

Lehigh Valley Chapter

# American Guild of Organists

April 2015

April 2015



## Chapter Officers 2014– 2015

Dean: Michael Krentz  
610-861-7669  
[mekrentz@gmail.com](mailto:mekrentz@gmail.com)

Sub Dean: Andrew Long  
610-704-7805  
[along2214@gmail.com](mailto:along2214@gmail.com)

Secretary: Eleanor Focht  
610-782-9386  
[eeforgan@aol.com](mailto:eeforgan@aol.com)

Treasurer: Stephen Bueker  
610.438.3766  
[sfbueker@rcn.com](mailto:sfbueker@rcn.com)

## Executive Committee

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

[www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org)

## Dean's Mixtures

You will be reading this either in the middle of some very busy days, or after those days are just over. This newsletter has some very important information, so whenever you read it, please do so carefully!

In brief, here are some things for your attention. First, it is time to register for the Mid-Atlantic AGO Convention in Pittsburgh, June 21-24, 2015. The convention website can be found at <http://agopgh2015.com/> – there you will find a link to registration.



Second, the Brooklyn Chapter is hosting a Pipe Organ Encounter this summer, July 26-31, 2015. If you have any high school students you think might be interested, they can find more information at <http://www.brooklynago.org/brooklynpoe2015/>. Brooklyn is not hard to get to from the Lehigh Valley!

Third, I hope you will join us on our April organ crawl, to hear and play some wonderful mechanical action instruments south of our Valley. Drew Long has put together a wonderful day; I'm also looking forward to fellowship time as we share a delicious lunch.

*Continued on page 2*

## April Meeting

Saturday, April 18, 2015  
9 AM to 4 PM

# On the Track of Some Trackers

Organs by Dobson, Ott and Fisk

## Dean's Mixtures

Continued from page 1

Fourth, I am excited and happy to announce that Gregory Zelek will be our Young Artist for our May program. Gregory was a student at our own POE back in 2009, so we are happy to welcome him back now for this recital. He is a master's student of Paul Jacobs at Juilliard.

**Important Note!** Due to Gregory's schedule, the May program will be held on Sunday, May 24, 2015 (not May 31 as previously announced). Please change this in your calendar before you read the next sentence!

Fifth, our May program will also include our Annual Meeting and Banquet. Many thanks to our Nominating Committee – you can see the results of their work in the slate of officers presented for election at the meeting.

Finally, and most importantly, let me thank you for all you do, especially during this central time in the life of the Church, where so many of us play. Your calling as an organist and/or choir director is vital to the life of the Church. I thank you for this, and hope the people you serve do so as well.

God bless you in this Holy Season!

Michael Krentz  
Dean

## April Meeting

### On the Track of Some Trackers

Saturday, April 18, 2015, 9 AM to 4 PM

In April the LVAGO will be journeying to the greater Lansdale/Souderton area to hear and play three very different tracker pipe organs. Here is the current itinerary:



- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 9:45 am  | Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton<br>1969 C. B. Fisk (II/21)    |
| 11:00 am | Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale<br>1997 Martin Ott (III/69)  |
| Lunch    |  |
| 1:30 pm  | Church of the Holy Spirit, Harleysville<br>1975 Dobson (II/15) |

Carpools will be gathering in the Allentown area. Those attending should contact Drew Long via email at [along2214@gmail.com](mailto:along2214@gmail.com).

## AGO Regional Convention

### Opportunities for Renewal and Inspiration

June seems like forever away, especially with all the snow we are seeing these days, but in reality it is but 2 months in front of us. And with that comes the **Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention**, June 21 – 24 in Pittsburgh. I encourage you to go to [www.agopgh2015.com](http://www.agopgh2015.com) and register for this wonderful event - *Bridges to the Future*.

So many wonderful events await you:

- the opening recital and silent movie accompaniment by *David Briggs*
- Superstar *Nathan Laube* on the Beckarath at St. Paul Cathedral
- Workshops featuring *Vocal Training, Music Technology, Jean Langlais* and more
- The newly renovated Heinz Chapel and a concert by *Renee Louprette*
- Exhibits with music to browse and ideas to stir your creative spirit
- *Chatham Baroque* and *Reilly Lewis* on the new Taylor and Boody instrument at Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- A dinner cruise on the *Gateway Clipper Ship*
- And the closing recital by that "orchestra of voices," *Chanticleer*

This is but a small sample of what you can experience in Pittsburgh. Don't delay, register now for this exciting event.

