



Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists

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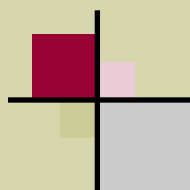
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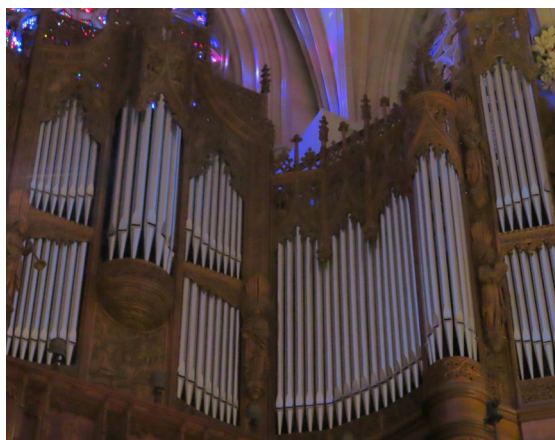
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Page 1 photo by Gary Langel:
St. Patrick's Cathedral, NY

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UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENT

Workshop on the Music
of Wilbur Held

Led by David Schelat

Saturday, March 22, 9:30am

Audubon United Methodist
Church, 314 W Graisbury Ave,
Audubon, NJ 08106



Dean's Message -- by Jonathan Stark

Vive la Différence

A few weeks ago our chapter's Program Committee was discussing a venue for this spring's Member's Recital. In the course of events, Vernon Williams was approached with the possibility of hosting the event at Trinity Episcopal in Moorestown, and Vernon enthusiastically agreed. Well, the Program Committee is a *committee* after all, so then the members had to be polled for *their* approval. Not surprisingly, approval was quick and unanimous, thereby leading one member of the Committee to remark, "*Great hive mind work there.*"

When I worked in the corporate world, I was a Director of Project Management. Project managers tend to be highly intelligent, intensely focused, task-oriented and independent people. Directing a team of project managers was like herding cats. A hive mind? Ahh, what a lovely thought that would have been!

Or would it? The conservatory where I took my degree had a kind of hive mind operating concerning technical proficiency. Only technical virtuosity was esteemed. Woe to the stu-

.....continued on page 2

Dean's Message, continued from page 1

dent who might want to slow down the prescribed speed of quarter note = 176 in Beethoven's Waldstein sonata in order to achieve a little more clarity or perhaps a nuance of interpretation. I graduated in 1978 and it's taken me almost 50 years to banish the grip of that hive mind. I still argue with myself if my tempi in repertoire don't conform to the professional recordings found on YouTube.

I'm writing on February 27 and tomorrow night is a piano and organ duet concert, a collaboration between pianist Dan Espie and me. You might have seen the ad in last month's Sforzando. One of the pieces we're playing is Flor Peeter's Concerto for Piano and Organ, opus 74. If you attend, and you know the piece, you might find our tempo in the first movement a little relaxed. Peeters specifies quarter note = 96, but after trying different tempi we settled on quarter note = 84. Why? In every recording I've heard where the performers adopted Peeters' tempo, the organ part is muddy and blurred. 96 is just too fast. At 84, the music retains its "spicy" character but also achieves clarity. As musicians Dan and I are prioritizing a balanced presentation of all aspects of Peeters' music thought over a display of technical virtuosity. (If you attend, you can judge whether we hold to our intended tempo – there is such a thing as adrenaline during performance!!)

By the way, the **Member's Recital will be Sunday, May 18, 4:00pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown.** And how many conversations have I had over the years with Chapter members who were reluctant to perform in a Member's Recital because they "*couldn't play that piece as fast as you real professional organists play.*" Frustrating! I don't want folks to play a piece Paul Jacobs' way, or Daniel Roth's way, or my way. A Member's Recital is about the experiencing the musical insights YOU bring to a piece, which are YOURS and not anyone else's!

Another way to express your individual voice is by responding to the AGO strategic assessment survey. You recently received an e-mail blast from David Rhody with the link to this survey and a request for everyone to participate. **The survey will be online until March 10; please do participate,** everyone's point of view is important. For example, my survey response stated a preference for more content in TAO about music and less about AGO organizational matters. That's simply my opinion, please take the survey and express YOUR opinions!

Soli Deo gloria

Matters of Note - by Cathy O'Neill



Hospitality

We will be having coffee and donuts before the Wilbur Held workshop on Saturday March 22nd. Come and join us at 9:30.

Cares and Concerns

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

CHAPTER EMERGENCY FUND

The SWJAGO Chapter maintains 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 (unrecorded) session. There are two ways to contribute to this cause: 1) when renewing your membership via iMIS, you may elect to contribute an additional amount to the Emergency Fund; you may also contribute via iMIS at any other time by using the "Make a Contribution" option from the iMIS 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.

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. (Application forms on pages)

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.

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
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



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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 ~ for Cello
A Rose E'er Blooming ~ for Violin
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— David Kim, Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra



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Chapter Events 2025

Chapter Members' Recital

Sunday, May 18 at 4:00pm

**Trinity Episcopal Church,
207 W Main St, Moorestown, NJ 08057**

Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic

Sunday, June 30 at 3:00pm

**Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church
11 S Sunset Rd, Willingboro, NJ 08046**

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Cell Phone: 856 520-6609

Email: gcrodgers@aol.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:

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 Bradley 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

Coda

Dr. Gordon Turk Organ Recital, Sunday, March 9 at 3pm
Pfleeger Hall, Rowan University, Tickets: \$5
<https://ci.ovationtix.com/35360/production/1216612?performanceId=11537881>

Organist Glenn Rodgers in Recital on Wednesday, March 26 at 12 noon.
Church of the Holy Trinity on Rittenhouse Square
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gcrodgers@aol.com

