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## From the Dean

W. Leigh Fleury, DMA

I hope that everyone has had a great summer! Maybe it's just me, but during the summer, I tend to wrestle with the "blahs" more than I do the rest of the year. Perhaps a part of it stems from reminiscing about the carefree summer breaks of childhood and longing to have several weeks free from regular responsibilities. I've jokingly mentioned at the churches I've worked for that it would be great if we took spring, fall, and summer breaks from services like schools do, but so far, none of the pastors I've worked with have been keen on the idea. Oh well... One thing that helps me combat the blahs is to find something to look forward to.

This can be as simple as planning a day trip or working on a fun project. In the musical realm, things like taking a field trip to play an organ at another church, composing a piece of music, or learning a piece that's been on my "to do" list, help me overcome the doldrums. I would love to talk to you at our next meeting and hear what things help you recharge musically. Speaking of things to look forward to, we have a lot of interesting programs planned for this season. I encourage you to read about them in the newsletter and then plan to attend as many as you are able!

Sincerely,  
W. Leigh Fleury, DMA -  
Dean



In this new segment of the newsletter we hope to share a fun video for your listening pleasure!

This month check out:

[Gustavo Dudamel - Notre-Dame de Paris Reopening - Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 \(Olivier Latry\).](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, Sept 8**  
**Dinner: 6:00pm**  
**Meeting: 7:00pm**

Chapter Meeting  
St Thaddeus, Aiken

**Saturday, Sept 13**  
**4:00pm**

LTO Chamber Choir  
Reid Memorial

**Sunday, Sept 21**  
**3:00pm**

Five Pianists  
St John UMC

**Tuesday, Sept 23**  
**12:00pm**

Junwen Liang  
Saint Paul's

**Monday, Oct 6**  
**Meeting: 6:00pm**  
**Recital: 7:00pm**

Chapter Meeting and  
Member Recital  
St John UMC

**Thursday, Oct 16**  
**6:00pm**

Kyle Ritter, organist  
St Thaddeus, Aiken



## LIMITED TIME ONLY CHAMBER CHOIR Saturday, September 13th, at 4PM Reid Memorial Presbyterian

We welcome back Dr. Alicia Walker of the University of South Carolina and LTO Chamber Choir in a concert featuring music by J.S. Bach, Herbert Howells, John Corigliano, and others. Christopher Leysath and Mark Dickens, organists.



## TUESDAY'S MUSIC LIVE

Tuesday's Music Live opens its 37th Anniversary Season with a concert by the young, celebrated Chinese American pianist, **Junwen Liang**, on Tuesday, September 23rd at 12:00 noon. The 30-minute concerts are free and open to the public. For complete information on the 2025-2026 season, visit [www.tuesdaysmusiclive.com](http://www.tuesdaysmusiclive.com).

# Concerts and Events

Concerts with a Cause

**September 21    Five Pianists    3:00 pm**

Five beloved local pianists help us introduce our new piano to the community.

Rosalyn Floyd, Martin David Jones, Christopher Leysath, Larry Millen, Clara Park

The cause: Murphy Harpst/Evolve

  

**December 24    Christmas Eve Concert and Lessons and Carols    10:30 pm**

The Saint John Choirs and orchestra

The cause: GAP Ministries

  

**February 22    Seraph Brass    3:00 pm**

Returning by popular demand, a thrilling brass quintet.

*"The audience was floored by their impeccable talent, and their presence on stage was inviting, truly worth returning to... It was a performance eyes and ears simply couldn't get enough of."*  
-Marla Nash, The Diamondback

*"From impressionist compositions to popular Broadway hits, the all-female brass quintet Seraph Brass showed off the tremendous versatility and range of brass instruments."*  
- The Independent, Gallup, NM

The cause: Oaks Ministry

  

**March 15    Kinnara    3:00 pm**

One of the nation's premier professional chamber choirs, performing a variety of repertoire from all eras, and captivating audiences with unique programming and memorable artistic communication.

*"Kinnara revels unabashedly in luxurious sound...lush and verdant."*  
-New York Classical Review

*"...You'd be hard pressed to find a choir that creates a lovelier sound."* -American Record Guide

The cause: Valor Station

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Saint John United Methodist Church  
706.724.9641

756 Greene Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901  
[www.stjohnaugusta.org](http://www.stjohnaugusta.org)

## Concerts with a Cause

Season Announcement for  
**Concerts with a Cause**  
a series that brings live music to our community, offering several concerts each year featuring world-famous musicians.

