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FROM THE EDITOR

Regina Kettering (editor@pitago.org)

The turkey is eaten and leftovers are put away. We have answered relatives' questions of "What did you do this year?" and "Are you planning anything interesting next year?" And of course, the always tricky question of "What are you doing for the holidays?"

The answer to the last question for many of us is: playing Christmas and holiday music. Family members who do not understand the musician life are often perplexed about our absences at the Christmas Eve dinners or holiday parties. As a time for gatherings, it is often a delicate balancing act – attend what is possible, while keeping the multiple concerts and services and rehearsals together.

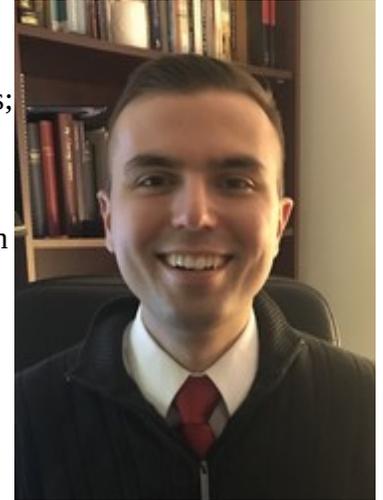
Even as our families wonder at our apparent absence, we must remember that there are many types of "family." We reach out to others who may have lost kin and welcome them into the home of our services. We comfort those who do not have a place to go by opening the doors of our churches and places of worship. We envelop people who are cold in body and spirit with the warmth of our music. So enjoy the season with your "musical family" during the upcoming holidays.

DEAN'S NOTES

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

Here we are, in December, and we find ourselves immersed in the season of red, green, and gold; of fancy wrapping paper; bows and ribbons; trees and ornaments; lights of all shapes, sizes, and colors; parties and concerts. Despite our society's eagerness to jump right through Advent to Christmas (another article, another time), it does seem that, just for a moment, at this time of year, we are all children once more and our inner sense of nostalgia reigns for a time.

What "makes" Christmas for you? Is it decorating your home amid family or friends? Is it a certain party or event? Or perhaps it's your favorite carol that comes but once a year. For me, it is admittedly many of these things. Likewise, there are several musical moments that also make Christmas come alive for me each and every year.



First and foremost, it simply just isn't Christmas until I've played that illustrious chord on "Word of the Father" in David Willcocks' setting of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. I remember a choir member once remarking that Jesus was "brought into the world on that chord." Usually playing multiple Masses between Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, I also always try to include some of my favorite Christmas organ works in an extended prelude before each Mass. Here are a few pieces that I'd like to "gift" to you this Christmas. This is by no means a comprehensive or academic list, but a few easy pieces that I often dust off at some point during the Christmas season each year:

1. If you are like me and try to occasionally bookend your service with two settings of the same tune, consider programming Denis Bédard's *Variations sur 'In Dulci Jubilo'* alongside Johann Sebastian Bach's *BWV 729*. Bédard's setting is filled with savory harmonies, excellent writing, and showcases all of the colours of the organ.
2. The very first Christmas organ work that I learned as an undergraduate student is simple, but yet so profound: Wilbur Held's *Of the Father's Love Begotten* found in his *Six Carol Settings*, also published in the Roger E. Davis *The Organists' Manual*.
3. If you've run out of time and need music now or have a low budget, check out IMSLP for three wonderful pieces: [1] Cesar Franck's *Grand Choeur sur un thème de Noël*, as well as [2] Franck's *Sortie on Venez, divin Messie* (O Come, Divine Messiah), both published posthumously in 1905. Also, I enjoy playing [3] Guilmant's *Introduction and Variations on a Polish Noel* (based on *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*).

4. Richard Purvis' setting of *Greensleeves* is as luscious as the best Christmas dessert that you will find in the county. If you know the piece, I need not say another word about it. If you don't, be sure to check it out.
5. Check out Timothy Albrecht's *Grace Notes II* for two wonderful settings based on movements of Handel's *Messiah: Angels We Have Heard on High*, which combines the well-known carol with *And the Glory of the Lord*, and *Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People*.
6. Looking for something a bit jazzy or new this Christmas? Look up David Simms' setting of *There's a Star in the East*, published by Augsburg Fortress in the collection *Wondrous Birth*, combining *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* with *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*. Cloud Ssu-yun Wang, one of my former organ students from Taiwan, brought me Larry Shackley's arrangement of *Angels We Have Heard on High* in Bulgarian Rhythm, which I added to my own repertoire last Christmas.