Larry Allen, Chairperson

## Bach Marathon Report

On March 8, members and friends of the Lehigh Valley Chapter gathered at Egner Memorial Chapel on the campus of Muhlenberg College for a grand Members Recital. Local organists and others presented music in commemoration of the 330th anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach. The concert began at 3 p.m. and concluded at 8 p.m. with presenters beginning at half-hour intervals. Some in the audience remained for the entire five hour concert while others stayed as long as their schedules would permit. Musicians for the program included Thomas Dressler, John McEnerney with bass Steve Giblin, the Lehigh Valley Horn Ensemble, Michael Krentz with flautist Catherine

Continued on page 3

## Bach Marathon Report

Continued from page 2

DeBoeser, Andrew Long, Lou Carol Fix, Thomas Busted, John Richardson and Stephen Williams. The program of a wide variety of music composed by J. S. Bach was coordinated by Lou Carol Fix.



**Marathon participants: Tom Busted, Andrew Long, Stephen Bueker, Lou Carol Fix, Michael Krentz, John Richardson.**  
**Not pictured: Tom Dressler, John McEnerney, Steve Giblin, Lehigh Valley Horn Ensemble, Catherine DeBoeser**

During the summer of 2014, the Muhlenberg College organ underwent a major renovation done by Berghaus Organ Builders, Inc. of Bellwood, Illinois. The organ now has a new movable console with an adjustable bench and a well-lit music rack. The mechanical key action was replaced with electric pull-down magnets. The pneumatic stop action was restored. A new shade controller was added and wood and felt were attached to the shades to allow them to fully close. The console features a new Peterson ICS system giving multiple memories and a greater number of pistons. Tonal additions include a Bombarde playable at 16', 8' and 4' and chimes.

The pipes and pipe chambers were thoroughly cleaned and the pipes were re-voiced resulting in greater volume and presence in the room. This greater presence and clarity were accomplished through re-voicing without altering the existing wind pressure. All reeds were disassembled, cleaned and re-voiced. The Horizontal Trumpet was revoiced to allow it to have a greater compatibility with the overall ensemble. Ongoing maintenance continues to be provided by Emery Brothers, Inc. of Allentown.

Even though the organ is still settling after all of this activity, the positive results of this renovation were

apparent to musicians and listeners alike. To see the console in the center of the Chancel area for the concert was a lovely sight. It was a very satisfying and enjoyable Bach Marathon concert, whether you attended for a part of the time or for the entire event.

Gloria Snyder

## Looking Ahead: May Program

Be sure to reserve Sunday, May 24 at 4 pm so that you may attend this year's Recital, Banquet and Annual Meeting. Our recitalist will be Gregory Zelek a first year master's student at Juilliard studying with Paul Jacobs, head of the organ department.

The program will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Pennsburg. Judith Love is the host musician.

## Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee presents the slate of officers for 2015-2016:

### 2015-2016 OFFICERS

Dean	Michael Krentz
Sub-Dean	Andrew Long
Secretary	Eleanor Focht
Treasurer	Stephen Bueker

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – term expiring:

2018 Aram Basmadjian, Gloria Snyder

These board members will be continuing in office:

2016 Gail Hanzl, Judy Love  
 2017 Thomas Busted, Matthew Wary

Marisa Deshler, Gail Hanzl, and Gwyneth Michel  
 Nominating Committee

## April Concerts

**April 1** (Wednesday) 12:10 pm; *Basic'ly Bach*: Mostly Bach, mostly lunchtime delights; **Stephen Williams, organ**; Cathedral Church of the Nativity

**April 8** (Wednesday) 12:05 pm to 12:30 pm; *Noonday Recital*; **Karl Moyer, organ**; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading

Continued on page 4

## April Concerts

Continued from page 3

**April 11** (Sunday) 3:00 pm; *Passion/Easter Concert*; **The Bach and Handel Chorale**; Zion UCC, Lehighton; Admission: Ticket; Chorale Office: 570-325-4794; [www.bhchorale.org](http://www.bhchorale.org)

**April 15** (Wednesday) 12:05 pm to 12:30 pm; *Noonday Recital*; **Julia MacDonald, soprano**; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading

**April 18** (Saturday) 7:30 pm; **Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra**; Camerata Singers, Brahms *Liesbeslieder Waltzes, Part Te Deum*; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Admission: Freewill offering; Admission \$10 – \$30; Tickets: 610-434-7811

**April 19** (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Irish Mist**; Celtic and traditional music; First UCC, Reading; Admission: Freewill offering; Reception

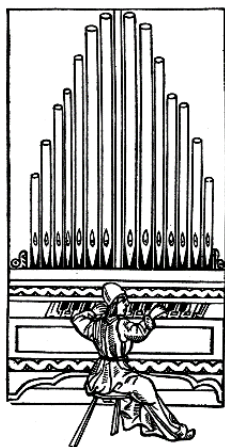
**April 19** (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Lehigh University Soloists and Chamber Ensembles Concert**; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Admission: Freewill offering

