

AGO OrganFest 2020

PipeTalks Presenter Biographies

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, **Nicholas Capozzoli** has established himself as a solo organist, harpsichordist, and chamber musician with great distinction and versatility. His artistic accomplishments have been recognized throughout North America, receiving Third Prize in the 2017 Canadian International Organ Competition, First Prize in the 2015 Taylor Organ Competition (Atlanta), as well as First Prize in the 2013 Mid-Atlantic AGO/Quimby Competition for Young Organists, and the Carol Teti Memorial Organ Competition. Capozzoli has presented recitals at national festivals and conferences, including appearances at the 2017 AGO/RCCO Montreal Organ Festival, 2014 AGO National Convention in Boston, MA, and 2013 National Association of Pastoral Musicians Convention in Washington, DC. Capozzoli holds a Master of Music in historical performance and Bachelor of Music in organ performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Currently based in Montreal, QC, Capozzoli is a Doctor of Music candidate at McGill University in the studio of Hans-Ola Ericsson, and serves as Assistant Organist at Christ Church Cathedral. He is represented exclusively by Seven Eight Artists.

Vince Carr is Associate Professor of Organ and Sacred Music at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. In addition to teaching courses in organ and church music, he is widely known for his versatility and musicality as a performer. As a soloist, he has championed the works of underrepresented composers and as a collaborative musician, he is perhaps the only organist to have performed with two of the world's most renowned contemporary dance companies: Richard Alston in London and Alvin Ailey in New York City.

After earning undergraduate degrees in Organ Performance and Spanish from Indiana University, he continued his graduate music studies at Yale University. Currently, his areas of research include improvisation pedagogy and the organ music of Black composers, particularly Florence B. Price.

His long career as an organist has involved choirmaster and organist positions at some of the nation's most noteworthy cathedrals, namely the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ, and the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, NY. He has served as a musical director for the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival as well as the celebrity Irish singing group *The Priests*.

Known for his charisma as a conductor, he has conducted choirs in both sacred and secular space and served as a conducting fellow for the Grammy-nominated *Voices of Ascension*. As a composer and improviser, he frequently provides original music in a variety of styles for vocal solo, chamber ensemble, mixed media art, and silent film.

Don Cook joined the organ faculty of Brigham Young University in 1991. In that capacity he oversees a highly successful group organ program and serves as organ area head and as university carillonneur. Formerly he was carillonneur and associate organist at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and associate organist/choirmaster at First United Methodist Church, Lubbock, Texas.

After earning Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ at BYU, he received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance from the University of Kansas. His principal organ teachers were J.J. Keeler at BYU, and James Moeser at KU. He directs the annual BYU Organ Workshop, appears frequently as a Guest Organist at the Salt Lake Tabernacle, and has served as AGO National Councillor for Education.

John Dixon's musical development largely took place at the pipe organ in the auditorium of his high school in Essex, England. (Visit osos.org.uk to learn more about this very special instrument.) He moved to Virginia in 1988, and became organist of Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach ten years later, immediately joining the AGO to connect with local organists. He has served as Dean of the Tidewater Chapter, co-chaired a regional convention, and will serve as the AGO's Treasurer and Councilor for Finance for the two-year term just started. In 2017 he earned the CAGO certification, shortly before his 60th birthday.

So John is an active and enthusiastic AGO member. But, to be honest, what he really likes to do is compose new music. Over the past thirty years he has written some 800 pieces. Many of these are available from publishers including Hal Leonard, Lorenz, Saint James Music Press, and Zimbel Press - search online using "John S Dixon". However, he has also shared much of his organ music directly with AGO colleagues. This is the fifth occasion on which he has made a complimentary organ composition available to all participants in the National Convention cycle. Copies of the *Trumpet Intrada* were already printed and ready for the Atlanta welcome bags when Covid-19 intervened, but we hope just as many organists will download the electronic file and enjoy using this piece - and sharing it with friends, colleagues and students.

You may contact John on JohnSDixon@aol.com to ask about the pieces he gave away at previous National Conventions, including his *Postlude on America the Beautiful*, useful for national holidays.

