

UPCOMING EVENTS



**SVEN
MIKKELSEN
RECITAL**

MAR 5

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VOLUME 12, ISSUE 7



MARCH 2023

Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists

Dean's Message

-- by Jonathan Stark

A High-voltage Jump Start!

This year's January JumpStart was hosted by Philadelphia AGO Chapter on January 28 at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian church. I was there with seven of our colleagues from SouthWest Jersey chapter, along with more than 140 other folks. Here are some impressions from the day:

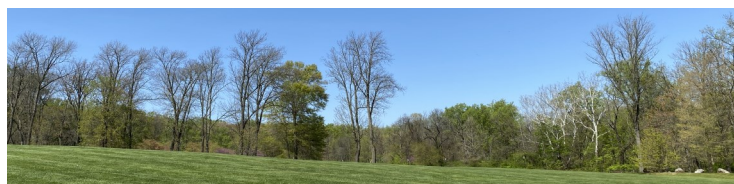
JumpStart was cancelled in 2021 and 2022 due to COVID, and there apparently was quite a pent-up demand. I should say only 150 people *could* be there, because registration had to be closed after that point. There simply wasn't enough space to accommodate more people.

The day began with a hymn festival led by Tom Trenney in Bryn Mawr Presbyterian's "chapel". The chapel is small only in comparison to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian's main sanctuary,



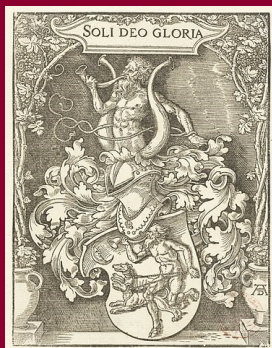
The Hazel Wright pipe organ at Christ Cathedral, formerly Crystal Cathedral, in Garden Grove, California. Built by Ruffati, it has 293 ranks, 17,106 pipes, and two 5-manual consoles.

Photo by Joe Routon.





"....music...can break open a space that helps us perceive God's design for a new creation. Come and see. Come and hear."



Sub-Dean's Report -- by Lawrence DePasquale, CAGO

Our unity under the Most High is reflected in our witness in music throughout the centuries, throughout the world. We are among a great procession of believers who have responded in gratitude to the presence and works of God. We are stewards of a progression of musical wisdom available from among many cultures who confess our same God. Although repertoire of hymns, canticles and musical literature varies among our worshipping communities, we identify a common core which unites us and turns us into recognizing that we are all God's children.

On March 5 we have an opportunity to hear music largely from the Scandinavian countries performed by Sven Mikkelsen at a church in our area where the walls have heard some of the most glorious sounds of praise to Almighty God. First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown has had the blessing of Joel Krott's leadership for decades. With the support of the congregation, Joel has established and maintained a breadth of choral and instrumental repertoire that has drawn thousands of people together, making connections on various spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and intellectual levels, where the entire community is moved to respond, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." Soli Deo Gloria. Please be there for this recital and bring at least one other person with you who perhaps is not a member of the guild.

On April 2 we have the opportunity to celebrate and experience music as a means of healing and reconciliation as we honor the work of Helen Carrell while she was in the flesh. On this first day of Holy Week, we will express our most healthy honesty before God. Composers, chapter members and friends and their choir members will bring their skills for the needs of healing from the earthly loss of Helen and the forthcoming passion of Christ. There is a story to be told of peace, justice, truth, and love. Facing those needs is an act of seeking justice for those present and for those who have been silenced by abuse, racism, mental illness, violence, tragedy, and other forms of exclusion. We already have a \$100 donation to the chapter's efforts on this program from a former chapter member who is out of our geographical area and cannot attend.

Both these upcoming events are great opportunities for music to contribute to synagogue and church witness. Melodies in our hearts and on our lips continue to proclaim the word of God to the world. We are living in a time of much injustice and a lack of harmony in the world, yet we maintain that God intends a just and orderly creation. In order to form a community, music helps to more adequately address issues of justice and mercy, and by God's grace can break open a space that helps us perceive God's design for a new creation. Come and see. Come and hear.



