

Lehigh Valley Chapter

# American Guild of Organists

April 2018

April 2018



## Chapter Officers 2017–2018

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Treasurer: Stephen Bueker

610-438-3766

[sfbueker@rcn.com](mailto:sfbueker@rcn.com)

## Executive Committee

Aram Basmadjian (2018)

Gloria Snyder (2018)

Susan Hartney (2019)

Robert Richelderfer (2019)

Janice Butz (2020)

Luke DiGiacinto (2020)

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

## Dean's Mixtures

I hope you all had success with your music during Holy Week and Easter! Now that the big push is over, I find myself breathing a bit and looking at new pieces to work on. And I'd like to share some thoughts on this.

When I started approaching 50, I started to wonder whether I'd be feeling a loss of technical ability as my body changes. Now that I am well into my 50s, I can say that did not happen yet (unless I'm really fooling myself!) and I have some thoughts on this that might be interesting both to those of us in middle age and older AND to our younger members.



I have seen recent studies showing that artists and musicians who are highly skilled in their area tend to maintain those skills well past the time that people start to lose physical prowess in other areas. (Google "expertise and aging" to find some very interesting scholarly articles on the subject.) The key to this is that we have to continue to practice. As far as that goes, I think music is one of the most fascinating, never-ending studies one could undertake! As long as one never makes the mental decision that they are now an "expert" and stays curious, there is a source of interesting stuff to study as deep as the ocean! Anyone who keeps their sense of wonder and curiosity will never become bored with practicing!

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## April Meeting

## Organ Crawl

### Rediscovering Lehigh Valley Pipe Organs

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Starting at St. John's Lutheran Church Williams Township

2745 Morgan Hill Rd, Easton, PA 18042

*Dean's Mixtures continued from page 1*

That being said, I can think back and remember some hurdles I had to get past. By the time I was in my late 30s, I realized I knew enough repertoire that I could, if I wanted to, go through a rotation of recycling preludes and postludes for church and mixing up recital programs in a way that I might not need to learn new repertoire. I think probably many of us reach a similar point by the time we're about 40, and I have known some musicians who did choose the route of slowing down the learning process. I remember feeling I could have done that, but instead I challenged myself. I decided that every time I played a recital, I'd include at least one new piece in the program unless I was really in a pinch for time. This actually required me to step up my learning of new pieces, so I had to put forth a little more energy in my practicing. At the same time, I decided to revamp my technique somewhat, so I had some real challenges for someone in his late 30s and early 40s.

But what was the result? This is just me, and I'm sure results vary from person to person, but in my case, the feared loss of ability to learn and physically perform has not materialized yet, and I am now 56. Instead, I can say with confidence (and a bit of incredulity) that I learn FASTER and more thoroughly than I ever did when I was in my 20s or 30s! For me, and based on the studies I have read I bet for others too, the ability to learn and apply skills is a cumulative process. I am sure the time will come when I start to feel a decline, but it has not happened yet. I truly believe we can delay that if we don't settle into becoming "experts," but maintain our curiosity and use our years of experience to work in a progressively more focused way.

So, Easter is over . . . it is a great time to get out some new music and let your curiosity and love of music lead you to keeping your mind and skills youthful! For those who are younger, hopefully this gives you something to work towards and look forward to (as long as you stay curious), and for those of us who are older, it is exciting to know we are in a field that will allow us to make discoveries and apply our skills well past the time athletes and people in other professions experience decline in abilities!

Let's get out some new music!

—Thomas Dressler, Dean

## April Meeting



**1967 E. F. Walcker Facade Pipes**

Saturday, April 21, 2018, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm  
Starting at St. John's Lutheran Church  
2745 Morgan Hill Rd, Easton, PA 18042

Our April meeting will feature an organ crawl highlighting four Lehigh Valley pipe organs. The first three are "hidden gems" that are not regularly featured outside of worship services. However, the last organ is one of our local landmark instruments. Here's the itinerary:

**9:00 AM** 1967 E. F. Walcker (II/14)  
St. John's Lutheran Church Williams Township  
2745 Morgan Hill Road, Easton, PA 18042

**10:30 AM** 1993 Schantz (II/23)  
St. Thomas UCC  
902 E Macada Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Lunch on your own

**12:30 PM** 1977 Casavant Frères (II/23)  
SS Simon and Jude R.C. Church  
730 W Broad St, Bethlehem, PA 18018

**1:30 PM** 1992 Reuter (IV/87)  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
37 S 5th St, Allentown, PA 18101

The tour will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in Williams Township, Easton at 9am and the tour will conclude around 2:30pm. We will get a demonstration of each and have the opportunity to play them in the

time allotted. Bring your shoes and music! Transportation to each location will be on your own. Lunch will be on your own. RSVP by April 20, 2018 to Greg Kuklinski [gjk4@alum.lehigh.edu](mailto:gjk4@alum.lehigh.edu).

