

PITTSBURGH PIPELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
108 North Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh PA 15213-2608 www.pitago.org

Inside this issue:

Noteworthy Events	p. 2
Dean's Notes	p. 1
Positions	p. 3
Substitutes	p. 6

The 2015 Regional Convention - A Final Accounting

By Larry Allen – Convention Director

The Pittsburgh Regional Convention this summer was a success in many ways. We received the final report from the Convention Treasurer Lewis Steele this week and we can report a final surplus of over \$26,000. This amount has been deposited with the Chapter. Based on discussion at the recent Executive Committee meeting, decisions will be made in the future about the best ways to utilize the money. Thanks to the individuals and organizations that contributed financially and otherwise to the success of this convention!

You may also look forward to seeing videos of some of the performances from the Convention used by the AGO in general. Linda Everhart, a Chapter member, and her production team have done a masterful job of recording and producing, and the post-production work is still on going. Ultimately these videos will be used by our Chapter and by National for promoting conventions and activities of the Guild. This is a unique and exciting contribution by our Chapter to the work of our organization. Bravo to Linda and all involved as well as a great contribution from the Pittsburgh Chapter to the organ world at large.



Dean's Notes

By Edward Alan Moore, DMA - Dean (dean@pitago.org)

In his January article for *The American Organist*, AGO President John Walker quoted Maestro Lorin Maazel (1930-2014).

Emotion is what it's all about. Music making without emotion and passion is nothing. I'm never looking for a perfect performance. I'm looking for an impassioned performance.

The quote is from an interview in the October 27, 2003, in *USA Today*, when Maazel was music director of the New York Philharmonic. In that interview, Maazel also says, when referring to the members of the orchestra: They're trying to do their best. Nobody's perfect.

The season of Lent is right around the corner, and we will be spending a lot of time preparing music filled with great emotion and passion, whether it is organ voluntaries, choral anthems, or other selections. Most of us work with predominantly volunteer choirs. When we walk into a rehearsal, we are not standing in front of the musicians of the New York Philharmonic or Pittsburgh Symphony, but we are standing in front of a group of people who are there by choice and want to do their best. We will work and rehearse over and over again...striving to get the notes right...the rhythms...the registrations...the intonation...the diction. We want it to be just right...perfect.

In the midst of our focusing on all the technical elements of the music and the many non-musical elements we have to deal with, it is good to remember Maestro Maazel's words, and not be too caught up in the search for 'perfection.' As we begin our Lenten journey, may all your musical offerings be inspired by and filled with emotion and passion.

See you at Guild!

And The Band Played On...In Pittsburgh!

By Regina Kettering – Chapter Member (reginakettering@yahoo.com)

The annual Association of Concert Bands convention is a national convention that will be held in Pittsburgh, March 30 – April 3, 2016. East Winds Symphonic Band is hosting the event this year, with free concerts in the evenings at Soldiers and Sailors in Oakland. Clinics held at the convention site that may be of interest include how to protect your hearing (a must for people working with large and loud instruments) and a discussion of copyright laws. Clinics are included with registration fees (at a very reasonable \$100 for members, \$140 for non-members). Registrants are able to attend all day activities. Nightly concerts at Soldiers and Sailors are free of charge and open to the general public. Donations are welcome. More information and registration can be found at acb2016.org or by emailing Dr. Regina Kettering at reginakettering@yahoo.com.



Improvising at Saint Paul's For February 22nd

By Nathan Carterette - Sub-Dean (sub-dean@pitago.org)

February's meeting will be at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Mount Lebanon. We will be visited by the wonderful Justin Bischof, Director of Music at the Church of St James the Less in New York City. He is also the Artistic Director of the Canadian Chamber Orchestra of New York and the Modus Opera Company. He will be presenting two events in conjunction with our Chapter.

On Saturday, February 20th, Justin will give a masterclass on improvisation at 9:30AM at Saint Paul's. If you are interested in improving your improvisation skills please consider signing up for this class. You can sign up by emailing me, your Sub-Dean.

On Monday, February 22nd for our Guild meeting he will present a talk and workshop on improvisation and conclude with one just for us. He will be taking themes from the audience in advance.

For the Monday meeting our caterer, Clint, has prepared a menu of salad, pork cutlets, turkey with gravy, root vegetables and crumb cake. Everything sounds amazing. See you there at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228-2061 412.531.7153.

Getting "In Shape" Musically

By Cynthia Pock – Education Director (education@pitago.org)

It's a brand-new year! And while many make resolutions to get in shape physically, it's a great time to consider getting in better shape, musically! All of us can sharpen our skills in various ways, and taking an AGO exam can assist greatly in that endeavor.

