



Central Arkansas Chapter *American Guild of Organists*

The *Clarion* April 2016

www.cacago.org

Mission Statement

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this, we encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors; provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support; nurture future generations of organists; promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

2015-2016 Officers

Mike Metzler, *dean*
Wayne Simpson, *sub-dean*
Jess Anthony, *treasurer*
Bill McCandless, *secretary*

Executive Committee

Jonathan Merritt (2016)
Barbara Lusk (2017)
James Cathey (2018)

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PROGRAM

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EDUCATION

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PUBLICITY

Betty Cohen

TELEPHONE

Betty Anderson

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Robert Lindley

From the Dean

He is risen! He is risen, indeed!

As a Christian, this common Easter morning greeting has a very special meaning for us. Our whole faith is based on it.

As an organist and church musician, it has a totally different meaning. It is the big day. All of the work and preparation of Lent and Holy Week is finally behind us and it is time for our choirs, congregations and music to shine.

I had the pleasure of going to the Cathedral of St. Andrew Saturday night for their Easter Vigil. I was warned that it would be long, and it was about 2½ hours. However, it was such a beautiful and constantly changing service that I really did not notice the time. Beau Baldwin, his singing choirs, brass choir and cantors did a tremendous job of bringing their music to the mass. It was one of the most beautiful services that I have ever attended.

Thanks to postings on Facebook from friends and choir members, I was also able to share in many other Easter services. Although they were just snippets, it was easy to feel the pride and effort that had gone into this beautiful Easter Sunday. Congratulations to all of you.

Next Month's Newsletter

The May 2016 Clarion will be published Monday, May 2. If you have any items to submit (news, events, announcements, job postings, personal ads, opinion pieces, prayer requests) please send them to adam@cacago.org. The deadline is Friday, April 29.

Upcoming CACAGO Programs

Friday, April 15, 7:30 P.M.

Olivier Latry, organist
Greene Chapel
Hendrix College
1600 Washington Ave.
Conway, Arkansas

Friday, May 13

**The 13th Annual Concert
Celebrating the Life of
Robert Young Ellis**
Alex Gilson, organist
First Presbyterian Church
800 Scott St.
Little Rock, Arkansas

My ringers and choral choir did a very fine job. For a group that has ringers and singers that do not read music and a leader with no training either, it went remarkably well. I could not be more proud of them.

So how many services did you have for Holy Week? Three, five, seven, more? However many it was, it took months of preparation. Enjoy a little well-deserved break. More work is on the immediate horizon.

I am glad that some of you were able to come to the reception at my home after the last meeting. I enjoyed it and I hope that you will be able to come again soon. I clean better under pressure.

I also want to thank Barbara Lusk for hosting our members' recital last month, and thank all of you that participated. Hopefully, everyone enjoys them as much as I do. We have a huge amount of talent in our Guild.

See you April 15th at First United Methodist in Conway for our meeting and then the concert at Greene Chapel.

Mike

APRIL MEETING

Friday, April 15, 2016

Olivier Latry, *organist*

Note change in times:
(this month only)

Punchbowl — 5:45 P.M.

Dinner and Meeting — 6:00 P.M.

Concert — 7:30 P.M.

Dinner & Meeting

First United
Methodist Church
1610 Prince Street
Conway, AR, 72034-3935

Concert

Greene Chapel
Hendrix College
1600 Washington Ave.
Conway, AR, 72032-4115

Dinner Reservations: The cost for dinner is \$15.00. For dinner reservations, contact Robert Lindley via e-mail (dinner@cacago.org), or phone (501) 217-6735, or complete the reservation form on the website. *Please provide the names of your guests so that nametags may be printed for them.*

**Dinner reservations are due by
noon, Wednesday, April 13!**

Transportation: Round-trip transportation from Little Rock to Conway will be provided. If you would like a ride, please contact Wayne Simpson via e-mail (wes@nicholsandsimpson.com) or phone (501) 231-8835.

