



IN THIS ISSUE

Dean's Notes..... 1-2
 Oas Paul Jacobs..... 3
 March Meeting..... 4
 Chaplain Announcement... 5
 Events..... 5-6
 Job Openings..... 6
 Substitutes..... 7
 Dinner RSVP..... 7

Contact the Editor: Regina

Kettering

editor@pitago.org

Find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pittsburghago/>
<https://www.facebook.com/OASPittsburgh/>

For more information, see:

www.pitago.org

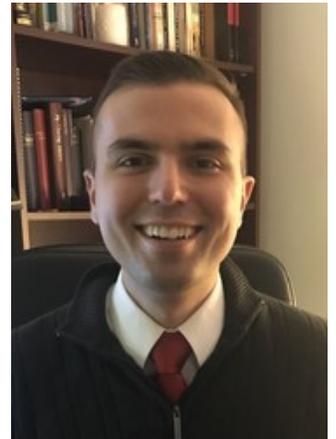
DEAN'S NOTES

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

Our January executive committee meeting yielded some wonderful discussion regarding the 100th Anniversary of our Pittsburgh Chapter that will take place during the 2020-2021 program year. Ken Danchik, our Sub Dean, is excited to plan a program year centered around our chapter's beginnings in the roaring '20s.

One of the other topics that came up in our conversation is membership base. As we prepare for our centennial year, we want to focus on growing our chapter and best serving the needs of our members. There can be no doubt that we have a very healthy chapter. Nevertheless, I feel it is important to take some time to address where we are and where we, as a chapter, should consider going.

I had a nice lunch with long-time member and big-time organ and choral supporter, Linda Everhart, who worked on the AGO national marketing committee. Many of you know Linda and may remember the extensive report that National created regarding marketing. I greatly appreciate Linda's time and input regarding the national marketing strategy. It was helpful as I reflected on how we, as a chapter, approach our membership.



Some Basic Numbers

Currently, our chapter ONCARD roster consists of 301 organists across western Pennsylvania and beyond. Of these members, we have 214 that are active (paid or invoiced) members. There are another 87 organists who are past members who are now considered canceled, meaning they no longer receive our newsletter or the *American Organist* magazine, and we no longer have a connection with them. Of course, it is important to note that these numbers change from day to day as members renew.

Many student members find positions out of town and move on to new chapters. Others retire and no longer find the membership affordable or relevant. It is important to look beyond the numbers to the people themselves. There is constant flux.

Please allow me to say, at this time, that if your membership is lapsed, I encourage you to renew and attend a meeting. **Each of you is an important part of our guild. You are missed.** I think we might all very well agree that the one of the best parts of being a member of the guild is the camaraderie that we have among us. If you know of a friend who is a lapsed member, perhaps give them a nudge or, if you are feeling generous, buy them a dinner, or pay for their membership. These acts of kindness happen quite often and they go a long way to showing how much we care about one another.

What does the AGO give?

When you consider the large emphasis that our national organization places on education, numbers become quite secondary to the emphasis that we place on our membership and education. There can be no doubt that we here in Pittsburgh, and in the national organization, do so much great work to advance and promote the organ and our organists. My articles over the past few months have focused on the great work that we do at the chapter level.

The Pittsburgh Chapter Experience

I remember a college professor once saying, "Don't let your classes get in the way of your education." In the case of our membership, it is about the experience and the people, not the numbers. When we think about our personal experience of the AGO, one might immediately think of our monthly meeting, our favorite past program, the best-catered dinner of all time, an Organ Artists Series concert, lessons gifted to us by the Pipe Organ Academy, or time we spent serving as officers or executive committee members on one of the boards. Perhaps, many would argue that, what we enjoy more than any of this, is the relationships that we build with each other. To me, personally, that is worth much more than the cost of membership each year.

How can our chapter reach out to new organists, organists who have become inactive, as well as longtime ill, aged, and bereaved members?

I am excited to put together a working ad-hoc committee, with the blessing of our executive board, to focus on these issues. It is perhaps best to consider it as a separate category, while working together in tandem to best serve our membership. The focus of the committee's work will be:

- Reaching out to new organists in our area.
- Reaching out to organists of all levels of training, education, experience, and backgrounds.
- Reaching out to organists who have become inactive.
- Reaching out to ill, aged, and bereaved members.
- Reaching out to organ enthusiasts and others who support organists.