Matters of Note



Hospitality

Since our celebration for Helen Carrell is on Sunday April 2nd, I will let everyone know that the chapter will be hosting the reception following the program. I will be bringing a tray of everyone's favorite hoagies that several of you have said you have missed. Please let me know if you can bring appetizers, side dishes, drinks, or desserts. You can email me at cmo125@aol.com or call 856-214-1928. Thanks, and I am looking forward to a good turnout for this event.

Cares and Concerns

Get well cards were sent to Gail Gassaway and Joann Owen, both of whom had elective medical procedures done. A note of congratulations was sent to member Layla A Joshi who placed second in the Young Organist Competition sponsored by the South Carolina AGO chapter. As usual please let me know if a card should be sent to a member: cmo125@aol.com or 856-214-1928.

Saint James Music Press has just published Evelyn Larter's commissioned anthem from the 2019 Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention here in South Jersey. *Glory To The Righteous One* is scored for SATB, optional mezzo soprano solo, brass ensemble and organ. It was premiered during the opening convocation at Haddonfield United Methodist Church. The published version also includes an option for a solo trumpet instead of the brass ensemble. In addition to Saint James Music Press (www.sjmp.com) Evelyn is published by Augsburg Fortress, Lorenz and Sheet Music Plus. Many more compositions are available through her website, www.evelynlartermusic.com.

.....continued on page 3

Nominating Committee Report



Our Chapter Nominating Committee, Glenn Rodgers, chair; Stephen Obarski, Cathy O'Neill, and Joyce Ann Routon, is now developing nominations for the 2023 elections for chapter offices. The Nominating Committee will present its slate of nominations to the chapter Executive Committee on March 13. If you have interests you wish to share with the Nominating Committee please contact them prior to March 13. Look for your ballot in next month's SFZ!

Matters of Note, continued from page 2

Lenten Organ Recital Series: Wednesdays at noon at Trinity Episcopal Church, 207 West Main Street in Moorestown, NJ 08057.

March 8 - **Edward Landin Senn** - Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

March 15 - **Matthew Smith** - Haddonfield United Methodist Church

March 22 - **Glenn Rodgers** - Delran, NJ

March 29 - **Mark Trautman** - St. John's Episcopal Church, Somerville, NJ

Sunday, March 12 at 4PM: Choral Evensong for the Season of Lent with the choir of Trinity Episcopal Church, 207 West Main Street in Moorestown, NJ 08057. Andrew Senn is the guest organist.

Congratulations Layla Joshi! Layla received 2nd place (and was awarded \$1000) in her first organ competition—the Young Organist Competition of the Columbia, SC chapter of the AGO.

Here's a link to her recorded submission: <https://youtu.be/bkQLEpNpPJA>

Paul Hindemith: Sonata No. 3 (I. "Ach Gott, wem soll ich's klagen")

JS Bach: Fantasia in G Major ("Pièce d'Orgue") BWV 572

Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 7:30PM: Haydn's "Theresa" Mass with the West Jersey Chamber Symphony and Chorale and Adult Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown, NJ. One of the most radiant choral works of the classical era, Haydn's *Theresienmesse* showcases the composer at his masterful best. Tickets: Regular - \$28 - Senior - \$20 and students 18 and under are always free. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at <https://wjcms.org/concerts/>.

Sunday, April 23 at 3PM: Piano/Organ Recital featuring Mary Shipley (piano), Edwin Mitchell (piano) and William Mitchell (organ). It will take place in the sanctuary of the Pitman United Methodist Church, located on the corner of Lamb's Road and Broadway, Pitman.

Call for Performers: two more recitalists are needed for the SWJAGO chapter Members Recital on Sunday, May 21 at 4PM at Christ Episcopal Church, 500 4th St., Riverton. Repertoire would not need to be a major work. Each of the performers will have their own memory level and appropriate practice time on the instrument. Contact Peter Homon at lapajar@yahoo.com.

