

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

January 2019

January 2019



Chapter Officers 2018–2019

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@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

Dean's Mixtures

I'm learning how to make tailored shirts. And it's one of the best things I've done in years for my musical work with people at my church.

Huh??

Well, I decided to give it a try before Christmas. I thought learning to sew might be an interesting hobby, as I like doing creative things. And I thought I'd learn to make things I could actually use. Shirts seemed like a logical choice. I had no idea what I was doing, so I figured I'd just follow the directions and sooner or later it would all make sense. It didn't take too long into the process for me to realize that I had chosen to start learning on an advanced project! But I had bought the fabric and cut the pieces, so I felt committed to trying it. I decided that my goal for my first project could not be perfect construction, so I decided to settle for "not awful."



Continued on page 2

January Meetings

January Jumpstart

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 8:30 am to 4 pm

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Potluck

Sunday, January 27, 4 pm

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

474 Vine Street, Bethlehem, PA

Dean's Mixtures

Continued from page 1

The shirt involved one seemingly impossible challenge after another: making sleeve plackets, easing set-in sleeves, etc. (If you don't know what those things mean, ask someone who sews whether they are easy...) I even bought some cheap fabric to practice making sleeve plackets before making them on the "real" shirt. And it was when I got frustrated with the sleeve plackets that it hit me how this relates to my work in music.

Those of us who work in churches with volunteer choir members usually work with people who have chosen to learn a new skill later in life. We have been making music all our lives, and the basics of music—reading notation and transferring those symbols into sounds that have the right pitch and last for the right length of time, for instance—are no longer challenges for us. But those basic skills can be as challenging to a new choir member as sewing a straight line (let alone easing in a set-in sleeve!) can be for someone learning to sew later in life. I found myself experiencing all the things I hear choir members talk about, especially the frustration of wanting to produce excellent work but having to be patient as the skill develops (and having to learn to accept "not awful" as a first goal.)

I decided two things: learning to make a shirt was not only something for me, but it was a Christmas gift to my choir! I was voluntarily putting myself in the position of "beginner" at learning a creative skill so I could remember and empathize with the challenges and frustrations faced by people learning to sing or ring handbells. And just like new choir members who jump into the process without a "beginner's class," I was learning to sew on the fly, making a difficult project. So the first thing I learned was that doing this mindfully was a gift to my choir. The second thing I decided was that I am not going to give up, but I am going to work through the difficulties, just as I want my choir members to do. And that I would look at imperfections with as much patience as I expect my choir members to express towards themselves.

The lesson I am learning and that I am passing on is never to forget to empathize with beginners in music. Be patient when they express frustration. Maybe take on a new skill, yourself, just to

remember how it feels to be a beginner. My New Year's resolution for my choir is to keep with this and learn a new skill in my 50s.

—Tom Dressler, Dean

January Meeting

Join Us for Potluck

Sunday, January 27, 4:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
474 Vine Street, Bethlehem, PA

Don't we all enjoy those potluck dinners where everyone brings their favorite dish or special food to share? The fun part of a potluck is that you never know what you might get. It's always an adventure and taste-treat to sample other people's offerings, and it often can turn out to be quite a surprise.

Our LVAGO Chapter will be hosting a double-header potluck on Sunday afternoon, January 27, at 4:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 474 Vine Street, in Bethlehem. You are invited to bring along your organ shoes and favorite piece of music to share; it could be anything from a transcription to the classics, from a secular arrangement to an improvisation. The organ is a 1964, 3-manual Moeller. (Stop list can be found on www.lvago.org.) Following the potluck musical portion, we'll enjoy a surprise meal together with all your favorite foods. A ham will be provided, so bring a side dish, vegetable, casserole, or dessert. Whether you play or not (we do need an audience of listeners), please plan on joining us for the meal. This is meant to be a time of fun and fellowship for our chapter members. For those wishing to share an organ piece, please contact Janice Butz at janicebutz@gmail.com.

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

November Meeting

On November 10, I attended Michael Kemp's workshop *Rejuvenating Senior Voices* at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown. This workshop was extremely interesting and helpful. As organists, we are often responsible for choirs and as choir members are maturing, we are sometimes faced with challenges in regards to those maturing voices! Michael's workshop focused on techniques to help vocal concerns such as running out of breath, the throat getting tight and sore, lack of energy, etc. He then presented how every vocal problem is related to a singer's posture, breath support, throat, and tone placement. He gave helpful tips about doing simple warmups and making vocal concepts easier to understand for church choir members. The information presented in this workshop was pulled from Kemp's books *Rejuvenating Senior Voices* and *Igniting Choir Rehearsals*. The second book focuses on seventeen choral scores that are annotated and Kemp includes steps to teaching anthems to church choirs. It was a productive workshop and I would highly recommend both of the books!



—Erin Petrella

2018–2019 Programs

Saturday, January 12th, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
“January Jumpstart”

Carson Cooman, featured clinician

Information and registration at:

pcagoo.memberlodge.org/event-3139867

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

•

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

•

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

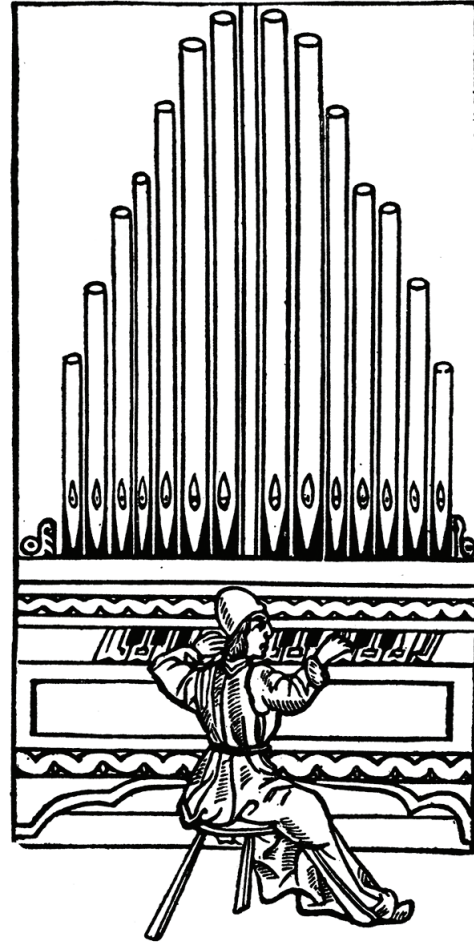
January Concerts

January 20 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Robert McCormick**;
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.

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



Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Mark Dennis, 484-666-8511
vmdennispa@juno.com

Placement Service

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

Newsletter Deadline

Next Edition: Thursday, January 24, 2019

Find us on Facebook

