

Lehigh Valley Chapter

# American Guild of Organists

October 2025

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



## Chapter Officers 2024-2025

Dean: Susan Frickert

484-788-9476

[sfrickert2001@yahoo.com](mailto:sfrickert2001@yahoo.com)

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

610-657-4188

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

### Executive Committee

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

Robert Riday (2028)

Michael Fister (2028)

## Notes from your Dean

Happy fall, y'all! This is my favorite time of year, and not just because I was born in September. Fall has always meant a time of new beginnings - new school year, new choir season, new sacred music to learn! As the days grow shorter and the air becomes crisper, the warmth of fellowship together is even more inviting, and our singers/ringers are eager to begin working on their Advent and Christmas music. Take advantage of the seasonal excitement and joy of your volunteers, and add some fun into your rehearsals, whether it's a new, silly warm-up, or a yummy treat afterwards. Share the reasons you chose their new music with your peeps, and encourage them to embrace the thrill of fresh challenges. Your enthusiasm is contagious and will spark the energy your choir needs to carry them through Christmas and beyond! I ask God's blessing on all of our church musicians. It certainly isn't easy to be a music leader in the church today. But never underestimate the importance of your role in furthering the Gospel through your music ministry. Are you familiar with this quote by Ruth Krehbiel Jacobs, the founder of Choristers' Guild? It's one of my all-time favorite quotes, and a poster of it hangs on my office door to remind me daily: "You don't have to do great things, but the little things you are doing in your sphere of influence can be done with great conviction, great wisdom, great beauty, and great love." And don't you deserve to have a little fun yourself, while "catching" some energy and inspiration from informal socializing with your guild colleagues?

I'm really looking forward to seeing you all at our first event this program year, "OctibiaFest," at the home of Gary Raish and Bob Riday (see the details and reservation form in the September issue.) This event was a huge hit last year, drawing a hearty crowd of our members and their guests. Come savor all kinds of delicious German food and desserts, of course some beer and wine, and a wonderful guest theater organist to entertain us. Join us as we toast, "Ein Prosit!"



## A Glimpse at Our Upcoming LVAGO Program Year

The LVAGO Chapter Board has been busy planning events for 2025-26, and here are some of the highlights and ideas for the coming season.

**OCTOBER**—Octibiafest on Friday, October 10, at the home of Bob Riday and Gary Raish in Stroudsburg, features theatre organist Ian Fraser. We had such a great time last year, that Bob and Gary are graciously opening their home to us again to enjoy good food, fellowship, and great music. Look for the details in this newsletter!

**NOVEMBER**—Favorite Anthems will be shared by our chapter members on Sunday, November 16, at 3:00 p.m., and we'll enjoy a light supper following the program. The location is at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bethlehem Township. Watch for more info in upcoming newsletters.

**DECEMBER**—No program, as we “deck the halls with music” in our own local churches.

**JANUARY**—Chapter members are encouraged to be inspired for the new year by attending the Philadelphia Chapter's annual January Jumpstart, a day filled with workshops and a featured organ clinician.

**FEBRUARY**—A workshop in observance of Black History Month.

**MARCH**—A celebration of women composers, hearing perhaps some organ works, choral anthems, or hymns composed by women.

**APRIL**—On the road for an organ crawl, possibly showcasing historic organs in our area or traveling further to Philadelphia and vicinity.

**MAY**—Our annual meeting with a banquet and young artist's recital.

### 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

(November issue) Thursday, October 16, 2025

## 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).

|                           |          |              |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------|
| 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 | Mon-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 |
| Dennis Varley             | Sun-Sat  | 610 739-3567 |
| Matthew Wary              | Mon-Sat  | 610 743-0921 |
| Stephen Ziminsky          | Mon-Fri  | 610 417-2669 |
| Freda Zimmerman           | Mon-Fri  | 610 381-3089 |

## Pocono Flute Society

Do you know a flute player who is looking for exciting new opportunities to learn and perform? The Pocono Flute Society would welcome them to join in their activities. They sponsor a flute choir which meets about twice a month on Sunday afternoons. They also host reading sessions and private lessons with a NY pro musician.

