

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

June/July 2017

June/July 2017



Chapter Officers 2017–2018

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

Sub Dean: Jane Errera
610-865-4837
janeerrera@aol.com

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

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's an honor to be serving as Dean of the chapter, and I'm excited about our upcoming year! Our board is a great group of motivated people, and I am thrilled to be working with them on this year's programs!

Many of us are taking a breather from our choir season right now, and it's a good time to let the mind wander over possibilities for the upcoming year. It's our time to mentally regroup and plan. I hope your plans will include our chapter events for 2017–2018.

One of the side-benefits of our programs that I enjoy a lot is the opportunity to spend time with one another—talking, sharing stories, maybe helping one another with specific issues, etc. It is a “shot-in-the-arm” to spend time with other organists, and I hope even more of you attend our programs this year. The more of us there are, the merrier the time we have!



Speaking of upcoming programs, it's time to start thinking about participating in our first program, the *Organ Plus* members' recital on September 16 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Nazareth. Please start thinking about pieces you might perform with a friend or two or more playing along!

Continued on page 2

September Meeting

Organ Plus

Saturday, September 16, 10am
St. John's Lutheran Church, Nazareth

Dean's Mixtures

Continued from page 1

The rest of the schedule is still being worked out, but it will include a session of sharing our favorite anthems for smaller church choirs on Oct 14 at College Hill Moravian in Bethlehem, another members' recital—a festival of ensemble music on Nov 12 at Presbyterian Church of Catsaqua, a recital by Simon Johnson on Jan 12 which we are cosponsoring with Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Marathon recital in March (details still TBA), an organ crawl in April, and the annual recital and meeting in May. In several of these programs there are opportunities for members to play, share music, etc, and it would be wonderful to see many of you joining in to share your talents with the rest of us!

I hope all of you have some time to relax this summer, and that your planning for the coming year is fruitful!

Thomas Dressler, Dean

Dues are Due

The time has come for most of us to renew our membership in the American Guild of Organists. In the most recent edition of *The American Organist* on page 6, there is a helpful chart describing the various levels and costs for membership. Also, I recently received a renewal form in the mail. Perhaps you did, too? Since I prefer to deal with paper rather than electronics, I was pleased to receive the renewal reminder.

At a recent meeting of the Lehigh Valley Chapter Officers and Executive Board, the category of Chapter Friend was discussed. A Chapter Friend is affiliated with the Lehigh Valley Chapter, receives the chapter newsletter and is welcome to attend Chapter events and activities. It does not include benefits through National membership or a subscription to *The American Organist*. To become a Chapter Friend, please contact the Treasurer of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Stephen Bueker, 2520 Clark Place, Easton, 18040. Telephone: 610-438-3766 or Cell Phone: 610-657-4188. Email is sbueker@rcn.com. The cost for a Chapter Friend membership as determined by the Officers and Board is \$15.00.

Gloria Snyder

May Organ Crawl

On an overcast spring day on Saturday, May 6, members of the Lehigh Valley Chapter journeyed to our neighboring Chapter, Pennsylvania Northeast, for an enjoyable Organ Crawl. Organized by Tom Dressler, Sub Dean, the group visited five very interesting organs. The tour began at the Church of the Epiphany in Glenburn with a 2 manual Karl Wilhelm tracker instrument. The second church, St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton offered a 3 manual Casavant tracker in North German Baroque style. A 3 manual Schlicker rebuilt by Patrick Murphy at Covenant Presbyterian Church also in Scranton was the third stop. Hickory Street Presbyterian Church in Scranton, the fourth stop, featured a 3 manual 1920-ish Casavant organ. Finally, the Austin/Skinner/Berghaus organ at St. Stephens Episcopal Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre brought the tour to a conclusion. The variety of various organs and the architecture and acoustics of each church were particularly interesting and the warm hospitality of each venue was appreciated by the group.

Photos of the organ crawl may be viewed on the LVAGO's Facebook page.

Recital, Annual Meeting and Banquet

A highlight in the program schedule for the Lehigh Valley Chapter is the annual Banquet and Concert presented by a Rising Star among organists. On Sunday, May 21, chapter members and friends gathered at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Perkasie, Pennsylvania, for this outstanding event. The event was hosted by Andrew Lutz-Long, Director of Music Ministries for the church. The recital was presented by **Adam Bergstresser**, a native of Nazareth, Pennsylvania, and a recent graduate of Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey where he earned a Bachelor Degree in Organ Performance and Sacred Music. While at Westminster, he studied organ with Alan Morrison and Daryl Robinson and improvisation with



Peter Conte and Alejandro Consolacion II. Outside of Westminster, Adam continues to study with his long-time mentor, Thomas Dressler, a relationship that began in 2009 at a POE sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Chapter.

