



**March 2023**

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[www.pitago.org](http://www.pitago.org)

**Message from the Dean**

Dear friends and colleagues,

What comes to mind when you hear the term “full-time” church musician? I’ve heard this term used to describe a parish’s desire to employ a musician for specified duties that require 40 hours a week worth of commitment. Recently it seems that several full-time positions are cutting back to a more modest list of “part-time” responsibilities.

Perhaps I'm naive, but full-time to me means that a person can live comfortably on the specified salary with a reasonable workload that also provides opportunity for recreation and a personal life.

Further, it suggests that the salary is sufficient to allow for purchasing a car, housing (renting or owning), insurance and retirement benefits, recreation and vacation, providing for a significant other and possible children and their education, and the possibility to live in the same neighborhood as the church community.

I mention this because we often ponder the future of the organ, especially in worship. In my experience, the sound and thrill of the organ is very much appreciated. Organ recitals and concerts are popular in many cities especially in Europe. The Hammond Organ is seeing a resurgence in several new digital models used in popular music. The Theatre Organ seems to be making a comeback in certain venues. Several companies are building digital versions of classical pipe organs.

How do we encourage, train and nurture organists in this environment of changing responsibilities and less financial stability? Is it realistic to expect an organist to spend several years and a considerable amount of money to earn a college degree in organ or church music for a part-time position?

As we plan for the future of our Chapter, we need to be realistic about the programs we provide, and what we expect from our members, who are navigating these employment issues. Looking forward to electing new chapter officers, we need to recognize that most of our members are "juggling" several jobs along with part-time church positions. Often, when holding down several jobs, communications become jumbled, tasks and duties may be delayed or forgotten, plans may change. We need to adjust our expectations and recognize that we are in challenging times. Our future success as a Guild demands this of us.

Ken

Kenneth Danchik, FAGO

Dean

## Message from the Sub Dean

### **For Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:30P: “Improve your Improv! Techniques for the beginning improviser”**

Greetings, PitAGO Friends and Colleagues,

On Monday, March 20, at 7:30P, please join us for our monthly meeting which will be a masterclass on organ improvisation called, “Improve your Improv.! Basic techniques for the beginning improviser.” The instructional format will provide an opportunity for us to observe our guest presenter Dr. Richard Fitzgerald who will work with organists from our chapter. Dr. Fitzgerald is currently the Director of Music and Organist of Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio. 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.

The Fitzgerald masterclass on improvisation will take place in the sanctuary at Shadyside Presbyterian Church located at 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA, 15232. Everyone should enter through the glass doors on Westminister Place—under the large stone portico which leads to the church’s atrium.

In his own words, Dr. Fitzgerald describes the masterclass as such: “I plan to discuss how to go beyond ‘noodling’ and fashion music that is substantial, engaging, and complimentary of the liturgy. I will discuss and demonstrate how to present and develop a theme, how to improvise using modes, and will emphasize the importance of simplicity and clarity of form, among other related topics. Don't be intimidated! This will be fun!”

We thank our colleagues who volunteered to participate in this masterclass and our host, Dr. Mark A. Anderson, Director of Music Ministry at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. Dr. Anderson’s time and expertise are appreciated in presenting Dr. Richard Fitzgerald’s concert and facilitating the details and preparation for the upcoming March masterclass.

For further information about Dr. Fitzgerald, his concert, and Shadyside Presbyterian Church, see the links that should appear below:

Dr. Richard Fitzgerald's website:

<http://www.richardkfitzgerald.com/biography.html>

Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh, Dr. Fitzgerald's Concert on Sunday, March 19, 2023:

<https://organseries.com/index.shtm>

Shadyside Presbyterian Church:

<https://www.shadysidepres.org/>

**Mark Your Calendars for this Spring 2023!**

**Event:** April 24, 2023, Carson Cooman, Meet the Composer and learn from his 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 after the recital.

**Request:** There is still room for three more performers. Please contact Frank Kurtik and Sub-Dean, Christine Clewell with your interest, title of your selection (s), and the performance time(s). All are welcome to perform their own works, or those written by our chapter members.

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

***All of the monthly meetings begin at 7:30P.***

## **A DONATION FOR OUR CHAPTER**

by Dr. Wayne Earnest

As some of you know from my emails, I've been writing some "practical music" for organists: introductions, accompaniments, and variations on hymns; last-stanza hymn harmonies; and transcriptions of classics (to use when singers &/or instrumentalists aren't available). Hardcopies are available at the "used music" table provided before our chapter meetings. I have personally paid for the printing and binding of those hardcopies so that **100% of the sales proceeds can go to support our Pittsburgh Chapter of the AGO.** PDF/digital copies are also available upon request: 724-206-8854 or [musicmanwayne@outlook.com](mailto:musicmanwayne@outlook.com). Many thanks to all of you who have offered your editing comments and notes of appreciation & encouragement.

In February, I completed *Last-Stanza Harmonies for the Liturgical Year: Advent through Christ-the-King Sunday*. It is available by individual season or the entire liturgical year. Someone nicknamed the collection "*Orgelbüchlein 2.0*" – but I'm pretty sure Johnny Bach isn't threatened by it!

Recently, I signed an agreement with J.W. Pepper as a distributor of my music. The agreement allows me to maintain the copyright to my music. Founded in 1876 in Philadelphia, J.W. Pepper is "credited with being the largest sheet music retailer in the world, with over 750,000 titles in its catalog."

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.**

Choral Concert: “Luminous: Music Inspired by Light.” The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale and string ensemble. Susan Medley, director.

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Tickets available at the door, at [www.PCCsing.org](http://www.PCCsing.org), or at 412-635-6543.

### **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/>

### **Sunday, March 5 at 5 p.m.**

Choral Evensong with harpsichord recital by Russell Ayres

Music by Harold Friedell and William Byrd

Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Avenue; freewill offering

### **Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 p.m.**

Shadyside Presbyterian Church for vespers on Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. 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](http://www.shadysidepres.org).

Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

## **Pittsburgh Camerata Concert**

**Sunday, March 5, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**

Music in a Great Space, the concert series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, welcomes the Pittsburgh Camerata, presenting *The True Story of Cinderella* as re-imagined by Warren Martin. Choir, under the direction of Dr. Mark A. Anderson, with special guests, the Pittsburgh Girls Choir. The program also will include *Further Adventures of Alice*.

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.pittsburghcamerata.org](http://www.pittsburghcamerata.org) or at the door.

For more information on the Music in a Great Space series, call 412.682.4300, or visit [www.shadysidepres.org](http://www.shadysidepres.org).

Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

**Sunday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m.**

38<sup>th</sup> Annual Sponsorship Concert: Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* and Rutter's *Requiem*. The Fox Chapel Festival Chorus and The Academy Chamber Orchestra. Guy Russo, conductor; David Billings, organist.

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Free admission.

Reception.

## **Seasonal Music Offering**

Introductions, accompaniments, and variations on 4 Easter Hymns are available by emailing [musicmanwayne@outlook.com](mailto: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

## 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

