



# Fanfare

## FOR THE

Dear Tidewater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists,

It is an honor to write to you for the first time as the Dean of our chapter, and I want to begin by thanking Brad Norris for his wonderful work as our Dean throughout the last two years and for his *many* years serving our chapter in other capacities both on and off the board – thank you, Brad! Thank you also to our outgoing and incoming chapter officers and board members. We have some incredibly talented people making great things happen in this chapter, and it is such a joy to work with all of you.

I imagine that many of us are now “winding down” our summer music programs and “gearing up” for the beginning of a new program year, and I am thrilled to see the incredible musical offerings taking place throughout Tidewater, including some exciting programs being organized and sponsored by our chapter. Please plan to attend our chapter’s annual Choral Evensong with Installation of Officers at Bruton Parish on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. as we begin this new season together.

Wishing you all a restful remainder of summer and a fruitful start to fall of '27,

Eric Dolch, Sr.  
*Dean*

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KEY: S=Services; W=Weddings; F=Funerals

Sunday, September 27 at 5:30 p.m.

**Opening Choral Evensong & Installation of Officers**

Music by Andrew Carter, Sarah MacDonald & Judith Weir  
Bruton Parish, Williamsburg

Friday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m.

**John Dixon, organ & Carole Stockmeier, flute**

Organ Swell, with reception  
Celebrating John completing 50 States performances project

Sunday, January 10 (To Be Confirmed)

**Epiphany Party**

Potluck at the home of Martin & Holly Sunderland

Saturday, March 13

**Pedals, Pipes & Pizza**

Program to introduce the pipe organ to piano students  
Williamsburg Presbyterian, Williamsburg

Sunday, May 9 at 4:00 p.m.

**Virginia Arts Festival Organ Recital**

Isabelle Demers, International Concert Artist & Professor at McGill University in Montreal  
Christ & St. Luke's, Norfolk

Saturday, May 22, 10:00 a.m.

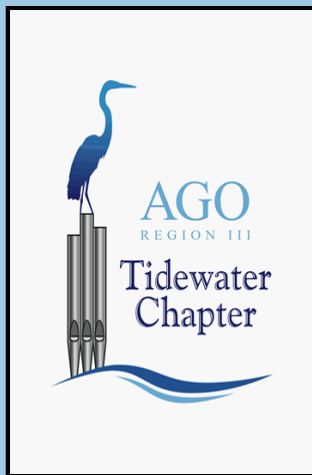
**Workshop on hymns/service playing**

Lunch followed by an open rehearsal for all wishing to sing Evensong led by Walden Moore  
Trinity Episcopal, Portsmouth

Sunday, May 23, 4:00 p.m.

**Choral Evensong, directed by Walden Moore**

Trinity Episcopal, Portsmouth



***TIDEWATER CHAPTER—AGO  
PROGRAM SEASON  
2026 – 2027***

**DEAN:** Eric Dolch

**SUB-DEAN:** Rebecca Davy

**SECRETARY:** Katherine Wright

**TREASURER &**

**REGISTRAR:** Kevin Kwan

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

**2027**

Mary Dolch  
Michael Regan

**2028**

Julie Heard  
Alan Strong

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Great Bridge Presbyterian Church  
2026-2027 Candlelight Concert Series

*Presents*

**Sing for Peace ~ September 13, 2026, 7:00 pm**

25th Anniversary, September 11, 2001 Commemorative Ecumenical Concert  
with massed choir, children's choir, handbell choir, members of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and  
special guest, pianist Lee Jordan-Anders under the direction of  
Billye Brown Youmans, Director of Worship and Music



Free and open to the public. The church is located at 333 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA,  
across the street from the Chesapeake municipal complex. For information, please call: 757-547-4706.



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

*From Lisa Smith...*

Summer is the busiest season for substitute organists. During the past three months, I have played for Sunday services at six churches. Each invitation to fill in for the organist has enabled me to try new registrations for repertoire I love to play, and has given me the privilege of meeting wonderful new Christian friends. Perhaps this summer's most memorable experience came from a last-minute request by a priest to play "Happy Birthday" while the congregation serenaded a beaming lady. The tune sounded surprisingly majestic as it billowed out of towering organ pipes!



