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DEAN'S NOTES

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

Dear Colleagues,

What is the face of the Pittsburgh Chapter of American Guild of Organists? It certainly should be a mirrored image of dear Nancy

Vaughn that you see here in the Dean's message.

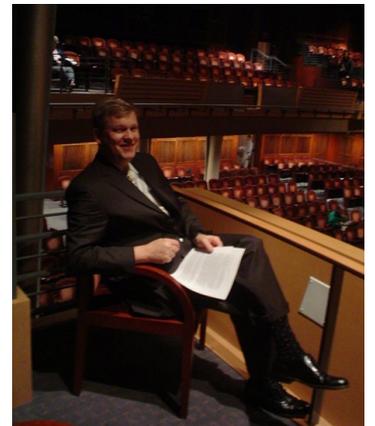
Even though we lost Nancy on February 28, her warmth and welcoming gives us special pride in our chapter's



membership. Memories of

Nancy's kindness, and like so many of you, encourage our participation, rejoice in our achievements and comfort us in our

difficulties. Congratulations to our newly elected officers who carry on this caring ethos and I look forward to seeing you on April 26 at Shadyside Presbyterian for the AGO Gala celebrating our friend, John Walker.



JOHN WALKER – MR. AGO

by Barbara McKelway

Considering all that John Walker has done with and for the AGO during his life we could, with justification, name him Mr. AGO. Joining the Youngstown Chapter in 1960 while still a high school student and then joining the Chicago Chapter while a young graduate student and being a member of the Executive Board was the beginning of a life dedicated to music and also to the organization that feeds and nurtures us. He was a member of the San Jose Chapter from 1969-1979 while studying for his DMA at Stanford, and Dean from 1974-1976. When he went to New York he was a member of that chapter from 1979-1992, also serving a term on the Executive Board and was Dean from 1990-1992. He was a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter from 1992-2004 and was Convention Coordinator for the 1999 Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention. From Pittsburgh he went to Baltimore, joining that chapter in 2004 and was Convention Coordinator for the 2007 Regional Convention. But that's not all!

In 1986 while in New York he was named Chair of the Task Force on the New Organist. The best known outcome of this task force was the establishment of the now celebrated and influential Pipe Organ Encounters. He held 3 national offices: two terms as National Treasurer from 1986-1990, 3 terms as National Vice President from 2008-2014 and 1 term as National President, 2014-2016.

As National Vice-President he oversaw the development of the Guild's Long Range Planning Study which resulted in the consolidation of regions from 9 to 7 and the reorganization of the National Council from 17 to 7 members. As National President, responding to the need to keep young organists involved in the organization, he organized the Task Force for Young Members, which produced the plans for AGOYO (AGO Young Organists), which now has 7 virtual chapters.

No wonder he will be the recipient of the AGO Distinguished Artist Award with a recital Friday, April 26 at 7:30 P.M. at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. How fitting that a gala reception at the Mansions on Fifth will cap off the evening!

APRIL MEETING – JOHN WALKER OAS CONCERT

by Chaz Bowers, Sub-Dean (sub-dean@pitago.org)

**John Walker OAS Concert
Fri Apr 26, 2019 7:30pm
Shadyside Presbyterian Church
5121 Westminster Place
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15241**

I hope that each of you will join us for the John Walker OAS Concert and Gala Reception on Friday, April 26. Kindly remember that the recital is free and is in lieu of our normal monthly meeting. Also, it is important to note that part of the Gala Reception fee is tax deductible!

Our program year will conclude in May with a bus trip to Greensburg. With just over 14,000 residents, Greensburg is home to a number of stunning churches and beautiful instruments. The plan is to leave Pittsburgh around 2:00 P.M. and to travel to six or seven churches and hear a short 20-25 minute program in each. A full itinerary and reservation information will be included in next month's newsletter. I do hope that you will join us for this fantastic event as we close the 2018-2019 program year.

This has been a wonderful program year. We shared in many special presentations together. I hope that you enjoyed them. I would like to again extend my sincerest thanks to last year's program committee. I look forward to working with the new program committee as we prepare for next year.

As you make your final preparations for Holy Week and Easter, I wish each and every one of you a blessed Easter.

