



June/July 2023

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Message from the Dean

Dear friends and colleagues,

The election results have been communicated to our membership. Thanks to all who agreed to be on the ballot, to the nominating committee, and congratulations to all who will assume office on July 1.

In this, my final dean's column, I want to express my gratitude to all who have guided me with advice and have sprung to action in service. Sub-dean Christine Clewell has been a constant advisor and confidant, and has encouraged me when I was less sure.

Many people have advice for the dean, often with opposing suggestions and opinions. There is no denying that much has changed and will continue to change in our society with regard to religion, politics, and education. Hopefully we will be ready and willing to evolve and embrace the changes that will be necessary to keep the AGO active and meaningful to all who seek guidance and camaraderie.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as sub-dean and then dean these past four years. I am sharing thoughts and ideas with our national leadership, and plan to be active and present to our local chapter as needed.

Please accept my fond thanks for your trust in me, for your friendship, and for your support.

Ken

Kenneth Danchik, FAGO

Dean

Message from the Sub Dean

The June- July 2023 Pipelines, June 14, 2023

Pentecost greetings, friends and colleagues,

How is it that almost two years have nearly come and gone since I wrote my first article as your “newly elected Sub-Dean”? Let me say that I feel the same way now as I did then: It has been a joy and privilege to serve the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (PitAGO).

This Sub-Dean article is a note of thanks and a sentimental journey. Throughout my graduate student days at Indiana University of Pennsylvania my organ professor, the late Carol Teti, drove us, her students, into the big city to hear Thomas Trotter and David Higgs. Trotter’s concert was part of the 1989 *Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh (OAS)*. Both organ artists performed at Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park. Fast forward to 2011-2013, I was delighted to be elected to serve as a member of the Executive Committee-at-Large. Before and during this time, I also served as the PitAGO organ competition coordinator and liaison with the Pittsburgh Concert Society’s then young artist competition and the Guild’s Regional Competition for Young Organists.

This time was particularly memorable for our chapter as we witnessed rising organ rock stars such as Nick Capozzoli, Daniel Ficarri, and Jeremy Jelinek. In December 2020, I was delighted to receive a phone call from the Nominating Committee inviting me to run for your Sub-Dean. Fast forward to June 2023: I have been enriched and inspired during this time of service.

Referencing my February *Pipelines* article acknowledging the fall 2022 hosts and presenters, I wish to thank the gracious hosts and presenters who generously gave their talents and time since January 2023: To Dean Ken Danchik, Peter Luley, Joe Tuttle, and Jon Tyillian, thank you for presenting the organ demonstration at St. Rosalia; to our host, Dean Danchik, Craig Dobbins, and Regina Kettering, I appreciated your work in preparing and presenting Dr. Alexander Meszler; to Dr. Mark Anderson and the *OAS* team, Jon and Aaron Sproul, the improvisation workshop was well received with Dr. Richard Fitzgerald; gratitude is expressed to Cynthia Pock for hosting the program with Carson Cooman; lastly, I am thankful to Frank Kurtik and the host and performer Dr. Douglas Starr for their time and artistry in presenting the 2023 May Members' Recital. A special note of gratitude is sent to this list of chapter members who participated and prepared music during our March and May events: Larry Allen, our former Dean; Christopher Cox; Dr. Wayne Earnest; Keith Ferguson, SPC; Michael Kearney; George Pearsall; George Spencer; and Joyce Moon Strobel. Finally, for the most helpful display of publicity and tireless livestreaming, I am thankful for this team of colleagues: Michael Kearney for covering the technological needs of our chapter; Bob Senay for the *Pipelines* articles; and Dr. Neil Stahurski for the email blasts—their time, expertise, and care made it possible to reach our chapter members throughout my two years of service.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Craig Dobbins, Frank Kurtik, and Cynthia Pock. Your combined gifts, wisdom, indefatigable dedication to the PitAGO mission inspired me every step of the way. Your willingness to adapt and be resilient was inspirational. In July 2021, we started out as a planning committee for the Centenary Gala, meeting many times to discuss menus and a program for this affair. Graciously and adeptly you adjusted and became the subcommittee for the September installation of officers in 2021. By spring 2022, you faithfully served on the Program Committee for 2022-2023. Always, you made the work enjoyable and rewarding.

To Dean Danchik, thank you for your gifts of time, generosity of service and spirit, and astute leadership. It was an honor to navigate these two years through the challenges, rewards, and goal to re-engage this community in life after March 2020.

It was no easy task to go from virtual meetings to a return to normalcy. It was a privilege to serve this time with you, and the 2021-2023 Executive Board.

Referencing the AGO's virtual conference theme from OrganFest 2021: *beauty endures*, it is my hope that we will all continue to work together to preserve artistic beauty that survives the test of time in all season of life. What I knew in 1989 is what I know for sure now: All things are possible when we work together with forbearance and encouragement given in abundance, always giving to the measure that we need of more grace, faith, and hope to run the race with perseverance and artistic excellence. There is so much beautiful music to be heard, learned, and performed.

In closing, to our newly elected Dean and Sub-Dean, Jeff Gray and Regina Kettering, and the officers for 2023-2025, may grace, joy, and favor abound throughout your term of service to this extraordinary community of PitAGO members. To the 2023-2024 Program Committee members, thank you for collaborating to create what should be a meaningful year of learning and inspiration: Michael Hammer, Michael Kearney, Regina Kettering, Elizabeth La Rue, Bob Senay, Aaron Sproul, and Dean Danchik, *ex-officio*.

OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

The Nominating Committee of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has completed its work which involved numerous phone calls to recruit nominees, emails, meetings (Zoom & In-Person), and the tabulation of votes on the ballots. The results are as follows.

OFFICERS

Dean: Jeff Gray

Sub-Dean: Regina Kettering

Secretary: Jane Miller

Treasurer: James Burns

Registrar: Bob Senay

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Larry Allen

Chris Cox

Craig Dobbins

Pam Shaw

Newly elected officers and committee members begin their term this July 1st. A formal installation ceremony will take place at our next chapter meeting on September 25th.

Many thanks and congratulations to all those elected to these vital leadership roles in our chapter!

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
ROLLETT, TONY 412.726.8569 ES
RUBRIGHT, SANDY S. 724.994.8872 WFE
SALMON, MICHAEL 904.7187.622. WFEL

SENAY, ROBERT, MM, 724-255-0488 WFELNS
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 WFESLN
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