

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

March 2015

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Chapter Officers 2014– 2015

Dean: Michael Krentz
610-861-7669
mekrentz@gmail.com

Sub Dean: Andrew Long
610-704-7805
along2214@gmail.com

Secretary: Eleanor Focht
610-782-9386
eeforgan@aol.com

Treasurer: Stephen Bueker
610.438.3766
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

Dean's Mixtures

I write this at the very end of February, and although the number of daylight hours is increasing the amount of snow on the ground is not going down, and the temperatures are not going up. This winter has brought its challenges, as usual. The weather has led to cancelled Sunday services, lost choir rehearsals, and interruptions to our usual comfortable rhythms.

Now we are deep into the season of Lent, and preparing for Easter. More work, and demands beyond our usual comfortable rhythms. As you go through all of this, I urge you to remember some important things.

First, even with reduced attendance at choir and services, God's word has been heard and God's praise has been sung in your assembly's music, because of your leadership. What you do is valued in your community.

Second, your Lehigh Valley AGO colleagues are here for support, for collaboration, for shared learning. I urge you to take advantage of the rich community we have within the LVAGO. Come to our Bach Marathon on March 8 – you will find your spirit refreshed (and you will hear the refurbished organ at Muhlenberg College's Egner Chapel).

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March Meeting

Sunday, March 8, 2015
3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Bach Marathon

Egner Memorial Chapel
Muhlenberg College, Allentown

Dean's Mixtures

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Finally, our Executive Board is beginning to turn its attention to our programs for next year. If you have any ideas you would like to share, speak to any member of the Board, but especially to Andrew Long, Sub-Dean, or to me.

I hope to see you on March 8!

Michael Krentz

Dean

March Meeting

Sunday, March 8, is the day for our 2015 commemoration of the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. Organ enthusiasts will gather at Muhlenberg College in the Egner Memorial Chapel to hear local organists and other instrumentalists play the music of Bach. The Bach celebration will begin at 3:00pm and conclude at 8:00pm. A donation basket will be set up at the entrance for anyone who wishes to support future programs of the LVAGO.



The order of the Bach celebration is:

- 3:00 - Thomas Dressler
- 3:30 - John McEnerney & guest Steve Giblin, bass vocalist
- 4:00 - Lehigh Valley Horn Ensemble (Stephen Bueker)
- 4:30 - Michael Krentz & guest Catherine DeBoeser, flute
- 5:00 - Andrew Long
- 5:30 - Lou Carol Fix
- 6:00 - Thomas Busted
- 6:30 - Michael Krentz and Stephen Williams
- 7:00 - John Richardson
- 7:30 - Stephen Williams

The organ at Muhlenberg chapel has undergone some recent renovations and we all look forward to playing and/or hearing its new sound. Thanks to all of you willing participants and to our enthusiastic supporters who come to listen to Bach in the marvelous space of the Egner chapel at Muhlenberg College. Thank you for arriving and/or departing the chapel at 1/2-hour intervals when a new performer is preparing to play. Hope to see you there!

Lou Carol Fix, coordinator

March Concerts

March 3 (Tuesday) 6:30 pm; *Meditative Lenten Organ Recital*; **Mark Laubach, organ**; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

March 8 (Sunday) 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm; **Bach Marathon**; Egner Memorial Chapel, Muhlenberg College, Allentown

March 10 (Tuesday) 6:30 pm; *Meditative Lenten Organ Recital*; **Aram Basmadjian, organ**; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

March 17 (Tuesday) 6:30 pm; *Meditative Lenten Organ Recital*; **John Richardson, organ**; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

March 22 (Sunday) 10:15 am; **FPCA Chancel Choir**; Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs*; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Admission: Freewill offering

March 22 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Lebanon Valley College Concert Choir**; Trinity UCC, East Petersburg; Admission: Freewill offering

March 22 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Mark Laubach, organ**; Trinity Episcopal Church Bethlehem

March 29 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **La Fiocco**, Period instrument ensemble; First United Church of Christ, Reading; Admission: Freewill offering

Looking Ahead: April Program

On the Track of Some Trackers

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

In April the LVAGO will be journeying to the Lansdale/Souderton area to hear and play three very different tracker pipe organs. St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church has been the home of a Durner (11/10) since 1901. It was recently restored by Patrick J. Murphy and Associates, Inc. In Lansdale, we will visit the large 1997 Martin Ott (3/69). The organ enjoys an ideal location on the central axis of the sanctuary of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Intentionally located off of any axis is the 1969 C. B. Fisk (11/21) in Zion Mennonite Church in Souderton. This modest organ is a joy to play and more versatile than one would suspect from the small stop list.

