

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Summer 2021

Summer 2021



Chapter Officers 2021-2022

Dean: Eric Gombert

610-435-1641

egombert@stjohnsallentown.org

Sub Dean: Janice Butz

610-882-9388

janicebutz@gmail.com

Secretary: Dodd Lamberton

484-935-3505

prdodd@gmail.com

Treasurer: Stephen Bueker

610-438-3766

sfbueker@icloud.com

Executive Committee

Linda Maule (2022)

Robert Riday (2022)

Gail Hanzl (2023)

Judy Love (2023)

Luke DiGiacinto (2024)

www.lvago.org

September Event

Saturday, September 25, 10:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church, Catasauqua

Plan to join us for our first in-person event since Winter 2019! Chapter members are invited to share their favorite organ piece, bring along a friend for organ-plus, perform an improvisation, or play a hymn-based work that your congregation loves to hear. Anything goes—from the organ classics to a simple hymn arrangement. And, of course, you are always welcome to simply come and enjoy the music. If you wish to perform, contact board member Bob Riday at bobriday@gmail.com by September 22.

Annual Meeting in May

We were honored to have National AGO President Michael Bedford as our special guest speaker for our annual chapter meeting via Zoom on Sunday afternoon, May 23. His message to the chapter was “The AGO in the New Normal,” reflecting on the past year of Covid restrictions. He shared how AGO chapters were able to adapt and figure out new ways to hold chapter events. On-line gatherings, Zoom meetings and recorded concerts became the common form of communicating and connecting with chapter members. Looking to the future, he acknowledged that technology will

Continued on page 2

September Event

Members' Recital

Anything Goes

Saturday, September 25, 10:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church

604 4th St, Catasauqua, PA 18032

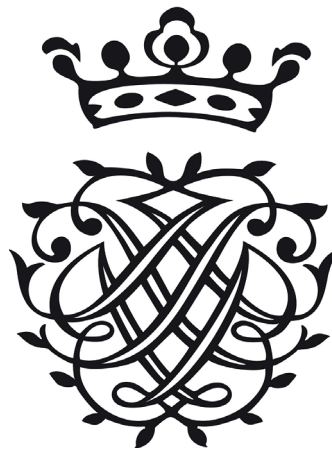
February Event

Continued from page 1

continue to play a role in AGO programming and predicted that many chapters will adopt a hybrid program with a combination of virtual and in-person events. Bedford also shared that he was enjoying the creation of an organ partita on “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” that was commissioned by our Lehigh Valley Chapter in celebration of our upcoming 100th anniversary in 2022-23. Michael Bedford also presided for the installation of our chapter officers for the 2021-22 program year. Installed were Eric Gombert, dean; Janice Butz, sub-dean; Stephen Bueker, treasurer; Erin Petrella, secretary; newly elected Board members Susan Frickert and Dodd Lamberton, and continuing Board members Gail Hanzl, Judith Love, Linda Maule and Bob Riday.

Bach Marathon in March

The 25th year of the Bach Marathon was held virtually on Sunday afternoon, March 7. Performers submitted pre-recorded videos that were shared via Zoom, with each player providing commentary on their selections prior to the video presentation. Those who Zoomed-in heard everything from a Bach organ concerto to preludes and fugues, from cantata movements to chorale preludes. We also heard compositions from composers who were either contemporaries of Bach or influenced by his music, including Clerambault, Pachelbel, and Brahms. Chapter members who performed were Tom Busteed, Luke DiGiacinto, Bryan Holten, Michael Krentz, Greg Kuklinski, and Justin Weillnau. Greg Kuklinski brought along vocalist Kathy Fridirici, and Bob Riday invited flute players from the Poconos, Marta Oberlin and Liz Koster, who performed along with cellist Betsy Buzzelli-Clarke. It was an enjoyable afternoon of listening and viewing, and we are grateful to Bryan Holten who served as host and moderator and to Lou Carol Fix for organizing this event.



Zoom in February

Member's Zoom “Get Together” Was Informative and Social

About a dozen chapter members gathered Saturday, February 6 on Zoom for an informal discussion about our experiences over the past year as church musicians. Chapter member and executive committee member Bob Riday “conducted” the event. Discussion included many more success stories and learning experiences than disasters. We shared many common experiences and adventures, such as learning quickly that wi-fi for live streaming is no substitute for an ethernet connection. Some members had already been live streaming pre-pandemic shutdown, but most of us had been thrust, literally overnight, into Zoomland. Bob Riday shared that within a week of shutdown, he and partner and chapter member Gary Raish joined two congregation members in leading Zoom worship from our homes. Gary and I quickly learned that using an iPad and wi-fi made the piano and organ music we played from our living room sound like a slinky falling down the steps underwater. For three months thereafter, we had a one hundred foot ethernet cable running down the hall through our house.

