James Jeffery

2025 Robert & Nancy Powell Scholarship Winner
Christ Church Episcopal Greenville, SC
May 31, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, BWV 543	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Lullaby	Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)
Prelude and Fugue in G Minor	Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)
Prelude on "Durham"	Robert J. Powell (1932-2025)
6 Studien in Kanonischer Form	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
IV. Innig	
Dance-Suite for Organ	James Jeffery (b. 2004)
I.	We Danced in the Fall
II.	Pavane for a Recurring Dream
Chorale No. 3 in A Minor	César Franck (1822-1890)

Donations made today benefit the Robert & Nancy Powell Scholarship Fund
and can be made online at www.greenvilleago.org
or placed in the alms basins at the entrances to the church.

You are invited to greet James at a reception in the McKissick Family Courtyard following this recital.

About the Performer

James Jeffery is a senior undergraduate Organ Performance major in the studio of David Higgs at the Eastman School of Music. He is currently Assistant Organist and VanDelinder Fellow at Christ Church Rochester, NY, playing the magnificent 1776 Casparini baroque-era replica and 1893 Romantic-era Hook and Hastings organs. The recipient of the 2025 Robert and Nancy Powell Scholarship Competition, he is also the winner of the First and Audience Prizes at the 2026 National Undergraduate Organ Competition.

He began studying the organ at fourteen with Daniel Brownell at First UCC Milford, CT. He has held the position of Director of Music at Calvary St. George Episcopal Church in Bridgeport, CT, presiding over the showpiece Casavant tracker organ from the Canadian Expo ’67. He is an accomplished choral bass-baritone, and is currently a member of the renowned Christ Church Schola Cantorum. An emerging organist-composer, he has been recognized for his compositional skill, awarded third place at Eastman’s 2025 *SongSLAM* art song competition. He will be returning to Eastman in the fall to pursue a Master’s in Organ Performance and Literature.

Robert & Nancy Powell Scholarship & Organ Competition
American Guild of Organists – Greenville Chapter

A scholarship fund was established in 2022 to honor Robert Powell, FAGO (1932-2025), organist and composer of hundreds of choral and organ service pieces of published music, along with his wife, Nancy Powell, AAGO (1931-2026), also a consummate organist. They have served the Greenville community for decades as leaders and role models for the organists and church musicians of this community. A $5,000 scholarship will be awarded in July 2026 to an undergraduate student pursuing study in fall 2026 at an American college, conservatory, or university, leading toward a career in organ performance and church music. The winner will also be invited to play a recital in Greenville for the AGO, our sponsors, and the public.

Current Judges/Committee:

- Mr. John Polo, Scholarship Program Director & Treasurer, Greenville AGO Chapter
- Mr. Donald W. Duncan, Scholarship Co-Chair & Director of Liturgy & Music, Christ Church Episcopal, Greenville, SC
- Mr. Vance Jenkins, Scholarship Co-Chair & Director of Music & Principal Organist, Buncombe Street Methodist Church, Greenville, SC
- Dr. Ed Dunbar, Scholarship Judge & Retired Professor Organ, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC
- The Rev. Dr. Jim Parham, Scholarship Committee & Trinity Lutheran, Greenville, SC
- Mr. Robert Glick, Scholarship Judge & Retired Professor Organ, Erskine University/St. George the Martyr Anglican Church
- Dr. Brennan Szafron, Scholarship Judge & Organist & Choir Master, Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Tryon, NC
- Dr. Will Thomas Cleveland, Scholarship Judge & Director of Music & Organist, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenwood, SC

For more information regarding the scholarship and Greenville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists visit www.greenvilleago.org.

Specifications of the Organs
Christ Church Episcopal Greenville, SC

Christ Church Episcopal is blessed with two outstanding organs. The 2001 Goulding and Wood pipe organ in the rear gallery comprised of 3 keyboards and 67 pipe ranks. The 2017 Walker Technical/Cornel Zimmer digital organ in the chancel comprised of 4 keyboard and 115 digitally sampled pipe ranks. All 10 divisions of both organs can be played from the chancel console.

A Special Thank You

The Powell Scholarship Committee wish to thank Christ Church Episcopal for their support of the Powell Scholarship, and for hosting this recital and reception today.

Our Sponsors

Many organizations and individual donors have helped us create and sustain the Powell Scholarship & Organ Competition. This brings a sense of great pride, helping support the careers of future church musicians, giving them a glimpse of our Greenville area, and honoring the legacy of Robert & Nancy Powell. Become a sponsor! The Powell Scholarship is designated program within the Greenville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, a 501©(3) charitable organization.

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$5,000+

Meagley Fund – Buncombe Street Methodist Church, Greenville
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bebensee

Musician Circle
$1,000 – $4,999

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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Greenville
Mr. John Gilbert (In Memoriam)
Mr. John Polo

Sustainers
$500 - $999

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Greenville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
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Mr & Mrs. Howard Thompson

Benefactors
$250 - $499

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$50 - $249

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Mr. & Mrs. Jack Sterling Jr.
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In Memoriam: Nancy Craine Powell

Today's recital is dedicated to the memory of Nancy Craine Powell, beloved organist, nurse, and wife of late church musician and renowned composer Robert J. Powell, who passed away on April 20, 2026. She was 94. Nancy was born on August 26, 1931 in Cleveland, Ohio and was raised in the nearby village of Perry. After high school she studied music at Baldwin Wallace College, then obtained a Master's Degree in Sacred Music at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City where she met her husband. Nancy and Bob worked and resided in Mississippi and New Hampshire before settling in Greenville in 1968, where Bob was organist and choirmaster at Christ Church. While in Greenville, Nancy became a registered nurse and was employed by the Marshall I. Pickens facility of the Greenville Hospital System. But her love of sacred music brought her back to her calling, serving as organist at Fourth Presbyterian Church for many years while raising three children. Nancy Powell was predeceased in January 2025 by her husband of 67 years, and is survived by a sister and brother, three children, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She was a member of three Episcopal parishes over her decades in Greenville including Christ Church, St. Andrew's, and the Church of the Redeemer.

A Memorial Eucharist, with music provided by the choirs of Christ Church, St. Andrew's Church, and Church of the Redeemer, will be held on Monday, June 15 at 2:00 pm, at Christ Church Episcopal,10 N. Church St, Greenville, South Carolina.