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FROM THE EDITOR

Regina Kettering (editor@pitago.org)

Greetings! Our January “Free and Easy” meeting was a wonderful overview of some of the music available on IMSLP. It was great to hear some of our members perform pieces that are publicly available for only the cost of paper and some printer ink. I know I have a few “new to me” pieces to seek out.

For February, St. Andrews Church will host Dr. Mickey Thomas Terry to speak about and perform music by African-American composers. Dr. Terry is a recognized expert on African-American organ music, and we are looking forward to hearing his expertise. Please make your reservations for the February meeting.

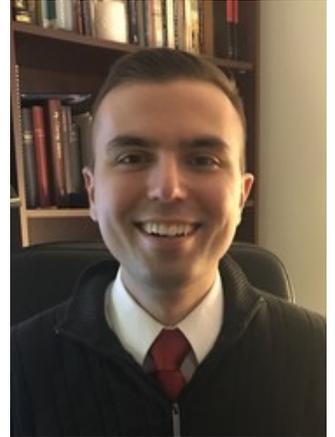
Dr. Douglas Starr will be presenting a premier of his “All Saints Requiem,” the culmination of his sacred music career. More details are on page 3.

As always, we encourage the submission of relevant articles and updates from you. Events can always be sent through the web form at pitago.org. If you know of any job openings, encourage the church to contact Jon Tyillian, who is in charge of substitutes and placement. We look forward to hearing from you!

DEAN'S NOTES

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

In a December 24, 2019 article, NPR addressed the realities that plague small churches in need of organists. Across our country, it seems to be more and more difficult to find organists available to commit to these smaller communities. Even in larger parish churches, it is increasingly difficult to find competent musicians able and willing to serve. In my role at Seton Hill University, I am constantly receiving emails from churches large and small from across Westmoreland county and beyond hoping to secure an Organ or Sacred Music Major to act as an organist to assist in their Sunday worship. Even with four organ majors and a handful of secondary students, I am often saddened to have to respond to tell them that I have no one to send them.



One way that we can assist in the organist crisis is by teaching. As organists serving our various churches and institutions, we are constantly educating. Whether it be about the organ as an instrument, its repertoire, or its function in the corporate worship of the church, we are daily required to explain the instrument and what it does to others. It is important that each of us recognize and embrace this role as educators. By writing bulletin program notes, giving a workshop, hosting a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza for the Christian Education Classes, or simply explaining something to an intrigued parishioner, we continue to spark interest in our incredible instrument. It is also important to allow that young child or interested adult a few minutes at the console to try a few things out (with supervision and guidance, of course!). That may be the moment when the light comes on for them.

As members of our local chapter, this is a reality that we collectively should take seriously. Eventually, it will directly or indirectly affect us all. What a shame it would be for any of us to be the last organist to serve our congregations and for our instruments to sit silent. Our monthly chapter meetings are a great way to inspire new and continued interest in our instrument. I encourage each of you to invite a local organist or enthusiast to come to the monthly guild meeting. While I cannot speak for everyone, I can say that, personally, each meeting is beneficial to me in some way, sometimes in the educational programming, other times through the camaraderie that we together share, many times, both. I also encourage you to invite pianists and young organists to study through the Pipe Organ Academy. The funds are there, but more students are always needed. Additionally, our local chapter substitute list can be shared with colleagues in need of help.

Dr. Wayne Earnest, longtime Pittsburgh Chapter Member, has done a great deal of study and research into the idea of the "Multi Parish Church Music Position." His work is insightful and shows how small churches might share a full time musician, similar to how many smaller congregations share a pastor. For those of us working in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, we are finding Dr. Earnest's model of church music life

true, even in some of the already large parish situations. Simply put, we are all living in an unprecedented time filled with many challenges.

I recently had a wonderful conversation with a cleric wherein he spoke of the important role of organists as ministers of the church. Although many of us are not ordained in our denomination, we see our ministry as a vocation. By taking our role as educators seriously, we can inspire others to want to continue the work that we have begun in our churches.

A good teacher is like a candle — it consumes itself to light the way for others.

~Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, translated from Turkish

Viva la orgue!

