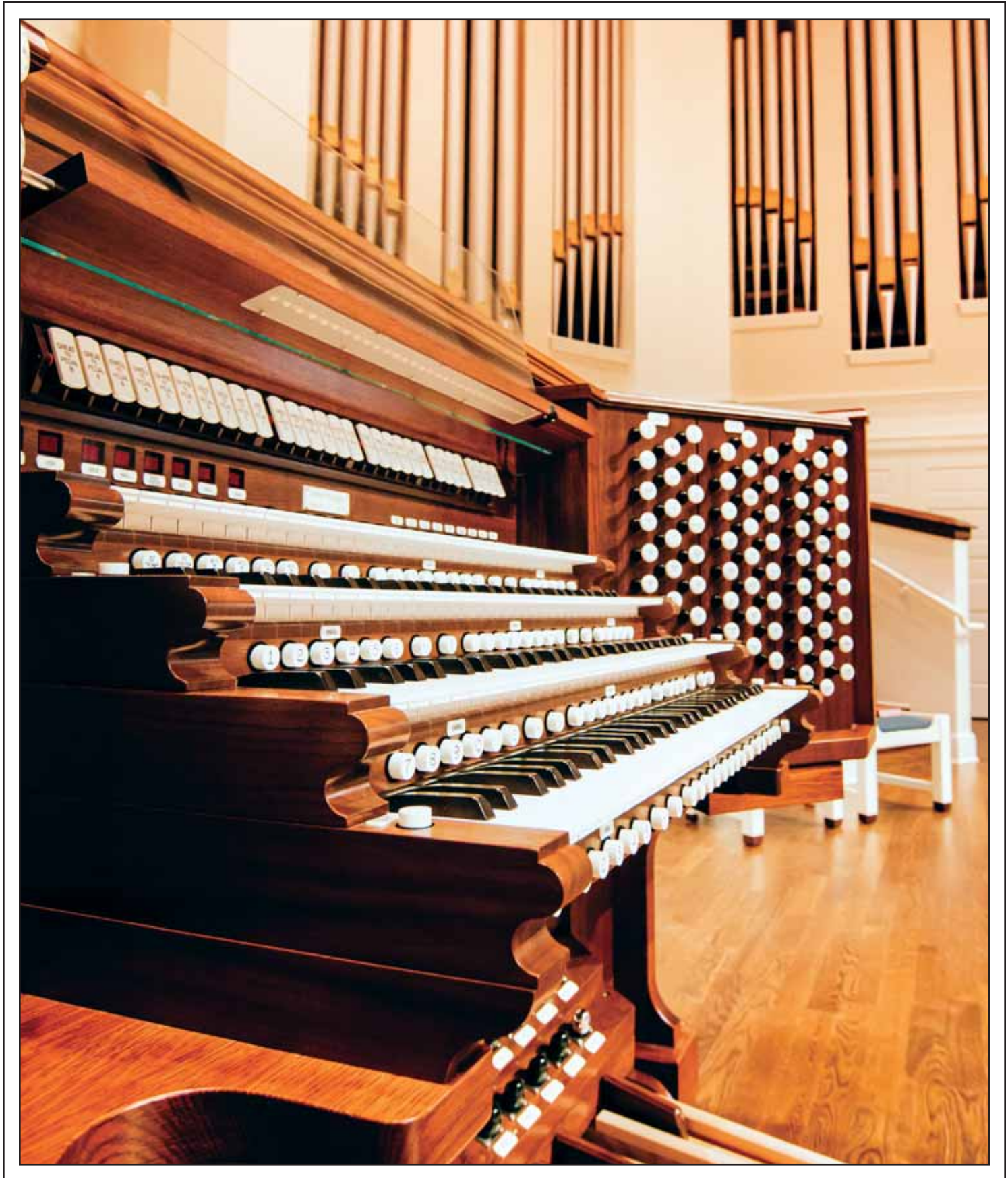


THE DIAPASON

DECEMBER 2019 — 110th Anniversary Issue



Dunwoody United Methodist Church
Dunwoody, Georgia
Cover feature on pages 22–24

Appointments



Jacob Benda

Jacob Benda is appointed director of sacred music and liturgy for Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, where his duties will include presiding over the Wicks pipe organ, directing the semi-professional parish choir, and developing a concert series. A parish with a rich history, the building is the oldest continuously used church building in Minneapolis and is part of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. In addition to his church work and performance schedule, Benda is a published author, producer, and member of various boards. He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Louisiana State University in 2015 under the mentorship of

Herndon Spillman. He is represented by Seven Eight Artists. For information: www.seveneightartists.com.



Frederick Hohman

Frederick Hohman is appointed organist for Sunnyside Presbyterian Church, South Bend, Indiana. He succeeds Rachel Lorber, who has retired after serving as organist at Sunnyside Church for over twenty years. Hohman will accompany the church choirs, led by director of music Yvonda Kisor, and provide organ music leadership for the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service, which is streamed live at the church's website (www.sunnysidechurch.org). He will present a solo organ recital each fall and spring on the church's three-manual, 38-rank organ, rebuilt this year by Fabry, Inc. For information: www.frederickhohman.net.



