

**October 2021**

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**Message from the Dean**

Dear friends and colleagues,

Appropriately, our association is called a “guild,” harkening back to medieval times when guilds trained members for a particular profession through education and on the job experience.

When reviewing our membership list, I am inspired by the diversity of our colleagues in age, education, skills, responsibilities, and experience. Yet, we all come together as a guild to celebrate our friendship and to improve our skills.

One hundred years ago, the founding members of our chapter had the idea that Pittsburgh would benefit from

this kind of organization and discipline.

And here we are today, leaders in our churches, schools, communities, and ambassadors for the noble influence of organ and choral music.

Please continue to celebrate our calling as musicians even in these difficult and confusing times. Our vocation and influence give hope and encouragement to so many.

Ken

Kenneth Danchik FAGO

Dean

### **Message from the Sub Dean**

#### **October Greetings, PitAGO Colleagues.**

The September installation ceremony ushered-in a great Centennial program year with a meaningful time of fellowship and reflection at Saint Paul's Cathedral. From the excellent music provided by Don Fellows to our pilgrimage to the steps of the Carnegie Museum, it was wonderful to see our chapter members in-person, and to hear from those who attended the program via the live-streaming link.

Looking ahead to our next event, we hope that everyone will plan to join us on Monday, October 25, at 7:30P, at Holy Trinity Church, Archangel Gabriel Parish. The church is located at 5718 Steubenville Pike, Robinson Township, PA, 15136-1311. Look for further information about parking and the live-stream link as the time approaches. Our host is Holy Trinity's Director of Music, Vincent Rone.

The evening program will be artistically innovative, and intriguing with our presenter, Dr. Benjamin Cornelius Bates. Dr. Cornelius Bates is the Assistant Professor of Musicianship at the Mary Pappert School of Music, Duquesne University. He also serves as Director of Music and Organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh.

The evening program will be cast in a lecture-recital format where Benjamin will be performing and discussing Kaiya Saariaho's composition called, *Maan Varjot (2015)*. Written for organ and orchestra, Benjamin will talk about the composer's distinct treatment of timbre and orchestration, and how this information can apply to our

approach to selecting convincing organ registrations in a myriad of musical settings. Stated in her website-biography, Saariaho is hailed as “a prominent member of a group of Finnish composers and performers who are now, in mid-career, making a worldwide impact.”

To learn more about Saariaho, see her biography: <https://saariaho.org/biography/>

Benjamin has described this marvelous evening of music as follows:

*“This work is considered to be her first real venture into writing for the organ. She had taken organ lessons in her teen years but had not really approached the organ as an instrument for composition until this commission. In her compositional process, she consulted Olivier Latry as he played the organ for the three premiers of the work. His proposal for what kinds of registral colors should ideally be used offer an insight to a brilliant composer's thoughts as an outsider to organ composition. Not only will Maan Varjot be discussed and introduced, she adapted the middle movement for organ and cello, titled Offrande and only published this year 2021. The intent is to perform Offrande to demonstrate Saariaho's ideas. I hope it will be a lively and interesting conversation!” --Ben Cornelius-Bates*

We hope to see everyone at this October program for yet another opportunity to be inspired and learn about the broad spectrum that new music affords our organ profession. Whether via livestream or face to face (f2f), it will be great to see everyone again.

Happy Centenary, PitAGO! Let the celebration ensue!

### **Historic Pipe Organs of Central and Western Pennsylvania - Part One**

by Kevin M. Clemens, CAGO

The state of Pennsylvania is rich with historical pipe organs. This article will begin recognizing instruments in Central and Western Pennsylvania Counties that are extant. The first article will focus on Clearfield County. Clearfield County was created in 1804 from parts of Huntingdon and Lycoming Counties and named for Clearfield Creek. Clearfield was full of “clear-fields” and had a large population of bison. The county is located in the center of the state with US Interstate 80 running directly through the center of the county.

