

UPCOMING EVENTS



**HELEN
CARRELL
DAY**

APRIL 2

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VOLUME 12, ISSUE 8



APRIL 2023

Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists



The 22-rank, 3 manual organ of St Thomas of Villanova Church. On April 12, Dr. Chris Daly will play a recital on this instrument built by Patrick J. Murphy and Associates in 1996. Photo by Gary Langel.

Dean's Message -- by Jonathan Stark

The Report of my Death was an Exaggeration

You might recognize that quote from Mark Twain (frequently misquoted as *the reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated*.) It could just as easily apply to organs and organ music. Googling "pipe organ"+dying yields lots of hits, some going back to the 1990's, lamenting (or celebrating) the dearth of organists, the absence of organ

music in churches, the destruction of pipe organs, etc. This is not new news. There's much truth in these posts and articles – although some of it might just be lazy journalism from correspondents piling on to a trending story.

Decades ago organ recitals were a weekly occurrence in the Philadelphia area. But I'm happy to report that so far in March I've been to eight organ





“....Followers cannot be expected if there are no leaders. Organization is required to have both, and the coming two meetings of our chapter set the stage for this achievement....”



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

Our current time of attempting to recover from the COVID virus and strengthen our choral forces is going to be a challenge for years to come. The major role in realizing this objective is the assistance and sense of direction to be given by the work of *dedicated, and musically qualified leadership*. Followers cannot be expected if there are no leaders. Organization is required to have both, and the coming two meetings of our chapter set the stage for this achievement.

This coming Sunday we meet to honor the church and synagogue musical legacy left to our area by Helen Carrell, who founded our chapter. This program will begin with a greeting from our chaplain, Pastor Kathryn Morgan, followed by the hymn “We’ve a story to tell to the nations that will turn their hearts to the right....for the darkness will turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright.” Everyone needs to be a part of this action. For the most part, church musicians throughout the planet have been nomadic tribesmen. We do the best with what we have and then we move on to another congregation. As a workshop-trained, and not degreed person in applied music, but rather music education, I have often had to pull myself up from my own bootstraps in a do-it-yourself approach. I started out as a church musician not too superior to many in the pews, and often question myself, swallow, and move ahead, in faith, trusting in the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me into research and learning more music, and re-learning music and

how to do it with a different group of people. To not lose perspective, I have found that keeping contacts with other musicians helps me raise my sights and continues to be important. Taking a Sunday off occasionally to visit another church that has a good music program is something I have committed to at least once annually. This coming Sunday we will hear the finest church musicians from our area share music which they have done with Helen or were inspired to do because of her, including instrumental, vocal, and organ solos, and the combined choir which Vernon Williams and Matt Smith have invested many hours into recruiting and preparing.

Next month our chapter members’ recital offers six performers who will share music that has been especially meaningful to them. Some compositions might be major works, and other compositions will be voluntaries that speak to specific passages of scripture. (see poster, page 13) As Christ said, “come and see.” Let us all examine the significance of our own contributions to worship. Seated at the console, we have the unique opportunity of inviting every person in the church to solemnly and joyously worship the Creator. We are part of the congregation and do not sit at the console to show off skills, to provide music for subdued conversations, or to entertain.

May any rehearsals of what has happened in the past 500 years give meaning to the compositions and composers, and may we carry forward using reliable time honored and appropriate music to Our Lord. Soli Deo Gloria.



Matters of Note



Hospitality: There will be a reception after the program for Helen Carrell. I will be bringing the hoagies that everyone enjoys. I am asking folks to bring appetizers, salads, chips, drinks, and desserts. Please let me know via email cmo125@aol.com or 856-214-1928.

Cares and Concerns: A card was sent to welcome our new member Joanne Schreiner. As always, if there are other cards that should be sent contact me at cmo125@aol.com or 856-214-1928.

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

Wednesday, April 12 at 7pm: Christopher Daly will perform an organ recital at Saint Thomas of Villanova Church on the campus of Villanova University. The program will include music of C. Saint-Saens, Pieter Cornet, J.S. Bach, Padre Antonio Soler, F. Mendelssohn, and Jehan Alain. Admission is free and everyone is most welcome!

Sunday, April 16 at 3pm: Christopher Daly will perform an organ recital at the Church of Saint Vincent Pallotti (Saint Joseph the Worker Parish) on Hopkins Road in Haddon Township. The program starts with a brief prayer service and will include music of C. Saint-Saens, Pieter Cornet, J.S. Bach, Padre Antonio Soler, F. Mendelssohn, and Jehan Alain. Admission is free and everyone is most welcome! Light refreshments will be served following the recital.

