

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

August/September 2015

September 2015



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Judith Love (2016)
Thomas Busteed (2017)
Matthew Wary (2017)
Aram Basmadjian (2018)
Gloria Snyder (2018)

www.lvago.org

Deans' Mixtures

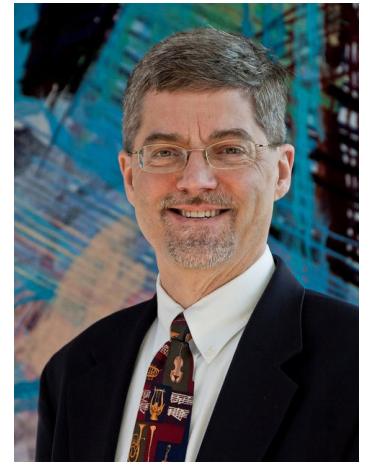
Dear friends and colleagues,

I don't know where the summer has gone! Meteorologically we are still in summer, but my school work has begun, and our choirs and other parish activities will begin soon.

This is the nature of time – many times it goes by more quickly than we would like, and since we are time-bound we cannot repeat any of it! So I hope your summer has been well spent, and that you are ready for September which is coming soon!

There are important things in this newsletter, especially an outline of our programs for the coming year. This information is hot off the press – it is still coming together as I write this. But a definite is that we have planned some excellent programs, and a wide variety of excellent programs at that. I hope you will come to some or all!

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September Meeting

Members' Recital

Saturday, September 19, 10am

*Where Two or
More are Playing*

Cathedral Church of the Nativity
Bethlehem, PA

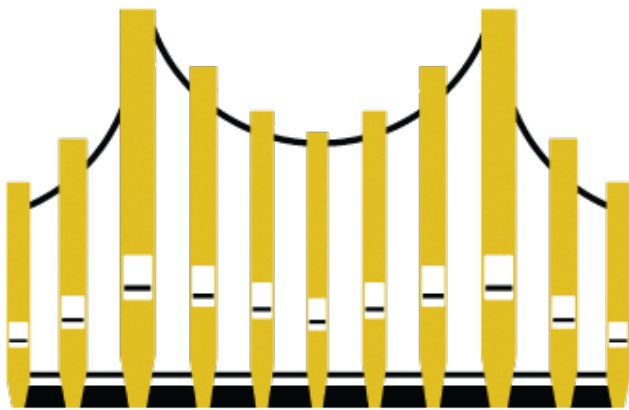
Dean's Mixtures

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To begin, our September program will be another members' recital, one similar to recent years at that. We are calling it **Where Two or More are Playing**; it will feature music for multiple performers in a variety of combinations. These might include organ and singer(s), organ and instrument(s), organ and piano, or two players on one organ bench! The program will be on Saturday, September 19, beginning at 10:00 a.m. It will take place at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where Stephen Williams will be our host. After some beautiful music we are planning a delicious brunch!

If you would like to play on the recital please contact me ASAP. Pieces can be short or long, for church or recital use, or just for fun!

Michael Krentz
Dean



2015 Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention in Pittsburgh: Bridges to the Future

The Steering Committee for *Bridges to the Future* provided an incredible array of stellar events! Performers, venues, opportunities for mixing and mingling – all were part of one of the best conventions I have had the privilege of experiencing. Rather than take over this entire newsletter, I'll limit my comments to some of my personal highlights.

The fifteen members of Three Rivers Ringers, directed by Nancy R. Lutz, caught the audience's attention with a rousing percussion procession that even used instruments worn on heads, played by the person following the wearer. Without missing a beat, this led into John Behnke's *Rhythmic Rip!* which led seamlessly into Michael Joy's *Dorian Dance*. If you are familiar with either of these compositions, you can imagine the energy that filled the room, along with incredible precision, musicality, and finesse. The group was founded in 2010, plays on six + octaves of handbells and handchimes, and appeared in the Pittsburgh Symphony Holiday Pops series last December.

