

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

September 2024

www.lvago.org



Chapter Officers 2024–2025

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Treasurer: Stephen Bueker
610.438.3766

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Executive Committee)

Robert Riday (2025)

Michael Fister (2025)

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

October Event

OCTIBIAFEST!

Featuring music by **Diane Taitt,**
Gary Raish and Bob Riday

Sunday, October 13, 4:00 p.m.

Home of Bob Riday and Gary Raish
110 Meadow Run Lane, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

From New Dean Susan Frickert

Greetings, everyone!

Your new officers and executive board have hit the ground running in July to begin planning an exciting program year for you! Here is an enticing overview. Watch for more details in future monthly newsletters!

October

Sunday, October 13 at 4 p.m. Octibiafest! (WHAT?!)

Just in time to enjoy the beautiful autumn foliage in the Poconos, we're inviting you to take a short drive to Stroudsburg to the home of Bob Riday and Gary Raish for a fall soiree. Bring your favorite potluck side dish and enjoy fellowship with special music by vocal duo Diane Taitt and Gary Raish, accompanied by Bob Riday on the theater organ and the piano (not both at once!). You've worked hard to get your choirs in shape for fall worship. Now you deserve some time to unwind and have some fun! See more details later in this newsletter.

November

A Choral Workshop with Sun Min Lee
Saturday, November 9, 1:30 p.m to 3:30 p.m.
Union Lutheran Church

5500 Route 873, Schnecksville, PA 18078
A frequently sought festival choral director and educator, Sun Min Lee served as the Robert Cutler Endowed Professor of Practice of Choral Arts at Lehigh University for eleven years, directing Dolce, Lehigh's Treble Choir, and regularly conducting the University Choir and Choral Union in elegant major works. A skilled and dynamic musician with a sparkling personality, she will revitalize your choral conducting using a live demo choir. (Members are encouraged to bring several of their singers with them to participate in the event. They'll never be the same, and neither will you!)

December

No LVAGO Event—We know how busy you are!

January

January JumpStart
Saturday, January 25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian
Church Choral Clinician Maxine Thévenot

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter AGO. Exactly the fresh reboot you need after the Christmas crazies, and before the Lenten loonies begin!

February

The one and only MARK MILLER—
need we say more?!
(time, date and place to be announced)

World-famous composer and justice advocate Mark Miller is coming to the Lehigh Valley by your chapter's invitation to celebrate Black History Month. He's going to rock your music world. We can't wait!

March

A Celebration of J.S.B.
(time, date and place to be announced)

A plot twist for our usual Bach Marathon in honor of the 275th anniversary of J.S.B.'s death! Whew—you aren't on the spot to play this year. Instead you get to sit and enjoy the great composer and his musical legacy. Come hear a truly inspiring organ recital paired with intriguing commentary tracing the great Master's influence on succeeding generations of composers!

April

No LVAGO event— no kidding! Easter rules!

May

Organist/Clergy Dinner and
The Rev. Dr. Karyn Wiseman

(time, date and place to be announced)

Author of several books, including *I Refuse to Preach a Boring Sermon: Engaging the 21st Century Listener*, Pilgrim Press 2013, Dr. Wiseman is a visionary educator who has led numerous classes and workshops across the country on worship, vital ministry ideas and reaching new generations through media. It's about time you treated your clergy to a delicious meal and some invaluable food for thought!!



Sacred Voices Concert

Sacred Voices, an ecumenical summer choir founded and directed by Susan L. Frickert, will present their annual concert of sacred music on Sunday, September 29, at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Union Lutheran Church, 5500 US route 873, Schnecksville, PA 18078. This year's theme is "Sanctus— The Very Nature of God," and features choral gems by Haydn, Beethoven,

Pederson and Berger. A professional brass quintet with percussion will accompany the singers, as well as piano, clarinet and cello. For more information, please the church website at <http://www.ulclv.org>

Upcoming Concerts

September 29 (Sunday) 4 p.m.

Sacred Voices

Sanctus—The Very Nature of God

Susan L. Frickert, director

Union Lutheran Church

5500 US route 873, Schnecksville, PA

November 10 (Sunday) 3 p.m.

Marisa Deshler, organ

Come and enjoy an afternoon of organ music featuring music of Bach, Bedard, and Widor.

Grace UCC Church

902 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067

Reflections from AGO San Francisco 2024

From June 30 to July 4 I had the pleasure of attending the 2024 AGO National Convention held in San Francisco. It was a whirlwind five days being in beautiful sacred spaces, hearing fabulous organists in recital, listening to newly commissioned works, participating in informative workshops, and perusing displays from vendors and publishers of all things related to the organ. As you can see from the photo of the Fratelli Ruffatti organ at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco, the instruments I heard were not only capable of magnificent sounds, but were visually unique and stunning. Altogether there were 25 venues where recitals were performed, 55 workshops on a variety of topics, and several optional walking tours of this vibrant city. In addition to recitals, worship services took place, ranging from the opening service in the Reformed Jewish tradition at San Francisco's historic Congregation Sherith Israel to a rousing and uplifting African-American service at the Third Baptist Church where the Bay Area Inspirational Choir shared jubilant music in both classical and gospel styles.

