

Lehigh Valley Chapter

# American Guild of Organists

August/September 2018

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## Chapter Officers 2018–2019

Dean: Thomas Dressler

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610-865-4837

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484-863-9052

[erinpetrella@gmail.com](mailto:erinpetrella@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Stephen Bueker

610-438-3766

[sfbueker@icloud.com](mailto:sfbueker@icloud.com)

## Executive Committee

Susan Hartney (2019)

Robert Richelderfer (2019)

Janice Butz (2020)

Luke DiGiacinto (2020)

Eric Gombert (2021)

Jackie Kuba (2021)

[www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org)

## Dean's Mixtures

Last week I was talking with a lady from my church. We were talking about her work on social issues and I was impressed by how much good she is doing. I thought about my own work and I said, "Sometimes I wonder, with all of these difficult issues facing so many people, whether it really matters whether I learn and play Bach or whether what I do is really that important." She was surprised by my self-questioning. She told me that she's seen people leaving church talking about how uplifted they felt, and she said that people need to hear this kind of music more than ever. I needed to hear that.



Sometimes I am tempted to think that involved music is for times of leisure, when other needs are satisfied and pain is distant. But then I think on the lives of great musicians and how they produced great music during times of turmoil or personal pain. Bach was faced with death often: the death of both his parents when he was a boy, the sudden death of his first wife at a young age, the deaths of most of his children, and what music he produced! Beethoven composed transcendent music in spite of his deafness. Widor witnessed war in the streets and

*Continued on page 2*

## September Meeting

### *Play Something Quick!*

**A program of organ music to have on hand, just in case...**

**Complimentary brunch prepared by the church**

Saturday, September 15, 2018, 10 am  
The Presbyterian Church of Catasaqua  
210 Pine Street, Catasaqua, PA

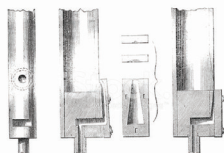
*Dean's Mixtures**Continued from page 1*

lack of food. One of Wanda Landowska's recordings has WWII gunfire in the background. With very little thought it becomes apparent that I was wrong. Music is produced in *spite* of turmoil and difficulty, and it does help people cope. Sometimes it seems to me that I am laboring over musical minutiae that mean little to those struggling with life's difficulties and the issues facing our world. But the words of the lady I was talking to caused me to think deeper and to remember that music's effect on the listener can be quite different than we, as the music *makers*, think—especially when we are twisting our minds (and fingers) in knots learning to play pieces.

I think late summer, when we are planning our upcoming anthems and other music, is a good time to remember this. Wouldn't it be great if our music making could have tangible healing effects on people? Hopefully it does! I feel that a way to increase its effectiveness is to try to play or sing the right piece at the right time. It's always nice to be entertained by a good musical composition or good technique, but it's way more effective when the listener is transformed beyond those things and is moved by the *meaning and purpose* of the piece. The labor and skill needed to play or sing the notes fades into the background and the "magic" happens in the listeners. One of my teachers many years ago told me that 90% of the success of our music is based on the choice of pieces. I find that in a church setting, we cannot always fit our organ pieces or anthems to the message of each Sunday, but when we CAN, wow, it can be powerful. It's a lot of work to do this kind of planning, but I find it worthwhile if it helps draw people in and gives our music a stronger purpose.

Sometimes the work necessary to sit and plan music that reinforces the messages of the upcoming Sundays seems daunting, but remember what the lady at my church told me about the effect of music on people in the congregation. Let's be healers.

Tom Dressler, Dean



## September Meeting

### **Play Something Quick!**

Saturday, September 15, 2018, 10 am  
The Presbyterian Church of Catasaqua  
210 Pine Street, Catasaqua, PA

The pastor leaves the pulpit to run to his office for his forgotten sermon notes. The funeral is held up because the hearse has a flat tire. The groom's father was left at the hotel and it will take forty-five minutes to get him to church. At times like these, it's up to the organist to "Play something quick!" Surely you've had similar experiences, and prepared as you are, you have music at the ready. Once again, the organist saves the day!

Our September meeting will feature organ music to have on hand for those times when you have to organize without advance notice. We'll gather in The Presbyterian Church of Catasaqua at 10 AM on Saturday, September 15, for a program of accessible organ music played by our members on the 1868 Johnson II/18 organ, followed by a complimentary brunch prepared by the church.

We'd like you to play some of your "Play something quick!" music, and maybe even tell a story that goes along with having had to use it. Will you pick up a book or two from off your organ console or bench and share what it is that you keep nearby to fill those voids in the worship service where something should be happening - like music?! Contact our host, Bob Richelderfer, to let him know that you'll play one or two simple pieces. Arrange a practice time if you like. You can reach Bob at 610-216-8066 or [mrmrsbob@enter.net](mailto:mrmrsbob@enter.net).

Even if you're not playing, please reply to me via Email with titles of music that you might use when you get an urgent request to "Play something quick!" Include composers and publishers. I'll compile a handout for the meeting.

Now please "find something quick!" and contact Bob and/or Jane with your information by Friday, August 17. Thanks in advance for sharing!