Nathan Laube played a stunning concert on the 1962 Beckerath organ at St. Paul's Cathedral. This concert included Bach's Toccata in E, BWV 566; other early compositions, including Buxtehude's Toccata in d, BuxWV155; Liszt and Reubke. Nathan has dazzled his audiences since his Curtis days, and now, having studied in Europe for two years, receiving graduate degrees there, he is Assistant Professor of Organ at The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. His musical maturity and colorful interpretations thrill his audiences.

Chatham Baroque (Andrew Fouts, violin; Patricia Halverson, viola da gamba; Scott Pauley, theorbo; with J. Reilly Lewis — organ/harpsichord) performed Buxtehude, Erlebach, J.S. Bach and Bertali, and Reilly Lewis favored us with J.S. Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in G Major*, BWV 541, followed by workshop opportunities for Reilly Lewis to share some of his life experiences with many "greats" including leaders in music as well as the Washington Cathedral organ. Did you know that instead of adjusting the bench higher or lower, the entire pedal board moves up or down.

At the same venue, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Upper St. Clair, Peter Dubois demonstrated the new 11-rank chapel organ built (and just completed) by Taylor and Boody (Opus 67 — 2015) for use in the Galbreath Chapel. Leading hymn singing and playing Buxtehude, J.S. Bach, Walcha, Brahms, Locklair and Pachelbel, this moveable chapel organ proved its versatility and beauty, and sweetly prepared our aural palettes for the sounds of larger organs to follow.

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Convention Report

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Another highlight was David Schelat's program at First Lutheran featuring instrumentalists playing solo repertoire with the organ. Featuring trumpet, flute, alto flute, and English horn, each piece was unique and held my interest, but my most favoritest was *Biblical Sketches* (two movements: "In the Beginning" based on Genesis 1:1-5, and "David danced before the Lord with all his might" based on II Samuel 6:14) for trumpet and organ, composed by David Schelat. David exquisitely accompanied each of the soloists in this widely varied program.

I've heard of the Heinz Chapel and I've read about the organ in the chapel. Until I was there, I didn't understand the magnificence of the windows, or the awe inspired by the towering architecture. Nor did I have any idea of the flexibility, beauty, and power of the organ as played by Renee Louprette. The Demessieux *Te Deum*, "Sicilienne" from Durufle's *Suite*, Alain's *Trois Danses*, and my first hearing of Ad Wammes' *Vallee des Danses* left me speechless.

And then came Marvin Mills and Marliisa Hudson at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. Marvin is an astounding organist, and his organ performance was riveting. With soprano Marliisa Hudson, his accompanying skills on both piano and organ were as vividly demonstrated as were her vocal skills. (Many in the chapter got to know Marvin at the POE in 2009.)

And still one more highlight was in store for us — Chanticleer, also performing at Shadyside Presbyterian. In addition to our 200-plus convention attendees, tickets had also been sold to provide a capacity audience for the performance of this well-known group of a dozen men. Such music! Such finesse! Such musical communication! Such a delight! Such an experience calls for superlatives only!

And as our four busses drove us back to the hotel, as we passed the baseball stadium, although the home team had lost, fireworks enlightened our return to the hotel.

In addition to musical highlights, we had a riverboat cruise which provided opportunities for conversations with old friends and new acquaintances. And workshops were available on many topics; the ones I attended were useful in many ways.

If you missed this experience, there will be other conventions – but not many will have the large supply of truly outstanding moments Pittsburgh provided for us this year.

Ethel Geist, CAGO



Cathedral Church of the Nativity

2015 – 2016 Programming

Saturday, September 19

10:00 am

Members' Recital & Brunch

Members and friends of the LV AGO present a recital especially featuring the organ + soloist(s).