Reception: Following the concert, you are invited to Stephen & Betty Cohen's home for a reception. The address is: 2310 Charlie Dayer Drive, Conway, AR, 72034-7320. From Greene Chapel, turn right (north) on Washington. At first roundabout take a left (3rd exit in the roundabout), onto Tyler St. Follow Tyler across the railroad tracks, and to the next stoplight. Turn right at the stoplight onto Salem Rd. Take the first left onto Irby. Take the 3rd right onto Charlie Dayer. House is on the right, and has a circle drive in front. Please park in the circle drive as space permits, and on the street when the circle drive is full.

Nominating Committee Report

Betty Deislinger, *Chairman*

Dean: Mike Metzler
Sub-Dean: Wayne Simpson
Secretary: William McCandless
Treasurer: Jess Anthony

Executive Committee (2019)
Beau Baldwin
Don VerKuilen

The election of officers will take place at the May meeting.

Biography of Olivier Latry

French organist Olivier Latry is one of the most distinguished concert organists in the world today. One of three titular organists at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, he is also Professor of Organ at the Paris Conservatory of Music, Organist Emeritus with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in Canada, and maintains a full schedule of concert performances appearing regularly as a soloist at prestigious venues and festivals, and with leading orchestras around the world.

Mr. Latry was born in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, in 1962 where he began his musical studies. He later attended the Academy of Music at St. Maur-des-Fossés, studying organ with Gaston Litaize. From 1981 to 1985 he was titular organist of Meaux Cathedral, and at the age of 23 won the competition to become one of the three titular organists of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris along with Philippe Lefebvre and Jean-Pierre Leguay; the three of them succeeding Pierre Cochereau. In 1990 he succeeded his teacher, Gaston Litaize, as organ professor at the Academy of Music at St. Maur-des-Fossés, and then subsequently in 1995 was appointed Professor of Organ at the Paris Conservatory where he continues to teach today along with his distinguished colleague, Michel Bouvard.

Having performed in more than fifty countries on five continents, Mr. Latry does not want to specialize in any specific repertoire, but rather wishes to explore all styles of organ music, as well as the art of improvisation. In 2000, to celebrate Olivier Messiaen as one of the greatest composers of the 20th century, he performed three complete cycles (six recitals each) of Messiaen's organ music, at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City and St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Mr. Latry has also inaugurated many significant concert hall organs around the world,

including Verizon Hall (Philadelphia USA), The Palace of the Arts (Budapest, Hungary), and The Musikverein (Vienna, Austria). In 2014 he performed the inaugural concerts at La Maison Symphonique (Montréal, Canada) and a concert as part of the inaugural concert series at the Royal Festival Hall in London (UK).

In addition to concerts and teaching, Mr. Latry has made his mark through many recordings on the BNL label featuring music of Bach, Widor's Symphonies 5 and 6, Vierne's Symphonies 2 and 3 and the complete works of Duruflé. With Deutsche Grammophon he has recorded a transcription disc entitled "Midnight at Notre-Dame," a disc featuring the organ works of César Franck, and the complete organ works of Olivier Messiaen. He has also recorded the Poulenc Organ Concerto and the Barber Toccata Festiva with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Jongen Symphonie Concertante with the Liège Orchestra. His most recent recording on the Naïve label is entitled "Trois Siècles d'Orgue Notre-Dame de Paris" which features music composed by past and current organists of Notre-Dame Cathedral.

In recognition of his distinguished work in the field of organ performance and teaching, Mr. Latry has received many prestigious awards and honorary degrees including the Prix de la Fondation Cino et Simone Del Duca (Institut de France–Académie des Beaux-Arts) in 2000, and "Honoris Causa" Fellowships from the North and Midlands School of Music (UK) in 2006, and from the Royal College of Organists (UK) in 2007. He was also presented the International Performer of the Year award by the New York City chapter of the American Guild of Organists in April 2009, and received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from McGill University in Montréal Canada in 2010.

Remembering former CACAGO member Russell Hodges



Russell W. Hodges passed away on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at an Oklahoma City hospital from complications of diabetes. He was born on September 28, 1953 in Boiling Springs, N.C. to parents Dr. Dan and June Hodges. Most of his childhood was spent in Texas. He moved to Shawnee, Oklahoma with his family in 1969.

