



# Sforzando



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*Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists*

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## Dean's Message -- by Jonathan Stark

### It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas....

It must be Christmas, right? This week Christmas lights have sprung up in Lumberton like flowers after spring rain showers. But no, I'm writing this on the eve of Thanksgiving. As the curmudgeon and Grinch of my neighborhood, I try to delay hanging Christmas lights at my house until at least the third Sunday of Advent, and perhaps not even until the fourth Sunday. But before the fourth Sunday in Advent, Lumberton will be lit up like the Las Vegas Strip.

There's a time to *have* a Feast, and a time to *prepare* for a Feast. One doesn't prepare for a celebratory meal by consuming all the delicacies before the guests arrive! I count myself fortunate that clergy at both churches where I play every weekend are pretty good about keeping Christmas from swallowing Advent completely. I wish it were so everywhere.

Friedrich Buechner's book "Whistling in the Dark" consists of meditations on faith and theology. His meditation on Advent is a favorite. Here are excerpts:

*In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that, for all you can tell, it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen..... The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment..... For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath.*

The organ can roar or it can whisper. It can stack up heavy textures like massive masonry walls, or it can bring forth slender lightning bolts of sound. It can emphasize the rhetorical aspects of a composition like a harpsichord, or it can have the emotional sweep of a piano. But can the organ evoke "the world itself holding its breath?" I think it can.



.....continued on page 3

## UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Monday, December 2, 7:30pm-9:00pm

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Via Zoom



Friday, January 10, 7:00pm

### **After-dinner Holiday Social**

#### **With sweets and savories**

At the Home of Jane and Peter Homon

40 East Walnut Avenue, Merchantville



Saturday, January 25, 8:00am-5:30pm

### **January Jumpstart (Philadelphia AGO)**

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA



## 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. The chapter Executive 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. All cases of course will be confidential, any discussions in the Executive Committee will occur in executive (unminuted) session. There are two ways to contribute to this cause: 1) when renewing your membership via ONCARD, you may elect to contribute an additional amount to the Emergency Fund; you may also contribute via ONCARD at any other time by using the "Make a Contribution" option from the ONCARD menu; 2) you may also send your tax-deductible donation (as a check made out to SW Jersey Chapter AGO) to our Treasurer Chuck Gibson, marked for "Musicians' Emergency Fund." Mail to: 691 Willow Grove Road, Monroeville, NJ 08343-4529.*

## Dean's Message, continued from page 1



There are denominations that forbid playing the organ as a solo instrument during Advent. In my personal database I have 222 organ solos tagged as appropriate for Advent. If this restriction applied everywhere, there would have been a lot of composers and music publishers wasting their time!

At the other extreme there are folks who want to sing Christmas carols as soon as the Thanksgiving leftovers are consumed. Personally I begin sneaking in a few "less-Christmasy" Christmas hymns and carols by the third Sunday of Advent. A case can be made for singing hymns such as "Of the Father's Love Begotten", "Lo, How a Rose" and "In the Bleak Mid-winter" on Sundays in Advent.

Advent is a season when a longing world, *holding its breath*, once again anticipates the arrival of the Almighty. But Advent is also a season of quiet joy, as we experience the certainty that the promises of the Almighty will be fulfilled. The organ is a mighty tool, capable of expressing many moods, and can serve music invoking all the varied themes of Advent. It is up to us, the ministers of music, to understand the nature of the season, the needs of our congregations, and the bidding of the Almighty and use our mighty tool to its best advantage.

And you can tell me how successful you were at reconciling all these threads of Advent at our next Chapter event, our Holiday Social on Friday evening, January 10 at the home of Peter and Jane Homon in Merchantville.

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
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— David Kim, Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra

# 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:

**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](mailto:cpdanesi@yahoo.com). (3/21)

**First Baptist Church, Woodstown** - O/D but the position can also be split. 9:30 service. Additional details on First Baptist Woodstown Website. Contact Pastor Tim Joyce at 856-769-0214. (2/24)

**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Cherry Hill** - O/D, 10:00 service, rebuilding choir, 1982 and LEVAS hymnals, Contact Betsy Murphy at 856-424-2229 or [Office@stbart-cherryhill.org](mailto:Office@stbart-cherryhill.org). (5/24)

**First Presbyterian Church, Woodbury Heights** - O/D of the Adult Choir, 11:00 Service (10:00 Summer) 1 weekly rehearsal, Salary commensurate with experience. Please contact David Taylor at [dtaylor86@comcast.net](mailto:dtaylor86@comcast.net) or 856-906-1636 (9/24)

