



**November 2023**

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

**In place of our regular monthly meeting with are having a Organ Artist Series  
Concert**

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

## Dean's Notes

November 2023

Greetings, Pittsburgh Chapter Members and Friends!

**What are you thankful for?** Well, for me, I am thankful for my family, having just celebrated my 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary with my wonderful wife! I'm thankful for the musical gift that God has given me, which has allowed me to serve at Saint John/Carnegie for 42 years, playing the wonderful Patrick Murphy organ dedicated 5 years ago last month. I'm thankful for many wonderful folks who are more than colleagues – they are also life-long friends. I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to serve this Chapter in so many rolls over the past 47 years – from Board Member to Newsletter Editor to serving on three regional convention committees, and now as Dean. Which brings me to the second paragraph this month:

**What are we as a Chapter thankful for?** We have a wonderful, active membership (*although not as big as even a few short years ago, we still rank in the top five-to-ten chapters in the entire AGO!*).

We have a concert series that is the envy of so many chapters...the Organ Artist Series is in the midst of their 45<sup>th</sup> season! We were able to keep the Chapter going throughout the pandemic, thanks to the unwavering leadership of Chas Bowers and Ken Danchik. We have a very dedicated Executive Board and Committee heads who work diligently to make this a great Chapter. And we are home to so many magnificent organs in beautiful churches. I could go on. And on. And on. There are so many things we as a Chapter can be thankful for!

The familiar Thanksgiving hymn “*We Gather Together*” is very appropriate for our chapter this fall, as both our October and November meetings include dinners preceding them (*as do all the OAS Concerts this season*)! Although this article had to be submitted about a week prior to the October meeting, I'm sure it was great to once again gather for a time of fellowship and some wonderful food before we have our monthly program!

As our preparations turn to Advent and Christmas, please remember to take a few minutes to pause and be thankful for all you have been blessed with!

I hope to see you at our Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> combined meeting/OAS Concert at Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside.

Jeff Gray

Dean

***Reminder: My new email address is [jhgray433@gmail.com](mailto:jhgray433@gmail.com)!***

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

We have decided to forgo our regular meeting for the month of November. Instead, we have an exciting opportunity for you to enjoy a memorable evening. The OAS concert featuring the remarkable talents of Thomas Gaynor will take place on the same Monday our meetings are usually held. I warmly encourage all of you to attend the OAS dinner and concert event.

The expectations of the upcoming holidays are often found reflected back to us when we sing "We Gather Together." Throughout this program year, we are bringing back the gatherings that had significant impact on our lives. The hymn originated in the Netherlands in the late 16th century, as a reminder to gather together even when times were difficult. At the time, many Dutch discouraged or prohibited from gathering due to differing theology from the governing of Spain. With its uplifting melody and powerful lyrics, "We Gather Together" continues to be a staple in congregational singing during Thanksgiving and other moments of reflection and communal worship. Its message of unity, gratitude, and seeking solace in times of adversity can be a comfort as we move into what is one of the busiest times of year for organists.

As musicians, the weeks leading up to Advent can be a whirlwind of rehearsals, planning, and preparations for the upcoming weeks. However, in the midst of the excitement, remember to take time for yourself and your families. Whether it's a quiet evening at home, a walk in the park, or simply sharing a meal with family, these moments provide the stillness we need to deliver the gift of music throughout the busy holiday season.

## Upcoming Events/Concerts

### November 3: Vocal: Amy Stabnau and friends

#### Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

5700 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

### Gabriel Jackson's *Mass for All Saints*

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

In recognition of All Saints' Day, traditionally observed November 1, and, particularly, in memory of those who have entered eternal rest in the past year, the Shadyside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir presents Gabriel Jackson's *Mass for All Saints* on Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 p.m. Under the direction of Dr. Mark A. Anderson, the Chancel Choir will be accompanied by organist Larry Allen. You are invited to join us for this afternoon of music, reflection, and remembrance.

For more information, call 412.682.4300, or visit [www.shadysidepres.org](http://www.shadysidepres.org).

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

**Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.** - Music on the Avenue presents a recital by Ryan Croyle.

Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 601 Washington Avenue, Carnegie PA 15106

### **Advent Choral Concert**

Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Shadyside Presbyterian Church presents an Advent choral concert on Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m. The Shadyside Chancel Choir, accompanied by organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, will present Francis Poulenc's *Gloria*, under the direction of Dr. Mark A. Anderson. No tickets are necessary for admission; donations are appreciated. Consider arriving early to enjoy warm beverages and desserts as part of the church's community open house from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

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 Westminister Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Organ Artists Series Of Pittsburgh

Upcoming events

Season 45:  
Thomas Gaynor



OAS November 27, 2023

Dinner at 6, Concert at 7:30  
Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh  
Tickets on sale 8.11.23 at [organseries.com](http://organseries.com)





*Dutch-Canadian organist*

# ANDRÉ KNEVEL

*in concert*

FRIDAY  
**NOV 3**  
7:00 PM

**Epiphany Roman Catholic Church**  
184 Washington Place, Pittsburgh (next to PPG Arena)  
*Free admission with freewill offering*

SATURDAY  
**NOV 4**  
7:00 PM

**First Presbyterian Church of Beaver Falls** (with Michael R. Kearney)  
1103 Eighth Avenue, Beaver Falls  
*Free admission; co-sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Beaver Falls and Geneva College*