



PIPELINES

Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

September 2021

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Message from the Dean

Dear friends and colleagues,

Thanks to our devoted members, a lot has happened in the last several months regarding the leadership of our chapter, and in planning for future gatherings.

As of July 1, and after election ballots were counted, elected and appointed officers and committee chairs are:

Elected Position

Dean	Kenneth Danchik, MM, FAGO
Sub-Dean	Christine Clewell, DMA
Secretary	Jane Miller
Treasurer	James Burns
Registrar	Jeffrey Gray

Executive Committee:

- Harry Campell
- Ryan Croyle
- Alice Grier
- Ellen Gross
- Michael Hammer, DMA
- Alan Lewis, Ph.D
- Jon Tyllian
- Joe Zamberlan



Chaplain	Rev. Cyril M. Hymnyak, M. Div., M. CHM
Education	Sr. Cynthia Pock, n/OLF, AAGO
Email Coordinator	Neil Stahurski, DMA, CAGO
Newsletter Editor & Publicity	Robert Senay M.M., M. Ed.
Organ Artist Series	Aaron Sproul, CAGO, BM Jon Tyllian
Pittsburgh Organ Academy	Robert Kardasz, FAGO
Chapter Dinner Reservations	Elna Johnson
Substitute and Placement Services	Nicholas Will
Webmaster	Ryan Croyle

Our Pittsburgh Chapter is 100 years strong because of the leadership and dedication of so many of our members.

Thanks are due to the nominating committee organized by Sr. Cynthia Pock, and members R. Craig Dobbins, Keith Ferguson, and Joyce Moon Strobel.

Gratitude for faithful service also goes to our outgoing leadership, including Chaz Bowers, Judith Beswick, Keith Ferguson, Jeff Gray, Regina Kettering, Ed Moore, Tyler Randolph, and Justin Wallace. Tyler is the new Dean of the Greensburg Chapter.

I'm sure you have heard "this has been a year like no other!" Now it seems that we need to amend that statement to "these years have been like no other!" The Corona virus has caused so many adjustments in all facets of our lives. Our chapter has had to revise programming with ever-changing guidelines and restrictions on gathering, always mindful of the health and safety of our members. In spite of many challenges and difficulties, we were able to offer monthly programming throughout the past year.

Over the summer months a program committee has met virtually to plan for the coming year. Even after meticulous planning and discussion, revisions recently have been necessary.

The rise of the new Delta variant again demands masking and social distancing. Churches where we gather for programs have their own guidelines and requirements. Catering companies have changed the way food is served. Many are not able to find employees willing to serve meals. Dinners for our monthly chapter meetings might be possible in the future, but most likely will not be served buffet style.

For these reasons, please look for email blasts that will announce changes and special instructions as we proceed.

Thanks to the program committee who planned the coming year: Ben Bates, Chaz Bowers, Christine Clewell, Ken Danchik, Jeff Gray, Frank Kurtik, Alan Lewis, Sr. Cindy Pock, Tyler Randolph, and Vincent Rone.

Here are the programs scheduled for this coming 2021-2022 season:

September 27, 2021

Induction of New Chapter Officers

St. Paul Cathedral

Host: Ken Danchik

October 25, 2021

The organ registration of Kaija Saariaho's *Maan Varjot*. Insights to how we enhance the registrations of the music we play in services. This is part of Benjamin Cornelius-Bates' doctoral dissertation.

Holy Trinity Church, Robinson Township

Host: Vincent Rone

November 22, 2021

Organ Works of Paul Benoit

Presented by Chaz Bowers

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Upper Saint Clair

Host: Jim Burns

January 24, 2022

Enhancing our Repertoire

Presented by Ben Bates

St. Andrew Episcopal Church, Highland Park

Host: Ben Bates

February 28, 2022

Technology for Music Ministry
Presented by Brandon Mock
Ingomar Methodist Church
Hosts: Ben Bugaile and Don Megahan

March 28, 2022

Living Woman Organ Composers
Presented by Sarah Simko
St. Bernard Church, Mt. Lebanon
Host: Chaz Bowers

April 25, 2022

Members Recital
Music composed in the last 20 years, suitable for worship
Venue to be announced

May 16, 2022

Gala celebration of our Chapter's 100th anniversary
Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland
Planning in progress

Even as I write, several necessary changes are being discussed. Please look for Pipelines articles and email blasts for clarifications and updates.

And please be sure to thank your chapter leaders who have worked diligently to keep our chapter functioning and thriving in these challenging times. We all appreciate your cooperation and support--maybe even a "virtual" pat on the back!

Ken

Kenneth Danchik, FAGO
Dean

Message from the Sub-Dean

Monday, September 27, 2021

Installation of New Officers

Starting time: 7:30PM

Saint Paul's Cathedral

108 North Dithridge Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Fall greetings, PitAGO Colleagues,

As your newly elected Sub-Dean, it is my privilege to bring your attention to the first event of the 2021-2022 program year. As you might expect, this occasion is the installation service for newly elected officers. It will take place on Monday, September 27, beginning at 7:30P at Saint Paul's Cathedral.

