

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

November 2019

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Chapter Officers 2019–2020

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610-438-3766

sfbueker@icloud.com

Executive Committee

Janice Butz (2020)

Luke DiGiacinto (2020)

Eric Gombert (2021)

Jackie Kuba (2021)

Linda Maule (2022)

Robert Riday (2022)

www.lvago.org

Dean's Mixtures

Breath. Pneuma.

Going through some stressful times recently has reminded me of the importance of breath... not just THAT we breathe, but HOW we breathe. And this led to some reflections on the organ and how we play it.



Our instrument uses large amounts of air, but the thing that distinguishes it from most wind instruments is that the air is supplied to the organ in limitless quantities. We do not have to stop to let the instrument take a breath (unless there is something really wrong with its winding system!) This unlimited air supply is one thing that contributes to the majestic and otherworldly sound of our instrument. At the same time, if we want to make the instrument “sing,” we need to be aware of the limitations of singers’ lungs and how they breathe. While our instrument is capable of playing lines that are unyielding and (theoretically) infinitely long, if we want the music issuing from the organ pipes to sound human and unlike a computer, we have to consciously add the same limitations a singer grapples with. We have to take time at phrase endings to breath, we have to analyze our music and add these “lifts” in a way

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November Event

Hymn Festival

Led by Wayne Wold

Sunday, November 17, 3 pm
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
37 South 5th Street, Allentown

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

that resemble a person taking a breath. Adding the illusion of limitation to our playing makes it sound more natural, more musical, and I think it also allows listeners to empathize with our music making.

Nowhere is this consciousness of human breath more important than when we lead a congregation in hymn singing. There is hardly anything more difficult to follow (and possibly stress inducing—see below) than trying to sing with an organist who does not give people time to breath. I find that the best way for me to keep in touch with the natural breathing process of singing is to sing along as I play hymns. I've done this from the time I learned that skill (and it is not easy at first to sing along as you play four parts on the organ) and I continue to do it to this day.

Singing has a calming effect on the human body. If you Google "breathing, blood pressure," you'll see that controlled breathing, where the exhalation is slower than the inhalation, stimulates the vagus nerve and lowers blood pressure, turning off the fight-or-flight response. The important thing is to take deep diaphragmatic breaths and control the exhalation. This is so effective that devices that help with breath control have been approved by the FDA for blood pressure control. It's worth doing some research on the benefits of yoga breathing...

Breath or "pneuma" signified more than just air to the Greek stoics. It signified the life force, or the soul—the fragment of God that is within us. It was seen as a combination of air and fire. Upon reflection, it has some interesting resemblances to the Holy Spirit in Christian theology. It is what gives us life.

I can hardly think of a better way to celebrate life and even increase our health than to sing. And as organists leading congregational singing and directing choirs, we help those around us breath better by being aware of breathing and always sensitively incorporating the need to breath into our organ playing. We CAN play without the limitation of needing to breathe, but that does not mean we SHOULD.

Tom Dressler, Dean

November Event

Hymn Festival with Wayne Wold

*Sunday, November 17th 2019 at 3:00 pm
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
37 South 5th Street, Allentown*

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954 in Fosston, Minnesota) is currently Professor, College Organist, and Chair of the Music Department at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and Director of Music Ministry at First Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, Maryland. An active composer, author, performer, church musician, and clinician, Wold holds a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree from Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Virginia; a Master of Sacred Music (MSM) degree from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio; and a Bachelor of Music (BMus) degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. He earned the certification of AAGO (Associate of the American Guild of Organists) and received the "Alumnus of Excellence Award" in 2015 from Shenandoah Conservatory. He is editor and frequent author of a monthly column entitled "Musicians on the Side" in the journal *The American Organist*. Wold is the author of three books, numerous articles, and dozens of anthem and hymn texts. His published compositions number over 300 and include works for organ, adult and children's choirs, and various instrumental ensembles, plus a children's musical and psalm settings and hymn tunes that appear in numerous hymnals in the U.S. and Australia. He served on the editorial committee for the hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. He has presented numerous recitals and improvised hymn festivals across the U.S. and in Europe and has performed as harpsichordist with the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, the Hood Chamber Players, the National String Sinfonia, the Frederick Symphony Orchestra, and Bach in Baltimore. Wold is an active member of both the Baltimore and Central Maryland Chapters of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), a member and past regional president of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM), and a member of The Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada, and he has led workshops for all three organizations. Since 2018 he has served as Regional Councillor of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Guild of Organists.