If you are interested in serving on such a committee, please email me at chazbowers@gmail.com. I have several folks in mind to assist in this effort and I look forward to announcing them to you in the months to come. Focusing on our membership's needs is so important to the continued success of our chapter. I invite you to consider participating in this important work of our chapter.

OAS – PAUL JACOBS

By Edward Alan Moore, OAS Director (info@oas-series.org)

Grammy Award-winning Paul Jacobs, chair of the Julliard School's organ department, is an internationally celebrated organist. Heralded as "one of the major musicians of our time" by Alex Ross of The New Yorker, Mr. Jacobs has performed to great critical acclaim on five continents and in each of the fifty United States. Known for playing demanding programs exclusively from memory, he has memorized the complete works of Olivier Messiaen, as well as the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms, and César Franck. An advocate for new music and an eloquent champion of the organ, Mr. Jacobs has performed numerous premieres of solo organ and organ-orchestra commissions. Mr. Jacobs will display his brilliance on the three-manual 81-rank Austin organ at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Presented in cooperation with Music & Arts Series of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Tickets available at the door (cash, check, or card). General admission \$12. Student free with valid ID. *Westminster Presbyterian Church 2040 Washington Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15241*

Program

Toccat and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565

Trio Sonata in E Minor, BWV 528

I. Adagio-Vivace

II. Andante

III. Un poco Allegro

Sheep May Safely Graze, BWV 208

Concerto in D Minor after Vivaldi, BWV 596

I. (Allegro)

II. Largo e spiccato

III. (Allegro)

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 547

Passacaglia in C Minor, BWV 582

Arioso from Cantata, BWV 156

Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 532

MARCH MEETING – LIVING VOICES

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

March 23, 2020

Living Voices: Music for Organ from Living Women Composers - Sarah Simko
St. Paul Cathedral
Fifth Avenue at Craig Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

6:00 p.m. Wine and Hors D'oeuvres in the Cathedral Social Hall (lower level), 6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting, 7:45 p.m. Presentation in the Choir Loft

Sarah Simko will present her lecture recital in the choir loft using the organ and a screen for projected illustrations. Those not seated in the loft will be able to follow her presentation from the nave of the Cathedral. There are 46 steps to the choir loft. The organ is the monumental 1962 Rudolph von Beckerath mechanical action organ of 4 manuals and 97 ranks, renovated in 2008 by Taylor and Boody.

Sarah Simko is a second year Doctoral student in Organ Performance at the University of Michigan. Ms. Simko studies with Professor James Kibbie. She is the Adjunct Faculty Instructor at Madonna University. She completed her Masters in Music with Professor Kola Owolabi, also at the University of Michigan. She received her Bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music, with Professors Nathan Laube, Edoardo Bellotti, William Porter and Hans Davidsson.

Currently at the University of Michigan, Ms. Simko serves as a Research Assistant for a team headed by Dr. Kibbie and Dr. Daniel Forger from the Department of Mathematics. This collaborative project focuses on how the brain processes music, through detailed study of the Johann Sebastian Bach's Six Sonatas (BWV 525-530).

Ms. Simko is the recipient of a Graduate Award from the Presser Foundation, to be used to create a comprehensive set of recordings of organ music by living American female composers. The goal of this project is to expand the accessibility of a rich, and overlooked body of repertoire. A series of three CDs, titled "Living Voices," will be released in 2020. Living Voices has been made possible by a grant from the Theodore Presser Foundation. The project is an attempt to make contemporary organ music more accessible and easy to find. The grant has allowed for the creation of three CD recordings. March 23's lecture recital will focus on music from the first release, Sacred Inspirations. All of the music uses hymns, sacred poetry, scripture, or religious themes as the genesis for the composition. There will be a discussion of the project, and information on the composers featured in the recital.

Ms. Simko has held many positions in leading churches in the Detroit area. She is currently the Interim Associate Organist at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit. Previous positions include Choral Accompanist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor; Interim Director of Music at University Presbyterian Church, Rochester Hills; and Senior Organ Scholar at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. She has also served Bethany Presbyterian Church, Greece, New York, as the organ scholar.