I hope that you enjoy these pieces as much as I do. I wish each of you a blessed Advent season. Know that the work you do makes a difference in the lives of all who are blessed to experience it. As you enter into the wonder and awe of that holy night, may you experience this Christmas with a renewed joy at the birth of the Christ child.

Happy Advent and Early Christmas!

Chaz Bowers

NEW DIRECTORY

A new directory is now available. Electronic copies will be sent to all members with an email address on file. Those who receive only paper copies of the newsletter can contact Kathy Csellar at 724-443-0237 (registrar@pitago.org) to obtain a paper copy. Additions and any updates will be posted in the January newsletter. If you see an error, please contact either Kathy or Regina Kettering (editor@pitago.org) about any changes.

JANUARY MEETING – MEMBERS WANTED

by Ken Danchik, Sub-dean (sub-dean@pitago.org)

Our January 27, 2020 meeting will be a member's recital, "Free and Easy", featuring organ music downloaded for free from the IMSLP website. According to Wikipedia, "The International Music Score Library Project, also known as the Petrucci Music Library after publisher Ottaviano Petrucci, is a subscription-based project for the creation of a virtual library of public-domain music scores." "The site was launched on February 16, 2006. The library consists mainly of [scans](#) of old musical editions out of [copyright](#). In addition, it admits scores by contemporary composers who wish to share their music with the world by releasing it under a [Creative Commons](#) license." This site contains a gold mine of materials for the organist, many familiar works, and many long out of print.

Our January meeting will be held at the Glenshaw Presbyterian Church, hosted by Justin Weilnau. Recitalists will play the church's recently renovated III/35 Austin Organ, Opus 1575 (1928/2018). Additional information will follow in the January edition of Pipelines.

Would you consider playing a musical gem that you discovered on the IMSLP site, perhaps from a lesser-known composer, or a work that you have always wanted to find? Please send an email to Ken Danchik (sub-dean@pitago.org) with your selection. Remember, it should be "free" and "easy."

Here are a few suggestions to check out:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Livre_de_No%C3%ABls%2C_Op.60_\(Guilmant%2C_Alexandre\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Livre_de_No%C3%ABls%2C_Op.60_(Guilmant%2C_Alexandre))

Alexandre Guilmant composed Livre de Noël, Op. 60 (1884-86), consisting of 20 pieces in 4 volumes, based on Christmas Carols. One of my favorites is from the second volume, based on the Polish Carol "Infant Holy": Sortie (No.1). Introduction et variations sur un ancien Noël polonais. If you search the IMSLP site for "Noels" you get links to music by Daquin, Lebègue, Loret, and many other composers who wrote for this genre.

Here's another suggestion for Noël by Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/12_No%C3%ABls_avec_un_Carillon_des_morts_\(Beauvarlet-Charpentier%2C_Jean-Jacques\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/12_No%C3%ABls_avec_un_Carillon_des_morts_(Beauvarlet-Charpentier%2C_Jean-Jacques))

While you are searching, take a look at:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/12_Pi%C3%A8ces_pour_grand_orgue_\(Debussy%2C_Claude\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/12_Pi%C3%A8ces_pour_grand_orgue_(Debussy%2C_Claude))

This link contains 12 transcriptions of Debussy's music arranged for organ.

And, take a look at chapter member Ben Cornelius-Bates's site of original compositions:

https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Cornelius-Bates%2C_Benjamin

If you find something that you would like to share with our membership, please consider playing in our member's recital. We're looking forward to hearing the musical treasure that you have discovered!

