

Sforzando



OLUME 13, ISSUE 5

Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists

PAGEI

IN THIS ISSUE:

Dean's	1,
Message	3

Sub-Dean's 2 Report

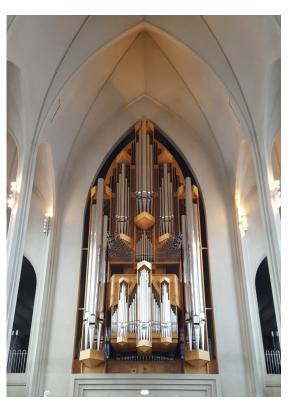
Matters	3
of Note	

Chapter Events 4 2024

Special	
Feature	5
Article	

Scholarship	6,
Application	7
Eorm	





Klais Organ, HallgrimsKirkje, Reykjavik

Photo by Glenn Rodgers

Dean's Message by Jonathan Stark

Have You Hugged Your Organ Builder?

In recent years I've been privileged to regularly play two fine pipe organs for church services. My "main" church job is at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Roxborough, Philadelphia. At St. Mary's there is a 1999 Patrick J Murphy & Associates organ of two manuals and 24 ranks in a sympathetic acoustic. And at my home parish of St. Andrew's Episcopal church in Mount Holly I play Saturday afternoon Masses on their two-manual 1936 Aeolian-Skinner organ of 23 ranks, also in a favorable acoustic environment.

Although of similar size, the two organs sound quite different. The Patrick Murphy organ in Philadelphia is a very well-balanced instrument that can play a broad range of repertoire. The Aeolian-Skinner in Mount Holly is, despite some classical aspects of the stop list, a Romantic instrument.

It sounds particularly authentic playing 20th century American Romantic composers such as Bingham, Purvis, Sowerby, and Dickinson. Being able to practice and perform on two excellent and contrasting organs is great, and I've been having a blast!

But consider the "ecosystem" around the organs, and a critical part of that ecosystem: the organ builders who maintain these instruments. For all their robustness of tone, pipe organs are delicate entities. They contain thousands of intricate parts, and the tonal refinement of their pipes is a balancing act that exists within narrow physical parameters. Although well-made, neither organ I play would sound well for long without regular attention from organ builders.

In December I spent two consecutive days hosting (or getting in the way of) organ builders doing pre-Christmas maintenance. I was mightily impressed with the skill, focus, dedication, attention to detail, and in some cases, trouble-shooting insight bordering on mechanical genius of the teams maintaining these two organs!

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



Our next gathering is at 4 PM on January 6 at the home of Peter and Jane Homan, 40 East Walnut St., Merchantville. Please email Peter at lapajar@yahoo.com by January 4 with your attendance and what appetizer or dessert you will bring. Peter and Jane are generously supplying place settings and the main course.

We have a second January gathering on Sunday the 21st from 3-5 PM in Pfleeger Concert Hall at Rowan University, 201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, for an open console experience on the renovated organ with new console. The best access to the cam-

pus is either Route 47 or 322 to Heston Rd., turning directly across from Glassboro High School onto College Drive. Drive past the Engineering Building on the right and park in the lot behind it as close to Wilson Hall (the music building) as possible. Descend the steps, cross the driveway, then enter the building through the single door to the right of the loading dock. The concert hall backstage entrance is the second door on the left side of the hall. Use that door to come through the backstage and be seated as you wish in the hall. Bring a piece of music that is comfortable to try the instrument.

We scheduled February 3 with an inclement weather date of February 10 for a vocal and choral health and warm-up workshop at Pitman United Methodist Church, likely beginning at either 10 or 11 AM with a light chili lunch afterwards, ending by 1 PM. Our workshop leader will be Mrs. Lauren Athey-Janka, our newest full-time voice faculty hire. Please register your attendance with me at ldorg59@yahoo.com with your choir members' names (we are limited to 30 participants) by January 20.

It is hoped that the same people who come to this workshop will form the choir for the planned choral festival meeting in the near future.

Matters of Note - by Cathy O'Neill



Hospitality

After the busy holiday season at church is will be nice to enjoy a relaxing holiday party at Jane and Peter Homan's in January. They will be providing the main course and asking that we bring appetizers, side dishes, and desserts. Please let me know in advance what you will be bringing. Thanks Cathy cmo125@aol.com or 856-214-1928.

Cares and Concerns

Christmas cards were sent to Ruth Fink, Anthony Falatico and Dean Metzler. As always if there is anyone that should be receiving a card please let me know.

Thanks Cathy cmo125@aol.com or 856-214-1928.

Dean's Message, continued from page 1

The service team from Patrick J Murphy included Christopher Mills, an expatriate Brit who began his career at storied British organ builders such as Hill, Norman, and Beard before emigrating to the US about 25 years ago. Last summer Christopher was summoned due to a cipher at St. Mary's. I didn't know it, but this was no ordinary hung-open pallet. The pipe wasn't actually playing at all. The note was a case pipe, the conducting tube had come loose, the pallet wouldn't close due to loss of back pressure, and the conducting tube was vibrating at the exact same frequency the pipe would have made, had it been playing!! Talk about weird coincidence! Christopher took all of 15 minutes to figure out that one.



