

**November 2021**

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**Message from the Dean**

“Dupré-Digital”: two words you probably never expected to see linked together! This year, the 50th anniversary of the death of Marcel Dupré (1886-1971), German organist and musicologist Tobias Frank has assembled a series of online programs featuring the music of Dupré, one of the most important and celebrated organists of all times.

The programs can be found here: <https://dupre-digital.org/?lang=en>

The episodes are in French and German, with English subtitles. Additional episodes will be available near the end of 2021. Archival audio and video recordings are featured, and an improvisation is played on the Cavillé-Coll organ in the Parisian Church of St. Sulpice where Dupré was titular organist for 37years.

The series explores Dupré's skills as a composer, performer and teacher, and includes many examples of his vocal and instrumental compositions. Many of us have studied Dupré's unique organ compositions, and know of his unrivaled skills as an improviser.

The series chronicles his life, a childhood steeped in music, and a career unexcelled in scope and accomplishment. His influence on the French and international organ scene was enormous. Although some criticize his legato approach to playing the organ music of Bach, there is no denying that the imprimatur of studying with Dupré had a positive influence on the careers of his many private students and those he taught at the Paris Conservatory. Dupré's personal life also is examined, as a husband, father and grandfather.

You can visit his home in the Paris suburb of Meudon during the Patrimony Days of September. On a recent visit, Lisa and I met the present owner who is a retired pharmacist, and took a tour behind the facade of his home pipe organ. I played an informal recital for visitors since I just happened to have my organ shoes with me. Check our Chapter's Facebook page for pictures of our 2019 visit:

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

Michael Murray's book *The Work of a Master Organist*, available from OHS and from the Carnegie Library, mentions that during the Second World War, Dupré and his wife Jeanne often walked from Meudon to Paris so that Dupré could play on Sundays in St. Sulpice. Jeanne dissuaded a German garrison from installing an artillery cannon on the roof of Dupré's home organ studio. Although he enjoyed great success as a musician, his life had its shares of sorrows. He lived through two world wars, and suffered the death of his beloved daughter Marguerite from cancer.

Further information about Dupré can be found here: <https://www.marceldupre.com/>

and here: <https://www.thediapason.com/content/rise-and-fall-famous-collaboration-marcel-dupre-and-jeanne-demessieux>

I have a fascination reading about the lives of famous musicians, their motivations and musical passions, their hobbies, and a little gossip about their personal lives. Inspired by the life and accomplishments of Marcel Dupré, it's time to practice!

Ken

Kenneth Danchik, FAGO  
Dean

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

November Greetings, PitAGO Colleagues.

We are delighted to present our former Dean, Chaz Bowers, MM, in a compelling lecture-recital on the organ works of Dom Paul Benoit, O. S. B. (1893-1979). This event takes place on Monday, November 22, at 7:30P, at Westminster Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 2040 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15241. Look for further information about parking and the live-stream link as the time approaches. Our host is Westminster's Organist, Jim Burns.

<https://www.westminster-church.org/>

Through his performance of lesser-known works and research, Chaz will shed light on and encourage us to learn about the music and life of organist and composer, Dom Paul Benoit. Chaz Bowers is the Director of Music at St. Bernard and our Lady of Grace Parishes in Pittsburgh.

With its multi-faceted display of modalities, Chaz describes this meaningful program as follows: *“This presentation will focus on the organ music of Dom Paul Benoit, O.S.B. Along with many noteworthy solo organ works, Dom Benoit is known for his familiar hymn tune, CHARITY AND LOVE, which is often associated with the text, “Where charity and love prevail.” In this lecture-recital format, we will hear about the composer’s life and the Cavallé-Coll organ at which he presided at the abbey. Artifacts of photos and music will be shared as well as analysis and a discussion about compositional influences and style.”*

--Chaz Bowers

To read about Dom Paul Benoit, see this website: <http://www.danwebs.com/dpb/>

We hope to see everyone at the November program where we are sure to be inspired and by the life and distinct compositional style of Dom Benoit. 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 Two**

by Kevin M. Clemens, CAGO

Part one of this series documented the historic pipe organs of Clearfield County. This article will recognize the historic instruments in the Northeast section of Cambria County. Cambria County is very rich in historic pipe organs and because of the vast number of instruments, information will appear in two articles. Cambria County was created on March 26, 1804, from parts of Bedford, Huntingdon, and Somerset Counties and later organized in 1807. It was named for the nation of Wales, which in Latin is known as “Cambria”.