Currently, Adam serves as Director of Music Ministries and Organist for St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Doylestown, Pennsylvania. In addition to organ and administrative responsibilities, Adam directs St. Paul's Ringers and the Westminster Quartet and also collaborates with Dr. Joseph Ohrt in the direction of the Senior Choir.

Adam's program was described as an "immense success" and he was complimented for his imaginative registrations. His repertoire included works by Sweelinck, J. S. Bach, Brahms, Mendelssohn and Liszt. The organ at Trinity Lutheran is a three-manual Reuter installed in 2004 with additional digital voices by Walker Technical Company.



Thomas Dressler, Dean; Jane Errera, Sub Dean; Janice Butz, Robert Richelderfer, Erin Petrella, Secretary; Luke DiGiacinto

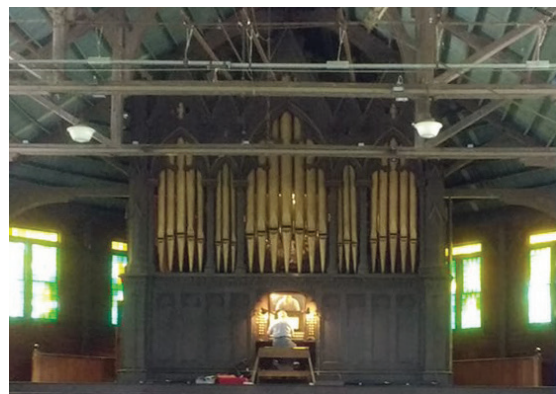
Following the concert and the banquet, the annual chapter meeting included the presentation, election and installation of officers for the next season. Presiding at the meeting was Andrew Lutz-Long, retiring Dean. Matthew Wary is retiring from the Executive Board. New officers for the next season include: Thomas Dressler, Dean; Jane Errera, Sub-Dean; Erin Petrella, Secretary; Stephen Bueker, Treasurer. Those on the Executive Board are: Aram Basmadjian, Gloria Snyder, Susan Hartney, Robert Richelderfer, Janice Butz and Luke DiGiacinto. Special appreciation was offered to members of the Nominating Committee, Linda Maule, Gail Hanzl and Maria Prochnau. The coordinator for the event was Eleanor Focht.

Report from Round Lake

The Victorian village of Round Lake, New York, is located about halfway between Albany and Saratoga Springs. It was originally founded as a Methodist camp meeting location. At first, people stayed in small tents, which were replaced by small buildings that then became small, colorful Victorian houses, and people eventually began living there year-round. In the center of the village is an auditorium, where all the major events took place. At first, it had a wooden frame and canvas sides. Eventually the canvas was replaced with permanent walls. And in 1888, the Round Lake Camp Meeting Association bought an organ from Calvary Episcopal Church in New York City. When the instrument was completed by William H. Davis and Richard M. Ferris in 1847, it was one of the largest and most sophisticated instruments in America.

The **Davis-Ferris organ** was relocated to Round Lake and installed by a local builder, Giles Beach. The organ remains in its spot on the auditorium stage, and has hardly been changed. In fact, it retains more than 90% of its pipework and is the most intact example of a pre-Civil War American organ. This year, the Interior Department designated THE ORGAN (NOT the auditorium) a National Historic Landmark. It is the first and only musical instrument with this designation!

Thomas Dressler, our dean, has performed on this organ for the past 27 years and was thrilled to be part of the festivities on June 10 celebrating the organ's new landmark status. If any of you are going to be in the upstate New York area near Saratoga Springs, a visit to this organ is well worth your time. It sounds unlike any other organ, taking you back to before the Civil War. Remember, 1847 is the year Mendelssohn died! If you have an interest in visiting the organ, contact Thomas Dressler.



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
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
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	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
Michael Seroka	Mon-Fri	570 386-2378
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

Music Director/Organist/Director of Choirs(1)

Church: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 107 W Lincoln Ave., Telford, PA 18969

Website: stpaulstelford.org

Contact: Kristine Fosbenner, secretary@stpaulstelford.org, 215-723-8981

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Adult Choir—18–20, Childrens' choirs (2)—12

Instruments: pipe organ II/22, refurbished 2006; W. Hofman 5' 10" grand piano, purchased 2011

Music budget: \$2,000+

Weekly attendance: 160

Position fill date: Sept 1, 2017

Deadline: Until filled

Total hours per week: 20

Salary: \$27,000–\$29,000 for full position

Weeks vacation: 4

Benefits: book/music allowance, continuing ed

Notes: The congregation is willing to hire an accomplished organist separately from the Music Director/Director of Choirs position (or any combination). If you are interested in any one position, or the entire position, please apply accordingly. Hours/salary will depend on which combination of positions filled.