ALL SAINTS REQUIEM PREMIER

Composer, organist, and choral director Douglas P. Starr, D.M.A., will premier his “All Saints Requiem” on Friday, February 28, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Performer details can be found in the “events” section. A second performance is on Saturday, February 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica in Latrobe.

Dr. Starr’s new composition is a crowning achievement in his forty-year career in sacred music. He readily admits that composing a Requiem is an intimidating quest, given other famous settings created and performed by music greats past and present.

“Unless a composer has something personal to say, it might be best to leave the Requiem alone,” Dr. Starr said.

What he does state through his work is that the saints of this “All Saints Requiem” include the close family and friends who daily nourish our lives. In Dr. Starr’s case it is his mother, whose poem he superimposes with the Latin text of the Recordare; his father, whose theological reflections are used as a response to the traditional words of the Agnus Dei; and his wife and son, both composers in their own right, whose melodies inspired him and who also helped edit and typeset the piece. Dr. Starr also said that after composing his work, he listened for and heard the influence of his favorite “sainted” composers, spanning the likes of J.S. Bach, Charles Ives, Antonin Dvorak, and even jazz musician Bill Evans.

“These and others are my inspirations,” he said, “and if we are creatively connected, it is inevitable that their voices are channeled in mine.”

About the Composer

Dr. Starr has led the music program at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church since 1993. Additionally, he teaches part-time at Pennsylvania State University. He is past dean of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and board chair of NAT 28, the Pittsburgh Contemporary Music Ensemble. Dr. Starr has taught at Westminster College, Kenyon College, Central Michigan University, and served as the Director of Choral activities and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bellarmine University. He earned a doctorate of musical arts in vocal performance and theory/composition from Ohio State University, where he was also honored as a University Fellow. Dr. Starr was a Mellon Fellow at Vanderbilt University in 1983 and an American Council on Education Fellow in 1988.

Following its 2020 premiere, “All Saints Requiem” will be published and available at TierneyStarrmusic.com.

FEBRUARY MEETING – MICKEY THOMAS TERRY

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

February 24, 2020
Organ Music of African American Composers
Presented by Mickey Thomas Terry
St. Andrew Episcopal Church
5801 Hampton St. (Highland Park)
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

6:00 p.m. Cocktails provided by the Church and host, Peter Luley

6:30 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting

7:45 p.m. Program in the church sanctuary

The dinner catered by Bistro to Go includes Artisan Simple Salad, rustic rolls and butter, Classic Bistro Beef Pot Roast garnished with dill baby carrots and served with pan gravy, Parsley Red Bliss Potatoes, Mini Pierogies, dill seasoned Green Bean, Roasted Baby Bakers, Chocolate mousse cake, coffee and tea.

Mickey Thomas Terry, a native of Greenville, North Carolina, holds degrees from East Carolina University in Greenville, and a Ph.D. from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. His principal organ teachers were Clarence Watters, Charles Callahan, and Ronald Stolk (Improvisation).

Dr. Terry was the Second Prize winner of the 9th Annual Clarence Mader National Organ Competition (Los Angeles/Pasadena, 1986), and a finalist in both the Michigan International Organ Competition (Ann Arbor, MI, 1987) and the Flint Competition (Flint, MI, 1989). He is currently the Director of Music and Organist of St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Dr. Terry has concertized throughout the United States and the Bahamas, and has been broadcast several times on American Public Media's Pipedreams, the official radio program of the American Guild of Organists. Dr. Terry was also a featured recitalist at the national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists. Moreover, he has presented masterclasses and music workshops at various institutions around the country. He has been a featured artist at Washington's John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and organ recitalist at the Piccolo-Spoleto Music Festival in Charleston, South Carolina.