Woman Composer Sunday: March 5

It's not too late to participate in Woman Composer Sunday on March 5. Check out this Special Edition of the AGO Task Force for Gender Equity's newsletter for repertoire suggestions and other resources.

[Click here](#) to download the Task Force's Special Edition Woman Composer Sunday newsletter.

Remember to post your videos of your playing on social media with the hashtag #WomanComposerSunday. Happy Playing!

(Editor's note: see Evelyn Larter, Matters of Note page 2)



Programs at a Glance

[See Sub-Dean's Report on page 2 for details]

Sunday, March 5, 2023 time TBA:

Recital by Sven-Ingvar Mikkelsen

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

(see poster and program, page 7 & 8)



Sunday, April 2 at 4PM:

Helen Carrell Day

Trinity United Methodist Church, 36 West Maple Ave. and Chapel Ave., Merchantville

Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 4PM:

Chapter Members' Recital

Christ Episcopal Church, 500 4th St., Riverton

Saturday & Sunday, June 3 & 4 2023:

Masterclass and Recital by Nicole Keller

Times and location TBA

Sunday, June 25 2023 at 3PM:

Annual Picnic and Meeting

at the home of Bill Mitchell, 631 Boundary Road, Pitman

SouthWest Jersey Chapter

Scholarship Program

-- by Lawrence DePasquale, CAGO

Our chapter's scholarship program exists to serve area congregations by increasing the number of capable organists and to insure the continuation of the classical church music profession.

As a reminder, the program is structured as 14 one-hour lessons scheduled at the mutual convenience of the instructor and student, ideally on the organ where the student practices, or at least one a month where the student practices. The lessons and public jury *must take place within 4 months*. The practice instrument must have a minimum of two 61-note keyboards and a concave, radiating 32-note pedalboard, with all keys functioning. The student must have legs long enough to reach the pedalboard and have intermediate piano skills (meaning and understanding of meter signatures, chords, key signatures, and the ability to read G and F clefs).

The audition for this program is on piano. Applicants will be asked to prepare and perform a simple Bach keyboard work, also one movement of a sonata by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Clementi, or Kuhnau, and also one hymn written in traditional four-part harmony. The applicant will be asked to sight-read two short pieces; one will be in common meter.

At the conclusion of the 14 one hour lessons, a jury is required with the teacher and at least two additional chapter members present. The jury will consist of the following:

Two of these three chorales: *Ein feste Burg*, *Lobe den Herren*, *Herzlich tut mir verlangen*

A hymn will be sight-read, pedaling not required

The tune *Old Hundredth* in any of its traditional forms, copy provided to the committee

One pedal alone passage of a chorale, minimum 15 measures

A trio chorale

A prelude or fugue from the collection [Eight Little Preludes and Fugues](#)

The instructor is appointed by the local chapter. Accepted applicants are responsible for securing a pair of Organmaster shoes and required music. Instruction may happen any time provided all activities are completed within four months. Candidates of all ages who meet the above criteria are welcome. Please contact Lawrence De Pasquale at ldorg59@yahoo.com with questions and to express interest.

Editor's note: See next page for the current brochure. Please feel free to print out and encourage qualified applicants to submit this form.

The Scholarship

The Organ Scholarship of the Southwest Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists provides a term of 14 introductory organ lessons for qualified persons wishing to begin study of the organ.

Eligibility

All applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- ♦ Must reside in the Southwest Jersey geographical area.
- ♦ Must have received little or no previous formal classical organ training.
- ♦ Legs must be long enough to reach the pedalboard.
- ♦ At least an intermediate piano proficiency (*see audition requirements below*).
- ♦ Basic knowledge of theory, including G and F clefs, key signatures, meter signatures, and chords.
- ♦ Must have access to an organ on which to practice. The organ console must either 1) conform to AGO standards having at least two 61-note manuals and a full pedalboard, or 2) conform to historical mechanical action standards.
- ♦ Must commit to completing 14 lessons and the jury within four to six months.