Want to play repertoire and hymns well? Transpose or improvise? Learn a little more about music history? Preparing for the Service Playing, Colleague, Associate, Fellow, and Choir Master exams is enriching, challenging, and rewarding. If several members are working for certification we'll often coordinate a study group to help everyone learn and share knowledge.

Contact me for questions at education@pitago.org or check out the American Guild of Organists website at www.agohq.org. There's a world of helpful resources available...and mastering new skills is a fabulous reward!

Noteworthy Events

Please submit new events online. Go to www.pitago.org, select "Noteworthy Events" and then select "Submit An Event".

Day	Date	Time	Event
Su	21-Feb	3:00pm	Music in a Great Space Concert Series Presents Chatham Baroque - "One of Pittsburgh's greatest treasures" (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette), Chatham Baroque's trio of baroque violin, viola da gamba, and theorbo offers audiences the opportunity to hear baroque music that is accessible and thrillingly vivid, with a freshness akin to improvisational jazz. - Reception - Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA - 15232-2116 - Tickets: \$15; Students and Seniors (60 and older): \$10 – 412.682.4300 - info@shadysidepres.org - www.shadysidepres.org
Su	21-Feb	4:00pm	Choral Concert - The Duquesne University Choirs - Dr. Caron Daley and Guy Russo, Directors - 100+ voices present Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" with organist David Billings, plus works by Handl, Gabrieli, Henderson, Clausen and Whitacre. - Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA - 15238 - Free – 412.963.8243 - billingsd@fcpc.us - www.fcpc.us
Su	21-Feb	4:00pm	Justin H. Bischof, New York City - Organist will play works of Bach, Howells and other masters. Includes his artistic specialty in organ improvisation. Justin won first prize in the 2000 American Guild of Organists National Improvisation Competition held in Seattle. - A reception will follow with opportunity to greet Justin - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Road, Mount Lebanon, PA - 15228-1119 - A donation is asked at the door – 412.855.0591 - dstarr@stpaulspgh.org - www.stpaulspgh.org
Fr	26-Feb	7:00pm	Capital University Chapel Choir - The highly-acclaimed choir will present its Spring-Tour concert at First English Lutheran Church in downtown Pittsburgh. - Light reception follows in Holy Cross Hall - First English Lutheran Church, 615 Grant Street, Pittsburgh, PA - 15219 - Free – 412.471.8125 - cantor@flcpittsburgh.org - www.flcpittsburgh.org

Su 28-Feb 4:00pm Schubert Mass In G - St. Bernard Parish Choir, Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra - The simple yet intense Shubert Mass in G provides the centerpiece for this concert featuring choir, organ and orchestra, under the direction of Warren Davidson. The program also includes Cantique de Jean Racine by Gustav Faure and other selections. –Saint Bernard Roman Catholic Church,d 311 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA - 53216 - Free; free-will offering most gratefully accepted – 412.531.7412 - cbowers2@stbpg.org - www.stbernardchurch.com

Positions *(substitutes or placement @pitago.org)*



By Nicholas Will - Coordinator 814.460.1446

Positions Open: *as of December 2015*

Only current members of the AGO may be on the substitute list.

AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship, reliability, or conduct of substitute organists. Background checks are the responsibility of the employer. Churches may contact organists directly or ask the coordinator for assistance.

Nunc Dimitis

The Chapter extends its sympathy to the friends and family of long time member Mary Osborne Weber who died on December 31st of 2015.

Guided by the Guild

By Wilberta Naden Pickett, SMM, ChM – Chapter Member

We moved to Parma Heights, Ohio, suburban Cleveland in 1960 where, with four and later a fifth child, I was on the periphery of the Cleveland Chapter. It was a hard time for me. After having established ourselves in our eight years in Richmond, IN, I suddenly felt lonely and quite tied down to the family. We sang in a good choir which helped, but in the Cleveland AGO chapter I felt lost, although I was privileged to hear Robert Shaw expound on the Cleveland Symphony Chorus's recent tour of Communist Russia to sold out crowds for Bach's B Minor Mass.

After a while I did some organ substituting at Parma South Presbyterian Church, at a Jewish Temple in Rocky River, at the Lakewood and Berea Presbyterian Churches and at a Christian Science Church. Later I took a part time organist position at the North Olmsted Universalist Church that had a lovely new contemporary building with a new nine-rank pipe organ (I don't even remember the make). Since they could not afford to pay a big name organist to dedicate it, they hired me for that task for \$35! To prepare for that I had a few organ lessons from **Warren Berryman** at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory in Berea. That and the job itself proved a great boost to my morale; my evening practices were a respite from daily chores.