POSITIONS AND SUBSTITUTES

Date	Event
1 Dec 3:00 PM	Heinz Chapel Choir Holiday Concert - Dr. Susan Rice leads the famed Heinz Chapel Choir in an inspiring a cappella celebration of the holidays. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the University of Pittsburgh Stages Box Office (412-624-7529) or by visiting music.pitt.edu/tickets . General admission is \$15; students and seniors are \$10. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel, Fifth and Bellefield, Pittsburgh, PA 15213</i>
6 Dec 6:30 PM	The Genevans' 82nd Annual Christmas Concerts - Join the student choir of Geneva College for a program entitled "Joy.". Doors open at 6:15 with an organ prelude by Michael R. Kearney at 6:30. Admission is free; a love offering will be received. <i>First Presbyterian Church, 1103 8th Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010</i>
6 Dec 8:15 PM	Heinz Chapel Choir Holiday Concert - Dr. Susan Rice leads the famed Heinz Chapel Choir in an inspiring a cappella celebration of the holidays. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the University of Pittsburgh Stages Box Office (412-624-7529) or by visiting music.pitt.edu/tickets . General admission is \$15; students and seniors are \$10. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i>
7 Dec 6:30 PM	The Genevans' 82nd Annual Christmas Concerts - Join the student choir of Geneva College for a program entitled "Joy.". Doors open at 6:15 with an organ prelude by Michael R. Kearney at 6:30. Admission is free; a love offering will be received. <i>First Presbyterian Church, 1103 8th Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010</i>
7 Dec 8:00 PM	Pitt Women's Choral Ensemble Holiday Concert - Celebrate the holidays with the Women's Choral Ensemble as they share ancient and contemporary classics of the season. Tickets are available through the University of Pittsburgh Stages Box Office, 412-624-7529, or visit music.pitt.edu/tickets . Tickets in advance: general admission is \$8.50; non-Pitt students and seniors are \$5. At the door: general admission is \$15; non-Pitt students and seniors are \$10. <i>Heinz Chapel (address above)</i>
8 Dec 3:00 PM	Heinz Chapel Choir Holiday Concert - Dr. Susan Rice leads the famed Heinz Chapel Choir in an inspiring a cappella celebration of the holidays. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the University of Pittsburgh Stages Box Office (412-624-7529) or by visiting music.pitt.edu/tickets . General admission is \$15; students and seniors are \$10. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address above)</i>
8 Dec 3:00 PM	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. Please join with Shadyside Presbyterian Church's pastors and the Shadyside Chancel Choir as together we celebrate in word and in song the joys of the Christmas season. From 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. prior to the Service of Lessons and Carols, warm beverages and desserts will be served in the church's Sharp Atrium as part of its community open house. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 412.682.4300</i> www.shadysidepres.org info@shadysidepres.org
14 Dec 7:00 PM	Christmas with the Shadyside Brass - Jazz trumpet artist Al Hood will join Shadyside Brass, a locally based quintet, in a concert of jazzy and joyful holiday music. Admission is free, donations for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation gratefully accepted. <i>Heinz Chapel (address above) (412) 624-4157</i>
15 Dec 3:00 PM	Christmas Organ Concert - Music of the season will be the theme of the organ concert to be performed by Chaz Bowers, Dean of the Pittsburgh AGO Chapter, as well as Director of Music and Principal Organist at St. Bernard Parish R. C. Church and Adjunct Professor of Sacred Music and University Organist at Seton Hill University in Greensburg. <i>Heinz Chapel (address and info above)</i>
15 Dec 3:00 PM	Christmas with Camerata - At this most reflective time of year, when light and darkness are equal, the Pittsburgh Camerata offers the music of Christmas, sacred and secular, as a reflection of the significance this holiday inspires. Join us for the tradition, for the beauty, and for the promise of Christmas. Tickets may be purchased online at www.pittsburghcamerata.org or at the door. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church (address and info above)</i>

Date	Event
<p>22 Dec 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Trombone Christmas - The Pittsburgh Trombone Project invites area trombone players to join them in a performance of holiday music in the Chapel. All levels of trombonists are invited to participate. Rehearsal starts at 3:00 P.M. with the concert following at 5:00 P.M. <i>Heinz Chapel (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>Wed in Dec 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Vespers - These 45-minute candlelight Communion services include the Lord's Supper, reflections from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary staff, and music offered by the Shadyside Strings, Chatham Baroque, and the Pittsburgh Girls Choir. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church (address and info above)</i></p>