**May:** Monday 27th, Grace Church Cathedral, 98 Wentworth Street

With her trademark red organ shoes, **Amelie Held** has been named “the pop-star of the organ”; she recently graduated from the Juilliard School in New York City. Raised in Munich, Germany, she studied organ and violin at the Academy of Music in Regensburg, later in Paris and Milan, continuing her study with Ludger Lohmann in Stuttgart. She’s fluent in German, English, French and Italian; critics have hailed her playing as “always thoughtful and virtuosic.”

**Tuesday 28th, Mother Emanuel AME Church, 110 Calhoun St.**

"Pirates to Pleiades: From the Sea to the Stars"

In a return to Mother Emanuel, featuring its new Zimmer organ, TikTok Organist and Yale graduate Wesley Hall follows up on his memorable L’Organo appearance of last season, playing 500 years of organ music, from ancient pop songs and intricate fugues to soundtrack music and new compositions, and of course... Bach!

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**Two special opening week events**

**Memorial Day, Monday May 27th, 7:00 pm**

*Summerrall Chapel, the Citadel*

**Inaugural Recital on the new Zimmer rebuild of the four manual organ**

**Alcee Chriss III**

“He plays with clarity, imagination, musicality, virtuosity, and yes, personality”

**Wednesday, May 29th, 10 am**

*Grace Church Cathedral*

L’Organo’s first **Young Peoples’ Program**

(aimed for grades 4-8, but anyone can come!)

Winthrop University music graduate **Myron Walker** will serve as MC for this exciting event. Featured are young artists **Abigail Crafton**, from Savannah, GA, winner of the Southeastern Regional Competition of the AGO, who will appear at the AGO National Convention in San Francisco, and **Brody Bett** from Greensboro, NC, winner of the North Carolina Organ Festival competition, who has an avid following on TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and Nickelodeon.
www.piccolospoleto.com/lorgano

**Thursday 30th, First (Scots) Presbyterian, 53 Meeting St.**

**Jonghee Yoon** is currently pursuing an Advanced Diploma with Nathan Laube at Eastman; she also has degrees from East Carolina University, where she was Organ Scholar at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Greenville, and Ewha Womens’ University in Seoul. She was the first organist to win the Rising Stars competition of the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra, which featured her as a soloist. She has performed in South Korea, Holland, Hungary, Denmark and Spain; she also enjoys conducting, and playing harpsichord, violin and chamber music.

**Friday 31st, Grace Church Cathedral**

Improvisation – creating the music on the spot – is a long tradition among organists; past exponents include J.S. Bach, Franck, Marcel Dupré, Gerre Hancock and so many others. Grace Church Cathedral’s own Canon Musician, **Nicholas Quardokus**, was recently selected as one of five semi-finalists in the AGO’s National Organ Improvisation competition. Here he offers us a foretaste of his presentation on the national stage in San Francisco at the end of June, including a Prelude and Fugue and other large-scale forms. L’Organo is proud to have this unique opportunity to present Nick’s mastery of the genre.

*(L’Organo much regrets that for medical reasons, Parks Greene is unable to present his scheduled appearance this year.)*

**June: Saturday 1st, 10:30 am.**

*The Chapel, Bishop Gadsden Continuing Care Retirement Community, James Island*

**Sarah Berger** teaches as a faculty member of the Opal Music Studio in Alexandria, VA. As a performer, she serves as Principal Second Violin with the Fairfax Symphony and has held a concertmaster position at Spoleto Festival USA. Other engagements include performances with the Alexandria, New World, Rochester Philharmonic and Colorado Symphony Orchestras. Sarah earned her M.M from the Mannes School of Music and B.M with Performer’s Certificate from Eastman, studying with Lewis Kaplan and Renee Jolles, respectively.

**John Nothaft** serves as Director of Music Ministries at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean, VA and curates their “Holy Happy Hour” series. John graduated from the studio of David Higgs at Eastman, and received his B.M. from Indiana University, studying with Janette Fishell. He is first prize winner of the NFMC Collegiate Organ Competition. His children’s book “Old McHandel & His Musical Farm” is on sale in major music institutions.
Sunday 2nd, 4 pm, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 3075 Bees Ferry Road, West Ashley

Native of Miami, Elena Baquerizo is pursuing a DMA in organ at Rice University under Ken Cowan. She has won awards in the James Weaver Prize, the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival, and the AGO/Quimby RCYO. Solo concert appearances include St. Patrick’s Cathedral (NYC), Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (Houston, TX), and Church of the Epiphany (Miami, FL). Currently, she is music director at Reginal Caeli Church in Houston, TX. She received an MM and BM in organ performance at Juilliard under Paul Jacobs, and an AA in liberal arts from St. Mary’s College (Saint Mary’s, KS). Her favorite things include the music of Schumann, chocolate, and puns.