Directions to our first stop, St. John's Lutheran:

Route 22 to 25th St. exit in Easton  
 Turn south onto S 25th St. 1.8 mi  
 (That's a right from 22 East, left from 22 West)  
 Turn right onto Main St. 0.3 mi  
 Continue onto Berger Rd (Main becomes Berger) 0.7 mi  
 Turn left onto Diehl Rd 0.5 mi  
 Turn right onto Morgan Hill Rd 0.8 mi  
 Destination is on the left  
 St. John's UCC is on the right. But we're not going there! Don't confuse the two locations.

## Up Coming Programs

**May 27, 4 pm** First Presbyterian Church of Allentown will be our annual banquet and recital, featuring Clara Gerdes, the winner of the regional competition.

## March Meeting Report

On Sunday, March 11, the Lehigh Valley Chapter presented the 22nd annual Bach Marathon commemorating the 333rd Anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach. The concert was presented at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. The organ at St. John's, one of several outstanding instruments in the Lehigh Valley, is a Skinner/Lehigh/Reuter of 4 manuals and 87 ranks.

Members of the Lehigh Valley Chapter and friends performing included Luke DiGiacinto, Erin Petrella, Bryan Holten, John McEnerney, Lou Carol Fix, Eric Gombert, Thomas Dressler, Covenant Brass and the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Allentown.

The host for the event was Eric Gombert, Director of Music for St. John's Lutheran. Lou Carol Fix was the coordinator for the occasion. A reception was provided by members of the host church and the LVAGO officers and executive board. This annual event continues to be one of the major highlights of the program season for the Lehigh Valley Chapter.

—Gloria Snyder

## POE 2020

Our executive board has talked quite a lot about having another POE in the Lehigh Valley during the summer of 2020, an exciting idea! In order to do this, we need to submit an application by February of 2019 (next year) that has everything outlined and in place. Therefore, we need to form a committee NOW to start working on it. Please consider being a part of this committee and helping us make this exciting event happen! Contact Tom Dressler ([tom@thomasdressler.com](mailto:tom@thomasdressler.com)) or Jane Errera ([JaneErrera@aol.com](mailto:JaneErrera@aol.com)) to let us know you'd be interested in helping.

—Tom Dressler

## Liturgy Workshop

I'm giving a workshop on June 5 having to do with 19th century Lutheran and Reformed (UCC) Liturgy and what practical insights would be helpful for us today in the 21st century.

You all are welcome to register for the event using the link below! Please share this with others (the more the merrier!). Also, if you have any questions you hope I can cover as part of the workshop, please list them here!

[mercersburgsociety.org/home/convocation2017/](http://mercersburgsociety.org/home/convocation2017/)

—Thomas Busted



## Organ Building Lecture

**Vincent Schaper**  
**Organ builder, Potsdam, Germany**  
**April 28, 2018; 10:00 am**  
**Advent Lutheran Church**  
**470 Landis Road, Harleysville, PA**  
**215.256.9941**

An engaging speaker, Mr. Schaper will discuss the history of organbuilding in Germany, with a specific focus on organs in Brandenburg state. He will also



discuss the evolution of the style and sound of the Schuke company, which began in 1820. Since then, they have been building organs rooted in the style of the 17th and 18th century masters. However, the company also embraces state-of-the-art science and technology. With some audience interaction, Mr. Schaper will include hymns as an example of the importance that singing has held in the history of the Schuke workshop for generations.

Refreshments will be served, and participants are encouraged to bring a brown-bag lunch and join us immediately following the presentation.

Vincent Schaper, a native of Potsdam, Germany has been affiliated with the Alexander Schuke company since 1986, when he began his vocational training there. His duties have included maintenance, voicing, tuning, building, sales manager, and project manager. His background also includes business administration, film and music making. He is a keyboard and bass singer whose musical training began in 1975. He has played in several bands, and has been an active church musician.



The event is free and open to the public, but participants are encouraged to register by contacting Vincent Ryan at email [music@AdventHarleysville.org](mailto:music@AdventHarleysville.org) or by calling (215) 256-9941.

