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Sforzando



VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

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SEPTEMBER 2025

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Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists



Dean's Message - by Jonathan Stark

Fall Is Coming

Fall is coming. It's been below 90 for almost two weeks. It was nice to be able to use the reed stops again at church this past Sunday. Of course we tune the reeds sharp at the beginning of summer. But when it's really hot outside, the temperature at the Great division gets to 90 or higher, and that's too much for the reeds, even at their summer tuning. The church where I work has air conditioning, but the A/C vents are in the floor, the Great division is thirty feet up, and cool air doesn't rise!



Fall is coming. Our chapter is blessed with a dedicated and hard working Program Committee. They have been meeting frequently via Zoom this summer. To see the results of their work, check out SubDean Will Powell's report elsewhere in this issue.

As the seasons change, so does life. Long-time chapter member Gae Finch has left Bridgeton and moved to North Carolina. Katrina Wylie is in the process of moving to New Hampshire,

.....continued on page 4

Chapter Events at a Glance

Saturday, **September 27**, 10 AM

Choral Technique Workshop

St. Agnes Church, Blackwood

Sunday, **October 19**, 4 PM

Annual Guild Service

St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Mt. Holly

Sunday, **November 2**, 7 PM

Isabelle Demers in Recital

Haddonfield United Methodist Church

Monday, **December 15**, 6:30 PM

Theater Organ Workshop

Broadway Theater of Pitman

Friday, **January 9, 2026**, 7 PM

Winter Social hosted by Irina Nenartovich

122 Heath Road, Medford



Sub-Dean's Report - by Will Powell

Late summer greetings. I hope you have all enjoyed these last few months. With September now calling to us to gather and prepare for another season of events from our chapter. Many thanks to Glenn Rodgers, who is starting his third season supporting our newsletter, for helping lead this call.

Now with summer looking ever more in the rearview mirror and our season of programming ahead of us, I am reminded of a quote from Leonard Bernstein, "To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan, and not quite enough time."

We start our fall schedule on Sept 27 (Saturday) at 10am with a Choral Technique Workshop at Saint Agnes Church in Blackwood NJ, hosted by John Wernega (BME Glassboro, MME Westminster). We start at 10am, but hope you will join us at 9:30 for some light refreshments. We encourage you to invite members of your choir to the event. John has been organist at St. Agnes since 1993 and works quite extensively arranging vocal and instrumental work in the community.

The Annual Guild Service is scheduled for October 19 (Sunday) at 4pm hosted by St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Mt. Holly. Organist and choirmaster Chuck Griffin is our host. Following the service will be the Annual Banquet at a nearby restaurant.

November 2 (Sunday) at 7pm we have Dr. Isabelle Demers performing our Annual Organ Recital hosted by Haddonfield United Methodist. No cost to the chapter and a reception is provided following the recital.

December 15th (Monday) at 6:30pm at the Broadway Theater of Pitman, we have a special theater organ workshop hosted by Nathan Figlio. With the historic 3/8 Kimball console having recent major upgrades, Mr. Figlio will be sharing some of the unique technique of theater organ playing.

January 9 (Friday) at 7pm is our Chapter Social Event hosted by Irina Nenartovich at her home; 122 Heath Rd., Medford. Thank you, Irina!

And finally, January 17 (Saturday) at 9am is the Annual Jump Start hosted by the Philadelphia Chapter at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, all day. Reservations required.

For questions on any of the above, registrations, or general huzzah,

please feel free to email me at pianoboy88@hotmail.com.

Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord -Eph 5

In Service,
Will Powell

Dean's Message, continued from page 1

where she'll start a new church organist position in October. Imagine how surprised I was when, attending a youth production of *Sister Act* at Haddonfield United Methodist in August, someone tapped me on the shoulder, and it was Misty Fiske (now Misty Pottorff). A former member of our chapter, Misty moved to Delaware last year, but was back in NJ to play keyboards in the pit orchestra of the *Sister Act* production. It was great to see her.

But change can also be devastating. I imagine everyone grieves the unexpected passing of Cathy O'Neill as much as I do. Cathy was a wonderful friend, who I could always count on to help me put difficulties and unexpected roadblocks in perspective. She had a dry and irreverent wit, and didn't suffer fools gladly, but she also had a huge heart. As much as I grieve the loss of a friend, I also see a big challenge ahead for our chapter, a challenge we must rise to meet.

