

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

December 2017/January 2018

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Chapter Officers 2017–2018

Dean: Thomas Dressler

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Sub Dean: Jane Errera

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Secretary: Erin Petrella

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Treasurer: Stephen Bueker

610-438-3766

sfbueker@rcn.com

Executive Committee

Aram Basmadjian (2018)

Gloria Snyder (2018)

Susan Hartney (2019)

Robert Richelderfer (2019)

Janice Butz (2020)

Luke DiGiacinto (2020)

www.lvago.org

Dean's Mixtures

It seems like every year someone writes about the need to find some quiet time during Advent, and here I am, saying the same thing. I think no matter which holiday we celebrate at this time of year (Christmas, for the majority of us) it can become a truly hectic time, and we get caught up in all the details of trying to make traditions happen.

I have found it to be a very stressful time for church musicians, as we are trying to please a lot of people with different ideas of what the best tradition might be. I'm the type that wants to make everyone happy, and I become stressed when I know I can't. I find it really necessary

to make sure I set aside time to focus on WHY we celebrate and WHAT is important. I find the Liturgy of the Hours very helpful. I set aside a half hour every morning for the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, and that helps me at least remember why we do this routine every

year. We all have something that we can use to focus on what it's all about. Reconnect to whatever your spiritual tradition, keep reminding yourself of WHAT it is we celebrate (and it's not Christmas cookies, or Santa Claus, or a Christmas tree, or even fabulous Christmas music, though those things really help bring fun and focus to the season.) Remember we can't make everyone happy but one thing we can do is remind people what we are reminding ourselves in our quiet time.



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January Meeting

Simon Johnson, organ

Organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, London

Friday, January 12, 2018 7:30 pm

Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Dean's Mixtures

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After Christmas and we have some real down time, there will be two programs to help get us back on track for the rest of the season: Jan 12 at 7:30pm, Simon Johnson (organist at St. Paul's in London, and a very versatile musician) will perform at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and the next day, Jan 13 is the January Jumpstart at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian. Watch your email for more information about the January Jumpstart.

Wishing everyone lots of success during the Advent and Christmas season!

Thomas Dressler, Dean

Up Coming Programs

January 12, 7:30 pm at Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, we are cosponsoring with the Cathedral a recital by Simon Johnson, organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

January 13, 8:30 am–4:30 pm at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, January Jumpstart. Registration at pcagoo.memberlodge.org/event-2352961/

February 3 or 17 (snow date), 9:30 am–1:00 pm at Nazareth Moravian church we will hold a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza workshop for young people.

March 11, 3 pm–8 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown, is our annual Marathon recital.

April 21 we will have an organ crawl in the Lehigh Valley to hear and play some local treasures.

May 27, First Presbyterian Church of Allentown will be our annual banquet and recital, featuring Clara Gerdes, the winner of the regional competition.

Dec/Jan Concerts

December 9 (Saturday) 2:00 pm; Joyful Music of Advent and Christmas; Michael Seroka, Organist, and Members of St. Joseph Parish Choir; St. Joseph Church, Jim Thorpe; Free Admission

December 9 (Saturday) 8:00 pm; The Bach Choir of Bethlehem; A Child's Christmas in Bethlehem; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-866-4382 x15 or www.bach.org

December 10 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; Valley Choral Society; Songs for the Season of Light; Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkaspie; Freewill offering

December 16 (Saturday) 7:30 pm; The Camerata Singers; Christmas Concert—Vespers; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-434-7811 or www.pacameratasingers.org

December 17 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; Lehigh Valley Chorale; Christmas concert directed by Ed Milisits; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation

December 17 (Sunday) 7:00 pm; Choirs at Trinity; Christmas at Fifth and Chestnut; 5:00 pm Dinner—send email mail with a count of attendees to Office Administrator at trinityperkaspie@verizon.net; Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkaspie

December 19 (Tuesday) 7:00 pm; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; Cathedral Choir and Friends; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation

December 25 (Monday) 3:00 pm; Organ Noëls; Stephen Williams, organ; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation

January 12 (Friday) 7:30 pm; Simon Johnson, organ; Organist at Saint Paul's Cathedral, London; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation; www.simonjohnsonmusician.com

Fall Program Reports

September 16, the chapter began a new program season by presenting an Organ Plus recital at St. John's Lutheran Church, Nazareth. The program offered music for two musicians combining other instruments and a vocalist. Organist members playing included Janice Butz (host and coordinator), Tom Dressler (dean), Bryan Holton and Gloria Snyder (piano). Guests included Christina Brodt (flute), Keegan Lerch (trumpet and flugelhorn) and Mark Helms (tenor). The varied program included hymn

arrangements and works by Chaminade, Persichetti, Faure, Dvorak and David Conte. A luncheon following the concert was generously provided by the church.



