



Sforzando



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Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists

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Front page photo:
St. Monica Church,
Philadelphia
Courtesy of Tom
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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENT

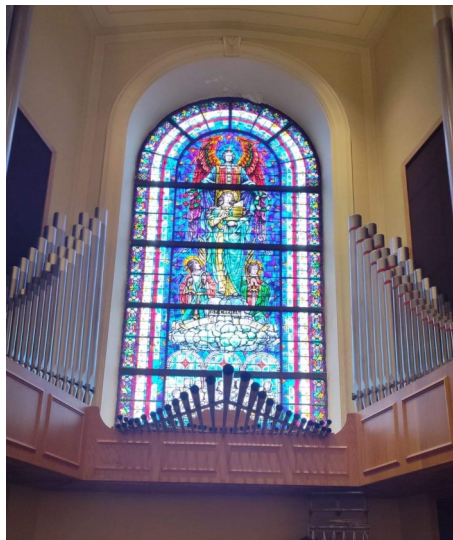
**Workshop on the Music of
Wilbur Held**

Led by David Schelat

Saturday, March 22, 10:00am

**at Audubon United Methodist
Church,**

**314 W Graisbury Ave, Audubon,
NJ 08106**



Dean's Message -- by Jonathan Stark

The COVID pandemic stands like a wall across my memory, dividing all time into “before” and “after” the pandemic. It’s not just me, lots of folks tell me they experience the same. And the time before the pandemic seems vague, distant, and hard to recall. Thus I’m so pleased to be able to tell you that our Chapter is able to reach back “across the wall” so to speak, and pull a lost opportunity back into the present for our edification and enjoyment.

You might recall that on March 21, 2020 we were to have a workshop on Wilbur Held given by David Schelat at the Presbyterian Church in Haddonfield. But the pandemic lockdown began the weekend before, forcing us to cancel that workshop and other events. Our chapter did not meet in person again for over a year.

But our Program Committee has been able to work with David Schelat to bring back the work-

.....continued on page 3



Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

January Jumpstart

January 25, 2025

Pictured: Composers Evelyn Larter, Paul Fejko, Erik Meyer, Balint Karosi and David Schelat, Guest Artists Choral Director Rollo Dilworth and Organist Renee Anne Louprette.



Dean's Message continued from page 1

shop on the organ music of Wilbur Held, and it will be held on Saturday morning, March 22, at Audubon United Methodist Church. To quote former Dean Vernon Williams, writing in 2020, "*David has chosen a representative selection of Held's compositions arranged by liturgical season, but instead of playing all the music himself, he has asked our members to sign up to play as well. This way we'll be more involved in the workshop and it will be more fun and interesting for everyone.*" Members of the Program Committee soon will be looking for volunteers to play selected compositions of Held's at this workshop. If you might be interested in playing, there's no need to wait to be contacted, please reach out to Program Committee co-chairs David Doan or Will Powell. More details about this event will appear in the March issue of Sforzando.

Now for a bit of shameless self-promotion. There's a concert on Friday evening, February 28, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Mount Holly (see the ad elsewhere in this issue.) It is a piano & organ duet concert, classical music for two keyboards (the Soler concerti were originally written for two organs, and the Franck Prelude, Fugue & Variation was originally for piano and harmonium.) Daniel Espie is a talented young pianist, and the organist is.... well, it's just me. But I was clever enough to choose music where the pianist does the majority of the heavy lifting! Piano & organ duet concerts aren't that common, you might consider dropping in if you're free.

In truth, Daniel and I have had to work hard to prepare this duet concert, a lot of additional work on top of already busy lives. So why do it? Consider this: the musical culture in south Jersey has many parts, but one part is us, the musicians of our AGO chapter. In the January issue of The Diapason there is an interview with Anna Lapwood in which she speaks of her goals when she became one of the staff organists at the Royal Albert Hall in London, "*I see all of our roles as organists as evangelists for the instrument..... I want to put the organ right at the middle of everything that the (Royal Albert) Hall's doing, and I want it to be something that people talk about and think about..*" As it is in London, so it also goes here in south Jersey. If we organists don't keep pushing the organ into the forefront of our local cultural life..... who will?

Go Iggles! Soli Deo gloria.

Hospitality

Nothing to report

Cares and Concerns

A thinking of you card was sent to Marilyn Rabbai. Please let me know if a card should be sent to someone. Thanks
Cathy cmo125@aol.com or 856-214-1928

Matters of Note - by Cathy O'Neill

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

Greetings from David Reich



Greetings from Syracuse.

One of Helen's bunnies and I are getting settled in nicely. Sorry I missed you for the January meet-up: I had planned to "drop in" via FaceTime, but lost track of the date & time - the new job is quite challenging. Thanks to my preparation gained from Helen and our chapter's great programs, my transition to this new church has been a piece of cake. No, the organ isn't in the OHS database yet (working on it Jonathan!), but the 1880s Wm. Johnson & Son tracker down the street is, and I'm looking forward to checking it out. Take care,
David



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Still Be My Vision: Hymn Arrangements ~ for Cello
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Deerfield Presbyterian Church, 530 Old Deerfield Pike, Deerfield Street, New Jersey

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A Piano & Organ Duet Concert



*Daniel Espie,
piano*



*Jonathan Stark,
organ*

FEBRUARY 28, 7:30 PM

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
121 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ**

**Music of Denis Bedard, Antonio Soler,
Cesar Franck, and Flor Peeters**

Admission Free ♦ No Tickets Required



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

25th of the preceding month.

gcr Rodgers@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):

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