

# THE EN CHAMADE

Newsletter of the American Guild of Organists, Memphis Chapter, April 2026



## Mark your calendar for

APRIL 2026, MEMPHIS AGO MEETING

### Monday, April 13, 2026

6:00pm Social Time

6:30pm Gather

7:00 Business Meeting

7:30 **Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes: Where Does it Hurt Now?**

#### From the Dean:

In our March program, at St. George's Episcopal Church, Chapter members offered an exhilarating Bach-a-thon to a wonderful audience (public invited!). Players, including Jackson Hearn, Martha Israel, Dennis Janzer, John Palmer, Jeffrey Hoffman, cellist Amy Vails, flutist Beverly Vance, Lyn, and Stephen Karr, performed a marvelous sampler of J.S. Bach's incredibly vast works.

So much beauty and excitement! I have to mention that Stephen presented an especially memorable finale, a performance of *Clavierübung III* selections along with fascinating commentary. Thanks again to all, and gratitude to Martha and Stephen for their gracious hosting.

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**One week after Easter Day...** Plan on coming to our **Chapter meeting at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, on April 13<sup>th</sup>** for a program that's focused on improving your well-being:

#### **Body Therapy**

This will be really cool! Read Kelly's description, in this issue--see what's in store for you!

At this same meeting, we're electing officers for 2026-2027.  
Mark your calendar for April 13.

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Looking ahead: **Our May 4<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting, Chapter Officer Installation, and program is now scheduled at St. Mary's Cathedral, 700 Poplar Ave.**

Announcing our May 4 program:

**Fresh Summer Breezes**, a relaxed member recital to share Pentecost gems--selections for easing your congregation into a worship service on a hot summer day, and that also might be new for many of us.

This Fresh Summer Breezes program will be friendly and casual, a chance to jump in and play for your colleagues, a highly appreciative bunch. If you'd like to send me a note on what you'll play, that would be welcome. We'll most likely invite spontaneous performance as well, if you wish to decide at the last minute.

Sneak preview, special for Fresh Summer Breezes ... Richard Townley has offered to play (on floor request!) anything from J.S. Bach's German Organ Mass, which he'll be performing Thursday, May 14.

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**I know your time is pretty tight right now, but please take a minute to read the items on our April 13<sup>th</sup> program, and on our upcoming election.**

All best wishes to each of you for a good Holy Week, and a joyous Easter!

*Lyn Joyner*

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*Don't miss our April 13<sup>th</sup> program—*

**Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes: Where does it hurt now???**

This program won't focus on organ design or repertoire, working with singers, instrumentalists or clergy, or the many Holy Week and Easter services you played.

**It focuses on YOU!**

Your orthopedic health and wellness are front and center this time.

Physician Assistant Michael Mitchell from Titan Orthopedics and Physical Therapist Beth Trouy, Outpatient Rehab Services Supervisor for St. Francis Healthcare, will discuss

- physical challenges encountered when playing the organ
- practical exercises for strengthening your body and stretching the muscles that you need to make all the beautiful music, and

- When should you see a medical professional? Will physical therapy help? What are the most effective and safest pain meds? How is arthritis best treated?

You don't need an appointment. You won't be stuck in a waiting room for hours.  
No co-pay, deductible or insurance claim to file.

**Do something for yourself!**

Come to our next AGO Meeting on Monday, April 13th: socializing starts at 6:00, dinner at 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7:30 p.m.

*Kelly Kramer*

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**Chapter officers to be elected in April**

During our April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, we'll elect Memphis Chapter officers for 2026-2027. Elected officers will be installed at our May meeting.

This year's slate of officer nominees includes:

Dean - Jackson Hearn

Sub Dean - Scott Elzholz

Treasurer - Carl Blankenship

Secretary - Jim Walsmith

Registrar - Kristin Lensch

Member-at-Large for Media - Daniel Ward

Member-at-Large for Programs - Jeffrey Hoffman

Member-at-Large for Finance - Walton Griffin

Re: Ballots and voting

Our April business meeting will include an opportunity for additional nominations from the floor --please see the procedure in the next paragraph. Next, ballots will be distributed, to be filled out by members who are present, and tallied by at least two Chapter members in good standing, one of whom is not on the Exec. Board.

