Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

November/December 2016

November/December 2016



Chapter Officers 2016 – 2017

Dean: Andrew Long 610-704-7805 along2214@gmail.com

Sub Dean: Thomas Dressler 570-710-2752 tom@thomasdressler.com

Secretary: Erin Petrella 484-863-9052 erinpetrella@gmail.com

Treasurer: Stephen Bueker 610.438.3766 sfbueker@rcn.com

Executive Committee

Janice Butz(2017)
Matthew Wary (2017)
Aram Basmadjian (2018)
Gloria Snyder (2018)
Susan Hartney (2019)
Robert Richelderfer (2019)

www.lvago.org

Deans' Mixtures

How did we ever get to this point of 2016 already?! However fast, we made it, and now we approach the looming, yet so-needed Advent/Christmas season. My hopes that we've all made it through the tough election season as unscathed as was possible. As I mentioned last month, so much of what we do as musicians and as an organization are some of the few things that counter-balance the stress and tension in lives or relationships. This is a heavy and important load to bear, so caring for yourself is just as important as the counter-balance we provide!



Speaking of opportunities— join us November 20th! Mark Laubach, a Lehigh Valley native, comes to St. Anne's Parish in Bethlehem. Check out this issue for information regarding a recent refurbishment of their organ. The instrument built by Schantz speaks into a wonderful space for music, and I'm excited for the chance for the AGO to be back there after quite a number of years. Special thanks to our host Jane Errera and coordinator Janice Butz for all of their work. Be sure to check out other upcoming events so you don't miss our holiday party and January Jumpstart!

Continued on page 2

November Meeting

Mark Laubach, organ

Canon Precentor and Organist/Choirmaster at St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre

Sunday, November 20, 2016, 4:00 pm St. Anne's Catholic Church, Bethlehem Page 2 November/December 2016

Dean's Mixtures—Continued from page 1

VERY exciting and community-wide events are coming for March of 2016, too! Stay in touch!

In a change from some of the lighthearted writing I've shared in this column, now comes some business. In October 2016, some of you would have read AGO Executive Director's, James Thomashower, article. His discussion explained some of the ongoing investigation being pursued by the Federal Trade Commission regarding The American Guild of Organists at the national level. This investigation spanned the past two years and, I'm sure, countless hours on either end.

Last week, I received an email from Michael Bedford (president, AGO) as follow up from the investigation that began in 2015. Without detailed explanation (and I frankly don't have a great depth of understanding in this regard!) the Fedral Trade Commission found the Compensation Guidelines supplied by AGO headquarters and supplemented by many chapters, including our own, to be in conflict with Federal antitrust laws. As of November 16, 2016, these guidelines will be discontinued at our national level and all chapters are to follow suit. Such guidelines are not to be shared or referenced any longer.

What does this mean? Well a number of things, some of which may become more evident as time passes. Primarily, I believe it means we are an organization that will come to rely very little on the black and white nature of guidelines or conduct codes, and much more on building relationships, supporting one another, and practicing professional interactions with our institutions and colleagues. In that regard, can we still support and care for one another? Absolutely. More-so on a case-by-case basis and by relying on our wider communities to all strive for integrity and open communication.

If you have questions, please let our board know. Our contacts are available in our directories as well as a chapter contact through our website at www.lvago. org. I'm sure we'll be able to learn more from James Thomashower and others serving in national offices.

I wish you the best for the remainder of 2016. My sincerest thanks for all of the support you give to our chapter, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Warm regards, Drew Long

Upcoming Programs

November 20, 2016, 4:00 pm Mark Laubach, Organ Recital

We are happy to return to St. Anne's Catholic Church, Bethlehem for a recital presented by Lehigh Valley native, Mark Laubach. Mark is Canon Precentor and Organist/Choirmaster at St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, a post he has served since 1986.