Cathedral Church of the Nativity
Wyandotte Street, Bethlehem, PA

Saturday, October 17

10:00 am

Improvise Today, Use it Tomorrow

A relaxed workshop / discussion led by a few LV AGO members including Stephen Williams, Mike Krentz and others, sharing their basis for improvising. The day is meant for sharing ideas and practices that can be put to use quickly, as opposed to techniques that require practicing prior to implementing into playing.

Allen Organ Company
Route 100, Macungie, PA

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2015 — 2016 Programming
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Saturday, November 21 9:00 am

Theological and Practical Hymn Playing with Karl Moyer

Karl Moyer returns to discuss more thoughts and practices and hymn playing for the church musician. This program pairs with the session from February 2015, but also stands alone.

Christ Lutheran Church
13th & Hamilton Streets, Allentown, PA

Sunday, January 3 4:00 pm

Holiday Party & Season Recovery

Mike and Linda Krentz will host a post-Christmas social for colleagues and their spouses as we regroup for the New Year!

Bethlehem, PA

Saturday, January 16 8:30 am

January Jumpstart

The Philadelphia Chapter's annual day-long event of workshops and programs to enrich the life of the organist or church musician.

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA

Sunday, February 21 2:00 pm

Student Organ Recital

Organ students of Moravian College Rebecca Kleintop-Owens and other students studying in our region present a recital. More students welcome! Contact us today.

Central Moravian Church
West Church Street, Bethlehem, PA

Sunday, March 13

3:00 pm

Marathon Recital — Bach Plus

Members and guests of the LV Chapter present not only the works of Bach, but works and composers that shaped his life and compositions. Supporters welcome to come and go 3:00 – 7:00 pm!

Egner Memorial Chapel, Muhlenberg College
Chew Street, Allentown, PA

Sunday, April 24

2:00 pm

Choral Workshop with Michael Kemp

A day-long workshop for choir directors and singers alike. Michael Kemp will lead us through the day, demonstrating rehearsal techniques and ideas for singers, leading us to the best practices for volunteer choirs.

Location awaiting official confirmation
Allentown, PA

Sunday, May 29

4:00 pm

Young Artist Recital & Chapter Banquet

Close out the year by joining us for a recital and our annual meeting. This year we host James Roman, studying at Curtis. Keep an eye out for reservation forms in 2016!

First Presbyterian Church
3231 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA



James Roman

Organ Registration and Improvisation with Hector Olivera

Join Maestro Hector Olivera for a morning of educational fun and humor as he covers topics of interest to the church organist including:

- Organ registration tips and techniques
- Use of MIDI to enhance traditional church music
- Improvisational techniques for the church musician
- Hymn playing fundamentals and advanced techniques

This workshop is open to all organists and is offered free of charge.

Saturday, November 14, 2015
9:00am to Noon
Allen Organ Company
Octave Hall
3370 Route 100
Macungie, PA



Positions Available

Organist (1)

Church: St. Peter's Union Church of Lynnville; 5129 Schochary Road; New Tripoli, PA 18066
Website: None listed
Contact: Karin Bowman, 484-239-9709, addiem@ptd.net
Weekly services: 1
Ensembles: None listed

Instruments: 2 manual pipe organ

Music budget: \$400

Weekly attendance: 20 – 40

Position fill date: fall

Deadline: None stated

Total hours per week: 2.5

Salary: \$3,000

Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: None

Notes: At present, we have no choir. If a choir is started, children's choir, special music, etc; the organist will be compensated accordingly.