Some churches have resumed in-person worship. Our St. John’s Lutheran Church in Stroudsburg is large enough to safely seat the forty church members who have returned to in person worship. We concluded in our meeting that more churches than not have maintained live stream services only. Our discussion included the realization that online presence can truly still be worship! We have all been able to help keep our congregations informed and together, and maintain the feeling of “having been to church”. Being able to reach people who would not ordinarily be able to attend church, such as those at nursing homes, or the homebound, has made us all realize that online worship is a worthwhile tool that will most likely continue after our lives return to normal. It is so nice to see comments from people we might not have heard from in years, and also from people we don’t know who just happened upon our live stream service.

An item that came up in discussion that I hadn’t thought about was our responsibility as church musicians to be in compliance with copyright licensing,

especially regarding live stream worship. This could perhaps be a good topic for a future meeting. I personally was not aware that licenses for in-person worship do not apply in most cases to online presence. It is both a legal and ethical issue.

We agreed that we need to just keep on doing what we're doing! Our clergy and congregations truly do seem to appreciate our efforts to continue planning and presenting worship to people in their homes, and in places we hadn't reached before. Perhaps "A Whole New World" should be included in our next round of new hymnals!

—Bob Riday

Bach Marathon On YouTube

For those of you who missed the Bach Marathon, some of the performances are available on YouTube. Featured organists are Luke DiGiacinto, Bryan Holten, Michael Krentz and Justin Weinau.

The videos may be found at this YouTube link: www.youtube.com/channel/UC8_-N-RIM_5o7xt84osISJw or search on "Lehigh Valley Chapter AGO." in YouTube.

Officers Update

For the past several years, Erin Petrella faithfully served as the Secretary of our Lehigh Valley Chapter. In June, Erin and her family moved out-of-state as her husband accepted a position to serve as pastor of a Moravian church in Thurmont, Maryland. We thank Erin for her dedicated service and commitment to our LVAGO Chapter and wish her well in her new home and future endeavors. At the July meeting of the Board, Dodd Lamberton was appointed and approved by the Board to serve as Secretary; Luke DiGiacinto was appointed and approved to replace Dodd as a Board member serving a term from 2021–2024.

Looking Ahead to a New Season

Watch for more details, specific locations, and exact dates in the upcoming months.

Saturday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. LVAGO Chapter Members' Recital. Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran

Church, 604 4th St, Catasauqua, PA 18032

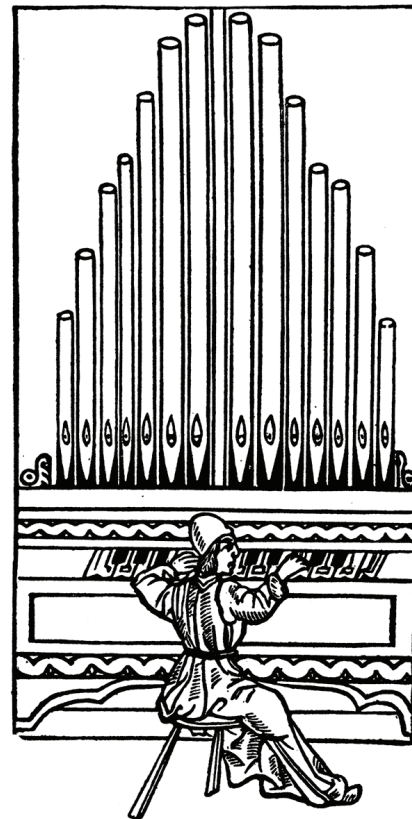
Saturday, October 23, 10:00 a.m. Workshop on Copyright Concerns, presented by Gwyn Michel, via Zoom.

November/December. Theatre Organ Night and social time at the home of Bob Riday and Gary Raish in Stroudsburg. Date to be determined.

Saturday, January 15. January Jumpstart. A variety of workshops, hosted by the Philadelphia Chapter. Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 20. Organized Rhythm, a concert by an amazing duo of the pipe organ and multi-percussion, St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown.

