From the Dean

An Open letter to Nicholas Capozzoli

Dear Nicholas:

Just a belated note to say "thank you" for your splendid recital for the Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. It was tops in all respects.

First let me congratulate you on your programming. It had something for almost everyone, and it did not fall into the template mold we so often encounter these days of pre-Bach, Bach, Romantic, and contemporary. The well-played Henry Smart transcription, a most appropriate opener, was interesting and probably unknown to 99.9% of the audience. The Bach selection is not one of the master's more well-known compositions, and your sensitivity to the North German stylistic elements in the prelude certainly helped that portion to come alive. Since the organ is an instrument of the church, performing pieces based on hymns is a natural - the choice of the Shearing gave us a mildly "spicy" rendition of those beloved melodies. Ending with a well-known Romantic blockbuster is time honored. Having the fingers + feet + sensitivity to Romantic style, as you do, and an instrument sympathetic to this music, resulted in an exciting and grandiloquent ending of the type Liszt would have been proud. It was an exciting close. We customers went home happy.

At the reception, the most numerable comments concerned your use of the instrument--the program was beautifully registered. The organ sounded at its absolute best: each piece slightly different than the one preceding it. Your seemingly effortless handling of the pistons, sequencer, swell and crescendo pedals was also most impressive.

Your sensitivity to style was evident in all you played. A slightly different approach was used for each piece, and appropriately so.

For this writer, the most impressive performance was the Liszt. A composition with many seemingly disjointed sections, lots of virtuoso filler, numerous questionable high points, and very, very long, the piece can be absolutely deadly at the hands of the wrong performer. Your performance was colorful, full of virtuosic dash (loved those super-fast scale passages), but more importantly, the piece seemed to make sense. I consider this a major accomplishment. We were not only awed by your virtuosity, we were excited by the piece.
Thank you very, very much for a wonderful evening of making music.

We do have a request. Last year another young artist, Joseph Ripka, presented a superlative recital for our chapter. (Two of our members were so impressed with his performance that they have already hired him to present programs at their churches.) We asked him to supply us with a list of three names of up-and-coming performers who would present a program comparable with his. Your name was one of the three--the rest is history.

Would you also, please, supply us with three names of individuals who would continue this line of excellence? We would be most appreciative.

Much luck in all your future undertakings. Please keep us informed. You have many friends here.

Sincerely,

Steven Cooksey

Steven Cooksey, PhD
Dean, WAGO
Professor Emeritus
Shenandoah University

April Program: THE CALUDAS

Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Braddock Street United Methodist Church

Drs. Glenn and Elizabeth Caluda served as church musicians for over 25 years at the (Roman Catholic) Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Winchester, VA. Elizabeth was the Director of Music, and Glenn wrote and arranged choral compositions for the choir when needed or requested by her. Ever faithful, personable, and delightful, the Caludas will share some of those works, and describe the circumstances and process they used to birth them.

Elizabeth W. Caluda, BM, MM, DMA, NCTM
Professor of Music - Piano
Coordinator, Group Piano Program
Advisor, Bachelor of Music in Music Performance (Piano Solo)
President-elect, Virginia Music Teachers Association (2015-2017)

Glenn Caluda, BM, MA, PhD
Professor of Music Emeritus – Classical Guitar
Calendar

Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m. Front Royal Presbyterian Church, 115 Luray Ave, Luray, VA;
Sunday, April 17, 4:00 p.m., Opequon Presbyterian Church, 2317 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA;
Tuesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m., All Saints Catholic Church, 9200 Stonewall Rd, Manassas, VA

The Blue Ridge Singers, Dr. Jeff Alban, Artistic Director. Spring Concert: “I Saw Water Flowing…”
A $10 donation is requested. For information please visit The Blue Ridge Singers on the web or on Facebook.

Sunday, April 10, 3:00 p.m. Blue Ridge Choristers and Top of Virginia children and youth choirs. Presented by and at The Performing Arts Series of Front Royal Presbyterian Church, 115 Luray Ave, Luray, VA. Free. The public is invited.

Sunday, April 10, 3:00 p.m. Barry Douglas, pianist, Armstrong Concert Hall, Shenandoah University. A presentation of Friends of the Piano. $20 admission.

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m. Hennuyer Master Class with Shenandoah Conservatory students; works by Gigout, Franck, and Alain. (see April 11) Braddock Street United Methodist Church, 115 Wolfe St., Winchester, VA.

Monday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. Recital, Braddock Street United Methodist Church, 115 Wolfe St., Winchester
Didier Hennuyer, organist of the Cathédrale de Boulogne-sur-Mer, France.
Free admission to both events.
(See ad below for program and bio.)