Warren had another student, **Harriett Hargus**, whom I never met till we moved to Pittsburgh in 1965. Hattie, who had moved to Pittsburgh a year earlier, was still looking for a church job when we moved here. We became good friends even considered sharing a job at Elfinwild UP Church, but decided that was not a good idea if we wanted to stay friends.

During the 1963-64 year in Parma Heights, I had a call from **Peggy Black Preston**, now **Peggy Meister**. She and Ray were living in nearby Berea, alums of Westminster College where she studied organ with **Ray Ocock**, a classmate and good friend of mine at Union Seminary, who suggested she call me to help her get acclimated. We became good friends but soon missed them a year later when they left to move to Pittsburgh.

In January of 1965, John was transferred to Pittsburgh from where he commuted home on weekends till August when we moved. Another was another challenging time for me, but for John. But Peggy and Ray were very helpful, inviting him over for supper at times, and commiserating about where we should live in this town that I at first resisted: "Pittsburgh? Ugh!!" It was Peggy who landed me my first church job here, substituting for **Franklin Watkins** at Southminster Presbyterian church in Mount Lebanon. She was signed up to sub for him for four weeks, but wanting to go on vacation two of those weeks, she invited me to sub for her, the sub. I drove down alone from Cleveland for choir rehearsal on a Wednesday evening, using John's careful directions to Mount Lebanon,. On Saturday we moved into our newly built-in-five-weeks Ryan home in O'Hara Township on freshly varnished floors. Sunday morning all seven of us drove to Mount Lebanon for Mom's new job.

It wasn't long after we arrived that Peggy's parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Frank Black who lived in Mount Lebanon where her father was Parish Associate at Sunset Hills UP Church, invited us to their home for a meal, as did Deirdre and Franklin Watkins. We felt so welcome in Pittsburgh, and I soon found a church job as Organist/Director at the Ben Avon United Methodist Church, where I followed **Clara Schwartz**, (later Stoltz) another local Guild member, also a Union classmate. Life was looking up, thanks to the hospitality of Pittsburgh in general, and these special Guild friends.

Executive Committee Recap

By Jon J. Danzak– Newsletter Editor (editor@pitago.org)

The Executive Committee met this past January to discuss committee director reports, follow up on action items and set future direction. The Treasurer reported that Chapter finances are in order, including major expenses such as the Organ Artists Series (OAS) and Pipe Organ Academy (POA). Part of this included a large surplus from the summer convention, as mentioned earlier in the newsletter. The Chapter leadership is considering the best ways to restructure finances to pool and utilize all of the Chapter monies collectively as well as set a solid investment plan for future Chapter needs.

The Registrar reported that quite a few members had not yet paid dues, which was disappointing. Several committee members will be following up with individuals to encourage their renewal.

The Dean reported that the OAS was finalizing the 2016-2017 season and will be working to get the final details aligned so it can be implemented.

The Education Director will be pushing to start more certifications this year, with one ChM, one SPC and one potential AAGO certification happening in process.

There was additional discussion and resolution to promote the AGO given the upcoming Cameron Carpenter appearance with the Pittsburgh Symphony in the program. The Chapter will do some advertising to promote the organ with the symphony.

The next meeting was set for early June.

DINNER RESERVATION**Organ Improvisation – with Justin Bischof****Monday, February 22nd** 6:00pm meet and socialize, 6:30pm dinner, 7:30pm meeting, 8:00pm program**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church** • 1066 Washington Road • Pittsburgh, PA • 15228-2061 • 412.531.7153

Name _____

Guests _____

Amount enclosed (\$18 per person) _____

I have included \$_____ to underwrite a student dinner. (*\$18 underwrites one dinner*)**Reservations to:**

Ed Halo • 3574 McClure Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15212-2172 • 412.335.9695 or reservations@pitago.org

Music and Architecture Grace Greensburg

By Edgar Highberger– Chapter Member

As mentioned in the December newsletter we had a memorable performance at First Presbyterian Church in Greensburg on November 6 to hear the University of Iowa's Gregory Hand. The performance benefited the Seton Hill University AGO Chapter's grant program. Our annual recitals, performed by guest artists and by our own alums, have made it possible to give grants in excess of \$40,000, to Seton Hill organ and sacred music students for music, organ shoes, AGO membership, and for attendance at regional and national conventions.

Of course, I am a bit biased, but one of the best kept "church secrets" in Western Pennsylvania is the First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg with its modified English gothic architecture, the design of the noted "Medieval Modernist", Ralph Adams Cram. Several of the splendid stained glass windows are by the celebrated Charles Connick.

