



Sforzando



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 5 PAGE 1

JANUARY 2025

Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists

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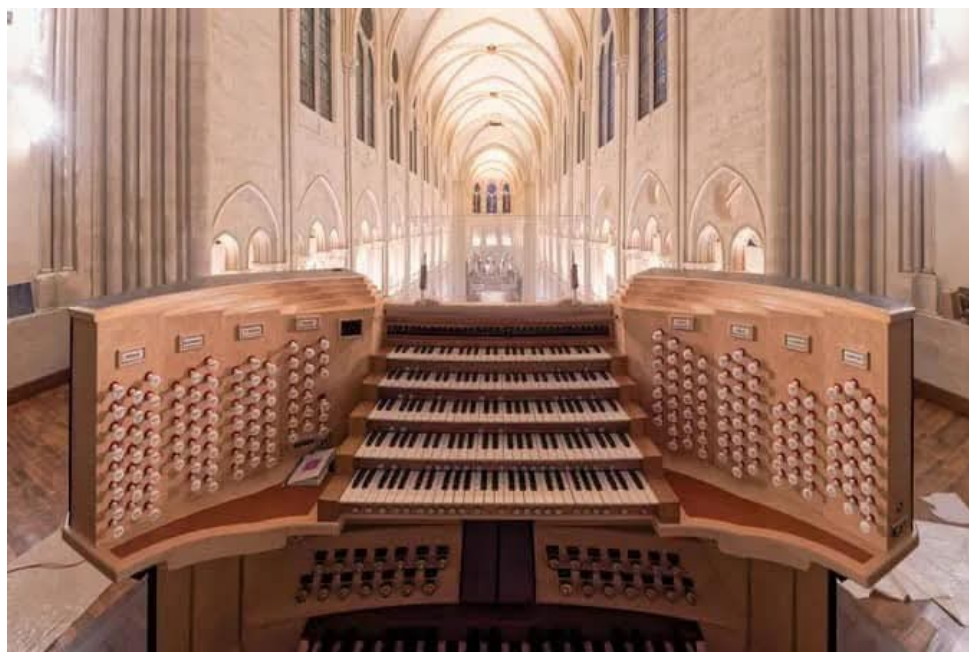
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Dean's Message -- by Jonathan Stark

Our Chapter Program Committee

Advent 2024 has come and gone, and Christmas is a third over as I write (a twelve-day feast). Hopefully you survived Advent, and Christmas so far? I explain to my non-organist friends that church musicians sometimes call Christmas and Easter the "silly seasons" just because the workload can approach absurd proportions! The Feasts of Holy Innocents, Holy Name, Epiphany, and Baptism of Our Lord are still coming up, and rather quickly. And for those of you working in liturgical churches, have you noticed that Candlemas falls on a Sunday this year? It won't happen again until 2031. I'm hoping I can convince the church where I work to have a real Candlemas procession, with appropriate music, before the Gloria this year. It would be special.

Something else coming up quickly is our **Holiday After-dinner Social** on Friday, January 10 at

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Holiday After-dinner Social

Friday, January 10, 7:00pm



Hosted by Peter &
Jane Homon
40 East Walnut Ave,
Merchantville, NJ

*Please bring a "sweet or
savory" to share- e.g. a dessert,
or other "after dinner
appropriate" item*



January **JumpStart**

Saturday, January 25 2025



Maxine Thévenot Renée Anne Louprette



Jeff Brillhart Rollo Dilworth



Maximilian Esmus 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

Dean's Message *continued from page 1*

the home of Peter and Jane Homon in Merchantville. More details can be found elsewhere in this issue of *Sforzando*. I hope to see many of you there. Remember, the mission of the AGO is to *foster a thriving community of musicians....* this can be done outside of church and concert hall as well.

You may have wondered why the rest of our 2024-25 program isn't appearing yet in *Sforzando*. Simply, that's because we're still putting it together. This fall our newly elected SubDean David Reich received an unanticipated career opportunity that was too good to pass up, but required him to move to Syracuse, NY, and necessitated him resigning the SubDean office. Lacking a dedicated leader for a couple of months, the work of the Program Committee became delayed. But as of now, David Doan and Will Powell have stepped up to be the temporary co-chairs of the Program Committee. The Committee has met twice via Zoom in December, and will meet again on January 12. They (I'm not going to say "we", technically I'm just the Zoom-jockey!) are working on several promising ideas.

For example, David Schelat was originally scheduled to present his Wilbur Held workshop on March 21, 2020 – a week after the pandemic lockdown began. We all know what happened next. I'm now pretty confident David Schelat will be visiting our Chapter and presenting his Wilbur Held workshop this spring; the exact schedule and venue are still being confirmed. The Committee is also working on an interesting idea involving the theater organ at the Broadway Theater in Pitman. Of course, there will be a member's recital, a perennial favorite, – again the schedule and venue are being confirmed. And the committee is pursuing an interesting venue for our annual meeting and picnic.

