



April 2025

From the Dean

Hello fellow organists! There will be no meeting in April due to how busy everyone is with the Masters Tournament and Holy Week services.

What a glorious month it is musically! The pieces we prepare and present span the gamut from brooding, reflective music in minor keys to joyful, triumphant pieces in major keys. With so many services one after another, Sunday after Sunday, and specials services, weddings and funerals in between, we can often feel overwhelmed by the relentlessness of our vocation. I find it helpful emotionally, physically and mentally to take a little time amidst the busyness to rest and celebrate successes after each service before forging ahead with preparations for the next one.

I hope that you will join us for the final program of the 2024-2025 season in May. We will meet for dinner at the Village Deli and then gather at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church for our annual guild service. Look for the specific details in the newsletter. If you would like to participate in the service, please contact Christopher Leysath.

Have a blessed Holy Week!

W. Leigh Fleury, DMA - Dean



Augusta AGO Guild Service

Monday, May 12th - 7pm

St. Mary's on the Hill Catholic Church

We will gather at 5:30pm for a meal at the Village Deli in Daniel Village Shopping Center (2803 Wrightsboro Road) followed by our annual Guild Service at 7pm hosted by Andrew Barnick at St. Mary's. Please save the date for what is sure to be an inspiring gathering as we welcome new officers. Dr. Leigh Fleury will continue as dean, and Chris Leysath as sub-dean for the 2025-2026 season. We're excited to welcome Jim Nord and Dr. Dan Hardin on as members-at-large for the next season. Thanks to everyone who has served and continue to serve in the various roles necessary for our chapter to flourish.

Welcome to Elizabeth Gatter



2025 marks a big year at Church of the Good Shepherd on Walton Way. Long time AGO member, Jim Nord has complete 40+ years of celebrated and faithful service as organist & choirmaster at Good Shepherd. As Jim has transitioned into a part-time role as music director at St. Augustine Episcopal, Good Shepherd has welcomed Mobile, Alabama native Elizabeth Gatter as new organist & choirmaster this month. Please read below to learn more about about Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Gatter is a native of Mobile, AL, with a diverse background in voice performance, pedagogy, keyboard performance, and church music. She comes to the Church of the Good Shepherd from Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in Mobile, where she has served as Organist/Choirmaster since 2021.

Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from the University of South Alabama, a Master of Music degree in Voice Pedagogy from Shenandoah Conservatory, and is currently pursuing a D.M.A. in Voice and Worship Leadership from the University of Mobile. She also holds pedagogical certifications from the University of North Texas, Shenandoah Conservatory's CCM Institute, and Somatic Voicework™.

Elizabeth served on the leadership team of the Mobile Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and remains active in voice pedagogy and choral organizations. Most recently, she has received invitations to present at the Alabama ACDA, Louisiana ACDA, NC ACDA's Summer Seminar series, The Voice Foundation, and the University of Mobile. Elizabeth also recently presented on church music topics at the National ACDA Conference in Dallas in March 2025.

As a vocalist, Elizabeth has performed extensively in collegiate and professional opera productions and was selected as the Madame Rose-Palmai Tenser Developing Young Artist with Mobile Opera for two consecutive years. In 2019, she was featured as a soloist at the Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage Festival, premiering songs from new musical theatre. In her private voice studio, Elizabeth specializes in teaching a vocational adult singers.

Elizabeth has been married to Tony since 2023. Together, they have two cats, Zen and Xan, and one dog, Claire.

John G. Schaeffer, Jr. Memorial Organ Recital

Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 4PM
Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church
Christopher Leysath, Organist

The program will include works by Clerambault, Howells, Bedard, Dubois, and Price. Mr. Leysath will also perform a set of three pieces based on hymn tunes by Roland Braithwaite, Phillip McIntyre, and Mark Fax, who lived in Augusta and was on the music faculty at Paine College in the 1930s.





*Great to Swell Coupler control on the Civil War Era
Jardine Organ at Most Holy Trinity*

MESSIAH

by Handel

Sunday, May 4th 7pm

Reception to Follow

Jose Reyes-Ortiz, Maestro

Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church

720 Telfair Street

No April Meeting - Happy Easter!



Substitute Organists Available

Andrew Barnick 805-268-1505 (*Midweek only*)

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Brad Cunningham 706-414-7007

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Aaron Dixon 706-726-2846

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Dan Hardin 954-593-0085 (*Booked through April 6th*)

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