The Mount Holly organ was serviced by our own Chuck Gibson. In short order, Chuck fixed a coupler that wouldn't engage on any piston, opened up a windchest from the bottom to adjust a magnet (in a part of the organ people of my size and girth would be loath to even attempt to access) and then tuned the entire instrument (1,441 pipes). There is little worth knowing about pipe organs that Chuck doesn't already know.

And for all this dedication and hard work, organ builders ask little in return. Adjust the thermostat in advance so the whole organ is at the same temperature. Arrange for quiet (an electrician planned to be drilling through masonry walls when Chuck was tuning; I negotiated postponement to the next day.) And I know of no rich organ builders. When the cost of their investment in training, equipment, travel, etc. is considered, their fees are quite modest. So, if necessary, defend the cost of organ builders' work to clergy and church councils, and advocate for organ maintenance at regular, predictable intervals.

And maybe, if you think of it, drop them a thank-you note?

Soli Deo gloria





AGO Philadelphia Chapter looks forward to welcoming you to **January Jumpstart**, the region's premier program for organists' education and professional development.

Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, January 27, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church**, 625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA. Registration will be \$50 for AGO members.

(Editor's note: Registration is limited to 120. Register ASAP!)



Chapter Events 2024



Saturday, January 6 at 4 PM Holiday Heights Social

Peter and Jane Homan hosts, 40 E. Walnut Street Merchantville

40 E. Wallut Street Merchantville

Sunday, January 21, 3-5 PM Open Console, Concert Hall,

Wilson Music Center, RU

Saturday, February 3 at 10 AM Vocal and Choral Health and Exercises

Lauren Athey-Janka, clinician
Pitman United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 10 at 4 PM Helen Carrell Day II

The Organ as orchestral accompaniment

with other instruments

Kenneth Carson, host

Audubon United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 14 at 5 PM* Massed Choral Festival

(one massed choir together)

(Location TBD)

Sunday, May 19 at 4 PM Members' Recital

Joel Krott, Host

First Presbyterian Church, Moorestown

Sunday, June 30 at 3 PM* Annual Business Meeting and Picnic

Evelyn Larter, Host



Feature Article - by Joe Routon

On a recent trip to London, on a Sunday morning, Joe and Joyce Ann Routon traveled to the suburb South Hackney to attend the worship service at **St. John of Jerusalem Church of England.**

The trip involved two tube lines and an overground train.

The purpose of the visit was to see the church where Joe's ancestor,

The Rev. Dr. Samuel James Rowton (1844-1930) had served as organist over 100 years ago.



In addition to being an accomplished organist, Rowton was a composer, with several hymns and pieces for the organ published. After serving at the Hackney church, he became Assistant Master and music professor at Epsom College, one of the UK's finest prep schools, for 30 years. From there, he moved to Bradfield where he was a distinguished faculty member at Bradfield College.



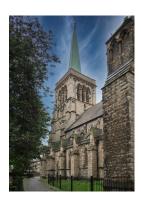
Before the service began, the church's rector presented Joe a book on the history of the church and asked him if, before the service ended, he would speak to the congregation about himself, where he was from, and why he was attending the service. Following his brief speech, the people clapped.

The Rev. AndrewWilson, Rector)









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.

The program is structured as 14 one-hour lessons scheduled at the mutual convenience of the instructor and student. 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 32-note pedalboard, with all keys functioning. The student must have legs long enough to reach the pedalboard (!) and have intermediate piano skills

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 <a href="location-locat

Application

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY. STATE. ZIP

PHONE

BAST TIME TO CALL

BAAIL, 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:

- To serve the congregations by increasing the roster of capable organists.
- . To foster an appreciation for sacred classical organ repertoire.
- To encourage more musicians to meet the standards and ideals of the American Guild of Organists.
- 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:

- Treat those whom they serve in a professional manner, with dignity, compassion, civility, and respect.
- 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.
- Avoid any sort of abusive behavior, whether verbal, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, or other.
- 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:

- 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.
- Respect the reputation and diversity of colleagues.

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

- 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.
- Follow, as applicable, the principles of professional conduct that are expressed in the AGO Code of Professional Standards.
- For the henefit 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

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The American Guild of Organists

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 befow).
- 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 fearn how to practice and will become acquainted with registration, articulation, and pedaling, through the practice and preparation of hymns, teaching pieces, and preparation

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

The Doxology (Old Hundredth) in any of the standard forms

(Passion Chorale)

- 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 prefude or fugue from Bach's Eight Little Prefudes and Fugues

Southwest Jersey Chapter



American Guild of Organists

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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

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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AGO CERTIFIED MEMBERS