*Jubilee Organ Duo Concert at Bruton Parish*  
*Thursday, September 17, 2026*  
*8:00 p.m.*

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**Mark your calendars for a special evening of music  
celebrating the 7th anniversary of the installation of the Dobson organ  
at Bruton Parish Church.**

**Rebecca Davy, Music Director & Organist,  
and JanEl Will, Organist,  
will perform music of Craig Phillips, Cecilia McDowell,  
Paul Halley, Brenda Portman, Alejandro Consolacion and Rachel Laurin  
to mark this Year of Jubilee!**



Trinity Episcopal Church

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HERITAGE of AMERICA BAND

## FREE CONCERT!

September 21, 2026 | 7 PM  
500 Court Street, Portsmouth, VA



## AIR FORCE WINDS

From the timeless elegance of classic composers to the cutting-edge sounds of the 21st Century, Heritage Winds explores the full spectrum of the wind ensemble repertoire. These dedicated Airmen use the power of music to honor our veterans, inspire patriotism, and share the Air Force story with communities across the region.



*Trinity Episcopal Church*

500 Court Street - Portsmouth, VA 23704

[music@trinity-portsmouth.org](mailto:music@trinity-portsmouth.org)



Trinity Episcopal Church

# CHORAL REQUIEM WITH ORCHESTRA

Margaret Hodges Crocker  
Married June 24, 1866.  
Died July 25, 1896.

Erected by  
James Francis Crocker  
in memory of his wife and son  
Easter ~ 1899

James Hodges Crocker.  
Born February 19, 1868.  
Died August 15, 1944.

*Join us for  
Remembrance Sunday*

Requiem in D minor, Op. 48 | Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

**SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 8**

**500 COURT ST  
PORTSMOUTH, VA**

**BEGINS 4 PM  
RECEPTION  
FOLLOWS**

[trinity-portsmouth.org](http://trinity-portsmouth.org)



## CHRIST AND ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

### **Fall 2026 Events**

*All events are free-will offering except when ticket information is noted.*

#### **Midday Music I**

Friday, September 25, 12:00 p.m.

We kick off our Midday Music series with The United States Air Force Winds woodwind ensemble. Join us for this 45 minute chamber music recital.

#### **Norfolk Chamber Consort**

Monday, September 28, 7:30 p.m.

The Norfolk Chamber Consort opens their 58th season with a special memorial concert in tribute to former Artistic Director Dr. Allen Shaffer. Tickets at [nccconsort.org](http://nccconsort.org).

#### **Choral Evensong**

Sunday, October 4, 5:30 p.m.

Music of Rose, Brewer, and Rheinberger

#### **Midday Music II**

Friday, October 16, 12:00 p.m.

Violist Dr. Daniel Howard, violinist Haley Schricker, and pianist Kevin Kwan present a 45 minute recital, featuring music of Rebecca Clarke and others.

#### **Choral Evensong for the Annual Vergers Conference**

Thursday, October 22, 6:00 p.m.

The Parish Choir sings for the annual conference of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church. All are welcome.

#### **Dorothy Papadakos plays The Phantom of the Opera**

Friday, October 23, 7:30 p.m.

Audience favorite Dorothy Papadakos returns for a fifth year to improvise an immersive soundtrack to the 1929 classic silent movie The Phantom of the Opera featuring Lon Chaney. Come and enjoy the music and the movie projected on the big screen!

#### **Requiem for All Souls'**

Sunday, November 1, 5:30 p.m.

The Parish Choir commemorates the faithful departed in this special Eucharist, featuring the beloved Requiem by Gabriel Faure.

#### **Stephen Coxe and Friends**

Friday, November 20, 7:30 p.m.

Composer and pianist Dr. Stephen Coxe gathers his friends for an incredible evening of music making. Performers include violinist Jonathan Richards, soprano Anna Feucht, organist Kevin Kwan, the Camerata Choristers, and students from the Governor's School for the Arts. Not to be missed!

