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FROM THE EDITOR

Regina Kettering, Editor (editor@pitago.org)

J.S. Bach. Marcel Dupré. Jean Langlais. All three were masterful improvisors. Although there may be few of us who would improvise full symphonies (as Dupré did), we are often called on to stretch those last 30 seconds of music to make it fit the service.

We have been called on again to improvise this year, but in a slightly different manner. The swiftly moving pandemic requires that we allow ourselves to “yes, and” the events we would normally have. With 2020-2021 being our hundredth year, we were looking forward to having some large gatherings and concerts.

Our hundredth year is looking a bit different than what we had anticipated.

Our Dean, Chaz Bowers, discusses some of the decisions the executive board has made for the

coming year, and our Sub-dean, Ken Danchik, lists the upcoming programs. Our dinner reservation system has been converted to an RSVP for in person meetings. [See pg 5]

Suzie Gilliliand and Frank Kurtik have put together a wonderful history of our chapter. The Heinz History Center has stored many of our chapter memorabilia, and Suzie is interested in anything that may be squirreled away in your house.

We look forward to seeing you, whether virtually or in person. And just like improvisation, it isn't a wrong note; it is a transition to something wonderful.

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DEAN'S NOTES

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

Dear Fellow Guild Members,

We rejoice together as we begin an academic year-long celebration of our beloved chapter's 100th Anniversary. Despite the ongoing pandemic, we will come together, to the best of our abilities, to celebrate our collective past, present, and future. Just as our chapter weathered the Spanish Flu immediately prior to its establishment over 100 years ago, we too will weather this storm.

At the June meeting, our executive committee voted on a flexible plan that will allow members to make their own decisions about whether they would like to attend our monthly meetings in-person or via livestream. The program committee, under the leadership of Ken Danchik, proposed an exciting hybrid year of both in-person/live-streamed meetings plus two all-digital meetings. My sincerest thanks goes to the members of the executive board and the program committee for their hard work. In the face of fear, uncertainty, and conflict, they rose to the occasion to present a plan that is both exciting, innovative, and, most importantly, safe.

For those who elect to attend meetings in-person, please be aware that we will be following restrictions set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the State, as well as the church or venue for the meeting. This means that we will all be required to wear a mask and physically distance as much as possible. For this reason, we are not planning to have dinners at this time, and in-person attendees will have to register in advance and sign a waiver (see page 4-5 for waiver and meeting information.) **I know that this is inconvenient. I am sorry for that, but for those who are craving to go to a musical event safely, it is a small price to pay.**

The September and October meetings will be purely virtual, but the rest of the year will feature hybrid in-person/virtual programming. An overview for the September meeting can be found on page 3 and information on how to log into YouTube to make comments for the meeting can be found on page 4. Our executive board approved the appointment of Jon Tyillian and Aaron Sproul as co-coordinators of technology for a one-year term, as they will manage the technology for our meeting. Additionally, Regina Kettering will moderate our YouTube page during the meeting and assist members who have trouble logging on to make comments.

My thanks goes out to Jon Tyillian for developing a logo for our Chapter's 100th Anniversary. I've reached out to Challenge Printing, and they are working on adapting the logo to fit on various commemorative items that will be available for purchase. Ordering information and instructions will be provided in the September newsletter. My thanks also goes to Regina Kettering for her most excellent work on revising the format of our chapter newsletter. This new format is being sent digitally to all of our members, except those who do not have the internet. This (mostly) digital format will save us thousands of dollars each year.

I am pleased to announce that Wayne Earnest expressed his desire to donate his organ and sacred music books and scores to the chapter. He would prefer them not to be sold through the POA book sale, but rather to be kept in a library in order to be accessible to all of our membership. I asked Wayne if he would consider helping us to establish a special section at a local library that could be open to our membership, and Wayne has agreed, with board permission, to begin to pursue that possibility.

Finally, it is already time to think about chapter elections. Sr. Cynthia Pock has graciously agreed to head our Nominating Committee. It has been a joy to be your Dean, although much of the work I wanted to do, especially in regards to recruitment of new members, was unable to happen due to COVID-19. I am extremely grateful to all of you for your gracious support over the tenure of my

Deanship. The story isn't over just yet though, as I greatly look forward to celebrating this milestone year with you.

Happy Anniversary!
Chaz Bowers

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SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

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

Dear Colleagues,

This is an exciting and challenging centennial year for our Chapter! A program committee has met 'virtually' this summer to plan monthly programs that will honor our heritage and continue to inspire our members.