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ELCA), Moorestown** - O/D, PT 20 hours, Adult Vocal and Handbell Choirs, services 8:15 and 10:00. Contact Ethan Geehr at [stmatthew@stmatthew-lutheran.org](mailto:stmatthew@stmatthew-lutheran.org) (9/24)

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Feasterville, PA** - O/D, 9:30 service, Adult Vocal and Bell Choirs, 19,000 - \$25,000, piano skills helpful. Contact Susan Gordon [ststephensfeasterville@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensfeasterville@gmail.com) (12/24)

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

Mary Johnson 856-332-8869 (Pine Hill) [mebayj47@yahoo.com](mailto:mebayj47@yahoo.com)

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

Robert Powell 609-220-3558 (Collingswood) [pianoboy88@hotmail.com](mailto:pianoboy88@hotmail.com)

Bob Scara 609-386-7268 (Burlington) [rvscara@aol.com](mailto:rvscara@aol.com), Roman Catholic services only

Katrina Wylie 856-217-9143 (Sewell) [KatrinaWylie6@gmail.com](mailto:KatrinaWylie6@gmail.com)

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

Misty Fiske, 302-535-6398 (Greenwich) [mistypenguins@gmail.com](mailto:mistypenguins@gmail.com)

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

Cathy O'Neill, 856-214-1928 (Sewell, NJ) [cmo125@aol.com](mailto:cmo125@aol.com)

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

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





# January **JumpStart**

Saturday, January 25 2025



Maxine Thivener Randi Anne Loupette



Jeff Brillhart Rolo Dillworth



Maximilian Eamus Kristen Olsen



Charlotte Beers Plank Clair Rozier



Vince Ryan David Storey

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are pleased to present the Philadelphia Chapter's 20th January JumpStart: our annual day-long program of learning, collaborating, and connecting. Join us!

Please click on the button below which will take you to the registration page containing more information about our featured artists, presenters, and sessions:

REGISTER!

(Remember - only 120 spots available.)

8:00-8:45 Registration (this is the updated time)

8:45-12:15 Morning sessions

12:15-1:30 Lunch

1:30-5:00 Afternoon sessions

5:00-5:30 Reception

Free Music Exchange and Art Gallery open all day.

\$55 - AGO Member (any chapter)

\$20 - Full-time Student (please bring ID)

\$70 - Non-AGO Member





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 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

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## Matters of Note - by Cathy O'Neill



### Hospitality

Thanks to everyone who brought something to the reception at Haddonfield Methodist Church. We had a great variety to choose from and not many leftovers.

### Cares and Concerns

A Thanksgiving card and note were sent to Ruth Fink. Please let me know of anyone I should send a card to. Cathy cmo125@aol.com or 855-214-1928

## Photos from Masterclass at Haddonfield United Methodist Church.

Pictured: Dr. Caroline Robinson, and SouthWest Jersey chapter members Layla Joshi, Larry DePasquale, David Doan, and Matt Smith.



# ~Deerfield Recital Series~

Presents

## Selections from Handel's Messiah Part One

Conducted by Maestro Thomas Hong

The Choir of Deerfield Presbyterian Church & Friends



Sarah Shafer, soprano Esther Jane Kulp, mezzo soprano Nathaniel Fletcher, tenor

Brinson Moore and Kaylin Pagliarini violins Eric Jones, cello  
Evelyn Larter, piano and organ.

*Also Christmas Music Solos By The Guest Artists!*



**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 4:00PM**

*No admission charge ~ a freewill offering will be received*

*For more information or directions, call (856) 455-1222 ~ [www.deerfieldpres.org](http://www.deerfieldpres.org)*

**Deerfield Presbyterian Church, 530 Old Deerfield Pike, Deerfield Street, NJ 08313**

*The audience will have the opportunity to join in The Hallelujah Chorus at the conclusion of the performance.*



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[www.gpchoralsociety.org/concerts](http://www.gpchoralsociety.org/concerts)

**Come To Sing, Or Come To Listen**

Please bring your own score, or email Dr. Gorton by December 13  
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Tickets: \$15 student; \$22 senior; \$25 regular

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### CHAPTER OFFICERS

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TREASURER/REGISTRAR: Chuck Gibson, gibsonorgntnr@aol.com

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

WEBSITE: www.agohq.org/chapters/southwestjersey

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

**25th of the preceding month.**

**gcroddgers@aol.com**



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 BUILDING 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, we 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



## 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](mailto: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*

## Southwest Jersey Chapter



## American Guild of Organists