

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

February 2018

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Chapter Officers 2017–2018

Dean: Thomas Dressler

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610-438-3766

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

Dean's Mixtures

Early in January, I learned at the very last minute that a handful of kids could not attend the Youth Handbell rehearsal at FPCA. There were only a few coming, so I decided to cancel the rehearsal. I got word to everyone except one boy, and as he is a dedicated ringer, I knew he'd show up. He had asked me several times about how the organ works, so I decided I'd try to keep him entertained for an hour until Youth Choir started by showing him how the organ works. This turned out to be a great decision. He was thrilled! He listened attentively and asked very good questions. By the end of the hour, he was trying things on the organ himself and I finally had to tell him he needed to go to the Youth Choir rehearsal!



This Saturday, February 3, the LVAGO is going to introduce the organ to other young people. From 9:30am to 1:00pm we will meet at Nazareth Moravian Church for a "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza." Interested kids in grades 4 to 8 (or older!) will be introduced to the organ, how it works, and how it is played. If you know of any youth who might be interested in a program like this, please have them contact Luke DiGiacinto at 610-417-2766, or lukedig94@aol.com. And we'd love to have any of you experienced organists there to help talk to the kids, explain things, or just generally have a good time being part of the program!

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February Meeting

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Introducing the pipe organ to young people

Saturday, February 3, 2018 9:30am to 1:00pm
Nazareth Moravian Church, 4 S Main St., Nazareth

Dean's Mixtures

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Also, keep our annual Bach Marathon in mind! That will take place at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Allentown on March 11 from 3 to 8pm. Performers may play for 5 minutes to 1/2 hour or longer. Please think about participating or attending this popular event! For more information, or to participate in the program, contact Lou Carol Fix at LCFix@moravian.edu; phone: 610-248-3882.

Sometimes it is difficult to keep our creative juices percolating when dealing with the day to day planning and working out of a routine music program. These two programs are ways to step outside the usual routine and get the mind thinking in new ways. What is more exciting than seeing young people enthralled like we were years ago when we first got close to an organ console? Remember what that was like? It is wonderful to reconnect with that sense of excitement by helping young people feel that same thrill! And at the Bach Marathon we get to hear our fellow musicians, see what speaks to them, hear different ways of doing things. Nothing like a good infusion of stimulating ideas with Easter coming soon!

Hope to see you at one or both events!

Thomas Dressler, Dean

Pedal, Pipes and Pizza

Hello AGO Friends

Come and be a part of our February program. On February 3, we are hosting a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza for youth grades 4 to 8 from 9:30 to 1:00. It will be at Nazareth Moravian Church located at 4 S Main St., Nazareth. We hope to see you there. If you have students, or know of students, invite them to come as well. While 4-8 is the grade bracket, any interested student is welcome. We will have pizza and discussion at the end. This will be a chance for members to chat with families. It should be great fun! Any questions please contact Luke DiGiacinto at 610-417-2766, or lukedigi94@aol.com.

Thanks,
Luke DiGiacinto



The pipe organ at Nazareth Moravian Church was built in 1992 by the Lehigh Organ Company, Macungie. The facade is from a 1793 Tannenberg. Original ranks are included in the present stop list. More information can be found at www.lvago.org/SPECS/nazmorav.html.

Bach Marathon Birthday Celebration

MARCH 11, 2018

Organists and other musicians are invited to offer some musical selections at our annual Bach birthday celebration on March 11, 2018, from 3 to 8pm. This year the musical celebration will take place at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in downtown Allentown. Eric Gombert is our host.

We are continuing our programming of the last two years by inviting you to play pieces by Bach as well as by his contemporaries and students. You may also wish to play pieces from any stylistic period that were influenced by the compositional style of Bach.

Performers may sign up for any length of time, from 5 minutes to 1/2 hour (or more). We will find a spot for you to participate. We welcome chapter members and other musical friends to perform and help celebrate the music of Bach during his birthday month.

Please contact Lou Carol Fix (coordinator) by February 14 if you are interested in performing: LCFix@moravian.edu; phone: 610-248-3882. Information I need is: your name / titles and BWV # of pieces / a short biography / preferred time to play

(and alternate time) between 3 and 8 pm on March 11. Thank you for your participation in this popular annual event of the LVAGO.