For information about the Pocono Flute Society, visit their website at [www.poconoflutesociety.org](http://www.poconoflutesociety.org), or contact Marta Oberlin: [martasgig@aol.com](mailto:martasgig@aol.com).



Your Lehigh Valley AGO Chapter  
Invites You To  
Its Second Annual

# Oc**TIBIA**fest!

Featuring Acclaimed Theatre Organist

Ian Fraser

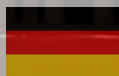
Friday, October 10, 2025  
6:00 PM

The concert and social gathering will be at the Stroudsburg home of LVAGO Chapter members Bob Riday and Gary Raish, and is open to Chapter members, spouses, partners, and friends.

A German Oktoberfest buffet will be presented, with various dishes and beverages to be provided by attendees. Food suggestions and sign up sheet TBA.

There will be no charge for this event, but please RSVP to Gary Raish by Friday, October 3. We hope to see you at the **Fest!**

Gary Raish: [garyraish@hotmail.com](mailto:garyraish@hotmail.com)  
570-460-3816





## Ian Fraser, Organ

Ian Fraser's fascination with organs started at the age of two when he heard a band organ on a local carousel in his former hometown of Staten Island, NY. His interests soon expanded into the world of mechanical music with player pianos, orchestrions, etc. When he was 16, after seeing a silent film accompanied by Bernie Anderson at Chaminade High School in Mineola, NY in 2017, he had the opportunity to sit at the console and play the theatre organ for the first time. From there, he has followed his passion to become a theatre organist.

Leveraging his ability to play by ear, Ian taught himself in just a few short years to play the theatre organ. This has been influenced by studying his favorite genres and organists. He has performed at John Dickinson High School (DE), Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall (NJ), the Loew's Jersey Theatre (NJ), United Palace (NY), the Senate Theater (MI), The Colonial Theatre (PA), The Oriental Theatre (WI), Babson College (MA), and Cleveland Grays Armory Museum (OH) among others.

In June 2025, Ian performed the world's first-ever silent film with live organ accompaniment at a drive-in movie theater with the 100th Anniversary of "The Phantom of the Opera" at The Mahoning Drive-In Theater in Lehigh, PA.

Ian is the first-place winner of the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition which was held at the 2023 Chicago Convention.

Now residing in Plainfield, NJ, Ian is the house silent film organist at the Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway, NJ and The Grand Theater in East Greenville, PA. He is the house organist at the Barrymore Film Center in Fort Lee, NJ performing pre-shows before film screenings and accompanying silent films. Ian is also the house organist at the St. George Theatre in Staten Island, NY performing pre-shows for their "Better on the Big Screen" classic movie series and "Arts-In-Education" series where he regularly plays for audiences of over 1,500 students in grades K-12 introducing the theatre organ to the next generation.

In addition to being a concert artist and a silent film accompanist, he has developed several themed live show formats blending silent shorts, historical presentation and a concert performance.

Ian's other interests are in the restoration of pipe organs and mechanical musical instruments.



## Organ/Vocal Concert at St. John's Lutheran, Stroudsburg

On Sunday, October 26, at 6:00 PM, organist/pianist Leon Reid and his wife, Genise Aria Reid, alto, will present a concert entitled "The Liturgical Year In Song". This concert is part of the "Music From the Loft" concert series at St. John's. Leon Reid is Minister of Music at Sandwich Church (Congregational), Greenwich, CT. Free will offering. Contact Gary Raish (garyraish@hotmail.com 570-460-3816) or Bob Riday (bobriday@gmail.com 570-460-3980) for information.



Sponsored by the Lancaster Chapter of the  
American Guild of Organists and hosted by  
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Lancaster

**Organ Concert with  
Vincent Dubois**  
**Organist at Notre Dame, Paris**  
**Sunday, October 26, 4:00 P.M.**  
[www.lancasterago.org](http://www.lancasterago.org)

“... Dubois set a new standard for Bach performance,  
the freedom and accuracy of his playing captivating from  
start to finish; the tempo relationships judged to  
perfection.”

***The Calgary Herald***



♪ Free Admission ♪ Offering taken

St. Anthony of Padua  
Roman Catholic Church  
501 E. Orange St.  
Lancaster, PA 17602