



PIPELINES

Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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DEAN'S NOTES

by Douglas Starr, Dean (dean@pitago.org)

Dear Colleagues:

Please accept my best wishes for your presentations of music for Advent, Christmas and the New Year. This may be our busiest time and when completed we are tempted to hibernate like Punxsutawney Phil. Yet, thanks to Linda Everhart and so many of our Chapter colleagues, we have begun plans for the AGO 2019 Endowment Fund Distinguished Artists Gala featuring our good friend, John Walker. I will join with our former



Deans in writing personal notes to Chapter members encouraging participation in all Gala festivities. Articles are being prepared by Linda, Ann Labounsky and Russell Weismann for publication in The American Organist and across several issues of our Chapter Pipelines. I would like to see everyone attend this wonderful Gala that includes his Organ Artist recital on Friday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. Following the recital we will have the opportunity to greet John and celebrate his achievements at a Gala ticketed reception at the elegant Mansions on Fifth. I invite us to defer the spending of a wedding stipend and give it to a colleague so that they can attend attend the Gala reception. Please join me in this promise. All proceeds from the reception benefit the Endowment Fund of the American Guild of Organists, which was established in 1994 to provide income to educate new organists and cultivate new audiences.

A LUNCH INTERVIEW WITH OLIVIER LATRY

by Benjamin Cornelius-Bates

There is an adage that goes something like, "You will never know until you ask!" I am not sure who that can be attributed to, but it is something that has played a large role in my life. In particular and quite recently (October 18th around lunch time), I sat down with Olivier Latry and was able to ask him a series of questions regarding a work that he premiered. As said above, it seems a miracle that this happened, but it was a simple matter of asking.



For some context, I am currently (depending on my status at the time of this publication) finishing my dissertation at West Virginia University which focuses on an analysis of the work *Maan Varjot* by the Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho for orchestra and organ. The work, written in 2013, was premiered in several locations across the globe with Olivier Latry as the organist. I felt it necessary as the researcher to reach out to him to ask questions about the works design and performability. Often, when a composer that is less familiar with the organ write a work that includes the organ, there is a dialogue between the composer and the organist. Ms. Saariaho played the organ as teenager and has some familiarity with the instrument. She is also the kind of composer who wants to the organ part to have a "strong identity" while being flexible enough to work in multiple venues. Working with a master like Mr. Latry in this regard would make for a great collaboration.

By all measures, the collaboration was certainly great! I find Saariaho's works modern, but not unaccessible and *Maan Varjot* is no exception. The second movement in particular is very moving. Having the chance to discuss this work with Olivier Latry was really illuminating. His insights into music are so profound. He was very gracious answering my numerous questions about the work as well as filling in information without being prompted. Our original plan was to meet for about a half hour and our lunch date easily went past an hour. It will forever humble me how gracious a person he is no matter his caliber as a performer.

Hopefully, when all my research and writing is complete, I will be able to make a presentation to our chapter. The second movement mentioned prior, has been arranged for much smaller forces than full orchestra and organ. That arrangement has not been published yet and I am hoping that I will be able to use it as a part of future presentation to my research. Special thanks goes to Michelle Kardos for being my travel companion: the three of us are pictured! Please feel free to contact me with any questions at: drericfritz@gmail.com.

JOSEPH HARVEY: ADDENDUM

By James M Stark

Back in the 1980's, when Victor Zuck restored the organ in Old St. Luke's which has been attributed to Harvey, he made up a very charming, but completely unsupportable story about its origin which has become urban legion. Prior to the 2010 OHS convention we tried to determine the builder of the Old St. Luke's organ but came up short. Recently I found a new source of information so I may have another try. This is the oldest playable organ in Western PA and I think it should have an Organ Historical Society Historic Organ Citation, but a documented provenance would be necessary.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

MEMBER CHANGES

Ankney, Mr. Alan D.

610 2nd Street

Pitcairn, PA 15140-1516

Home: 412-856-8035

Cell: 412-965-6897

Center Ave. United Methodist Church

Highland Ave. United Methodist Church

McGinnis Presbyterian Church

United Church of Christ

Email: Aaredhead56@verizon.net

Barbara McKelway

412-366-2975

mckbj5@aol.com

Please complete the survey below if you have not already done so. Make your voice heard. The Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is evaluating our use resources in distributing the newsletter. We are looking into the potential cost savings of going mostly electronic, which may reduce our printing and mailing costs. Electronic newsletters also allow more content flexibility, including more images. Please help us by letting us know how you currently read the newsletter. Contact information is required in order to ensure active member contributions. Votes can be sent to the editor at 1115 Beaver Rd, Sewickley, PA 15143-2003 until Dec 31st, 2018.

Email address (if applicable): _____

Name (will be separated from answers): _____

How do you usually read the newsletter?

Print

Electronically

Both

I do not read the newsletter

What is your preferred way of receiving the newsletter?