December 30, 2016, 6:00-9:00 pm Holiday Social

Hosted by Michael and Linda Krentz, 2014 Amherst Drive, Bethlehem, PA. Appetizer, desserts and beverages provided. Spouses/Partners welcome. \$20/person. More details to follow.

January 14, 2017 January Jumpstart

The annual Multi-Chapter event for our region hosted at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA. Car pools leave the Lehigh Valley early morning, and the day officially concludes at 5:30 pm.

February 11, 2017, 9:30 am YogaVoice Workshop

Mark Moliterno, a voice instructor at Westminster Choir College, has designed a method of Yoga called YogaVoice along with choir director James Jordan. He will present not only these methods and how they apply to vocal musicians, but those of us at the keyboard. Location TBD; Snow-date February 25th.

March 5–12, 2017 Organ Festival

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council, Allentown Symphony artistic director Diane Wittry, Allen Organ, and the LV AGO are joining forces in March 2017! An Organ Festival beginning on March 5th culminates the following week with concerts presented by the Allentown Symphony and Hector Olivera. During the Symphonic Organ concerts at Miller Symphony Hall, Hector Olivera will debut a new work by renowned composer Eric Ewazen. For continued updates on these events and for discount ticket codes, visit millersymphonyhall.org. Our chapter is humbled by the

November/December 2016 Page 3

chance to work with the Allentown Symphony, Allen Organ, and other chapters in our region.
Sunday, March 5: LV AGO Marathon Recital at Muhlenberg's Egner Chapel from 3 to 6 pm Monday, March 6: Meet the Organ Happy Hour at Miller Sympony Hall hosted by Allen Organ Tuesday, March 7: Noon-Ten recital at St. John's Lutheran, Allentown

Thursday, March 9: Civic Theatre, 19th Street— Silent Film The Beloved Rogue with Don Kinnier on Organ at 7:00 pm

Friday, March 10: Meet the Artist at Miller Symphony Hall with Hector Olivera

Friday, March 10: Stephen Williams at Cathedral Church, Bethlehem at 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 11: Symphonic Organ Festival—Miller Symphony Hall at 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 12: Symphonic Organ Festival—

Miller Symphony Hall at 3:00 pm

May 6, 2016 Organ Crawl to NE PA

Chapter Sub-Dean Tom Dressler is working to design an organ crawl that will highlight must sees of NE Pennsylvania, culminating with stops in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. Stay tuned as details fall in to place!

May 21, 2017, 4:00 pm Recital / Annual Meeting & Banquet

Drew Long will host us at Trinity Lutheran, Perkasie for a recital by rising young artist, Adam Bergstresser, followed by our annual banquet meeting. Adam is a fomer student of our Sub Dean, Thomas Dressler. Trinity houses a Reuter organ rounded out by Walker voices installed in 2004.

November Program



Our November program features Lehigh Valley native Mark Laubach in recital at St. Anne's Catholic Church, 450 E. Washington Ave (corner of Easton & Washington Avenues) on Sunday, November 20, at 4:00 p.m. Works to be performed include the Prelude and Fugue in D Major by J. S. Bach, Sonata

in A Major by Felix Mendelssohn, Pièce Héroïque by César Franck, as well as works by Howells, Guilmant, Gigout, Paulus, and others.

After teaching himself how to play the piano "by ear" at age three, Mark Laubach began piano study at age six with Earl Bryan Seip of Palmerton, PA, and organ study at age twelve with J. Clinton Miller of Allentown, PA. In 1982, he received a bachelor's degree in Church Music, magna cum laude, from Westminster Choir College, studying organ with George Markey and Donald McDonald and harpsichord with Mark Brombaugh. In 1984, he received a master's degree in Organ Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied organ with David Craighead and harpsichord with Arthur Haas. In 1984, Laubach was the recipient of a one-year appointment as Fellow in Church Music at Washington National Cathedral, serving as an apprentice to Richard Wayne Dirksen and Douglas Major.

