

Lehigh Valley Chapter

# American Guild of Organists

February 2019

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## Chapter Officers 2018–2019

Dean: Thomas Dressler

570-710-2752

[tom@thomasdressler.com](mailto:tom@thomasdressler.com)

Sub Dean: Jane Errera

610-865-4837

[janeerrera@aol.com](mailto:janeerrera@aol.com)

Secretary: Erin Petrella

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)

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## Dean's Mixtures

It's quiet in the Poconos in January (at least where I live.) There is snow on the ground, and more on its way. There is noticeably more daylight, and as I sit in my chair, forced to stop doing things for a number of days by a case of the flu, I am contemplating how our work can mimic or be attuned to the seasonal rhythms.

Ideas are coming for the upcoming year at my church, we are into a new budget year, and I have to start making plans for what we'll do this year. I'm actually happy to have a month or two without big projects to bring to fruition. I grew up on a farm, and though my grandfather did not farm it on a large scale at that point, we did have a very large garden. In January, the seed catalogs would come and we'd start dreaming of what we were going to plant and the wonderful flowers and vegetables we'd have by the end of summer and into fall. It always started in January with the dreaming.



There are wild seeds, like milkweed, echinacea, sycamore, etc, that actually need this cold, frozen time to overcome their dormancy and germinate in the spring. And over the years, I have found this to be true with my practicing. There are times to work on pieces, and there are times to let them

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## February Meeting

### *Pedal, Pipes and Pizza*

Saturday, February 9, 2019 9:30

First Presbyterian Church

3231 Tilghman Street, Allentown

### Dean's Mixtures

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rest for awhile. Doggedly pushing oneself past a certain point with difficult pieces is not only unproductive, but many times it's counterproductive.

And just like the month of January was a month of dreaming of the upcoming growing season when I was a kid, there are times when I believe it is necessary to get away from the organ with difficult pieces and imagine you are conducting someone else playing them. There are times when we need to connect to the dreaming about our pieces, to the imagination, to get away from being bogged down with the technical problems that are stopping us from reaching our goals.

I will never forget a lesson with Bernard Lagacé in Montréal. When discussing technical problems with a certain piece, he said (with his heavy French accent), "We are a whole person, body and soul. If we have the right concept of a piece, the technique will fall into place." Now that is not to say that technical work is unimportant. It was addressed to getting past the hump where you work and work for little to no improvement. The idea was to get away from the keyboard and dream about how the piece would go unfettered by technical problems. This can produce some really good results, much better than blindly banging one's head against a wall.

I believe there are times to work hard on difficult pieces. Then there are times to get away from the keyboard and conduct or dream about how they should go. And there are also times when we need to just stop practicing particular pieces and realize that, just like the milkweed seeds under the snow, this time is necessary for germination. I have found that for myself, I rarely perform a piece in public until it has been through all of these stages, including dormancy. That means that for pieces like Bach Preludes and Fugues, even though I might learn the notes in a certain amount of time, it may take a year for me to feel I have a settled interpretation.

What does winter, snow, quietness, even having the flu teach me?

Patience.

—Tom Dressler, Dean

## February Meeting

**PEDALS, PIPES AND PIZZA**, a program to introduce musicians to the pipe organ, will be held 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 9 at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, 3231 Tilghman St. by the LV American Guild of Organists, designed for, but not limited to, students in fourth to eighth grades. The program shows elements of the pipe organ from the families of sounds, the pedal board, keyboards and a trip inside the organ chamber to see and discuss the pipes. Ends with pizza and a discussion. Registration required. Info and registration, Luke DiGiacinto at 610-417-2766.



