



May 2025

## From the Dean

It's hard to believe that it's already May and that summer is just around the corner! When I was in college and graduate school, summer was a time to study with other organists than my primary instructor. For several summers, I had the privilege of studying with Telarc recording artist and author Michael Murray. I have been thinking more about him recently since his passing last year. He was a kind and gentle man, always quick with a word of encouragement.

I remember studying the Vierne first and third symphonies with him at the same time he was preparing to record them on the great Cavaille-Coll organ at St. Ouen in Rouen, France. It was intimidating, but also encouraging. There were a few things he taught me that have stood out these past 30 years. One was the importance and value of practicing slowly. Many important details can be overlooked when we rush through the learning process. The second piece of advice was to celebrate small victories. After learning a page of difficult music, treat yourself to an ice cream cone! The third thing was to dream big. He encouraged me to shoot for the moon rather than for the top of the telephone pole. We may fail in our attempt, but we'll most certainly go much higher than the top of the telephone pole. Dream big this summer. Learn a new piece and enjoy that ice cream cone!

I hope you will join us this month for the closing program of our 2024-25 season. We'll gather at the Village Deli for dinner and then head to St. Mary's on the Hill for our annual Guild service. Details about the evening can be found in the newsletter.

Sincerely, W. Leigh Fleury, DMA - Dean

# 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.



**Easter Concert**  
featuring highlights of  
*G. F. Händel's*  
**Messiah**

Performed by: MHT's Parish  
Choirs and Orchestra

Conducted by: José Reyes-Ortiz  
Pastor: Fr. Jacob Almeter

**May 4 | 7 p.m.**

Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
720 Telfair St.



## Messiah Facts

- Written in just 24 days. Handel started on August 22 1741 and finished the 259 page score on September 14, that's about 45 minutes of music per week.
- Three-part marathon. He spent only four days on Part I, nine on Part II, six on Part III, and the balance polishing the full score.
- “SDG” signature. At the final bar Handel wrote “S D G” (Soli Deo Gloria – “To God alone the glory”).

# May 12th AGO Gathering

**5:30pm Meal at the Village Deli**  
Daniel Village Shopping Center  
2803 Wrightsboro Road



**7pm Guild Service at  
St. Mary's on the Hill Catholic Church  
1420 Monte Sano Avenue**

Our 2025 Guild Service will be held on May 12th, at 7 p.m., at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church (1420 Monte Sano Ave., Augusta, GA 30904-5360). Kathleen Cartledge will deliver the homily, music will be provided by chapter members, officers will be installed, and plans for next year's programming will be announced. If you are interested in contributing to the service, please contact either Leigh Fleury or Chris Leysath. All chapter members are invited to meet at Village Deli (2803 Wrightsboro Rd, Ste 28, Augusta) at 5:30 p.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup> for a time of food and fellowship before going over to St. Mary for the Guild Service.

Christopher Leysath, Sub-dean

**Freshman Organ Recital at Mercer University, Newton Chapel  
Corner of Coleman Ave. & Adams St. - Macon, Georgia**

***FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025 at 12 NOON***

**Presented by David M. Kenney, Jr.,  
Organ Performance Major & Student of Dr. Jack Mitchener**

*Music for ALL to enjoy... from Bach, Franck, & Vierne to Florence Price,  
Richard Purvis, George Lynn, & Calvin Hampton...  
as well as an original setting by the recitalist*

**Admission is FREE. Come with family & friends  
to enjoy an afternoon of great music!**



# Substitute Organists Available

**Andrew Barnick** 805-268-1505 (*Midweek only*)  
[andrew.barnick@stmaryonthehill.org](mailto:andrew.barnick@stmaryonthehill.org)

**Ken Courtney** 803-443-8885  
[kencourtney56@gmail.com](mailto:kencourtney56@gmail.com)

**Brad Cunningham** 706-414-7007  
[bradfordco@mindspring.com](mailto:bradfordco@mindspring.com)

**Aaron Dixon** 706-726-2846  
[aarondixon09@icloud.com](mailto:aarondixon09@icloud.com)

**Dan Hardin** 954-593-0085  
[hardin4438@yahoo.com](mailto:hardin4438@yahoo.com)

## AUGUSTA AGO CHAPTER OFFICERS

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