



American Guild of
ORGANISTS
Dayton Chapter

April 2026

TRUMPETINGS Newsletter

Sub-Dean's Note on Chapter Engagement

By Matt Dierking, Sub-Dean

First, thanks to everyone who has made our 2025-2026 program year a success including the people who planned and coordinated the events, the presenters and performers who gave of their time and talents, and finally to all the chapter members and friends who participated in the events and social gatherings. Reflecting on the year, I think we are fulfilling my view our role in the Chapter and the community by providing:

- Communications: through the website, newsletter, Facebook, TAO and programs
- Education and Growth: through workshops, classes and the Organ Academy
- Community Outreach: through traditional and non-traditional concerts like the Spooktacular, the DAI programs and Pedals, Pipes & Pizza
- Social Connections: for our members and friends through social events with each program

My chapter engagement views were shaped in part by a one hour talk on “Chapter Growth” given by Howard Slenk at the 2013 AGO Region V convention in Kalamazoo. His major prescriptions included “Publish or Perish”, “Talk or Tumble” and “Change or Die”. These are summarized as having good communications with the chapter and the community, be engaging and welcoming with members and the public and finally, make changes to modernize our approaches for engagement and programming. Howard’s essay is still relevant today and well worth the read! (essay attached as separate pdf)

So, please let us know how we can do better on any of these areas and how you’d like to be involved. Also, this is a plug for the AGO Conventions and the connections they can provide. We met Dr. Slenk in 2013 and stayed in contact for the better part of a decade. Where else but an AGO convention can you meet a Fulbright Scholar and 28 year Calvin University professor of music who is so extremely friendly, open and giving. Unfortunately, Dr. Slenk passed away last year, but he made a lasting impact across the organ community!

Next Year's Programs

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.

April's Program

Organ Registration and History

with Dr. David Crean

On Sunday, April 19th, 2026, Eighteen chapter members and friends attended Dr. David Crean's program on organ registration and history at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton. David provided 20 pages of notes and began the program with a basic description of the types of pipework, their origins, their sounds and the general rules of combining them into registrations. David demonstrated registrations for different types of music applicable to both big and small organs.

David then presented a mix of registration and organ history that was absolutely fascinating. He began in the 1500's discussing Spanish, Italian, German and French organs all the way through to the modern American organ. He discussed both capabilities and limitations of each of the organs, the typical resources and their impacts on the literature of the time.



David presented the Registration/history program from the Westminster organ console.



He covered over six centuries of organ building and music spanning the simple, fixed organs of the 1500's to the extensive but often common resources of the large French Romantic organs.

David played examples of music and representative registrations from each period as well as illustrated the differences between voices in the same stop families but different origins. Although he was demonstrating the registrations on Westminster's four manual, 100+ rank instrument, he discussed approaches that could be used on smaller instruments. The program was well attended and well received by chapter members, friends and students.

Dayton Chapter members in the choir loft for the Registration and Organ History Program



After the program, many in the group went to dinner at the Dublin Pub to discuss the program eat some great Irish food, drink a Guinness and solve the world's problems. It was a great program and a very entertaining dinner with the chapter.

Thanks David for a great workshop and all the effort to prepare it!

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 convention (matt.dierking@gmail.com).

Newsletter & Facebook 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 and should be submitted to matt.dierking@gmail.com.

Program/Event Announcements for the Newsletter:

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 or two weeks prior to the event date – whichever is earliest.



Facebook Announcements

Chapter members may submit event/program announcements to the Chapter Facebook page. They can be anything that would be of interest to the chapter members including concerts, recitals, dedications, choral events, etc.. The Facebook page turnaround is faster than the newsletter and can also reach people outside of the chapter. Announcements should be submitted to our Facebook page editor, Madeleine Demetriades (madeleinedemetriades@gmail.com), one to two weeks before the event. Madeleine will make the final decision on what to post on the page.

Chapter 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. Madeleine Demetriades and her parents put in a herculean effort to clean organize the music. 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 3rd Floor in room 301.



Want to Play the Dayton Art Institute's 1929 Skinner?



The Dayton Art Institute's 1929 Skinner organ is a wonderful, historic instrument in a beautiful Italian renaissance styled auditorium. As a community outreach, Matt Dierking plays regular programs on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. The programs are designed to be informal, fun and a hopefully a little educational. Museum patrons are encouraged to engage with the organist and ask questions about the organ, its history and/or the music. These discussions can be the best part of a program! One of the great things is that you can pretty much play whatever you like. Playing a wide variety of music is best since this is often the first time many of the museum patrons have heard a real pipe organ. A single program could include everything from a 1500's fugue all the way to a Walt Disney movie theme. You can also play music from the holidays or events in that month such as Christmas, Black History Month, Fourth of July, Oktoberfest, etc.. These programs can be a lot of fun to play and are a great way to introduce people to the pipe organ. **If you would like to get more information about playing a program on the Skinner, please contact Matt Dierking: matt.dierking@gmail.com or cell: 937-505-7290.**

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