.....continued on page 16

Gallery: Sven Mikkelsen Recital



Programs at a Glance

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

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:

Nicole Keller Masterclass - Saturday 6/3,

Haddonfield United Methodist Church

Nicole Keller Recital - Sunday 6/4

*Haddonfield United Methodist Church,
29 Warwick Road, Haddonfield*

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

SouthWest Jersey AGO Nominations 2023

-- by Glenn L. Rodgers, AAGO

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report the following candidates for the upcoming year:

Dean – Jonathan Stark
Sub-Dean – Larry DePasquale
Treasurer/Registrar – Chuck Gibson
Secretary – Cathy O'Neill

Executive Board Class of 2026
David Doan
Robert Gardner
Gail Gassaway
Gary Langel

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that Jonathan Stark, Larry DePasquale, Chuck Gibson, and Cathy O'Neill have agreed to continue to serve in their respective offices. We are grateful to all these members for their willingness to serve the Chapter by assuming or continuing these responsibilities. We also express appreciation to Renee Hatzold, Evelyn Larter, and David Reich who have completed their terms serving on the Executive Board. We encourage everyone to return the ballot by post or email. Even though it may seem like a formality, the act of taking time to respond is an indication of your engagement with the activities of the chapter and your support of the Committee and the prospective officers. You may send it by mail to Glenn L. Rodgers, the Teller of the Election, at 103 Tarlton Court, Delran, NJ 08075. You may also vote by email at gcroddgers@aol.com. Please refer to the ballot form for full instructions.

(See ballot, next page - Deadline for post mailing is 5/10. Deadline for emailing is 5/15.)



**SOUTHWEST JERSEY CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
ELECTION BALLOT 2023**

Please complete your ballot, do not sign it. Place it in an envelope, sign your name across the back flap, and mail *by May10th* to:

Glenn L. Rodgers, Teller of the Election
103 Tarlton Court
Delran, NJ 08075

You may also vote by email to Glenn at gcrodgers@aol.com by May 15th.

DEAN – Vote for one

____ Jonathan Stark
____ (write-in choice) _____

SUB-DEAN – Vote for one

____ Larry DePasquale
____ (write-in choice) _____

TREASURER/REGISTRAR - Vote for one

____ Chuck Gibson
____ (write-in choice) _____

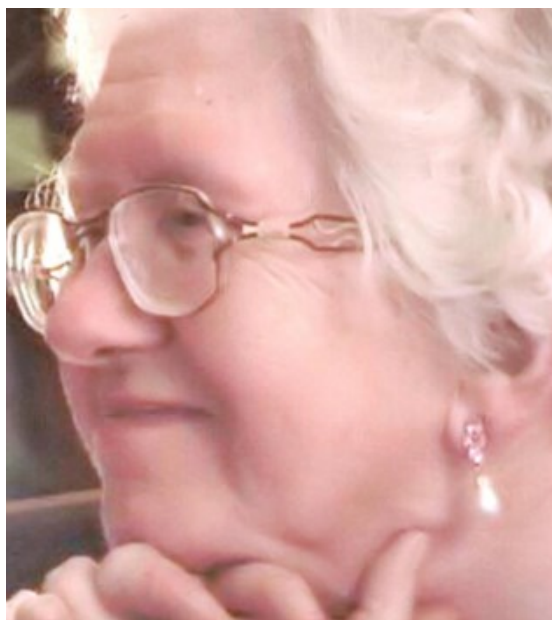
SECRETARY – Vote for one

____ Cathy O'Neill
____ (write-in choice) _____

EXECUTIVE BOARD CLASS OF 2026 – Vote for four

____ David Doan
____ Robert Gardner
____ Gail Gassaway
____ Gary Langel
____ (write-in) _____
____ (write-in) _____
____ (write-in) _____
____ (write-in) _____

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



WEST JERSEY
CHAMBER MUSIC
SOCIETY



The West Jersey Chamber Music Society will present their Season Finale on

Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown

101 Bridgeboro Rd., Moorestown, NJ

Our season finale will feature radiant choral works of the classical era.

Haydn's *Theresienmesse* showcases the composer at his masterful best.

Enjoy a quartet of vocal soloists and the Adult Choir of First Presbyterian Church and West Jersey Chamber Chorale, accompanied by a unique orchestration full of depth and color. We round out the program with **Te Deum Laudamus** by Italian composer and priest **Luigi Gatti**.

Tickets \$28, seniors \$20, students 18 and under are free. For those who cannot attend, a live broadcast will be available free of charge, through our website at concert time.



THE NEW JERSEY MASTERCHORALE PRESENTS
WITH PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA & FRIENDS

AWAKE MY SOUL

Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 7pm
Haddonfield UMC Sanctuary
with special performing

John Rutter's Mass of the Children
featuring ChildrenSong of New Jersey

and

Igor Stravinsky's
Symphony of Psalms

Free tickets available at
haddonfieldumc.org/nj-masterchorale starting April 2

The Midiri Brothers Big Band

featuring vocalist

Paula Johns



SUNDAY
APRIL 30, 2023
3:00 PM

FREE

SALEM COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DAVIDOW HALL
460 HOLLYWOOD AVENUE
CARNEY'S POINT, NJ

The Midiri Brothers are back again, this time performing with a big band that will feature jazz vocalist Paula Johns! Roll back into the 1930's and 40's and get ready to swing in an afternoon of big band classics such as: One O'clock Jump, Don't Be That Way, Embraceable You, It's Almost Like Being In Love, This Girl's In Love With You, You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To, & more!