Inquiries

Address questions or inquiries to:

Vernon Williams
email: vwilliams@trinitymoorestown.org
phone: 856-235-0811

Application Procedure

Send completed applications to:

Vernon Williams
Trinity Episcopal Church
207 West Main Street
Moorestown, NJ 08057

In addition to the application form, applicants are asked to include on a separate sheet a brief statement of their goals and objectives for study and a summary of their musical background and experience.

The Audition

The audition is scheduled once the application has been received... Auditions will be played on the piano. No memorization is required.

Prepared pieces

- ♦ Any Bach Two-Part Invention or one selection from the *Anna Magdalena Notebook*
- ♦ One movement from a sonatina by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Clementi, or Kuhnau
- ♦ One hymn written in traditional four-part harmony

Sight-reading

- ♦ Two short pieces: one in common time, the other in another meter

The Lessons

Lessons are arranged at the mutual convenience of the teacher and student, ideally on the organ where the student practices. In any event, at least one lesson per month will take place on the organ where the student practices.

Students will learn how to practice and will become acquainted with registration, articulation, and pedaling, through the practice and preparation of hymns, teaching pieces, and repertoire.

Students will be required to have appropriate shoes (as recommended by their teacher) before the second lesson.

Students will provide at their expense the necessary hymnal and books required by the teacher. (Generally hymnals may be borrowed from the student's church.) Photocopied music is illegal, contrary to the Guild's *Code of Ethics*, and may not be used.

The Jury

At the conclusion of the 14 weeks of study, the student will be required to play before a jury:

- ♦ Two of the following four-part hymns (at least one of the hymns must be played with pedal):

Nicaea *Lobe den Herren*
Ein feste Burg *Olivet*
Hymn to Joy
New Britain (Amazing Grace)
Herzlich tut mich verlangen
(Passion Chorale)

- ♦ The Doxology (*Old Hundredth*) in any of the standard forms
- ♦ One pedal-alone passage of a Bach chorale or from a method book, at least 16 measures long
- ♦ A trio exercise or a chorale trio
- ♦ A prelude or fugue from Bach's *Eight Little Preludes and Fugues*



Application

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ BEST TIME TO CALL _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Your Place of Practice

NAME OF PRACTICE LOCATION (Church, Temple, etc.) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____

TYPE AND BUILDER OF ORGAN (if known) _____

Your Keyboard Background

YEARS OF PIANO STUDY _____

LIST ANY PREVIOUS CLASSICAL ORGAN STUDY _____

Your Goals and Musical Background

Please include on a separate sheet a brief statement of your goals and objectives for organ study and an outline of your musical background and experience.

Purpose

The organ scholarship awarded by the AGO is necessary in order:

1. To serve the congregations by increasing the roster of capable organists.
2. To foster an appreciation for sacred classical organ repertoire.
3. To encourage more musicians to meet the standards and ideals of the American Guild of Organists.
4. To ensure the continuation of the church music profession.

History

In the 1980's a decline in the number of qualified organists and in the number of new organ students became a concern for churches and Guild chapters across the country.

Inspired by an innovative "floating organ academy" begun in South Dakota and described in an article in *The American Organist*, AGO member Helen Taylor founded the Southwest Jersey Organ Scholarship program in 1988 as a way to help solve this problem. The first committee members were Marilyn Rabbai, Barbara Knight, Joyce Ann Routon, and Larry DePasquale.

Since its inception, more than two dozen organists have successfully completed the program. Many of these new organists have gone on to successful careers in area churches.

The Southwest Jersey Chapter is pleased to continue this tradition of service to its churches and to the art of organ playing.

AGO Code of Ethics

Approved by the AGO National Council January 27, 2017

Preamble/Preface

The American Guild of Organists encourages its members to embrace and practice the following values as core ideals that Guild members aspire to cultivate in their ethical and professional conduct.

Value 1. Responsible Conduct toward Those Whom We Serve (including but not limited to clergy, supervisors, congregants, choir members, students, children, et al.). Members shall:

- o Treat those whom they serve in a professional manner, with dignity, compassion, civility, and respect.
- o Show respect to those whom they serve, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic status, disability, or medical condition.
- o Avoid any sort of abusive behavior, whether verbal, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, or other.
- o Refrain from disclosing confidential or sensitive information about others obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.