Emily Floyd has served at Shallowford Presbyterian Church as Director of Music Ministries since 2008, directing a 65 member adult choir, 80 member youth choir, and supervising children's music ministry and handbells. In addition to her church work, Emily teaches at the Choristers Guild Institute. Past engagements include conducting the Georgia Statewide 6th Grade Honor Choir and conducting youth choirs at the Montreat Worship Conference and Lutheridge Music Week. She serves as a guest conductor for honor choirs and schools in Georgia and Canada. She has led workshops for ACDA, PAM, and the Choristers Guild. Choirs under her direction have performed in international venues including St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland, St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, Italy, and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy. The Shallowford Youth Choir has sung in 17 states in the United States and tours in Scotland every 4 years.

Emily attended Florida State University and received a Bachelor Degree in Music Education (voice) magna cum laude. She has taught choral music in public schools and directed church choirs of all ages in Florida, Illinois, and Georgia. Emily is passionate about reaching as many young singers as possible ("drawing the circle wide") and awakening their inner choral artist. She is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the Choristers' Guild, and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. She holds the Choristers Guild Children's Choir Leadership Certification. Emily lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, the Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd (author and pastor) and two teenage daughters.

Faythe Freese, Professor of Organ at the University of Alabama, is in demand as a recitalist throughout the world. She was the recipient of the Indiana University Oswald Ragatz Distinguished Alumni Award (2017), and is a leading expert on the organ music of Leo Sowerby, whose quasiquicentennial we celebrate in 2020. Dr. Freese is the only American woman to have recorded at L'Eglise de la Sainte-Trinité, Paris, and her CD, *Faythe Freese à l'Orgue de l'Eglise de la Sainte Trinité*(JAV173) received critical acclaim. Her CD, *The Freese Collection*(OAR-948) was recorded at Magdeburg Cathedral, Germany and she was the guest artist on the CD, *Decker Plays Decker, Volume 4: "Museum of the Dance."*(2018)

While on a 2015 European sabbatical, Dr. Freese performed on over fifty historic organs in nine countries, collaborating with Ton Koopman, Montserrat Torrent, Pieter van Dijk, Aude Heutermatte and João Vaz on period repertoire.

She has been a featured lecturer, performer, and reviewer for national and regional AGO conventions and Pipe Organ Encounters.

Dr. Freese holds degrees in organ performance and church music from Indiana University. As a Fulbright scholar and Indiana University/Kiel Ausstausch Programme participant, she studied the works of Jean Langlais with the composer and the works of Max Reger with Heinz Wunderlich.

For additional CDs (*Roaring Ranks with Faythe Freese; Sowerby at Trinity; and Faythe Freese in Concert*) contact ffreese@ua.edu

Dr. Freese is published by Concordia Publishing House and Morningstar Music Publishers. She is represented by the Concert Artist Cooperative.

Jonathan B. Hall, FAGO, ChM, has been involved in the American Guild of Organists' certification program for many years, most recently as chair of the Committee on Professional Certification. He has contributed many articles to *The American Organist* on a wide variety of related topics. Hall became an Associate in 1997, winning the Associateship Prize and S. Lewis Elmer Prize. He became a Fellow two years later. He also holds a Doctor of Music degree from the Jacobs School of Music of Indiana University, where his principal teacher was Marilyn Keiser. He teaches music theory and music criticism at New York University, and directs the music ministries of the First Presbyterian Church of Goshen, NY.

Sarah C. Harr, a native of Memphis, TN, completed a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance with Dr. John David Peterson at the University of Memphis in 2012. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Church Music from Valparaiso University and a Master of Sacred Music degree from Emory University. Sarah has taught undergraduate and graduate-level Music Theory and Ear Training at the University of Memphis, Queens College in Charlotte, NC, and Cleveland State Community College in Cleveland, TN. She holds the Fellow Certification from the American Guild of Organists and is the AGO Southeast Regional Councilor for Education and Certification. She is the Executive Assistant and Bookkeeper for the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, the organist at First Christian Church in downtown Chattanooga, and the K-8 Music Teacher at Belvoir Christian Academy. Sarah's husband, James, is the Director of Choral Activities at The McCallie School in Chattanooga, and they have a son, Oliver, who is six years old.