Russell graduated from Shawnee High School in 1971. In 1975 he graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University with honors. During college he was active in the OBU Chorale, Yansh Band, O.D.K. and Phi Mu Alpha. He served as an officer in each of these organizations.

He received a Master of Music degree from Oklahoma University in 1976. He majored in organ performance for both degrees. His organ teachers were Dr. Virginia Reese and Dr. Mildred Andrews. Russell served as organist at First Baptist Church in Shawnee, Oklahoma from 1971-1976.

In 1976, Russell joined the faculty of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He taught organ, piano, and other courses there for thirty-five years. He earned a second masters degree in Library Science from North Texas State University and became Ouachita's music librarian. He also served as organist-choirmaster at First Presbyterian Church in Arkadelphia.

His battle with diabetes necessitated early retirement in 2011. Ouachita honored him with the title Associate Professor Emeritus in 2012. He moved back to Shawnee in 2011 and to Primrose Retirement Community in 2014.

A memorial service to honor Russell's life was held at First Baptist Church of Shawnee on Saturday, March 19 at 10 A.M. Pastor Ray Miller officiated.

Russell was preceded in death by his brother, Timothy, and his mother June. He is survived by his father, Dan Hodges and sister, Terri Pickering & her husband Jerry. He is also survived by his nieces Carrie Hill and husband Matt and Emily Lawson and husband Jeremy. He doted on his great nieces and nephews as well as faithful Chihuahua, Chico.

A memorial service will be held in McBeth Recital Hall on the Ouachita Baptist University campus, Saturday, April 16 at 2:00 P.M.

Arkansas Federation
of Music Clubs presents

Jonathan Ray, tenor
Janine Tiner, piano

Friday, April 22, 2016 • 7:30 P.M.

Second Presbyterian Church
600 Pleasant Valley Dr.
Little Rock, Arkansas

A varied program titled
"Something for Everyone"
Free admission.

ASO Intimate
Neighborhood Concert

Thursday, May 19, 2016 • 7:00 P.M.

Christ Episcopal Church
509 Scott St.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Tickets available online from Arkansas Symphony
website. General Admission \$25.
Organist Justin Bischof will be featured as the soloist
in Samuel Barber's *Toccata Festiva*.

Arts Calendar

Saturday, April 9 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO Masterworks: Shostakovich
Maumelle Performing Arts Center
Maumelle, AR

Sunday, April 10 – 3:00 P.M.

ASO Masterworks: Shostakovich
Maumelle Performing Arts Center
Maumelle, AR

Tuesday, April 12 – 7:00 P.M.

ASO Chamber: Brahms & Dvorak
Clinton Presidential Center
Little Rock, AR

Thursday, April 14 – 7:30 P.M.

Arkansas Choral Society
Calvary Baptist Church
Little Rock, AR

Friday, April 15 – 7:30 P.M.

CACAGO: Olivier Latry, organist
Greene Chapel, Hendrix College
Conway, AR

Sunday, April 17 – 3:00 P.M.

River City Men's Chorus
Trinity United Methodist Church
Little Rock, AR

Monday, April 18 – 7:00 P.M.

River City Men's Chorus
Trinity United Methodist Church
Little Rock, AR

Thursday, April 21 – 7:00 P.M.

River City Men's Chorus
Trinity United Methodist Church
Little Rock, AR

Thursday, April 21 – 7:30 P.M.

Little Rock Wind Symphony
Second Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, AR

Friday, April 22 – 7:30 P.M.

Jonathan Ray, tenor
Second Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, AR

Saturday, May 7 – 7:30 P.M.

ASO Pops: Music of John Williams
Pulaski Academy Connor Performing Arts Center
Little Rock, AR

Sunday, May 8 – 3:00 P.M.

ASO Pops: Music of John Williams
Pulaski Academy Connor Performing Arts Center
Little Rock, AR

Friday, May 13 – 8:00 P.M.

CACAGO: Alex Gilson, organist
First Presbyterian Church
Little Rock, AR

Thursday, May 19 – 7:00 P.M.

ASO: Intimate Neighborhood Concert
Christ Episcopal Church
Little Rock, AR