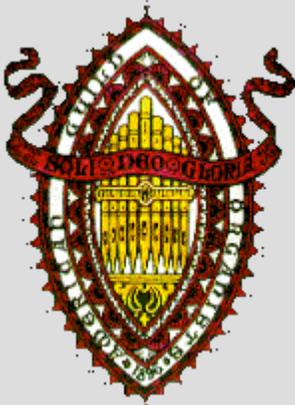


Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

March 2020

March 2020



Chapter Officers 2019–2020

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

Janice Butz (2020)

Luke DiGiacinto (2020)

Eric Gombert (2021)

Jackie Kuba (2021)

Linda Maule (2022)

Robert Riday (2022)

www.lvago.org

Dean's Mixtures

Lent is upon us, spring is around the corner. The rhythm of the seasons grounds us. At the same time we are facing political decisions, not sure what to make of a new virus, there is upheaval all around us. On the one hand, we have the rhythm and stability of the seasons, on the other, we have disruption and upheaval. Can we musicians do anything?



In the vein of a Facebook meme that floats around from time to time, I'd say, "Keep calm and keep playing." What was it that attracted you to the organ in the first place? We all have different answers, but for me, the sounds of the organ gave me a sense of stability, connection to the past, eternity... to name just a few of the feelings I remember. When we "grow up" and start playing the organ more seriously, it is easy to be distracted by feelings of stress (gotta get all those 32nd notes) or the pressure of playing an accompaniment while directing a choir, and lose sight of what it is that our music provides for the person sitting in a pew. It's much easier for me to tune into those feelings when SOMEONE ELSE plays, so I can just relax and listen and feel. Never forget that we are providing that experience for others when we play. Keep learning new pieces, keep your musical fire burning, and keep sharing it with others!

Continued on page 2

March Event

Annual Bach Marathon

Music of Bach, his predecessors and those he influenced

Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 3 pm

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

Dean's Mixtures

Continued from page 1

At the same time, I would point out something to be mindful of when trying to keep viruses contained. I think it is very easy to forget that fingers come in contact with keyboards, and if more than one person plays a particular instrument, that means different fingers. I suggest being both mindful and considerate if you play a keyboard that others also play. I clean keyboards with rubbing alcohol sometimes.

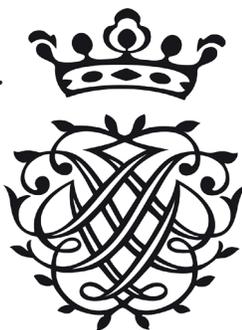
There are times when I get discouraged by the upheaval in the world, and I sometimes feel it's not fair to be expected to produce music at such times. But then my mind goes to musicians who continued to compose during wars, during famines, during times of disease (and I think our present scare is probably nothing compared to, say, the Great Plague) and I realize that music has always continued, even through upheaval. And perhaps music helped people through the upheaval.

I visited my former teacher, Joan Lippincott, and as we were reminiscing about years past and people she had taught, I pointed out that people who were not organ majors were still in awe of her playing years ago. I said to her, "You probably have no idea of the people you have touched." I would say the same is true of those of us who play in churches. There are people we are not aware of who are helped by our music. Trust that and keep playing.

Tom Dressler, Dean

Bach Marathon Concert

There is still time to sign up to play in our annual Bach Marathon Concert on Sunday, March 15, 2020. The concert will begin at 3:00pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Allentown on S. 5th St., hosted by resident organist, Eric Gombert. You are welcome to play music by Bach as well as music by his predecessors, contemporaries or successors who influenced or were influenced by Bach's music. This year we will again be treated to a performance by the Lehigh Valley Horn Ensemble.



LVAGO members are also requested to participate by bringing snacks, desserts, beverages and other goodies for the reception in the back of the church.

Please contact Lou Carol Fix, coordinator, via email at lcbfix@gmail.com soon, and no later than March 1 if you wish to play. We still need organists to sign up. Send information on the pieces you will play, BWV #; a short bio; and the 1/2 hour slot of time you prefer to play between 3-7pm. Thank you for your willingness to perform for this popular LVAGO event.

Free parking is available at 5th and Walnut St. parking lot. Parking meters on 5th St. are free on Sundays. Community Parking Deck at 6th and Walnut is \$1/hour.

Lou Carol Fix, Coordinator

February Event Review



Luke DiGiacinto opens the 2020 Pedal, Pipes and Pizza

The AGO had its annual Pedals Pipes and Pizza on Saturday February 8th from 9:30 to 1. Luke DiGiacinto, Michael Krentz, and Thomas Dressler helped lead the program at First Presbyterian Church Allentown. Luke began with an opening piece followed by Michael talking about the beginning of the development of the Organ. Tom continued with a discussion about the difference between the Piano and the Organ. Mike demonstrated the various sounds of the organ. Tom finished with a final piece then the group moved to the organ chambers. The program ended with Pizza and discussion.

POE Plus News

What's All This About?

Most AGO members have heard something about POEs (Pipe Organ Encounters). (It's kind of like

summer camp for teen-agers who have gotten involved with playing the organ.) But what's this "PLUS" part? And why are we suddenly hearing more about it?

Answer: The "PLUS" feature means this POE is for those who have celebrated at least their 19th birthday! No one is too old to participate.

Why does this matter? There are churches who are having problems finding organists, and are asking pianists to play an organ for worship services. The POE+ is designed to help equip those in this situation, as well as those who have an interest in expanding their piano skills into skills needed for organ playing, or for increasing a person's current organ skills.

Why do we hear so much about POE+s recently? The Lehigh Valley AGO Chapter is sponsoring a POE+ this summer, beginning on June 28 and wrapping up on July 3.