Nora Hess, MM, CAGO, is an adjunct faculty member in organ at Brigham Young University. Her research specialty is teaching and developing curriculum so elementary-aged children can learn the organ as their first instrument without any prior music training. She loves to teach students of all levels and ages, and has been teaching for many years. Nora also enjoys composing and performing music, and has had the opportunity to perform solos on famous organs in France and Germany. She is currently completing the process to become a performing guest organist on Temple Square in Salt Lake City. Nora also serves as a choir conductor, and has conducted and accompanied many choirs and soloists throughout her career. A choral singer herself, she served for 10 years as a member of the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, and was the organist for the Utah Baroque Ensemble from 2016-2018. Nora has earned the Colleague Certificate from the American Guild of Organists, and holds a Master of Music degree from Brigham Young University in Organ Performance, where she studied with Don Cook and Brian Mathias. She is married, and is the mother of 10 children and 12 grandchildren.

The internationally acclaimed organ virtuoso, **Thomas Heywood**, enjoys an outstanding reputation as one of the world's finest concert organists.

"An acknowledged master," Heywood has travelled over 750,000 miles (or 1.2 million kilometres) performing solo concerts on the most celebrated pipe organs across the globe. He has an ever-growing repertoire of over 5,000 works and was the first Australian musician in history to live as a professional concert organist.

Heywood performs regular international solo tours in concert halls, town halls, cathedrals and churches throughout the UK, North America, and Europe, where German critics have hailed him as the "Ironman der Orgel. Der australische Starorganist Thomas Heywood."

Also a talented and prolific transcriber, Heywood's published solo concert organ arrangements of the most famous classical and romantic music are performed by organists around the world.

Having become the first musician in history to have transcribed the complete Beethoven symphonies for concert organ solo, in 2018 Heywood commenced a major international project to record the complete Beethoven symphonies as a solo artist in a monumental series on landmark instruments across the globe. Upon the completion of this project before 2027, Heywood will become the first musician in history to have transcribed, recorded and performed the complete Beethoven symphonies as a solo artist.

Heywood's solo concerts are managed in the USA and Canada by Karen McFarlane Artists and internationally by Concert Organ International – www.concertorgan.com – the company he founded in 1997

Dr. Wilma Jensen, National AGO Distinguished Artist of 2016 and Choirmaster/Organist Emerita of St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville, TN, has enjoyed a long professional career in church music, teaching, and performance. Her education includes bachelor and master degrees in Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. In 2014, in recognition of her teaching at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, and her outstanding contributions to the world of organ

performance, the Wilma Jensen Organ Scholarship program was established for students studying there. In addition, for twenty years she was Choirmaster/Organist for St. George's Episcopal Church in Nashville, TN. While conducting at St. George's, the Choir was invited to perform at the 1989 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Convention. She most recently was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Tennessee ACDA .

Once concentrating on choral and organ performances, Wilma's recent engagements include workshops and seminars, along with recitals performed with both vocal soloists and instrumentalists. Her creative yet practical workshops have been met with enthusiastic response and deemed "pedagogically timeless." One highlight from her 2019 performances was Conni Ellisor's *Blackberry Winter*, a Dulcimer Concerto Wilma transcribed for Organ and performed with Stephen Seifert, nationally recognized Dulcimer player. Wilma's recordings, including *Organ Plus with WJ* (2017), may be found at ProOrgano.com, and her popular arrangement of *Gabriel's Oboe* is available at Lois Fye Music (loisfyfemusic.com). Her website contains more details about her current activities (wilmajensen.com).

Dr. Zach Klobnak is College Organist and Instructor of Organ, Harpsichord, and Piano at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. He is also Director of Music and Organist at the Presbyterian Church of Danville, where he directs the music program, administers the "Music on Main Street" concert series, and plays the church's Taylor & Boody pipe organ. Leslie Wolf Robb and Zach, along with David Lincoln and Cheryl Lemke, serve on AGO's Committee on Pipe Organ Encounters, which oversees all POE events.