Re: Additional nominations (in accordance with our Bylaws)

Additional nominations can be made from the floor for members with a petition signed by 5 voting members of the Chapter. This will be within the required 30 days of slate of nominees announcement. Note: You received the slate announcement via email, on March 14, so we're in compliance with the 30 notification.

Any additional qualified nominations may be written in on the ballot as members vote.

Final election results will be announced at or soon after April 13, posted on the website, and in En Chamade.

**Many thanks to our Nominations Committee Chair, Carol Craig, and to each of her committee members who worked hard to secure a great slate of nominees for our Chapter's future: Carl Blankenship, André Duvall, John Palmer, and Angela Saunders.**

## AROUND THE CHAPTER

### **Then Sings My Soul: A Festival of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs**

The Music Ministry of Second Presbyterian Church invites you to join them for an upcoming hymn festival featuring a mass choir and orchestra, directed by guest conductor [Dr. J Max Ferdinand](#) on Sunday, April 12 at 6pm in the Sanctuary at the corner of Poplar and Goodlett.

#### **Rehearsals:**

We will rehearse the evenings of **Thursday, April 9** and **Friday, April 10** as well as the morning of **Saturday, April 11**. Saturday's rehearsal will be followed by an optional luncheon and lecture by Dr. Ferdinand.

#### **Registration Fees:**

The \$40 registration fee secures access to the digital music packet, which will be distributed once registration is complete. This ensures every participant has the full repertoire in advance for thorough preparation.

Participants may also add the optional \$15 lunch registration, which includes lunch and a special breakout session with Dr. Ferdinand. This lunch-hour lecture and discussion, "The Art of Expressive Singing," will explore musical artistry, interpretation, and expressive depth in choral singing.

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#### **Sunday, April 19 at 5pm**

#### **Evensong with Retired Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**

The Grace-St. Luke's Choirs

Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church

1720 Peabody Ave, Memphis

Free entry & free parking

Herbert Howells, *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis Collegium Regale*

David Briggs, *O Lord support us*

Maxine Thévenot, *Preces & Responses*

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#### **Sunday, May 1 at 5pm**

#### **Patrick A. Scott, organ recital**

#### **Celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Schantz Organ**

Music by Langlais, Widor, Bach, Davies, Phillips, & Price

## Organ Music of J.S. Bach

Clavier-Ubung III ("The German Organ Mass")

