Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

November 2026

www.lvago.org

Chapter Officers 2026-2027

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Executive Committee
Charles Glandorf (2027)
Gary Raish (2027)
Bob Riday (2028)
Gwyneth Michel (2028)
Ellen Erb (2029)
Marisa Deshler (2029)

Letter from the Dean

Happy November!

By now I'm sure everyone has started preparing for Christmas! Can you believe it's less than 2 months away?! Where has the year gone! We have a new website! A HUGE thank you to Mark Dennis for putting it together for us! Make sure you check it out!(lvago.org)

We have some pretty amazing events coming up! In November we have Andy Brown from Curtis leading a workshop on "tech updates", so things like forscore! If you have an ipad and want to start using it to play from, or are interested in what it's like, join us November 21st at Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem at 10:00! After the workshop, Andy will play a recital for us! In December, we won't have an event, and I think you all know why! In January our chapter won't host an event, BUT I encourage all of you to go to January Jumpstart on January 16th hosted by the Philly Chapter. This year it will be held at Church of the Good Samaritan in Paoli, PA. This is a change from Bryn Mawr Presbyterian. You do have to register for this, more information on the Philly Chapters website. In February, our chapter is co-sponsoring a recital played by Dr. Stephen Hamilton on February 21st at St. Anne Catholic Church in Bethlehem in celebration of the 50th anniversary of their Schantz organ! The recital will be at 3:00. Dr. Hamilton will play Dupre's Le Chemin de la Croix (The Stations of the Cross), Op. 29. There is also the possibility of a workshop on February 20th at St Anne. More information to come! In March, we won't have an event due to Easter. In April, a concert will be held in memory of the late Clint Miller at St. Johns Lutheran in Allentown. Mark Laubach will be the recitalist. The concert will be April 11th at 4:00. May 16th we will have our annual recital and dinner at Christ Lutheran in Allentown. Emily Erb will be the recitalist.

I look forward to seeing you all at these events!

Jeffrey

October Improvisation Workshop



Our October chapter event was insightful and educational as Matthew Glandorf, son of our own LVAGO board member Charles Glandorf, led us through a variety of improvisational techniques. Using a simple Advent hymn, Matthew showed us how to effectively introduce the hymn, make harmonic changes, ornament melodies, create modulations, change registrations, and more. After enjoying refreshments midway through the morning, we returned to the sanctuary where Matthew delighted us with his own improvisational skills. Those in attendance selected a variety of hymns and Matthew improvised on each of the tunes.

Matthew Glandorf has an extensive career as a conductor, organist, composer, church musician and educator, and since 1995, he has been a member of the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music. His additional teaching appointments have included Westminster Choir College and Swarthmore College. From 2004 to 2023, Matthew served as Artistic Director of Choral Arts Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Bach Festival. Following three years living in Germany, Matthew recently returned to Curtis as a member of the Musical Studies Faculty. He also serves as Organist and Choirmaster of Christ Episcopal Church in Woodbury, New Jersey.

We were fortunate to have Matthew share his expertise in improvisation with us. He provided us with a wonderful morning of helpful tips on basic improvisation, as well as inspiring us to try new techniques in our own hymn playing and interpretation. Thanks to Marisa Deshler for hosting us at Grace UCC in Northampton and to her church members for providing the refreshments. It was a wonderful morning well spent!



PAUL JACOBS

Christ Lutheran Church welcomes grammy winning organist, Paul Jacobs at 4pm on November 6th for a free and open to the public Organ Masterclass in collaboration with Allentown Symphony Association and Miller Symphony Hall.

Heralded as "one of the finest organists and teachers of our day," by The New York Times, he has performed to great critical acclaim on five continents and in each of the fifty United States. Mr. Jacobs continues to transfix audiences, colleagues, and critics alike with his prodigious memory of a vast repertoire, both old and new. Regularly performing with prestigious orchestras around the globe, he's collaborated with many of the world's leading conductors.

Mr. Jacobs studied at the Curtis Institute of Music and at Yale University. On the faculty of the Julliard School, he currently serves as Chair of the Organ Department. Mr. Jacobs will be performing the Saint- Saens' Organ Symphony with Allentown Symphony on November 7th & 8th at Miller Symphony Hall.

LVAGO Organist Substitute List

If you would like to be included in the Organist Substitute List please forward your Name, Contact Information (phone/email) and Availability (Sundays, weekdays, etc) to Stephen Bueker, 2520 Clark Place, Easton, PA 18040; sfbueker@rcn.com.

Dale Bonenberger	Mon-Fri	917 328-9041
Ruthann Brandt	Mon-Sat	610 262-3304
Janice Butz	Mon -Fri	610 882-9388
Ellen Erb	Mon-Sat	570 350-0343
Charles Glandorf	Mon-Sat	610 416-1055
Eric Gombert	Mon-Sat	610 435-1641
Susan Hartney	Mon-Sat	610 360-6934
Joe Kaczmarek	Mon-Sat	484 433-4336
Jacqueline Kuba	Sun-Sat	570 386-4480
Michael Kuhnert	Mon-Sat	215 536-4345
Cristina Dinella Makowicz	Mon-Sat	585 732-8017
James Matz	Sun-Sat	610 367-8094
Linda Maule	Mon-Sat	610 258-5006
Richard McIntyre	Mon-Sat	908 283-4691
Jeffrey Raub	Saturday	484 541-8322
Sally Reeser	Mon-Sat	610 730-6357
Michael Seroka	Mon-Sat	570 516-7207
Barbara Thomson	Sun-Sat	908 591-4499
Dennis Varley	Sun-Sat	610 739-3567
Matthew Wary	Mon-Sat	610 743-0921
Stephen Ziminsky	Mon-Fri	610 417-2669
Freda Zimmerman	Mon-Fri	610 381-3089



Newsletter Editor

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Placement Service

Please visit the Placement page on www.lvago.org for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet.

Newsletter Deadline

(December issue) Tuesday, November 24, 2026

CAMERATA SINGERS

G. F. Handel's "Messiah"

Saturday, Dec. 19, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 20, 2:00 p.m.

Christ Lutheran Church
1245 Hamilton St., Allentown, PA



Complete performance with choir, vocal soloists and orchestra



Eduardo Azzati, Artistic Director & Conductor
Michelle Pérez, soprano ~ Roger O. Isaacs, countertenor
Albert Lee, tenor ~ Johnathan McCullough, baritone
PENNSYLVANIA SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

"Help the local arts to help others!"
Inspired by the history of *Messiah*, which during Handel's time and for several decades thereafter saw benefit performances at the Foundling Hospital in London, an institution for orphaned and underprivileged children and youth, **Camerata Singers will donate 50%** of the 2026 *Messiah* performance ticket sales to benefit two local, grassroots organizations that provide assistance, programs, and resources to area children, youth, and families in need:
The Kindness Project and **The Fund to Benefit Children & Youth**

Tickets: General Adm. $30; Seniors 62+ $25; Students FREE
For tickets and info, visit: pacameratasingers.org

