



# PIPELINES

Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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**Contact the Editor: Regina**

**Kettering**

[editor@pitago.org](mailto:editor@pitago.org)

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## DEAN'S NOTES

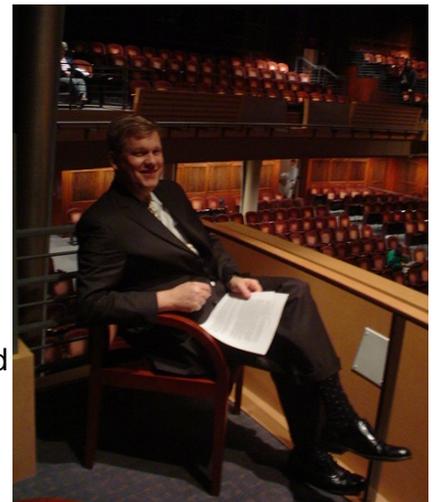
by Douglas Starr, Dean ([dean@pitago.org](mailto:dean@pitago.org))

Dear colleagues:

Thank you for your confidence in electing me chapter dean two year ago. It has been a delight to work with you on projects and get to better know you. Chaz Bowers and all our continuing and newly elected officers will take us to the next level. I remain at your disposal. If I can do anything for you personally or this chapter, just ask.

All my best wishes and with my deep appreciation, I am,

Sincerely, Doug Starr



## MUSICAL BEGINNINGS

By Wilberta Naden Pickett

My life in music, as I recounted in my first installment in The November 2018 Pipelines, was nurtured early on by my first piano teacher in St. Anne, IL, my beloved **Mrs. Cummins**, a new 1932 Illinois Wesleyan graduate. Later on there were other Wesleyan graduates and professors who also had a large impact on my path to a life in music.

When I was nine my family moved to Grant Park, IL, where again my public school music teacher was Wesleyan grad, **Mary Allison Seaman**, who took a great interest in me, giving me biographies of great musicians to read, music projects like orchestration lessons, violin lessons, and even her own beginning violin. She invited me to spend a weekend with her, taking me for a long musical treat day in Chicago, visiting the Lyon & Healy Harp Company and a violin maker. We dined at the Palmer House, where I first tasted lamb and whose strawberry short cake was not at all like my mother's sweet biscuit shortbread lathered in crushed, sweetened strawberries. This famous restaurant had the nerve to call strawberry shortcake a concoction of yellow cake with white icing, topped with one strawberry! Then she took me to hear the Chicago Symphony Orchestra—my first time to hear any symphony. What a thrill!

When I graduated from high school in Elwood, Indiana in 1946, of course I would continue music studies - but where? In those days students didn't visit multiple campuses, we just decided where we wanted to study and then applied. My choice was either Indiana University's "world's largest music school" which would be affordable for an in-state student, or Illinois Wesleyan, a smaller more intimate school whose excellence I had profited from, but too expensive. Then I learned about Methodist scholarships and applied. Miracle of miracles, I was awarded one. This covered full Music School tuition of \$400 every year for four years. I was very grateful to the Methodist Church for that gift making my college education possible.

I had several jobs that helped pay for room and board: I accompanied in the Music School (35 cents/hour), I baby sat for faculty, and cleaned and cooked for various faculty and towns' folk. When I was a junior, my roommate and I had a hot plate in our room and used the window sill as a frig for our milk and juice. We cooked our own dinner every evening, and on Wednesdays invited friends to eat with us, asking them to bring our only once a week dessert.

When I entered Illinois Wesleyan's music school I registered as a piano performance major and considered being a professional accompanist. However, the director of the School of Music insisted that all women music students should prepare for music education to guarantee a job. So I obediently took education courses, yet at the same time I took courses that might help prepare me for a possible career in Music Therapy. I soon dropped that option after spending six weeks one summer with an AFS team from Wesleyan who worked at the State School and Colony for Feeble Minded at Lincoln, IL I was not emotionally mature enough to deal with people in that environment.

When I graduated, Illinois Wesleyan offered me a full scholarship to pursue a Master's degree in piano performance, but I turned it down because my organ teacher, **Lillian Mecherle McCord**, and **Lloyd Pfautsch**, professor of voice and director of the University Choir and the Collegiate Choir, both graduates of the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary, urged me to get my Master's of Sacred Music degree there. I demurred knowing I couldn't afford it. When they said I should at least apply, I told Mrs. McCord I didn't even have enough money for the application fee (\$15), let alone the tuition and room and board. Immediately she said, "I'll pay your application fee. Besides there will be good financial aid at Union and you'll get a student church job."