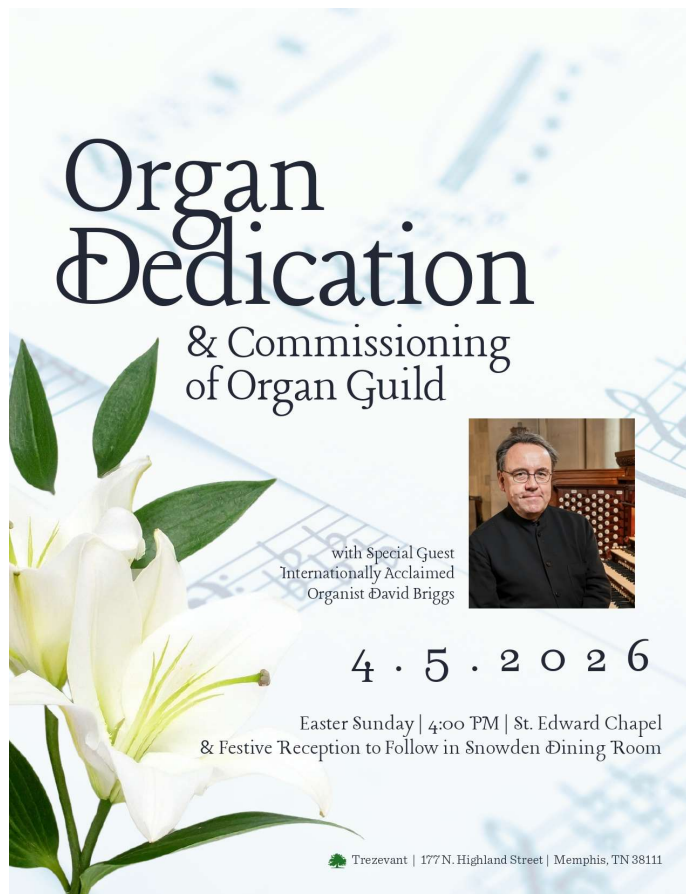
Richard Townley, FAGO, Organist

with the schola cantorum of St. Mary's Cathedral

Thursday, May 14, 2026, 7:00 pm


St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

700 Poplar Ave., Memphis, Tenn.



Organ  
Dedication  
& Commissioning  
of Organ Guild

with Special Guest  
Internationally Acclaimed  
Organist David Briggs

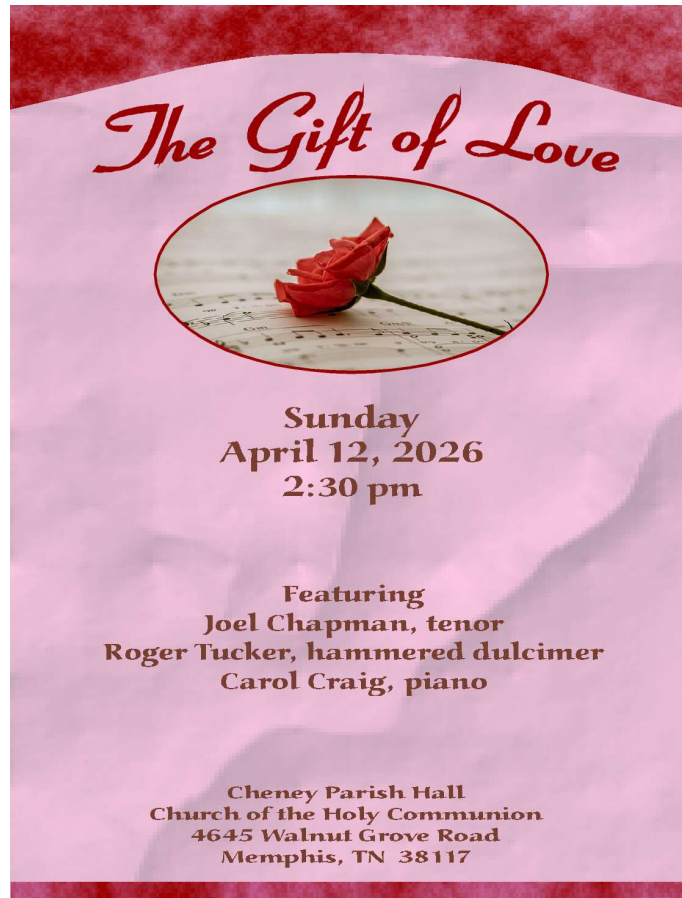


4 . 5 . 2 0 2 6

Easter Sunday | 4:00 PM | St. Edward Chapel  
& Festive Reception to Follow in Snowden Dining Room

Trezevant | 177 N. Highland Street | Memphis, TN 38111

The poster features a light blue background with faint musical notation. On the left, there is a photograph of white lilies with green leaves. The text is centered and uses a mix of serif and sans-serif fonts. A small portrait of David Briggs is positioned to the right of the main title. The date '4 . 5 . 2 0 2 6' is displayed in a large, spaced-out font. The event details and location are listed at the bottom.



## **REQUEST TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS!**

Our Guild Chapter was founded in 1914 – the first one in Tennessee! To mark our Centennial in 2014, I compiled a history to share the rich legacy we inherited. Over the last decade, new members have joined our Chapter and can learn about those who served on the organ benches of our churches, contributing greatly to the musical life of our community. Unfortunately, reprinting copies of my history would be very expensive. And so I ask: if you have a copy and would like to pass it on to the ‘next generation’ – please bring it to any Guild gathering. I will see that a newer member inherits it!