Parking is available in the cathedral's parking lot. You may enter the lot from either Fifth Avenue or from Dithridge Street. Street parking is free after 6:00 PM surrounding the cathedral.

Our host, Dean Ken Danchik has been working with the subcommittee and me to present a meaningful service. The service will be livestreamed for members who are more comfortable to watch the event, than attend a public one. Don Fellows has graciously consented to serve as our event organist. What a fine opportunity this occasion will be for us to wish him well upon his retirement from Saint Paul's. We are delighted to feature his indelible contributions to the chapter in this special way.

Additional participants will be our chaplain, The Rev. Cyril Hurniak, and event emcee, Cynthia Pock.

We wish to thank both Chaplain Hurniak and Cynthia for giving their time to this kick-off occasion for which they bring years of experience, wisdom, and insight.

In the spirit of community, and to preserve the health and safety of all who attend, we will simplify the sequence of events including the following protocols for newly elected officers who will be installed:

1. Newly elected officers should plan to arrive at the cathedral no later than 7:00P to find their assigned seats.
2. We will forgo processing in favor of truncating the length of the service.

3. Because of the tough but necessary decision not to process, officers are free to wear their Sunday best instead of the academic regalia.

4. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Dean Danchik, or me.

Recognizing that 2021 marks the hundredth year of this chapter's establishment, weather permitting, after the service we plan to honor this auspicious occasion by taking an informal pilgrimage to the steps of the Carnegie Museum. We will then plan to return to the cathedral.

Summoning the title of AGO's online summer conference theme of Beauty Endures, may we not grow weary in well doing as we persevere through this time filled with uncertainty. Owing to the pandemic health concerns that ensue, may we not tire of keeping our eye on the prize—to gather, celebrate, share this special time, and dig deep within ourselves to savor spiritual and musical meaning with what these days afford. What we know for sure is that grace and faith will carry us through to run the race with perseverance—for there is much beautiful music to be played, heard, and shared.

In closing, I am grateful for the dedication and vision of our Centenary Gala Committee who have morphed into a subcommittee for this installation gathering. As the new Sub-Dean, each of the following members have served to guide and inspire me around the PitAGO block. Thank you, Dean Ken Danchik, Craig Dobbins, Frank Kurtik, and Cynthia Pock. Thank you for your time, gifts, and diligence.

Looking forward to seeing the chapter come together for the first time since winter 2020. Whether via livestream or face to face (f2f), it will be great to take this time to thank our outgoing officers and it will be exciting to welcome our new officers to carry the torch through the challenges of this next term.

Happy Centenary, PitAGO.

Let the celebration year begin!

Some Thoughts on Old St. Luke's

By James M. Stark

Organ historians have long doubted that the organ in Old St. Luke's Church was built by Joseph Harvey as advertised but, since the instrument has been highly modified over the years, identifying the original builder has proved problematic.

There are basically three ways to identify a builder: first, the builder's nameplate, which is missing at Old St. Luke's; second, a voicer's mark on the metal pipes, since voicers were often well known, but no metal pipes have survived; and, third, inscriptions on the wind chests or case. Only one inscription has been found on the OSL organ, which is on the back of the case, and appears to be a shipping label: "Rev. Theodore Lyman, Pittsburgh". This would indicate that the organ was shipped from somewhere to Pittsburgh during the tenure of Theodore Lyman as Rector of Trinity Church, who was also instrumental in re-establishing St. Luke's Parish. This and other evidence leads one to believe that this organ could be the five stop organ Henry Berger sent to Pittsburgh in December 1852.

Henry Berger was a somewhat successful Baltimore organ-builder who, incidentally, had a business relationship with Lyman's brother-in-law William Albert who was a hardware dealer. In 1852, Trinity Church entered into a contract with Berger to build an organ for their new chapel, St. Peter's, which was located on Grant Street. Berger, however, had run into some significant problems with an organ he had built for a Philadelphia church which considerably tied up his shop. As a result, he could not deliver the St. Peter's organ in time for the December 1852 dedication and sent the five stop "loaner" instead. The Vestry cancelled the Berger contract in June 1853 and Jardine eventually built the organ which was completed in 1854. There is, unfortunately, no record of what happened to the small instrument, but Mrs. Lyman inherited a considerable amount of money in 1854 and it is possible the Lyman's bought the small organ and gave it to St. Luke's, but that is merely conjecture.

Just before the pandemic set in, the author had a chance to examine the only known surviving Berger organ, a six stop instrument at Old Fork Episcopal Church in Doswell, VA. While there are similarities the differences are significant: the wooden pipes at OSL are set into the toe board while the wooden pipes in the Old Fork organ are supported by the usual rack board; the stop knob shafts at OSL are round, and appear to be original, while the shafts at Old Fork are square; and, the OSL organ uses forged metal parts in the stop linkage, although these might be later modifications when the hook-down swell was installed, while the Old Fork organ stop linkage is all wooden.