Cathy O'Neill played three major roles in our chapter. She was our Secretary, an elected office. She was our hospitality chairperson, ensuring that refreshments were provided (or providing them herself) at Chapter events. And thirdly, she was our Cares and Concerns Coordinator, sending greetings to shut-ins and new members. It was this last role that was Cathy's most important work. Cares and Concerns is not just a job, it's a calling to compassion and service. Cathy's work here was the glue that binds us together, the lifeblood that allows our chapter to transcend being merely an organization and become a family of people working together to employ the art of music for a higher purpose.

Concerning the office of Secretary, the AGO national bylaws require all chapters to elect a Secretary. We cannot do business as a chapter without a Secretary. The Executive Committee will soon seek to appoint an Acting Secretary to fill the rest of Cathy's term, but who? The Secretary's work is not onerous: taking minutes at four Executive Committee meetings a year and occasionally writing official correspondence on behalf of the chapter. Is this something you could do? If so, please contact me.

Summer is a time to recharge our batteries, and I hope you all had the opportunity for some recreation and recharging. I sang in the chorus of Delaware Valley Opera Company's production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, performances just concluded last week. The production was prepared on an accelerated four week schedule, and it was a lot of hard work. Yet somehow, it was also fun and invigorating, and personally I'm ready to charge into fall! Hopefully you are too.

Soli Deo gloria

**The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster
a thriving community of musicians who share their
knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.**

Congratulations to Robert Gardner!

Area 3 of Handbell Musicians of America sponsored a composition contest, and selected "Rondo Giubilo," an original composition by Bob Gardner as the winning entry! The piece will be premiered at the Area 3 Festival in Delaware next March and will be available from "From the Top Publishing" starting in April 2026.

Welcome New Member - Myra Sparks

Myra is an accomplished organist and accompanist with vast experiences including playing in University and Air Force Chapels! She shares this personal insight:

"My introduction to the organ was in 1959. My father was a United Methodist pastor, and it was at his small church where I first learned to play the pump organ. After that I was hooked and have always enjoyed playing the many different organs at churches where I've worked during my career. For three years, I was an organist sub and played for a myriad of denominations. In college, I was trained as a classical pianist and taught piano for forty-five years but playing in church has always been my first love. I'm currently the Music Director at Vincentown United Methodist Church."

The Greater Philadelphia Choral Society welcomes new singers for their Fall season.

This is an opportunity to sing classical choral repertoire as well as audience favorites. To audition, contact Dr. William Gorton, Director, via email at Director@gpchoralsociety.org or phone: 804-212-4945. More information at www.gpchoralsociety.org.

Organ Composition by Irina Nenartovich

Here is the link to listen to the recording by Irina on her home organ of her composition –
"The Cuckoo, Forest Scene"

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=6iabCr2ZZEk&feature=shared>

A Tribute to Catherine O'Neill - by Gail Gassaway

Cathy was raised Roman Catholic and had attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through high school in the Trenton area. (Recently, she had attended the fiftieth anniversary of her high school graduation.) After high school, she studied organ at Glassboro State College under Dennis Elwell. She continued that study with Dennis at Overbrook Presbyterian church.

When a fulltime job opportunity presented itself, she moved to Texas to work in the management side of healthcare. Most of her days were spent crossing the country to service various health agencies. She would return on weekends to receive the attention of her beloved dog Anakin.

I met Cathy thirteen years ago when she returned from living in San Antonio. We immediately shared a passion for finding music that our choirs could sing, and for traveling- anywhere as long as there was food to eat.

Our first trip was to a January Jubilee in Baltimore, MD. After spending the night, we awoke to an ice storm. Upon arrival at the church, we crossed the icy parking lot and reached the shelter of the building. We were rewarded by a day filled with wonderful workshops and worship experiences led by Bob Hobby and Wayne Wold.

From then on, we focused on finding new places to explore music. Augsburg Fortress's summer clinics were always a given. We also attended Joseph Martin's Delaware reading sessions, as well as those in Lititz, PA (Loser Music). We also attended several reading sessions at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hanover, PA, where it always seemed to snow on our way home!

While in Texas, Cathy served Mt. Olive Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) for 27 years, so it seemed natural to pursue another Lutheran position here. She played for a short time in Millville before assuming the organist position at St. James Lutheran Church in Pitman, NJ. It was here that she "officially" became a Lutheran. At St. James she served on the church council as its secretary and often counted the Sunday offering with the treasurer.

Cathy's mother was a forming force in her life. It was her mother who offered Cathy the chance to visit Paris for her sixteenth birthday, to which, without hesitation, she said "yes." It was her memories of that trip that inspired her to accompany me on a 13 day trip to Germany, Austria and Hungary. We were part of a choral group that sang in several churches, including St. Stephen's in Vienna. While in Budapest, we struck out on our own to find the three story shopping mall that the guide was never going to find. Of course, we did find it and spent several hours enjoying the many beautiful things that were there.