#### **Advent Lessons and Carols**

Sunday, November 29, 5:30 p.m.

The Parish Choir presents this beloved tradition to mark the season of joyful preparation.



TRINITY EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH PRESENTS:

**A SILENT FILM**  
**Accompanied by organ**

**Free & Open  
to the Public**

# *The* **HUNCHBACK** *of* **NOTRE DAME** By VICTOR HUGO **With LON CHANEY**



**OCTOBER 17**  
**7 PM**

**Pre-Movie  
Reception 6 pm**

**500 Court St.  
Portsmouth, VA**

**Featuring Award-winning  
Organist  
Donnie Rankin**



## *Greetings, friends.*

John has had a lot going on with the AGO. In July he stepped down as AGO Treasurer after six years on National Council. He was presented with the Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award at the National Convention Business Meeting in St. Louis,

**"In recognition of his extraordinary leadership**

**on the local, regional and national levels, and tireless commitment to the American Guild of Organists."**

At least, that's what it says on the very impressive certificate he was given. The best part of the whole experience was that he got to sit next to Mack Wilberg on the stage for an hour.

Earlier in the year, John prepared for and sat the AAGO exam. That was one TOUGH exam, and John fully expected to be retaking some parts next year but - to his surprise and delight - he **PASSED** the whole thing at the first try.

The best part is that now he does not have to make a second attempt at writing the *exposition of a fugue including a countermelody in invertible counterpoint*. The worst part is that he was advised of the result five days after Allen Shaffer passed away. John would have loved to have given Allen the good news. Allen taught John so much over many years - as have so many others who will be reading this message. Thank you for your encouragement, inspiration and teaching. You know who you are, and I am truly grateful.

*Please read your October TAO for insights into the examination process in the President's column, written after AGO President Eileen Hunt debriefed John.*



The next few weeks will be crazy as John wraps up his project to share his music in all 50 states (and DC!) between his 60th and 70th birthdays... the 50-60-70 project. He will play in Arkansas on September 4th (state number 47) and at First UMC Salt Lake City on September 11th, making Utah state number 48. Remember that time in St. Louis with Mack Wilberg? John managed to get an invitation to play the Mormon Tabernacle organ for a while, AND for Karen to sing as a "VIP guest soprano" for part of the regular Thursday evening rehearsal of the famed Mormon Tabernacle Choir. *She is just a LITTLE excited.* Then off to Rochester MN in late September (state number 49) and - **if John is still standing** - the big finish in Denver, Colorado on Sunday October 4th.

Closer to home, John will be playing at Bruton Parish Church on Thursday, November 5th at 8pm in Beckie Davy's regular recital series, and then will present a recital with Carole Stockmeier, flute, at First Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, on Friday November 13th as part of *The Organ Swell*. He hopes to catch up with many Tidewater Chapter friends at one or the other of these recitals.

Meanwhile, for those of you who are lacking enough organ music to play in December, you might like to check out John's new book, **A World of Carols**, on the Lorenz website.

Our first grandbaby is due about the time this issue of *Fanfare* drops so, based on what friends have told us, we might be distracted for the next twenty years or so - hence the urgency in bringing you up to date on our year so far. Thanks for reading to the end.

*Happy Holidays to You All!*

*John & Karen*



Thanks to Mary-William for including this early Christmas Letter in the August edition of Fanfare. We have already crammed a full year of living into the past eight months, so anything that happens between now and the end of the year will just have to wait until next year's letter... John Dixon

Carpe Vinum! ...MWB



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# Why Daffer?

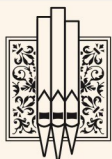


## Proven Stability & Long-Term Commitment

With over four decades of experience and a strengthened ownership structure, Daffer is **intentionally built for longevity**—ensuring your instrument is supported not just today, but for generations to come.

## Unmatched Depth of Expertise

Our team is comprised of **specialists in pipe organs**, digital instruments, and combination design. From historic restorations to **cutting-edge installations**, we offer a level of tonal and technical knowledge few firms can match.



**R.A. Daffer Church Organs, INC.**

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