Member News

We would like to express our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of John Gumpy. Mr. Gumpy passed away on Sunday, September 29 at Cedarbrook. He was an organ builder and the owner of the Lehigh Organ Company for over 30 years. His full obituary may be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y393w2co>.

October Event Review

West Side Moravian Church, Bethlehem, was the site for our always-popular anthem-reading workshop. Anthems for all times and seasons and all voicings were presented by Janice Butz, Jane Errera, Jackie Kuba, Linda Maule, Luke DiGiacinto, and Bob Riday with his accompanist Gary Raish. A bountiful table of refreshments provided the setting for much socializing and fellowship before and after the anthem-reading. Many thanks to our presenters for giving us time-tested anthem ideas and to our host, Luke DiGiacinto, for opening the doors of the fine West Side Moravian facilities to us. A good time was had by all!

2019–2020 AGO Events

Sunday, November 17th 2019 at 3:00 pm

Hymn Festival with Wayne Wold
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
37 South 5th Street, Allentown, PA 18101

Sunday, January 19th 2019 at 3:00 pm

"Potluck!" a members' recital of whatever you want to play. A members' potluck supper of whatever you want to bring.

Light of Christ Lutheran Church (formerly Messiah Lutheran)

2020 Worthington Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18017

February 2020 Date and Time TBA

"Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza"—a program to introduce young people to the organ

Location TBD

Sunday, March 15th 2020 at 3:00 pm

Annual Bach Marathon
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
37 South 5th Street, Allentown, PA 18101

April 2020 Date and Time TBA

Organ Crawl

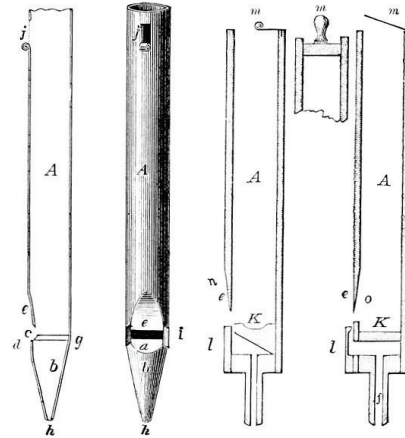
Sunday, May 31st 2020 at 4:00 pm

Annual Young Artist's Recital presenting Emily Amos, Audience Prize winner, 2018 Albert Schweitzer Competition

Annual Banquet and Annual Meeting

DeSales University

2755 Station Avenue, Center Valley, PA 18034



Nov–Dec Concerts

November 10 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Ron Meixsell, bass/baritone and Julie Anne Meixsell, soprano**; Romantic solos and duets from Broadway show, opera and art songs; St. John's UCC, Nazareth; Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$10 Students and Seniors, 610-759-0893, www.sjucnaz.org

November 16 (Saturday) 7:30 pm; **Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra**; Youth and Revolution: Mendelssohn, Haydn and Beethoven; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-434-7811, www.pasinfonia.org

November 24 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Lehigh Valley Chamber Ensemble**; with Thomas Dressler; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Free-will offering

December 7 (Saturday) 8:00 pm; **The Bach Choir of Bethlehem**; Bach *Magnificat* & *Handel Messiah*, part 1; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: \$38, 610-866-4382 ext. 115, www.bach.org

December 14 (Saturday) 7:30 pm; **Camerata Singers**; Vivaldi *Magnificat in G minor* and other short works; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-43-7811, www.pacamerasingers.org

December 15 (Sunday) 10:15 am; **FPCA Chancel Choir with Orchestra**; Special Music Service with Cantata; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown;

