



February 2023

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Message from the Dean

Dear Friends and colleagues,

The death of our beloved colleague Mark Nurnberger has caused me to think about the legacy that we leave in the parishes and institutions that we serve. Church musicians typically become involved in parish life well beyond our officially prescribed duties. We get to know families, and celebrate with them everything from birth thru life commitments thru death. We become personal friends with many in the community, which connects us with a deeper bond than that of someone hired solely to make music happen.

I've often wondered if anyone will remember us when we are gone, either from end of employment or end of life, and wish that there were a record for future generations of our service and commitment to the parish family. Is there an official record in your church or institution of those who have served? Do you have access to it? Does the community know the names of those who have led their worship, taught their musicians, served in ministry, helped them celebrate life events?

I am proposing that as a way to honor those who have served before us, we gather names, dates, and pertinent information for a historical record that becomes part of parish archives, including names of musical leaders, directors, organists, choir members, choir librarians, vocalists and instrumentalists. This could be an accessible public document kept with parish records. With so many parishes combining or closing, we should remember those who helped us to use our musical gifts to praise God.

It is important to be remembered as part of an institution's legacy and leadership, just as Mark was our dean in the years 2003-2005, in addition to all the lives he has touched with his music ministry.

Ken

Kenneth Danchik, FAGO
Dean

Message from the Sub Dean

Monday, February 27, 2023

Epiphany Greetings, PitAGO Friends and Colleagues,

On Monday, Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m., we hope to see you at our program meeting called, “An Introduction to Secularization and the Organ in the United States.” This topic will be presented by Dr. Alexander Meszler who is the Assistant Professor of Music and College Organist at Luther College, Decorah, IA.

The evening’s events will take place in the Social Hall at Saint Paul’s Cathedral located at 108 Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15213. An update about parking will be shared in a subsequent email blast, prior to this evening.

During this program, Dr. Meszler will address the declining trends of attendance for religious services in mainline Protestant and Catholic churches, the denominations most likely to sustain organs both financially and physically, should be cause for concern. While this program will provide an overview on what can be posited about the relationship of religious trends and the organ, its aim is not to sound a death knell. Recent secular and religious studies show us that secularization is multi-faceted—it has clearly not resulted (and is not resulting) in the absence of religion. Nevertheless, there has been substantial change. Beyond this overview, the program will speculate on potential positive futures through an analysis of secular uses of the organ from around the world. The inclusive use of the organ both within and outside of church still has the potential to create a vibrant future for the instrument.

Alexander Meszler is an organist dedicated to interdisciplinary performance and research. His performances and research aim to inspire new perspectives on the organ and its capabilities both within and beyond the liturgy. He serves as College Organist and Assistant Professor of Music at Luther College. With Kimberly Marshall, he is the General editor for a forthcoming online Encyclopedia of the Organ that will contain 4,000 articles about the organ. In 2020, Alexander completed his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at Arizona State University under Kimberly Marshall. He finished his Master’s in Organ Performance and Music Theory at the University of Kansas where he studied organ with Michael Bauer and James Higdon and his Bachelor’s in organ with Kola Owolabi while at Syracuse University. Before Luther College, he served as an Adjunct Professor at Syracuse University and Hamilton College.

See the link below to read further about our guest presenter, Dr. Meszler.

<https://www.luther.edu/faculty/alexander-meszler>

We are grateful to Dean Ken Danchik for hosting us for this meaningful discussion with Dr. Meszler. Also, we thank Craig Dobbins for his time and work with Dr. Meszler in preparing this timely subject matter as we grapple with our ever-changing world and understanding the impact of world events in the field of church music and serving the Church at-large.

Program Notes of Gratitude and Congratulations

We would like to take the time to recognize and express heartfelt thanks to our members who presented and hosted this past fall's events. Thank you for enriching our professional lives with your time, first-hand knowledge, expertise, and insight: Recitalists Brian Burns, Kevin Clemens, Dr. Wayne Earnest, Michael Kearney, and our host Timothy Heavner (Sept.); Peter Krasinki, and our co-hosts Frank Kurtik and Dale Abraham and our colleagues from the Pittsburgh Area Theater Organ Society (Oct.); Drs. Anne Labounsky and Susan Ferré for presenting an inspiring account of their collective scholarship and artistry, and our team of hosts---thank you Ben Bugaile, Don Megahan, and Sr. Cynthia Pock, Dean Danchik.

To everyone, we are grateful for your time and gifts towards contributing to and meeting the needs and interests of all of our chapter members.

Mark Your Calendars for this Spring 2023!

Event: March 20, 2023, Richard Fitzgerald, DMA, Director of Music and Organist at Saint Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, OH; "Improve Your Improv," a workshop.