Monday 3rd, St. Michael’s Church, 71 Broad St

Chinese organist Mi Zhou is currently serving as Assistant Organist and Choral Accompanist at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mi holds a DMA at the University of Michigan, where she studied with Nicole Keller, Todd Wilson and James Kibbie. She received her Masters and Graduate Performance Diploma from Peabody, studying with Dr. John Walker. Prior to this, she earned a BA in E-Organ (Electone) from the Shanghai Conservatory, where she won the third prize in the classic division at the Ringway International E-Organ Competition.

Mi has performed solo recitals in New York City, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Detroit and Ann Arbor. As a Chinese organist, she passionately advocates for the integration of Chinese folk songs into new organ music. She has collaborated with Singaporean computer Wei Gu; in 2019, the duo was awarded the American Guild of Organists’ Student Commissioning Project grant to compose a new composition for the organ.

Tuesday 4th, St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, 405 King St.

Hong Kong-born Theodore Cheng is an organist and composer with a diverse range of interests and projects that extends well beyond the realm of music. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance at Juilliard, studying with Paul Jacobs as a C.V. Starr Doctoral Fellow. Prior to arriving at Juilliard, he attained an M.M. at Yale, studying organ with Craig Cramer. Theodore has been named by The Diapason magazine as one of its “20 under 30” class of 2023; he is a prizewinner at several US organ competitions and has performed across three continents, specializing in the pre-baroque and contemporary repertoire. His choral and organ works have been performed by choirs and ensembles in the U.S. and internationally. In his spare time, Theodore enjoys singing Gregorian chant, writing poetry, and visiting art museums.
**Daniel Carroll** studies at the Curtis Institute of Music with Alan Morrison. He studied previously with Daniel Aune at the Peabody Conservatory, David Lang of the Reston Chorale, and Michael Galdo. Daniel loves performing and has performed at various different venues including St. Matthew’s Cathedral in DC, the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in DC, and the Wanamaker Store. Daniel has been a regular church organist since the age of twelve, the same year he began playing the organ. He is now the Organ Scholar at St. Thomas Church Whitemarsh, under the direction of Michael Smith. In addition to playing repertoire, Daniel holds a passion for improvisation which he hopes to pursue further in France.

**Marya Fancey** is now a faculty member at UNC Greensboro with certificates in Historical Keyboard Performance and Music Theory Pedagogy. In 2017-18, she received a Fulbright Student Research Award to Poland to research music of Johannes of Lublin (ca. 1540) and performed three mass cycles with Flores Rosarum in Krakow. Her concert programs frequently incorporate works by underappreciated composers. In 2016 she introduced Polish audiences to the music of Florence Price and David Hurd; in 2015 she premiered the rediscovered Passacaglia and Triple Fugue (organ) by Louise Talma. As an active scholar-performer, Marya uses her research to bridge temporal and cultural gaps in music for students and audiences.

**Stephen Gourley** is Director of Music at The Village Chapel, an interdenominational community of faith in Pinehurst, NC. Published composer, accompanist, collaborator and conductor, he holds degrees from the University of North Texas and the North Carolina School for the Arts, where he was named Outstanding Graduate Student in Organ in 2011. He has served the Moore County Choral Society as Board President, and currently as accompanist; he was Organist for the Royal School of Church Music Carolina Course at Duke University in 2022. He is also founder and curator of The Village Chapel Music Series in Pinehurst, showcasing musicians from the Moore County area.

**Jordan Prescott** is completing his doctorate at Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, where he also obtained his masters’ degree, studying under John Walker; his undergraduate study was at East Carolina University. An Associate of the American Guild of Organists, he was named in 2019 as one of the “20 Under 30” rising stars by the Diapason magazine. He currently serves as Organist and Choirmaster at Grace and St. Peter’s Church in Baltimore; he has also served St. Peter’s in Ellicott City, MD, and Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Baltimore. In 2015-17 he was Organ Scholar at Duke University Chapel. He teaches Music Theory at Johns Hopkins, and has published articles in The American Organist and the Tracker.

**Scott Watson**, Director, Office of Cultural Affairs

**Murray Forbes Somerville, DMA**

L’Organo Committee Chair