St. Lawrence farming district was formally called Glen Connell. The parish of St. Lawrence was established in 1847, with the permission of Rt. Rev. Michael O’Connor, D. D., soon to be Bishop of Pittsburgh. A church building was blessed on January 9, 1853, and the parish was put in charge of the Benedictine Fathers from Latrobe. In 1880, The Pomplitz Church Organ Co., of Baltimore, Maryland built Opus 226 for the church. The organ contains one sixty-note manual and a flat, straight, twenty-seven note pedalboard. The case is walnut with a facade of nonfunctioning pipes. There are five ranks of pipes with four ranks in the manual division and one rank in the Pedal organ. All of the ranks are enclosed in a Swell box except the Open Diapason. The instrument was initially hand pumped. The pumping mechanism is intact and still works. The ensemble is moderately bright and clear and is adequate for accompanying the congregation in this small building. The instrument was moved into the present 1911 church building with no changes or additions. In 1995 the parish was combined with the nearby Patton Catholic Churches (Queen of Peace RC Parish) and the building was purchased by a break-off sect from the Roman Catholic Church, known as the Old Roman Catholic Church. The name of the church now is St. Lazarus, Martha & Mary Old Roman Catholic. The Pomplitz organ is in playable condition and now used by this congregation.

St. Mary (Our Lady of Perpetual Help) Parish was established in Patton in 1892 by the Benedictine Fathers. The borough of Patton was named after Governor John Patton, of Curwensville. The present church was completed in 1899. In 1910 A. B. Felgemaker of Erie built Opus 991 for the acoustically favorable room (high ceilings and wood parquet floor). The organ is centrally located in the rear gallery. It has two 61 note manuals and a flat, straight, 30 note pedalboard. Originally there were 15 ranks of pipes with 6 ranks in the Great organ, seven ranks in the Swell organ, and 2 ranks in the pedal organ. The casework is maple with the front facade displaying working pipes of the Great Open Diapason 8' and Dulciana 8'. The sides of the case display the Pedal Bourdon 16' on the left and the Gedeckt 16' on the right. The original action was tubular pneumatic which allows for the sub-octave and super-octave Swell to Great couplers.

In 1965, Cannarsa Organ Co., of Hollidaysburg, PA. electrified the action with direct electric pull downs - externally mounted. In 1982, Fr. Alfred Schendel, TOR (1915-1996), added a 3 rank Mixture to the Great division. The church is now part of the Queen of Peace RC Parish of Patton. The organ is used for all week-end Masses.

St Augustine RC Parish was formed in 1848. The church is located in St. Augustine Village, Dysart, PA. A frame church was dedicated in 1849 and enlarged in 1868. The present brick church stands at the highest point in the village and was dedicated on July 1, 1894. The organ was built in 1904 by the Tellers, Sommerhof, and Tellers Company of Erie, PA., at a cost of \$1,500. It is centrally placed in the rear gallery of the church which has moderately "live" acoustics. The instrument has two 61 note manuals and a flat, straight, 30 note pedalboard. There are 10 ranks of pipes with 4 ranks in the Great organ, 5 ranks in the Swell organ, and one rank in the Pedal organ. The case is oak with facade pipes from the Great Open Diapason 8', Octave 4', and Dulciana 8'. The original pumping mechanism is intact and still works if there is a power failure. The organ lacks sonorous qualities except for the Stopped Diapason 8' and Flute Harmonique 4' in the Swell organ, which produces a pleasing flute chorus. The Oboe Gamba 8' in the Swell organ (a string stop, not a reed) is, however very bright and makes a colorful solo stop. The couplers are on-off pistons below the Swell keyboard. The organ is playable and used for week-end Masses.

St. Patrick RC Parish of Gallitzin, PA., was completed in 1886 and was dedicated by Bishop Richard Phelan, Bishop of Pittsburgh, on October 10, 1886. The original pipe organ for the church was built by George Jardine and Son, of New York City. On Saturday, May 4, 1912, a fire broke out in the boys' sacristy of the church.

The flames continued down the West side of the church and destroyed the organ. Insurance covered the \$20,000 loss and a contract was signed the same year with A. B. Felgemaker of Erie, PA., for Opus 1131. The organ is centrally located in the rear gallery of the church which has moderately “live” acoustics. The instrument has two 61 note manuals and a concave, radiating 30 note pedalboard. There are twelve ranks of pipes with five ranks in the Great organ, five ranks in the Swell organ, and two ranks in the Pedal organ. The pedal action is tubular pneumatic. The case is dark oak with a facade utilizing pipes from the Great Open Diapason 8’ and Dulciana 8’. The tone of the instrument is bright and pleasant to hear.

The Diapason Chorus on the Great has very good clarity. In 1974 Fr. Alfred Schendel, TOR, rebuilt the organ and placed new pipe work in the Swell organ. The stops are well voiced, and with the upper work, (Blockflute 2’ and Larigot 1 1/3’) provide a scintillating ensemble. The original Oboe Gamba 8’ was replaced with a Trumpet 8’. The couplers are on-off pistons under the Swell keyboard and include a Swell to Great Octaves. The Pedal stops are well balanced to provide a suitable foundation for the instrument. The organ is playable and used for week-end Masses. On September 29, 2000, St. Patrick Parish and Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish were combined into St. Demetrius RC Parish. The St. Patrick Church building is now the worship site.