## LVAGO Co-Sponsored Recital Guidelines

1. The deadline to apply for a Co-Sponsored recital with the LVAGO chapter is April 1.
2. A proposal must be sent in writing, via email or cover letter, from the proposed hosting congregation to the executive committee of the LVAGO chapter. The letter must include the following info:
  - time, date, & location of recital
  - name of recitalist
  - recitalist's recital fee (no extras—housing,

meals, transportation, etc.)

- tickets, suggested donation, or free will offering for recital
3. LVAGO Chapter members are granted free admission to Co-Sponsored recitals. Chapter members are not required to contribute to suggested donations or free will offering at Co-Sponsored recitals.
  4. Recitals must be in the afternoon.
  5. The LVAGO chapter agrees to contribute 50% of the recitalist's fee up to \$1500.
    - Extra recitalist fees such as housing, transportation, meals, etc. are not covered by the LVAGO chapter and must be covered by the hosting congregation.
  6. The LVAGO chapter is to receive 50% of ticket sales, suggested donations, and or free will offerings.
  7. The proposed recitalist and hosting congregation will be a determining factor in regards to the executive committee's decision. Application does not necessarily imply acceptance.
  8. The organist at the hosting congregation must be a current member of the LVAGO chapter.

## April/May Concerts

**April 3** (Tuesday) 12:10 pm; **Eliezer Gutman, violin**; Allentown Symphony Concertmaster; St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Admission free

**April 7** (Saturday) 7:30 pm; **Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra**; Sonic Transformations, Michael Gurt, piano; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-484-7811 or [www.pasinfonia.org](http://www.pasinfonia.org)

**April 8** (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Lehigh U Soloists and Chamber Ensembles**; Music ranging from Classical to Jazz; St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

**April 10** (Tuesday) 12:10 pm; **Jonathan Clark, horn**; Allentown Symphony Principal Horn; St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Admission free

**April 15** (Sunday) 2:00pm; **DeCore Performing Strings**; Benefits "Feed My Starving Children"; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

**April 15** (Sunday) 4:00pm; **National Park Soundscapes**; Multi-media presentation accompanied by english horn, oboe, guitar and piano;

Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasio

**April 17** (Tuesday) 12:10 pm; **Rick Bashore, oboe**; Allentown Symphony Principal Oboe; St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Admission free

**April 21** (Saturday) 8:00 pm; **Franz Schubert's Winterreise**; Mark Padmore, tenor and Paul Lewis, piano; Williams Center, Lafayette College, Easton; Tickets \$29, Students: \$6 with ID, Williams Center Website [williamscenter.lafayette.edu/mark-padmore-paul-lewis/](http://williamscenter.lafayette.edu/mark-padmore-paul-lewis/)

**April 22** (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Lars Potteiger, Jazz piano**; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

**April 27** (Friday) 7:30 pm; **The Westminster Concert Bell Choir**; Kathleen Ebling Shaw, director; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation

**April 27** (Friday) 7:30 pm; **Allentown Symphony Chamber Orchestra**; *An Evening of Baroque Music*; St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Admission free

**April 28** (Saturday) 3:00 pm; **The Muhlenberg College Choir**; The Muhlenberg String Orchestra, Faure Requiem, French repertoire; St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Admission free

**April 28** (Saturday) 7:30 pm; **The Camerata Singers**; Handel's *Israel in Egypt*; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-434-7811 or [www.pacamerasingers.org](http://www.pacamerasingers.org)

**April 29** (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Bryan Holten, organ**; St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Emmaus; Free

**May 2** (Wednesday) 12:05 pm; **Katherine Aregood Crusi, soprano**; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

**May 6** (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **The Machungie Band**; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Admission free

**May 6** (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **SATORI for Three**; Nora Suggs, flute; John Arnold and Candice Mowbray, classical guitar; St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

**May 9** (Wednesday) 12:05 pm; **James Derr, organ**; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

**May 16** (Wednesday) 12:05 pm; **Geert Ruelens, piano**;

Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

**May 18** (Friday) 12:05 pm; **Reading High School String Ensemble**; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

**May 19** (Saturday) **Valley Choral Society**; Program marking Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday; Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasio; Freewill offering

**May 20** (Sunday) **Cathedral Choir Spring Concert**; Choral music drawn from choir favorites; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 donation

**May 23** (Wednesday) 12:05 pm; **Wyomissing High School Jazz Ensemble**; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