December 15 (Sunday) 2:00 pm; **Summer Harmony and Lehigh Valley Harmonizers**; Christmas Concert; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-395-4282

December 15 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **The Princeton Singers**; "A Rose in Winter" Christmas Concert; St. Anne's Catholic Church, Bethlehem; Free-will offering



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
Carol Dzurenda	Mon—Sat	215 538-7273
Kevin Freaney	Sun—Sat	610 283-1944
Pauline Fox	Sun—Sat	610 735-2037
Ellen Erb	Saturday	570 350-0343
Charles Glandorf	Sun—Sat	610 416-1055
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
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
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—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
Stephen Ziminsky	Mon—Sat	610 417-2669
Freda Zimmerman	Sun—Sat	610 381-3089

Positions Available

Music Director⁽¹⁾

Church: Union Lutheran Church, 5500 PA 873 Schnecksville PA 18078

Website: www.ulclv.org

Contact: Gordon Camp, Pastor; 610-767-6884, pastor@ulclv.org

Weekly services: 2, special services/holiday

Ensembles: Senior Choir (13), Youth Singers (8), Handbells (6), Praise Band (12)

Instruments: 3 manual Rodgers Trillium, Pramberger Grand Piano

Music budget: \$1000

Weekly attendance: 175

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: ASAP

Total hours per week: 15–20

Salary: \$24,000–\$28,000

Weeks vacation: 4

Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance, music library assistance, continuing ed

Notes: PT Music Director (15–20 hrs/wk) needed for a vibrant Lutheran congregation. Responsible for providing music for two Sunday worship services plus seasonal and holiday services. Experience with Lutheran liturgy and hymnals preferred. The ideal candidate will: provide a broad array of music (a blend of traditional and contemporary), be proficient

with piano and organ; be able to lead an adult choir, handbell choir, youth and children's musical groups, plus Sunday School music and VBS, and work with our praise band. Salary commensurate with experience. Four weeks of vacation included. Appropriate background checks/clearances expected.

Organist/Choir Director (1)

Church: Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church,
5103 Snowdrift Road, Orefield, PA 18069, 610-395-5912

Website: jordanlutheran.org

Contact: Bill Hendricks, 610-435-1283
wrljh@rcn.com

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Chorale (25), Canon Choir (8), Cherubs (4), Handbells (8), Brass Sinfonia (8)
Responsible for Chorale & Brass Sinfonia

Instruments: 3 manual Allen

Music budget: \$1,700

Weekly attendance: 130-175

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: until position filled

Total hours per week: 20

Salary: \$24,000

Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: None listed

Notes: 2 Sunday services—8am & 10:30am
Wednesday Lenten services—7pm

Organist/Choir Director(2)

Church: St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 105 E North
19th St., Northampton, PA 18067, 610-261-2910

Website: stpaulsnorth.org

Contact: Tom Unger, 610-262-9495,
buddy4981@aol.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir (12)

Instruments: 3 manual Allen Q325 with midi

Music budget: \$600

Weekly attendance: 75

Position fill date: January 1, 2020

Deadline: None listed

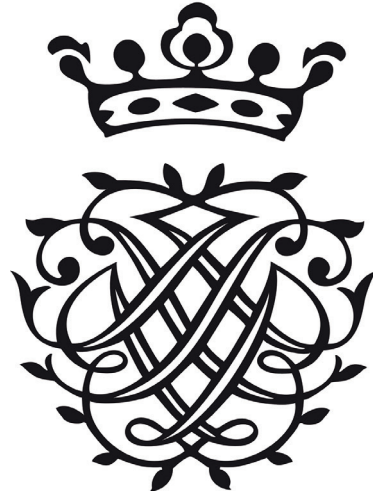
Total hours per week: 10 - 13

Salary: \$12,000 - \$15,000

Weeks vacation: 4

Benefits: music library assistance

Notes: For further information and full job description, please submit a letter of interest to the church:
ATTN Tom Unger, Chair of Search Committee



Find us on Facebook



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, December 19, 2019