

Lehigh Valley Chapter

# American Guild of Organists

November 2024

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



## Chapter Officers 2024–2025

Dean: Susan Frickert  
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Sub Dean: Janice Butz  
610-730-0328

[janicebutz@gmail.com](mailto:janicebutz@gmail.com)

Secretary: Linda Maule  
610-258-5006

[maule@ptd.net](mailto:maule@ptd.net)

Treasurer: Stephen Bueker  
610.438.3766

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

## Executive Committee)

Robert Riday (2025)

Michael Fister (2025)

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

## November Event

### *A Choral Director Workshop with Sun Min Lee*

Saturday, November 9, 2024

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Union Lutheran Church

5500 US route 873, Schnecksville, PA 18078

## Dean's Article

As I was greeting folks after our recent Sacred Voices Concert, a very sweet, tiny, elderly woman approached me and said, “You know, I almost didn’t make it to this concert, I was in so much pain. But somehow I dragged myself here, and as I listened to the inspiring words of God set to beautiful music, I could feel my pain fade away. And I can honestly say at this moment I am pain-free!” People usually don’t take the time to tell us that a particular hymn or choral anthem brought them comfort in their grief, gave them some peace in their chaos, sparked joy in their sadness, or helped them feel closer to God. But rest assured, what you do every week touches more hearts than you could imagine, and brings hope to people often suffering in silence. Martin Luther wasn’t exaggerating when he acknowledged that music is second only to the Word of God. I firmly believe that when you combine God’s amazing Word with excellent music, you unleash a power that changes lives. Scientists are still discovering the miraculous ways music affects the human brain. Medical doctors are observing memories return to Alzheimer’s patients as they listen to the music of their youth. They will probably never fully comprehend the profound effect of music on the human soul. What an honor and a responsibility we humble church musicians have been gifted to use our God-given musical abilities in service to others. May we ever share it joyfully, share it effectively, share it generously! “To whom much is given; much is required.”  
*Soli Deo Gloria!*

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## Review of Our Octibiafest

On a beautiful, sunny, warm October Sunday afternoon, members and guests converged on the gracious Stroudsburg home of Bob Riday and Gary Raish for an “Octibiafest.” As the clever title hints, this was a combination Octoberfest complete with pork and sauerkraut, bratwurst, red cabbage, German potato salad, plus homemade desserts, with a mini concert of theater organ music (you all know the tibia is a foundational stop on theater organs, hence the title!). The evening’s entertainment featured Bob’s solos on their impressive theater organ, and beloved Gershwin tunes sung by the talented local chanteuse Diane Taitt. Your LVAGO Board is already enthusiastically talking about doing this again next year. It was a relaxing way to reconnect with each other during our busy fall church season. But I confess I did have one disappointment in the otherwise delightful event - Bob and Gary, *why didn’t you wear your lederhosen?!*

Susan Frickert

## November

### **A Choral Workshop with Sun Min Lee**

**Saturday, November 9, 1:30 p.m to 3:30 p.m.**

**Union Lutheran Church**

**5500 Route 873, Schnecksville, PA 18078**

A frequently-sought festival choral director and educator, Sun Min Lee served as the Robert Cutler Endowed Professor of Practice of Choral Arts at Lehigh University for eleven years, directing Dolce, Lehigh’s Treble Choir, and regularly conducting the University Choir and Choral Union in elegant major works. A skilled and dynamic musician with a sparkling personality, she will revitalize your choral conducting using a live demo choir. (Members are encouraged to bring several of their singers with them to participate in the event. They’ll never be the same, and neither will you!)

## December

No LVAGO Event

## January

### **January JumpStart**

**Saturday, January 25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Bryn Mawr Presbyterian**

**Church Choral Clinician Maxine Thévenot**

## February

### **The one and only MARK MILLER**

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Christ Lutheran Church

1245 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102

## March

### **A Celebration of J.S.B.**

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Commentary by Shelly Moorman-Stahlman

## April

No LVAGO Event

## May

**Organist/Clergy Dinner and**

**The Rev. Dr. Karyn Wiseman**

(time, date and place to be announced)

## New Editor of our Newsletter

After many moons of faithfully serving as the editor of our chapter monthly newsletter, Mark Dennis will be stepping aside. We thank him for many years of dedicated service. Somehow, he has always found a way to get articles to print on time. The herd of cats that we can be hasn’t always understood the meaning of DEADLINE! Thank you, Mark, for your courteous and kind professionalism and dedication.



Beginning with the December issue, we will welcome our new editor, Marta Oberlin. Marta is a professional clarinetist, originally from Indiana. Before moving to the Poconos, she worked for the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, first as Marketing Assistant working on the program book and various advertising materials, then as the computer specialist. After moving to the Poconos, she worked for 6 years at Shawnee Press in sales and as Instrumental Music Editor.

Marta is not an organist, but has a breadth of understanding of musical ensembles and musicians. She plays clarinet and flute in several Pocono area ensembles and is secretary and/or president of those groups. She also maintains a teaching studio for woodwind students.

Marta will continue the newsletter format we are currently using, and will also maintain the press deadline of the third Thursday preceding the next issue.

We will be using [martasgig@gmail.com](mailto:martasgig@gmail.com) as the address to send articles.