Since winning first prize in the 1984 American Guild of Organists (AGO) National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Performance, Mark Laubach has been known and respected throughout the USA and abroad as a gifted recitalist with unique skills in programming, registration, technical virtuosity, and expressive nuance. He has performed in notable concert venues in the USA (including the Kennedy Center and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.; St. Thomas' Church, St. Bartholomew's Church, Riverside Church, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City; the Cadet Chapel at West Point Military Academy; the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California; Trinity Church in Boston; Grace Cathedral in San Francisco; the Auditorium at Ocean Grove NJ;) and in Great Britain (including Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and King's College Chapel in Cambridge).

Mark Laubach has played and lectured at national and regional gatherings of the American Guild of Organists as well as the Association of Anglican Musicians, and has recorded three commercially distributed compact discs on the Pro Organo label. Since January 1986, Mark Laubach has served as Organist and Choirmaster of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wilkes-Barre PA, the Pro-Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem. Continuing a long legacy of fine music there, he administers a busy liturgical, choral, concert, and broadcasting schedule. In 2008 Bishop Paul Marshall made Mark Honorary

Page 4 November/December 2016

Canon Precentor of the Diocese of Bethlehem in recognition of his accomplishments and contributions to the musical and liturgical life of the Diocese.

Canon Laubach is a member of the Commission on Liturgy and Music for the Diocese, and has served as a faculty member for diocesan sponsored instruction through the Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations, a unique program offering education and certification to part-time musicians working in parishes of the Episcopal Church USA.

Canon Laubach also continues a busy schedule of teaching and coaching private organ students privately and through Marywood University in Scranton PA. Several of his students have distinguished themselves in competitions, continuing studies, and as church musicians in posts around the country. Mark has served as a faculty member for Pipe Organ Encounters sponsored by the AGO, and has been invited to serve as an adjudicator for numerous organ competitions. He has presented master classes for AGO chapters, and is in frequent demand for leading hymn festivals and presenting workshops and lectures on such topics as liturgical planning, hymnody, basic improvisation, pastoral care through music, and service playing skills. Mark Laubach is a past regional chairman of the Association of Anglican Musicians and has served several times as Dean of the Pennsylvania Northeast Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

St. Anne's Pipe Organ Refurbished

St. Anne's Catholic Church's 1977, III/45 Schantz has recently received some muched needed attention and updates. Here's a report submitted this past summer by Jane Errera:

Our organ project has begun. Here's more than you probably want to know about it:

The Builder's Proposal

1. The old draw knob actions, coupler actions, and combination action will be removed and replaced with 51 new draw knobs, 14 new tilting tablet couplers, and a new solid state combination action with multiple memory levels affecting all pistons of the highest

quality available with a memory level window. All will be wired appropriately.

- 2. There will be a 10-year warranty on all new components.
- 3. All 2,479 pipes will be removed and thoroughly washed and dried with low pressure compressed air. (The pipes are wrapped and numbered individually and taken to the organ shop in New Jersey for cleaning. Quite a job!) Bent or damaged pipes will be repaired. (Will the basses please stop stowing their hymnals in among the pipes?)
- 4. All wind chests and interior areas will be vacuumed. (Come to my house next!)
- 5. New florescent lighting will be installed in the Swell and Choir Divisions.
- 6. After reinstallation, the speech of all pipes will be regulated for proper attack, volume levels, and evenness.
- 7. The entire organ will be fine-tuned.
- 8. The repairs and tonal regulation will be warranted for ten years.

Comments

The work was done by C.W. Gibson, Inc., of Monro-eville, NJ. Chuck Gibson was one of the men who installed the Schantz III/45 in 1977. He has been our tuner and maintenance person ever since. We have four tunings a year. We have never needed much maintenance, maybe a straightening of pipes, but that's about it. (Basses and their hymnals! I'd like to have barbed wire installed behind the choir risers to keep the men away from the pipes, but that wasn't in the contract.)