Generous donors allow us to offer the concert series free of charge.

At each concert, they collect a "love offering" – not for the performers but for a local service organization. Since its beginning in 2003, Concerts with a Cause has donated \$266,851 to 67 local organizations which are doing good work for the Kingdom of God in our community.

<https://www.stjohnaugusta.org/concerts-with-a-cause/>

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## Meet the member: Elizabeth Gatter



Elizabeth Gatter serves as Organist and Choirmaster at Church of the Good Shepherd. Her husband, Tony Gatter is the Chair of Religious Life at EDS. Her path to the organ began during undergrad when, looking to drop her piano major (and a few recitals), she convinced her pianist mother to let her trade it for organ lessons—despite concerns that a vocal performance degree might lead to starving artist status (it didn't!). Elizabeth's first organ teacher, Dr. Randy Sheets, deeply shaped her approach to rehearsal and leadership through both instruction and example. One of her most memorable moments came in 2022 when she conducted Rutter's Mass of the Children with Mobile's Singing Children, the choir she herself once sang in—coming full circle from a 2006 performance under her own mentor.

Elizabeth's favorite piece to play is Karg-Elert's "Nun danket alle Gott," which, in her words, "just hits." She's drawn to composers like John Rutter, Emma Lou Diemer, and William Mathias, and isn't afraid to admit that her listening tastes lean heavily toward girl pop—think Tate McCrae and Renee Rapp. A fun fact? She performs in an organ duo called DUO24, formed with her predecessor at the Cathedral, and the collaboration has reignited her joy for performing—"being at the console together just makes it more fun." If not an organist, she'd be a voice teacher, and her advice to emerging musicians is this: "There is no more valuable resource than your colleagues. Also, don't stop seeking mentorship once college ends—you have something to learn from everyone!"

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**Church of the Good Shepherd** in Augusta, GA, is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 Organ Scholar Program. Church of the Good Shepherd is the largest church in the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, with two children's choirs (one RSCM) and an adult choir. We share a campus with Episcopal Day School, a well-regarded K-8th school for which we provide chapel services three times a week. Our Sunday services are at 8:30am, 11am, and 6pm, all supported by the organ.

**Program:** The goal of our Organ Scholar Program is to support and equip a young musician in discerning their career path and experiencing deep work within a significant church music program. The Organ Scholar will gain experience in programming, playing, and leading ensembles, as well as learning about the logistics of a church music program. They may also be called upon to sing and conduct, depending on the candidate's particular interests and skills. The Organ Scholar will also give a solo or collaborative recital at the discretion of the Director of Music. They will be encouraged to seek mentorship both within the program and in the surrounding area, making the most of their year in Augusta.

**Eligibility:** We recognize that not all organists come to the profession by a traditional path, and thus are accepting applications from all organists ages 16-30, regardless of degree program or education status.

**Compensation:** We offer a stipend of \$20,000 paid across the duration of the program. The start date of the program is August 14th, ending in late July of 2026. These dates are flexible depending on our desired candidate's needs. While we do not offer permanent housing, we can provide overnight housing for candidates who may be commuting outside the metro area on Wednesday evenings, Saturday evenings, and for select busy seasons.

To apply, email your resume (CV preferred but not required) and a recording of 1-2 pieces of solo repertoire and one hymn to our Director of Music, Elizabeth Gatter at [music@cogsaugusta.org](mailto:music@cogsaugusta.org). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until filled. Live auditions will be held at Church of the Good Shepherd at a time determined by the committee and candidate.





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## A Look Ahead!

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Mark your calendars and dust off your favorite pieces for the Augusta AGO's 2025 Members' Recital, taking place at St. John UMC - Augusta, on Oct. 6! The recital will begin at 7 p.m., and will be preceded by a chapter meeting at 6 p.m. This recital is open to the public so please encourage your friends, choristers, students, and fellow musicians to attend. Those interested in performing on the recital program are asked to complete the questionnaire linked [here](#) or contact Chris Leysath at Leysathago@gmail.com.

## Augusta AGO Chapter Officers

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## Substitute Organists Available

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

**Aaron Dixon**  
706-726-2846  
aarondixon09@icloud.com

**Ken Courtney**  
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