



**September 2023**

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**Message from the Dean**

**A Note from the Dean**

Pipelines: September 2023

Greetings to Pittsburgh Chapter members and friends!

If you've visited our Chapter website (*pitago.org*) since July (and I hope you visit it on a regular basis), much of this month's *Notes from the Dean* will look familiar! I thought that for this first issue in my tenure, why "re-invent the wheel?" So here goes!

**WE'RE BACK!**

And we hope you are coming back as well!

My thanks (*and thanks from all of us!*) to my two immediate predecessor Deans – Chaz Bowers and Ken Danchik – and the Executive Committees who served with them, for successfully guiding the Chapter through unprecedented times.

We plan to continue streaming our Chapter meetings in addition to welcoming all back to in-person gatherings!

I must begin by saying I am both humbled and honored to have been elected as the 64<sup>th</sup> Dean of this esteemed Chapter!

A bit about me. I have been a member of the Guild since 1976, and have served a few terms on the Executive Committee, and most recently as the Chapter Registrar. I served as the editor of *Pittsburgh Pipelines* for several years, and have worked on committees of three Regional Conventions hosted by our Chapter: 1987, 1999, and 2015. I have been the Organist/Director of Music and Liturgy at Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Carnegie since May 1, 1981.

I have been married to my wonderful, supportive wife Carolyn since October of 1982, and we have two great sons: Brian, who lives in North East, PA with his wife, four cats, and a basset/beagle named Rudder; and Matthew, who lives in Oakdale, PA.

I was introduced to the organ as a very young boy at Christ United Presbyterian Church in Carnegie. My parents were in the choir, and the organist was a woman named Madelaine Emich. I was invited to sit on a chair next to the console as she played the postlude each week! Madelaine was Dean of this chapter from 1942 thru 1944, and at the first “Past Dean’s Night” held meeting after I became a member, she was in attendance. I re-introduced myself to her, and she said “I always knew you’d go into church music!”

That’s enough about me. On to more important stuff: the coming Chapter year! Some highlights:

**The Return of Fellowship at each meeting!** At four of the meetings, there will be the resumption of our ever-popular monthly dinners. And when there’s a meeting with no dinner, a reception will be held following our program. So there will be an opportunity for fellowship at each meeting held during the year. Regina Kettering, our new Sub-Dean, will go into more detail.

**The Installation Service of our 2023-2025 Officers will be on September 25<sup>th</sup>** at Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Carnegie, with a reception to follow.

**A program on *Voices of the Temple and Literature from the Non-Western Christian Rite***

**A Combined Chapter Meeting/OAS Concert by Thomas Gaynor** at Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside

**A program we’re calling *Nog n’ Noels***

**A Hauptwerk Organ Demonstration/Presentation**

**A Season-ending Roadtrip to Indiana University of Pennsylvania in May**, to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Nation AGO's Pogorzelski-Yankee Organ lease agreement with IUP, with Dr. John Walker. *(We are exploring the renting of a bus – or two!)*

It looks like an awesome year of programs that you won't want to miss! Our thanks to the Program Committee, chaired by our past Sub Dean, Christine Clewell.

In addition to our monthly meetings, we can look forward to an amazing year of outstanding young concert organists performing for the 45<sup>th</sup> season of the Organ Artists Series! I'm particularly happy to welcome back to Pittsburgh Nicholas Cappozoli, a graduate of South Fayette High School just a few years before my two sons graduated from that same district! Many thanks to Aaron Sproul, John Tyllian, and their committee for putting together an fabulous year of concerts!

Again, I am honored to serve the Pittsburgh Chapter as Dean for the next two years, and I look forward to seeing you at the September Installation Service at Saint John in Carnegie!

Regards,

Jeffrey H. Gray  
Dean

NEW email address: [jhgray433@gmail.com](mailto:jhgray433@gmail.com)

## Message from the Sub Dean

**Welcome to a fresh and exciting year! Our monthly gatherings have become a cornerstone of fellowship and education. As we convene in the months to come, let us make this year one of comradery, achievement, and memorable milestones.**

I would like to thank all the members who participated in the chapter survey this spring. Your valuable insights have played a pivotal role in shaping the plans for the upcoming year, and many of your ideas have been incorporated into the upcoming program year. A special thanks goes to the program committee (Christine Clewell, Michael Hammer, Michael Kearney, Elizabeth LaRue, Bob Senay, and Aaron Sproul) for their dedicated work in planning this year's events. We can look forward to an enriching and fulfilling year ahead.