Jane Errera, Sub-Dean  
Lehigh Valley Chapter, AGO  
[janeerrera@aol.com](mailto:janeerrera@aol.com)

## Save these 2018-19 Dates for the Lehigh Valley Chapter, AGO

**Saturday, September 15th 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**

“Play Something Quick!”—A program of organ music to have on hand, just in case...

Complimentary brunch prepared by the church

The Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua  
210 Pine Street, Catasauqua, PA 18032

**Saturday, October 20th 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**

Organ Masterclass with David Baskeyfield

St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church  
37 South 5th Street, Allentown, PA 18101

**Sunday, October 21st at 4:00 p.m.**

David Baskeyfield, Concert Organist

St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church  
37 South 5th Street, Allentown, PA 18101

**Saturday, November 10th 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**

“Rejuvenating Senior Voices” Workshop with Michael Kemp

Lunch prepared by Social Tea Caterers (\$15) or bring your own  
First Presbyterian Church, 3231 West Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104

**Sunday, January 27th 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

“Potluck!”

A members’ recital of whatever you want to play

A members’ potluck supper of whatever you want to bring

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 474 Vine Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015

**Saturday, February 2nd 2019 Time TBA**

“Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza”—A program to introduce young people to the organ

Place TBD

**Sunday, March 24th 2019 at 3:00 p.m.**

Annual Bach Marathon

St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church  
37 South 5th Street, Allentown, PA 18101

**Saturday, April 6th 2019 Time TBA**

AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists - Chapter Level Competition

Cathedral Church of the Nativity  
321 Wyandotte Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015

**Sunday, April 28th 2019 at 3:00 p.m.**

AGO National Chaplain Donald Saliers presents “Reinvigorating Ourselves”

Wesley Methodist Church, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017

**Sunday, June 2nd 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

Annual Young Artist’s Recital featuring Aaron Patterson, current AGO Pogorzelski-Yankee Scholarship Awardee

Annual Banquet and Annual Meeting

Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 West Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102

## Aaron Patterson

Each year the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education administers six academic scholarships through the generous bequest of Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee. One of the 2018 recipients is Aaron Patterson, who will be our recitalist for next year's Young Artist's Recital on June 2 at Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown. Aaron's biography can be read on page 22 in the July 2018 issue of *The American Organist*. Mark your 2019 calendar now and plan to attend the recital given by this promising organist!

Jane Errera, Sub Dean

## Member News

### Lou Carol Fix

We would like to extend our sincerest condolences to chapter member, Lou Carol Fix. Her husband, Andrew Cooper Fix, recently passed away. Lou Carol's address is: 23 Young Ave., Coopersburg, PA 18036.

### Rebecca Lepore

Congratulations to LVAGO member Rebecca Lepore, the 2018 recipient of the *Moravian Music Foundation's Moramus Award for Distinguished Service to Moravian Music*. The award was bestowed on Becky for her passionate dedication to Moravian music past and present, her countless hours of humble service, and the joy she brings to the preservation, celebration, and cultivation of Moravian music.



In addition to serving as Central Moravian Church's Organist and Choir Director since 2002, Becky is also Adjunct Faculty at Moravian College and Organist/Choir Director for Moravian Theological Seminary. She is a former University Organist at Lehigh University. Becky was previously Senior Organist at the nationally televised Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and an Assistant Grand

Court Organist at the Wanamaker organ in Philadelphia. She holds music degrees with distinction from the Curtis Institute of Music and Moravian College.

Rebecca Lepore has nine CDs to her credit as well as compositions and arrangements for organ published through Alfred, MorningStar, and the Moravian Music Foundation.

## An Invitation for Members

Once again the invitation is given: consider preparing for the Service Playing Certificate offered by the American Guild of Organists (or other certificates such as Colleague, Choirmaster, etc.). It has been a while since any Lehigh Valley chapter member has accepted the challenge to achieve a professional AGO certificate. Do check out pp. 43-46 in the July 2018 issue of *The American Organist* for a full description of these exams, including playing and application requirements. As Certification Director for our chapter, I will be happy to help you in any way I can, from answering your questions to setting up your examination locally.

RSVP: [nemp@rcn.com](mailto:nemp@rcn.com)

Maria Prochnau

## Mission, Vision and Value Proposition

**The mission** of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.

**The vision** of the American Guild of Organists is to engage, support, and uplift every organist.

### Value Proposition

As a member of the AGO you can:

- connect with other organists
- enhance your skills as an organist and choral conductor
- celebrate the organ in historic and evolving contexts
- discover news of the organ and choral world online and in *The American Organist*

- engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.
- nurture new organists of all ages
- share knowledge and expertise
- enjoy camaraderie at chapter events and conventions
- find inspiration and challenge
- receive encouragement from colleagues
- experience great organs and organists
- access career opportunities and job listings
- earn professional credentials through AGO certification

**September 30** (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Gale Archer, organ;** Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering  
**October 6** (Saturday) 1:00 pm; **Master Class with David Lutz;** Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Free  
**October 7** (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Bernstein and Sondeim Celebration Choral Concert;** Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Adults: \$20, Students: \$10



## Membership Renewal

The time has come for most of us to renew our membership in the American Guild of Organists. In the April 2018 edition of *The American Organist* on page 21, there is a helpful chart describing the various levels and costs for membership.