Sunday, March 20. Annual Bach Marathon. Location TBA
Sunday, May 15 or 22, 4:00 p.m. Young Artist's Recital, Banquet and Annual Meeting. DeSales University featuring Emily Amos, organ student at Curtis Institute.



POE+ is Rescheduled—Again!

The POE + event for adults is rescheduled again and is approved for June 12–17, 2022. What is a POE +? A Pipe Organ Encounter Plus is a rewarding week-long opportunity for adults 19 and older to learn about the pipe organ, receive instruction from experienced and talented faculty, visit. Hear, and play outstanding instruments and interact with peers who share a common interest in the organ.

We began this project, hoping to host a POE + in 2020. That was postponed until 2021. And, then that was postponed until 2022. The third try is the charm—so we hope! The Planning Committee has begun to revise and recreate the preparations for an event, June 12–17, 2022 and we are now less than a year away from this exciting week.

It is with cautious optimism that we try to recapture our energy and enthusiasm as we begin again to plan for this highlight event for our Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We hope you will also plan to volunteer, contribute and participate along with the committee to host this extraordinary opportunity. Our Chapter has earned a strong reputation for offering outstanding AGO-related events. We plan to continue that legacy with the POE +, June 12–17, 2022.

—Gloria Snyder

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
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
Maria Prochnau	Sun—Sat	610 866-2560
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

Position: Organist/Choir Director(1)

Church: Presbyterian Church of Catasaqua
(610) 264-2595, 210 Pine St., Catasaqua PA 18032

Website: www.cattypresbyterian.org

Contact: churchoffice@cattypresbyterian.com

Weekly services: 1 at 10:45 AM, Services held in person and recorded for viewing on YouTube

Ensembles: Adult Choir (12–14), Handbells, looking to establish youth choir

Instruments: 2 manual pipe organ

Music budget: Not listed

Weekly attendance: 50 in person, 50 remote

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: Open

Total hours per week: 13–15

Salary: \$14,000–16,000 range, depending on qualifications and experience

Weeks vacation: 4

Benefits: No

Notes: We are seeking a person with a passion for the importance of the church's ministry through music, with proficiency in organ and piano and an understanding of the maintenance needed for the church's pipe organ (specs available) and pianos. Strong interpersonal and organizational, written and verbal communication skills and computer literacy are required, and the ability to communicate well and in a friendly manner with the Pastor, Worship Committee, fellow employees, church choirs. Volunteers and members of the congregation, including youth. Candidate must have experience and competence in working with a variety of age groups and musical genres and the ability to teach vocal techniques at all levels, a good ear for pitch and rhythm with a working knowledge of conducting.

Responsibilities include playing at regular weekly worship services and special services as directed, including weddings and funerals, participation as a liaison with the worship committee in planning and coordinating music that supports sermon topics and

the liturgy, arranging required maintenance of instruments, maintaining the church's extensive music library, leading choir rehearsals and identifying talent in the youth of the church and encouraging their involvement in the church's music ministry.

Position: Organist/Director of Music(1)

Church: Annunciation BVM Church (St. Mary's), 122 Union St., Catasauqua, PA 18032, 610-264-0332

Website: annunciationbvm.net

Contact: Kim Smith, 610-264-0332

kim.stmarrys122@gmail.com

Weekly services: 3

(4:00 PM Saturday, 8:00 & 10:30 Sunday)

Holy Thursday, Good Friday as available.

Three Christmas Eve Masses, One Christmas Day Mass

Holy Days are 7:00 PM Vigil Mass

Ensembles: Adult Choir, Youth Choir (8–10)

Adult Choir in the past has been handled by the organist, but the group is able to practice on its own. Children's Choir is supervised by three of the choir members.

Instruments: 2 manual organ, keyboard

Music budget: Not listed

Organ is in need of repairs. Budget does not allow for a complete, one time overhaul. Receives bi-yearly tuning.

Weekly attendance: 75–125 per Mass

Position fill date: September 2021

Deadline: ASAP

Total hours per week: 3–5

Salary: \$15,000–20,000

Weeks vacation: NA

Benefits: book/music allowance

Notes: We are a small parish with a real hometown feel. Parishioners are kind, welcoming and appreciative. They do love their music during Mass. We look forward for someone energetic to bring music back to St. Mary's.