The September 28th program "The History of the Pittsburgh AGO Chapter" is being presented by Frank Kurtik and Suzie Gilliland. Together with Barbara McKellway, they have researched the founding of our Chapter based on documents and programs from the very beginning of our charter. The evening program on September 28, 2020, will be presented 'virtually' from the History Center, on our Chapter YouTube page beginning at 7:00 PM. The History Center will serve as a repository for our important Chapter archives that

will be available to future scholars and to those who want to know more about us.

An email blast will be sent to members a week before all our scheduled meetings with updates and changes to our presentations.

Special thanks to the Program Committee who have helped to plan and refine our offerings: George Armstrong, Judy Beswick, Chaz Bowers, Harry Campbell, Keith Ferguson, Suzie Gilliland, Ed Halo, Michael Hammer, Regina Kettering, Frank Kurtik, Ann Labounsky, Alan Lewis, Cindy Pock, Tyler Randolph, Aaron Sproul, and Jon Tyillian. As we journey together through these challenging times, it's good to know that our thoughtfulness and cooperation will help us to continue our friendship and our mission. Please stay safe and healthy!

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PROGRAM YEAR

September 28, 2020

History of the Pittsburgh Chapter AGO
Frank Kurtik and Suzie Gilliland
Heinz History Center
Online

October 26, 2020

A tour of the Carnegie Hall Skinner Organ
Online

November 23, 2020

Members Recital featuring organ selections popular at the time of the founding of our Chapter
St. Andrew Episcopal Church, Highland Park
5801 Hampton St.
In person and online

January 25, 2021

Keyboard Music of J.S. Bach played on a variety of keyboard instruments

Don Franklin and Justin Wallace
Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill
5700 Forbes Ave.
In person and online

February 22, 2021

Historic Pittsburgh Organ Recitals

Jim Cunningham
QWED-FM
Online, broadcast at 7:00 PM

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March 22, 2021

Living Women Composers for the Organ

Sarah Simko
St. Bernard Church, Mt. Lebanon
311 Washington Pike
In person and online

April 26, 2021

Pittsburgh's Got Talent: original organ compositions by Chapter members

Assumption Catholic Church, Bellevue
45 N Sprague Ave.
In person and online

May 24, 2021

A Theatre Organ Recital

Peter Krasinski
Joint meeting with the Pittsburgh and Greensburg
AGO Chapters and PATOS
Keystone Oaks High School
In person and online

WANTED: CHAPTER MEMORABILIA

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, did you clean out your drawers or closets?

If you have anything that is Pittsburgh Chapter AGO related, I would love to collect all the memorabilia to add to our chapter's record which are housed at the Detre Library and Archives at the Sen. John Heinz History Center!

Please do not throw it out, I am very grateful to help get our records so that all members can view our Chapter's history!!

You only turn 100 years old once!!!

Thank you,
Suzie Gilliland

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MEETING INFORMATION

Some meetings will be available in person, but all meetings will be available online via our YouTube channel. **Programs will start at 7:00PM.**

YouTube instructions:

If you have a Gmail account (gmail email address), YouTube account, or Google login, you can log into YouTube to write comments and

questions while watching our live stream. A brief demonstration for how to leave questions can be found here: <https://www.wikihow.com/Leave-Comments-on-YouTube>

If you do not have a Gmail/YouTube account, you can view the meeting but will not be able to comment or ask questions. You can create an account using any current email address.

WAIVER

You will need to sign a waiver for each meeting you wish to attend in person. We will be taking reservations on an individual meeting basis; no yearly standing reservations will be taken. This waiver is also available online. If you are unable to access the online waiver, please contact Regina Kettering at reservations@pitago.org or 412-477-5547 to make a reservation.

The situation and ability to meet may change with short notice. Chapter leadership will do its best to contact you in the event of changes to format and/or location.

We will follow all federal, state, and local mandates. Any in person gathering entails risk of contracting COVID-19. By attending in person, you understand and willingly undertake that risk.

- If I am unable or unwilling to wear a mask I will use the virtual meeting options to participate.
 - I am responsible for my own welfare and would not knowingly put others at risk. I knowingly and willingly accept the risk of contracting COVID-19 by attending in person.
 - I will not attend if I have any symptoms of COVID-19, have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days, or have traveled to an area on the Pennsylvania quarantine list in the past 14 days.
- I have read and agree to the above statements. I will not hold the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AGO, the owners of the building where we meet liable for unintentional exposure or harm from COVID-19.

Signature

Date

Meeting Date

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MARJORIE ANN WOLF OBITUARY

Our Chapter is saddened to hear of the passing of Marjorie Ann Wolf. Marjorie gave decades of unwavering support to the AGO. She was a long-time member of the Wheeling/Ohio Valley Chapter and held every office in that chapter at least once. She was a Past Dean, but her longest tenure was as Treasurer. When the Wheeling/Ohio Valley Chapter folded, she transferred her membership to the Pittsburgh Chapter. Below is her [edited] obituary. May she rest in peace.

