

PITAGO PIPELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

OCTOBER 2025

DON'T MISS OUR OCTOBER MEETING!

OCTOBER 27, 2025

JOHN DIXON

CLINICIAN, COMPOSER, AND NATIONAL AGO TREASURER

Spend the evening with John Dixon as he shares his personal story and takes us through his compositions in several genres. You will come away from the meeting with new ideas for general and seasonal service music, recitals, organ-piano duets, and teaching resources. John will also comment on and answer questions about AGO national trends and plans. Free music for members! Non-members by donation.

www.johndixon.com

Mt Lebanon Lutheran Church

(Host: Larry Allen, Organist Emeritus and a Past Dean of our Chapter)

975 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA. 15228

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Catered by Atria's

Menu (*subject to change*):

Bruschetta Chicken, Grilled Salmon, Penne Alla Vodka,
Roasted Fall Veggies, Salad and Rolls, Assorted Cakes

Dinner reservations deadline (email to Reservations@pitago.org): **Monday, October 20th**

Dinner Cost:

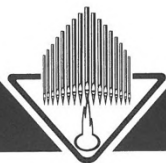
Members: \$20 Students: \$10 **Reservations made after the deadline:** \$35 members & students

Email to reservations@pitago.org

Program begins at 7:00 PM

In the Sanctuary

NOTES FROM THE DEAN



Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who attended the installation of officers on Monday, September 22, at Saint John Lutheran Church in Carnegie. There was a strong sense of camaraderie within the chapter, particularly during the dinner, and it was truly a joy to see everyone gathered together. Special thanks are due to Jeff Gray, who served as a most gracious host, as well as to Kevin Clemens and Chris Cox, who arranged the music for the evening.

Invite a Colleague or Friend to the October Meeting!

Our October gathering will be held at Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church on October 27, where we welcome composer and organist **John Dixon**, who will present a program of his organ music. John's works are both engaging and approachable, making this an event that will appeal to organists of every skill level. I encourage you to invite your colleagues and friends to join us.



Pam Shaw has extended an invitation to members of the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians to attend this meeting.

The Executive Committee is hard at Work!

I'd like to share some highlights from the September Executive Committee Meeting:

- **Membership Renewal:** Lapsed members nearly outnumber active ones. To address this, the committee will organize a calling/email campaign to personally reach out and invite colleagues back into active membership. Many members are uncertain about their status because of the new AGO member website. Registrar Nick Will is forming a task force to address this issue and to attract new members.
- **Treasurer's Report:** After the disruptions of the COVID years, Treasurer Aaron Sproul presented a draft budget designed to encourage renewed engagement—which includes subsidizing a portion of the monthly meals for the time being. Aaron is also assisting in arranging an audit of the chapter books in accordance with the bylaws. The committee approved pursuing state tax-exempt status.
- **Programs:** A full season lies ahead, with strong representation of diverse topics and interests. Final details are being shaped for the November Technology meeting, the March Bach program in Oakland, and other events.
- **Education:** Coordinator of Education Ben Bates reports that two people are pursuing AGO exams this fall. It's always a great time to consider taking one of the Guild's tests.
- **Membership Directory:** The last directory dates back to before Covid. An updated roster is in the works.
- **Communications:** Jeff Gray reminded us that the deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th of each month. Chris Cox asked that e-blast requests include ready-to-send content. Ryan Croyle continues to make important updates to the website.

The work of rebuilding our chapter is well underway, and there is much to look forward to in the coming season. Thank you for all that you do to strengthen our Guild and to support one another in the joy of music-making.

With gratitude,

Chaz Bowers

Dean, Pittsburgh Chapter AGO

NOTES FROM THE SUB DEAN



Greetings, PitAGO Chapter Members!

It seems like just a few weeks ago I wrote to report on the September meeting and our upcoming 2025-2026 program year. Tempus Fugit! You won't want to miss this opportunity to experience our October 27th meeting with John Dixon.

Please reach out to AGO members we haven't seen in a while and encourage them to join us. And be sure to also invite AGO non-members and folks from other professional organizations like NPM (National Pastoral Musicians) to attend both the program and the dinner. Non-member musician guests will enjoy the \$20 dinner rate. Please contact Dinner Registrations Chair, Regina Kettering at reservations@pitago.org for more information on inviting guests to dinner.

