



When peace, like a river, attendeth our way....

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..... *from our Dean*

Greetings to all as we begin this 2020 fall season

This year has been an unparalleled few months of uncertainty with the spread of the Covid 19 virus. As our churches and schools have closed down and singing together is not permitted, we wonder about the future of our music offerings. We on the AGO board have been struggling with this problem as we plan for our 2020-2021 season for you, our organ colleagues. So we have planned some virtual programs and will

be posting them on You Tube this year. We will send the link to each of you so you can enjoy virtually the programs and stay safe while you watch. We hope in this way to stay in touch with each other, to offer inspiration and creative ideas to help manage our worship offerings, and to explore new skills with organ and choirs. We hope these offerings will help us know that music will carry us through these strange times.

We hope to offer a virtual service of Installation of Officers this fall, a virtual Members Recital (postponed from last March) celebrating music of the season in December, a lecture/recital by Dr. Roy Belfield exploring the music of African American organ composers in the new year, and special repertoire workshop of music for organ by women composers next spring. We are hopeful that our annual Organ Swell concert series in April and May will allow us to gather again to hear the great organs and instruments of our community.

I hope you will look forward to all of these events as we usher in this new season.

Sincerely,

Deborah Carr, Dean



2020-2021 Tidewater AGO Season

Greetings to all fellow organists and organ supporters---

Taking into account the uncertainty of these times for group meetings and concerts, your Tidewater AGO Board proposes the following season. Note that we expect our offerings through the end of 2020 to take place as pre-recorded events and made available to our membership and friends on our You Tube channel. In this way we hope you will be able to participate with us in the comfort of your home or office. The offerings for February and March of 2021 will be offered virtually as well, but if we are permitted face to face workshop gatherings with safe protocols in place we will hope to have these events in real time and space. If not, they will also be pre-recorded and available with You Tube.

Sunday September 27, 2020 - 4:00 pm Virtual Officer Installation Service

This virtual service for the installation of our AGO officers will include organ music and hymns, the liturgy of installation and a short reflection about music and worship. The service will be pre-recorded at St. John's Episcopal Church, Hampton and the link on You Tube made available to our membership by email.

Sunday December 13, 2020 – 4:00 pm Members Recital at Monumental UMC,

This recital of the 5 Tidewater AGO organists who have and are serving the congregation at Monumental United Methodist Church in Portsmouth was originally scheduled for last March and was postponed because of Covid-19. The concert will be pre-recorded and will celebrate the restoration of the church's Casavant organ after a fire in the sanctuary. It will also serve as the annual Christmas concert offered by Monumental for the community. The organists will include music of the Christmas and Advent season and The You Tube link will be sent to the membership to share with friends.

Saturday, February 6, 2021 – 10am-12 Noon Organ music by African-American Composers

This workshop will be led by Dr. Roy Belfield, organist and music director of Hampton Baptist Church and accompanist for the I. Sherman Green chorale. Dr. Belfield will introduce music compositions past and present by African-American composers at Ghent UMC, Norfolk and we plan for this event to be open to the membership with social distancing protocols in place. If the event cannot be live it will be pre-recorded and the You tube link sent to the membership.

Saturday, March 13, 2021 – 10am – 12 Noon Organ music by Women Composers

This workshop, offered during Women's History month, will feature five Tidewater AGO member organists presenting five of their favorite organ pieces written by women composers past and present. (Location to be announced.) We plan this as a live event, but if not possible it will be pre-recorded and the You tube link sent to the membership.

Various Dates in Late April and May 2021 The Organ Swell

This annual series will feature 6 organ recitals in various locations of Tidewater showcasing the organs of the area. Each program will include a professional instrumentalist joining to offer music for organ and instrument. The schedule and series information will be available in February 2021.

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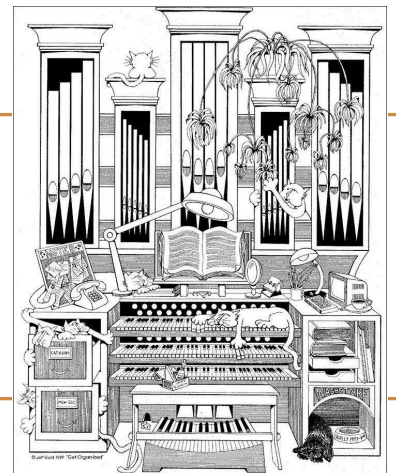
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Upcoming FANFARE Publication Dates

September 15th - November 1st, 2020

(Deadlines are generally 2 days before publication)



How have you adapted to life under COVID 19??

