

UPCOMING EVENTS



MUSICAL BENEFIT FOR UKRAINE



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Sforzando

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1



SEPTEMBER 2023

Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists



Largest Organ in Europe, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Passau, Germany

Photo by Joe Routon

Dean's Message

-- by Jonathan Stark



I own a general history of the organ published in 1980 (title and author not important for the moment). In 233 pages and 51 plates the author traces the history of the pipe organ from Roman times until the 1970's. With such a broad topic many details are necessarily glossed over. Yet the author manages to find space to advocate for a particular style of organ, organs built according to the *Werkprinzip*.

If you didn't take a degree in organ performance, or aren't a serious baroque pipe organ nerd, you might not have heard of the *Werkprinzip*. It is a system of organ physical and tonal design where each division is fully encased within the larger case of the whole instrument, the layout of the divisional cases is visually obvious when viewing the organ's façade, and each division has a principal chorus with a different pitch emphasis (16', 8', 4', etc.) Historical organs built according to the *Werkprinzip* occurred in a relatively small area and timeframe: north central Europe circa 1600-1750. Organs built in France, England, Italy, Spain, and other parts of south and eastern Europe did not adhere to the *Werkprinzip*; the organs Bach knew in his native Thuringia and Upper Saxony were not *Werkprinzip* organs.

When writing about *Werkprinzip* organs, this author sprinkles the text with judgments like "ideal", "a highest common factor", "natural", "ne plus ultra". Other organs are described as "corrupt" or "compromised"; later 19th century instruments are called "decadent" or described as making "little musical sense".

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

We are fortunate to plan, for the first time, I believe, a calendar of events that we believe to be normal for chapter activities, in faith, while the covid virus is once again on somewhat of a rise. How blessed we are to have the skills and willingness of concert pianist Irina Nenartovich, who raised \$6,000 at a recital she presented at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton for Ukraine. Irina has been a member of our chapter for many years and previously served as organist at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Beverly. Also how fortunate we are to have Matt Smith and the beautiful nave of Haddonfield United Methodist Church in which to set a benefit event. Ukraine will need help for generations to come. Please duplicate the poster you will find elsewhere in this newsletter so carefully assembled by our new editor, Glenn Rodgers. If half our membership came to this event and each of us brought even one additional friend and/or our pastor, what a blessed showing of support we would have for our brothers and sisters on the other side of the planet who continue to endure the cruel acts of physical violence and injury and loss of life during the continuing war. *But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against*

him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or in talk, but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:17-18). This is but one compelling citation from scripture concerning helping others. This event is in a short time now, although we also had the fortune of David Rhody's sending this information to everyone last month. Come and see; come and hear Irina and her friends for 90 minutes. My congregation has been reading about this event and our rector has announced it weekly since David's "blast."

We look forward to Evelyn Larter's hosting the guild service in October, to concert organist Nathan Laube's master class and recital at the end of October, and to a hymn festival to benefit the losses suffered in Maui, co-sponsored with the Gloucester County Community Chorus in November. We look forward to seeing you at these events, and to your bringing guests. We are our own marketing system, to the Glory of God Alone. Soli Deo Gloria.

Deacon Lawrence De Pasquale

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Matters of Note



Hospitality

I hope everyone had a productive summer. I always enjoy attending conventions and workshops every summer. This summer I finally achieved my goal of cleaning out the choir file cabinets at St James and getting rid of lots of anthems we will not be using again.

First I want to thank Bill Mitchell for hosting our June picnic where a good time was had by all. Bill was kind enough to donate the leftover paper goods from the event to the chapter saving us a few pennies. Thanks also to everyone who brought something to the event.

Our opening meeting on September 17th will be a Musical Benefit concert for Ukraine. After the program there will be a simple reception of finger foods and beverages. Please let me know what you will be bringing.

Cares and Concerns

For those of you that attended the June picnic you know that we are expanding the Cares and Concerns area of the chapter. I did not send myself a get well card after having an elective procedure. I neglected to say at the meeting that when I send a get well to a member I will only say if the person had an elective or emergency procedure. I am very aware of patient privacy and would not assume the person wanted everyone to know what was done.