Dr. Terry has taught on the faculty of Georgetown University and has written several journal articles for The American Organist Magazine, The Diapason, and the British journal Choir and Organ, as well as The Musical Quarterly. There is also an article that appears in Volume IV of Essays in American Music (Garland Publishers, 1999). He is the former Sub-Dean and Program Chair of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American

Guild of Organists. He has also served on the Advisory Board for the ECS/AGO African-American Organ Music Series published by E.C. Schirmer Music Company of Boston. Dr. Terry is the editor of a critically-acclaimed, multi-volume anthology of African-American organ music published by MorningStar Music Publishers. He is the current recipient of a 2019-2020 Artist Fellowship from the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Dr. Terry appears on the Albany Records label compact disc *George Walker—A Portrait*, playing the organ works of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer George Walker and on the American Public Media compact disc *Pipedreams Premieres, Volume 2*, playing an organ work of African-American composer Thomas H. Kerr. He is recognized as the leading authority on the organ music of African-American classical composers.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in the Highland Park neighborhood of Pittsburgh is a beautiful English Gothic church built in 1905. The organ was originally built by Ernest M. Skinner in 1913 as their opus 202. After nearly 80 years of continuous service the instrument required a major rebuild. Much of the original mechanism was retained and restored, as well as almost all of the original pipework. Additions and modifications by Peter Luley and Associates were made to allow the instrument greater flexibility as a concert and accompaniment instrument, and a new four-manual draw knob console was provided with casework copied from the original Skinner console. Currently the organ stands at 61 ranks of pipes across four manuals and pedal, including a Fanfare Trumpet in the nave.

EVENTS

Date	Event
2 Feb 3:00 PM	Russian Balalaika Orchestra - Directed by Charley Rappaport, this ensemble is dedicated to the performance of Russian and Eastern European musical traditions on authentic Russian and Ukrainian instruments. They perform a broad repertoire of classical and folk music and are one of only eleven such ensembles in North America. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel, Fifth Avenue at S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213</i> 412.624.4157
9 Feb 3:00 PM	Pittsburgh Camerata Concert: "What She Said" - The Pittsburgh Camerata sings music of women composers and poets, including Emily Dickinson, Sara Teasdale, Hildegard von Bingen, and more, with guests: the Pittsburgh Girls Choir, Kathryn Barnard, Artistic Director; and Triple Trio, the all-girls ensemble of the Mt. Lebanon High School Choirs, Ethan LaPlaca, Director. Tickets may be purchased online at www.pittsburghcamerata.org or at the door. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminister Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232</i> 412.682.4300 www.shadysidepres.org info@shadysidepres.org
9 Feb 3:00 PM	Kevin Solecki, Accordionist - Kevin Solecki will be familiar to many Pittsburghers who have seen and heard him in the Strip District playing outside Wholey's, but he is known to a wider audience from touring nationally and internationally. A career highlight is his 2005 Grammy nominated CD, "Solecktions." <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i>

Date	Event
<p>16 Feb 3:30 PM</p>	<p>Heinz Chapel Choir Chamber Choir Festival - Every year, outstanding high school chamber choirs join Pitt's Heinz Chapel Choir for a celebration of a cappella singing. Three such choir will perform their best works, along with selections by the Heinz Chapel Choir, under the direction of Dr. Susan Rice. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>16 Feb 4:00 PM</p>	<p>Organ Recital by Simon Johnson, organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, London - Solo recital (repertoire information forthcoming). Reception to follow at the church. <i>Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206</i> Alan Lewis, 412-661-0120, ext. 120, alewis@calvarypgh.org</p>
<p>23 Feb 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Franciscan University of Steubenville Student Organ Recital - Students in the organ studio of Dr. Neil Stahurski, of the Franciscan University of Steubenville will perform in recital as part of their studies. These organists are enrolled in a program specifically designed for those wishing to pursue careers as church musicians and performers of traditional sacred and secular music. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>28 Feb 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Premiere of Douglas Starr's All Saints Requiem - Douglas Starr's All Saints Requiem will receive its premiere on Friday February 28 at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Conducted by Father Stephen Concordia, O.S.B, three choirs will join in the premiere - The St. Vincent Camerata, St. Paul's Chancel Choir and the Schola Cantorum Franciscana of Franciscan University. Featured soloists will be Katy Shackelton-Williams, soprano, Valerie Vernon-Thomas, mezzo soprano, Rich Williams, tenor, and Daniel Teadt, baritone with Chaz Bowers, organist. The premiere will be followed by a performance at 7:30 pm, Saturday February 29 at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica. <i>Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA 412.531.7153</i> https://www.stpaulspgh.org/ office@stpaulspgh.org</p>