

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

May 2015

May 2015



Chapter Officers 2014– 2015

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Treasurer: Stephen Bueker
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Executive Committee

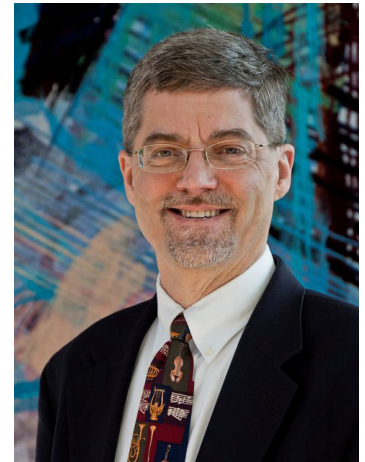
Aram Basmadjian (2015)
Gloria Snyder (2015)
Gail Hanzl (2016)
Judith Love (2016)
Thomas Busteed (2017)
Matthew Wary (2017)

www.lvago.org

Deans' Mixtures

This is rather an “in between” time around here. The weather is fluctuating between beautiful and warm spring days and cold blustery days that are more reminiscent of winter. In the church we are celebrating the 50 days of Easter, but it seems that many of our parishioners and choir members have already started their lazy days of summer.

I hope that you have already planned some time for rest, refreshment, and renewal in the summer months. For me that will include a trip to Germany, attendance at a conference in Atlanta, and then some time with family. Plus I will be taking in Shakespeare at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, which everyone should do.



Our Lehigh Valley Chapter is winding up its program year too. But before we take a break for the summer, there are two very important things you need to do.

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May Meeting

Young Artists Recital, Annual Meeting
and Banquet

Sunday, May 24, 4 pm

Gregory Zelek, organ

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
81 Main Street, Pennsburg

Dean's Mixtures

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First, renew your membership! I have already done so, and the process was easy and painless using the Oncard system at lvagohq.org. Please do it now so your friendly Board doesn't have to nag you.

Second, we hope to see many, many, many of you at our final program of the year on May 24. This is always one of my favorites of our year. What could be better than hearing a fine young organist, eating some delicious food, and having enough time for good conversation with friends and colleagues?

You can read more about the May 24th program elsewhere in this newsletter. But here are the highlights. We will be at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Pennsburg. At 4:00 p.m. we begin with a recital by Gregory Zelek, a master's student with Paul Jacobs at Juilliard. Greg has already won multiple contests, and is busy as a church musician and recitalist. Plus, he attended our POE in 2009!

Following the recital we will eat a delicious catered dinner, and then hold our Annual Meeting. There are important pieces of business that we must conduct, including electing officers and new members for our Board.

It's a beautiful drive to Pennsburg on a May Sunday afternoon – I hope you will make that drive to enjoy this program.

Michael Krentz
Dean

Gregory Zelek

Praised for his “effortless facility on the instrument” (South Florida Classical Review), Greg Zelek is increasingly recognized as one of the most exciting young organists in the American organ scene. In addition to concertizing throughout the United States, he has performed with orchestras as both a soloist and professional ensemble member. In 2011, Greg performed Poulenc's Organ Concerto with the Miami Symphony Orchestra, and in 2012 played Strauss's Alpine Symphony with the MET Orchestra in Carnegie Hall conducted by Semyon Bychkov. He was the organist in the Metropolitan Opera's production

of Faust, and performed twice with the New World Symphony in 2014. His performance of Lukas Foss's Phorion, under Michael Tilson Thomas, was videoed and recorded for later screening. In 2015, Greg will perform with the Ridgewood Symphony in New Jersey.



Greg has performed in many different venues throughout the US, including a performance of Cocherau's Bolero for Organ and Percussion in Alice Tully Hall, which was broadcast on American Public Media's radio program Pipedreams. He also closed the WQXR Bach Marathon at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, which was streamed live on New York City's only classical music station. A proponent of new music for the organ, Greg has premiered and performed works by fellow Juilliard composers and faculty, including Wayne Oquin's Reverie and Samuel Adler's Partita for Organ in concerts throughout the country.

A native of Miami, Florida, Greg is a graduate student of Paul Jacobs at the Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor of Music degree. Greg is a proud recipient of the Kovner Fellowship at the Juilliard School, having been one of nineteen selected for the inaugural fellowship that covers full cost of attendance. He was the First Prize winner in both the 2012 Rodgers North American Classical Organ Competition and the 2012 West Chester University Organ Competition, and was selected as a 2010 NFAA YoungArts Silver Medal Winner. He won First Prize, as well as the “Bach Prize,” at the East Carolina University Organ Competition, and was a prizewinner in the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival.

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Gregory Zelek

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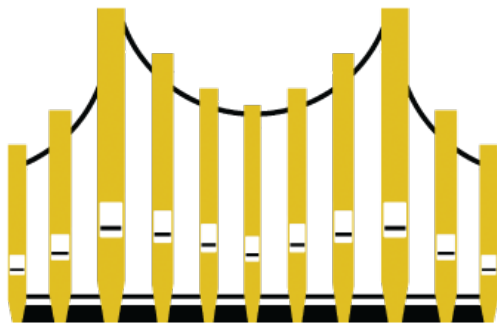
Greg is the Music Director and Organist at the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy in New York City. Prior to this appointment, he served as Organ Scholar at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church in Scarsdale, New York. Greg, who is a Cuban-American and a native Spanish speaker, was the Music Director of Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Miami, and has served as the summer organist for San Pedro Apostol Church in Ramales de la Victoria, Spain.