There are also some differences in the key action. These are the kind of changes that do not happen quickly in a builder's shop. But, still, we cannot say for certain that this is not the organ Henry Berger sent to Pittsburgh in 1852. As usual, more research is needed. The Old St. Luke's organ, however, for all of its modifications and unknown provenance, remains a charming little instrument.

Sources: *The Tracker* vol. 8, no. 2, Winter 1964

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: 18 December 1852; 29 June 1854

Theodore Lyman papers, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Trinity Church Archives

MEMBERS NEWS

Wilberta Pickett Receives National Honor

In late June 2021, chapter member Wilberta Pickett received an Honorary Lifetime Membership from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians in honor of her work in the organization nationally and, in 1983, as a charter member of the Pittsburgh PAM Chapter. At age ninety-three, Mrs. Pickett remains an active church musician at both Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church and at Longwood at Oakmont, where she resides, is also an active member of both the Pittsburgh AGO and PAM Chapters. I encourage you to congratulate her when your paths cross or by sending her a note or e-mail.

Submitted by Craig Dobbins, Chair

AGO National Task Force on Denominational Music Organizations

Memorial Service for Dr. Charles Huddleston Heaton

The memorial service for Dr. Charles Huddleston Heaton scheduled for September 25, 2021 in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church has been postponed due to Covid restrictions. We will let you know when the service is rescheduled.

A Service of Thanksgiving was celebrated at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, for the life of John Pickett, a 65 year veteran tenor, and a Witness to the Resurrection . The large choir (masked) was composed of members from the Fox Chapel and Oakmont Presbyterian church choirs, as well as several additional singers. The combine choirs sang "For All the Saints," stanza 1 for the Introit, and stanza 3 for the Benediction Response. The opening hymn was "Thine is the Glory," and the congregational Prayer of Confession was "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind," text by J.G. Whittier. The anthems were "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" from *A German Requiem* by J. Brahms, and "Beautiful Savior" by F. Melius Christiansen. The closing hymn was "Come, Labor On." Guy Russo directed the combined choir and Michael Frank rehearse the Oakmont choir ahead of time. David Billings, organist, played the Widor Toccata for the Postlude. For those who would like watch the service please use the link provided. <https://youtu.be/orVvUjbYfwg>

Saint Paul Cathedral News: you may have heard that Don Fellows is retiring from his position as Cathedral Organist and Music Director at the end of September. Don has served the Cathedral and the Pittsburgh musical community in a magnificent way over the past twenty-two years, including serving as chapter dean. He departs at the end of September.

Pittsburgh native Brian Gurley has been appointed as Don's successor, beginning in October. Brian currently is Choirmaster and Director of Music for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, New York.

Our Pittsburgh AGO Chapter extends our gratitude and congratulations to our colleague and friend Don Fellows and welcomes Brian Gurley to our Pittsburgh musical community!

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 12, 19 , 26 WQED-FM will rebroadcast **A Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the American Guild of Organists, Pittsburgh Chapter**, featuring archived performances by Paul Koch, E. Power Biggs, Donald Fellows, Paul Jacobs, Donald Wilkins and more, on Sunday evenings at 10 PM. Jim Cunningham is joined by Kenneth Danchik for this program, originally aired on March 29, 2021, which will be expanded with several additional recordings.

September 13, 2021 - 7:30 p.m. The Executive Committee will meet in the social hall of St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland Entrance is from the Cathedral parking lot.

September 19, 2021 – 3:30p.m. Organ Recital

Organist Kenneth Danchik performs at St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland

Free admission - an offering will be received.

Music of Copland, Robert Farrell, Jean Langlais, Marco Lo Muscio, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Franz Liszt.

St. Paul Cathedral (Corner of Fifth & Craig, Oakland)

September 19, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Choral Concert: "The Sun never Sets"

Voces Solis: Ryan Keeling, director; Ellen Fast, piano; Katya Janpoladyan, 'cello. A professional vocal ensemble performing works of Forrester, Gjeilo, Barnwell, Hailstork and Others. Free admission/freewill offering.

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh 15238

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

ALEY, PHILIP 412.302.8653 WFE

ANDERSON, GERALD 412.251.6718 WFELNS

BROWN, JUDITH 240.522.5070 WFES

CAFARO, ROSS 412.885.1625 WFESCLEMENS, KEVIN M. 443.604.5072 WFELNS

EARNEST, Dr. WAYNE N. 724.206.8854 WFESLN

HILL, THOMAS 512.421.1484 WFES

JANKO, RAY 724.325.7449 WFES

JUSTHAM, MARY ANN 724.335.7792 WFES

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
REILAND, MICHAEL 412.882.5521 WFESL
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
WILL, NICHOLAS, AAGO 412.566.9597 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
MILLER, JANE 412.526.6618 WF
PINKERTON, RICHARD 412.561.2015 WFE
RASLEY, DON 724.487.7303(D) 724.283.4829(E) WFES
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