Request: We are still looking for three participants to play either a prepared improvisation or demonstrate the skills to improvise as presented by Dr. Fitzgerald.

Venue: Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminister Pl., Pittsburgh, PA, 15232.

Event: April 24, 2023, Carson Cooman, Meet the Composer and learn from his diverse music industry.

Venue: First Lutheran Church, 615 Grant St., Pittsburgh, PA.

Event: May 22, 2023, Members' Recital hosted by Doug Starr, DMA, featuring the music of PitAGO composers; a celebrative Centenary Anniversary reception is planned to follow the recital.

Request: We are still looking for six participants to perform their original compositions or that of PitAGO members and or friends who have been strongly associated with our chapter. Please contact Sub-Dean, Christine Clewell with your interest, title of your selection (s), and the performance time(s). Members are most welcome to perform their own pieces, or those written by our chapter members.

Venue: Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 1066 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

A call to 3 and 6 participants for March and May!

If you wish to participate in the improvisation master class at Shadyside in March or perform original compositions written by our chapter members, please contact Sub-Dean, Christine at the email address below:

orgel@iup.edu

For the March event at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, we need to hear from everyone by Feb. 20th. For the May Members' Recital at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, we need to hear from everyone by April 22nd.

Thank you for your time and willingness to contribute to these exciting program offerings.

From the Registrar

By now, you should have received a pdf of an "interim" chapter directory. In addition to the digital version, a FEW printed copies will be made available at the next couple of Chapter meetings. The next scheduled directory will be produced and distributed this fall, after chapter elections are held in May of this year.

A reminder that it is YOUR responsibility to keep your information current on the ONCARD System at AGO!

There are a few changes to the information in this directory. Please note these in your copy!

Ainor, Michael J.- Revised info: Pipe Organ Technician; P. O. Box 263, Bakerstown, PA 15007
412-441-4577 Office; 412-853-3351 Mobile; email: mjaccf@copper.net

McKelway, J. Barbara: Her correct phone number is 412.366.1083.

Misutka, Thomas E. - revised information is: 1074 Sandy Ridge Drive, Sarver, PA 16055-9553;
Home: 878-258-0258; email: wdwfan321@yahoo.com

Walchesky, Chris: Correct his title to "Organist & Choirmaster"

Also, in the list of Deans on page 4, Chris informed me that "Lee Kohlenberg Jr. (1978-80) is in fact alive and well, and lives 2 miles from him!" Good news for a change! Please remove the cross next to his name!

Jeff Gray

Registrar

A Trip to France to visit Spiritan Sites!

A Trip to France to visit Spiritan Sites, May 14-June 3, 2023 led by Spiritan Father Jean-Michel Gelmetti and Ann Labounsky. The focus of this trip is to visit the places where the founders Duquesne University lived and worked in the Eastern part of France, Brittany and around Paris. Some of the cities include: Reims, Verdun, Metz, Amiens, Lisieux, Paris, and Mont St. Michel. We will visit eight cathedrals and play many historic organs as well as living in the Spiritan houses instead of hotels. There are still a few available seats for this tour. If you are interested please contact Ann Labounsky at labounskyann@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

First Friday Concerts at the Church of the Redeemer on Friday February 3, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

The Title is: "Love letters: composers and teachers who have formed me."

Ann Labounsky

Sunday, February 5, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong with organ recital by Jon Tyillian & Alan Lewis

Music by Charles Wood, César Franck, & Edward Elgar

Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh.

Freewill offering

Sunday, February 5, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Canzona: A recital of arias and German chamber music

Soprano stylist, Katy Williams is joined by cello, violin and organ in an afternoon of German chamber music in repertoire from Bach to Mozart. Tickets are \$20.

Saint Paul's Episcopal 1066 Washington Rd. in Mount Lebanon. Pittsburgh.

For more information see <https://www.stpaulspgh.org/concert-series/>

Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Music in a Great Space, the concert series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, welcomes the IonSound Project, presenting “Snapshots: Spain and Latin America.”

IonSound is comprised of clarinetist Kathleen Costello, cellist Elisa Kohanski, and pianist Jack Kurutz. The program will include music of Maurice Ravel and Astor Piazzolla.

No tickets are necessary; donations are appreciated.

For more information on the Music in a Great Space series, call 412.682.4300, or visit

www.shadysidepres.org.

Event Location: Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Concerts on the Casavant welcomes

Kenneth Danchik, Organist

St. Bernard Catholic Church

311 Washington Road, Pittsburgh

Freewill offering

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Vespers: Candlelight Communion

Join Shadyside Presbyterian Church for vespers on Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22. These 45-minute candlelight Communion services include the Lord’s Supper; a homily; and music offered by the Shadyside Strings, Chatham Baroque, and the Pittsburgh Girls Choir. Lenten vespers continue weekly through March 29.