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Miriam Bisbing, SPC

Mark A. Cole, SPC

Charlene Cranmer, CAGO, SPC

Lawrence DePasquale, CAGO

Ruth O. Fink, AAGO, ChM

Ethel H. Geist, CAGO

Evelyn Larter, CAGO, SPC

Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO, SPC

David L. Rhody, SPC

Glenn L. Rodgers, AAGO

Joyce Ann Routon, CAGO, SPC

For more information on Professional Certification requirements, procedures, materials and deadlines, visit the website of AGO National Headquar-

ters: www.agohq.org

Patrons & Contributors

Arndt, Ruthann Bisbing, Miriam Cranmer, Charlene Dishong, Mark Fenimore, William Finch, Gae Fink, Ruth Gardener, Robert Gassaway, Gail Hatzold, Renee Kirk, Guy Larter, Evelyn Obarski, Stephen Owen, Joanne McFarland, Donald Nichols, Victoria Rabbai, Marilyn Rhody, David Robinson, Christine Rodgers, Glenn Scara, Robert

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.



A Note from the Editor

Sforzando is published on the 1st of the month September through June.

Please submit all material to be included in the publication by the

25th of the preceding month.

Thank you!

Glenn Rodgers, gcrodgers@aol.com

Thank you,

Patrons, Contributors and Advertisers

Chimes Available

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Cherry Hill has a set of 21 tubular chimes made by the Elite
Chime Company in Brooklyn. There is no mechanism of any sort, only the chimes. They are available for purchase.
Contact Fred or Jean Astmann at 856-424-3820.



2023-2024 Season

Becks' Philadelphia Brigade Band

3:00pm



A Civil War Era Brass Band featuring Guest Soloist, Dr. Chris Troiano First Presbyterian Church 88 Market Street Salem, NJ



Erik Meyer, Organist St. John's Church 76 Market Street, Salem NJ

Tunes from the Crypt 6:00pm

Friday
Oct 27





Music for Harp & Flute

3:00pm

Sunday Nov 19

Anna Ellsworth, Harp and Carol Joe, Flute First Presbyterian Church 88 Market Street Salem, NJ

Pics & Pipes 7:00pm

A Laurel & Hardy FilmFest

Wayne Zimmerman, Organist Alloway Baptist Church 41 W. Main Street, Alloway NJ Saturday
Dec 9



Tuba Christmas

7:00pm

Celebrating 12 years of Tuba Christmas in Woodstown, NJ!

Sunday
Dec 10

Jim Ludlam, Director Woodstown Presbyterian Church 46 Auburn Street, Woodstown, NJ

Enchanting Instrumental Folk Music of Yore

Will Ott, Mandola, Hammered Dulcimer First Baptist Church 117 South Main Street, Woodstown, NJ 3:00pm

Sunday Feb 25





The Chestnut Brass

TBD - Clinic for Salem County Schools

7:00pm - Concert

Friday Mar 22 Davidow Theatre Salem Community College 460 Hollywood Avenue, Carney's Point NJ

The New Jersey Chamber Orchestra

Dr. Thomas Hong, Founder & Director Davidow Theatre Salem Community College 460 Hollywood Avenue, Carney's Point NJ 3:00pm

Sunday Apr 14





A Tribute to John Williams

6:00pm

Jim Ludlam, Director Davidow Theatre Salem Community College 460 Hollywood Avenue, Carney's Point NJ





Sunday

Jun 9

facebook.com/MusicAroundTheCounty
musicaroundthecountysalem.com



Positions Available/Substitute List -- by Peter Homon

If you are available to substitute and would like to be included on this list, 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:

Trinity Episcopal /Old Swedes Church, Swedesboro - O/D, 9:30 service, Tracker organ, no choir but an occasional soloist, salary \$10,400 per year. Contact Rev. Greg Wilson at revgregwilson@gmail.com. (10/23)

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 ppcclerk1741@gmail.com. (8/22)

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, 10:30 service, \$150.00 per ser-vice. Congregation uses 1982 Hymnal, LEVAS, and Praise Songs. Contact Fred Astmann at 856-424-3820. (11/22)

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (naic), Abington, PA - O/D, Adult Vocal and Adult Bell Choirs, 9 a.m. service, 2M 20R 1963 Reuter, \$37,000 - \$47,000 salary. Contact Sherry Breslin Skp,brezl@gmail.com (8/23).

St. Pauls United Methodist Church, West Deptford- O/D, one service at 9:30, 2m Allen, Adult Choir. Contact Pastor Dave Delaney, 856-845-6638. (9/23)

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

Charlene Cranmer (Leesburg, FL) ctcranmer@comcast.net, July only

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

Joanne Owen 856-769-3212 (Woodstown area) lbjkowen 1982@comcast.net

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

Bob Scara (Burlington) rvscara@aol.com, Roman Catholic services only

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

The 2023 Chapter Directory was mailed to all chapter members during the first week of August. If you did not receive your copy in the mail, please contact Dean Jonathan Stark (JonStark47@gmail.com), and we can make sure you receive your copy of the Directory. If your personal information has changed since the Directory was published, please update your information via the ONCARD system.



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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