*Jane Scharding-Smedley*  
*Chapter Archivist-Historian*

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### **Lord of Life Lutheran**

6865 Poplar Pike  
Memphis, TN 38119

Lord of Life Lutheran is looking for a part time Organist/Pianist for traditional service at 8:30-9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Weekly Choir Rehearsal on Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Weddings and funerals are duties along with Christmas Cantata, Christmas Eve and Morning and also Lenten services at Easter.

The church has a Martin Ott pipe organ and a Boston Steinway grand piano. Position available at the first of November.

Please contact Nancy Bergeron, Choir Master, by text only for more information and to apply. (901)357-1855.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS, APR 2026-MAY 2026

Admission to all events is free and open to all unless otherwise indicated.

<b>What</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>
The Gift of Love	Holy Communion	4/12/26 – 2:30pm	Joel Chapman, tenor; Roger Tucker, hammered dulcimer; Carol Craig, piano
Hymn Festival	Second Pres	4/12/26 – 6pm	Leo Davis, host J. Max Ferdinand, Conductor
AGO: Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes	Holy Spirit	4/13/26 – 6pm	Marcus Browning, host
Choral Evensong	Grace-St. Luke's	4/19/26 – 5pm	Patrick Scott, host
Choral Evensong	St. John's	4/19/26 – 5:30pm	Vernon Snyder, host
Steuterman-Hardison Organ Concert	Calvary	4/24/26 – 7pm	Elisa Bickers, organ Kristin Lensch, host
Organ Recital	Grace-St. Luke's	5/1/26 – 7:30pm	Patrick Scott, organ

Choral Evensong	Calvary	5/3/26 – 5pm	Kristin Lensch, host
Choral Compline	St. John's	5/3/26 – 7:30pm	Vernon Snyder, host
AGO: Organ + One or More; Officer Installation	St. Mary's	5/4/26 – 6pm	Lyn Joyner; Richard Townley, hosts
Choral Evensong	Holy Communion	5/5/26 – 5:30pm	David Ouzts, director
Organ Music of J.S. Bach	St. Mary's	5/14/26 – 7pm	Richard Townley, organ
Organ concert	First Pres. Greenwood, MS	5/14/26 – 7pm	Ken Cowan, organ
Choral Evensong	Grace-St. Luke's	5/19/26 – 5pm	Patrick Scott, host
Trinity Sunday Choral Evensong	St. John's	5/31/26 – 5:30pm	Vernon Snyder, host

**Please note:**

The next issue of *En Chamade* will be published at the end of January. A reminder will be sent prior to the **April 20** deadline.

Please be aware that I do not email the newsletter to the Chapter. Registrar Sondra Tucker does the mailing, has the most up-to-date information from ONCARD, and nothing keeps her from her appointed rounds.

Articles may be sent to me at [dward75@comcast.net](mailto:dward75@comcast.net). Concert announcements will be made two months in advance, minimum. Please also send calendar items to [lyn.joyner@gmail.com](mailto:lyn.joyner@gmail.com). Additional months may be added as time and space allows. You do not need to resend announcements that are made in advance unless you wish to make changes. ~ Daniel Ward, editor

# EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2025-2026

## MEMPHIS CHAPTER AGO

### **Elected Officers**

Dean: Lyn Joyner

Sub-Dean: Jackson Hearn

Secretary: Alex Turner

Treasurer: Carl Blankenship

Registrar: Sondra Tucker

Members-at-Large

    Finance: Walton Griffin

    Media: Daniel Ward

    Programs: Jane Scharding Smedley

Historian/Archivist: Jane Scharding Smedley

Librarian: Kelly Kramer

Newsletter Editor: Daniel Ward

Nominations Committee Chair: Carol Craig

Operating Procedures Committee Chair:  
Carol Craig

Placement Coordinator: Phil Brown

Scholarship Committee Chair: Carolyn  
Mason

Webmaster: Sondra Tucker

### **Appointed Positions**

Chaplain: Ray Hatton

Chapter Photographer: Joel Chapman

Dinner Greeter: Martha Israel

Education Coordinator – Marcus Browning

Examinations/Professional Development:

Richard Townley

\* Some appointed positions have been discontinued from previous years. New appointed positions may be added as functional needs and position descriptions are evaluated.