1959 III/59 Austin, First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

## March Meeting

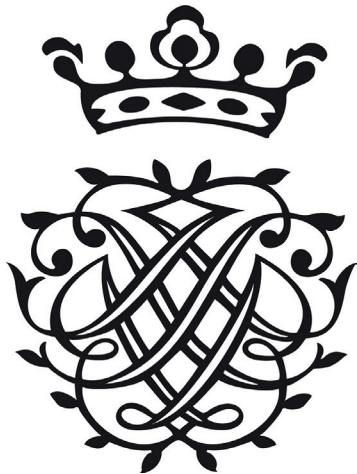
### Bach Marathon Concert

This year's Bach Marathon concert will take place on Sunday, March 24, 2019, at St. John's Lutheran Church on South 5th St. in downtown Allentown, hosted by Eric Gombert. Once again we are soliciting for performers of music by J.S. Bach especially, as well as organ music by Bach's predecessors, contemporaries, and later organ composers who were influenced by Bach's compositional style. Performers are invited to play for any length of time from 5 minutes to 1/2 hour (or possibly more). We will find a spot for you to participate. We welcome chapter members and other musical friends to perform and help celebrate the music of Bach in our annual LVAGO Bach marathon event.

Please contact Lou Carol Fix, [LCFix@moravian.edu](mailto:LCFix@moravian.edu), by March 1 if you are interested to play. The information I would need includes: your name / contact info. / titles and BWV # of your pieces / a short biography of yourself / the time (and alternate time) you would

like to begin playing between the hours of 3:00 - 7:30pm (concert ends at 8:00pm). First come, first served...and happy practicing!

—Lou Carol Fix, Coordinator



## January Meeting

A potpourri of organ music was presented by LVAGO organists at the Potluck recital held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Bethlehem on Sunday, January 27. The program began and ended with French 20th century masterpieces by Dupré and Messiaen, respectively. In between were a mixture of hymn tune settings by Burkhardt, Willan, Powell, Young and Paxton, some French baroque music by Couperin, and an improvisation based on two Epiphany hymn tunes. Commentary from each performer about the works they shared added to the interest and informality of the afternoon. Special thanks to the seven organists—Marisa Deshler, Luke DiGiacinto, Dodd Lamberton, Linda Maule, Erin Petrella, Robert Richelderfer and Stephen Williams—for presenting a delightful and eclectic program of organ favorites. Good food and conversation were enjoyed by chapter members at the potluck meal that followed in the church fellowship hall.

—Janice Butz

## 2018–2019 Programs

**Saturday, February 9th (Snow:16th) 2019 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**“Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza”**

*A program to introduce young people to the organ*  
 First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

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

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 37 South 5th Street, Allentown

**Saturday, April 6th 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists—Chapter Level Competition**

Cathedral Church of the Nativity  
 321 Wyandotte Street, Bethlehem

**Sunday, April 28th 2019 at 3:00 p.m.**  
**AGO National Chaplain Donald Saliers presents**  
**“Reinvigorating Ourselves”**

Wesley Methodist Church  
 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem

**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

## March Concerts

**March 10 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; Marisa Deshler, organ;** Featuring arrangements and transcriptions; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

**March 10 (Sunday) 4:00pm; *The Waters of Glacier*;** Jill Haley, oboe & english horn; David Cullen, guitar; Susan McDevitt, piano; Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasio; Freewill; \$5–\$10 suggested

**March 31 (Sunday) 3:00pm; Lehigh University Soloists and Chamber Ensembles;** Lehigh students perform works ranging from classical to jazz; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

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## 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).

Dale Bonenberger	Mon–Fri	917 328-9041
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
Kevin Freaney	Sun–Sat	610-283-1944
Ellen Erb	Sat	570-350-0343
Eric Gombert	Mon–Sat	610-435-1641
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 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	Sun–Sat	484-863-9052
Maria Prochnau	Sun–Sat	610-866-2560
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

congregation in a giving mood.

“Don’t worry, I’ll come up with something,” she said.

During the service, the minister paused and said, “Brothers and sisters, we find ourselves in great difficulty. The cost of the roof repairs is twice as much as we expected, and we need \$4000 more. Any of you who are able to pledge \$100 or more, please stand up.”

At that moment, the organist began playing, “The Star Spangled Banner.”



## Organist Humor

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building.

He gave the organist a copy of the service and asked her if she could come up with some kind of inspirational music to play, after he made the announcement about the finances, to help put the

**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**

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