As part of the group planning this POE+, I am totally impressed by the quality of the faculty who will be working with participants on a daily basis, with practice time built in for the students to work with the new skills



they are learning. Practice techniques, improvisation, hymn playing, and more are part of the offerings available. Yes, that's actually a daily lesson on an organ! Participants will have opportunities to hear organs, hear faculty recitals, learn about repertoire for organ, be part of a hymn sing, and more. And there are even "fun" things in addition to the organ activities.

Why are we telling you all this? Actually, we would like you to know a bit of what is going on. It's really quite exciting! Secondly, you might even know of someone who would like to be involved in this Encounter. And...

Here's another important reason for letting you know what's happening. Volunteers for different purposes will be needed, and concerts and some of the other

activities will be open to the public. If you are willing to help out or have questions, contact Gloria Snyder at 610-439-1933 or gloriasnyder22@gmail.com or Ethel Geist at 215-529-1603 or ethelgeist@comcast.net.

Other committee members are Steve Bueker, Luke DiGiacinto, Tom Dressler, Jane Errera, Lou Carol Fix, Eric Gombert, Michael Krentz, Erin Petrella, Bob Richelderfer, Bob Riday, Theresa Shaton, Ron Spier.

2019–2020 AGO Events

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
Visit to pipe organs south of the Lehigh Valley
Itinerary TBA

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

March–April Concerts

March 15 (Sunday) 5:00 pm; **Gospel Choir of The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, Philadelphia;** Christ Church UCC, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation

March 22 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Songs of Slavic and Jewish Culture;** Eileen Sedek, soprano; Benjamin Berman, tenor; Paul Conrad, piano; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Freewill offering

March 22 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Nativity Cathedral Choral Scholars in Concert!;** soprano Lauren Smith, mezzo Lauren Curnow, tenor Joseph Mazingo, baritone Ian Murphy; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

April 4 (Saturday) 7:30 pm; **Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra;** Dance and Romance: Dvorak, Bartok and Schumann; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-434-7811; www.pasinfonia.org

April 5 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Music for Palm Sunday & Holy Week**; Cathedral Choir, Choiristers, and Friends; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

April 21 (Tuesday) 6:30 pm; **FPCA Youth Choir Concert**; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

April 21 (Tuesday) 7:00 pm; **Johann Vexo, Organist of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris**; St. Anne's Catholic Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

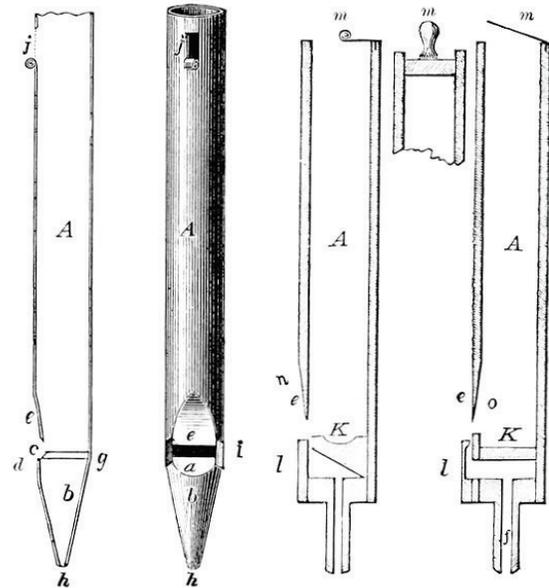
April 26 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Music Among Friends**; Music Among Friends; Featuring music major alumni from Montclair University; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Free

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.

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

Director of Music/Organist (1)

Church: Zion Mennonite Church, 149 Cherry Lane, Souderton PA 19864, 215-723-3592

Website: Zionmennonite.org

Contact: Sonya Kurtz, Lead Pastor, sonya@zionmennonite.org, 215-723-3592

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir—13, Youth choir—8, Handbells—11, Praise teams—9

Instruments: II/21 Fisk tracker

Music budget: \$ 1750

Weekly attendance: 160

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: None listed

Total hours per week: 25

Salary: \$31,000

Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: None listed

Notes: Music Director directs the adult choir, youth choir and bell choir. Praise teams are self-directed, however, collaboration between the adult choir and the praise teams is welcomed.

Director of Music leads congregational singing

year-round and directs Adult, Bell and youth choirs Sept–May. Qualifications: strong Christian faith commitment, ability to work with adults and children, willingness to work collaboratively with pastors, organist and other staff.

Organist (2)

Church: Concordia Lutheran Church, 2623 Brookside Road, Macungie, PA 18062, 610-965-3265

Website: concordia-macungie.org

Contact: Pastor Waldemar Vinovskis, 484-951-9441, wrvinovskis@gmail.com

Weekly services: 2, Wednesday evenings during Advent and Lent

Ensembles: Adult Choir—16, Youth Choir—12, Ensembles lead by music director

Instruments: 2 manual Allen

Music budget: \$150

Weekly attendance: 125

Position fill date: July 7, 2019

Deadline: ASAP

Total hours per week: 5

Salary: \$8,500 Negotiable

Weeks vacation: 0

Benefits: None listed

Notes: None listed

Organist / Choir Director (2)

Church: Easton First Moravian Church, 225 N. 10th St., Easton, Pa 18045, 610-258-6317

Website: www.firstmoravianeaston.org

Contact: Bobbi James 610-252-1714
golfinbj@yahoo.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir—5

Instruments: 2 manual Muller pipe organ

Music budget: \$400

Weekly attendance: 30

Position fill date: March 1, 2020

Deadline: None

Total hours per week: 5

Salary: \$9875

Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: book/music allowance, music library assistance, sick leave

Notes: None

Find us on Facebook



Pedals, Pipes and Pizza 2020 Pics



Tom Dressler demonstrates the difference between the pipe organ and the piano



Mike Krentz talks about the development of the organ

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, March 19, 2020