



American Guild of
ORGANISTS
Dayton Chapter

March 2026

TRUMPETINGS **Newsletter**

Chapter Programs

By Matt Dierking, Sub-Dean

So far we've had a great program year thanks to the organists, presenters, venues and everyone who attended as well as the board for organizing the events. Our programs have been varied including organ factory tours, workshops, concerts, new organ crawls, silent film accompaniments and student recitals. Most programs were followed by social gatherings where members could talk about the programs, but also catch up and get to know each other better.

The Koch Factory Tour and Part 2 of the New Organ Crawls provided the rare opportunity to first see the St Joseph's new organ (Koch opus 4) being built on the factory floor and then to see and play it in its new home. In the first part of the crawl we played the newly restored and expanded Reuter/Muller Organ at Christ United Methodist. We had an improvisation workshop and concert with Jason Stafford at Westminster Presbyterian as well as a concert with Dr. Devon Howard – a former Dayton chapter member. Four of our members played spooky to silent films for the 9th annual Halloween Spooktacular at the Dayton Art Institute.

We've already had one of our registration workshops presented by Rachel Lammi at Kettering Seventh Day Adventist Church which focused on registration basics. We are looking forward to its companion workshop with Dr. David Crean at Westminster Presbyterian that will focus on both the techniques for registration as well as the organ builders and history that guide them. Our final program will celebrate the students and teachers of the Dayton AGO Organ Academy in the student recital at Christ United Methodist in Kettering.

The board is already starting work on the 2026-2027 programs. If you have ideas for programs you'd like to see next year or would like to help support/organize one of the programs, please contact Matt Dierking (matt.dierking@gmail.com, 937-505-7290) with your ideas.

MARCH PROGRAM

New Organ Crawl Part 2: Koch Opus 4 at St Joseph's

Last September's program was a tour of the Koch & Company Pipe Organ Factory which featured the design and build up of Koch's Opus 4 for St Joseph's Catholic Church. As shown in the photos on page 4, we saw the organ buildup in process on the tour.

In Part 2 of our New Organ Crawl, the chapter had the rare opportunity to see and play the organ that the chapter had seen in parts on the Koch factory floor in its new home at St Joseph's. Nicholas and team combined traditional organ design with modern systems engineering to create modular design with classical organ performance. Per the Koch website, St Joseph's organ is described as:

The opus 4 is a hybrid organ of 40 ranks spanning 4 divisions and played by a 3 manual, American terraced style, drawknob console. The Swell and Choir Organs are fully under expression, and the Great Organ is partially enclosed with the Choir. The diapason chorus on the Great will be unenclosed. This organ features seven 16' stops including a 16' Diapason, 16' Subbass, 16' Bourdon Dolce, 16' Violoncello, 16' Gemshorn, 16' Trombone, and 16' Bassoon.

During the factory tour in September, we saw the Opus 4 organ buildup in process ranging from pipes in the voicing room to the case work to the initial fitting of the pipework and windchests in the structures that would eventually be installed in the church.

Shop buildup of the Koch organ for St Joseph's Catholic Church



The Koch team met their goal to have the organ playable at St Joseph's in time for the Christmas services albeit without the façade pipes. The organ at Christmas was a mix of the completed pipework, console and digital voices which supported the congregation wonderfully. The design reused parts of the old case work, but the new console and the finish of the new case were beautiful and seamlessly integrated with the overall design.

The pipework was installed and playable at St Joseph's in time for Christmas 2025 except for the façade pipes.



The façade pipes were delayed, but for good reason. The design utilized pipe work reclaimed from a variety of other churches including a rank of principle façade pipes. While cleaning the pipes, it was discovered that they included an ornate stencil design. Church members helped recreate the stencils, scale them for each pipes, try various paints and techniques to apply the stencils and finally applied protective coatings for the pipes. Their efforts produced outstanding results.

Church members helped clean the façade pipes and recreated the ornate stenciling.



The completed façade pipes were well worth the wait, and were installed and voiced in February 2026 just in time for our chapter crawl.

When the façade pipes were installed, the final results matched the design renderings producing a beautiful instrument perfectly suited to St Joseph's nave and loft.



Nicholas Koch discussed the organ's design and tonal construction. He also discussed the various sources of the pipework and the support the church provided during the development and installation of the instrument. Nick and St Joseph's Music Director, Bradley Wilson, demonstrated the organ and its wide variety of voices from flute families to wonderful color and solo voices. To complete the demonstration, Bradley played a piece that showed the full range of

the instrument from subtle voices to nearly full organ. Multiple chapter members then took turns exploring the new organ playing Bach, Vierne and a variety of other pieces.

Nicholas Koch and St Joseph's Music Director, Bradley Wilson, demonstrated the organ and then multiple chapter members took turns exploring it.



Congratulations to the Koch and Company Team on their first major instrument, Koch Opus 4 in St Joseph's Catholic Church. It both sounds wonderful and is beautiful in the space.