## 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](mailto:sfbueker@rcn.com).

Robin Bidwell	Saturday	302 593-0401
Ruthann Brandt	Mon-Sat	610 262-3304
Janice Butz	Mon-Fri	610 882-9388
Stephen Cable	Mon-Sat	484 866-6019
V. Mark Dennis	Mon-Sat	610 867-0385
Carol Dzurenda	Sun and Sat	215 538-7273
Ellen Erb	Saturday	610 837-7426
Sr. Doris Gonzalez	Thurs-Sat	610 317-0695
Gail Hanzl	Mon-Sat	610 264-5859
Brian Holten	Mon-Sat	585 633-8705
Michael Huffman	Mon-Sat	610 433-6563
Joe Kaczmarek	Sun-Fri	484 433-4336
Jacqueline Kuba	Mon-Sat	570 386-4480
Michael Kuhnert	Mon-Sat	215 536-4345
Dodd Lamberton	Sun-Sat	484 935-3505
Andrew Lutz-Long	Mon-Fri	610 704-7805
James Matz	Sun-Sat	610 367-8094
Linda Maule	Mon-Sat	610 258-5006
John McEnerney	Sun-Fri	215 794-7338
Richard McIntyre	Mon-Sat	908 283-4691
Randall Perry	Mon-Fri	570 325-9440
Erin Petrella	Mon-Sun	484 863-9052
Shirley Platt	Sun-Sat	610 838-5202
Michael Pletcher	Sun-Sat	610 820-7554
Maria Prochnau	Sun-Sat	610 694-0525
Bruce Rohrbach	T,W,F and Sat	610 683-9496
Karen Scott	May-Sep	610 737-1701

Michael Seroka	Mon–Fri	570 386-2378
Brian Snyder	Mon–Thu	484 838-0977
Donald Vaughn	Mon–Sat	610 966-0682
Matthew Wary	Mon–Fri	610 473-8777
Stephen Williams	Mon–Fri	610 737-5196
Stephen Ziminsky	Mon–Sat	610 417-2669
Freda Zimmerman	Sun–Sat	610 381-3089

**Music budget:** \$1,000  
**Weekly attendance:** 180  
**Position fill date:** May 2018  
**Deadline:** Not listed  
**Total hours per week:** 12  
**Salary:** \$12,750  
**Weeks vacation:** 4  
**Benefits:** None  
**Notes:** None listed

## Placement

### Organist/Choir Director (1)

**Church:** First United Church of Christ, 501 Northampton St., Hellertown, PA 18055, 610-838-8811

**Website:** [www.firstucchellertown.com](http://www.firstucchellertown.com)

**Contact:** Diane French, music and worship, 610-360-8897

Phyllis Scherer, secretary, 610-838-8811  
[office@firstucchellertown.com](mailto:office@firstucchellertown.com)

**Weekly services:** 1

**Ensembles:** Adult choir(14), Youth Choir(10), Seasonal chimes

**Instruments:** Allen organ and Yamaha piano

**Music budget:** \$2,000

**Weekly attendance:** 100

**Position fill date:** June 2018

**Deadline:** Until position is filled

**Total hours per week:** 10.5

**Salary:** \$15,000–\$19,000 depending on experience

**Weeks vacation:** 2

**Benefits:** book/music allowance

**Notes:** The ideal candidate will have a broad range of musical styles for all age groups. Be proficient on the organ and piano. Be able to lead the choir and continue to develop the children and youth vocal choir and chime choir. Work with the minister on service preparation and music selection.

### Organist (1)

**Church:** New Goshenhoppen UCC, 1070 Church Road, East Greenville, PA 18041

**Website:** [www.newgoshucc.org](http://www.newgoshucc.org)

**Contact:** Dan Tuck, Director of Music, 215-275-8843, [dantent@verizon.net](mailto:dantent@verizon.net)

**Weekly services:** 2

**Ensembles:** Senior Choir(20): organist accompanies. Directed by others: Goshenhoppen Ringers(13), Joyful Ringers(6), Cherubs(4), Choristers(6), New Goshenhoppen Brass(11), New Gosh Orchestra(18)

**Instruments:** Lehigh Organ Company (III/30)



**Newsletter Editor and Webmaster:** Mark Dennis, 484-666-8511, [vmdennispa@juno.com](mailto:vmdennispa@juno.com)

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

**Newsletter Deadline:** May Edition: Thursday, 4/19/18

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