Print only

Electronic only

Both

If you prefer to read a printed copy of the newsletter, do you have the ability to download and print the emailed version?

Yes

No

MY MUSICAL BEGINNINGS

by Wilberta Pickett

I was born into a family which loved music. Our family holiday meals with large family gatherings often included everybody singing together around the piano - sentimental ballads, hymns and Gay Nineties songs. My uncle played banjo and my great uncle the fiddle, for whom I learned how to chord to accompany them.

As a child I lived in St. Anne, IL where the excellent public school music teachers in the area were graduates of Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Music in Bloomington, IL. My first piano teacher, **Peggy Cummins**, came from there in 1932 when I was four years old. She asked my mother if she could teach me. I think she picked up my joyful response to the rehearsals in our home of the male quartet in which my father and her husband, the new band director in town, sang.

Mrs. Cummins came to our house for my 50-cent lessons, playing musical games, teaching me to read music and play the piano. I remember playing and singing "Ring Around a-Rosie, pocket full of posies....." How much fun it was and how softly and gently she laughed with me as we tumbled onto the floor together.

I remember my first finger exercises - resting my forearm on the closed keyboard and raising my fingers up and down, one at a time, reciting rhythmically, "This little chick pecks a grain of corn, pecks and pecks from early morn." (Early rap?) I had a Matthews First Piano Book, supplemented with easy pieces from the Etude magazine. One I still remember is, "The moo cow moo, gives milk to me; I don't drink coffee and I don't drink tea; for milk is better for children like me. Moo, cow, moo."

My mother used to laugh at me because as a child I smelled everything - new shoes, newly sharpened pencils, new fabric for homemade dresses, new story books. I remember how good Mrs. Cummins smelled when she came to my lessons. For years I wondered just what it was until a few years ago I noticed that a friend was wearing a fragrance that said, "dear Mrs. Cummins" to me. I asked her, "What are you wearing that smells so good?" It was Avon hand cream.

We moved away when I was nine. I only saw Mrs. Cummins a few times after that when I returned to Illinois Wesleyan for class reunions and arranged to see her on the way.

The last time I saw her was when she was in a Nursing Home, quite frail. Beyond her frailty though, I could see the sweet, loving, very pretty young piano teacher who played with me and smelled so good. I owed her so much in getting me started down the road to my life in music. I truly loved her.

Being born into a family who made music part of our everyday life, and who pinched pennies so I could "take piano" from their friend gave me a head start in my musical beginnings. How blessed I was to have been encouraged by my family and by my very first wonderful piano teacher.

Date	Event
<p>1 Dec 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Sounds of the Season - The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale's Sounds of the Season concert features traditional favorites, sing-alongs and timeless classics that are sure to put you in the holiday spirit. This concert is always a great family-friendly event for all ages. We hope you will make it your new holiday tradition! Cookie reception following the performance. Adults \$20 (\$23 door) Students (12+) \$8.00 Children under 12 FREE. Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412.635.7654 www.pccsing.org office@pccsing.org</p>
<p>2 Dec 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Choral Evensong - The Choir of First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh will present a service of Choral Evensong for the Advent season. This service is the fourth event of our concert series "Pipes and Keys," which celebrates the 30th anniversary of our Casavant organ and the 40th anniversary of our Steinway piano. Service music will include works by Shepard, Stanford, Manz, and Poston. <i>First Presbyterian Church, 320 6th Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222</i> 412.206.9103 www.fpcp.org rcroyle@fpcp.org</p>
<p>2 Dec 4:00 PM</p>	<p>Sounds of the Season - The holiday season is the perfect time to bring family and friends together. The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale's Sounds of the Season concert features traditional favorites, sing-alongs and timeless classics that are sure to put you in the holiday spirit. A great family-friendly event for all ages. We hope you will make it your new holiday tradition! Cookie reception following the performance. Adults \$20 (\$23 door) Students (12+) \$8.00 Children under 12 FREE. <i>Ingomar United Methodist Church, 1501 W Ingomar Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237</i> 412.635.7654 www.pccsing.org office@pccsing.org</p>
<p>8 Dec 8:00 PM</p>	<p>Pitt Women's Choral Ensemble Holiday Concert - Annual December concert by the University of Pittsburgh's Women's Choral Ensemble, under the direction of Lorraine Milovac. <i>Heinz Chapel, Fifth Ave at Bellefield, Pittsburgh, PA 15213</i> 412.624.4157</p>
<p>9 Dec 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Lessons and Carols - Shadyside Presbyterian Church invites you to a Service of Lessons and Carols. Based on the service begun at King's College, Cambridge, in 1918, the Service of Lessons and Carols tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of a Messiah, and the birth of Jesus through a series of Scripture readings, carols, hymns, and choral anthems. Arrive early to enjoy warm beverages and desserts in the Sharp Atrium. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>9 Dec 4:00 PM</p>	<p>Victorian Vespers for Advent - Choral and organ music for Vespers, drawn from First Lutheran Church's Victorian heritage. Justin Weilnau, organ, Sr. Cynthia Pock, director. <i>First English Lutheran Church 615 Grant Street 15219, downtown Pittsburgh.</i> 412-471-8125.</p>
<p>15 Dec 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Christmas with the Shadyside Brass - A five-piece group, Shadyside Brass is Heinz Chapel's resident brass ensemble. <i>Heinz Chapel (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>16 Dec 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Among Angels: Pittsburgh Camerata Concert - This seasonal concert centers on the work "Among Angels," by British composer Will Todd, for two harps and a cappella double choir. The Pittsburgh Camerata also will sing choral music from the 16th to the 21st centuries evoking images of angels. The Fox Chapel High School Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Ben Murray, will join the Camerata to transport audiences to the realms of glory with angelic music for this heavenly concert. Tickets may be purchased online at www.pittsburghcamerata.org or at the door. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>16 Dec 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Christmas Concert by the Pittsburgh Flute Club - In existence since 2001, this flute ensemble, under the direction of Wendy Kumer, will present a concert of Yuletide favorites. <i>Heinz Chapel (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>16 Dec 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Pittsburgh Youth Chamber Connection - For their winter concert, the Pittsburgh Youth Chamber Connection will perform the final concert in our series "Pipes and Keys" which celebrates the 30th anniversary of our Casavant organ and the 40th anniversary of our Steinway piano. Freewill offering. Light refreshments after the concert. <i>First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>23 Dec 4:00 PM</p>	<p>German Christmas Service - Carols, handbell, organ and choral music in the German tradition. <i>First English Lutheran Church (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>Wed in Dec 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Advent Vespers Candelight Communion - Join us at Shadyside Presbyterian Church for vespers on Wednesdays in Advent at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. These 45-minute candlelight Communion services include the Lord's Supper, reflections from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary professors, and music offered by the Shadyside Strings, Chatham Baroque, and the Pittsburgh Girls Choir. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232</i> 412.682.4300 www.shadysidepres.org info@shadysidepres.org</p>

