

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

August/September 2014

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Executive Committee

Aram Basmadjian (2015)
Gloria Snyder (2015)
Gail Hanzl (2016)
Judith Love (2016)
Thomas Busted (2017)
Matthew Wary (2017)

www.lvago.org

Deans Mixtures

Things have been quiet in the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists over the summer, but that does not mean that your newly elected officers and Board have been sunning themselves at the beach. We have worked over the summer to plan our program year which begins (hard to believe!) in just about one month.



First, I want to highlight our September program, which comes very early in the month. Don't be caught by surprise and miss it! We will begin our year with another *Organ Plus* members' recital on Saturday, September 6 at Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown. I don't want to give everything away, but you can expect to hear the organ supplemented by a wide variety of instruments and voice. A sampling: organ plus piano, baritone sax, clarinet, tenor, French horn, and one organ/two players.

The fun will begin at 10:00 a.m., and following the recital there will be a delicious brunch (or light lunch, anyway, it will be food) served as only LVAGO members can do it. So I hope you will be there, and bring some friends with you!

The rest of the program year should be equally rewarding, entertaining, enjoyable, educational, relaxing, or all of the above. It is listed in this newsletter.

Continued on page 2

September Meeting

Organ Plus

A Members' Recital

Saturday, September 6, 2014
Organ plus voice and instruments
Christ Lutheran Church
1245 Hamilton Street, Allentown

Dean's Mixtures

Continued from page 1

But I want to highlight two other events we have planned. The first is our November program, a recital at St. John's Lutheran in Allentown played by **Christine Clewell**. Christine is a native of Allentown and friend to many of us, and is professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She plays wonderfully, and you can hear her on Friday, November 7, at 7:30 p.m.



The other program which I am really looking forward to is our March Bach Marathon (Sunday, March 8). We are returning to Muhlenberg College, which was home to this event for many years. We will be playing and hearing the refurbished organ in Egner Chapel; the work there is going on right now. This program will reintroduce the organ to us and to the Lehigh Valley, and this event will be our "marquee event" for the spring.

Enough for now. I ask your support for me, your new Dean, all our officers, and our Board. But mostly I ask your support for each other: come to our programs, where our fellowship can ground us for our work that is often challenging and rewarding at the same time.

Michael Krentz, Dean

Programs 2014-2015

September 6, 2014 (Saturday) 10:00 am; **Organ Plus – A Members' Recital**; Christ Lutheran Church; 1245 Hamilton Street, Allentown; Host: Michael Krentz; Coordinators: Michael Krentz, Gail Hanzl

October 17, 2014 (Friday); 7:30 pm; **A Night at the Movies "The Genius of Cavaille-Coll" (Part 2)**; Allen Organ Company, Macungie; Host: Aram Basmadjian; Coordinator: Stephen Williams

November 7, 2014 (Friday) 7:30 pm; **Organ Recital**; Christine Clewell, organist; St. John's Lutheran Church; 37 S. 5th Street, Allentown; Coordinators: Michael

Krentz, Stephen Williams

January 17, 2015 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm; **January Jump Start**; Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr; LVAGO Coordinator: Michael Krentz

February 7, 2015 (Saturday) (Snow Date Saturday, February 21, 2015) 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; **Workshop: Playing the Organ while People Sing in Church**; Karl Moyer, clinician; Christ Lutheran Church; 1245 Hamilton Street, Allentown; Host: Michael Krentz; Coordinator: Thomas Busted

March 8, 2015 (Sunday) 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm; **Bach Marathon**; Gideon F. Egner Memorial Chapel; Muhlenberg College, Allentown; Coordinator: Lou Carol Fix

April 18, 2015 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm; **On the Track of Some Trackers: An Organ Crawl to Lansdale and Souderton**; Coordinator: Andrew Long

May 31, 2015 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Young Artist Recital, Annual Meeting and Banquet**; St. Mark's Lutheran Church; 81 North Main Street, Pennsburg; Host: Judy Love; Coordinator: Eleanor Focht

September Concerts

September 7 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Rebecca Kleintop Owens organ**; Organ dedication, Walker III/67; Admission: Free; Reception; Cedar Lutheran Church, Allentown

September 14 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Paul Jacobs, organ**; Fall Festival of the Arts Concert; Admission: Free will offering; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading

September 20 (Saturday) 4:00 and 7:30 pm; **Philadelphia Organ Quartet**; Michael Stairs, Peter Richard Conte, Colin Howland, Rudolph A. Lucente; Admission: Ticket \$28; Fleetwood High School, Fleetwood