The Lehigh Valley Chapter officers and executive board created the category of Chapter Friend in 2017. 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*. The cost for a Chapter Friend membership as determined by the officers and board is \$15.00. 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@icloud.com](mailto:sbueker@icloud.com). Also, if you would like assistance with the OnCard process, contact Steve Bueker.

Hopefully you will renew your membership at your earliest convenience. Each person is vitally important to the Lehigh Valley Chapter and we value your affiliation and participation with LVAGO.

Gloria Snyder

## Sep/Oct Concerts

**September 16** (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Fall Festival of the Arts Opening Gala Concert;** Music and poetry presented by local high school students; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Free

## 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](mailto: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
Bryan 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 Lambertson	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	215 794-7388
Richard McIntyre	Mon-Sat	908 283-4691
Randall Perry	Mon-Fri	570 325-9440
Erin Petrella	Mon-Sun	484 863-9052
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

## Placement

### Music Coordinator/Organ & Piano(1)

**Church:** Trinity (Great Swamp) UCC, P.O. Box 494, 9150 Spinnerstown Road, Spinnerstown, PA 18968

**Website:** [tgsucc.org](http://tgsucc.org)

**Contact:** Ruth Collie, 215-536-7213, [Ruthcollier9@comcast.net](mailto:Ruthcollier9@comcast.net)

**Weekly services:** 1

**Ensembles:** Adult Choir—15, Youth/Jr. Choir—8, Handbells—10

**Instruments:** 3 manual Allen

**Music budget:** TBD

**Weekly attendance:** 80

**Position fill date:** ASAP

**Deadline:** 9/30/2018

**Total hours per week:** 6

**Salary:** \$12,000–\$15,000

**Weeks vacation:** 1–2

**Benefits:** book/music allowance, secretarial assistance

**Notes:** None listed

### Director of Music (2)

**Church:** St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 150 Elm Street, Emmaus, PA 18049, 610-967-1450

**Website:** [stmargaretsemmaus.org](http://stmargaretsemmaus.org)

**Contact:** (The Rev.) Jane Arrington Bender, (C) 610-570-3360, [Jane.a.bender@gmail.com](mailto:Jane.a.bender@gmail.com)

**Weekly services:** 1, Sunday 9 am

**Ensembles:** Adult choir—6, (Sept–May)

**Instruments:** Two manual Rogers, Yamaha upright

**Music budget:** \$800

**Weekly attendance:** 32

**Position fill date:** August 19, 2018

**Deadline:** July 31, 2018

**Total hours per week:** 8.5

**Salary:** \$7,200

**Weeks vacation:** 4

**Benefits:** None listed

**Notes:** St. Margaret's Episcopal Church is a small, joyful parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem located in Emmaus, PA—a suburban town one hour north of Philadelphia and two hours west of New York City. We are currently in the midst of a musical/liturgical renewal, seeking to reignite our music program in the context of the Anglican sacred music tradition. We have begun chanting Anglican psalmody during our Sunday morning Eucharist, and have begun Evensong services during Eastertide. While a small parish, we are looking

for a creative, enthusiastic director seeking professional growth, and willing to take up the challenge of continuing our current momentum, energizing the spiritual life of our parish, and evangelizing the community at large through the beauty of sacred music. *The Hymnal 1982* and *Wonder, Love and Praise* supplement to the *The Hymnal 1982*. Contact church for additional responsibilities and qualifications.

### Director of Music/Organist (2)

**Church:** St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, 110 North Sixth Street, Perkasio, PA 18944, 215-257-6460

**Website:** [www.thessperkasio.org](http://www.thessperkasio.org)

**Contact:** Michael White, 215-257-6460, [musicststepperk@thessperkasio.org](mailto:musicststepperk@thessperkasio.org)

**Weekly services:** 1

**Ensembles:** Chancel choir—10, Bell choir—12

**Instruments:** Three manual Moeller (1957)

**Music budget:** \$250

**Weekly attendance:** 110

**Position fill date:** September 1, 2018

**Deadline:** July 31, 2018

**Total hours per week:** 9–10

**Salary:** \$20,000 which divided by those employed in the Music program

**Weeks vacation:** 2

**Benefits:** Maternity leave, book/music allowance, sick leave, continuing ed

**Notes:** The mission of St. Stephen's is to **Know, Grow, and Show God's Love** and the church is looking for new and innovative ways that music can support that mission. It is the church's goal to respect the music of the past and explore the music of the present and future from traditional music to contemporary/praise music. The pastor and the music director/organist will together plan an exciting ministry of music.

**Newsletter Editor and Webmaster:** Mark Dennis, 484-666-8511, [vmdennispa@juno.com](mailto:vmdennispa@juno.com)

**Placement Service:** See the Placement page on [www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org), for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet.

**Newsletter Deadline:** Next Edition: Thursday, 9/20/18