Robert Knupp is a Professor in the music department at Mississippi College in Clinton, where his primary area of teaching is applied organ. He also teaches music theory and music technology. Knupp is the organist of Galloway United Methodist Church in Jackson.

Dr. Knupp's students have won state competitions of the AGO and MTNA, have been awarded full teaching assistantships at major universities, as well as fellowships to national organist conventions, and been successful in obtaining full time church employment. His studio concert tours have visited locations including New York, San Francisco, Dallas, Minneapolis, Chicago, Houston, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Nashville, and Washington D.C.

An active performer, he has performed in twenty nine states and in Europe. Significant performance venues include the Washington National Cathedral, St. Thomas Church and St. Mary's, New York City; St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco; King's Chapel, Boston; The Old Church Concert Hall, Portland, Oregon; Church of the Ascension, Seattle; Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, PA; National City Christian Church, Washington, DC; and St. Peter's Cathedral, Jackson, MS. In 2015, Knupp embarked on a five week historic organ tour of central Germany with concerts on Silbermann Organs in Forchheim and Frieberg, and on the Max Reger Organ in Bad Salzungen.

Knupp is a native of Johnstown, PA, and holds degrees from the University of Alabama (D.M.A.), East Carolina University (M.M.), and Susquehanna University (B.M.) Primary mentors include the late Warren Hutton, Dr. Janette Fishell, and Dr. Susan Hegberg.

Benjamin Kolodziej is Organist and Choirmaster at St John's Episcopal Church in Dallas and Organist at Perkins Chapel, SMU, where he has played over 2600 weddings since his appointment in December,

1999. He holds an undergraduate degree in Organ Performance from SMU, and an MSM and MTS from Perkins School of Theology, his primary organ teachers having been Robert Anderson, Larry Palmer, and George Baker. Additional study has been with Dennis Keene and Jon Gillock. As a concert organist he has performed hymn festivals and concerts throughout the USA as well as in England, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Norway. He has written for numerous journals including *The American Organist*, *The Diapason*, *The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology*, *Theatre Organ*, as well as for the forthcoming *Lutheran Service Book Hymnal Companion*. He has served the Dallas AGO in numerous capacities, including Dean from 2011-2014. His historical and research interest in the organs of the city of Dallas is reflected in three 2019 articles in the *The Tracker*, the journal of the Organ Historical Society, for whose convention in Dallas last summer he was co-chair. As a church musician, he was recently appointed Carl Schalk Scholar at the Center for Church Music at Concordia University Chicago and also serves Dallas-based *Church Music Institute* as communications and program director. His organ music is published by CPH, GIA, and Augsburg. As a hobby, he accompanies silent movies in an authentic style.

Darlene Kuperus is a versatile musician. Over the span of her career she has served as a full-time church music director, organist, pianist, conductor, chamber musician, and concert manager.

In the fall of 2016 she was a Visiting Faculty member at the University of Michigan Organ Department during the sabbatical of Dr. James Kibbie, Department Chair. She is a frequent presenter at the Annual Organ Conference at the University of Michigan. Her presentation at the Fall 2018 conference (theme: *Women as Trailblazers*) was titled "Living Legends....Lasting Legacies: Emma Lou Diemer, Marilyn Mason, Alice Parker". Her presentation at the fall 2016 conference was titled, "Current Practices in Christian Churches: Observations of Clergy and Church Musicians" which was based on a survey of professionals from around the country.

Darlene has spent over 30 years as a church musician in positions at Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. She has conducted the Community Chamber Singers since 1997. Under her direction this ensemble has performed Handel's "Messiah" each December, accompanied by professional orchestra and soloists. In addition, she has conducted performances of other major choral works such as Mozart's "Requiem," Faure's "Requiem," Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass," Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass," Rutter's "Feel the Spirit," among others.

Clair Maxwell is Director of Music at Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church in Dunwoody, GA. He oversees the church's comprehensive music program for all ages. He also serves as organist for worship and accompanist for soloists and choirs. He is actively involved in worship and music planning with the church staff, and he coordinates the *Celebrate the Arts* series of programs held in the church sanctuary each year.

