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# PIPE & PEDAL

Monthly newsletter of the Baltimore Chapter, American Guild of Organists  
February 2024

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## Dean's Letter

February is Black History month—a time to explore and celebrate the history and contributions of African Americans and other cultures of the African diaspora. Many of us don't have a deep knowledge or familiarity with music written by black composers for the organ. We have two great opportunities this month to fill in that gap.

- Marvin Mills, our Sub-Dean, will present a concert of Organ Music by African American Composers at The Church of the Redeemer on Friday, February 16 (note the change of date to avoid the conflict with Paul Jacobs' concert at Grace Methodist on February 9). Marvin's concert will include music by David Hurd, Florence Price, William Grant Still and Baltimore native Thomas Kerr, Jr., among others.
- On Tuesday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m., Dr. Roy Belfield will present a concert of Organ Music of Black Composers at Towson United Methodist Church.

We are lucky to have these two fine artists share their knowledge of this repertoire with us. I hope that you will join us, and plan to play some of this fine music in your future programs.

Bert

## Upcoming Baltimore Chapter AGO Events

**Tuesday 27 February 2024**

**Dr. Roy Belfield, Jr. - Organ Music of Black Composers**

**Towson United Methodist Church (503 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286)**

Dr. Roy Belfield Jr., Director of Music Ministries at Towson United Methodist Church, will present a lecture recital on organ music of Black Composers



Roy L. Belfield, Jr., a native of Petersburg, Virginia, began his undergraduate studies in music at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Master's degrees in music education and organ performance from Florida State University in Tallahassee, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. He has done additional studies in vocal pedagogy and choral conducting at the University of Alabama, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Southern California. Belfield has studied choral conducting with David Morrow, Rodney Eichenberger, Scott

Anderson and Lynn Drafall, and piano with Marilyn J. Breeden, Buckner Gamby, and Moses Hogan. His principal organ teachers have included Carl G. Harris, Jr.; Clarence E. Whiteman; Herman D. Taylor; Joyce F. Johnson; Michael L. Corzine; and John Obetz.

## Other Upcoming BAGO Programs

- April 14, 3:00 PM – Hymn Sing, Rev. Dr. Mike McMahon, Executive Director, The Hymn Society
- May 21, 7:00 PM – Members Recital featuring Scholarship Students

## Local & Local-ish Events

To submit individual events for listing on the Baltimore AGO Calendar and in the *Pipe & Pedal*, please visit <http://www.baltimoreago.org/submit-events>.

Events through 15 February 2024 are listed below.

For a full listing of events, please visit <https://www.baltimoreago.org/events>

**Tuesday 6 February 2024, 5:30p Reception / 6:00p Concert**  
**Songs of Dissent - Robin McGinness, baritone | John Henderson, piano**  
**Emmanuel Episcopal Church** (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)  
Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

Whether portraying strikingly vivid characters in dramatic opera or soloing center stage at Carnegie Hall, **Robin McGinness** moves audiences with “impressive singing” (*Baltimore Sun*) and a “warm baritone” (*Washington Post*).

In this recital, Robin partners with pianist **John Henderson** to offer *Songs of Dissent* — a stunning program of American art song featuring *Civil Words*, Pulitzer and Grammy-winning composer **Jennifer Higdon**’s 2015 song cycle setting texts from the American Civil War. Also included are powerful songs by **Charles Ives**, **Samuel Barber**, **Kurt Weill**, and a work of Baltimore-based composer **Max Eidinoff**. To close the program, Robin sings **Stacy Garrop**’s mesmerizing song, *My dearest Ruth*, which sets Marty Ginsburg’s final love letter to his wife — and American legal icon — former Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Tickets \$10/\$15, in advance or at the door. Series website and tickets:  
[emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com](http://emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com)

**Tuesday 6 February 2024, 7:00p**  
**Thoughtful Gestures: A Workshop on Communication & Leadership for the Choral Conductor**  
**Glen Burnie United Methodist Church** (5 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SE, Glen Burnie, MD 21061)

Creative Voice Practitioner Polly Baldrige will uplift the power of gestures and patterns used in conducting, singing, and interpersonal relationships to impact communication, expression, and group identity and culture. Participants will consider their unique circumstances and personal strengths to evaluate and expand their strategies for sustaining a positive and supportive environment within their ensemble. Polly’s insight is informed by a 25-year career as a performing artist, conductor, voice teacher, arts administrator, and sacred musician. She is a DMA candidate in voice pedagogy and owns and operates her own voice studio and the Giving Voice Project community arts organization.