This project took about eight weeks. Meanwhile, we were fortunate to have a 25-year-old used ADC-5000 2-manual organ rented from the Allen Organ Company. It really sounded good. I enjoyed playing it. LVAGO member Aram Basmadjian obtained the rental for us and LVAGO member Bruce Rohrbach helped with the installation, tuning, and piston-setting of the Allen.

The Allen console is located in the front of the nave, where I feel as if I'm on display. I want to be alone in the organ loft, where I can keep a crime novel open on the bench to read while listening for cues, and I can go out during the homily and start my Keurig coffee-maker to brew while I make a quick trip downstairs to the lavatory. Oh, well. The Bible says that the more we suffer in this life the better prepared we are for the next, so I guess I can sit up and pay attention through four Masses every Sunday, forgoing my book,

November/December 2016 Page 5

coffee, and lav breaks, which is why I don't want to keep the Allen no matter how good it sounds.

Six speakers are located along the wall behind me, right beside the "Amen corner." I'm surprised to see that the "Amen corner" people who sit near these speakers do not clear out, as I expected they would. I guess the sound goes over the heads of the worshippers (the speakers face up) and it's not too loud for them in that location.

On the other hand, a man tapped me on the shoulder on Sunday and asked that I not play too loudly. I suggested that he sit on the other side of the church, where the music might be softer. In a voice that carried to all four corners of the nave and to about 500 people, his wife explained, "He wants to sit near the lavatory in case he has to go."

The only other comments I've heard so far were of the "I like this organ better than that big thing in the back" variety.

That's about it. Had the LVAGO asked to use the Schantz for a recital last year, I'd have had to decline. This year the organ should be in good shape for Mark Laubach.

Jane Errera

Coming Soon: January Jumpstart

This annual educational event sponsored by many area AGO chapters, will be Saturday January 14 at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. The schedule has been changed this year to start and end later, 9:30am–5:30pm, and the closing celebration will feature music of composer Craig Phillips. Watch your next newsletter for more details.

November/December Concerts

November 11 (Friday) 8:00 pm; All Bach program #5 in a series of complete works performed by organist Stephen Williams; F minor prelude and fugue, chorales from the Kirnberger collection, Leipzig Chorales, and Orgelbüchlein, Toccata and Fugue in F Major; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; Free admission, swilliams@nativitycathedral.org

November 12 (Saturday) 8:00 pm; Cordus Mundi, men's choir; With Bel Canto Children's Chorus, Poulenc Gloria; St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Freewill offering

November 13 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; Marisa Deshler, organ; Works by Handel, Bach, Dupre and Wassem; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

November 16 (Wednesday) 12:05 pm; Joseph Russell, organ; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

November 18 (Friday) 7:30 pm; Modigliani Quartet; Presented by the Chamber Music Society of Bethlehem; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; Tickets \$27 at the door or visit www.cmsob.org for advance or season tickets

November 19 (Saturday) 7:30 pm; Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra; Allen Birney, Artistic Director; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-434-7811 or visit www.pasinfonia.org

November 20 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Duo Terlano** — Johannes Dietrich (violin), Marie-Aline Cadieux (cello); Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

November 23 (Wednesday) 12:05 pm; Kristen Diehl (vocalist); Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

November 25 (Friday) 8:00 pm; All Bach program #6 in a series of complete works performed by organist Stephen Williams; Pièce d'orgue, C minor prelude and fugue, chorales from the Kirnberger collection, Neumeister Chorales, and Orgelbüchlein, Trio III in C minor Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; Free admission, swilliams@nativitycathedral.org

November 27 (Sunday) 5:00 pm; Advent Lessons and Carols; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

December 10 (Saturday) 2:00 pm; Michael Seroka, organist; Joyful Music of Advent and Christmas; St. Joseph Church, Jim Thorpe; Free Admission

December 10 (Saturday) 8:00 pm; The Bach Choir of Bethlehem; Greg Funfgeld, Artistic Director; Bach's Christmas Oratorio Part 4, 5 & 6; Tickets: 610-866-4382 x15 | www.bach.org