For more information, call 412.682.4300, or visit www.shadysidepres.org.

Event Location: Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Sunday, March 5, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong with harpsichord recital by Russell Ayres

Music by Harold Friedell and William Byrd

Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh. Freewill offering

Sunday, March 5, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Recital of African American Spirituals - songs sung from common experiences that affect all of us.

Orchestrated and sung by Kenneth Stockard and accompanied on piano by Lucas Bowman.

Saint Paul's Episcopal 1066 Washington Rd. in Mount Lebanon. Pittsburgh.

For more information see <https://www.stpaulspgh.org/concert-series/>

Dear Colleagues,

My community handbell choir, Ring Pittsburgh, would like to acquire Malmark handbells and chimes. Specifically we are looking for the 4th and 5th octave add on sets of handbells and 5 octaves of chimes. Perhaps there are some cases in a closet gathering dust in your church? Tables, pads, mallets and table covers would be a real bonus! Please contact me after your treasure hunt!

Many thanks and blessings,
Mary Rita Rossetti

412-913-3752

mrrtuf@comcast.net

Seasonal Music Offering

Introductions, accompaniments, and variations on 4 Easter Hymns are available by emailing musicmanwayne@outlook.com: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today; Thine Is the Glory; Christ Is Alive; Hail Thee, Festival Day.* Upon request, a free PDF will be emailed to you which you can then download and print.

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
DOBBINS, CRAIG 412.400.5996 FLN
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
KETTERING, REGINA 412.477.5547 WFES
KRANTZ, DOUGLAS 724.554.3314 WFS
LA RUE, ELIZABETH SPC 412.999.4812 WFESLN
LINDSEY, III, C. DENNIS 918.409.6467 WFES
LYNCH, ROBERT 724.787.7447 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
ROLLETT, TONY 412.726.8569 ES
RUBRIGHT, SANDY S. 724.994.8872 WFE
SALMON, MICHAEL 904.7187.622. WFEL

SHAW, PAMELA, MA, MLS 412.425.5962. WFESLN
SKROUPA, DANE 724.265.4840 FLN
STIPCAK, VALERIE 724.388.1038 WFES

Substitute Organists NOT Available for Sunday
Mornings

AIKINS, CANDICE 724.568.2640 WF
BRUHN, LYNN 724.733.8111 WFE
CLEMENS, KEVIN M. 443.604.5072 WFES
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
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

In Memoriam



Mark C. Nurnberger, age 69, of Glenshaw, passed away after a courageous battle with MDS on Monday, January 9, 2023. Beloved husband of Beth; Loving father of Carrie (Dennis) Lane, Annie (Dalin) Nurnberger-Jones, and Meg Nurnberger; Proud Pup Pup of Carter, Piper, and Elizabeth. Mark was a graduate of Mount Union College. He was also a longtime Deacon of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Organist, and Christian Education Director at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Glenshaw. He served as the Pittsburgh Dean of the American Guild of Organists and was on the S.W. PA ELCA candidacy committee. Mark was also a dedicated men's choir coach and trip coordinator for over 10 years for the Shaler Area High School Choir. He enjoyed spending time at Lakeside Chautauqua volunteering and serving as a Board member of the Lakeside Foundation. A Memorial Service was held on Friday at 1 PM in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Glenshaw.. Special donations, in memory of Mark may be sent to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gibsonia OR the Shaler Area Backpack Initiative OR the Dalton Bacco Living the Dream Fund.

Organ Artist Series

Sunday, March 19, 2023, 3:00 p.m.



Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald is currently the Director of Music and Organist of Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio, a position he has held since 2015. Prior to this appointment, he served the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC as the Assistant Director of Music (2003-2007) and the Associate Director of Music (2013-2014) where his playing could be heard during internationally televised broadcasts.

In addition to performing improvisations, Dr. Fitzgerald has taught organ improvisation at the Peabody Conservatory and has presented workshops on the subject to professional organizations including the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral

Musicians, as well as several chapters of the American Guild of Organists. For his doctoral dissertation, Dr. Fitzgerald formulated a method for organ improvisation pedagogy that he continues to present as a basis for his teaching.

Dr. Fitzgerald will manifest his technical feats at the four-manual, 106-rank Reuter organ a **Shadyside Presbyterian Church**.

Presented in cooperation with Shadyside Presbyterian Church Music in a Great Space.

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

General admission \$12.

Student free with valid ID.

Shadyside Presbyterian Church

5121 Westminister Place

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15241