facebook.com/MusicAroundTheCounty



musicaroundthecountysalem.com

*American Guild of Organists
Southwest Jersey Chapter*

presents its annual

CHAPTER MEMBERS RECITAL

Hosted by Peter Homan

featuring

**Layla Joshi, Christopher Daly,
Mary Johnson, Vicki Nichols,
Misty Fiske, Peter Homan**



SUNDAY, May 21. 2023 at 4 PM

*Christ Episcopal Church
500 4th St., Riverton NJ 08077*

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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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— 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 ppcclerkl741@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.



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Gassaway, Gail

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Owen, Joanne

McFarland, Donald

Nichols, Victoria

Rabbai, Marilyn

Rhody, David

Robinson, Christine

Rodgers, Glenn

Scara, Robert

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 May 2023.

Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be Tuesday, April 25.

Matters of Note

-- continued from page 2



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.

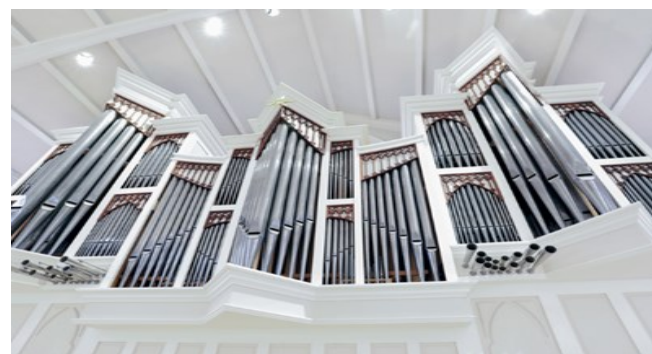
Welcome, new member Joanne Schreiner! Please add her information to your chapter directory:

Joanne Schreiner

144 Seeley Road

Bridgeton NJ 08302

schreinerjo4@gmail.com



**July 3—6, 2023: NORTHEAST / MID-ATLANTIC
REGIONAL CONVENTION
White Plains, N.Y.**

Sonesta White Plains Downtown

Featured performers include

David Enlow

David Hurd

Modus Operandi Orchestra

Amanda Mole

New Choral Society

Janet Yieh

[Full Schedule and Registration](#)

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.

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Marilyn Rabbai, mwrabbai@verizon.net

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER: Joe Routon

REFERRAL & POSITIONS AVAILABLE COORDINATOR: Peter Homon, lapajar@yahoo.com, 856-952-5132

PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COORDINATOR: David Rhody, drhody1@comcast.net; (856)795-6735

CHAPTER OFFICERS

DEAN: Jonathan Stark, jonstark47@gmail.com

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Dean's Message

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recitals and will attend one more before the month ends. Four were part of the Lenten Noon recital series produced by our colleague Vernon Williams at Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown. One was our March chapter event, a recital by Sven Mikkelsen at the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown co-sponsored by our chapter. One was by Hungarian organist Levente Kuzma at Christ Church, Philadelphia. And two were recitals by noted Parisian organists: Olivier Latry at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, and Daniel Roth at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Morristown, NJ.

Attendance at these events ranged from about 30 to..... over 600. That's not a misprint. Six. Hundred. Daniel Roth's concert on the tonally original 1930 Skinner IV/64 at St. Peter's in Morristown drew about 200, which comfortably filled the room. But Bryn Mawr Presbyterian is the size of a small cathedral, and it was very full for

Olivier Latry's recital, with the crowd spilling over into the transept balconies. Jeffrey Brillhart, the director of music and fine arts at Bryn Mawr estimated the attendance as at least 600.

Have you seen 600 people at an organ recital recently? If every member of the AGO Philadelphia chapter, and our chapter, and the Southeast Pennsylvania and Central NJ chapters attended, that might be 600 people. But the majority of those 600 folks at Bryn Mawr were probably not AGO.

Why does one internationally known concert organist draw 40-50 people, and another draws 600? The pundits opine that recitals are too long, or too short; the organist isn't visible, or is too visible and distracting; the music is too serious or too trivial; the music isn't familiar, or it's too familiar (who wants to hear the same old stuff?); the ticket price is too high, or the recital is free and hence not perceived to be valuable.

None of these explanations aligns well with what I witnessed at eight organ recitals this month. The factors that drive attendance at organ recitals are probably complex and interact in unpredictable ways. We, the organists and lovers of organ music, need to study and

understand these factors better. We play an instrument whose purchase price can exceed the lifetime earnings of many American workers. The organ at Christ Church, Philadelphia cost \$2.2 million in 2015 dollars. For the art of the organ to continue and flourish, it needs a broad base of support. Significant audiences at recitals help nurture that base of support. The events of March provide both concern and hope.

Soli Deo Gloria

