



Sforzando



VOLUME 14, ISSUE 10

PAGE 1

JUNE 2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

Longwood Gardens
Photo by Gary Langel

Dean's Message
1 & 3

Upcoming Event:
Annual Meeting
And Picnic 2

Chapter Elections
Report 2

Matters of Note 3

Positions Available/
Substitute List 5

Joan Lippincott
(1935-2025)



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Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists



Dean's Message -- by Jonathan Stark

MORE This and That

Hello everyone! We had a wonderful chapter Member's Recital at Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown on May 18. I'd like express my warm thanks to Trinity Episcopal and especially Vernon Williams, Organist & Choirmaster and Kate Stefanko, Trinity's Office Manager, and to all the players, to the Program Committee and especially David Doan, and to all who attended for helping make this a successful event.

While I'm being thankful, I'd also like to thank all of you who voted in our recent chapter election. Please find the election results elsewhere in this issue of Sforzando. Newly elected officers' terms begin on July 1.

I have good news and challenging news. I reported last month that we had 62 active members; we now have 66. That's a move in the right direction! (There are also a few folks ac-

.....continued on page 3



UPCOMING EVENT

Annual Chapter Meeting and Picnic

Sunday, June 29 at 3:00pm

**Corpus Christi Roman Catholic
Church**

**11 S Sunset Rd, Willingboro, NJ
08046**



ELECTION REPORT FOR THE SOUTHWEST JERSEY CHAPTER, AGO, 2025

The Nominating Committee for the 2025 ballot is pleased to announce that the following candidates have been duly elected by the membership:

DEAN – Jonathan Stark

SUB-DEAN – Will Powell

TREASURER/REGISTRAR - Chuck Gibson

SECRETARY – Cathy O'Neill

EXECUTIVE BOARD CLASS OF 2028 –

Terry Savage

Renee Hatzold

Ken Carson

We appreciate all the members who expressed their support of the nominees – thankfully, more than in recent years.

We would like to thank Peter Homan, Vicki Nicholls and Will Powell, the outgoing Executive Board Class of 2025, for their service to the chapter.

Respectfully submitted

Evelyn R. Larter, CAGO, Teller of the Election



Dean's Message, continued from page 1



tive in our chapter who are past due to renew their memberships – I hope they'll renew soon.) The challenging news is that there are 34 of us whose membership will expire on the last day of June.



Has everyone set up their new login in the iMIS system that has replaced ONCARD? As I noted last month, our old logins will not work, you need to set up a new one. National HQ reports there several thousand folks across the whole AGO who still have not set up logins in the new system. If YOU are among them, there are simple instructions for setting up your new login here: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Set-up-your-new-username-and-password.html?soid=1130570232331&aid=jUqF9gQcBr4> Once you're in the system and in your personal Member Account, you will be able to see if you have a pending invoice for renewal.

Our Annual Meeting and Picnic will be on June 29th, the last Sunday of June. This year it will be at Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church in Willingboro in Burlington County, courtesy of chapter members Fr John Testa and Renee Hatzold. More details will be forthcoming via e-mail blast in a few weeks.

As I write I'm musing on the breadth and variety of our musical world. The piano tuner is in the next room working and I had to shut the door to mute the din! Tonight I sing in a performance of Craig Hella Johnson's oratorio, "Considering Matthew Shepherd", an eloquent and touching musical response to the murder of Matthew Shepherd in 1998. On Wednesday night I attended Choral Evensong and listened to organ works of Olivier Messiaen and Kenneth Leighton, and choral music of William Byrd, Peter Aston, Bruce Neswick, and George Frideric Handel. Tomorrow morning I'll play at a funeral, music to include Kumbayah and Molly Malone (the latter a family request.) Last week I recorded (or tried to record) Alexandre Guilmant's "Lamentation". Technical issues (inappropriate gain settings, dicey patch cord connections) and human (me) issues- dropped notes, inconsistent tempi, inelegant phrasing, clumsy stop changes- means none of the takes are good enough to post on YouTube. So the Guilmant project goes on. Hey, if it was easy, everybody would do it!

