

DR. SALLY CHERRINGTON BEGGS (1959 – 2012)

Sally Cherrington Beggs served as the Chair of the Music Department, College Organist, and an Associate Professor of Music from 2000 – 2012 at Newberry College, the Lutheran (ELCA) college for the Southeast located in Newberry, South Carolina. She held the Carter Endowed Chair for Humanities for a recent academic year. Dr. Cherrington relocated to South Carolina from the Chicago area, where she was the full-time Director of Music at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago), and the College Organist and adjunct Assistant Professor of Music at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Dr. Cherrington was active as a free-lance performer; she performed extensively in major churches throughout the eastern seaboard and midwest, as well as making several concert tours of Europe as a soloist or accompanist. On one of these international tours she was the accompanist for the Choir of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on their concert tour of Italy, which included a performance for Pope John Paul II. Programs include concerts with the Chicago Brass Quintet, solo recitals at two national conventions of the Organ Historical Society, and a concert/c.d. with the Park Ridge Chorale, a professional choir in Chicago. She was also the organist/choir director for the 2005 National Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA. She served as the organ soloist with several orchestras and chamber groups in Chicago and the northeast for major works, including the organ concerti of Handel and Poulenc and the Saint-Saen's "Organ Symphony".



Dr. Cherrington completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ from Yale University, where she also received her Master of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees as an organ student of Thomas Murray and Charles Krigbaum. While at Yale she won the Charles Ives Organ Prize from the Yale School of Music and the Faculty Award from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, and she was named the Frank Bozyan Organ Scholar from 1989 to 1991. She was an Instructor in Organ at Yale as well as serving as the Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church in Wallingford CT. During this period she also premiered "Bell Piece" by Percy Grainger with the Yale Concert Band in Carnegie Hall, New York City. She received her undergraduate education at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, where she graduated first in her class.

Prior to attending Yale, Dr. Cherrington was the Staff Organist and Teacher at the International Headquarters of the Allen Organ Company. In this capacity she performed extensively (about 150 solo recitals), ran their active teaching program, wrote instructional materials, and conducted workshops throughout the United States and Canada. She also wrote and appeared in Allen Organ's series of three educational videos for church organists, now sold internationally.

Dr. Cherrington presented workshops for university and professional groups such as the American Guild of Organists, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and the Music Teachers' Association. Her topics of specialization were avoiding and treating performance injuries as well as repertoire that features the pedals; her presentations on these topics included workshops at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists. She is published in The Diapason, Your Church, Grace Notes, and Cross-Accent magazines; her article on "Organ Pedagogy" appears in the new International Organ Encyclopedia published by Routledge. Her book on historical American organ pedagogy is nearing publication.

Dr. Cherrington is survived by Dr. Mike Beggs, the Chair of the Religion and Philosophy Department at Newberry College and two sons, Zachary and Nathan.