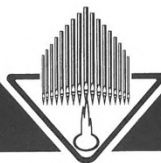


Pamela Shaw - SPC, MA, MLS
Sub-Dean

Remaining Meetings for the 2025-26 Chapter Year

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
October 27	Mt. Lebanon Lutheran	<i>An Evening with John Dixon - Clinician, Composer, AGO Treasurer</i>
November 17 *	Saint Paul Cathedral	<i>TECHNOLOGY: Can't live with it, can't live without it!</i>
* Third Monday due to Thanksgiving Week!		
December		<i>No Meeting: Happy Holidays!</i>
January 26	To Be Determined!	<i>Let's Party! An Epiphany-tide Social Gathering!</i>
February 23	Calvary Episcopal	<i>A Night of Options: Three Workshops to Chose From!</i>
March 23	Pittsburgh Oratory & Church of the Ascension & Saint Paul Cathedral!	<i>Bach Around the Block!</i>
April 14 *	St. Bernard Church	<i>In Concert: Frederic Blanc</i>
* Yes, we know it's a Tuesday, and it's earlier in the Month!		
May 18 *	Ingomar Methodist	<i>Workshop and Hymn Festival, led by Tom Trenney</i>
* Third Monday due to Memorial Day!		

IMAGES OF THE INSTALLATION



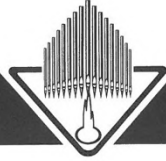
Officers and Executive Board for 2025-26



The Brass Ensemble



Current Officers, Board, and Past Deans



This year marks the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi writing his
Canticle of the Creatures.

This year's Installation Service was shaped around this beautiful canticle.

CANTICLE OF THE CREATURES – ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

*Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing,
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.*

...

*Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.*

ORGAN ARTISTS SERIES



Greetings!

You should receive this issue of *PitAGO Pipelines* in time for your to attend the first program of the Organ Artists Series' 2025-26 season – our 47th year!

We hope to see many of you at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on October 1st, when Joshua Stafford will provide live organ accompaniment to the 1925 silent movie *The Phantom of the Opera*! The rest of the season is recapped below. Please plan to attend as many as you can, and support us by placing an ad in the program booklets, or by making a financial contribution!

Jon Tyillian and Aaron Sproul

Co-Directors, Organ Artists Series



Wednesday, October 1, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

Joshua Stafford

Organ + Film

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church – 5801 Hampton Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

In partnership with the Pittsburgh Silent Film Festival, we present the silent film

The Phantom of the Opera (1925) with Live Organ Accompaniment!

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Michael Hey

Organ + Brass

Epiphany Roman Catholic Church – 184 Washington Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Michael Hey and the OAS Festival Brass will present a program of favorite music for organ and brass quintet, as well as organ solo music by Dupre and other masters.

Friday, February 13, 2026 – 6:00 PM Gala Dinner; 7:30 PM Program

Organ + Percussion

Organized Rhythm: Clive Driskill-Smith and Joseph Gramley

Calvary Episcopal Church – 315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Join us for a fabulous evening as we celebrate with a Gala Dinner and Concert!

Dinner and Concert tickets are \$60.00.

*Make it a Valentine's Day Date with a catered meal and an evening of symphonic music featuring Organized Rhythm's transcription of Holst's **The Planets**.*

Sunday, April 12, 2026 @ 3:00 PM

Nathaniel Gumbs

Organ + Voice

East Liberty Presbyterian Church – 116 South Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Virtuoso performer Nathaniel Gumbs will be joined by a guest soprano Olanna Miller, née Goudeau, to present a concert of classical and modern selections for organ and voice - including a few settings of spirituals.

Mrs. Miller is a much-sought-after soloist, having performed on stage nationally and notably on Season 9 of NBC's America's Got Talent.



MUSICAL HAPPENINGS



*Please support our colleagues and friends by attending as many of these events
as your (busy) schedule allows!*

Note: All events which were submitted and received before September 20, 2025 are included!