Value 2. Respect for Our Professional Colleagues. Members shall:

- o Maintain a professional attitude and act with integrity in relationships with colleagues, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic status, disability, or medical condition.
- o Respect the reputation and diversity of colleagues.

Value 3. Integrity in Our Professional Work. Members shall:

- o Honor and abide by the conditions and requirements of the job descriptions and work agreements to which they have knowingly agreed, so long as those provisions are in accord with all applicable federal, state and local laws.
- o Follow, as applicable, the principles of professional conduct that are expressed in the AGO Code of Professional Standards.
- o For the benefit of future generations of musicians and to preserve the instruments of our profession, use care to ensure that when playing an instrument, the institution's expected practices and requirements for the care of the instrument and its venue are met.

Organ Scholarship

for beginning students



presented by

The Southwest Jersey
Chapter

of

The American Guild of
Organists

First Presbyterian Church,
Moorestown, New Jersey
and
The American Guild of Organists,
Southwest Jersey Chapter
Present:



Sven Mikkelsen is Professor and Head of the Organ Department, Church Music, and Early Music at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, Copenhagen, Denmark.

An Organ Recital by:
Sven Mikkelsen, Organ
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Bruhns, Johann Scheibe, Bent
Lorentzen, Johan Lorenz, Christian
Geist, Johan Rudolph Radeck,
Christian Flor, Niels Gade, H.
Matthison-Hansen, and Sven-
Ingvar Mikkelsen

Sunday, March 5th 2023

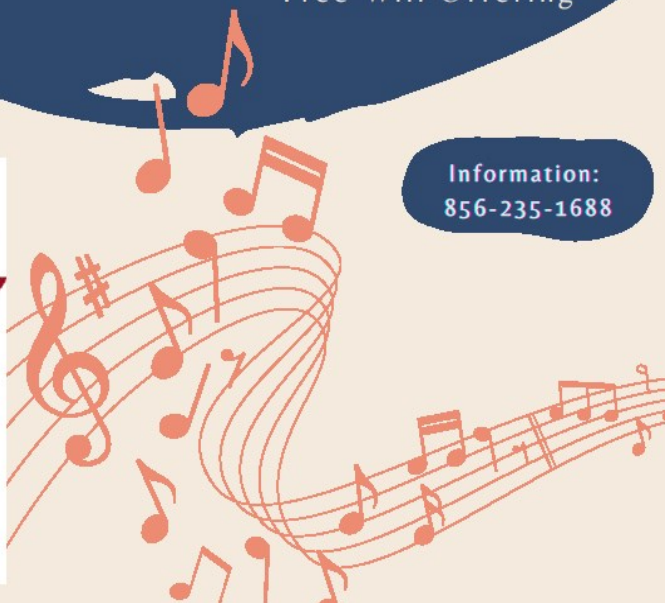
7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church
101 Bridgeboro Rd
Moorestown, NJ

Free Will Offering



Information:
856-235-1688



Moorestown March 5, 2023

Organ music from Scandinavia

Sven-Ingvart Mikkelsen - Organ

Diderik Buxtehude Praeludium in C, BuxWV 136
1637-1707

Nicolaus Bruhns Nun komm der Heiden Heiland
1665-1697

Johann Adolph Scheibe Triosonata in D Major
1708-1776 - Fuga – Langsam – Geschwind