September 21 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, organ**; Classical to jazz; Admission: Free; East Stroudsburg United Methodist Church, East Stroudsburg;

Continued on page 3

September Concerts

Continued from page 2

September 28 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **John Richardson, organ**; Admission: Free will offering; The Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua

Once More, With Feeling

ONCE MORE the invitation is given: consider preparing for the Service Playing Certificate offered by the American Guild of Organists (or other certificates such as Colleague, choirmaster, etc.) It has been a long time since any Lehigh Valley Chapter Member has accepted the challenge to achieve a professional AGO certificate. Do check out pp.39-42 in the July issue of *The American Organist* for a full description of these exams, including playing and application requirements. Then contact me, your Continuing Education Director, with your questions and for further information.

We both will be FEELING very glad you did!

Maria Prochnau
nemp@rcn.com, 610-694-0525

POE 2009



Five years ago in June 2009, the Lehigh Valley Chapter hosted a Pipe Organ Encounter in Bethlehem. Thirty young people ages 13-18 arrived at Moravian College for a week of learning about the pipe organ. Some already had organ instruction, but others would have their very first organ lesson. Their days were filled with private organ lessons; visits to organs in Allentown and Bethlehem and Emery Brothers Factory; seeing their teachers perform in recital; and finally participating in a

student recital for their families, the POE staff and the community.

As chair of POE 2009, I was familiar with these students through their applications and being with them all week. I often wondered if these young people were continuing their musical studies, so I started to scan TAO issues each month searching for their names. Here are some findings.

- Two students earned the Service Playing Certificate
- Eleven students participated in chapter and college recitals
- Nine students are majoring in organ: one each at Eastman School of Music, Duquesne University, Houghton College, Juilliard School, Lebanon Valley College, Peabody Institute and Rice University; two at Westminster Choir College; and one majoring in piano at Susquehanna University.

The Lehigh Valley Chapter should be very proud of the three area POE students who have continued their musical educations.

Adam Bergstresser of Nazareth, who had his first organ lesson at POE with Thomas Dressler, continued private study with him and performed in several LV Chapter recitals. He has completed his sophomore year at Westminster Choir College as an organ performance and sacred music major. He also is organist at St. John's UCC in Riegelsville, PA

Alethea Khoo of Macungie was a LV Chapter scholarship recipient of ten organ lessons with Stephen Williams. At POE she had lessons with Lou Carol Fix. Alethea has completed her freshman year at Susquehanna University as a piano performance major where she has taught piano in the Prep Program, will be Student Assistant for Chapel Music in her sophomore year, and has plans to take organ lessons.

Justin Weillau of Allentown began his organ studies with Carol Lenhart and participated in several LV Chapter recitals. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman was his teacher at POE, and Justin continued studying with her at Lebanon Valley College where he graduated in 2013 with a BA in sacred music and organ performance and a BS in biochemistry and molecular biology. Currently

Continued on page 4

POE 2009

Continued from page 3

he is pursuing a PhD in the Graduate School of Pharmacy at Duquesne University. He also has attended organ classes with Ann Labounsky and was planning to have organ lessons with her this summer.

Maria Prochnau, POE 2009 Chair

Reflections from AGO Boston, 2014

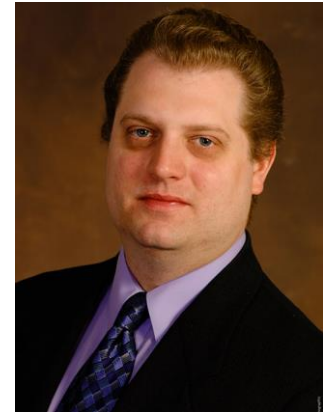
Magnificent organs, stunning performances, glorious singing, beautiful churches, a charming city, informative workshops, and so much more—those are the wonderful memories I have from the AGO National Convention that was held this past June in Boston. Altogether there were 38 unique concerts, 8 varied worship services, 140 workshops and scholarship research programs, and more than 80 exhibitors. Convention attendees also had opportunity for occasional walks around the city or excursions on the Boston “T” subway system as participants traveled from one venue to another. The complimentary blue AGO convention bags could be seen everywhere throughout Boston, and one never feared of getting lost—simply follow the blue bags!

