

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Hitting The High Notes

Event Date: Friday, January 28th, 2010

Effective: Now

From: Grand Strand Chapter of The American Guild of Organists (AGO)

Contact: Jon Blamire (Communications Coordinator)

jon@pgwinyah.org

843 546 4358 - Office

843 833 7653 - Cell

843 461 3106 - Home

Notes: Photos are available on request: jon@pgwinyah.org.

I have tried to provide something which might be immediately useable, but please edit / re-write as appropriate.

Thank you for your on-going support of our cultural and community life.

Jon Blamire

Hitting the High Notes

A special musical service, promising to hit some high notes, is being presented by the newly formed Grand Strand Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Everyone is welcome at the evening event, featuring performances by a number of the Grand Strand's top organists and musicians.

Two new pieces of music, especially commissioned by the Grand Strand Chapter of the AGO, will be premiered by a choir made up of singers from local churches and the Indigo Choral Society. There will be a new setting of Psalm 71 by Karen Kearney from Resurrection Episcopal Church (Surfside), and Jon Blamire from Prince George Winyah Episcopal Church (Georgetown) has written '*On Patmos*'. Blamire comments, 'I've long been fascinated by the account of the Apostle John in the final book of the Bible. Here was a man, exiled on the prison colony of Patmos (a Greek island), who experiences heaven first hand. '*On Patmos*' sets some of his words to music. I mainly write with the resources of Prince George in mind, so I've enjoyed the opportunity of writing for a larger choir, organ and piano. Perhaps fittingly for a piece about heaven, the young people in the choir get to sing some of the highest notes possible and the work ends on the highest note of the piano keyboard – not a note that gets much use!'

Another high-note for the evening is the extraordinarily talented 15-year-old pianist Zhongliang Chen. Zhongliang is one of Georgetown Cultural Councils '*Young Treasures*' scholars and studies with Dr. Gary Stegall at Coastal Carolina.

During the service Mark Husey, highly regarded organist from Columbia and the South Carolina District Convener of the AGO, will install the officers of the new chapter: Dean - Billy Fallaw, Secretary – Karen Kearney, Treasurer – Brian Monroe, Membership – Thom Martin and Communications – Jon Blamire. Also, long standing AGO member Sebron

Hood, who passed away recently, will be honored for his life of service to music in the church. Sebron was an organist and choirmaster for over 60 years, of which 25 were at Trinity Episcopal Church (MB).

The new Chapter, headed by the Dean, Billy Fallaw, is keen to spread the message that the AGO is a unique organization, welcoming both professional and amateur members, and aiming to serve not only its members but anybody else in the area who has an involvement with choral or organ music. This includes the hundreds of churches and synagogues who regularly need to find substitutes to cover for staff vacations, and brides needing musicians for their special day.

A reception will follow the service with time for guests and musicians to mingle.

The service begins at 7pm, Friday, October 28, at Georgetown Presbyterian Church, 558 Black River Rd, Georgetown, SC 29440.

Possible accompanying photos:

Dr Mark Cheney rehearsing AGO members recently.jpg

Zhongliang Chen portrait.jpg