Bent Lorentzen Saturnus (from The Planets)
1935-2018

Johan Lorentz Prelude in d minor
1610-1689

Christian Geist Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr
1640-1711

Johann Rudolph Radeck Engellischer Mascharada
1610-1663

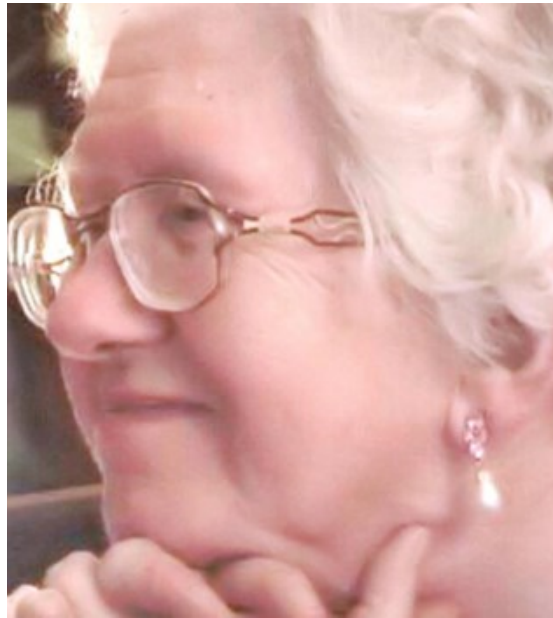
Christian Flor Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott
1626-1697

Niels W. Gade Tone Piece in d minor
1817-1890

H. Matthison-Hansen Fantasi on the folk tune "Queen Dagmar"
1807-1890

Sven-Ingvart Mikkelsen Variations and Fuge on the folk tune "Queen Dagmar"
1955-

HELEN CARRELL DAY



*Offered to the community by the Southwest Jersey Chapter
of The American Guild of Organists*

*featuring choirs and friends from Trinity Episcopal Church, Moorestown and
Haddonfield United Methodist Church*

Organ solos by Jonathan Stark, Evelyn Larter, Misty Fiske

Alice Gilmore Young, soprano; Kenneth Carson, oboe; Robert Gardner, harp

***An offering will be received and divided between
the church and the chapter's scholarship fund***

Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 4 PM

**Trinity United Methodist Church, 36 W. Maple Ave., Mer-
chantville NJ**

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Volumes 1 & 2 ~ for Clarinet

Five English Carols ~ for Flute

Consecration: Seven Hymn Arrangements ~ for Flute

Consecration: Seven Hymn Arrangements ~ for Violin

Still Be My Vision: Hymn Arrangements ~ for Cello

Hear The News The Angels Bring: Christmas Music ~ for Cello

A Rose E'er Blooming ~ for Violin

Oh Glory! Five Spirituals ~ for Piano Trio

Lord of All — Three Hymn Arrangements ~ for Flute and Piano Trio

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"Evelyn Larter has a knack for writing that is easy to put together, yet lacks nothing in terms of harmonic, melodic, and instrumental depth. I find her work deeply moving, spiritual, and satisfying."

— David Kim, Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra



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Positions Available/Substitute List -- by Peter Homon

Editor's Note: We are updating and hoping to expand our Substitute List. If you are available to substitute, please contact Peter Homon, our Referral/Position Coordinator. Please forward or refer any items concerning positions available or substitute needs to Peter at lapajar@yahoo.com or call 856-952-5132.

Positions Available:

St. Stephens Evangelical Lutheran Church, Feasterville - Organist, 2M, 12 R Schantz, 9:30 service, Thursday 7:30 rehearsal, Contact ststephensfeasterville@yahoo.com. (9/22)

Audubon United Methodist Church - organist only, 10:30 svc., Adult and Children's Choirs, 1970 II/25 rank Tellers organ, Yamaha professional grand piano. Contact Marilyn Bradley smradley69@gmail.com. (9/22)

St. Peter Church, Merchantville (Catholic) - O, I mass (11:30 AM) with choir, Sept.-June. Choir rehearsal Thursday evening 7:30 PM. Extra masses throughout the year. 3-manual pipe organ, no piano or keyboard. Salary negotiable. Please send resume with education, experience and salary requirements to: Choir Director spcmchoir@gmail.com. (8/22)

Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church, Pittsgrove - DOM, Duties include weekly choir rehearsals, praise band and managing sound system. Knowledge of contemporary and traditional church music essential. Salary range \$8,000 - \$12,000 contingent upon experience. Email ppccclerk1741@gmail.com. (8/22)

