

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

March 2025

www.lvago.org



Chapter Officers 2024-2025

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Executive Committee

Robert Riday (2025)

Michael Fister (2025)

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

Dean's Article

Dear Colleagues,

Back in the '90's Helen and John Kemp visited Sunday worship at Trinity Lutheran, Perkasio, where I was serving as Director of Music. Imagine my surprise when they offered me the opportunity of premiering her first children's musical, "Calling All Angels." At the time I directed not one, but two children's choirs, which is exactly what Helen's not yet published musical required. Of course I said "Yes," sight unseen, and the Kemps ended up joining Trinity. Helen became my musical partner in crime for vacation bible school singing, and John joined my Senior Choir. Often after our evening rehearsal, John was huddled in the back row with the basses helping them with their part. I mean no sacrilege when I say that it was as if Jesus was walking among us. Here was a giant in church music, yet humble and unassuming. In his distinguished career as a music professor, John even served as Music Department head for several universities around the country, yet here he was singing with our church choir as "one of the guys." Sadly, John passed away from cancer less than two years later. I was one of two organists honored to play for his memorial service. The church was filled to capacity with many graduates of Westminster along with his friends and colleagues, and the singing was a thrilling foretaste of what I imagine heaven will sound like. Several of my basses came up to me afterwards, and told me they were shocked to read of his accomplishments in his obituary. They said, "If we had known how important he was, we would have been intimidated to even speak to him!" Of course that's exactly why he had never fully told them who he was. John was truly filled with the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. On February 22, 2025, we all also experienced another life rich with spiritual fruits - composer Mark Miller. What an extraordinarily talented musician with a beautiful soul. His wisdom, insight and music richly nourished us all at his choral workshop - just what we needed. May God give us each the strength to be that kind of inspiring, selfless leader, especially during these difficult times!

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING LVAGO EVENTS

March

A Celebration of Bach's Birthday
featuring guest organist
Shelly Moorman-Stahlman
Sunday, March 23, 4:00 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church
37 S. 5 th Street, Allentown

Join us to celebrate Bach's 340 th Birthday as organist Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman performs works by J. S. Bach and offers commentary on his music. Dr. Moorman-Stahlman is Professor of Music at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania, where she teaches organ, piano, class piano, and church music courses. She holds degrees of Bachelor of Music, and Master of Music from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, and the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Iowa. A frequent recitalist as both an organist and pianist, she has garnered an impressive array of competition credits and has also given many workshops and masterclasses for conventions, colleges, and churches. She has served in numerous American Guild of Organist leadership roles including the National Committee on Professional Education and has taught at numerous Pipe Organ Encounters throughout the country, including our own LVAGO POE+ in 2022.



April

No LVAGO Event

May

Organist/Clergy Dinner
Sunday, May 18, 2025
Carriage House, Hellertown

Invite your pastor to hear our guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Karyn Wiseman from United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia and to enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal. Our annual meeting and installation of officers will follow the program.

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.

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

Mark Miller Workshop Review



It was a sunny and beautiful day as some of our LVAGO members and others gathered at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown to spend time with composer Mark A. Miller. The day included an abundance of singing some of Mark's anthems and songs, hearing him play Bach on both piano and organ, and being inspired by his personal stories and commentary. After a delicious lunch, the afternoon continued as he shared more songs on the theme of justice and joy. As one of the participants commented at the end of the day, "This was the most engaging and best workshop I have ever attended!"



SATORI CONCERT

Music in Moravian America

Sunday, March 23, 2:00 p.m.

College Hill Moravian Church, 72 W. Laurel St., Bethlehem

Come enjoy the lovely sounds of Satori's Two-Part Invention (Nora Suggs, flute, and John Arnold, guitar) as they perform music from the early Moravian tradition in the New World. Playing compositions from the Moravian Music Foundation collection, this promises to be a delightful and educational afternoon.

Tickets: \$10 at the door.

Your donation will help support College Hill's Organ Renewal Project.

For further information, visit satori-chambermusic.org or collegehillmoravian.org

Positions Available

Music Director/Organist(2)

Church: Wesley United Methodist Church, 130 W. Third St., Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Website: <https://wesleybloom.com>

Contact: Rev. Mark Reisinger, 570-784-1407, mreisinger@susumc.org

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir - 20 members

Instruments: Moeller pipe, 3 manuals, @20 ranks of pipes

Music budget: \$1500

Weekly attendance: 100

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: April 1, 2025

Total hours per week: 3.6 (1 playing services, 1 leading rehearsal, 0.5 planning for rehearsals, .10 completing administrative or custodial duties, 0.5 practicing service music)

Salary: \$26000-\$28,000

Weeks vacation: 1

Benefits: Sick leave

Notes: Wesley United Methodist Church, Bloomsburg, PA, is currently welcoming applicants for Director(s) of Music Ministry. Candidates need to display a love for God and for worshiping through music. The successful candidate(s) must possess high proficiency on organ or piano, with capabilities in both strongly preferred. Additionally, the candidate we seek will have the ability to direct the adult vocal choir. Responsibilities will include planning and coordinating music choices and practices for weekly Sunday worship service(s), special events (including funerals, weddings, etc.), and special worship services throughout the year. Both traditional and contemporary praise music is encouraged! Opportunities also exist for leading small ensembles, handbell choir, children's choir, and individual performances. These responsibilities could be divided among multiple candidates depending on interest and qualifications. Pay structure will be commensurate with experience and final job scope. Please send your resume and three references to the attention of: Rev. Mark Reisinger, Wesley United Methodist Church, 130 West 3rd Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815, or e-mail at: mreisinger@susumc.org.

Director of Music/Organist(1)

Church: Augustus Lutheran Church, 717 W. Main St., Trappe, PA 19426

Website: augustustrappe.org

Contact: Pastor Warren Weleck, 610-489-9625, pastor@augustustrappe.org

Weekly services: 2

Ensembles: Adult Choir - 12 members, Adult Handbells - 11, Assisting with Sunday School Music - avg. 13

Instruments: Brick: 2008 Walker Technical Aeolia-Skinner Organ (3 manuals, approx. 90 ranks), Steinway baby grand piano; Chapel: Kawai electric piano; Old Church: 1990s Allen organ (2 manual, approx. 10-15 ranks)

Music budget: \$2350

Weekly attendance: 100

Position fill date: May

Deadline: Until position is filled

Total hours per week: 20

Salary: \$32,000

Weeks vacation: 4

Benefits: Sick leave, continuing ed

Notes: Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, PA is seeking a passionate and talented Director of Music and Organist to lead and enhance our worship music program. This position offers an opportunity to honor our strong liturgical traditions while inspiring and guiding musicians of all ages.

Newsletter Editor

Marta Oberlin, martasgig@gmail.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 20, 2025