Link to Event: <https://annapolisago.org/events/>

**Friday 9 February 2024, 7:00p**  
**Paul Jacobs, Organist in Recital**

**Grace United Methodist Church** (5407 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210)

Paul Jacobs will perform on the rebuilt 54 rank (pipe) and 50 rank (digital) Moeller organ at Grace Church. An extraordinarily expressive performer and an intensely intelligent musician, Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs is helping the King of Instruments retake its rightful place in classical music.

This event is free. A donation of \$25 is suggested to support the concert and the Music Ministry at Grace Church. [Flyer available here.](#)

**Saturday 10 February 2024, 10:30a**

**Peabody Organ Department Masterclass with Paul Jacobs**

**Grace United Methodist Church** (5407 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210)

Paul Jacobs will work with students from the Peabody Organ Department. Open to the public.

**Tuesday 13 February 2024, 6:00p**

**Mardi Gras with Hot Club of Baltimore**, Michael Joseph Harris, band leader

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church** (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)

Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

Back by popular demand, Michael Joseph Harris and the Hot Club of Baltimore return to Emmanuel for a special Mardi Gras celebration. This year, however, join us for more than simply a concert! Rather, we have planned a fully festive evening — one filled with delicious food and foot-tapping New Orleans Jazz in Emmanuel's Great Hall.

Your ticket includes dinner and spots are limited. Book yours today!

Tickets \$25, in advance. Series website and tickets: [emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com](https://emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com)

**Friday 16 February 2024, 7:30p**

**Marvin Mills, organ – Organ Music by African American Composers**

**The Church of the Redeemer** (5603 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210)

A diverse program of music from the last 100 years featuring works of African American composers, including: David Hurd, Florence Price, William Grant Still, and Baltimore native H. Thomas Kerr, Jr., showcasing the kaleidoscopic colors of the Redeemer organ.

**Sunday 18 February 2024, 3:00p**

**Heritage Series: Maryland Opera honoring Pat Ozborn and the Opera Volunteers**

**Grace United Methodist Church** (5407 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210)

Artistic Director: James Harp. Operatic tours de force performed by internationally renowned singers accompanied by chamber orchestra.

Tickets and more information: [marylandopera.org](https://marylandopera.org)

**Sunday 18 February 2024, 5:00p**

**Choral Evensong**

**Grace & St. Peter's Episcopal Church** (707 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21201)

One of the treasures of the Anglican tradition, Evensong is a service of sung evening prayer that combines music with readings from scripture and ancient prayers. The Grace and St. Peter's Choir will offer William Byrd's *Second Service* and Maurice Greene's "Lord, Let Me Know Mine End." A festive reception will follow.

**Sunday 18 February 2024, 8:00p**

**Compline – Prayer at the Close of Day**

**The Church of the Redeemer, Chapel** (5603 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210)

Sung by the Compline Schola. Chapel doors open at 7:45p.

**Sunday 25 February 2024, 3:30p**

**SuperBach Sunday: Pro Musica Rara**

**Grace United Methodist Church** (5407 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210)

Baltimore's Premier Early Music Ensemble with Artistic Director, Cynthia Roberts and guest artist Paul Odette, Lute

Tickets and more information: [promusicarara.org](http://promusicarara.org)

**Friday 1 March 2024, 7:30p**

**Bach: G Minor Mass**

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church** (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)

Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

The Emmanuel Choir  
Period-Instrument Chamber Orchestra  
Christian Lane, director

Today, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) is known as one of the greatest composers of all time — yet, during his lifetime, Bach's works were not widely circulated or performed. In contrast, the music of Johann Adolph Hasse (1699–1783), generally overlooked today, was widely revered and performed in the 18th century.

This program features a great work by each of these composers: Bach's stunning *Mass in G Minor*, BWV 235 and Hasse's powerful *Miserere in C Minor*, together with Czech composer Jan Dismas Zelenka's joyous *Magnificat in D Major*.

Join The Emmanuel Choir, soloists from within its ranks, and period-instrument orchestra for this special concert in Lent.