Houtzdale is located in the Southeastern part of the county and is home to Christ the King RC Church located at 123 Good Street. Christ the King Parish was created in 1970 when three churches were combined into one. The parishes included St. Lawrence (1880), Sacred Heart (1883), and St. Barbara (1882). The 1900 Mudler Organ now in Christ the King Church was from the St. Lawrence Church building. Bernard Mudler was an active Philadelphia organ builder from 1875 to 1915. The 1900 Mudler Organ was transplanted into the new Christ the King Church in the early 1970's by the Modern Church Organ Company. This company was owned and operated by Alighieri Cannarsa (1911-1976) and Fr. Alfred Schendel, TOR (1915-1996), a Franciscan priest of Loretto, PA. Fr. Alfred made changes to the original specification of the tracker instrument of 2 manuals and 9 ranks. This was mainly in the Swell where a 2' Flute replaced a Salicional 8' and a 1 1/3' Larigot replaced an Aeoline 8'. The organ is located in the balcony of the church and playable, but now is rarely used due to a shortage of organists.

The County Seat of Clearfield is home to two tracker instruments. St. Francis of Assisi RC Church is located at 211 South Second Street. The parish was established in 1830. In 1907, A. B. Felgemaker of Erie built a 2 manual and pedal tracker of 10 ranks for the church. The organ was maintained by the Modern Organ Company. Only 6 ranks of the instrument are original Felgemaker pipework. Interestingly, one of these stops, the Great Principal 8' (originally labeled Open Diapason) is a fine example of this stop (Diapason). It is extremely bright and smooth with excellent articulation. With well balanced 4' and 2' stops it produces a Diapason chorus unequalled in tonal quality. The Great is completed with a Dulciana 8' and a very bright Trumpet 8' which evidently replaced an 8' Melodia rank. The Swell Gedeckt 8' (originally labeled Stopped Diapason) is the only original stop in the Swell organ and is a very colorful rank. The upper work (Spitz Principal 4', Block Flöte 2', and Larigot 1 1/3') balances very successfully with the Gedeckt 8'. The quality of the voicing of the newer pipework attests to the abilities of Fr. Alfred Schendel as a voicer.

The Pedal Bourdon 16' completes the ensemble. The organ is built into an alcove, centrally located high in the rear gallery. The organ is alive and played for the week-end Masses.

St Andrew Episcopal Church is located at 102 East Cherry Street in Clearfield.

Opus 2210 of E. and G. G. Hook and Hastings of Boston was built in 1909.

The tracker instrument of 2 manual and 8 ranks was rebuilt in 1971 by Cannarsa Organ Co., of Hollidaysburg, PA. The only change in pipe ranks was the replacement of an 8' Melodia with a Mixture II (2 2/3' and 2') on the Great. The Great has the following stops Open Diapason 8', Dolce 8', and Octave 4' plus the new Mixture II. The Swell has the following stops Gedeckt 8', Salicional 8',

Harmonic Flute 4', Flautina 2' and an 8' Oboe. Couplers include Swell to Great 8', Swell to Great 4', Swell to Pedal 8, and Great to Pedal 8. A 16' Bourdon in the pedal completes the ensemble and a Tremolo affects the entire instrument. The organ is extant and played for Sunday liturgies.

In the Northwest part of the county is the largest city in Clearfield County, DuBois.

In 1910, E. and G. G. Hook and Hastings, of Boston, built Opus 2247, a large two manual tracker instrument for St. Catherine's RC Church. The church is located at 123 South State Street, and the parish was established in 1877. Sometime in the 1950's (Kennedy Organ Co.) the organ was electrified with pull downs and a Reisner console replaced the tracker keyboard. None of the pipework was changed or substituted.

Even though the console had a 32 note pedalboard, the pedals only played up to f.

Since the original pedalboard on the tracker console would have been 30 notes.

In 2009 Stephen Paul Toney organized parishioners to restore the organ under his leadership.