## LVAGO Newsletter Classified Ad Info

LVAGO Executive Committee member Gary Raish will be taking the reins as coordinator of classified professional ads. He will continue using the form that is available to area churches as needed and available on our website. The executive board has set the cost for placing an ad at \$25 which will run for two months in our newsletter. Gary's email: [garyraish@hotmail.com](mailto:garyraish@hotmail.com) and phone: 570-460-3816. Stay tuned to 440A (unless you use alternate tunings) for further details.

## Upcoming Concerts

**November 10** (Sunday) 3 p.m.

**Marisa Deshler, organ**

Come and enjoy an afternoon of organ music featuring music of Bach, Bedard, and Widor.

Grace UCC Church

902 Lincoln Avenue, Northampton, PA 18067

**December 15** (Sunday) 4 p.m.

**The Princeton Singers**

the Singers return with their annual concert

**A Rose in Winter**

songs of the season to warm the heart

and ring in the joys of Christmas

St. Anne Catholic Church

450 E Washington Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18017

## Free Music for Choirs

Linda Maule invites you to come to United Fellowship Lutheran Church in Wilson Boro, 2115 Washington Blvd, Easton (across from former Easton Hospital - now St Luke's) where you will find a treasure trove of choir anthems, all voicings, in addition to many choral collections. This

mountain of music is the combined libraries of St Paul's, south side Easton, and Good Shepherd, Wilson Boro. I simply have no room for all of it and it's yours for the taking. Please call or text me to arrange a time when I can meet you at the church (484-542-6040). Thanks, looking forward to your call.

## LVAGO 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).

<i>Dale Bonenberger</i>	Mon-Fri	917 328-9041
<i>Ruthann Brandt</i>	Mon-Sat	610 262-3304
<i>Janice Butz</i>	Mon-Fri	610 882-9388
<i>Alan Birney</i>	Sun-Sat	610 653-8097
<i>Ellen Erb</i>	Mon-Sat	570 350-0343
<i>Charles Glandorf</i>	Mon-Sat	610 416-1055
<i>Eric Gombert</i>	Mon-Sat	610 435-1641
<i>Gail Hanzl</i>	Mon-Sat	610 264-5859
<i>Susan Hartney</i>	Mon-Sat	610 360-6934
<i>Michael Huffman</i>	Sun-Sat	610 794-6056
<i>Joe Kaczmarek</i>	Mon-Sat	484 433-4336
<i>Jacqueline Kuba</i>	Sun-Sat	570 386-4480
<i>Michael Kuhnert</i>	Mon-Sat	215 536-4345
<i>Cristina Dinella Makowicz</i>	Sun-Sat	585 732-8017
<i>James Matz</i>	Sun-Sat	610 367-8094
<i>Linda Maule</i>	Mon-Sat	610 258-5006
<i>Richard McIntyre</i>	Mon-Sat	908 283-4691
<i>Jeffrey Raub</i>	Saturday	484 541-8322
<i>Michael Seroka</i>	Mon-Sat	570 516-7207
<i>Barbara Thomson</i>	Sun-Mon	908 591-4499
<i>Bruce Tonkin</i>	Sun-Sat	610 220-5457
<i>Matthew Wary</i>	Mon-Sat	610 743-0921
<i>Stephen Ziminsky</i>	Mon-Fri	610 417-2669
<i>Freda Zimmerman</i>	Mon-Fri	610 381-3089

## Position Available

### Organist(1)

**Church:** Concordia Lutheran Church 2623 Brookside Road, Macungie, PA 18062

**Website:** [www.concordia-macungie.com](http://www.concordia-macungie.com)

**Contact:** Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis, 484-951-9441,

WRVinovskis@gmail.com

**Weekly services:** 2, 3 during Lent/Advent

**Ensembles:** NA

**Instruments:** 2 manual Allen

**Music budget:** \$500

**Weekly attendance:** 120

**Position fill date:** January 1, 2025

**Deadline:** Open

**Total hours per week:** 3 for service playing

**Salary:** \$9500–\$15000

**Weeks vacation:** None listed

**Benefits:** book/music allowance

**Notes:** Concordia Lutheran Church is seeking an organist for Sunday morning worship starting January, 2025. Two services per week at 8:00 & 10:45am. Wednesday evenings during Advent and Lent. Possible additional service as accompanist for choir rehearsals.



*Octibia*fest performers Diane Taitt and Bob Riday

### Newsletter Editor

Marta Oberlin, [martasgig@gmail.com](mailto:martasgig@gmail.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

(December issue) Thursday, November 21, 2024

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*Church and School Choir Director as Musical Leader and  
Effective Communicator*

***A Choral Director Workshop with Sun Min Lee***

Saturday, November 9, 2024 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Union Lutheran Church

5500 US route 873, Schnecksville, PA 18078

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

Lecture/Demonstration/Conducting Masterclass  
with Demonstration Choir



*A frequently-sought festival choral director and educator, Ms. Lee served as the Robert Cutler Endowed Professor of Practice of Choral Arts at Lehigh University for over a decade, directing Dolce, Lehigh's treble choir, the University Choir, and Choral Union in elegant major works with orchestra. A skilled and dynamic musician with a sparkling personality, she is also a life-long church choral director.*

**Sponsored by The Lehigh Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists - Free to the Public**