



**Low Country Chapter
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Trodgon**
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August 2020 Pipings



from the Dean, Dr. Jason A. Wright

Dear Colleagues & Friends,

As I write this letter to you, I am in-between sessions at the Eastman School of Music's summer workshop on Renaissance choral music. Eastman has long offered a wide array of summer courses in music; this is the first year that courses are done virtually. I have had the great pleasure of hearing colleagues from around the globe joining

together to talk about their love of choral music, particularly that of the Renaissance. Of course, between sessions a lot of colleagues who work both in academic and religious institutions were discussing what the immediate future of choral singing will look like.

For most all of us, the organ is our primary instrument, but we all work with cantors, soloists, and choirs. If you are like me, I am having a difficult time planning for the upcoming program year, simply because I do not know what the immediate future holds for choral and congregational singing not only in my own parish, but across our country. In speaking with colleagues between sessions this week, they too share in this same dilemma. The big question still looms – when can we sing again?

Our Sub-Dean, Dr. Kane, in a meeting not too long ago, brought up the words to the familiar song, *How Can I keep from singing*. I was able to program an anthem on that text at this coming weekend's service. In the midst of these troubling times, perhaps you can find strength in the text:

*My life goes on in endless song Above earth's lamentations, I hear the real,
though far-off hymn That hails a new creation. Through all the tumult and the
strife I hear its music ringing, It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from
singing? What if my joys and comforts die, I know that truth is living. What
though the darkness 'round me close? Still truth its light is giving. No storm can
shake my inmost calm, While to that rock I'm clinging. Since love is lord of
heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing? I lift my eyes, the cloud grows
thin, I see the blue above it And day by day this pathway smooths, Since first I
learned to love it. The peace from Love makes fresh my heart, A song of hope is
springing. All things are mine since truth I've found. How can I keep from
singing?*

Until we meet again, keep singing (even with a mask on).

My best,
JAW



from the Sub-Dean, Dr. Pamela Kane

On Sunday evening, July 5th I returned home from church feeling great satisfaction after having provided (what I thought was) outstanding music at 5 Masses to celebrate not only the Lord's Day, but our dear country. The music was chosen with careful consideration of the scriptures and included contemporary songs, hymns from the Lutheran and English choral traditions, and Gregorian Chant. The choral prelude included patriotic gems such as "America," "America the Beautiful" and a "Tribute to the Armed Forces." My joy was dampened promptly upon opening the parish Facebook page (word to the wise...stay away from Facebook when you are feeling good about yourself!!) where a parishioner had posted a comment about the "crappy music at SGG."

I received no response to my first email in which I inquired about his definition of "crappy" so I wrote again. Here is a sampling of his lengthy reply: the music I choose sounds like "Show Tunes," "children's ditties" "is impossible to sing;" "people want the traditional music of pre-Vatican 2," "the music of Dan Schutte and Marty Haugen is banned in many dioceses." His email went on and on. For weeks I was affected by this one solitary person's whining and complaining. I couldn't get it out of my head. I even went so far as to alter some of the musical choices I made on my August "menu" to please this person.

Well, guess what folks? There will be no pleasing this person or anyone like him! Right? His type is a miserable, unhappy one who will never be satisfied. Furthermore, he and others like him will use Facebook as a faceless and anonymous mode of sharing their misery.

The happy ending to my story is that, just this morning, a parishioner who had seen this man's Facebook post and knew how deeply it hurt me, stopped me as I was preparing for 8:30 daily Mass and asked how I was doing. His response to my shoulder shrug and neutral sounding "okay" was exactly what I needed to hear: "Pam, 1 disgruntled person among 5,000 delighted people isn't too bad."

I gotta run folks and catch our secretary and tell her NOT to make those changes to the rest of the August "menus" for the bulletins!"

Pam



from our Chaplain, The Rev. Denise A. Trodgon

Greetings AGO Friends,

It is my honor and delight to serve as Chaplain to this distinguished group. Music is such a vital part of worship and so simply pierces the soul with its beauty. You may have heard the saying often attributed to St Augustine, "he who sings, prays twice." Most assuredly, those who help others sing well, have a special place in the kingdom!

