



PIPELINES

Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Volume 100 Issue 5

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FROM THE EDITOR

Regina Kettering (editor@pitago.org)

'Tis the new year! Time for new resolutions. Mine always seems to be to practice more, although the follow-through is spotty (apologies to all who are impacted).

If we haven't heard from you, consider a resolution to be more active in the chapter. Come to a meeting, write a note for the newsletter, volunteer for a committee. There are many ways to be involved. We need voices at all experience levels and backgrounds.

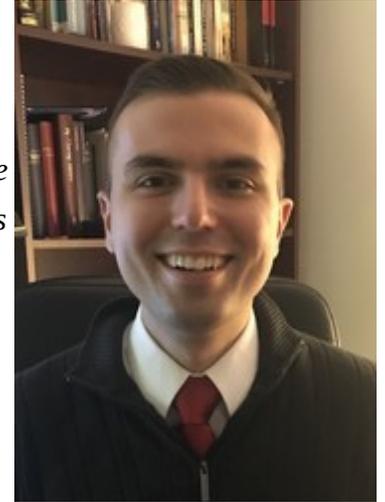
This month's meeting at Glenshaw Presbyterian Church features music that is "free and easy." For those moments when you get called for a service in two days, or maybe you just didn't make time to practice, we all like to have a piece or two in our back pocket that doesn't require much preparation. If you have not contacted Ken Danchik about playing on January 27th, send him a message!

DEAN'S NOTES

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

From the Dean

January is always a special month for me. The last weekend of January marks the anniversary of the very first time that I played the organ for Mass. Nineteen years later, I look back and give thanks for those people that give me that first opportunity and to those who have mentored me along the way.



From my earliest memories, I remember how I would watch our church organist play the Mass. Organists were nearly “living saints” to my young self. I would eagerly behold the organist as she would rehearse the cantor and walk across the altar to check in with the priest in the sacristy. If I was lucky and we attended the Saturday evening Mass, I could even observe the organist or the cantor place the numbers on the hymn board. The best of all was when we attended the choir Mass with all those singers and their anthems at the offertory and communion. All of this quickly transferred to my playroom “home church,” complete with one cardboard box that had two manuals (to represent the organ) and one box that had just one manual (that represented the piano), where I would mimic what I had seen at Mass. My young puppy, Leaps, a Terrier-Dachshund mix, was often drafted to play the part of the cantor or lone chorister.

It wasn't long after I began my piano studies that I approached the pastor of the interdenominational church just across the street from my maternal grandparents' house and tugged on the shirt of the minister while he was mowing the lawn. “Excuse me, sir, do you need an organist?” I asked. “As a matter of fact, we do. Do you happen to know one?” Despite having never played the organ before, my nine year old self replied, “I am an organist!” He invited me to come and meet his wife the next day. She was in charge of the music for the church and would be happy to have me play. I eagerly darted back across the street and up the stairs to phone my dad to ask permission to stay an extra day in order to play for their church service.

When I was 12 years old I played for my first Mass at St. Jude the Apostle Parish Church in Wilmerding, PA on January 28, 2001. From that point forward, my work as a church musician has been the bedrock of my life.

From then until now, I have been so blessed to have been mentored by countless individuals along the way. Without the opportunities provided to me by the mentors in my life, I would not be where I am today.

Did you know that January is National Mentoring Month? First inaugurated in 2002 by former President George W. Bush, National Mentoring Month is endorsed by both chambers of the United States Congress and is sponsored by the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR (the National Mentoring Partnership), and the Corporation for National and Community Service. It is a program designed to connect young people with mentors in a field of their choosing and to provide them with the resources needed to pursue their own unique version of the American dream.

Our American Guild of Organists Chapter is all too familiar with the importance of mentoring. Whether it be through the fine work of the Pittsburgh Organ Academy led by Tyler Randolph, those who study for guild exams championed by Sr. Cynthia Pock, or through the monthly educational outreach of our programming executed so well by Ken Danchik, we each, through our support of these programs and our chapter itself, understand how important mentoring is in the career of organists, both in the church and beyond. I encourage each of you to take advantage of these opportunities. Be a mentor to others this year. If you have piano students interested in studying organ, invite them to audition for the Pittsburgh Organ Academy; consider promoting a guild exam to one of our colleagues or jointly study to take an exam; or be a mentor by bringing a new organist in your neighborhood to one of our monthly meetings.

The National Mentoring Month movement usually ends with a day inviting people from across the country to give thanks for their own mentors, by way of writing them a thank you note, becoming a mentor, making a contribution to a mentoring program, or tagging them in a social media post using the hashtag #thankyourmentor.

I would imagine that it is safe to say that none of us would be where we are without those who have mentored us along our way. I hope you will join me during this month of January to give thanks for those who have helped each of us along our way and to celebrate new ways in which we can inspire the hearts and minds of young people to continue the incredible work of our local guild.

Happy Mentoring Month!