This summer a welcome card was sent to new member Ellen Estello. I have also started sending notes to long time members that we have not seen in awhile just to let them know they have not been forgotten as they continue to support the chapter. Cards have been sent to Anthony Falatico and Dean Metzler, Ruth Fink, and Ruthann Arndt. If there are other members you have not seen in awhile please let me know and I will send a note. A card was also sent to Dan Carson who became engaged this summer.

Sadly, chapter member Norm Geist passed away on August 16. He and Ethel were enthusiastic leaders of the AGO for many years and served as Co-Deans for our chapter in the 1990's.

My contact information is 856-214-1928 or cmo125@aol.com



.....continued on page 9

Regional Convention Report - by Evelyn Larter

The long-delayed joint Regional Convention of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions took place in White Plains, NY from

July 3rd to 6th. I was joined by Dean Jonathan Stark, Renee Hatzold and Father John Testa from the SouthWest Jersey chapter. There were many wonderful recitals, beginning with Peter Richard Conte on the recently rebuilt and expanded Austin organ at the Reformed Church in Bronxville (pictured right). Other recitalists included Anne Laver at Bedford



Presbyterian Church (Martin Pasi ,2001), Janet Yieh at The Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco (Von Beckerath, 2008), Jennifer Pascual at Immaculate Conception/St Mary in Yonkers (Odell, 1906), Renée Anne Louprette at St. Peter's R. C. Church, Haverstraw (Jardine, 1898) Amanda Mole at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church (Walker, 1990) and Caroline Robinson at Irvington Presbyterian Church (Klais 2001). Worship services were held at Rye and White Plains Presbyterian Churches. We were treated to a visit to West Point Cadet Chapel where we heard a wonderful recital by Craig Williams on the historic Möller, (1911), followed by lunch and annual meetings at the officers' club.

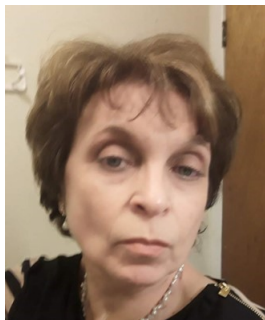
Over the few days there I was particularly encouraged to be approached by several members from the Mid-Atlantic Region who wanted me to know how much they enjoyed the convention we hosted in 2019 – one dear gentleman told me he still couldn't get over how wonderful it was! The next Regional Convention will be in Harrisburg in July 2025, and will also be a joint event with the Northeast Region. I hope many of our members will take advantage of the opportunity for fellowship and enrichment that conventions offer.



Renée Anne Louprette at St. Peter's, Haverstraw.

Programs at a Glance

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



Musical Benefit for Ukraine

Irina Nenartovich and Friends

Sunday, September 17, 3PM

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

Annual Chapter Guild Service

Sunday, October 15, 4PM

Evelyn Larter, Host

*Deerfield Presbyterian Church
530 Old Deerfield Pike, Bridgeton*

Nathan Laube

Saturday, October 28, 10AM, Master Class

Sunday, October 29, 7PM, Recital

Haddonfield United Methodist Church

Maui Benefit

Hymn Festival based on Psalms

Sunday, November 19, 4PM

First Presbyterian Church

10 Wildwood Avenue, 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.

Musical Benefit for Ukraine

Irina Nenartovitch and Friends

Kenneth Carson, R. William Powell, Matthew Smith



FREE-WILL OFFERING

Sunday, 17 September 2023 at 3 PM

Haddonfield United Methodist Church

29 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield NJ 08033



29TH
2023
7 PM

MI WHA LEE MEMORIAL SANCTUARY
ORGAN FUND PRESENTS

NATHAN LAUBE

Haddonfield United Methodist Church | 29 Warwick Rd, Haddonfield, NJ 08033
www.haddonfieldumc.org | Sanctuary