I applied, was accepted, and was soon advised that the dorms were all filled. My Wesleyan voice teacher, a graduate of Teachers College at Columbia University, gave me the name of the manager of an apartment building on nearby Riverside Drive where she had lived. I landed the "maid's room with private bath" (very small) in a former elegant large apartment for \$6 a week. Second semester I moved into a Union dorm.

A year later, when I was married in between my two years of graduate school and in between John's two years in the US Army serving at Ft. Lee, Virginia, Mrs. McCord played for our wedding, and Lloyd Pfautsch sang, driving together almost two hundred miles from Bloomington to my home church, First Methodist in Elwood, IN, a final musical gift from years of Wesleyanites who encouraged and supported me.

## EVENTS

Date	Event
2 June 1:00 PM	<b>Jacob Minns - Organ Recital</b> - Before heading off to begin undergraduate studies in organ, Jacob Minns of Indiana (state) is completing a tour of organ concerts around the country. Following the Sunday morning service at First Presbyterian, Mr. Minns will play a varied program on the Casavant Organ at 1pm. Light refreshments will be enjoyed before the concert in the Chapel. <i>First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, 320 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412-206-9103 <a href="mailto:rcroyle@fpcp.org">rcroyle@fpcp.org</a></i>
2 June 3:30 PM	<b>Organ Concert by Ken Danchik</b> - concert by Ken Danchik <i>St. Paul Cathedral, 108 N. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-621-6082 <a href="http://stpaulpgh.org/">http://stpaulpgh.org/</a> <a href="mailto:donaiddfellows@verizon.net">donaiddfellows@verizon.net</a></i>
5 June 7:00 PM	<b>Britain &amp; Beyond: Folksongs of the British Isles</b> - Music in a Great Space, the concert series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, welcomes the Pittsburgh Camerata, presenting the program "Britain and Beyond: Folksongs of the British Isles." Join us as the Pittsburgh Camerata welcomes summer with a delightful program of music old and new from the British Isles. Tickets may be purchased online at <a href="http://www.pittsburghcamerata.org">www.pittsburghcamerata.org</a> or at the door. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 412.682.4300 <a href="http://www.shadysidepres.org">www.shadysidepres.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@shadysidepres.org">info@shadysidepres.org</a></i>
19 June 7:00 PM	<b>Music in a Great Space Concert</b> - Music in a Great Space, the concert series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, presents baritone Brian Doherty and soprano Kathryn Copeland Donaldson with pianist Ellen Fast. Donations welcome. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church (address and info above)</i>
21 June 7:00 PM 22 June 10AM-3PM	<b>Open House to celebrate 100 Years of Business</b> - The new pipe organ for St. Patrick Church of Columbus Ohio will be featured. <i>Muller Pipe Organ Company, 122 N High St, Croton, OH 43013</i>
26 June 7:00 PM	<b>Music in a Great Space Concert</b> - Music in a Great Space, the concert series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, presents tenor Marco Panuccio with pianist Ellen Fast. Donations welcome. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church (address and info above)</i>
7 July 3:30 PM	<b>Summer Organ Concert Series</b> - Organist Edward Moore in concert. <i>St. Paul Cathedral, 108 N. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-621-6082 <a href="http://stpaulpgh.org/">http://stpaulpgh.org/</a> <a href="mailto:donaiddfellows@verizon.net">donaiddfellows@verizon.net</a></i>
14 July 3:30 PM	<b>Summer Organ Concert Series</b> - Organist Michael Hammer in concert. <i>St. Paul Cathedral, 108 N. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-621-6082 <a href="http://stpaulpgh.org/">http://stpaulpgh.org/</a> <a href="mailto:donaiddfellows@verizon.net">donaiddfellows@verizon.net</a></i>
28 July 3:30 PM	<b>Summer Organ Concert Series</b> - Organist Bruce Ludwick in concert. <i>St. Paul Cathedral, 108 N. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-621-6082 <a href="http://stpaulpgh.org/">http://stpaulpgh.org/</a> <a href="mailto:donaiddfellows@verizon.net">donaiddfellows@verizon.net</a></i>
4 Aug 3:30 PM	<b>Summer Organ Concert Series</b> - Organist Jim Burns in concert. <i>St. Paul Cathedral, 108 N. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-621-6082 <a href="http://stpaulpgh.org/">http://stpaulpgh.org/</a> <a href="mailto:donaiddfellows@verizon.net">donaiddfellows@verizon.net</a></i>