#

Sunday, October 12 at 4:00 PM
Christine Clewell, Organist

Worthington Lutheran Church
136 W. Main St., Worthington, PA

Prof. Christine Clewell of the IUP Faculty will play the Dedicatory Recital on the recently relocated Wicks Pipe Organ, Opus 6316. The recital will feature repertoire to highlight the organ's versatility and will have a German Lutheran Reformation emphasis. Several Reformation Hymns will also be featured with congregational singing.

#

Sunday, October 19 at 4:00 PM
David Billings, Organist

Oakmont Presbyterian Church,
415 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA

A Recital in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the J. Zamberlan, Op. 2 Organ at Oakmont Presbyterian Church. Music of Hollins, Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, Vierne and Widor. Free Admission. Reception. For more information, call 412-828-5770.

#

Sunday, October 26 at 1:00 PM
Andrew Earhart, Organist

Calvary Presbyterian Church
695 School Street, Indiana, PA

Indiana native Andrew Earhart will play the Rededication Recital on the recently rebuilt and enlarged organ. The instrument was originally a Moller Pipe Organ, installed in 1977, with alterations and additions by Harry Ebert Organ Company in 1998 and 2012. The instrument was rebuilt and expanded this year by Colby-Sterner Organ company, including the a totally rebuilt console and the addition of Walker digital voices, bringing the organ to 60 ranks. Mr. Earhart, who studied with Dr. Christine Clewell, is the organist at Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Waterford, CT.

SUBSTITUTE LIST



*It is the policy of The Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists that **ONLY CURRENT CHAPTER MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING** may list their names on the Substitute 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.

KEY: W: Weddings F: Funerals E: Evenings S: Saturday L: Liturgical Only N: Non-Liturgical Only

LAST	NAME FIRST	PHONE	EMAIL	AVAILABLE TO PLAY:						
				SUNDAYS	W	F	E	S	L	N
Aley	Philip	412.302.8653	philwa66@verizon.net	X	X	X	X			
Anderson	Gerald	412.251.6718	org723@gmail.com	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cafaro	Ross	412.885.1625	rpcafaro@comcast.net	X	X	X	X	X		
Clemens	Kevin M. (CAGO)	443.604.5072	kevinclemens@mac.com		X	X	X	X		
Cynar	Philip	412.926.6151				X			X	
Dobbins	Craig	412.400.5996	cdobbins620@gmail.com	X		X			X	X
Earnest	Dr. Wayne N	724.206.8854	musicmanwayne@outlook.com	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gross	Ellen	610.509.9028	ellenkgross@gmail.com			X		X	X	X
Hill	Thomas	512.421.1484	tom.hill.music.studio@gmail.com	X	X	X	X	X		
Janko	Ray	724.681.0874	rayjanko@gmail.com	X	X	X	X	X		
Kettering	Regina	412.477.5547	reginakettering@gmail.com	X	X	X	X	X		
LaRue	Elizabeth (SPC)	412.999.4812	aargon@hotmail.com	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lee	Dr. Alice Grier	724.554.2346	aglee@washjeff.edu	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lindsey, III	C. Dennis	918.409.6467	c.dennis.lindsey@gmail.com	X	X	X	X	X		
Lynch	Robert	724.787.7447	RLLynch2013@gmail.com	X	X	X	X	X		
Miller	Jane	412.526.6618	organistjane@yahoo.com		X	X				
Pinkerton	Rich (AAGO)	412.841.3937	rbpinkerton509@gmail.com		X	X	X	X		
Reiland	Michael	412.882.5521	mcc081946@verizon.net	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rizzo	Elmira (CAGO)	724.612.2029	erizz646@gmail.com		X	X	X	X		
Rollett	Tony	412.726.8569	anthonyrollett@icloud.com	X			X	X		
Rubright	Sandy S.	724.994.8872	wpmmaa@yahoo.com	X	X	X	X			
Salmon	Michael	904.718.7622	oriolefish@gmail.com	X	X	X	X		X	
Schall	Stephen	412.215.2971	stephenschall@msn.com		X	X	X			
Senay	Bob (MM)	724.255.0488	rsenay@comcast.net		X	X	X	X		
Shaw	Pamela (SPC, MA, MLS)	412.425.5962	pamelashaw2000@gmail.com	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shaw	Richard	386.846.0566		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shrewsbury	Christina	716.465.8704			X	X	X	X	X	X
Skroupa	Dane	724.265.4840	dgsroupa@yahoo.com			X			X	X
Tyillian	Jon	724.456.5135	jtyillian@gmail.com		X	X	X	X		
Vanderlaan	Brett A. (SPC)	301.919.1835	brettvanderlaan@aol.com		X	X	X	X		
Will	Nicholas (AAGO)	412.566.9597	nicholas.jos.will@gmail.com		X	X	X	X		



Musical Dishes Available!