The day will also include a welcome lunch break. More details will follow in the April newsletter. Drew Long is the coordinator for the event.

Pipe Dreams on WWFM

A heads up from chapter member Maria Prochnau: WWFM public radio has begun airing PIPEDREAMS. (It was announced as "through the generosity of Alan Morrison") It is broadcast 7-8 am each Sunday.

Positions Available

Organist, Choir Director, Bell Choir Director (1)

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 (1)

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)

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 (1)

Church: Frenchtown Presbyterian Church; 20 4th Street, Frenchtown, NJ 08825

Website: www.frenchtownpres.org

Contact: Patrick Johnson, 908-996-2227, 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.

Director of Music (2)

Church: St. John's United Church of Christ; 139 North 4th Street, Emmaus, PA 18049; 610-965-9158

Website: <http://www.stjohnsuccemmaus.org>

Contact: Richard Miller, Office and Personnel; Cell Phone: 610-703-1430

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Senior Choir (16), Youth Choir (8), Handbells (14)

Instruments: 2 manual Austin pipe organ, rebuilt 1980

Music budget: \$1,400

Weekly attendance: 150

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: None listed

Total hours per week: 9

Salary: \$13,000

Weeks vacation: 1, after 6 mos. through 3 years

Benefits: None listed

Director of Music (2)

Church: Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church; 535 W. Em-
aus Ave., Allentown, PA 18103; 610-797-4774

Website: <http://tmlconline.org>

Contact: Rev. Carey Miller, 610-797-4774,
cnsjk@rcn.com

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Adult Choir, Bell Choir, Sunday School
youth, Women's choir (3-5)

Instruments: 3 manual Rodgers

Music budget: \$300

Weekly attendance: 100 - 120

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: None listed

Total hours per week: 15

Salary: \$16,000

Weeks vacation: 2

Benefits: \$100 professional allowance

Minister of Music (2)

Church: First Baptist Church of Norristown; 445 Burn-
side Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403; 610-539-7075

Website: [http:// www.fbcnorristown.org](http://www.fbcnorristown.org)

Contact: Rev. Kelly Legg, 610-539-7075, fbcnorr@ver-
izon.net

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir (8), Handbells (8-10), Praise
Team (4); Responsible for Adult Choir, support others

Instruments: 2 manual Allen, Kohler and Campbell
grand piano

Music budget: \$1,300

Weekly attendance: 75

Position fill date: 02/01/15

Deadline: 01/01/15

Total hours per week: 13.5

Salary: \$14,000-\$16,000

Weeks vacation: 3

Benefits: Continuing ed

Statement: We have a committed adult choir, as well
as a praise team and bell choir both with volunteer
leadership. We have had a drama ministry and we look
forward to expanding our worship experiences.

Organist (2)

Church: Good Shepherd Church (Episcopal), P.O. Box
132, 1634 Hilltown Pike, Hilltown, PA 18927, (215) 822-
3930

Website: <http://goodshepherdhilltown.org>

Contact: Rev. Catherine D. Kerr, 215-253-7990, [revc-
kerr@gmail.com](mailto:revc-kerr@gmail.com)

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult choir (8), Handbells (8), Accompany
choir only

Instruments: 2 manual electronic

Music budget: Approaching \$0

Weekly attendance: 65

Position fill date: Early 2015, Possible immediate sup-
ply

Deadline: None listed

Total hours per week: 2.75

Salary: \$100

Weeks vacation: 0

Benefits: Non listed

Statement: We are a small church with a very strong
sense of community but with few resources. Part-time
priest, part-time administrator, no other employees.
We rely on volunteers for most services. Our retiring
organist was also a volunteer. We do expect to pay
our new organist but cannot offer much.

Director of Music (2)

Church: Holy Trinity / Salem Pastoral Charge, 514 Third
Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Website: [https://holytrinitybethlehem.word-
press.com/](https://holytrinitybethlehem.wordpress.com/)

Contact: Madeline Deegan, 610-559-1699

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Adult (9-12), Youth/childrens (15)

Instruments: 3 manual Gerger, rebuilt 2004, 2 manual
Allen

Music budget: \$1800.00

Weekly attendance: 80-90

Position fill date: Immediately

Deadline: Open:

Total hours per week: 15-20

Salary: \$15,000-\$24,000

Weeks vacation: 2-4

Benefits: Non listed

Statement: Part-time Director of Music - expertise in
organ, piano and choral direction required. Three or
more year's church music experience preferred. A de-
gree in music or equivalent in private music training is
required.

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Mark Dennis, 610.867.0385, vmdennispa@juno.com

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

Newsletter deadline:

(April issue) Thursday, March 19, 2015