The official opening of the convention was a superb recital by James David Christie at Boston’s Symphony Hall where he performed Guillemant, Langlais, Pinkham, and Barber with the Boston Landmarks Orchestra. The following days one had to pick and choose which events to attend as there were multiple performances that took place at the same time. Highlights included sitting in Harvard’s Chapel to hear Christian Lane perform on the Aeolian-Skinner organ at the front of the chapel, and then conclude his recital on the Fisk Organ positioned in the rear gallery; listening to Janette Fishell perform an organ concert celebrating the seasons of J.S. Bach; and hearing uplifting organ concerti played by Joan Lippincott and the Boston Early Music Chamber Ensemble. A unique experience was to not only hear the Fisk Organ at the Wellesley College Chapel, but to watch the person using the foot-pump to work the bellows and generate the sound.

In addition to an abundance of organ recitals, many choral and chamber ensembles were also featured.

The *Handel & Haydn Society* performed Bach’s *Missa Brevis in G* for choir and chamber orchestra; and *Blue Heron*, an a cappella group, offered an exquisite afternoon of Renaissance choral music. Made up of children and teens from communities throughout the city, the *Boston City Singers* shared a delightful concert of global song

Perhaps the most memorable concert of the week was the closing St. Cecilia Recital that was performed by organist **Stephen Tharp** at the massive Mother Church, First Church of Christ Scientist, which seats around 3,000 people. The console of the 200+ rank Aeolian-Skinner organ was made visible by use of a large projection screen, and it was captivating to watch the memorized program of works by Naji Hakim, Nadia Boulanger, Vincent Persichetti, Leo Sowerby and Max Reger. But it was the second half of the program which was absolutely superhuman as Stephen Tharp blew everyone away with his own transcription of Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring*, based on the four-hand piano version. Not only was the rendition of this piece a tour de force to just play all the notes and make the thousands of stop changes, but it was all played from memory. It was an unforgettable night, and the convention planners seemed to save the best for last.



Indeed, it was an incredible week and I have only scratched the surface of all the events and activities that were presented in Boston. It was my 4th national convention that I have attended, and I hope that it won’t be my last.

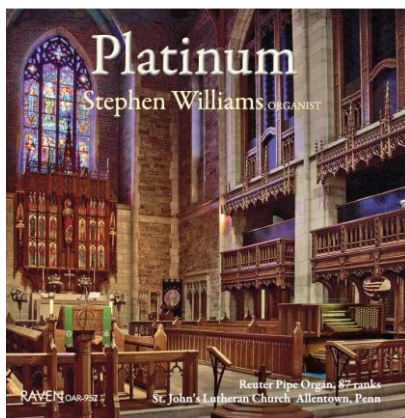
With fond memories of an inspiring week,
Janice Butz, LVAGO member

LVAGO Web Site Redesign

Please take a moment and check out the completely redesigned www.lvago.org. The site features a new layout, navigation, graphics and more. Of special note is the home page that will announce the next chapter event and display a related slide show.

A CD You Should Have

Our past Dean Stephen Williams has completed 24 years as Director of Music, Organist, and concert impresario at St. John's Lutheran Church in Allentown (he is now at The Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem). Many of us have enjoyed his fine concerts on the outstanding 87 rank Reuter organ over the years.



Positions Available

Church Musician (1)

Church: Morning Star Moravian Church, 234 S. Main St., Coopersburg, PA 18036 610-282-1908

Website: None listed

Contact: Nancy Snyder, 267-424-4522

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Chancel Choir (10), Youth Choir (6)

Instruments: M.P. Moeller II

Music budget: \$50, Guest musicians \$300

Members: 145+

Position fill date: September

Deadline: None

Total hours per week: 9 1/4

Salary: \$11,000-\$13,000

Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: None listed

Choir Director/Musician (1)

Church: Hope United Church of Christ, 1031 Flexer Ave, Allentown, PA 18103 610-439-8118

Website: www.hopeuccallentown.org

Contact: Dick Cipoletti, 610-439-1139, dick@rccassoc.com

Weekly services: 1, 2nd contemporary anticipated

Ensembles: Adult Choir (12), Bell Choir (10), Responsible for Adult Choir

Instruments: Electronic organ, baby grand piano

Music budget: TBD

Sunday attendance: 85

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: None

Total hours per week: 13

Salary: \$10,000-\$13,000

Weeks Vacation: Not listed

Benefits: secretarial assistance, unemployment

Director of Music (1)

Church: Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church, 535 W. Emaus Ave, Allentown, PA 18103

Website: tmlconline.org

Contact: Rev. Carey Miller 610-797-4774

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Adult, Adult handbell, Youth chime, Praise, Sunday School, Women's choir

Instruments: Rodgers 3 manual

Music budget: \$3100

Members: 916

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: None

Total hours per week: 15

Salary: \$16,000

Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: housing allowance secretarial assistance, unemployment, FICA

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

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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

(October issue)

Thursday, September 25, 2014