Director of Music/Organist (1)

Church: Dryland United Church of Christ, 4415 Newburg Road, Nazareth, PA 18064, (610) 759-4444

Website: <http://www.drylanducc.org>

Contact: Joyce Hittinger, 610-866-6516, oljer@rcn.com

Weekly services: 1 – 2

Ensembles: Adult Choir — 12, Youth Choir — 4, Handbells — 10 (Not responsible for handbells)

Instruments: Allen organ, Yamaha Clavinova, Charles R. Walter piano

Music budget: \$1,200

Weekly attendance: 80 – 100

Position fill date: October 2015

Deadline: TBD

Total hours per week: 6 – 10

Salary: \$12,000 – \$13,000

Weeks vacation: 4

Benefits: None

Notes: None

Music Director (1)

Church: Hope Lutheran Church, 240 South 8th Street, Tatamy, PA 18085, 610-252-5181

Website: <http://www.hopetatamy.org>

Contact: Deb Frace, 610-417-7070, bdmjfrace@rcn.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir — 17

Instruments: 3 manual Allen Renaissance Quantum

Music budget: \$1,000

Weekly attendance: 95

Position fill date: Immediately

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Positions Available*Continued from page 5***Deadline:** None listed**Total hours per week:** About 9**Salary:** \$8,000 – \$12,000**Weeks vacation:** 2, 2 sick/personal**Benefits:** Book/music allowance, Secretarial, Sick leave, Private office**Notes:** As a Lutheran congregation, our services always follow a form of liturgy but we would like to experience some more contemporary mixtures within our music. We have a strong, talented choir but have plenty of room for growth and a desire to form a youth and children's choir.**Director of Music/Organist (1)****Church:** Friedens Lutheran Church, 2451 Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley, PA 18034, 610-865-4144**Website:** None listed**Contact:** Worship and Music Committee, Friedens@ptd.net**Weekly services:** 1**Ensembles:** Adult Choir — 6**Instruments:** 2 manual pipe organ**Music budget:** \$250**Weekly attendance:** 40**Position fill date:** October 2015**Deadline:** September 15, 2015**Total hours per week:** 10**Salary:** \$8,000 – \$10,000**Weeks vacation:** 3**Benefits:** None listed**Notes:** Small traditional Lutheran church wishing to include more contemporary forms of music.**Organist/Choirmaster (1)****Church:** St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 1188 Ben Franklin Hwy East (Rt. 422), PO Box 396, Douglassville, PA 19518**Website:** <http://www.stgabriels.us>**Contact:** The Rev. Dr. David R. Green, Rector, 610-385-3144, office@stgabriels.us**Weekly services:** 1, except for certain times of church year**Ensembles:** Adult Choir — 10, 1 paid section leader and funding for 1 more**Instruments:** 3 manual Allen MDS-70S with Hauptwerk digital sampling of a 1928 E. M. Skinner organ**Music budget:** \$2,000**Weekly attendance:** 110**Position fill date:** September 15, 2015**Deadline:** September 15, 2015**Total hours per week:** 10.75**Salary:** \$15,500 – \$16,500**Weeks vacation:** 4**Benefits:** None listed**Notes:** Familiarity with the Episcopal liturgy and seasons of the Christian year is a plus. The candidate must be competent in organ playing and choral directing, possess a working knowledge of sacred choral music, ability to work effectively with adults, children/youth (or those who work with them) and ability to be sensitive and responsive to the capabilities, needs and interests of the parish family, and open to various musical styles and settings committed to enhancing and developing the musical programs of the parish.

Funerals and Weddings will require extra planning and rehearsals not included in above hourly calculations, and will be compensated by the families involved.

Organist/Choir Director (1)**Church:** Cedar UCC, 3419 Broadway, Allentown, PA 18104, 610-395-6332**Website:** None**Contact:** Rev. Lee Schleicher, 610-395-6332, cedarucc@juno.com**Weekly services:** 1**Ensembles:** Adult Choir — 8, Handbells — 7**Instruments:** 3 manual Walker digital organ**Music budget:** \$300**Weekly attendance:** 45**Position fill date:** ASAP**Deadline:** None**Total hours per week:** 9.2**Salary:** \$15,700**Weeks vacation:** 1 first year**Benefits:** None**Notes:** None**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:** October: Thursday, Sep 17, 2015