Our first meeting this year is the installation service, on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:30PM. The service will be held at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Carnegie. The Carnegie Brass will perform with Ken Danchik, FAGO, who has graciously agreed to be the organist for the evening. Incoming officers are asked to arrive at 7:00PM so that we can determine the processional order. Academic regalia is optional. As we gather to welcome the new board, we would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Ken Danchick, FAGO, outgoing Dean, Christine Clewell, PhD, outgoing Sub-Dean, and those finishing their terms on the Executive Board for their unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership over the past two years. Their commitment and hard work have greatly enriched our chapter. Following the service, there will be a reception with a goodwill basket to offset the cost of catering.

The organ at St. John's Lutheran Church, built by Patrick J. Murphy and Associates, Inc., stands as a testament to the harmony between artistry and devotion. According to their website, the 17 rank instrument contains an exquisitely-balanced two manual, with a third manual available to solo specific stops. Full specifications for the organ can be found here: <https://www.pjmorgans.com/pipe-organs/opus-65/>

The meetings the rest of the year will feature a variety of options. The October gathering at Ingomar United Methodist will focus on exploring Voices of the Temple and literature from the non-Western Christian Rite, adding diversity to the understanding of Christian traditions. The November meeting will be the OAS concert featuring Thomas Gaynor, which promises to be a delightful musical experience. The January program at Calvary United Methodist Church features "Noëls 'n' Nog." The event time is yet to be determined, but there will be a reception afterwards, offering a festive atmosphere. February's gathering will focus on Hauptwerk, demonstrating the possibilities of the musical technology. There is no meeting in March to allow for the extensive requirements of Holy Week. We are in the process of confirming our April meeting, with details to come in a future newsletter.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the near future.

Regina Kettering, Sub-Dean

### **Programs for the 2023-2024 Year**

Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 7:30PM  
Installation of Officers, reception afterwards  
St. John Lutheran Church  
601 Washington Ave.  
Carnegie, PA 15106

Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 7:30PM, dinner before  
Voices of the Temple and literature from the non-Western Christian Rite  
Ingomar United Methodist  
1501 W. Ingomar Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 7:30PM dinner before  
OAS concert, Thomas Gaynor  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
315 Shady Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, time TBD  
Nog 'n' *Noëls*, reception afterwards  
Calvary United Methodist Church  
971 Beech Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:30PM, dinner before  
Hauptwerk  
Place TBD

March – no meeting

April meeting TBD

### **Pit AGO Fall 2023 Initial Survey Results**

The Pittsburgh AGO Program Committee built, designed and distributed a survey to assess membership satisfaction and assist with program development.

When asking how one would describe their membership category the answers ranged from, ‘a friend of the chapter’ to ‘full-time director of music and worship’. Out of the 48 survey responses, 38% are part-time organists, 19% are retired organists, and 17% are organists that play for personal entertainment/fun or income. One person completing the survey reported being a student organist. Two individuals said they were, ‘a friend of the chapter,’ and two said they were ‘organ aficionados’.

When inquiring about the personal level of interaction with the Pittsburgh AGO Chapter, 25% (n=48) said they attend six or more meetings a year. Twenty-six percent of the respondents averaging two to six meetings or events during a year.

Results are still being assessed from the 49 responses to the question regarding the most memorable Pittsburgh AGO Program. From a very high-level investigation it seems people remember the professional organists that provide a workshop and perform. John Walker was mentioned three times and OAS concerts two times. Choral workshops were noted three times.

More details will be shared in future newsletters as the data is further analyzed.

The survey is still live if you have not had a moment yet to complete it. There are only eight questions and will take less than 10 minutes to complete. Sharing your insights on what is valuable to you as a Pittsburgh Chapter AGO member will help guide chapter programming in the coming years. Please participate so the chapter can continue to thrive and be an asset to all local organists.