Nathan Laube is a leading performer and pedagogue who is beloved around the world. His extensive recital career includes major venues spanning four continents, with appearances at the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Maison Radio France in Paris, Auditorium Maurice Ravel in Lyon, and the Sejong Center in Seoul. Highlight performances in the USA include Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles; Verizon Hall, Philadelphia; Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco; The Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas TX; Overture Hall, Madison, WI; the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, Nashville, TN; the Kauffman Center in Kansas City, MO; and Spivey Hall in Morrow, GA. He has performed in the most famous churches and cathedrals of Europe, including Notre-Dame Cathedral and Saint-Sulpice in Paris, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the Frauenkirche in Dresden, and the Berlin Dom. In August 2022 he performed a solo organ recital for the prestigious BBC Proms at Royal Albert Hall in London.

Deerfield Recital Series

Evelyn Larter

piano & organ



**Celebrating Twenty Years as Director of Music
at Deerfield Presbyterian Church**

A free concert of classical and sacred music

with special guest

Emilie Park, violin

Sunday, September 10th, 2023, 4:00 PM

A freewill offering will be received

Sanctuary handicap accessible

Reception to follow

Information and directions at www.deerfieldpres.org (856) 455-1222

Deerfield Presbyterian Church, 530 Old Deerfield Pike, Deerfield Street, New Jersey

The First Baptist Church of Haddonfield presents



South Jersey Piano Trio

in concert on Sunday, September 10th at 4:00 pm

Joanne Erwin (cello), Bruce Erwin (violin)
and Norma Meyer (piano) will present
"Fruit of a Century: Haydn and Dvorak."

The First Baptist Church of Haddonfield is located at:

124 Kings Highway East - Haddonfield, NJ 08033

*No tickets required. Parking is available in the lot behind the building.
Handicap Accessible - Seating is first come, first serve.*

Matters of Note, continued from page 3

FREE:

St James has 27 green adult choir robes with gold and white collars that we want to donate. They are in good condition and have not been used for at least 10 years. We also have approximately 20 red children's robe available for the asking. We are willing to give these to several organizations as needed. If interested please let me know by September 30, 2023. Cathy --- cmo125@aol.com or 856-214-1928.

An Anniversary Recital at Deerfield Presbyterian Church

The first recital in the new series at Deerfield Presbyterian will be given by **Evelyn R. Larter** on Sunday, September 10th at 4:00 PM. Celebrating twenty years as the church's Director of Music, she will perform music by Couperin, Bach, Rachmaninoff and Lemmons on the church's highly regarded Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ, and on piano. Special guest artist Emilie Park, violin, will perform some of Evelyn's compositions, including the first performance of two recently commissioned pieces. There is no charge for the Deerfield recital - a freewill offering will be received to benefit the recital series. A Meet-The Artists reception will follow. The church, located at 530 Old Deerfield Pike, Deerfield Street, is handicap accessible. For more information, please visit www.deerfieldpres.org.

Dean's Message- continued from page 1

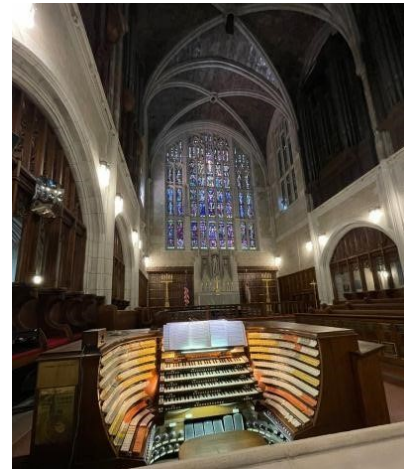
The author ventures into unintentional irony describing the organs of Gottfried Silbermann as having "several less-than-ideal features" yet admits they are among "the most beautiful organs ever made."

Historians discuss the what and why of history. Moral judgments should be applied to matters of morality. But it is perilous and unhelpful to apply moral judgments to matters of style and taste as this author has done. There's a parallel here for us.

