

# PEORIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

---

April/May 2016

## PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEB PAGE

You can now subscribe to [www.agopeoria.org](http://www.agopeoria.org). To get our news and postings directly in your inbox when they are posted on our website, please visit [www.agopeoria.org](http://www.agopeoria.org) and look for the subscription box. Please send any news and items of interest including upcoming concerts, especially if they feature the organ, to us at [agopeoria@gmail.com](mailto:agopeoria@gmail.com) so that we can inform our membership and friends.

## UPCOMING FREE CONCERTS

### **Sunday, May 15 at 4:00 p.m.**

Diane Bish on the Music Series of First United Methodist Church, 116 NE Perry Ave., Peoria IL – 309.673.3641

### **Sunday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m.**

James Kibbie on the Gretchen Iben Concert Series at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1420 West Moss Ave., Peoria – 309.673.8501

## DIANE BISH TO PERFORM AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PEORIA ON SUNDAY, MAY 15 AT 4:00 PM



World renowned artist, Diane Bish, returns to First United Methodist Church, Peoria (FUMC) for a concert on Sunday, May 15 at 4:00 p.m. She performed there previously during the 1988-89 Concert Artist Series of the Peoria Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. As part of the FUMC 2015-16 Music Series, this concert will feature a variety of repertoire and will include the FUMC Sanctuary Choir. The intricate choreography of Ms. Bish's hands and feet will be displayed on the Sanctuary screen. The concert is free and open to the public, however, tickets will be required. Tickets are available by visiting <http://www.fumcpeoria.org/about-us/music-series/> from the church office. Co-sponsors of the concert are the Peoria Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders.

Diane Bish is the most visible and influential classical organist performing today. Concert and recording artist, composer, conductor, and international television personality, she displays her dazzling virtuosity and unique showmanship the world over to international acclaim. Her organ performances are hailed as “stunning, virtuoso, fiery, and astonishing.”

Diane's unparalleled achievements as a young performer gave her the credibility and determination to launch The Joy of Music international television series in 1982 as a platform for awareness and appreciation of "the king of instruments." Broadcast to over 300 million people around the world each week, The Joy of Music combines exhilarating organ and ensemble performances with an informative, inspirational narrative and exciting world travel. The Joy of Music boasts over 500 episodes featuring famous cathedrals, concert halls, churches and organs. This tremendous outreach to the general public on behalf of the organ and her longevity as a leading recitalist distinguishes her in the world of music.

In 1989, Diane was awarded the National Citation by the National Federation of Music Clubs of America. Considered to be the Federation's highest honor, Diane Bish shares this rare distinction with such legends as Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, Van Cliburn, Robert Shaw, Irving Berlin and Fred Waring in receiving this award "for distinguished service to the musical, artistic, and cultural life of the nation."

A consummate church musician, Diane Bish served as senior organist and artist-in-residence at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for over 20 years. While at Coral Ridge Church, she led the design of the 117-rank Ruffatti organ, distinguished as one of the great organs in America. She was instrumental in developing one of the country's first church concert series and creating an annual church music workshop for musicians around the world. In her book Church Music Explosion, Diane shares her philosophy of excellence in church music.

Diane has recorded on the foremost organs of the world and was the first American woman to record on the four organs of Freiburg Cathedral, Germany. Featured on over 30 of her recordings are music for organ and orchestra, brass and organ, great organ masterpieces, organ and harp, original works, and hymn arrangements.

The sparkling creativity and artistry of Diane Bish is equally evident in her compositions. She has composed numerous solo pieces, arrangements, and full symphonic works that have received much acclaim and are performed regularly due to her ability to combine musical quality with accessibility.

Her list of creative projects also includes the Diane Bish Signature Series by Allen line of digital organs. Working closely with the technicians and designers at Allen Organ Company, Diane beautifully combined her musical vision and expertise with the superior technical design of the Allen Organ. Many Diane Bish Signature Series Organs have been installed around the country and are available through the Allen Organ Company.

Diane Bish began her study with Dorothy Addy in Wichita, Kansas, and continued as a student of Mildred Andrews. She was a recipient of Fulbright and French government grants for study in Amsterdam and Paris with Nadia Boulanger, Gustav Leonhardt and Marie Claire Alain. Diane Bish: First Lady of the Organ by Warren Woodruff was published in 1993. Diane Bish is represented worldwide by JEJ Artists.

For more information on Diane, please visit [www.dianebish.org](http://www.dianebish.org).