Sincerely,

Chaz Bowers

NANCY VAUGHAN OBITUARY

Nancy Vaughan, age 92 of Mt Lebanon, passed on Thursday, February 28, 2019. Beloved wife of 68 years to Trevor William Vaughan Jr; daughter of the late Lloyd Graham and Clara (Sparks) Sigafuo; loving mother of Nonie (Robert) Knaus, Trevor W. (Ginger) Vaughan III and Mark Vaughan; dear grandmother of Trevor W. (Steph) Vaughan IV and Mari (Frank) Park; great grandmother of Jeremiah and Jac Park. Nancyjane was a graduate of Carnegie Tech with a BA in music and voice and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a Master in Education. She loved music and was organist and choir director for various Pittsburgh churches. She was a member of the Eastern Star, Red Hat Society, Sweet Adelines, the American Guild of Organists and the Royal Society of Scottish Country Dancers. Nancyjane was known for her stylish dress fashion complete with a fashionable hat. She was a friend to all she met and walked away having known a little about each person she had the privilege to meet. She will be missed by all her friends and family. In lieu of flowers, donations suggested to the Tov Church, 1597 Washington Pike, Suite A38 #129, Bridgeville, PA, 15017.

ORGANS FOR USE WITH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - 1

By James M. Stark

Calvin Hampton was born in Kittanning, raised in Revenna, OH, graduated from Oberlin College and Syracuse University, made his career as an organist and composer in New York City, and died entirely too young. However, he left behind an interesting body of work including a February 1982 article in *The Diapason* with the above title.

There is a substantial body of romantic, post-romantic and contemporary music which is scored for organ and orchestra and which requires considerable resources on the part of the organ. Hampton cited such composers as Berlioz, Holst, Saint-Saëns, Khatchaturian, Poulenc, Copland, Barber, Respighi, Strauss, Elgar, Hindemith and Britten, to whom we could now add Hakim, Paulus, Harbison and Muhly, whose organ concerto was premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and will be played again in Philadelphia this March.

After analyzing works by a large number of composers, Hampton concluded that there were four basic uses for the organ: accompanimental, where the organ basically chords along with an orchestral solo; augmentative, where the organ is used for additional weight and color; antiphonal solo, where the organ and orchestra play tag; and, ensemble solo, where the organ is to be heard above the, sometimes full, orchestra. He concluded that most modern concert hall organs of his time were pretty good at the first and third but not the second and fourth. He cited the example of the second movement of the Respighi *Pines of Rome* where the organ pedal is expected to hold its own against full orchestra bass, trombones and tuba, marked triple forte. In his experience he felt that only the organs in Royal Albert Hall in London, Woolsey Hall at Yale and St. Cecilia Academy in Rome could do this. As it happens, the first two have large scale 32 foot open wood diapasons in the Pedal which, of course, were more common in late 19th and early 20th century organ-building. He also makes the additional point that the 4' and 2' stops should be "particularly powerful since Conductors generally do not like mixtures" where the fifths often sound out of tune with the orchestra.

His conclusion was that the organ need not be large but should be of larger scale and on higher wind pressure than was generally the custom in post WWII organ-building. It needed to have a Swell for "quiet passages and accompanimental purposes", a Great Division as a "solid backbone", an enclosed Solo Division, and "an heroic Pedal". He laid out a 65 rank example stop list, which surprisingly had 18 ranks of mixtures, but was also on anywhere from 4" to 10" wind pressure. It looked very much like a 1920s E. M Skinner. Maybe that explains why the Skinner/Schantz in Severance Hall, Cleveland, works so well.

(To be continued in the May issue.)