Some of the windows have been refurbished, thanks to the financial backing of Ross Perot who was married at First Presbyterian to one of the church's choir members, Margo Birmingham. The Church also has an estimable Austin organ of sixty-one ranks of pipes and seventeen ranks of digital stops by Robert Walker.

The Austin is probably one of the busiest church organs in the area as it has been used as the primary teaching, practicing, and recital instrument for many dozens of students, mostly from Seton Hill University, for the past thirty-five years--my tenure at Seton Hill University. Mission comes in many guises, and at my fiftieth year celebration as Minister of Music at First Presbyterian, I publicly thanked the congregation and ministers. Martin Ankrum, current senior pastor, has encouraged and supported this example of ecumenism and mission.

First Presbyterian's music series, now in its forty-first consecutive season, continues with the spring events which include "The Passion According To Saint Matthew" by Nancy Galbraith of Carnegie-Mellon University. It will be presented by the Westmoreland Choral Society, under the direction of Thomas Octave on Sunday, March 13 at 3 PM. The Sixth Annual International Organ Festival performed by Seton Hill students and alums presented on Friday, April 8 at 7:30 PM. Two Seton Hill senior students, Michelle Kardos and Evan Bellas who will perform in recital on Sunday, March 20 at 4 PM and Friday, April 15 at 7:30 PM respectively.

Pittsburgh AGO Chapter members and friends are warmly invited to attend the above events, or just stop by and take a tour of one of the architectural gems in our little city.

AGO Directory Updates

Dr. George Knight
302 Fox Chapel Road, Apt. 604
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-2338

Nancy J. Vaughan
Apartment #535
1050 McNeilly Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15226-2558
Home: 412.668.3393

Copyright© 2016, Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, all rights reserved.

For a current listing of officers, committee directors and organists available for substitute service see the web site www.pitago.org or call the Editor at 412.241.2345 if you cannot access the web. Please contact the Chapter Registrar to update your address or change to/from electronic distribution of Pipelines.



American Guild of Organists Pittsburgh Chapter
 Saint Paul Cathedral
 108 North Dithridge Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2608

www.pitago.org

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Pittsburgh, PA
 Permit No. 1707

Return Service Requested

Organ Improvisation- February 22nd – master class with Justin Bischof, at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

Address label

**Substitute Organists available for
 SUNDAY MORNING services**

**Substitute Organists NOT available for
 SUNDAY MORNING services**

Name	Phone	Zipcode	Services	Name	Phone	Zipcode	Services
Bedford, Clark	412.364.4756	15237	WFES	Aikins,Candace	724.568.2640	15690	WF
Cafaro, Ross	412.885.1625	15236	WFESL	Bruhn, Lynn	724.733.8111	15632	WFE
DuBois, Jr., Ronald	740.282.6671	43952	WFES	Carterette, Nathan	203.668.4370	15201	WFES
Earnest, Dr. Wayne N.	724.206.8854	15301	WFESLN	Daugherty, Jamie	412.292.1970	15056	WFES
Janko, Ray	724.325.7449	15668	WFES	Daniels, J. R.	412.389.6658	15212	WF
Justham, Mary Ann	724.335.7792	15068	WFES	English, Daniel	412.889.2681	15209	WFESL
Hill, Thomas	512.421.1484	15217	WFES	Gordon, Jacob	412.243.4483	15221	WFES
Kohl, George	412.523.7765	15207	WFES	Lipisardi, Emily	304.216.0302	15401	WFES
Lindsey, III, C. Dennis	918.409.6467	15224	WFES	Miller, Jane	412.526.6618	15139	WF
Mislin, David W.	617.223.1270	15206	WFES	Pinkerton, Richard	412.561.2015	15243	WFE
Piszcsek, Greg	610.406.3577	15213	WFE	Reiland, Michael	412.882.5521	15227	WFE
Rasely, Don	724.487.7303	15226	WFES (Day)	Spencer, George	412.731.3324	15147	WFE
	724.283.4829		WFES (Eve.)	Strobel, Joyce Moon	412.366.0074	15237	WFES
Roederer, Charlotte	412.780.7445	15213	EFS	Schulz, Ronald	412.512.4987	15226	WFES
Rollet, Tony	412.726.8569	15217	WFES	Wallace, Justin	412.531.0525	15216	WFES
Rubright, Sandy S.	724.994.8872	15668	WFE				
Szeremany, Richard	412.327.6254	15146	WFES				
Vanderlaan, Brett A.	301.919.1835	15419	WFES				
Wannamaker, CAGO, Keith	650.210.6574	15101	ES				

Services: W-Weddings, F-Funerals, E-Eveinings, S-Saturdays, L-Liturgical Only, N-Non-Liturgical, *-New addition to list