Clair is also the Artistic Director and Conductor for the Choral Guild of Atlanta, a community chorus based in Fulton County dedicated to presenting lesser known works for chorus. The group presents three concerts a year in addition to participating in community events. In addition, he is a teacher of private organ and piano students and is active in the local musical community.

Prior to his appointment to the Saint Luke's staff, Clair served as Director of Music and the Arts at Doylestown Presbyterian Church in Doylestown, PA, and Director of Music Ministries and Organist at the United Methodist Church of Red Bank, NJ. He was also the Associate Conductor of the Shrewsbury

Chorale.

Clair is active as a recitalist (organ) and as an accompanist at various local venues. His musical training consists of a Bachelor of Music degree from the Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory and a Master of Music degree in Organ and Church Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music as a student of Todd Wilson. He recently achieved the Associate Certificate from the AGO.

Alexander Meszler is committed to interdisciplinary performance and research that inspire new perspectives on the organ. He is completing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ with Kimberly Marshall at Arizona State University. He received a Fulbright grant in 2018 for his research on secularism and the organ and studied organ in Versailles, France, with Jean-Baptiste Robin. Alexander has received numerous grants for similar research and has presented at conferences including those of the European Association for the Study of Religions, the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, the Historical Keyboard Society of North America, and the Westfield Center for Historical Keyboard Studies.

A strong advocate of music by living composers, Alexander currently serves as a member of the American Guild of Organists' Committee on New Music. He has collaborated with composers Huw Morgan, Matthew Briggs, Hon Ki Cheung, and George Katehis on the premieres of their organ works. His performance project, "Walls of Sound: The Ecology of the Borderlands," funded in-part by the Foundation for Contemporary Arts out of New York City, brought together collaborators from across disciplines including musicians, scientists, activists, and an actor. Alexander has been a finalist in several performance competitions, and in 2016 he won second prize at the Westchester University Organ Competition.

Meszler completed his master's degree in organ performance and music theory at the University of Kansas where he studied organ with Michael Bauer and James Higdon. He earned his bachelor's degree in organ with Kola Owolabi at Syracuse University.

Dr. Linda Patterson holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Organ Performance from the University of Houston, where she was a member of the Honors College. She did additional graduate study at UH in Nonprofit Administration and received fellowships from the Belgian Government to study in Mechelen, Belgium, with Organist/Composer Flor Peeters, and later in an International Masterclass and Competition in his memory, competing live on Radio Europe. She completed her doctoral studies (DMA) in Organ Performance, Sacred Music Emphasis at the University of Texas, where she studied with Drs. Gerre and Judith Hancock.

She was recently appointed as Music Director at historic St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Bryan, TX, where she leads vocal and handbell choirs. As Chair of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas Music Commission since 2003, she has organized the yearly Diocesan Music Camps and Diocesan Choral Festivals as well as two trips to the National Cathedral. Active as a teacher, accompanist and organist, she has performed, taught and accompanied for national and regional gatherings, including AGO Boston and Episcopal Church Women Triennial Meeting. She serves as a Committee Chair for the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM), and enjoys varied collaborations with professional and student instrumentalists and vocalists.

She has a special interest in the Organ Works of Flor Peeters, which was a topic of her doctoral research. The mother of three adult daughters, she lives in Round Top, Texas.

Active recitalist, recording artist, scholar, and author, **David Pickering** is Associate Professor of Music and Chair of the Keyboard Division at Kansas State University. His career as a performer has carried him across the United States as well as to Austria, Canada, England, and Finland. His performances have also been broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio's *Pipedreams*, Iowa Public Radio, and Organlive.com.

Pickering's multifaceted research has focused on the composers, pedagogues, music, and organs of the American organ scene in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. His four solo recordings have focused on the organ music of American composers from the twentieth century to the present day. His scholarly works are published by the Organ Historical Society Press (*The Community of Christ Auditorium Organ*) and Wayne Leupold Editions (*Arthur Poister—Master Teacher and Poet of the Organ* and *Leroy Robertson Organ Works*). Articles and reviews appear in *The American Organist* and *The Diapason*. A proponent for new music, Pickering has premiered new works by Daniel E. Gawthrop and Tyler White.