Tickets \$35/\$25/\$10, in advance or at the door. Series website and tickets:  
[emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com](http://emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com)

**Sunday 3 March 2024, 5:00p**

**Evensong for Lent I**

**Chapel - The Church of the Redeemer** (5603 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210)

With the Evensong Schola and Basso Celestia. Sopranos, Morayo Akande and Leah Wenger, with Katerina Kotar on the viola da gamba and Cameron Kuzepski on organ, present François Couperin's *Leçons de Ténèbres*

**Sunday 3 March 2024, 4:00p**

**A Service of Evening Prayer for Lent**

**Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** (8501 Loch Raven Blvd., Towson, MD, 21286)

Part of the IHM Concert Series

Scripture, Prayer, Music, Choral Anthems and Congregational Hymns led by the Choirs of Archbishop Curley High School, Director: Michael Gaffney.

Event Flyer: [Download or Print Here](#)

Series Flyer: [Download or Print Here](#)

**Sunday 3 March 2024, 8:00p**

**Compline**

**Grace & St. Peter's Episcopal Church** (707 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21201)

Compline is descended from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer. Compline is a simple office including a confession of sins, one or more psalms, a short reading from scripture, versicles and responses, the Lord's Prayer, collects which ask for God's protection during the night to come, and the canticle 'Nunc dimittis.' This ancient service is sung by a schola cantorum in the darkness of candlelight and lasts approximately 20 minutes. Reception will follow.

**Friday 8 March 2024, 7:30p**

**Karen Slack, soprano | Mark Markham, piano**

**First & Franklin Presbyterian Church** (210 W. Madison, Baltimore, MD, 21201)

Part of the Spire Series

Hailed for possessing a voice of extraordinary beauty, a seamless legato and great dramatic depth, American soprano Karen Slack has garnered international renown for her artistic versatility, charisma and entrepreneurial endeavors. A recipient of the 2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence, Slack is known for her dynamic and passionate performances in both lead operatic roles and on the concert stage; as a sought-after collaborator, curator, and artistic advisor; and for her ground-breaking approach to engagement. [Artist Website](#)

Pianist Mark Markham is widely recognized as one of the great artists of his generation. His international career encompasses performances in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Equally at home as a soloist, a collaborator with some of the finest singers in the world, a jazz pianist, or a vocal coach, his interpretations have been praised by the public and press alike. The Baltimore Sun praised his performance of Liszt and Chopin for his "big, rich tone," "abundant power" and "sensitively using a wide palate of tone coloring." [Artist Website](#)

Advance Tickets (\$20 General/\$10 Student) and more information at [www.firstfranklin.org/spireseries](http://www.firstfranklin.org/spireseries)

**Saturday 9 March 2024, 4:00p**  
**Mount Vernon Virtuosi: Cello Gang**  
**Emmanuel Episcopal Church** (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)  
Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

Mount Vernon Virtuosi  
Amit Peled, conductor

Mount Vernon Virtuosi, Music at Emmanuel's new chamber orchestra-in-residence, presents a program featuring glorious music for chamber orchestra.

Program to be announced.

Free will offering. Series website: [emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com](https://emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com)

**Saturday 9 March 2024, 7:30p**  
**Made in Baltimore Too: The Handel Choir of Baltimore**  
**Grace United Methodist Church** (5407 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210)

Steinway artist Lura Johnson is the featured soloist in the return of our popular Made in Baltimore event celebrating Baltimore music and musicians. Lura and the Handel Choir will perform a newly commissioned work by a Baltimore composer.

Artistic Director and Conductor: Brian Bartoldus

Tickets and more information: [handelchoir.org](https://handelchoir.org)

**Sunday 10 March 2024, 3:00p**  
**For Everyone Born: Songs of Justice and Joy**  
**Calvary United Methodist Church** (301 Rowe Blvd., Annapolis, MD 21401)

The Annapolis Chapter of the AGO invites you to hymn festival featuring combined choirs from eight area churches. The festival director will be Daniel Aune, Professor of Organ at Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, and Director of Music and Organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore. Come join us as we celebrate congregational singing, with a mix of new and old hymns. A free-will offering will be accepted to benefit the Annapolis Chapter of the AGO and the Light House shelter of Annapolis.



**Sunday 10 March 2024, 4:00p**  
**The Jason Max Ferdinand Singers**  
**Emmanuel Episcopal Church** (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)  
Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

Founded in 2021 with a mission to promote and showcase black excellence through choral music of all styles, the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers have quickly established themselves as one of the country's premier professional choirs.