Page 6 November/December 2016

December 17 (Saturday) 7:30 pm; The Camerata Singers; Allan Birney, Artistic Director; Handel's Messiah — The Complete Work; Tickets: 610-434-7811 pacameratasingers.org

December 18 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; Vox Philia, choral ensemble Christmas concert; St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Freewill offering

December 18 (Sunday) 7:00 pm; Handel's Messiah, Sing-along; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

December 20 (Tuesday) 7:00 pm; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Organist Substitute List

If you would like to be included in the Organist Substitute List please forward your Name, Contact Information (phone/email) and Availability (Sundays, weekdays, etc) to Stephen Bueker, 2520 Clark Place, Easton, PA 18040; sfbueker@rcn.com.

Robin Bidwell	Saturday	302 593-0401
Ruthann Brandt	Mon-Sat	610 262-3304
Janice Butz	Mon –Fri	610 882-9388
Stephen Cable	Mon-Sat	484-866-6019
Kathleen Comito	Sun-Sat	610 866-4883
V. Mark Dennis	Mon-Sat	610 867-0385
Valerie Derstine	Mon-Fri	215 536-3020
Carol Dzurenda	Sun and Sat	215 538-7273
Ellen Erb	Saturday	610 837-7426
Muriel Folk	Sun-Sat	610 438-8556
Sr. Doris Gonzalez	Thurs-Sat	610-317-0695
Gail Hanzl	Mon-Sat	610 264-5859
Michael Huffman	Mon-Sat	610 433-6563
Joe Kaczmarek	Sun-Fri	484 433-4336
Jacqueline Kuba	Mon-Sat	570 386-4480
Michael Kuhnert	Mon-Sat	215-536-4345
Andrew Long	Mon-Fri	610 704-7805
James Matz	Sun-Sat	610 367-8094
Linda Maule	Mon-Sat	610 258-5006
John McEnerney	Sun-Fri	215 794-7338
Richard McIntyre	Mon-Sat	908-282-4691
Randall Perry	Mon-Fri	570 325-9688
Erin Petrella	Mon-Sat	484 863-9052
Shirley Platt	Mon-Sat	610 838-5202
Michael Pletcher	Sun-Sat	610 820-7554
Maria Prochnau	Sun-Sat	610 694-0525
Bruce Rohrbach	T,W,F and Sat	610 683-9496
Karen Scott	May-Sept.	610 737-1701

Mon-Fri

570 386-2378

Michael Seroka

Brian Snyder	Mon-Thurs	484 838-0977
Donald Vaughn	Mon-Sat	610 966-0682
Matthew Wary	Mon-Fri	610 473-8777
Stephen Williams	Mon-Fri	610 737-5196
Freda Zimmerman	Sun-Sat	610 381 3089

Positions Available

Organist and/or Choir Director (1)

Church: Church of the Good Shepherd UCC, 135 Quarry

Road, Alburtis, PA 18011,610-966-2991 **Website:** www.goodshepherdalburtis.org

Contact: The Rev. Scott M. Sanders, 610-966-2991,

gsucc71@ptd.net
Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Senior Choir (5 women, 10 men) **Instruments:** 2 manual Fritzche pipe organ

Music budget: \$0 Weekly attendance: 120 Position fill date: March 1, 2017 Deadline: January 15, 2017 Total hours per week: 3 Salary: :\$10,500 - \$12,500

Weeks vacation: 3 Benefits: None listed

Notes: Position may be split to organist or choir

director. See website for details.