Richardson Park United Methodist Church, DE - O/D or split position, handbell and adult vocal choir rehearsals on same evening, 10:30 service, recently installed 3 manual Rogers with 20 ranks of pipes. Contact Sherlynn Aurelio at 302-893-5129. Resume can be sent to staffing@rpumchurch.org. (3/30/22)

Holy Trinity Episcopal, South River - O/D, piano skills also helpful, speaking Spanish helpful as well, comfortable using several congregational resources for singing, Rev. Gregory Bezilla, 732-254-1734. (3/22)

Martin Luther Chapel (Missouri Synod), Pennsauken - organist/pianist, pipe organ, baby grand, possibility to begin a choir, 10:00 svc. Contact John Doose at jdoose@hotmail.com. (2/23)

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Blackwood - O/D, no choir but would like to begin one, 3 manual Allen Renaissance, 9 a.m. svc. Contact Carlo Danesi 609-832-9702 or cpdanesi@yahoo.com. (3/21)

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal, Cherry Hill - Interim Organist, 3 manual Allen Digital, 10:00 svc with a possible change to 10:30, \$150.00 per service. Congregation uses 1982 Hymnal, LEVAS, and Praise Songs. Contact Fred Astmann at 856-424-3820. (11/22)

These musicians are available on Sundays and also for weddings and funerals other days:

Mary Johnson 856-332-8869 (Pine Hill) mebayj47@yahoo.com

Joanne Owen 856-769-3212 (Woodstown area) lbjkowen1982@comcast.net

Irina Nenartovich 856-321-3465 (Medford) irinanenartovich@gmail.com (after 10:30AM on Sundays)

These substitutes are available for weddings and funerals or Saturday work only:

Misty Fiske, 302-535-6398 (Greenwich) mistypenguins@gmail.com

Evelyn Larter, CAGO 856-358-1112 (Elmer) ERLarter@juno.com

Cathy O'Neill, 856-589-0192 (Sewell, NJ) cmo125@aol.com

Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO 856-589-3901 (Pitman) mwrabbai@verizon.net

Matthew Smith, 630-800-8967 (Philadelphia) matt.smith2011@att.net

CHAPTER EMERGENCY FUND

Our Chapter has begun the sponsorship of a fund to provide short-term emergency aid to Chapter members who find themselves temporarily in need of assistance. No dues money will be used for this aid, but tax-deductible contributions will be welcome at any time. A committee of three, consisting of the Dean, the Chair of Professional Concerns, and another member of that committee, will award aid as the need arises. Any Chapter member may recommend a member in good standing who, for reasons such as illness or unemployment, deserves our help, by contacting the Dean or the Chair of Professional Concerns. All cases of course will be confidential. If you would like to contribute to this cause, please send your tax-deductible donation (made out to SWJersey Chapter AGO) to our Treasurer Chuck Gibson, marked for "Musicians' Emergency Fund." Mail to: 691 Willow Grove Road, Monroeville, NJ 08343-4529.



Beautiful Music for All Occasions



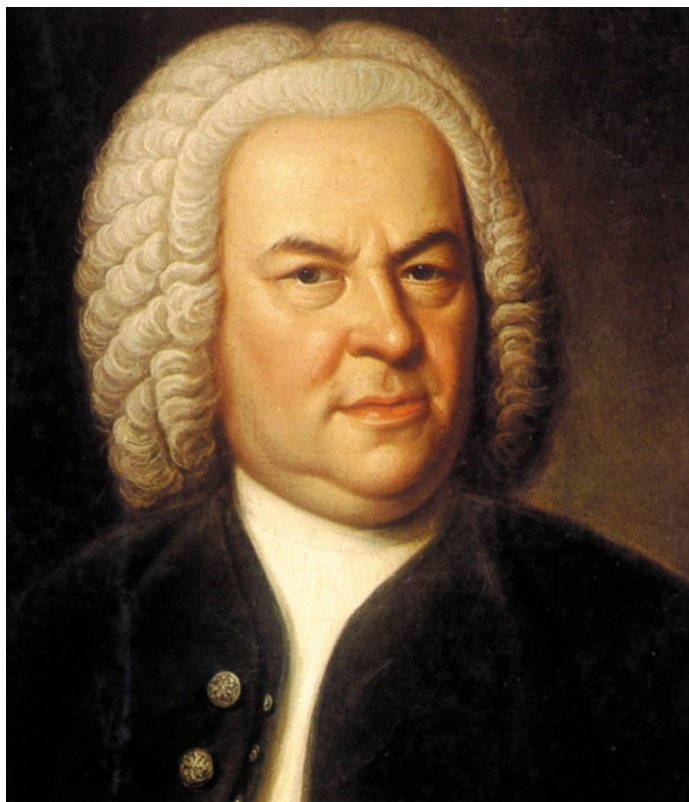
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Stokking-Perry, Nancy