The days were long, with workshops held in the numerous meeting rooms of the hotel each morning. I especially enjoyed Robert McCormick's sessions on *Improvisation for Everyone* and Katelyn Emerson's practical workshop on *Deliberate Practice* for the mind and body of the organist. In the afternoon a multitude of buses would transport the 1,000 or more attendees

throughout the city of San Francisco and beyond. Memorable performances included a wonderful concert by the vocal ensemble Chanticleer and hearing Kimberly Marshall play the Murray Harris organ and the Fisk tracker organ, both situated in the balcony of the chapel at Stanford University. After dinner we again hopped on the buses to travel to an evening concert. Perhaps the most inspiring event was the recital by Faythe Freese at Grace Cathedral which was programmed *Pipes and Pageantry; Dance and Delight*, pairing virtuosic music for the organ with lighting effects on the interior walls of the cathedral, a live dance troupe, and video projections of contemporary art. And at the end of the day, we journeyed back to the hotel for a chance to check out all the exhibits and to enjoy a social time that lasted until midnight—that is, if we still had the energy to do so!

Besides all the learning opportunities and magnificent musical performances, one of the most fun and gratifying parts of the convention was the opportunity to meet other organists, especially on those bus rides to and from the concerts. It was a time to converse and connect with fellow organists, to share our professional experiences, and to make new friends as well as catch up with old ones. It was an exhausting five days, but certainly a stimulating educational event. If you have the chance, plan to attend a future AGO convention. It's guaranteed to be a unique and memorable time!

With fond memories of an inspiring week,
Janice Butz, Sub-dean



The open casework of the Fratelli Ruffatti organ at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco

St. John's Lutheran, Stroudsburg, hosts *Music in the Mountains*

In August, Saint John's Lutheran, Stroudsburg, hosted **Music in the Mountains**. This event had previously been hosted by East Stroudsburg University for many years. ESU was no longer able to host MITM, so St. John's has become the new home for the annual workshops and concert. Well-known church and school music composers Joseph Martin, Lloyd Larson and Sean Paul from Hal Leonard/Shawnee Press music publishers were our guests. For two days, our sanctuary was filled with choir directors and church musicians rehearsing for a concert and singing through many new choir compositions, led by the guest composers. Steve Roddy (Creator and Director of **The Children's Chorus of Houston**) was our wonderful guest accompanist. In spite of a persistent downpour, we had an enthusiastic audience for our **Songfest** concert, presented by sixty-five singers from the Poconos and beyond. It was a thrill and an honor to be in the presence of such well-known composer-musicians!



LVAGO 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
Alan Birney	Sun-Sat	610 653-8097
Ellen Erb	Mon-Sat	570 350-0343
Charles Glandorf	Mon-Sat	610 416-1055
Eric Gombert	Mon-Sat	610 435-1641
Gail Hanzl	Mon-Sat	610 264-5859
Susan Hartney	Mon-Sat	610 360-6934
Michael Huffman	Sun-Sat	610 794-6056
Joe Kaczmarek	Mon-Sat	484 433-4336
Jacqueline Kuba	Sun-Sat	570 386-4480
Michael Kuhnert	Mon-Sat	215 536-4345
Cristina Dinella Makowicz	Sun-Sat	585 732-8017
James Matz	Sun-Sat	610 367-8094
Linda Maule	Mon-Sat	610 258-5006
Richard McIntyre	Mon-Sat	908 283-4691
Jeffrey Raub	Saturday	484 541-8322
Michael Seroka	Mon-Sat	570 516-7207
Barbara Thomson	Sun-Mon	908 591-4499
Bruce Tonkin	Sun-Sat	610 220-5457
Matthew Wary	Mon-Sat	610 743-0921
Stephen Ziminsky	Mon-Fri	610 417-2669
Freda Zimmerman	Mon-Fri	610 381-3089

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

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Placement Service

Please visit the Placement page on www.lvago.org for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet.

Newsletter Deadline

(October issue) Thursday, September 19, 2024



You're Invited To An
Octibiafest!

A What?

An October social gathering at the Stroudsburg home of
LVAGO members Bob Riday and Gary Raish

Sunday, October 13, 4:00 PM

This event will be centered on Bob and Gary's Allen theater organ. Bob will play some of his favorite old standards and show tunes, and all are welcome to hop onto the bench and delve into the related but different world of the theater organ. Well known Pocono chanteuse Diane Taitt will be making an appearance as well, singing with Bob at the organ and piano. The intention is for this to be an informal social gathering rather than a formal concert. Bob and Gary will provide the main course of the covered-dish buffet supper. Please bring a side dish, dessert or beverage of some sort.

Spouses/other halves are invited. How about inviting a church music friend who might consider joining our chapter to the party?

Contact Bob or Gary for further info
and to let them know if you are coming.

Bob Riday bobriday@gmail.com
Gary Raish garyraish@hotmail.com