Ms. Simko has given recitals at such notable venues as Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Methuen, Massachusetts; St. Paul's Cathedral (Anglican), London, Ontario, Canada; Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, Detroit; the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (Episcopal), Detroit; Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor; among others. She has performed in masterclasses with Dr. Marilyn Mason, Dr. David Wagner, Ken Cowan, Bruce Neswick, Olivier Latry, Vincent Dubois, and Michel Bouvard.

Perhaps the most surprising part of the project has been the sheer diversity of compositions. From Baroque-styled chorale preludes, and narrative inspired suites, to contemporary harmonies and extended techniques, each composer has such a unique style and voice.

CHAPLAIN ANNOUNCEMENT

As Reverend Cyril Hurnyak continues his medical leave, I wish to personally thank Fr. James J. Chepponis, Diocesan Director of Music for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, for serving as our interim chaplain during the fall 2019 semester.

I am excited to announce that the Reverend Ann Miller Smith, Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, has agreed to be our interim chaplain for the spring 2020 semester.

It is a blessing to have the support and membership of so many wonderful clergy in our chapter. Thanks to both Pastor Ann and Fr. Jim for their leadership. Please let us all continue to pray for Reverend Cyril as he makes his recovery.

EVENTS

Date	Event
1 Mar 3:00 PM	Women in the Windows - In celebration of Women's History Month, Chapel Docent Karen Sebolt will lead a special tour that will highlight women depicted in the stained glass of the transept windows. She will focus on a selection of the 36 women and their respective intellectual and spiritual contributions in the realms of Courage, Tolerance, Temperance and Truth. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel, Fifth and Bellefield Avenues, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412.624.4175</i>
8 Mar 3:00 PM	How Many? An Organ Concert of Women's Compositions - In honor of International Women's Day, Dr. Regina Kettering will present organ works by women composers. The concert will include works spanning the centuries from the 1500s to the present. Regina will introduce each composer before performing a selection of her compositions, to demonstrate "how many" organ solos by women are available. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i>
15 Mar 3:00 PM	Organ Artist Series - Grammy Award-winning Paul Jacobs, chair of the Julliard School's organ department, is an internationally celebrated organist. Heralded as "one of the major musicians of our time" by Alex Ross of The New Yorker, Mr. Jacobs has performed to great critical acclaim on five continents and in each of the fifty United States. Known for playing demanding programs exclusively from memory, he has memorized the complete works of Olivier Messiaen, as well as the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms, and César Franck. An advocate for new music and an eloquent champion of the organ, Mr. Jacobs has performed numerous premieres of solo organ and organ-orchestra commissions. Mr. Jacobs will display his brilliance on the three-manual 81-rank Austin organ at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Presented in cooperation with Music & Arts Series of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Tickets available at the door (cash, check, or card). General admission \$12. Student free with valid ID. <i>Westminster Presbyterian Church 2040 Washington Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15241</i>
22 Mar 3:00 PM	Greater Harmony Chorus - The Greater Harmony Chorus is a group of women who perform four-part a cappella music, in classic barbershop style as well as other varieties of harmony. Now in its 45th year, the group was organized, appropriately enough, in the town of Harmony, thirty miles northeast of Pittsburgh. They are affiliated with the Sweet Adelines, the national organization which promotes barbershop style singing by women. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i>
22 Mar	Music in a Great Space - Join the over 100 voices of Duquesne University's Voices of Spirit, Pappert

Date	Event
3:00 PM	Chorale, and University Singers, under the direction of Dr. Caron Daley, for an inspiring program of traditional and contemporary choral music. <i>Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5251 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 412.682.4300 www.shadysidepres.org info@shadysidepres.org</i>
29 Mar 4:00 PM	37th Annual Sponsorship Concert - The Fox Chapel Festival Chorus and The Academy Chamber Orchestra. Guy Russo, conductor. David Billings, organist. Faure's "Cantique de Jean Racine," his "En priere," his "Requiem," and Harold Friedell's "Elegy" (violin, harp and organ). Reception held afterwards. Free. <i>Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 412-963-8243, x29</i>
29 Mar 3:00 PM	Indiana University of Pennsylvania Student Organ Recital - Organ students of Christine Clewell at Indiana University of Pennsylvania will perform in recital as part of their studies. All of the works on the program are by women composers. Dr. Clewell is Assistant Professor of Organ and Keyboard at IUP, which has maintained an organ program for nearly 140 years. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i>