White, Kathleen

For more information on Professional Certification requirements, procedures, materials and deadlines, visit the website of AGO National Headquarters: www.agohq.org

**Thank you,
Patrons, Contributors and Advertisers**

Our next issue will be April 2023.

**Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be
Saturday, March 25.**

*Happy
Birthday,
J. S. Bach!*



Sforzando is the official publication of the SouthWest Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The AGO is a multi-denominational, non-profit organization chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York in 1896.

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SECRETARY: Cathy O'Neill, cmo125@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.agohq.org/chapters/southwestjersey

Dean's Message

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and the chapel organ is a 3-manual 42 rank Petty-Madden. Tom Trenney accompanied traditional hymns on the organ with style and creativity, and switched to piano for some more contemporary songs. This reviewer found a few of the contemporary songs musically unimpressive and theologically questionable, but your mileage may vary!

Next was a master class in the main sanctuary by Dr. Damin Spritzer, professor of organ at the University of Oklahoma. The main sanctuary at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian is the size of a cathedral and contains a 3 manual Rieger tracker organ of 89 ranks built in 2005. (Confusingly, the church's previous organ was also a Rieger tracker from 1974; the current instrument is a complete replacement, not a rebuild.) Forget any impression you might have of neo-Baroque Riegers from the 50's, 60's or 70's. This organ is capable of the most authentic renditions of French Romantic music this side of Paris.

Damin Spritzer is a major artist, with formidable technique and impeccable musicianship. But in the master class what impressed most was her

humility and positive attitude. Three students of differing abilities participated, playing Rachel Laurin's Fantasy and Fugue in D, op. 73; Sigrid Karg-Elert's chorale prelude on Nun danket alle Gott, Op. 65; and the Preamble from Louis Vierne's 24 Pieces en Style Libre. No matter the skill level or preparedness of each student, Dr. Spritzer unfailingly focused on the positive, and used that focus to extend and stretch each student's performance to a higher level. Frankly, not every teacher in my personal life has been so positive. I'd love to study with Dr. Spritzer – if only Oklahoma was closer!

Next, I chose a workshop by organ builder David Storey of Baltimore on pipe organ construction and troubleshooting. David Storey possesses a wealth of information. But with so many different types of pipe organ action, pipe construction, and voicing styles a workshop of only an hour's length could not cover these topics in depth.

Following lunch, I elected to attend the panel discussion on gender equity. (No, I wasn't the only male there.) The panel consisted of AGO President Eileen Hunt, Lyn Loewi, and Michael Smith, with Damin Spritzer as an extremely enthusiastic participant from the audience! You may have noticed a recent emphasis in TAO on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. It is long overdue. A resource sheet listing organ compositions by 31 woman composers

was passed out; I'm embarrassed to say I only recognized 10 names.

The day concluded with a recital by Dr. Spritzer on the Rieger organ of a program of works by woman and PoC composers. Johanna Senfter's Fantasy and Fugue on Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern is fully equal to the most accomplished works of her teacher, Max Reger. Josephine Boulay's music shows some traces of influence from her teacher Cesar Franck, but also speaks with a unique and individual voice. I was impressed with the Boulay pieces; I've scheduled them for my prelude on Woman Composer Sunday, March 5.

The event was very professionally organized and is a great credit to the Philadelphia AGO chapter. Consider attending next year, you won't be disappointed!

Soli Deo Gloria