JANUARY MEETING – FREE AND EASY

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

January 27, 2020

Member's Recital - "Free and Easy"

Glenshaw Presbyterian Church

300 Glenn Ave, Glenshaw, PA 15116

6:00 p.m. Cocktails provided by the Church and host, Justin Weilnau

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 with spring mix, plum tomatoes and cucumbers, with choice of ranch or balsamic dressings; Caprese pizza flatbread pizza; Heirloom tomato Chicken sauteed with fresh basil and a white balsamic reduction served with shaved parmesan cheese; Vegetable Lasagna Pasta Bake with cavatappi noodles, sautéed vegetables spinach and cheese in a light tomato basil sauce; Lemon cream cake dessert, coffee and sweet iced tea. There are plenty of parking spaces in the church's parking lot.

Our program "Free and Easy" is a member's recital featuring music for solo organ found on the IMSLP website https://imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page. This wonderful site is a treasure trove of music, classics out of print, lesser-known works and composers, interesting arrangements and transcriptions, and new music freely shared by contemporary composers. Perusing this site is a wonderful way to explore music from the comforts of your computer workstation. Type "music for harmonium" in the search bar to explore music that you may want to perform in our member's recital.

Recitalists are asked to share an organ work that is both "free" and "easy," perhaps sight-readable. This repertoire could serve us in many ways: as service music for those Sundays when we have not had the time to prepare that Franck Chorale or Reger Fantasia; as a collection of easier pieces for students; as a resource for the organist who is reluctant to play solo repertoire. The organ is a recently renovated III/35 Austin Organ, with plenty of memory levels.

Please contact me with the name of the piece that you would like to perform, or for a suggestion. Perhaps we could entice a member or two to sight read a selection found on the IMSLP site.

If you have a chance, when in this neighborhood, you should check out nearby Fall Run Park, about one mile from the church. This half-mile long gentle walking path follows a meandering stream, and leads to a spectacular waterfall. Highly recommended all year round, but especially spectacular during the fall season <https://www.discovertheburgh.com/fall-run-park/>

DIRECTORY CHANGES

NEW MEMBERS

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Want to sell LPs, CDs, ccassettes, stereo equipment? Sometimes it's difficult to find a buyer for classical, organ, and choral music but last summer I found a good agent. Contact: Mike Weinstein, The Madman's Moustache, mkiese99@yahoo.com; 412-508-8336, 412-207-9383, 724-980-3115; 13 Dewalt Ave., Pittsburgh (Brentwood) PA 15227; 315 South Liberty St., Pittsburgh PA 15473. He pays cash on the day of purchase. – Dr. Wayne Earnest, PitAGO member.

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CHANGES

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Date	Event
<p>5 Jan 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Slippery Rock University Percussion Ensemble - Directed by David Glover, the Slippery Rock University Percussion Ensemble is a diverse group of percussionists that performs classic and contemporary percussion literature, including commissioned works. They have performed throughout Pennsylvania and the region, including for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Conference and at several state-chapter Percussive Arts Society events. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel, 326 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (412) 624-4157</i></p>
<p>12 Jan 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Organ 101 - Jon Tyllian, Assistant Organist at Calvary Episcopal Church, will take guests on an audible tour of Heinz Memorial Chapel's 73-rank Reuter (opus 2176) pipe organ. Jon is a graduate of Duquesne University, where he studied with Dr. Ann Labounsky, Dr. David Craighead and Andrew Scanlon. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>12 Jan 4:00 PM</p>	<p>Arts in the Atrium Concert - Quartz Quartet (Ellen-Maria Willis and Katie Wickesberg, violin; Louise Farbman, viola; Paula Tuttle, 'cello) with Mary Beth Malek, clarinet. Chamber music of Mozart and Dvorak. Free admission. <i>Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412-963-8243</i></p>
<p>19 Jan 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Music in a Great Space Concert - The Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra (PYSO) and the Junior Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh (JMCP) return to the Shadyside Presbyterian Church sanctuary to present Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Regina Coeli," KV 276, under the direction of conductor Earl Lee. The PYSO also will perform Antonín Dvorák's Symphony No. 7 and Felix Mendelssohn's concert overture, "The Hebrides." In addition, the JMCP will perform a cappella selections, under the direction of conductor Dr. Caron Daley. Hear the next generation of Pittsburgh's talented musicians join forces for this special concert. Donations appreciated. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 412-682-4300 www.shadysidepres.org info@shadysidepres.org</i></p>
<p>19 Jan 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Sunrise Brass Quintet - Based at Youngstown State University, the Sunrise Brass Quintet is coached by Assistant Professor Andrew Mitchell. These five brass players perform a wide array of works, including compositions by one of their own members, Maxwell Franko. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i></p>
<p>26 Jan 3:00 PM</p>	<p>Aeolian Winds - Dedicated to wind chamber music performance, composition, and promotion, the Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh was founded in September 2003 with a goal of providing high-quality wind music to the greater Pittsburgh community. This will be their third engagement at Heinz Chapel. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address above)</i></p>