September meeting performers

The Lehigh Valley Chapter met to enjoy a program of music presented by various ensembles on Sunday afternoon, **November 12**. The program was held at the Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua and was coordinated by Bob Richelderfer, host musician of the church and Executive Board member of the chapter. The performers appeared in a variety of ensembles ranging from a solo organist playing the ensemble of organ pipes and several duets including a vocal duet and combinations of guitar and ukulele, flute and piano, and organ and piano. Larger ensembles featured the Lehigh Valley Horn Ensemble, organ and handbells, the Senior Choir with percussion, and the Presbyterian Praise Band. Chapter members performing included Tom Dressler, Chapter Dean; Bob Richelderfer, host; Stephen Bueker, Chapter treasurer and Michael Fister. Guest musicians included Braedan and Caleb Flannery, Susan Lichner, Resa and Krystaglynn Roberts, Jim Smith, Barbara Moran and members of the horn Ensemble, Senior Choir and Handbell Choir. A reception was served by the church following the program.

—Gloria Snyder

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
V. Mark Dennis	Mon–Sat	610 867-0385
Carol Dzurenda	Sun and Sat	215 538-7273
Ellen Erb	Saturday	610 837-7426
Sr. Doris Gonzalez	Thurs–Sat	610 317-0695
Gail Hanzl	Mon–Sat	610 264-5859
Brian Holten	Mon–Sat	585 633-8705
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
Dodd Lamberton	Sun–Sat	484 935-3505
Andrew Lutz-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	908 283-4691
Randall Perry	Mon–Fri	570 325-9440
Erin Petrella	Mon–Sat	484 863-9052
Shirley Platt	Sun–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–Sep	610 737-1701
Michael Seroka	Mon–Fri	570 386-2378
Brian Snyder	Mon–Thu	484 838-0977
Donald Vaughn	Mon–Sat	610 966-0682
Matthew Wary	Mon–Fri	610 473-8777
Stephen Williams	Mon–Fri	610 737-5196
Stephen Ziminsky	Mon–Sat	610 417-2669
Freda Zimmerman	Sun–Sat	610 381-3089

Positions Available

Organist/Director of Music (1)

Church: St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9 North 9th Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, 570-421-8520, sjchurch@ptd.net

Website: None listed

Contact: Rod Rufe, Personnel Committee, 570-897-6943, rufehaus@epix.net

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Senior Choir—10 (Regular Sunday)
Up to 14–16 for Special Performances

Instruments: 3 manual Allen, Baldwin studio piano

Music budget: \$2,500

Weekly attendance: 75–100

Position fill date: January 7, 2018

Deadline: None listed

Total hours per week: 12

Salary: \$12,500

Weeks vacation: None listed

Benefits: book/music allowance

Notes:

Our congregation would like to:

- Organize and reestablish a children's choir
- Reestablish a Bell Choir (our church owns a full set of high quality Malmark handbells and chimes)
- Extra compensation would be considered for these additional choirs
- Baldwin Baby Grand Piano in main church

Salary: \$20,800—\$25,000

Weeks vacation: 0

Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance

Notes: The ideal candidate(s) will: (1) Provide a broad array of musical styles for all age groups, (2) Be proficient with a musical accompaniment instrument (preferably organ and piano), (3) Be able to lead and develop one or more adult, youth, or children's musical groups (vocal, handbell), and (4) Understand the role of music to enable faith formation and a spiritual worship experience.

Organist/Choir Director (1)

Church: St. John's UCC- Howertown, 22 Atlas Rd., Northampton, PA 18067, 610-262-8666

Website: www.stjohnsucchowertown.com

Contact: Kristin Berke, 610-262-8666, sjhowertown22@gmail.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: adult choir—8

Instruments: Allen organ L322E

Music budget: Approximately \$500

Weekly attendance: 120

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: None

Total hours per week: 6.5

Salary: \$14,500—\$15,500

Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: book/music allowance

Notes: In addition to direction of the choir at the Sunday 9:30 AM and holidays, collaboration with the minister on variations for services is paramount.

Director of Music (2)

Church: Christ Church United Church of Christ, 75 E. Market St., Bethlehem, PA 18018, 610-865-6565

Website: christucc.org

Contact: 610-865-6565, musicsearch@christucc.org

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir—25, Youth Choir—6, Handbells—10

Instruments: Allen/Moeller

Music budget: \$6,000

Weekly attendance: 125

Position fill date: Immediate Opening

Deadline: Before 12/31/2017

Total hours per week: 20



Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Mark Dennis

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Placement Service

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

Newsletter Deadline

February Edition:

Thursday, January 18, 2018