Long-time member Wilberta Pickett has some musical-themed dishes available, and even though they don't *PLAY* music, they will go to the "highest bidder." It is a service for 12, plus a serving bowl. The money raised from the sale will be used for an organ student scholarship.

Pictured are the items included: Dinner plates, Dessert or Salad plates, Soup Bowls, Cups and Saucers, and a serving bowl.



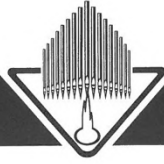
To bid or ask questions, please email Wilberta at wnpickett@comceast.net, or call her at 412.863.5157.

Are You Free on Sunday Evenings?

David Bridges, the new director of the Pittsburgh Compline Choir is looking for volunteer organists to provide prelude music and accompany a hymn during their weekly service of Compline on Sunday evenings at 8:00 PM in Heinz Chapel.

For more information, please contact David at 724.217.6759 or director@pittsburghcomplinechoir.org





Cantate Usquam Pilgrim Singers

Sing Anywhere!

Bring the Cantate Usquam Pilgrim Singers to Sing With You on a Sunday

The mission of the Cantate Usquam Pilgrim Singers is to bring music to churches that don't have choirs or the resources to sing at their regular services. Cantate Usquam, founded in December 2024, literally means "sing anywhere," **and we are a volunteer choir based in Pittsburgh that charges nothing.** From February to June we sang at the following churches: St. Peter's, Blairsville; St. Bartholomew's/Trinity, Scottsdale; St. Matthew's, Homestead; St. Barnabas, Brackenridge; St. Peter's, Brentwood; and Cross Creek Presbyterian, Burgettstown. We would love to come sing with you at your church!

The Cantate Usquam Pilgrim Singers:

- want to sing WITH you and share the joy that music brings to worship
- are led by musicians who have experience leading congregations and choirs in singing and can provide keyboard accompaniment
- are non-denominational
- work with your church to sing hymns and music from your tradition
- will sing choir pieces for a prelude, offertory, and/or communion
- love to sing a capella but can also use available instruments
- are scheduling dates beginning in September 2025, but NOT for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Week or Easter services
- wear no robes and sing from within your congregation, not up front

Contact: Michael Salmon (oriolefish@gmail.com / 904-718-7622)
or Penny Anderson (penny_anderson@fastmail.fm / 412-310-9167)

For more information and/or to schedule a date

Supported by Lutheran Campus Ministries and Calvary Episcopal Church



OFFICERS

DEAN	Chaz Bowers	dean@pitago.org
SUB-DEAN	Pam Shaw	subdean@pitago.org
SECRETARY	Alan Lewis	secretary@pitago.org
TREASURER	Aaron Sproul	treasurer@pitago.org
REGISTRAR	Nick Will	registrar@pitago.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

CLASS OF 2027

Larry Allen	leallen2@aol.com
Christopher Cox	cmcox118@gmail.com
Craig Dobbins	cdobbins620@gmail.com
TBD (<i>A replacement for Pam Shaw, our new Sub-Dean, will be named by the Executive Committee</i>)	

CLASS OF 2029

Ben Cornelius-Bates	drericfritz2gmail.com
Ellen Gross	ellenkgross@gmail.com
Sr. Cynthia Pock	cantor@flcpittsburgh.org
Joe Tuttle	geigermann88@gmail.com

COMMITTEE HEADS

CHAPLAIN	The Rev. Ann Miller-Smith	chaplin@pitago.org
DINNER RESERVATIONS	Regina Kettering	reservations@pitago.org
EMAIL COORDINATOR	Chris Cox	email@pitago.org
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