Responsibilities include: Music director—overseeing music program, coordinating music for the season of the church year in conjunction with the Senior Pastor.

Director of Choirs—choosing appropriate anthems for the season, coordinating with Music Director and Senior pastor and directing Chancel Choir, Cherub Choir and Red Angels Choir.

Organist—providing suitable organ and piano music for all worship services and choir rehearsals; accompaniment for choirs, soloists and instrumental groups; and assisting in planning of the worship service music.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree in music or credentials of formal music training; accomplished organist with ability to accompany choral groups and congregational singing. Must be available for choir rehearsals, worship services, and other events, as needed.

Organist/Choir Director(1)

Church: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1335 Old Carriage Road, Northampton, PA 18067

Website: www.goodshepherdkreidersville.org

Contact: Rev. Gary L. Walbert, 610-262-9517, pastorgary81@gmail.com

Weekly services: Not listed

Ensembles: Adult Choir—8

Instruments: Walker digital/pipe, 3 manuals

Music budget: \$750

Weekly attendance: 80–90

Position fill date: June 2017

Deadline: Not listed
Total hours per week: 11
Salary: \$16,000
Weeks vacation: 2–4 weeks
Benefits: book/music allowance, continuing ed
Notes: We would like to see a Junior Choir and a bell choir started. We are a friendly, warm congregation.

Organist— Updated(2)

Church: College Hill Presbyterian Church,
 501 Brodhead St., Easton, PA 18042
Website: collegehillpc.org
Contact: Rev. R.C. Smith, 610-253-4792,
 revrc5@aol.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult choir—18, Children's choir—6
 Organist not responsible for these groups

Instruments: Austin, 2 manual with antiphonal positiv;
 Steinway B Grand; Roland RD-700GX Digital Keyboard;
 Hubbard & Broekman French Double Harpsichord;
 Malmark Handbells—3 octaves

Music budget: \$5800

Weekly attendance: 140

Position fill date: Summer 2017

Deadline: Until filled

Total hours per week: 12

Salary: \$15,000

Weeks vacation: 4 weeks

Benefits: book/music allowance, music library assistance

Notes: College Hill Presbyterian has a history of enjoying high-quality, and sometimes eclectic, music as part of our single Sunday morning worship service, as well as special services. A music endowment helps to underwrite the cost of the overall music program. This has allowed us to bring in occasional hired musicians to perform in many styles, from classical to jazz to international folk music. We also have intentionally encouraged musicians of all ages and abilities from the congregation to offer their talents in support of our worship life.

Director of Music(2)

Church: St. Mark Lutheran Church,
 3771 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020,
 610-694-0212

Website: www.stmarksbethlehem.com

Contact: Pr. Paul Braden, 610-253-9055,
 pbraden@rcn.com

Weekly services: 2 (8:15 & 10:30), Summer: 1 (9:30)

Ensembles: Adult choir—10
Instruments: Allen, 2 manual with expander
Music budget: \$250
Weekly attendance: 90
Position fill date: ASAP
Deadline: April 30, 2017
Total hours per week: 15
Salary: \$15,000–\$20,000
Weeks vacation: 4
Benefits: secretarial assistance
Notes: A number of members (middle school on up) are musically talented and are used to participating in worship on a fairly regular basis (mostly during the offering time). We expect our Director of Music to encourage and enable this.



View the LVAGO on [Facebook](#)

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Mark Dennis

610-867-0385

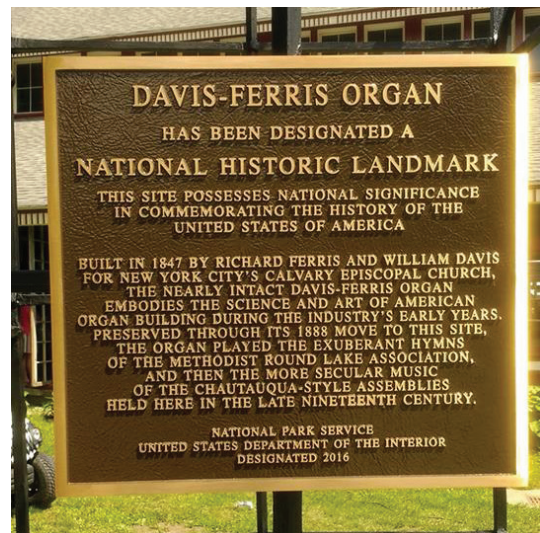
vmdennispa@juno.com

Placement Service

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

Newsletter Deadline

August/September Edition:
 Thursday, July 27, 2017



1847 Davis-Ferris organ National Historic Landmark marker dedicated on June 10, 2017