T

Travel-travel-travel! Not only did we engage in music travel, but we carefully checked the schedule of CandBea Travel to find interesting places and events. Sight and Sound adventures were always a must. Upon arrival, Cathy would always search for Christmas presents for her church friends in Texas. After the shows, we would enjoy lunch at Shady Maple because Cathy loved their ham balls. Of course, the fact that there was a large shopping area beneath the restaurant didn't hurt.

In the last year Cathy watched over me as I recovered from hip surgery while we traveled to Valparaiso University in Indiana for an ALCM (Association of Lutheran Church Musicians) conference, to Peddlers' Village, and to Vermont to ride the cog railroad to the top of Mount Washington. We were fortunate to have the best weather possible on Mt. Washington. The temperature was warm, with moderate wind and sunny skies. The week before it had snowed at the top.

Cathy's favorite trip was to the Von Trapp family compound in Vermont, where she got to hear about their story from the real family. She would always say that the truth was not quite what the movie had portrayed.

The last outing we attended was a performance of "Come from Afar" at the Academy of Music. It was a wonderful day with good food, great seats and an amazing cast.

It was so unfortunate that she had such a traumatic accident. Her stay in rehab was very difficult, but she had several good friends who supported her with visits and food.

We know that she arrived in heaven with her nails done, her "roots" taken care of and her Easter outfit adorning her body – because, as she always said: "my mother raised a lady."



Deerfield Recital Series

Presents

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Rebekah Stiles



From Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Dr. Stiles has performed internationally and at Carnegie Hall. Her program will include music by Rameau, Janacek, Franck and more. Don't miss this free concert, the first of the new series.

Sunday, September 14th, 2025, 4:00 PM

A freewill offering will be received ~ Sanctuary handicap accessible ~ Reception to follow
Information and directions at www.deerfieldpres.org (856) 455-1222
Deerfield Presbyterian Church, 530 Old Deerfield Pike, Deerfield Street, New Jersey

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David Doan, harpsichord, recorders and cornetto

Not pictured

Kenny Carson, recorders and accordion
Christian Speaker, percussion



For more
information, visit
our website at

www.zorzal.org

Sunday, September 28, 2025 | 3:00 PM
Woodstown Presbyterian Church
46 Auburn St., Woodstown NJ

FREE ADMISSION

This concert features folkloric music from 18th-century Peru, Sephardic songs from Sarajevo, and Spanish music with vibrant Arab and New World rhythms. The program weaves together songs about conquest, resistance, colonization, war and slavery, and explores the way that music traditions are transformed at the crossroads of different cultures.

Joined by guest artists:



Eleanor Dishong
Soprano



Moses Possible
Baritone



Owen Speas
Violoncello

Keyboard Recital

Layla Joshi, Organ
Vikram Joshi, Harpsichord



September 28, 5:00pm
First Presbyterian Church
Moorestown, NJ

Program

L. Couperin: Selections from *Pièces de clavecin*
J.S. Bach: Selected Inventions
J.S. Bach: Prelude and Fugue in F Minor (BWV 534)
G.F. Handel: Suite No. 4 in D Minor (HWV 437)
César Franck: Prélude, Fugue, and Variations (Op. 18)
Louis Vierne: Prélude from *24 pièces en style libre* (Op. 31)



Free-will offerings will benefit Transforming Youth Music Education (a 501c3 charitable group)



The Mi Wha Lee Organ Recital Presents

DR. ISABELLE DEMERS

HUMC Sanctuary

**Sunday,
Nov. 2
at 4pm**

Livestream at haddonfieldumc.org

Haddonfield UMC

29 Warwick Road

Haddonfield, NJ 08033



More Information about Dr. Demers:

Isabelle Demers' recital for the 2010 International Society of Organbuilders/American Institute of Organbuilders convention "left the entire congress in an atmosphere of 'Demers fever' – something that continues unabated fifteen years later. Possessing 'bracing virtuosity' (*Chicago Classical Review*), she has enraptured critics, presenters, and audience members around the globe with spell-binding performances. Her acclaimed recordings on the Acis and Pro Organo labels have been heralded as "expressive...profound and searching" (RSCM's *Church Music Quarterly*). Born in Québec and a graduate of Juilliard, Dr. Demers is the Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University in Montréal, Québec and, from 2025-2027 visiting professor of organ at the Norwegian Academy of Music.