During this stressful time of the pandemic, the one place people want to be is in their church community, surrounded by those they love, to re-establish some sort of equilibrium. Anxiety abounds when the news

changes from day to day, and there doesn't seem to be an end in sight. I know that you have been profoundly affected by the recommendation to cease choral and congregational singing. It has been a loss for all of us.

What I have noticed however, is that all of the liturgical staff has had to become more flexible, creative and resilient as we moved to online worship. The use of imagery with instrumental music or the beauty of a lone voice has been stirring. The simplicity has refocused our attention to not only the loveliness of the song, but its tender support of the gospel message. God has something in this for us, friends.

When it seems that things are being stripped away, a new grace emerges, perhaps from something unexpected or simple. When we adjust our vision, or our expectations, we see the Holy Spirit at work as never before. God's love comes to us and pours through us as we open our hearts and give of ourselves.

I pray that God grants you renewed strength, endurance and vision at this difficult time, reminding you in little ways, how much you are beloved. I will sign off with a prayer for community written by Richard Rohr.

O Great Love, thank you for living and loving in us and through us. May all that we do flow from our deep connection with you and all beings. Help us become a community that vulnerably shares each other's burdens and the weight of glory. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our world. Knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God, amen. (Taken from meditations of Richard Rohr, from the Center for Action and Contemplation)

Blessings and Peace,
The Rev. Denise Ann Trodgon+



from the Director of Publication, Nicholas Ruden

Website:

We continue to make updates to our website www.lccago.org

Community Music Event Calendar:

If you are a member of the Guild, you may advertise music events at your church for free on this calendar <https://www.lccago.org/community-calendar>. Please send those listings to lowcountryago@gmail.com.

Facebook & Instagram:

We have a new Facebook page, please look up Low Country AGO Chapter. Follow us on our new Instagram [lowcountryago](https://www.instagram.com/lowcountryago)

Newsletters:

All information for the AGO newsletter will be due by the 20th of the month before publication. To read both current and past Pippings newsletters, please click on this link. <https://www.lccago.org/newsletter>

Member Login Area:

Under the Membership login area, you will find both the 2020/2019 Directory & each month's board minutes. The member password is 20AGO20.

Membership

If you have questions about your membership, need to renew your membership, or change information as it is listed on ONCARD, please visit <https://www.agohq.org/membership/>. If you know of someone who isn't an organist, but loves organ music, please encourage them to join our chapter.

Online Directory

Our member directory will be published online this year. Information that is included in the directory is taken directly from your ONCARD information. To ensure your information is up to date, including your picture, please visit <https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login/>. If you have listed yourself as a substitute, please confirm that via ONCARD. All updates should be made by August 31st.

Scholarship Recital

The Low Country Chapter provides scholarship support for young, promising organists living in Beaufort County, SC. Sydney Lawrence, a scholarship recipient performed her high school senior recital at the Parish Church of St. Helena in Beaufort, SC on Saturday, July 18, 2020. Sydney's recital included works by Bach, Buxtehude, and César Franck. Sydney graduated this spring as salutatorian

of Holy Trinity Classical Christian School and will be attending Wheaton College in Illinois, where she will be majoring in organ performance and sacred music. Her teachers include Pat Gould, John Stender, Jeff Harbin, all organists of St. Helena's Church and Dr. Monica Harper Dekle in Savannah, GA.



CONGRATS, SYDNEY!

Read the TAO Online



The American Organist Magazine (TAO), published monthly by the AGO, is the most widely read journal devoted to organ and choral music in the world. It is the official journal of the American Guild of Organists and the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America.

Only current AGO members and subscribers can read TAO online. Click on a cover below and when prompted, enter the same username and password that you use to log into ONCARD.

New: Click on the title of the article you would like to read. A large-type version of the article will appear next to the article.

You can also download the issue as a PDF. After logging in, move your cursor to the top of the screen to reveal a blue banner. Click the downward arrow in the blue banner to save the issue as a pdf. Then use the + or - signs in the lower right corner to adjust the font size.