Music and Message Without Singing

In these troubled times, many churches are dealing with various ways to handle music safely and legally. I serve two small rural churches, one Roman Catholic and the other United Methodist. I am a member of the Catholic church, having participated in RCIA several years ago, but the Methodist church is my family heritage church and I am the Music Director there. I am also a member of the music team at the Catholic church. Neither church has a copyright license, so we cannot have any music of any sort when they are streaming services, hence all of the Catholic masses are simply spoken and we cannot even have instrumentals due to streaming. At the Methodist church, which is not streaming, our district had cancelled all congregational singing, but was allowing instrumentals as well as soloists and duets whenever and wherever some reasonable distance could be maintained. With more COVID-19 cases developing in our area, now the special permission even for solos has been withdrawn.

To me, music is very important in worship. Congregational singing allows people to “pray twice” as the saying goes. Surely, just hearing the organ play a very well-known hymn such as “Holy, Holy, Holy” brings the words readily to everyone’s mind and it is very effective just to play the instrumental. But most folks do not know all the words to many hymns, some do not know the words to any of them. So just hearing the organ does not carry the full message as singing does.

Faced with the prospect of just playing the organ without singing, I was very disappointed that my flock was missing out on half of the “praying twice” and that the music was little more than entertainment. So I experimented with ways to bring out the message along with the music while honoring mandates from the Bishop. Here is how I handle a typical hymn:

I play a short introduction of the hymn, clearly outlining the beginning melody with a rich, and relatively full registration. Then I shift to the swell or choir with only soft stops and the shades nearly closed to noodle in free form very softly while I **read** a verse with poetic emphasis. As I finish reading that verse, I modulate out of my noodling while building volume until I get to the last few measures of the verse moderately rich. Pause. Play that verse on the great with a strong registration. Noodle softly again, differently, while reading the next selected verse; build up and play that verse; Repeat (differently!). To avoid boredom and add variety, instead of using the whole hymn, I select the most important 2 or 3 verses for each hymn to match the appointed scriptures, the day of the church year, and/or the pastor’s message. Last, I finish strongly with an improvised closing.

Because I am a self-taught organist, lacking the benefit of serious schooling and formal practice, I typically improvise a lot and my congregation and choir are accustomed to hearing me break formal music school rules. That actually helps with this technique. Since the melody carries the words of a hymn, I will frequently play all of the accompaniment (ATB) on one manual and pedals, keeping it slightly soft, while playing single-finger melody (S) very strong on the great with the other manuals coupled in as well. I’m sure that the few choir members who are musically schooled and sing in parts are disappointed not to hear “their” notes prominently, but the general congregation is mostly made up of non-musically trained folks who, like me, associate the words with the melody. I even use cords for accompaniment often. I have previously sung solos self-accompanied from the console, and I’m doing the reading myself currently, but a choir member or lay reader could participate also.

So far, the congregation has been very receptive to this approach, and several have thanked me. It is also an interesting weekly challenge to develop a good arrangement for each hymn to make them unique, artistically inspiring, and appropriately messaged for the service. Still, I can hardly wait to hear a building filled with congregants and choir members singing in those two churches.

Jim Haynie

Irvington, VA

From our colleague....

John Dixon

Livestreaming your Church Services

One consequence of Covid-19 is that most churches are now livestreaming services on a variety of technology platforms. This raises complicated copyright issues that a majority of church musicians have never had to grapple with previously. Copyright law allows religious institutions to perform copyrighted music in worship services without permission. However, that exception to the law has never extended to broadcasting services. If your worship service is confined to your sanctuary, you have nothing to worry about. A can of worms opens up the moment you broadcast your service.

This is a truly complex area that becomes more disheartening the more you know about it. But our new reality is that most of us now have to learn about the law, and we all have to comply with it, or risk consequences.

A useful article appears in the July 2020 issue of *The American Organist*, and is recommended as a good start for those who now have to add this to their church responsibilities.