André J. Thomas

André J. Thomas is appointed visiting professor of choral conducting for the Yale School of Music and Yale Institute of Sacred Music, New Haven, Connecticut, and interim conductor of the Yale Camerata in the 2020–2021 academic year.

Thomas is the retired Owen F. Sellers Professor of Music, director of choral activities, and professor of choral music education at Florida State University, Tallahassee. He has served as a choral adjudicator, clinician, and director throughout North America, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, Australia, and Africa. His domestic and international conducting credits include leading convention choirs for the National Association for Music Education, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and the World Youth Choir;

and orchestras ranging from the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (England) to China's People's Liberation Orchestra. He recently retired as artistic director of the Tallahassee Community Chorus.

Thomas has been recognized for his dedication to and accomplishments in the choral arts. In 2011, the African Diaspora Sacred Music and Musicians Program honored him as a Living Legend. In the same year, Chorus America presented him with its Distinguished Service Award. In 2017 the ACDA presented Thomas with its highest honor, The Robert Shaw Award, and the National Collegiate Choral Organization presented him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. In January 2019 he was inducted into the Florida Music Educator's Hall of Fame. He is a past president of the Florida ACDA and the past president of the Southern Division of ACDA, and the current vice president of National ACDA and the artistic chairman of the 2021 national convention.

Thomas will lead the Camerata in its four major concerts next season, and will join Jeffrey Douma and David Hill next year in instruction of graduate majors in choral conducting. Douma will serve as overall coordinator for the program and teach second-year students, and Thomas and Hill will each teach two of the first-year students. For information: ism.yale.edu. ■

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Penny Lorenz (photo credit: William T. Van Pelt)

a smooth transition, Lorenz can still be contacted at pennybsn@gmail.com or penlorenz@comcast.net.

James F. Mellichamp completed a year of performances crisscrossing the North American continent. On January 10, he performed at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels (Dobson organ),



James F. Mellichamp in Montreal (photo credit: J. Mellichamp)

Los Angeles, California. On May 29, he performed as part of the Piccolo Spoleto Festival at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (Bedient organ), Charleston, South Carolina. And on October 13, he performed as part of the Autumn Festival Series at the Oratory of St. Joseph (Beckerath organ), Montreal, Canada.

Gloriae Dei Cantores and its director emeritus, **Elizabeth C. Patterson**, have been awarded the 2019 American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award, recognizing Patterson's conducting and leadership, as well as the ensemble's



Elizabeth C. Patterson (photo credit: Steve Sherman)

performances and promotion of American music. The American Prize is the nation's most comprehensive series of contests in the classical arts.

In addition to promoting new American composers at home, Patterson led **Gloriae Dei Cantores** on numerous international tours. From New York to places such as San Francisco, London, Venice, Prague, Moscow, and Siberia, **Gloriae Dei Cantores** and Patterson brought not only American music to foreign countries, but also music native to the countries in which they were performing.

Elizabeth Patterson has overseen the development of a repertoire incorporating over 2,400 works including world premieres and commissions by American composers Samuel Adler, Dominick Argento, Gerald Near, and Mark O'Connor. Her work to promote international understanding and cultural integrity have won her critical acclaim in concert halls in Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, England, France, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, Switzerland, and Wales. For information: <https://gdcchoir.org>.

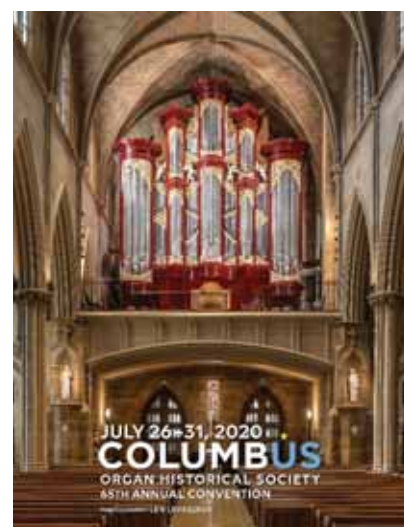
Carol Williams's *On The Bench* YouTube series has just recorded its 51st program. The most recent interview



Peter Richard Conte and Carol Williams at the Wanamaker Organ, Macy's Department Store, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (photo credit: Kerry Bell)

was with **Peter Richard Conte** at the Wanamaker organ in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Williams has been named artistic director of Viscount Organs, North America. For information: www.melcot.com.

Publishers



OHS 2020 Calendar

The Organ Historical Society has released its 2020 calendar, celebrating the OHS 65th annual convention in Columbus, Ohio, July 26–31, 2020. The calendar features organs by Kimball, Schuelke, Koehnken, Skinner, Klais, Brown, Beckerath, Schantz, Fisk, and

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