We can all attest to the shrinking supply of organists: tried to find a substitute recently? A retired Episcopal priest I know who also plays the organ recently removed his name from the Philadelphia chapter substitute list because he *didn't want to play the organ every single Sunday of the year*. A longer-range goal of the Program Committee is to present a Pedal, Pipes, and Pizza (PPP) event this fall. Our Chapter has not held a PPP event in a number of years. PPP events are a powerful tool for drawing young people to the organ. And they're a great way for a group of Chapter members to bond together while achieving a rewarding and worthwhile goal.

Got an idea for a program you'd like to see your Chapter do? Please let David Doan or Will Powell or me know!

Soli Deo gloria

Pianist Irina Nenartovich - Will perform a 45 minute program at the "Coffee and Classic" event at Perkins Centre of the Arts, on 395 Kings Highway Moorestown, on Thursday, January 2 at 2PM. She will be playing music by Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Debussy. The event is free.

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.

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. (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. (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 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 (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 (12/24)

St. Peter Episcopal Church, Clarkesboro - O/D, 10 a.m. service, adult choir with Wednesday evening rehearsal, older Allen but planning to replace with new instrument, family oriented, using 1982 hymnal, Contact Rev. Mantelle Brady revmmb@comcast.net. (12/24)

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Laurel Springs - permanent or interim O/D, Adult Choir, 10 a.m. service. Contact Pastor Dasol King at 917-886-7254 or dasolking@sppres.org. (12/24)

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

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

Robert Powell 609-220-3558 (Collingswood) pianoboy88@hotmail.com

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

Katrina Wylie 856-217-9143 (Sewell) KatrinaWylie6@gmail.com

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, 856-214-1928 (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

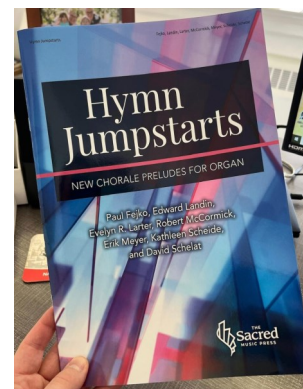
!Choirchimes available! 3rd Octave Malmark Choirchimes - used only a few times, cost over \$1,000 new. Contact Peter Homon 856-952-5132.

Congratulations, Evelyn!

Chapter member Evelyn Larter had two more anthems published last year by Augsburg Fortress Publications. *My Soul Now Magnifies* is a setting of the Magnificat to a lovely Scottish folk melody, and *Beneath The Cross Of Jesus* sets the hymn text to an English folk melody.

She has also been composing for solo organ, beginning with a commission from the Philadelphia Chapter's January Jumpstart committee. This month will be the twentieth year of the special one-day event and the committee decided to mark the occasion by inviting five local composers to contribute a new hymn prelude, to be performed by the guest artist for the day, Renee Anne Louprette. They also arranged for publication of the collection in a new volume from Sacred Music Press titled *Hymn Jumpstarts*. This will be available for sale at the event.

(See attached photo)



Evelyn also submitted some entries to the AGO's Woman Composer Competition under the auspices of the Task Force for Gender Equity, and one of her entries was selected as the second prizewinner. It is an arrangement of the African American Spiritual, *Here's One*, and it will be published in *The American Organist* magazine in February. The task force aims to provide new music by woman composers in time for Woman Composer Sunday in March.



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Five English Carols ~ for Flute
Consecration: Seven Hymn Arrangements ~ for Flute
Consecration: Seven Hymn Arrangements ~ for Violin
Still Be My Vision: Hymn Arrangements ~ for Cello
Hear The News The Angels Bring: Christmas Music ~ for Cello
A Rose E'er Blooming ~ for Violin
Oh Glory! Five Spirituals ~ for Piano Trio
Lord of All — ***Three Hymn Arrangements*** ~ for Flute and Piano Trio

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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Matters of Note - by Cathy O'Neill



Hospitality

I am looking forward to our annual holiday party at Peter Homan's in January. An email will be sent later requesting what you should bring. I hope to see you there.

Cares and Concerns

A Christmas card was sent to Ruth Fink. A 50th anniversary card was sent to Evelyn. Please let me know if there is someone that I should send a card to. Cathy cmo125@aol.com or 856-214-1928.

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

25th of the preceding month.

gcroders@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, 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

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):

<i>Nicaea</i>	<i>Lobe den Herren</i>
<i>Ein feste Burg</i>	<i>Olivet</i>
<i>Hymn to Joy</i>	
<i>New Britain (Amazing Grace)</i>	
<i>Herzlich tut mich verlangen</i>	
<i>(Passion Chorale)</i>	
- ♦ 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