Marjorie Ann Wolf, 82, of Wheeling, WV passed away on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at Peterson Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center. Mrs. Wolf was born on September 27, 1937 in Media, Illinois, the daughter of the late Arthur L. Swanson and Leota E. Hutchins Swanson. She was a graduate of the University of Illinois, where she met her husband Edward at the Lutheran Student Center.

She retired after 35 years as an organist at St. John's Lutheran Church in Martins Ferry, OH.

Marjorie was an avid church and community volunteer. She was a long-time member of the Edgwood Evangelical Lutheran Church, which merged to become Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, WV. She held positions in the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the ELCA along with positions in the Women of the ELCA in the Synod. She also held positions in Church Women United at the local and state levels. Marjorie volunteered for many years as a reading tutor at West Liberty Elementary School and later Bethlehem Elementary School.

Memorial contributions can be made to Grace Lutheran Church, 16 Ridgecrest Road, Wheeling, WV 26003; Augusta Levy Learning Center, PO Box #6711, Wheeling, WV 26003; or to The Edward C. Wolf Endowed Music Scholarship, West Liberty University, West Liberty, WV 26074. Personal condolences may be made to the family at www.kepnerfuneral.com.

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EVENTS

If your events are being moved online, please contact us with the relevant information AND A LINK (or where a link will be posted). In person events are subject to change, based on ongoing circumstances. Please contact the point person or website for relevant information.

SUBSTITUTES

It is the policy of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists that only current members in good standing may list their names on the Substitutes List. Employers may contact organists directly or ask the coordinator for assistance. The AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship, reliability, or conduct of substitute organists, and background checks are the responsibility of the employer. Persons listed as available substitutes may be required by employers to present clearances; e.g. Child Abuse History Clearance; Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Checks for Employment; and/or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Fingerprinting.

Services: W-Weddings, F-Funerals, E-Evenings, S-Saturdays, L-Liturgical Only, N-Non-Liturgical

Substitute Organists Available for Sunday Mornings

BOHONOK, OREST	412.886.3291	WFES
ANDERSON, GERALD	412.251.6718	WFELNS
BROWN, JUDITH	240.522.5070	WFES
CAFARO, ROSS	412.885.1625	WFES
EARNEST, Dr. WAYNE N.	724.206.8854	WFESLN
JANKO, RAY	724.325.7449	WFES
JUSTHAM, MARY ANN	724.335.7792	WFES
HILL, THOMAS	512.421.1484	WFES
JESTER, BILL	412.304.7010	ES
KRANTZ, DOUGLAS	724.554.3314	WFS
LA RUE, ELIZABETH SPC	412.999.4812	WFESLN
LINDSEY, III, C. DENNIS	918.409.6467	WFES
MASTERS, SARA	412.266.5821	WFES
MISLIN, DAVID W.	617.223.1270	WFES
PARK, HAEHYUN	734.657.0869	WFESLN
ROEDERER, CHARLOTTE	412.853.6647	EFS
ROLLET, TONY	412.726.8569	ES
RUBRIGHT, SANDY S.	724.994.8872	WFE
SKROUPA, DANE	724.265.4840	FLN
STIPCAK, VALERIE	724.388.1038	WFES
SZEREMANY, RICHARD, AAGO	412.327.6254	WFES

Substitute Organists NOT Available for Sunday Mornings

AIKINS, CANDICE	724.568.2640	WF
BRUHN, LYNN	724.733.8111	WFE
COCHRAN, NICOLE	724.799.1373	WFES
DANIELS, J.R.	412.389.6658	WF
HAMMER, MICHAEL	217.766.4230	WFES
HENRI, LAURA	412.418.7392	WFESL
KARDOS, MICHELLE	724.757.0972	WFESLN
KETTERING, REGINA	412.477.5547	WFES
MCGRATH, ROSE	937.719.2391	WF
MILLER, JANE	412.526.6618	WF
PINKERTON, RICHARD	412.561.2015	WFE
RASLEY, DON	724.487.7303(D) 724.283.4829(E)	WFES
REILAND, MICHAEL	412.882.5521	WFE
RIZZO, ELMIRA, CAGO	724.612.2029	WFES
SCHALL, STEPHEN	412.215.2971	WFE
SPENCER, GEORGE	412.731.3324	WFE
STROBEL, JOYCE MOON	412.366.0074	WFES
TYILLIAN, JON	724.456.5135	WFES
WALLACE, JUSTIN	412.531.0525	WFES

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