Date	Event
<p>7 Apr 3:00 PM</p>	<p>47 Strings X 2 - Gretchen Van Hoesen & Natalie Severson, The Pittsburgh Harp Duo, will present some never-before-heard arrangements and transcriptions, including works by Hahn, Izmaylov, Shocker, Dussek and Guastavino in a 50-minute program for your listening pleasure. A 2:30pm Pre-concert will feature the Flute Studio of Deb Silverstein. ALL proceeds from the free-will will benefit Christopher's Kitchen, a non-profit which provides food and drink to families caring for admitted children at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Reception of cookies and punch will immediately follow the concert. <i>St. James Church, 200 Walnut Street, Sewickley, PA 15143</i> 412.741.6650 s.schaefer@comcast.net</p>
<p>7 Apr 4:00 PM</p>	<p>36th Annual Sponsorship Concert - Fox Chapel Festival Chorus and Soloists; Academy Chamber Orchestra; Guy Russo, conductor; David Billings, organist. Mendelssohn's Psalm 42; Haydn's Organ Concerto in C, Hob. XVIII, No. 5; Mozart's Requiem. Reception. Free Admission. <i>Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh</i> 412.963.8243, x29</p>
<p>7 Apr 5:00 PM</p>	<p>Pitt Women's Choral Ensemble Spring Concert - The Pitt women will be singing a wide range of selections, as well as sending off the graduating seniors. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel, 326 S Bellefield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213</i> lmilovac@verizon.net</p>
<p>13 Apr 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Handel's Messiah - Under the direction of Artistic Director Mark A. Anderson, the Pittsburgh Camerata is joined by Chatham Baroque playing period instruments to present Handel's Messiah in its entirety. The concert will last about two hours, with two intermissions. General admission tickets: \$25 in advance online, or \$30 at the door. Full-time students \$5 each. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232</i> 412.682.4300 www.shadysidepres.org info@shadysidepres.org</p>
<p>14 Apr 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Heinz Chapel Choir Spring Concert - The Choir celebrates its 80th Anniversary with the premiere performance of a work commissioned to honor the legacy of late Director John Goldsmith. Composer Bob Chilcott's work features a setting of Charles Bennett's poem "When Spring Comes Walking" intertwined with a verse of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address above)</i> Susan.rice@pitt.edu</p>
<p>19 Apr 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Bach Cello Suites I, II and III - In his final Pittsburgh appearance, Eric Cyphers performs J. S. Bach's Six Suites for Unaccompanied Cello in this two-part concert series. Over his career, this accomplished cellist has worked with such well-known figures as Yo-Yo Ma and Marin Alsop. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address above)</i> 412.624.4157</p>
<p>27 Apr 1:00 PM</p>	<p>An Afternoon of Hope: An Organ Recital for the Wilkinsburg Community - For many years, St. James Roman Catholic Church in Wilkinsburg was a frequent stop on the circuit of Pittsburgh organ recitals. However, the condition of its Moller Opus 9628 (3/54) has deteriorated significantly: several ranks are unplayable and the pneumatic combination action is inoperable. This benefit recital by local organist Michael R. Kearney will demonstrate the impressive extent of the organ's remaining tonal capabilities and kick off a campaign to revitalize this beautiful instrument in the heart of Wilkinsburg. Free will offering for the organ fund. <i>St. James Roman Catholic Church, 718 Franklin Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221</i> 631.504.1274 mrkearney@optonline.net</p>
<p>28 Apr 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Ring Pittsburgh! - Ring Pittsburgh is an auditioned community of musicians who express their musical talent through the art of handbell ringing. Founded and directed by Jim Rossetti, they will perform an enjoyable and masterful 50-minutes of music. A 2:30 Pre-concert will feature the students of Kerry Monahan Piano Studio. A free-will offering will be accepted. Desserts and punch will be served in the Gathering Space immediately following the performance. <i>St. James Church, 200 Walnut Street, Sewickley, PA 15143</i> 412.741.6650 Sharron Schaefer s.schaefer@comcast.net</p>
<p>28 Apr 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Buck McDaniel, organist, and Matthew Jones, tenor - Frequent collaborators and active champions of new music, McDaniel and Jones will perform excerpts from Philip Glass's trilogy of operas: Einstein on the Beach, Satyagraha, and Ahkaten. Additionally, the program includes works by Arvo Pärt, Nico Muhly, David Lang, and a new work by McDaniel. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>29 Apr 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Heinz Chapel Choir "Farewell" concert - This concert marks the end of the University of Pittsburgh's 2018-2019 academic year for the choir. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address above)</i> Susan.rice@pitt.edu</p>