Toney is a former parishioner of St. Catherine's. This included washing and cleaning the pipe work and rewiring the electric pull downs and the Reisner console. An Organ Centennial Concert was held on September 19, 2010, which included Stephen Paul Toney playing the instrument and a large festival choir. Excerpts can be found on YouTube. Stephen Paul Toney served parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg, as a music director/organist. The organ has mixtures on both the Swell and Great and is complimented with a Trumpet 8', Cornopean 8' and Oboe 8'. An Open Wood Diapason 16' in the Pedal crowns the glorious ensemble in this very acoustically live church.

### **Thank You**

I would like to thank the many of you who sent kind messages of sympathy to me when my beloved John died on December 29, 2020. I was overwhelmed with all the loving support I received then. I am also very grateful for those of you who attended, and those of you who sang in the choir at his Memorial Service August 14 at the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church. John usually attended AGO meetings with me and knew and enjoyed you and the programs. That you cared enough to participate in the celebration of his long and productive life meant a great deal to me. I thank God for his good life and for your friendship.

Blessings to you all.

Wilberta Pickett

## Upcoming Events

### Friday, October 1, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

**Gary P. Garletts, Organist**

*A Concert in Celebration of the Church Building's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Works by J.S. Bach, Vierne, Franck, Weaver, Hindemith, & Others, Trinity Ringers Hand Bell Choir,  
and a Memorial Tribute to Dr. John K. Sharp

Trinity United Presbyterian Church

79 West Fayette Street, Uniontown, PA

Parking Available in Morgantown Street Lot

(across from Ferguson Funeral Home)

Freewill Offering and Reception Following

Masks Required

### October 24, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

The Greensburg Chapter of the AGO warmly invites you to join them for their first guild event of the year

**Sunday, October 24 at 4pm at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg.** Wayne Wold, the Regional

Councilor for the Mid-Atlantic region will be presenting a workshop on "Improvisation Geared Towards

Organists in Worship Services" as well as installing the officers for the chapter. Following will be a reception

and social. Please RSVP to [greensburgago@gmail.com](mailto:greensburgago@gmail.com) by October 17.

### October 31, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

**Concert by The Diamante Orchestra**

Pittsburgh's ensemble in a repertoire of Classical Crossover, Jazz, Latin, and various other styles.

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

**Contact for more information please contact** David Billings at 412-963-8243, x29; [billingd@fcpc.us](mailto:billingd@fcpc.us);

[www.fcpc.us](http://www.fcpc.us)

## Notes from the Registrar

Greetings! I'm slowly getting the hang of ONCARD! I have to thank my predecessor, Kathy Csellar, for doing a great job during her time as Registrar, for getting me set up and answering my many questions! A couple of house keeping notes...

**The 2021/2022 Chapter Directory** will be compiled and sent via email blast to our membership sometime in October. A limited number of printed copies will be available at the October Chapter meeting...and if we run out there, we'll print some more and mail them out! In addition, the very few of our members who don't have email addresses will be sent a printed copy via good ol' snail mail.

**Is ALL of your information Correct in ONCARD?** In downloading and formatting member information from ONCARD for the new Chapter Directory, I noticed that several of our members who recently changed positions have not updated this information in ONCARD. And for those of you those serving in newly-created / merged parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh - please update your church name! Please complete this as soon as possible, so our directory will be as up-to-date as possible! It's really quite simple:

Go online to [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org).

Click on the "Member Login" link in the upper right corner of the home page.

Log into ONCARD. Your user name is your first initial and full last name (*ex. Mine is "jgray"*) Your password is the 4-digit number in the mailing label section of *The American Organist*, immediately to the left of your membership expiration date. (*ex. Mine is NOT 1234!*)

Click on the "Update Personal Information" bar on the next page.

***Please review ALL information in this section for accuracy.*** Your church/employer information will be found under the "View/Edit Address Information"

When you're done verifying/updating information, click the "Post Changes" bar at the bottom. That's it!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our Chapter in this capacity!

Jeff Gray  
Chapter Registrar

### 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 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

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 WFELSN

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

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 WFESV

ANDERLAAN, BRETT, SPC 301.919.1835 WFES

WALLACE, JUSTIN 412.531.0525 WFES