Saturday, April 16, 2:30 p.m. Conservatory Choir, Robert Schafer, conductor. Featuring a chamber orchestra comprised of faculty and special guests, Brahms' A German Requiem will honor the legacy of Shenandoah Conservatory’s Professor of Choral Conducting Robert Shafer, who retires at the end of this academic year, after more than 30 years of teaching. In honor of this special occasion, all Conservatory Choir alumni will be invited onto the stage to sing Robert Shafer's arrangement of "Shenandoah" one last time.
Tickets for this performance are $12 and can be purchased online at ConservatoryPerforms.org or at the Shenandoah Conservatory Box Office, 540-665-4569. Armstrong Concert Hall, Shenandoah University, Winchester.

Saturday, April 23, 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 24, 3:00 p.m.
Arts Chorale of Winchester, Michael Main, Artistic Director (please see photo, next page)
Program: “Happy Birthday, Bob and Alice!”
…a concert remembering the 100th birthday of Robert Shaw
and honoring the 90th birthday of Alice Parker
along with other choral compositions/arrangements by Alice Parker
Armstrong Concert Hall, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA
Admission by Donation ($10 per adult suggested)
The pipe organ can be exciting, challenging and fun for young people. At Braddock Street UMC we are constantly searching for ways to introduce people of all ages to our beautiful new instrument.

Pictured above are Trey Craft and J.D. Brewster, who performed “We Will Trust in God”, a new work, written by Judy Connelly for 2 young players. The boys played for all three services at the congregation’s recent Youth Sunday.

At the recent youth auction, 4 pipe organ lessons were auctioned off as part of a missions fundraising event. The lessons were purchased by Debbie Miles for her 3rd grader, Cindy, who is an interested piano student. Cindy was one of the 4 children who performed an arrangement of “All Things Bright and Beautiful” on Children Sabbath.

Congrats to the next generation of organists!

-Judy Connelly
Substitutes Available

Larry Correll  larryg.correll@gmail.com  (703)-395-4267
Sue Correll  sueellen.correll@gmail.com  (540)-395-4923

Positions Available

New Listing: Adult Choir Director. Warrenton Presbyterian Church, Warrenton, VA, is seeking a part-time Music Director to continue a strong music ministry, direct their adult choir, and oversee and develop other musical groups within the church. Responsibilities will include planning and rehearsing for weekly services as well as special services and holidays from Sept-June.

Qualifications: Candidates should possess a strong Christian faith, an educational background in music, experience in choral directing, and the ability to collaborate well with others involved in the music ministry of the church.
For a complete job description and instructions on how to apply please contact warrentonpc@wpcva.org

Organist  2-3 Sundays per month or Weekly. 11:00 a.m. service
Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 11592 Harper’s Ferry Rd., Purcellville, VA
The Rev. Mark Jagoe, 703-999-5860  markjagoe@vaumc.org

Church Organist
Hebron Presbyterian Church, 423 Hebron Road, Staunton, VA 24401 (540/885-1648)
hebronchurch@msn.com
Taylor & Boody mechanical pipe organ
Wednesday rehearsals, Sunday morning worship services and other special services throughout the year.
Salary negotiable based on experience and ability

Church Organist/Pianist
Description: Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church (SPC), located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia (70 miles northwest of Washington, DC) is seeking a part-time organist to support its ministry in the community. The organist will play the church’s two manual pipe organ built in 1905.

SPC is an open and inclusive spiritual community seeking to practice the radical hospitality of Jesus. All people regardless of age, race, ability, sexual orientation, marital status, social class or religious affiliation are welcome. The church is rooted in the Christian faith and connected with the Presbyterian Church, USA.

The church is seeking a part-time organist/pianist to:
Provide organ and/or piano music during the 10:45 am Sunday service
Select and present music for the interlude and postlude (arrange for alternate pianist/organist if needed)
Provide accompaniment for the choir—September to June
Coordinate with the Choir Director to:
Provide accompaniment for weekly choir rehearsals (Tuesday evenings 7:30 – 9:00pm)
Schedule and conduct special practice sessions with musicians as needed
Participate as a member of the Music Committee (meets 4-5 times/yr)
Provide accompaniment for special services (as available)
The position requires a musician with an ability to play a wide variety of music. Experience with sacred music is preferred.
Interested individuals should submit a resume to the attention of Lois Spreen at Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 or via email at office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org
Church Music Institute
Shenandoah Conservatory

Sing to the Lord ... with Understanding
A study of the history and repertoire of Congregational Song
and its role in choral and organ settings.

