO-related. When you check out the impressive monthly program schedule for the season, you'll see what I mean. To both Mary Ellen and Matt, I offer my sincere gratitude!

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## 2025 Officers, Board Members, and Chairpersons

### OFFICERS

Dean—Karen Bocko  
Sub-Dean—Matt Dierking  
Treasurer—Yun Kim  
Secretary—Priscilla Acuff

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Organ Academy Chair— Rachel Spry Lammi  
Educational Concerns— Judy Bede  
Placement — Jimmy Leach  
Membership & Directory— Ellen Bagley  
Newsletter Editor—Mary Ellen Clinard

### BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Bede  
Marie Bliss  
Madeleine Demetriades  
Terry Donat  
Jimmy Leach

### Message from the Dean, continued...

It is my hope for Dayton AGO that membership numbers and involvement increase in the next two years. My long, winding journey to serve as Dean is undeniable proof that one doesn't need a music degree or concert organist skills to make contributions to AGO - although those certainly are desirable goals for beginning organists! We are a TEAM that needs a variety of talents working together to ensure that our passion for the "King of Instruments" is passed on to future generations. And it is critical we help to fill all the empty church benches! For those reasons, every member is invited to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions. And every member is encouraged to attend as many programs as their schedule permits. Technology is great but will never replace live human interaction. Hopefully you will discover that Dayton AGO is a great group of people ON and OFF the bench! Look forward to seeing you in September.

## Grant Wareham Performs with the Dayton Philharmonic

by Matt Dierking (Photos by Matt Dierking and Grant Wareham)

On June 13th and 14th, 2025, Grant Wareham made an impressive return to Dayton as a featured artist at the Schuster Center. The selfie shows Grant in front of a building sized poster of himself outside the center. Grant played with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Neal Gittleman. Grant played the organ for George Frideric Handel's Organ Concerto in F major, Op. 4, "The Cuckoo and the Nightingale" and Camille Saint-Saëns'

Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op. 78, the "Organ Symphony". Grant, Neal and composer Derek Skye hosted a question and answer session about the program prior to the concert. In Grant's early years, the Dayton Chapter supported him through the Dayton Organ Academy. The academy provides free lessons to promising young organ students. Grant began his organ studies with chapter member, Jerry Taylor, in 2007. Later the chapter

awarded Grant college scholarships as he studied first with Ken Cowan at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and then with Jon Laukvik and Thomas Murray at the Yale University Institute of Sacred Music. Grant has served as an organist for many churches across the country and was recently appointed as Director of Music and Organist at First Unitarian Church of Dallas. He is also an active recitalist and has received multiple awards and honors. The



Dayton Chapter hopes we provided a small stepping-stone to Grant's success and are proud to say we knew him before he was famous.

Check out more about Grant at:

<https://www.grantwareham.com/>

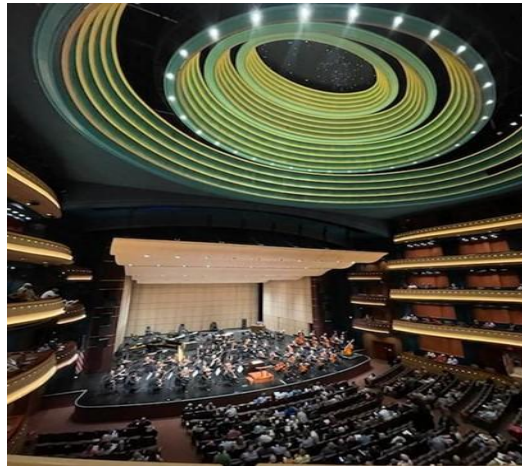
## Dayton Chapter AGO goes back a long way with Grant!



We first met Grant when he played a program with his father at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton.



The picture to the right shows the three 2012 Academy students and their teachers (left to right) Jerry Taylor, Grant Wareham, Elizabeth Wareham, Daniel Yoder, Yun Kim at the student recital at Kettering Seventh Day Adventist church.



Photos left top and bottom::

Grant's recent performance at the Schuster Center showing Grant, Neal Gittleman and Derek Skye during the pre-concert question and answer period.

Photos right top and bottom:

Grant playing Handel taken from our seats as well as a picture of the Shuster Center ceiling and orchestra.

How amazing is it to see one of our own headlining a concert?! Congratulations, Grant!

## Combinations



### ANTIQUA PUMP ORGAN

### NEEDS A FOREVER HOME

A local pastor in Beavercreek has inherited this pump organ from a church member. He would like to find it a good home It's Free. His name is David (937) 926-4500. This information was passed along for the newsletter by John Richardson and Matt Dierking.

Organ is pictured on the left.

### ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING AN EDITOR??

Do you love designing on the computer and knowing all the AGO news before anyone else? Then being the monthly newsletter editor is for YOU! Contact Mary Ellen at [music@myfumc.net](mailto:music@myfumc.net) if you would like to serve

### NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline for sending information and photos for the monthly Dayton Chapter Newsletter is the 20th of the month prior to publication date. For instance, articles and news for the December Newsletter will be due on November 20th. Thanks so much!

**CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR OUR EXCITING  
2025-2026 PROGRAM CALENDAR  
COMING THE END OF AUGUST!!**