April Program

Organ Registration and History with Dr. David Crean

Sunday, April 19 2026 at 4:00 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N Wilkinson St, Dayton, OH 45402

Google Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/RHYEMm6qWxAQnoac8>



Dr. David Crean will present a program on organ registration and history. He will include some great tips and tricks of organ registrations, but it is the mix of registration with organ history that will make this presentation so fascinating. David will start in the 1500's and then discuss Spanish, Italian, German and French organs all the way through to the modern American organ. He will discuss both capabilities and limitations of each of the organs. He will cover over six centuries of organ building and music and how we might adapt the so many divergent styles into practical registrations on the modern American organ. To drive his points home, he'll play examples of music and representative registrations from each period. Most of us do not have a four manual, 100+ rank instrument at our disposal, but it is our challenge to make the instruments that we do preside over sing their best praises. As David quoted: "These are the oxen with which we plow" - Paul Jacobs.

Come Early and Browse the Music Library

Feel free to come early to browse the Dayton AGO music library before program. Thanks to Madeleine Demetriades and her terrific parents, David and Mona Connolly, for their tremendous amount of effort invested in cleaning and organizing the library!

AFTERWARD.....

We will go to dinner at the nearby Dublin Pub immediately following the workshop. The Dublin Pub, established in 1998, is an authentic Irish Pub that prides itself on its Irish/American/European menu and traditional pub atmosphere.

Please RSVP to Matt Dierking (matt.dierking@gmail.com) for the dinner reservation head count. The Pub is located at 300 Wayne Avenue, Dayton.

Google Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/7ANFNDqLLcLVdZFJ7>

May Program

Dayton AGO Organ Academy Student Recital

Sunday, May 31st, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Christ United Methodist

3440 Shroyer Rd, Kettering, OH 45429

Google Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/tkx2Dpt7eLsoUQ2m9>

Come help us celebrate our Organ Academy students' accomplishments and recognize the dedication and efforts of the students and their instructors:

- Ben Jackle is studying with Terry Donat
- Nathaneil Witte is studying with Daniel Neal
- Luke Dexter is studying with Alan Kimbrough
- Catherine Gulick is studying with Rachel Spry-Lammi

- Ellie Sauser will also play. Ellie was Rachel Lammi's Academy student and is a current chapter scholarship recipient with a double major in Music (organ) and biomedical sciences at Andrews University.

Each student will play some of the pieces they have been working on this year as well as a hymn so be ready to sing. After the recital, the Dayton Chapter will also install its 2026 officers. Let's show our support for the officers and board members that volunteer their time to support the chapter, develop the programs and manage the business of the chapter. **This is also the perfect time to give a huge personal thank you to the Academy teachers who so generously volunteer their time and talents to help foster the next generation of organists.**

A reception will follow immediately after the program.

Dayton Organ Academy Auditions

Founded in 1983, the purpose of The Dayton Organ Academy is to encourage interest in the organ and church music in promising high-school-age students.

Admission: Students are admitted to the Academy based on successful completion of an audition, and upon the recommendation of the Academy Chair. The scholarship grants students one year of tuition-free study. The scholarship is renewable for an additional year, pending regular attendance and preparation at lessons, and successful performance at the May Academy recital.

The Academy is open to students in grades 9 through 12 (or home-school equivalent). The Academy may consider a younger student who demonstrates readiness of organ study, as determined by the audition requirements.

High School Students interested in auditioning for the Dayton Organ Academy should contact Rachel Lammi, Academy Chair at rachel.spry@gmail.com.

Prospective students must prepare a piece by Bach (preferably a two part invention, or other piece by Bach which demonstrates independence of hands), at least one movement of a sonata, and a four part hymn. Applicants will also be expected to sight-read.

Students will receive lessons from one of the Academy teachers. Academy teachers donate their teaching time. The lessons run during the school year, but may include summer lessons at the teacher's discretion. The Academy also offers one or two studio classes during the school year. At these classes, the students play for one another, including hymns and anthem accompaniments. Music history or theory topics related to the organ will be discussed.

AGO National Convention



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We hope you will consider attending the AGO National Convention July 6th through the 10th, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at The Arch. The AGO conventions provide a fun, exciting and inspiring experience where you can connect with musicians from across the country. The St Louis Chapter has planned an opening barbecue (BBQ) and a spectacular opening concert celebrating America's 250th Birthday. The convention includes more than seventeen performances at seventeen different venues that will include eight newly commissioned works. There are thirty workshop sessions to choose from as well as all the various exhibits in the Exhibit Hall. In

addition to the convention activities, the city of St. Louis has a variety of activities such as the Missouri Botanical Garden, the St. Louis Zoo, The Muny (the nation's largest outdoor theater) and the Gateway Arch grounds (just across the street from the Convention Hotel). You can get the convention details at:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/fdadaa37-8ca8-48de-ba86-373c87010edc/websitePage:6e12c009-3562-4eb4-8899-9e944836e4f7>

Matt Dierking and Lynn plan to attend and are registered on the "Blue" track. Let us know if you will attend and we can plan some chapter get togethers during the conventions (matt.dierking@gmail.com).

News Letter & Announcements

Newsletter Inputs

Chapter members are encouraged to submit items and articles for the newsletter. They can be anything that would be of interest to the chapter members including such diverse topics as organ techniques, organs or programs you visited, chapter history, etc.. The deadline for sending information and photos for newsletter is the 20th of the month prior to the publication date.

Program Announcements:

Chapter members are encouraged to submit announcements for local programs for the newsletter that would be of interest to the chapter including concerts, recitals, dedications, choral events, etc.. The announcements should include a title, date/time, location, a short description (a couple of sentences is fine), point of contact and a photo if possible. The deadline for submitting announcements is the 20th of the month prior to event date, but earlier is better.

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