Pickering completed his degrees from the University of Kansas and Brigham Young University in organ performance and musicology. He has also pursued technical studies with pianist Sheila Paige. His organ teachers include Parley Belnap, James Higdon, J.J. Keeler, and Arlene Small.

Pickering and his wife, Melinda, are the parents of seven children.

Hailed by *The Baltimore Sun* as a "rising organ star," **Jordan Prescott** has established himself as one of the leading organists and academics of his generation. A native of Greenville, NC, Jordan holds the Bachelor of Music in Organ and Sacred Music from East Carolina University, where he was named the university's outstanding graduate in keyboard in 2017. A recipient of the Milton H. Miller, Sr. Endowed Scholarship in Organ, Jordan graduated *cum laude* in 2019, with the Master of Music in Organ Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. Jordan is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ Performance at Peabody Conservatory, where he holds the coveted Dean's Fellowship. Jordan's primary teachers have included John Walker, Andrew Scanlon, and Christopher Jacobson. Additionally, he has studied in Paris with Marie Louise Langlais. His career as a church musician has included appointments at Duke University Chapel and Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Baltimore. Jordan is now Assistant Director of Music and Organist at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City, MD. In 2018, Jordan won first prize at the 16th International Organ Competition at West Chester University and was named one of *Diapason* magazine's '20 Under 30' in 2019. Jordan maintains an active performing schedule throughout the United States and his research has been published in *The American Organist*. He currently serves on the National Board of AGO Young Organists and the Executive Board of the Baltimore Chapter. More information can be found online at www.jordanprescott.com.

Stephen Price currently teaches organ and church music at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana. He is a native of Buffalo, NY, and attended Western Connecticut State University where he received a Bachelor of Music degree. Following his undergraduate career, Price received a Fulbright Scholarship to Toulouse,

France, where he studied historical and modern performance practices of French organ music. Price subsequently attended the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University receiving a Master of Music degree and is currently finishing research centered around organ pedagogy in fulfillment of the Doctor of Music degree.

Stephen has a passion for teaching and sharing his gifts with others in a community setting. He served as an instructor for the 2014-15 Sacred Music Intensive Workshop at Indiana University and as Associate Director of Music at First United Methodist Church, San Diego, CA, 2015-17. Price is currently the Choir Director and Organist at Plainfield United Methodist Church and serves on the executive committee of the Indianapolis AGO, while also working with area churches in hiring music staff and building their music ministry. He is also an active recitalist and has performed around the US, including the Northeast AGO Regional Convention (2019). Price's teachers and mentors include Marguerite Robinson, Frank Scinta, Andrew Scanlon, Andrew Cantrill, Vince Edwards, Stephen Roberts, Michel Bouvard, Jan Willem Jansen, Janette Fishell, Bruce Neswick, Elisabeth Wright, and Wilma Jensen.

Derek Remeš teaches music theory and aural skills at the Hochschule for Music in Lucerne, Switzerland. He is the editor and translator of the two-volume series, *Realizing Thoroughbass Chorales in J. S. Bach's Circle* (Wayne Leupold Editions, 2019). Derek's dissertation, which is advised by Prof. Dr. Felix Diergarten at the Musikhochschule in Freiburg (Germany), attempts to reconstruct J. S. Bach's compositional pedagogy using historical sources, with an emphasis on thoroughbass, chorales, and fugue. Derek's dissertation was honored with the Dissertation Fellowship Award by the *Society for Music Theory* in 2018. Derek has published articles in *Eighteenth-Century Music*, the *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Musiktheorie*, *BACH: The Journal of the Riemenschneider Bach Institute*, *Theory and Practice*, and the *Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy*. He is also an editor for the journal *Music Theory and Analysis*. Derek has held numerous lectures both in the United States and abroad (Germany, France, Switzerland, England, and China). Derek holds a MM in Organ and an MA in Music Theory Pedagogy from the Eastman School of Music, where he received the *Performer's Certificate* for "outstanding performing ability" on the organ in 2015. He also received a BA in Composition and a BA in Film Scoring from the Berklee College of Music (*summa cum laude*). For more information about publications and to listen to Derek's original compositions, please visit derekremes.com

Leslie Wolf Robb is Director of Music Ministries at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in San Diego, California, where she directs the church and school music programs and plays organ and piano for all services. Leslie also teaches piano and organ to both children and adults. Her materials for organ instruction are published by Wayne Leupold Editions and sheetmusicplus.com.