St. Francis Xavier RC Parish of Cresson was formed so the people would not have to walk a distance to a neighboring town of Summit (St. Aloysius RC Parish). The new bishop of the newly established Diocese of Altoona (1900), Bishop Eugene Garvey, blessed the cornerstone of the new church on Sunday, September 11, 1908. It is a mystery how the George Jardine and Son, Opus 1147, built in 1893, was installed in the church. There are no parish records from where this instrument was relocated. The organ is centrally located in the rear gallery. It contains two 58 note manuals and a flat, straight, 27 note pedalboard. There are 4 ranks in the Great organ, 5 ranks in the Swell organ, and 1 rank in the Pedal organ. The case is dark oak with the bass pipes of the Open Diapason 8’ displayed in the facade. The selection of stops in this organ is highly unusual. The specifications of the Great and Swell organs seem to be reversed with the Swell organ containing all the upper work. Tonally, the instrument is pleasant to hear. The Great Open Diapason 8’ is very bright and articulate and sounds well when played alone. The Swell Principal 8’ has similar characteristics, but is voiced slightly softer. The Swell Diapason Chorus is very successful. It is of even intensity, and has good clarity. The strings on each manual are colorful and extend only to tenor c. The flutes are unusually delicate. Uniquely, both Swell and Great flutes are divided stops. The organ is playable and used for week-end Masses.

## Upcoming Events

### **Description: Pittsburgh Artist Series**

**Who:** Joshua Stafford

**When:** Friday, Nov 12, 2021, 8pm

**Where:** Saint Bernard Catholic Church, 311 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Tickets available at the door (cash, check, or card).

General admission \$12.

Student free with valid ID.

### **November Chapter Meeting, Greensburg Chapter, AGO**

**When:** Monday, November, 15, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** First United Methodist Church, Greensburg, PA

**Description:** Members recital, Program, "Underdog at the Organ."

### **November Chapter Meeting**

**When:** Monday, November 22, 7:30pm – 9:00pm

**Where:** Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2040 Washington Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15241, USA

**Description:** Organ Works of Paul Benoit presented by Chaz Bowers.

### **The Pittsburgh Camerata**

**When:** Sunday, December 12, 3:00 PM.

**Where:** Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, 15232.

**Description:** The 19-voice vocal ensemble will present "Christmas with the Camerata," a concert of choral and vocal music for the season (Mark Anderson, director.) Tickets are \$35. Information and tickets at [pittsburghcamerata.org](http://pittsburghcamerata.org)

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE 10x16 Kirman Rug, Asking \$1,000, or best offer. One half selling price will be donated to PITAGO. Email [genaugsberg@hotmail.com](mailto:genaugsberg@hotmail.com)

## 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 WFES  
CLEMENS, 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



He was born in Rosenthal, Saxony, the son of a Lutheran pastor, and educated at the Anneschule in Dresden. He studied law at Leipzig University and organ, privately with J. S. Bach. In 1742, he became organist of the Frauenkirche in Dresden and in 1755 director of the music in the three principal churches there, and Cantor of the Kreuzschule. He enjoyed a considerable reputation among his contemporaries as an organist, especially for his skill in registration.

Homilius predominantly was a composer of music for the church. He wrote 10 passions, 2 oratorio, one for Christmas and another for Easter, over 150 Cantatas, 36 Chorale Preludes based on Lutheran hymn tunes, and various works for organ.

Little of his music was been printed during his lifetime, but Homilius was very liberal in allowing copies of his works. Of his 32 motets some excellent examples are to be found in his pupil, Johann Adam Hiller's *ierstimmige Motetten*. Specimens of his organ works are to be found in Körner's *Orgelvirtuos*. His published works include, a *Passions-Cantate* (1775); a *Christmas oratorio, Die Freude der Hirten über die Geburt Jesu* (1777); *Sechs deutsche Arien für Freunde ernsthafter Gesänge* (1786) and a *Weihnachtsmotette*. Those still in manuscript are much more numerous, and comprise a course of church music for Sundays and festivals; several Passions, including one according to St. Mark, perhaps his best work; a *Choralbuch* containing 167 chorales; and finally organ music, consisting of fugues, chorales with variations, and trios.

This link is the works available on Imslp:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Homilius,\\_Gottfried\\_August](https://imslp.org/wiki/Category:Homilius,_Gottfried_August)

A link to Johann Adam Hiller's *ierstimmige Motetten*:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Vierstimmige\\_Motetten\\_und\\_Arien\\_\(Hiller%2C\\_Johann\\_Adam\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Vierstimmige_Motetten_und_Arien_(Hiller%2C_Johann_Adam))

This link is to a collection of Chorale Preludes available on Imslp:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/32\\_Chorale\\_Preludes%2C\\_HoWV\\_VIII.2-33\\_\(Homilius%2C\\_Gottfried\\_August\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/32_Chorale_Preludes%2C_HoWV_VIII.2-33_(Homilius%2C_Gottfried_August))

**The deadline for the November Edition of the Pipelines Newsletter is Friday, November 19, 2021.**