Classifieds

Music available for a donation to St. John's Church, Savannah GA

Steven Branyon has incorporated several organist's libraries into the AGO organ library housed at St. John's Church, Episcopal - in the choir room. There are 40 plus plastic containers. All singles works are by composer alphabetically, and then there are about 10 mixed containers, books from publishers with multiple composers. If anyone wishes to come and go through them, I just need some notice to get them out of the closet where they are stored and put on display in the choir room. Anyone is welcome to make an appointment to come view them. A free-will donation of any amount is accepted on behalf of the Savannah AGO for any music taken. They may reach me by calling the church office (912) 232-1251 or my cell phone (912) 660-8643.

Organ CDs

Dr. Jerry Anderson would like to pass along organ CDs that he recently received. These CDs might be helpful to inspiring organ students. Please let me know if you are interested or reply to maryandjerry78@gmail.com.

Singing & COVID-19

The University of Colorado and The University of Maryland have released the final report to their aerosol study. A quick summary, by Corey Axler, appears below as it relates to singing. The full report may be found at <https://www.nfhs.org/media/4030003/aerosol-study-prelim-results-round-2-final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2pTUDARZNe50fq2wjXTTYi5Q2JIJOSUHSrcsy8DdIA4OsFH8b8KEKYs8>

Dear Singers and Music Educators,

Below are some highlights from the University of Colorado study on aerosol emissions and singing. I've added in some suggestions to go along with the study to aid directors in rehearsal management. While these bullets do not address all concerns or specific needs, they are a good place to start. Please read the entire study, found at the bottom of this document:

- Singing with a well-fitting mask GREATLY reduces the amount of aerosols emitted.
 - Singing with a mask produces less aerosols than sitting and breathing without a mask.
- Surgical masks are the best option for singing – cost is less than \$1 per mask in packs of 50 (which are disposable).
 - *(A well-fitting mask is key, and I have found the disposable surgical masks are snug enough around the sides but give some space in the front.)*
 - Washable “singing masks” are available online but have not been fully tested yet.
- Singing produces less aerosols than coughing, but more than speaking
- Particle emissions are comparable between wind instruments and singing, except oboe is higher.
- Rehearsals need to be no longer than 30 minutes before a break. Indoors: leave room for 20 minutes, outdoors: stay in place but no playing / singing for 5 minutes
 - *(An INDOOR idea would be to have a solid 30-minute singing session, followed by a break and then split up into additional rooms for sectional work to allow for the air to cycle. Come back to the room after 20 minutes to finish off with another 30-minute session.)*
 - Very large rooms like empty auditoriums or gymnasiums with proper airflow are comparable to outdoor spaces.
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet between singers in all directions, whether outdoors or indoors.
- Air Purifiers with HEPA filters are important and provide more mitigation (especially in rooms without windows or good ventilation)
- Portable Amplifiers should be used for rehearsals so directors can keep speaking level low
- Talk with your facilities manager to get accurate HVAC data on ACH (Air Changes per Hour) in your room. at least 3 is recommended
- Proper hygiene is crucial
 - Have hand sanitizer available
 - Remind singers to wash hands before and after rehearsals
 - *To help limit the spread of common-area surface touching, make sure singers each have their own sheet music and folder.*

Something for everyone!
AGOYO virtual program year 20-21

FRIDAYS AT NOON EST

videos will be premiered at:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/GuildofOrganists>

August 14- Organ crawl: West Point Chapel

September 11- Workshop:

Church musicians and technology

September 25- Panel: Organists of colors

October 9- Panel: The Global Organist

November 13- Organ crawl: Longwood Gardens

December 11- Organ factory tour: Austin Organ Co.

January 8- Webinar:

Young conductors/organists guide to church music

February 12- Organ crawl: Wanamaker

March 12- Panel:

Board positions in the guild/serving in leadership roles

April 9- Organ factory tour: Taylor & Boody

May 7, 14, 21, 28- Young organist recitals



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Email us at:

conveneragoyo@gmail.com

<https://www.agohq.org/ago-young-organists/>