Among organists in general and the AGO specifically, matters of differing taste and musical styles are sometimes the subject of discussions generating more heat than light. How many of us are guilty? We can approach issues like praise music, electronic organs, guitars, modern hymns, etc. with a moral certainty as if we were defending core tenets of the faith. But what impression does this make among those church musicians with less formal training, or none, and maybe somewhat insecure about their skills? Is this welcoming? Or disconcerting?

The median age of our AGO chapter is 68 years old; in 15 years who will be occupying the organ benches we now occupy? The traditional paths by which people became organists are changing and must continue to change if the organ is to survive. There will be fewer college-trained organists. There will be more pianists or keyboard players who become "accidental organists" and unexpectedly find themselves enjoying it. There will be folks who begin playing the organ at age 40. There will be people who may never learn to play the pedals, but love the organ nonetheless.

Side Gallery



The Cadet Chapel at West Point



Annual Meeting at home of Bill Mitchell



Dean Jonathan Stark calls the meeting to order with a blast from an organ pipe!

Know somebody like this? Encourage them to join us in the AGO. There's a place here for anybody who loves the organ. Even if they can't improvise a fugue, can't transpose a hymn a major third at sight, and maybe even have a taste for contemporary praise songs.

Who are we then? Who CAN we be? We can be all the people in Southwest Jersey who love the organ, and who want to touch human hearts and souls with love and beauty through music of all different styles.

Soli Deo Gloria.

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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

www.evelynlartermusic.com

"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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Southwest Jersey Chapter
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
ANNUAL
GUILD SERVICE



hosted by Evelyn Larter

Deerfield Presbyterian Church

530 Old Deerfield Pike, Bridgeton NJ 08302

Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 4 PM

The Rev. Norlita Kaul, liturgist; The Rev. Kathryn Morgan, homilist

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

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Our next issue will be October 2023.

Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be Monday, September 25.

MAUI BENEFIT

*a hymn festival based
on the book of Psalms*



*co-sponsored by the Southwest Jersey Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists and
the College/Community Chorus of
Rowan College of South Jersey/Gloucester Campus*

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 4 PM

First Presbyterian Church

10 Wildwood Ave., Pitman NJ 08071

FREE WILL OFFERING

100% sent to Disaster Assistance

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 ststephensfeaster-ville@yahoo.com. (9/22)

St. Peter Church, Merchantville (Catholic) - O, 1 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, re-cently installed 3 manual Rogers with 20 ranks of pipes. Contact Sherlynn Aurelio at 302-893-5129. Resume can be sent to staff-ing@rpumchurch.org. (3/30/22)

Holy Trinity Episcopal, South River - O/D, piano skills also helpful, speaking Spanish helpful as well, comfortable using several congregation-al re-sources 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 ser-vice. 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)

Katrina Wylie 856-217-9143 (Sewell) shopper561@comcast.net

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.



AGO in the Know -- from AGOHQ



ONCARD Update

The launch of the AGO's new association management system, iMIS, will be postponed. The new anticipated launch is February 2024. Until then, please continue to use the current ONCARD system for membership renewal, and continue to enter any changes in your personal information via ONCARD.

Understanding AGO's Renewal Timeline

Three Months Before Your Expiration Date An invoice is created for your next membership year. "Renew Dues and Subscriptions" appears on your ONCARD menu. Your status changes to "invoiced not paid" on your chapter's member roster. A renewal notice is sent from headquarters, either by email or postal mail depending on your preferences.

Two Months Before Your Expiration Date A second renewal notice is sent from headquarters, either by email or postal mail depending on your preferences.

One Month Before Your Expiration Date A third renewal notice is sent from headquarters by postal mail.

2 Weeks Before Your Expiration Date Chapter officers receive notification of all members who have not yet renewed.

Bill Due Date AGO dues payments are due on the *last day* of the month before expiration.

Expiration Date: Always the First of the Month A membership expires, and a *two week grace period* begins at the time of expiration.

Two Weeks After the Expiration Date

The grace period ends and memberships are marked canceled. If a payment is received after this date, delivery of *The American Organist* may be delayed.

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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