Members of the LVAGO are invited to contribute food and drink items for the reception during the Bach Marathon. St. John's is providing coffee, and I will bring paper supplies, cutlery and cups. Donations of desserts and appetizer items would be most welcome. The reception will be open from 4:00-7:00pm during the concert and will be in the reception room just West of the sanctuary area. —Lou Carol Fix

Up Coming Programs

February 3 or 17 (snow date), 9:30 am–1:00 pm at Nazareth Moravian church we will hold a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza workshop for young people.

March 11, 3 pm–8 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown, is our annual Marathon recital.

April 21 we will have an organ crawl in the Lehigh Valley to hear and play some local treasures.

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

February/March Concerts

February 18 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Mark Laubach, organ;** Organist/Choirmaster, St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Admission free

February 23 (Friday) 7:30 pm; **US Air Force Singing Sergeants;** St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Tickets: www.stjohnsallentown.org/arts-at-st-johns/ or call 610-435-1641

February 24 (Saturday) 7:30 pm; **Essence of Joy;** Gospel choir from Penn State directed by Dr. Anthony Leach; Cathedral Church of the Nativity; \$10 Donation

February 25 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Stephen Williams, organ;** Organist/Music Director, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Admission free

March 4 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Gavin Black, harpsichord;** Director, Princeton Early Keyboard Center, Princeton; First Presbyterian Church (Chapel), Allentown; Admission free

March 4 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **The Princeton Singers, In a Celestial Garden;** Sacred music including Allegri, Pärt and Byrd's *Mass for Five Voices*; St. Anne's Catholic Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

March 11 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Adam Bergstresser, organ;** Organist/Director of Music, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Doylestown; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Admission free

March 11 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Music Among Friends;** Lucille Kincaid, director; St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

March 18 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Thomas Dressler, organ;** Coordinator of Traditional Music, First Presbyterian Church of Allentown; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Admission free

March 25 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Nathan Laube, organ;** Assistant Professor of Organ, Eastman School of Music, Rochester; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Admission free

January Jumpstart Report



Among the many highlights of this past month's January Jumpstart at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church was an impromptu tour of the church's 49 bell carillon. During the lunch break Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music and Fine Arts, lead a small but

intrepid group through a panel to the right of the organ facade, and up a 75 step wooden stair case.

At the top of the stairs, through a metal door stood the carillon. Cast of bronze in Aarle-Rixtel, Netherlands by the Petit and Fritsen foundry, the instrument was assembled and finished by the Verdin Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. The instrument is played using a baton-like keyboard that includes pedals for the feet.

Jeffrey invited each of us to have a go. I played a few short tunes including the *Close Encounters* theme and the fugue subject from the *Tocatta and Fugue in d*. The more ambitious among us played a hymn tune from a volume on the music rack. —Mark Dennis, Editor

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.

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–Sat	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

Positions Available

Organist/Director of Music (2)

Church: St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 9 North 9th Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, 570-421-8520, sjchurch@ptd.net

Website: None listed

Contact: Rod Rufe, Personnel Committee, 570-897-6943, rufehaus@epix.net

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Senior Choir—10 (Regular Sunday) Up to 14–16 for Special Performances

Instruments: 3 manual Allen, Baldwin studio piano

Music budget: \$2,500

Weekly attendance: 75–100

Position fill date: January 7, 2018

Deadline: None listed

Total hours per week: 12

Salary: \$12,500

Weeks vacation: None listed

Benefits: book/music allowance

Notes:

Our congregation would like to:

- Organize and reestablish a children's choir
- Reestablish a Bell Choir (our church owns a full set of high quality Malmark handbells and chimes)
- Extra compensation would be considered for these additional choirs
- Baldwin Baby Grand Piano in main church

Newsletter Editor and Web master

Mark Dennis, 610-867-0385
vmdennispa@juno.com

Placement Service

See the Placement page on www.lvago.org, for information and the, Placement Service Information Sheet.

Newsletter Deadline

March Edition:
Thursday, February 15, 2018