But all and all, isn't it wonderful to live in our musical world?

Soli Deo gloria

Matters of Note

A small stack of Books related to the practice of music therapy are available at no charge. Contact Peter Homon at 856-952-5132 if you know of anyone who might have interest in them.

Welcome to our newest member, Sean Baker!

Sean is currently studying organ with Dr. Gordon Turk at Rowan University and is the pianist and organist at First Presbyterian Church in Merchantville.

Cathy O'Neill, our Chapter Secretary and Hospitality Chairperson, suffered a broken leg on Friday, March 21.

Cathy is now at the Advanced Subacute Rehabilitation Center at 685 Salina Road, Sewell, and faces a significant recovery.

She welcomes visitors, and visiting hours are 10:30am-7:30pm.

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**SUNDAY
JUNE 1, 2025
3:00 PM**

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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:

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)

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. 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)

First Presbyterian Church, Merchantville - supply Organist, five Sundays between 6/22-7/20. Please contact Sean Baker at 609-969-3356 (5/25)

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



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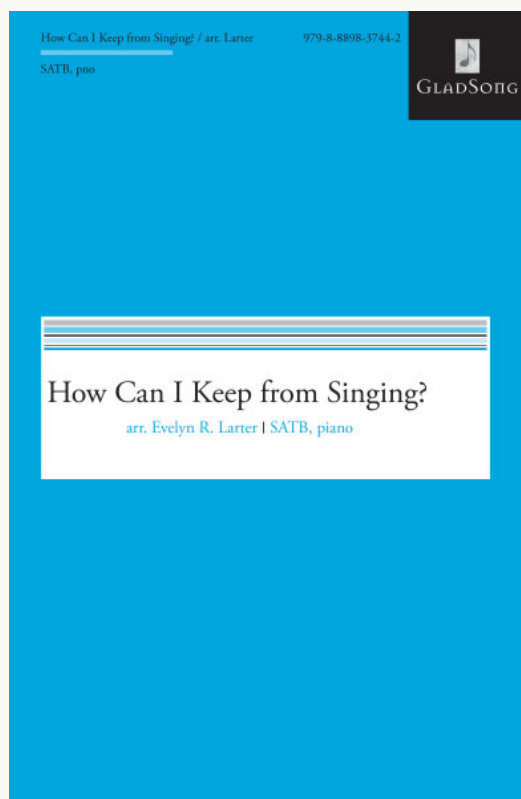
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— David Kim, Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra



Augsburg Fortress Publications has just released a new anthem by chapter member Evelyn Larter.

How Can I Keep From Singing was written for the Annual Guild Service held at Evelyn's church, Deerfield Presbyterian, in October 2023.

The publisher writes *"This cherished hymn is beautifully set with flowing ease for SATB choir and piano by Evelyn Larter."*

AGO Certified Members

Rae Ann Anderson, CAGO
 Miriam Bisbing, SPC
 Charlene Cranmer, AAGO, 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

Thank You Patrons & Contributors

Anderson, Rae Ann	Langel, Gary
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Bisbing, Miriam	Nichols, Victoria
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Fenimore, William	Rabbai, Marilyn
Gardener, Robert	Rhody, David
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CHAPTER EMERGENCY FUND

The SWJAGO Chapter sponsors 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.

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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 10 & 11.)

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.

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.



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

25th of the preceding month.

gcrodgers@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:

- 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 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 *Olfen*
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

Joan Hult Lippincott

(December 25, 1935 - May 31, 2025)



ADVERTISING FORM

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American Guild of Organists

Please consider advertising your services or product in the *Sforzando*, the newsletter of the Southwest Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Revenue from the ads supports activities of the chapter.

Sforzando is published monthly from September to June, 10 issues total, and is currently delivered to 75 chapter members and friends.

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