Celebrating Joel Krott

It was a joy and privilege to be back at First Presbyterian Church in Moorestown, NJ today to celebrate my first mentor, Joel Krott, as he retires after 53 years as Director of Music at FPC Moorestown.

It's truly the end of an era for the church and he certainly leaves behind some big shoes to fill, but even bigger is the legacy that will continue well beyond his tenure there - the installation of the gorgeous Marcussen & Søn organ, the fabulous program of youth and adult choirs that he's cultivated over five decades, the incalculable amount of amazing music he's made, and all the amateur and professional musicians (myself included) that he has fostered and supported over the years - just to name a few.

If not for him I likely would never have taken up the organ or gone into church music ministry and I can only hope that one day my career will have been half as successful as his has been. Congratulations, Joel!

Jim Roman



Jim Roman and his wife Grace with Joel Krott

In 1972, Joel Krott became the organist and choir director of FPC Moorestown. For fifty-three years, Joel has relentlessly pursued the glory of God through the ministry of music. From the start, Joel offered his exceptional musical gifts in worship, Sunday after Sunday. He's taught choral music to children, youth and adults, but always by teaching the Word of God first. He's coordinated choir retreats and concerts and four trips to Denmark. Five years ago, Joel and Sandra, his wonderful wife, began a Discovery Bible Study with high school and middle school students to guide them into a life of discipleship. Joel has served God and His people faithfully and effectively for six decades.

The next time you're in the book of Psalms, notice how often the words "sing" and "singing" appear. God's people sing. We sing because we're invited to, commanded to do so. Even the untrained, and ungifted singers like me sing God's praises. For more than a half century, Joel Krott persistently and tirelessly helped us to sing. The very last word of the Psalter is a final command to sing. "Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!" There's no more fitting word to celebrate Joel Krott. Glory to God!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

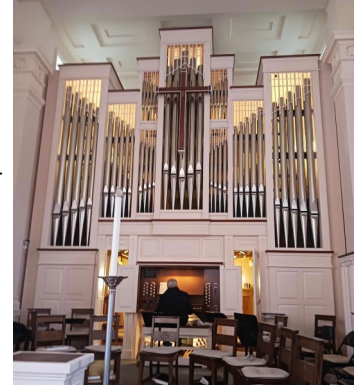
Stuart Spencer

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Moorestown

An Unexpected Treat! - by Evelyn Larter

In mid-July I drove up to New Hampshire to visit an elderly friend in the Hanover area, and on the way I remembered that we have a mutual friend, Captain Lester Gibbs, who lives very close to her and is a lifelong organist. So I contacted him to let him know I would be there for a few days and hoped to see him. He responded with an invitation to a private organ crawl to see some historic organs in the vicinity.

It was a most delightful morning, beginning at the United Church of Christ next to Dartmouth College, Hanover, which has a new Letourneau organ. Our host was Henry Danaher, a Dartmouth graduate who also serves as the college organist. After I played a few pieces on this great instrument he took us over to Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College, to try out the three manual Austin organ from the 60s, the largest pipe organ in the area.

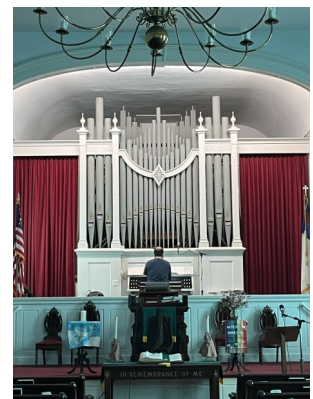


Our next stop was the lovely St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Norwich, Vermont, just over the river. This organ is the smallest in the area, a single short manual tracker made by Hook and Hastings and installed in 1873. My friend's first organ position in his teens was at this church. It has nine ranks – four Great, three Swell and 8' and 16' pedal. It was a delight to play.

From Norwich we went to the First Congregational Church in West Lebanon, NH to see a two manual tracker by Hook and Hastings, installed in 1875. I found this one rather difficult to play, especially with the Swell to Great coupler engaged!

Our last stop was at the United Methodist Church in Lebanon, where Les currently plays. The instrument there is an original G Hook tracker converted to electric pneumatic action in 1967 using the original pipes and console. It filled the space beautifully.

I was so grateful to be given this unexpected treat and my friend clearly enjoyed explaining the history of all the instruments we visited.





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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:

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. 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)

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

AGO Certified Members

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Charlene Cranmer, AAGO, CAGO, SPC
Lawrence DePasquale, CAGO
Ruth O. Fink, AAGO, ChM
Ethel H. Geist, CAGO
Evelyn Larter, CAGO, SPC
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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.

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 18 & 19.)

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

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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

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