**April 19** (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **FPCA Youth Choir**, Tour Program; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

**April 22** (Wednesday) 12:05 pm – 12:30 pm; *Noonday Recital*; **Julianne Michalik, piano**; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading

**April 26** (Sunday) 7:00 pm; **Vox Celestium**, Choir and orchestra; Dan Tuck, director; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg

**April 29** (Wednesday) 12:05 pm – 12:30 pm; *Noonday Recital*; **David Gross and Karen Eddinger, organ duet**; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading



## Positions Available

### Part Time Organist/Music Director (1)

**Church:** Stewartsville Presbyterian Church; 550 North Main Street, Stewartsville, NJ 08865, 908-859-1399  
**Website:** N/A

**Contact:** Pastor Stephen Choi, 908-859-1399, rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com

**Weekly services:** 1

**Ensembles:** Adult Choir(10)

**Instruments:** 2 manual pipe organ with MIDI

**Music budget:** \$1000

**Weekly attendance:** 80

**Position fill date:** April 27, 2015

**Deadline:** None listed

**Total hours per week:** 8

**Salary:** \$10,500

**Weeks vacation:** 3 paid (vacation or sick)

**Benefits:** Book/music allowance, secretarial assistance, music library assistance

### Organist, Choir Director, Bell Choir Director (2)

**Church:** St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church; P.O. Box 117, Mertztown, PA 19539

**Website:** None listed

**Contact:** Pastor Jeremiah Sassaman, STS, 610-657-0269; Patricia Conrath, 610-682-2306

**Weekly services:** 1, 2 during Lent/Advent

**Ensembles:** Adult Senior Choir (8), Adult Handbell Choir (7)

**Instruments:** Allen digital organ

**Music budget:** \$600

**Weekly attendance:** None listed

**Position fill date:** No deadline

**Deadline:** ASAP

**Total hours per week:** 10 – 15

**Salary:** \$10,000 – \$12,000

**Weeks vacation:** 2 – 4

**Benefits:** Maternity leave (unpaid), Sick leave

### Organist/Choir Director (2)

**Church:** St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williams Township; 2745 Morgan Hill Road, Easton, PA 18042; 610-252-3571

**Website:** <http://www.stjohnswilliams.com>

**Contact:** Kathleen Mathews (church Secretary), 610-533-8133, kathleen.mathews@rcn.com

**Weekly services:** 1

**Ensembles:** Adult choir (6)

Continued on page 5

**Positions Available***Continued from page 4***Instruments:** Tracker (II), Upright piano, electronic keyboard**Music budget:** \$200**Weekly attendance:** 40 – 60**Position fill date:** ASAP**Deadline:** No deadline**Total hours per week:** 4**Salary:** \$8,967 (starting)**Weeks vacation:** 4**Benefits:** Secretarial assistance, Music library assistance**Statement:** Ours is a small country church with most choir members not being able to read music. Weekly Hymns are chosen by our Pastor. We have a considerable Music Library but prefer Unison or Two-Part Harmonies for our Choral Pieces. We hope to be able to increase the membership of our choir with the addition of a new organist.**Organist/Accompanist (2)****Church:** Frenchtown Presbyterian Church; 20 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Frenchtown, NJ 08825**Website:** [www.frenchtownpres.org](http://www.frenchtownpres.org)**Contact:** Patrick Johnson, 908-996-2227, [patrick@frenchtownpres.org](mailto:patrick@frenchtownpres.org)**Weekly services:** 2**Ensembles:** Adult choir (20), Accompany only**Instruments:** Allen 2 manual, c. 1994**Music budget:** \$1500**Weekly attendance:** 150**Position fill date:** ASAP**Deadline:** Rolling**Total hours per week:** 8.5**Salary:** \$6,000 – \$10,000**Weeks vacation:** 3**Benefits:** Maternity leave, Book/music allowance**Statement:** The ideal candidate will have a Christian faith, an understanding of the role of music in worship, the ability to accompany on both piano and organ, and skill with a range of musical styles. The candidate should also be dependable, have a good sense of humor, and be eager to participate in the life of an active, growing church. Students are encouraged to apply.

## Member Update

Please note the updated address and home phone information for Stephen Williams.

506 W. Third Street, Apt 4  
Bethlehem, PA 18015  
610-866-1071

## Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

**Mark Dennis**, 610.867.0385  
[vmdennispa@juno.com](mailto:vmdennispa@juno.com)

## Placement Service

Please visit the  
Placement page on [www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org)  
for information and the  
Placement Service Information Sheet.

## Newsletter Deadline

(May issue) Thursday, April 23, 2015

**Check out LVAGO activities on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LVAGO/>