Erin Scheessele (rhymes with Nestlé or Presley) founded and serves as the volunteer Executive Director of Orgelkids USA. She studied biology at Duke University and earned her doctorate at Oregon State University in ecology, investigating amphibian declines. Erin has taught at Duke University, Oregon State University, and Willamette University.

Erin made the jump from frogs to pipe organs after she decided to take a break from academia to raise her two sons, the eldest of whom fell in love with pipe organs at age two. The Scheessele family undertook launching Orgelkids USA as a family project with all four family members contributing and learning new skills along the way. Exploring its capabilities and helping grow the availability of Orgelkids has taken the Scheessele family to Maker Faires in Seattle and Portland, OR, AGO conventions in Salt

Lake City and Montreal, Canada, as well as workshops in Haarlem, Netherlands, and Taiwan. Their adventures with Orgelkids have been published in *TAO & Vox Humana*.

From her work in the field of conservation biology, Erin recognized one of its tenets in the motivation underlying Orgelkids: "In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught," Baba Dioum (1968).

The Rev. Beth Brown Shugart serves as an Associate Pastor at Duluth First United Methodist Church. Beth has a degree in Music Education from Belmont University, a master's degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Tennessee and did theological study at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. She has been serving churches in the North Georgia conference since 1991. Before entering the ministry, she taught high school choral music in the Atlanta area for thirteen years.

Charles W. Steele holds BA (with Honors) and MA degrees in music from Radford University, Radford, VA, and earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky. Steele has been a presenter at a regional AGO convention and a national AGO convention, as well as at a Hymn Society convention. An extensive article by Steele that focuses on William Walker, *Southern Harmony*, and the use of shape note tunes in the church and in organ music, appeared in the January 2011 edition of *The Diapason*. He has also written several new organ music reviews for *The Diapason*. Over the past decade, Steele has presented several programs featuring organ works based on or incorporating shape note tunes. He is a dean and board member of the Western NC AGO Chapter and was the founding dean of the Blue Ridge AGO Chapter. Steele served several years as an adjunct instructor of organ at Brevard College. He recently retired as minister of music/organist of Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church, Brevard, NC.

Ulrike Theresia Wegele was born in Weingarten, Württemberg, Germany. She studied Catholic Church Music at the State University of Music and Performing Arts, Stuttgart, with Prof. Dr. Ludger Lohmann. Graduate studies were at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, with Prof. Michael Radulescu. Diplomas include the A-Examen for Church Music and the Concert Diploma with distinction. She was granted the title "Magister Artium." Wegele has made live recordings for many European and non-European radio stations, as well as CD recordings and numerous TV appearances. She is a regular guest at important organ festivals in Europe, Mexico, Cuba, and the United States.

Wegele's performances include the following: the International Organ Festival in Granada, Spain; the Haydn Festival in Eisenstadt; the world's biggest organ congress in Washington, DC; the Riverside Church, and St. Thomas Cathedral in New York City; at the renowned Pablo Casals Festival in Prades, France; and others. She is also sought after for masterclasses worldwide.

From 1991 – 1999 lecturer at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz, Austria. Since 1992, she has served as professor for organ at the Joseph Haydn Conservatory, Eisenstadt, Austria, as well as serving at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Graz, (Oberschützen Institute) since 1999. Since 2004, a special emphasis of her educational activities has been placed upon teaching children from 8 years-old. Her exceptional pedagogic work with students was recognized by the Burgenland State School Council. In 2009, she was honored to be granted Austrian citizenship.