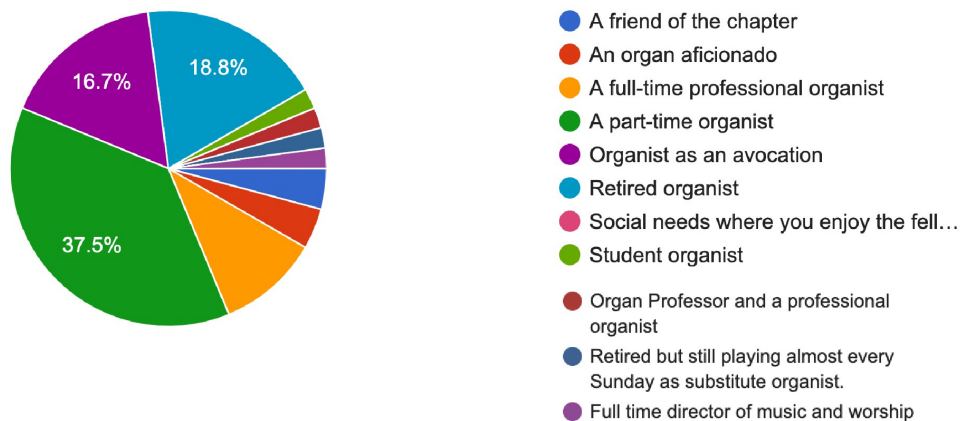
Out of the 48 survey responses, 38% are part-time organists, 19% are retired organists, and 17% are organists that play for personal entertainment/fun or income. One person completing the survey reported being a student organist. Two individuals said they were, 'a friend of the chapter,' and two said they were 'organ aficionados'. The pie chart below shows the full breakdown of the 48 chapter members that responded to the survey.

Twenty-five percent of the 48 survey respondents report attending more than six meetings a year.

Twenty-six percent of the Respondents average three meetings or events during a year.

How would you describe your membership category (Select one):

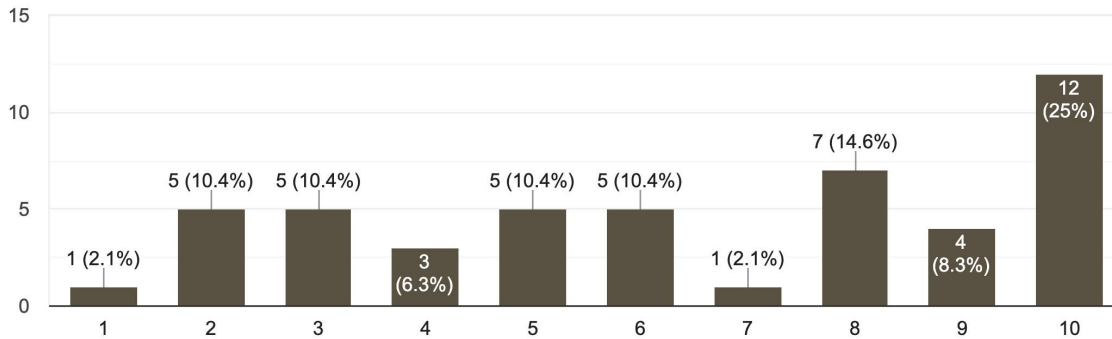
48 responses



Twenty-five percent of the 48 survey respondents report attending more than six meetings a year. Twenty-six percent of the respondents averaged three meetings or events a year

On a scale from 1 - 10, how would you describe your interaction with the Pittsburgh AGO Chapter?

48 responses



Results are still being assessed from the 45 responses to the question regarding the most memorable Pittsburgh AGO Program. From a very high level of investigation it seems people remember the professional organists that provide a workshop and perform. John Walker was mentioned three times and OAS concerts twice. Choral workshops were noted three times. More details will be shared in the future.



## **Upcoming Events/Concerts**

**First Friday Concerts 2023-2024 Sponsored through the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer and OSHER 12:00-1:00**

**September 1: Piano: Nathan Carterette**

**October 6: Brass Ensemble conducted by James Gourley**

**Episcopal Church of the Redeemer**

**5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.**

## **Pittsburgh Camerata Concert**

**Sunday, October 1, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**

Music in a Great Space, the concert series at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, presents the Pittsburgh Camerata on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Hear Pittsburgh's premier professional chamber choir, under the direction of Dr. Mark A. Anderson, in a program featuring Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Tarik O'Regan's *Dorchester Canticles*.

Tickets may be purchased online a [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).

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

## **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 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