Membership Renewal

It is now time to renew your membership to the Lehigh Valley Chapter. You should have, by now, received an email or postal mail from the National headquarters of the AGO describing the renewal process. As it was last year, all dues and information is sent to the National. Please use the online **ONCARD** system listed in the email, and send your dues to the address given for the National. If you choose not to use the ONCARD system, email me any changes in your information, and I will enter it for you. If you make out a check, please make it to the National AGO, and not to the chapter.

Stephen Bueker

Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention Commissions



One of the many exciting features of the AGO Regional Convention to be held in Pittsburgh June 21-24 is the commissioning of new works for organ. Our goal has been to create music which will be serviceable and useful to all of our church musicians, and the results are very encouraging.

Mary Beth Bennett has composed *Prelude and Toccata on Kingsfold* and this familiar tune is the basis of a most useful work. Ms. Bennett uses quietly undulating patterns in the Prelude and follows them with jaunty, lively rhythms in the Toccata.

David Schelat dedicates his *Biblical Sketches* to his undergraduate teacher, Wilbur Held on the occasion of his 100th birthday. The first movement incorporates the tune *Bunessan* while the second describe King David “dancing before the Lord” in a lively rondo leading the listener to suspect that David was lively, energetic, and a bit quirky!

Lucas Richman’s *God Who Blesses Us, His Name Be Praised* was commissioned by the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh. It traces its origins to the story of Pentecost. Richman says the he found it “intriguing to explore the significance of the moment when the Holy Spirit was received by the apostles of Jesus who were, at that moment, observing the Jewish Festival of Shavuot. “ The text is from Psalm 67 and the depiction of the actual happening as recounted in the Book of Joel. These writings become the basis for an Anthem *Let the people praise you, God; Let all the people praise you!* followed by a celebratory Toccata and coda.

The Anthem and the Toccata may each be performed separately from the larger work; the Toccata was created with the intention of it serving specifically as an appropriate postlude in religious services. So you have a multi-purpose work which can be used in its entirety or in sections.

We plan to have all commissions ready for distribution at the convention. Just one more reason to join us for a splendid convention.

Visit the AGO website (www.agopgh2015.org) and register today.

Member News

We regret the death of Anthony (Tony) W. Ulmer on April 26, at the Phoebe Home in Allentown. Tony was 89. Through the years Tony was a very active member of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the AGO. A Celebration of Tony’s Life was held on May 2nd in Moyer Hall

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Member News

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at the Phoebe Home in Allentown. Contributions may be given to the Phoebe Home or the American Guild of Organists. Arrangements were handled by the Sell-Herron Funeral Home of Allentown.

May Concerts

May 6 (Wednesday) 12:10 pm; **Stephen Williams, organ**; Basic'lly Bach: Mostly Bach, mostly lunch-time delights; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; Freewill donation

May 15 (Friday) 8:00 pm; **Buster Keaton in The General**; Silent film featuring organ accompaniment by Don Kinnier; Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Souderton; \$5 Donation

May 16 (Saturday) 3:00 pm; **Benefit Concert**; The Bach and Handel Chorale; Lehighon Boys' and Girls' Band Hall, Lehighon; Ticket required, call Chorale Office: 570-325-4794 or www.bhchorale.org

May 16 (Saturday) 7:00 pm; **Jazz Concert**; The Bach and Handel Chorale, Perseverance Jazz Band; Mauch Chunk Opera House, Jim Thorpe; Ticket required, call Chorale Office: 570-325-4794 or www.bhchorale.org

May 17 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Dr. Ina Slater Grapenthin, organ**; Organ Dedicatory Concert; Trinity Lutheran Church, Topton; Information: Steven Schucker, 610-509-0694 or Church Office, 610-682-7352

May 17 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Valley Choral Society**; Patricia Conrad, director; Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkaspie; Tickets are on sale at Trinity beforehand at a reduced rate (\$13 [\$15] general; \$8 [\$10] senior; \$6 [\$8] student), call 215-257-6801

May 24 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; Gregory Zelek, organ; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg

May 31 (Sunday) 3:00pm; **Aram Basmadjian & The Allentown Band**; Ronald Demkee, director; Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem

Positions Available

Part Time Organist/Music Director (2)

Church: Stewartsville Presbyterian Church; 550 North Main Street, Stewartsville, NJ 08865, 908-859-1399

Website: N/A

Contact: Pastor Stephen Choi, 908-859-1399, Rev. stephenchoi@gmail.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir(10)

Instruments: 2 manual pipe organ with MIDI

Music budget: \$1000

Weekly attendance: 80

Position fill date: April 27, 2015

Deadline: None listed

Total hours per week: 8

Salary: \$10,500

Weeks vacation: 3 paid (vacation or sick)

Benefits: Book/music allowance, secretarial assistance, music library assistance



April Organ Crawl Participants

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Mark Dennis, 610-867-0385, vmdennispa@juno.com

Placement Service

Please visit the Placement page on www.lvago.org for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet.

Newsletter Deadline

(June/July) Thursday, May 21, 2015