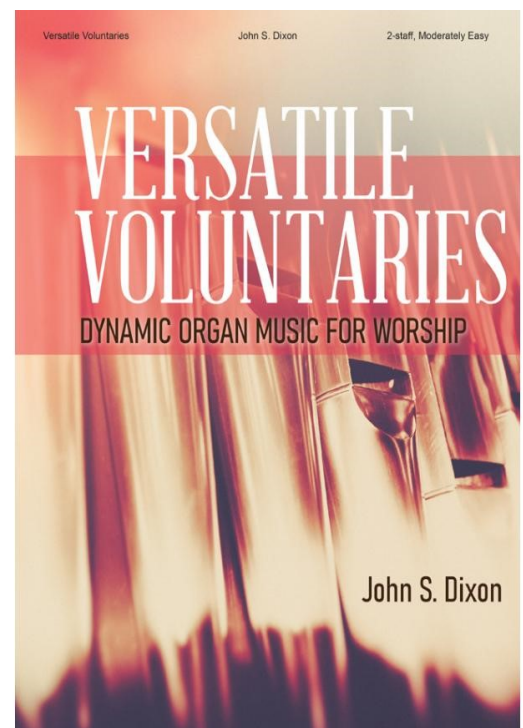
E-mail John at JohnSDixon@aol.com

to request a free pdf of his arrangement of *It Is Well With My Soul*, which comes with his permission to live stream without reporting to any licensing agency, since John retains the copyright to this piece.



Lorenz released a new collection of mine, *Versatile Voluntaries*, last week. The music publishing business is in disarray, they need all the help they can get. That's why I'm being a little bit more pushy in asking my friends to buy this book... or any other book of music, for that matter!

<https://lorenz.com/shop/keyboard/organ-solo/versatile-voluntaries>



Job Opportunities

Trinity Episcopal Church, Portsmouth, VA is seeking a Soprano Section Leader.

During “normal” times (IE: non-Covid times) the position requires one mid-week rehearsal and one Sunday Service at 10:30 am.

Contact Jack Levick, jacklevick@cox.net, 941.226.6147 for more information.

Trinity UMC in Smithfield is looking for a part-time organist.

The salary range for this position is currently \$14,000-\$18,000. The position requires a weekly choir rehearsal on Wednesdays and a church service on Sundays at 11:00.

Interested candidates should please contact Richard Winfree
at music@mytrinity.org or 757-814-7108.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Hertford, NC is looking for a part-time

organist/accompanist for their weekly service (one service @ 10 AM Sundays).

For more information, please contact Joan Ernst at joanjohndestiny@gmail.com

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Norfolk is seeking

a Director of Music to play the organ and to lead music in the life of the church.

Contact Stewart Tabb stabb@ascension-norfolk.org for more information.



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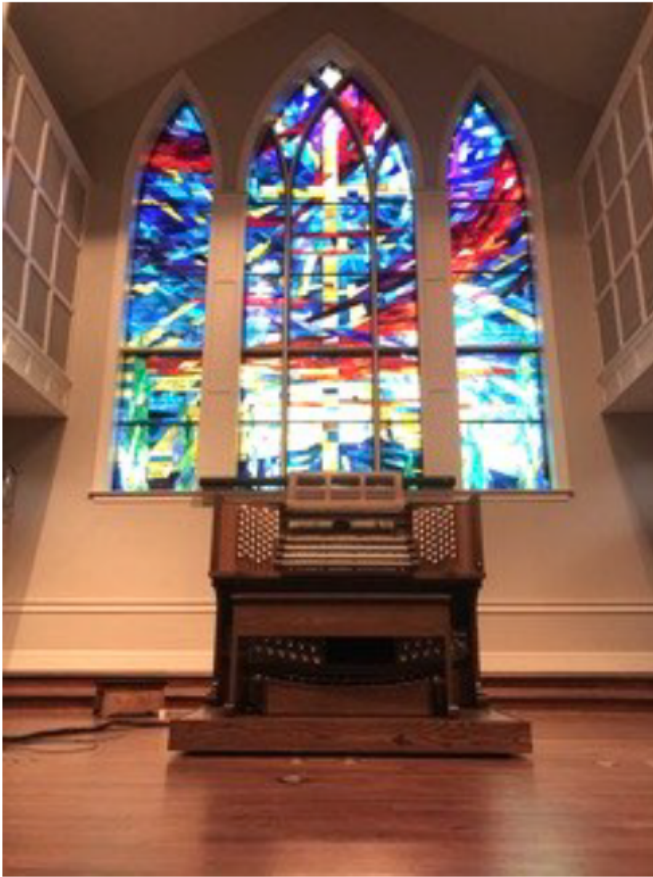
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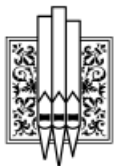
Park Road Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

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