Parish Musician(1)

Church: St. John's Lutheran Church, 4 S. Main St., PO Box 459, Richlandtown, PA 18955, 215-536-5027

Website: www.stjohnsrpa.org

Contact: Susan Bringham, admin@stjohnsrpa.org

215-536-5027

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir(8–12), Chime (6–8)

Instruments: II/9 Fritzsch with chimes

Music budget: \$1745

Weekly attendance: 30–40

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: None listed

Total hours per week: 12–16

Salary: \$16,800

Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: None

Notes: None listed

Director of Music(1)

Church: Jordan UCC,

1837 Church Rd., Allentown, PA 18104

Website: www.jordanucc.org

Contact: Dick Cipoletti, dick@rccassoc.com,

610-439-1139

Weekly services:

Sept to June: 2 (8 am and 10:30 am Sundays)

July to August: 1 (9:30 am Sundays)

Ensembles: Adult Choir(16), Handbells (10–12)

Would like to restart Youth Choir

Instruments: 3 manual Allen

Music budget: \$3,800

Weekly attendance: 250

Position fill date: Sep/Oct

Deadline: None listed

Total hours per week: 20

Salary: \$30,000–\$32,000

Weeks vacation: 2

Increases to 3 wks @5 yrs and 4 wks @10 yrs

Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance sick leave, continuing ed

Notes: None listed

Organist(1)

Church: West Side Moravian Church, 408 3rd Ave

(at Prospect Ave) Bethlehem, 610-865-0256

Website: www.westsidemoravian.org

Contact: Tammie Rinker, 610-865-0256,

tammierinker@gmail.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: None

Instruments: 2 manual pipe organ

Music budget: \$950

Weekly attendance: 25

Position fill date: August 15, 2021

Deadline: Open until position is filled

Total hours per week: 3

Salary: \$10,000

Weeks vacation: 6

Benefits: book/music allowance, sick leave

Notes: West Side is a tiny Moravian congregation on the West Side of Bethlehem. Our Sunday service is typically about an hour and includes 3 hymns, a liturgy, and service music (prelude, postlude, offertory).

Director of Music Ministry(1)

Church: St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 E. High Street
610-326-2810, Pottstown, PA 19464

Website: www.stjamespottstown.org

Contact: Annette Renn, 484-366-2604,
dprenn@gmail.com

Weekly services: 2 Sunday morning services;
additional services throughout church year

Ensembles: Cherub (6,) Junior(5), Youth(8), Adult(6),
Handbell(8)

Instruments: III/58 Moeller with 10 Allen voices,
Mason and Hamlin 7-foot grand piano,
Yamaha digital piano

Music budget: \$1800

Weekly attendance: 75

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: November 1, 2021

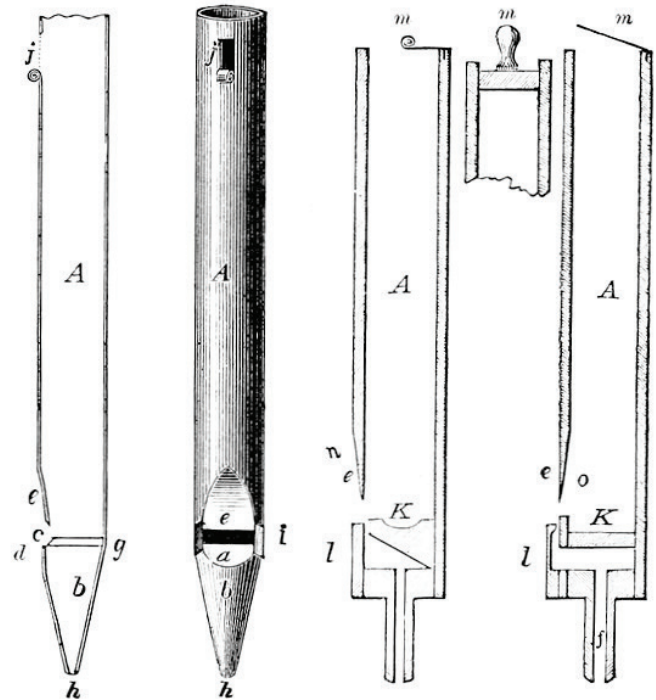
Total hours per week: 12.5

Salary: \$18,000-\$19,000

Weeks vacation: 4

Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance
sick leave, study/professional leave, music library
assistance, continuing ed

Notes: Music has played an integral part of St. James'
worship. Seeking individual to continue this vital role
in our congregation.



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

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