Substitute Organists Available for Sunday Mornings

BOHONOK, OREST	412.886.3291	WFES
BROWN, JUDITH	240.522.5070	WFES
CAFARO, ROSS	412.885.1625	WFES
EARNEST, Dr. WAYNE N.	724.206.8854	WFESLN
JANKO, RAY	724.325.7449	WFES
JUSTHAM, MARY ANN	724.335.7792	WFES
HILL, THOMAS	512.421.1484	WFES
KOHL, GEORGE	412.523.7765	WFES
KRANTZ, DOUGLAS	724.554.3314	WFS
LA RUE, ELIZABETH SPC	412.999.4812	WFES
LINDSEY, III, C. DENNIS	918.409.6467	WFES
MISLIN, DAVID W.	617.223.1270	WFES
RASLEY, DON	724.487.7303(D) 724.283.4829(E)	WFES
RIZZO, ELMIRA, CAGO	724.612.2029	WFES
ROEDERER, CHARLOTTE	412.780.7445	EFS
ROLLET, TONY	412.726.8569	ES
RUBRIGHT, SANDY S.	724.994.8872	WFE
SCHALL, STEPHEN	412.215.2971	WFE
STIPCAK, VALERIE	724.388.1038	WFES
SZEREMANY, RICHARD, AAGO	412.327.6254	WFES
VANDERLAAN, BRET A., SPC	301.919.1835	WFES

Substitute Organists NOT Available for Sunday Mornings

AIKINS, CANDICE	724.568.2640	WF
BRUHN, LYNN	724.733.8111	WFE
COCHRAN, NICOLE	724.799.1373	WFES
DANIELS, J.R.	412.389.6658	WF
HAMMER, MICHAEL	217.766.4230	WFES
HENRI, LAURA	412.418.7392	WFESL
KARDOS, MICHELLE	724.757.0972	WFELSN
KETTERING, REGINA	412.477.5547	WFES
MASTERS, SARA	412.266.5821	WFES
MCGRATH, ROSE	937.719.2391	WF
MILLER, JANE	412.526.6618	WF
PINKERTON, RICHARD	412.561.2015	WFE
REILAND, MICHAEL	412.882.5521	WFE
SPENCER, GEORGE	412.731.3324	WFE
STROBEL, JOYCE MOON	412.366.0074	WFES
TYILLIAN, JON	724.456.5135	WFES
WALLACE, JUSTIN	412.531.0525	WFES

Services: W☐Weddings, F☐Funerals, E☐Evenings, S☐ Saturdays, L☐Liturgical Only, N☐Non☐Liturgical

It is the policy of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists that only current members in good standing may list their names on the Substitutes List. Employers may contact organists directly or ask the coordinator for assistance. The AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship, reliability, or conduct of substitute organists, and background checks are the responsibility of the employer. Persons listed as available substitutes may be required by employers to present clearances; e.g. Child Abuse History Clearance; Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Checks for Employment; and/or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Fingerprinting.