A graduate of Morgan State University, Jason Max Ferdinand is now Director of Choral Activities at the University of Maryland, College Park — and, as one of the leading musical visionaries of our time, he and his ensemble advocate for inclusion, diversity, and unity throughout our land, using the power of music as both guide and vehicle.

Music at Emmanuel is thrilled to present this accomplished ensemble in our 2023–2024 season. Mark your calendars, and join us for an afternoon of powerfully transformative music.

Tickets \$35/\$25/\$10, in advance or at the door. Series website and tickets:  
[emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com](https://emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com)

**Tuesday 12 March 2024, 5:30p Reception | 6:00p Concert**  
**LIGAMENT Duo**  
**Emmanuel Episcopal Church** (811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201)  
Part of the Music at Emmanuel Season

Anika Kirkegaard, soprano | Will Yager, bass

LIGAMENT presents a program of new works for voice and double bass which explores the vast sonic worlds made possible by this duo's unique instrumentation.

Featured on this performance is Nick Bentz's *please continue*, which examines the relationship between psychedelics and American culture by setting drug trip reports from the turn of the century alongside words from John Erlichman, Nixon's policy advisor, and electronic manipulation of presidential speeches from the Nixon administration to the present.

In comparison, Ruby Fulton's *and if not, why not* reveals the isolating effects of interstate migration on new mothers in early 20th-century America.

The surprising combination of double bass and voice brings a new and exciting world of sound to the pressing and political pieces on this program.

Tickets \$10/15, in advance or at the door. Series website and tickets:  
[emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com](https://emmanueldowntown.eventbrite.com)

## Placement Service

[placement@BaltimoreAGO.org](mailto:placement@BaltimoreAGO.org)

Please visit <https://www.baltimoreago.org/placements> any time to see open positions.

### **Loch Raven United Methodist Church - Organist/Pianist** (placed 29 Nov 2023)

Address: 6622 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21239

Phone: (410) 825-0900

Size of Congregation: < 99

Contact Name: Maurita Bowie

Contact Phone: (410) 825-0900

Contact Email: [office@lrumc.org](mailto:office@lrumc.org)

Number of weekly services or liturgies: 1

Number of weekly rehearsals: 1

Number of music ensembles: 3

Average Ensemble Size: 10

Total Hours per Week: 10

Type of Instrument: Moeller Pipe Organ

Music budget this fiscal year: \$2,000

Annual Minimum Salary: \$20,800

Annual Maximum Salary: \$20,800

Other relevant details about the position.: The Organist is responsible for providing musical accompaniment for the choirs and congregation of Loch Raven UMC. Responsibilities include the accompaniment of all musical rehearsals, choir performances, and all worship services by playing the organ/piano throughout the year. Rehearse with and accompany all soloists and ensembles scheduled throughout the year. Substitute for the Music Director as needed. Play for funerals, memorial services, and weddings being held at Loch Raven UMC when requested. This is a part-time position based on ten to fifteen hours a week including Sunday services, rehearsals, and other special services. A full job description is available at [www.lrumc.org](http://www.lrumc.org).



# BALTIMORE CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

## OFFICERS

Dean: Bert Landman ([dean@baltimoreago.org](mailto:dean@baltimoreago.org))  
Sub Dean: Marvin Mills ([subdean@baltimoreago.org](mailto:subdean@baltimoreago.org))  
Secretary: Louis Gephardt-Gorsuch ([secretary@baltimoreago.org](mailto:secretary@baltimoreago.org))  
Treasurer: Jeanne Klusewitz ([treasurer@baltimoreago.org](mailto:treasurer@baltimoreago.org))  
Registrar: Frank Rittermann ([registrar@baltimoreago.org](mailto:registrar@baltimoreago.org))

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Class of 2024: Midori Ataka, Tim Murphy  
Class of 2025: Wendy Johnston, Diane Luchese  
Class of 2026: Ted Davis, Chris Schroeder

## PLACEMENT – SUB LIST

Louis Gephardt-Gorsuch  
[Placement@BaltimoreAGO.org](mailto:Placement@BaltimoreAGO.org)

For forms and further information see our website: [www.BaltimoreAGO.org](http://www.BaltimoreAGO.org)