Handbell Choir Director (2)

Church: St. John's UCC, 183 S. Broad Street,

Nazareth. PA 18064, (610) 759-0893

Website: www.sjuccnaz.org

Contact: Corinne Remaly, Administrative Secretary,

(610) 759-0893, mail@sjuccnaz.org

Weekly services: 2 Sep – Jun, 1 Jul – Labor Day

Ensembles: St. John's Ringers, Fellowship Ringers, Joy Ringers (11 – 13 members each), Not responsible for

St. John's Ringers
Instruments: NA

Music budget: \$5,560, not including handbell

maintenance

Weekly attendance: 246
Position fill date: ASAP
Deadline: November 30, 2016

Total hours per week: 6 for 2 bell choirs **Salary:** \$2,000 – \$2,200 for 1 bell choir, \$4,000 – \$4,400 for 2 bell choirs

Weeks vacation: NA

Benefits: book/music allowance

November/December 2016 Page 7

Notes: St. John's has a long and cherished history of hand bell choirs, being one of the first churches in the Lehigh Valley to start a bell choir over 50 years ago under the direction of Floyd Schlegel. Music Ministry continues to be a vital and important part of St.

John's mission. The church owns two sets of 5 octave Malmark hand bells, and one set of 3 octave hand chimes.

Hand Bell Choir Director for 1-2 Hand Bell Choirs, preferably 2

Each Hand Bell Choir would be encouraged to play in worship 4-6 times per year

For more information:

Susan Frickert, Director of Music, (610)759-0893,

sfrickert2001@yahoo.com

Rev. Jeff Brinks, Senior Pastor, (610)759-0893,

pastor@sjuccnaz.org

Handbell Choir Director (2)

Church: Holy Trinity — Salem Lutheran Church,

514 Third Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18018

Website: None listed

Contact: Madeline Deegan, (610) 559-1699,

mid1550@gmail.com

Weekly services: None listed Ensembles: Handbell Ringers — 12+

Instruments: NA Music budget: NA

Weekly attendance: None listed

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: None

Total hours per week: 2 – 3 **Salary:** \$1,900 - \$2,200 Weeks vacation: NA Benefits: None listed

Notes: Ensemble expect to perform once per month

Director of Music; Organist; Choir Director (2)

Church: St. Matthew's Evangelical Congregational Church, 5th and Ridge Streets; Emmaus PA 18049

Website: www.stmatthewsec.com Contact: Sarah Boyer, 610-392-8778, sarahneen1973@verizon.net

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult choir — 10, Handbell choir — 7

Instruments: Allen Organ

Music budget: No set budget, money is available

Weekly attendance: 130 **Position fill date: ASAP Deadline:** End of October Total hours per week: 13.5

Salary: None listed

Weeks vacation: None listed

Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assis-

tance, vacation/sick pay

Notes: If the organist applicant is able to direct the choir and handbells, that is an added bonus for us. We're looking for an organist, first and foremost. We enjoy the sound of the organ to enhance our worship experience. We would like to see our choir and handbell choir 'back up and practicing' again. We are looking for an organist — if the individual that applies can play the organ, director a hand bell choir and choir that is all the more a Yay God!

Music Director (2)

Church: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,

1900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown, PA 18109,

(610) 865-3603

Website:: standrewsbethlehem.org Contact: The Rev. T. Scott Allen, Rector, (610) 691-8303, gambaguy@gmail.com

Weekly services: 1, plus feast days, weddings, funerals

Ensembles: Adult Choir—5

Instruments: 2 manual Allen organ, Yamaha keyboard,

Weber piano

Music budget: \$1,000 Weekly attendance: 73 Position fill date: ASAP **Deadline:** None listed Total hours per week: 10

Salary: \$14,000 Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: Book/music allowance, continuing ed,

AGO membership

Notes: The ideal candidate will have a background in both traditional and contemporary organ music, experience in choir direction and an understanding of the importance of music ministry as an integral part of worship and outreach to the congregation

and community.

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster: Mark Dennis, 610-867-0385, vmdennispa@juno.com

Placement Service: See the Placement page on www.lvago.org, for information and the, Placement Service Information Sheet.

Newsletter Deadline: Jan/Feb Edition: Thursday, December 29, 2016