Featuring . . .
June 26-July 1: Donald McCullough
July 3-8: Eileen Guenther, John Walker

- Traditional and Folk Hymnody
- Introduction to Global Music
- Singing the Psalms
- In Their Own Words: The Power of the Spiritual
- Church Leadership: Rivals or a Team?
- Hymn Festivals and Choral Services
- Sacred Harp Sing & Dinner on the Grounds
- World Music Service
- Spirituals Concert
- Lutheran Hymn Vespers
- Roundtable Discussions – Perspectives in Church Music
- Vocal and Choral Technique
- Hymn Playing and Elementary Improvisation
- Reading Sessions of Choral and Organ Music

For more information, visit the CMI website at www.su.edu/cmi
or contact the director, Dr. J. Thomas Mitts at cmi@su.edu
Didier Hennuyer, organist
Cathédrale de Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

Master Class
10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 9
Braddock Street United Methodist Church
Students from Shenandoah Conservatory
Works by Gigout, Franck, and Alain

Recital
7:00 p.m. Monday, April 11
Braddock Street United Methodist Church
115 Wolfe Street
Winchester, VA 22601
No admission charge

Program:
Dupré  Deuxième Symphonie
          Preludio
Saint-Saëns  Prélude et Fugue en si majeur
Guilmant  Caprice, op 20
Duruflé  Scherzo, op 2
Guilmant  Prière et Berceuse, op 27
Messiaen  Messe de la Pentecôte
          Communion
          – Les oiseaux et les sources
Langlais  Canticle
Messiaen  La Nativité du Seigneur
          Dieu parmi nous

Didier Hennuyer is the titular organist of the Cathedral of Our Lady and the Church of St. Francis des Sales in Boulogne-sur-mer, France. Following studies in organ, piano, writing, and electroacoustic composition, he received top honors at the conservatories of Calais (where he studied with Bocquelet François), Boulogne-sur-mer, and Orléans (where he studied with François-Henri Houbart). He currently serves as Professor of Organ and Accompanying at the Conservatory in Boulogne.

M. Hennuyer is quite active in the cultural life of Boulogne, where he appears regularly in recital. In 2002 and 2008 he performed the complete organ works of Olivier Messiaen as well as Messiaen’s major work for piano, Vingt regards sur l’Enfant-Jésus. As a pianist Didier often collaborates in various chamber ensembles, and in 2006 he performed the complete chamber music of Dmitri Shostakovich in honor of the 100th anniversary of the composer’s birth.

An eclectic and brilliant musician, Didier Hennuyer is frequently invited to participate in organ festivals and chamber music recitals in Paris (Notre-Dame and the Madeleine), the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France, Germany, Great Britain, Belgium, and the United States. He has recorded several CDs on significant French organs, among them "The Organ at Boulogne", which pays tribute to the eminent native-born organist and composer, Alexandre Guilmant.
Letourneau Organ case, Day 1, at Orchard Ridge
Photo by George Sims

The Village at Orchard Ridge, a growing retirement community located on National Lutheran Boulevard off U.S. Highway 50 just west of Winchester, has just taken delivery in its chapel of a new tracker-action pipe organ designed and built by Letourneau Orgues Ltd. of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec.

Following song and prayer, the delivery truck was unloaded the morning of March 29 by dozens of gleeful residents, with parts filling every corner of floor space in the beautiful chapel facility for the next two weeks. Following assembly, an additional two weeks is expected to be required for tuning and voicing, until the instrument’s voice is at last publicly heard during the month of May in the community’s weekly chapel services, held Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. These are led by Chaplain Bill Boldin and musician George Donovan. Organ programs are now expected to be added to the fine array of musical offerings presented for the enrichment of the immediate and, at times, wider community.

A first view of the case work may be had on at left. Keep reading these pages monthly for announcement of dedicatory events, as well as upcoming possibilities for YOU to play Winchester’s newest pipe organ!

~Daniel Hannemann

May Program -- Don’t Forget!

- **May 13**  Progressive Dinner and Brief Recitals
  
  - Appetizers/recital: Grace Lutheran
  - Main course/recital: Christ Church, Episcopal
  - Recital/Dessert: Braddock Street United Methodist

The appetizers and main course will be catered; dessert will be provided by WAGO members. This is open to the public. Talk it up and invite your friends NOW! Advance reservations will be required; watch this newsletter for details and deadlines.
THE PREPARATIONS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

WERE STARTING TO TAKE A TOLL ON THE PARISH ORGANIST