First United Methodist Church  
116 NE Perry Avenue • Peoria, IL 61603 • 309.673.3641  
Free admission, but tickets required  
To acquire your free ticket, please call the number above or visit  
[www.fumcpeoria.org/about-us/music-series](http://www.fumcpeoria.org/about-us/music-series)

*Diane Bish*  
organist

# PEORIA BACH FESTIVAL

## PEORIA BACH FESTIVAL 2016

The fourteenth annual Peoria Bach Festival will be held from June 5-12, 2016 and will feature eight concerts as well as six other events including a free lunch lecture and an event for children. The concert on Friday, June 10 will feature music for orchestra: Brandenburg Concerto No. 2, a Handel Concerto Grosso, and concertos by Telemann. and Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach. For the concluding concert on Saturday, June 11, the Peoria Bach Festival Choir will join the Orchestra to present cantatas for the Easter season: Cantata No. 31: "Der Himmel lacht, die Erde jubiliert" ("The Heavens Laugh, and the Earth Rejoices"); Cantata No. 68: "Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt;" ("For God So Loved the World"), and Cantata No. 66: "Erfreut euch, ihr Herzen" ("Rejoice, You Hearts"). Cantata No. 31 will also be presented in the 8 am and 10:45 am services at Trinity on Sunday, June 12. Other concerts not to be missed are a concert by the Peoria Bach Players on Thursday, June 9 at 12:05 p.m. and Dr. John Orfe's concert of Bach's keyboard music on the same day at 5:30 p.m.

The opening concert will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church and will feature concert organist James Kibbie (see below). All other concerts and events will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 135 NE Randolph Ave., Peoria, IL 61606. For a complete schedule and details, please call (309) 676-4609 or visit [www.peoriabachfestival.org](http://www.peoriabachfestival.org).

## JAMES KIBBIE OPENS PEORIA BACH FESTIVAL 2016 AT WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PEORIA ON SUNDAY, JUNE 5 AT 7:30 PM

The opening concert of this year's festival will feature James Kibbie playing music on Bach's own instrument, the pipe organ. James Kibbie is Chair of the Department of Organ and University Organist at the University of Michigan. He maintains a full schedule of concerts, recording, and festival engagements throughout North America and Europe, including appearances at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, Royal Festival Hall in London, Dvořák Hall in Prague, and Lincoln Center in New York. A frequent jury member of international organ competitions, he has won prestigious competitions of Chartres, France, and Prague, Czech Republic. His recent recordings of the complete Bach works on historic baroque organs in Germany have been welcomed with enthusiastic critical and audience acclaim.

This concert will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Peoria, which houses a mechanical action organ built in 1989 by the Visser-Rowland organ company of Houston. The program will present a sampling of Bach's rich genius, presenting works in a variety of forms ranging from a recently-authenticated work from his teenage years to familiar masterworks, including the iconic Toccata and Fugue in D Minor. Please join us as we welcome James Kibbie to Peoria.



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1420 West Moss Ave. • Peoria, IL 61606 • 309.673.8501  
Free admission

---

*"Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence." – J. S. Bach*

---

*Visser-Rowland organ at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Peoria*



## Contact Us

### Peoria AGO

PO Box 1072

Peoria, IL 61653

(309) 696-4797

[agopeoria@gmail.com](mailto:agopeoria@gmail.com)

[www.agopeoria.org](http://www.agopeoria.org)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Free downloads of the complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach recorded by Dr. James Kibbie on original baroque organs in Germany are available on [www.blockmrecords.org/bach](http://www.blockmrecords.org/bach). This project is sponsored by the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance with generous support from Dr. Barbara Furin Sloat in honor of J. Barry Sloat. Additional support has been provided by the Office of Vice-President for Research, the University of Michigan.

## FEATURED ORGAN

The organ at Westminster Presbyterian Church was designed at the same time as the building and was installed for the opening of the new church in 1989. The three-manual instrument was built by the firm of Visser-Rowland in Houston, Texas. It was designed Pieter Visser, a native of Holland, who learned the art of organ building in his homeland and later settled in the United States. Its forty-two ranks are distributed over thirty-three stops.

For additional news, visit [www.agopeoria.org](http://www.agopeoria.org). Please send any news items and concert announcements to [agopeoria@gmail.com](mailto:agopeoria@gmail.com).

---

## PEORIA AGO

PO Box 1072

Peoria, IL 61653