

PITAGO PIPELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

NOVEMBER 2025

A MAJOR CHANGE TO OUR NOVEMBER MEETING!

NEW DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

A Combined Meeting with
The Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh:

An Evening Music for Organ and Brass

Michael Hey, Organ with the OAS Festival Brass

Epiphany Roman Catholic Church

184 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15219



Dinner Info:

Dinner begins at 6:00 PM

(Menu not available in time for publication)

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

Dinner reservations deadline (email to Reservations@pitago.org): **Monday, November 10th**

Concert Info:

Concert begins at 7:00 PM

FREE for current members of the AGO *(covered by our chapter!)*

\$20.00 per person for all others



Dear Friends,

Isn't it remarkable how each month seems to carry its own mood? Just as composers sense the color and character of different key centers, so too do the months seem to sing in their own tonalities. November, to me, is a month in a warm major key — a harmony of gold and russet hues shaped by the festivals of Autumn, the solemn beauty of All Saints and All Souls, and the quiet gratitude of Thanksgiving.

There is a pause about November — not an emptiness, but a breath. We wait for the last leaves to fall, for the hillsides to settle into their gentle browns and reds. A Western Pennsylvania autumn is unlike any other I've seen: somehow both grand and intimate, fleeting yet eternal. Even as the world prepares for rest, it does so in warmth, not coldness — a final hymn of color before the stillness of winter.

So much of music lives in those pauses, doesn't it? A well-shaped phrase, a moment of silence between cadences, or the expectant space between stanzas of a hymn — these give meaning to the notes around them. November feels like one of those rests: a sacred stillness that allows gratitude and memory to resonate more deeply.

In our churches, the sounds of *"Come, ye thankful people, come"* and *"Now thank we all our God"* rise from pew to rafters. This season invites remembrance and thanksgiving — for teachers, mentors, parishioners, and musicians whose songs now join the heavenly choir. Their music continues to shape our own.

A quick reminder that our next **chapter meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18** — more details may be found in Pam Shaw's article.

Our membership drive continues to be fruitful. I'm so pleased to share that **36 members have renewed** in recent months, bringing our active roster to **142 members**. Our registrar, Nick Will, has graciously formed a task force to strengthen our membership and outreach, and I remain hopeful for the chapter's continued growth.

As we gather this month, may we give thanks for the gift of music and the joy of one another's company. The warmth of our September installation dinner reminded me that what makes this chapter special isn't simply numbers on a roster, but the friendship and shared purpose that unite us.

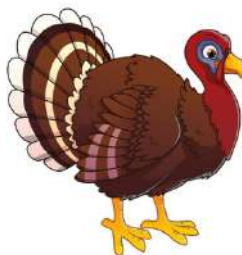
So, if you're reading this and haven't joined us in a while — no guilt trip, truly! — we'd love to see you at an upcoming meeting or concert.

As Advent approaches, may our hearts remain tuned to gratitude: for the instruments we play, the communities we serve, and the sacred work of making music that endures.

Warmly,

Chaz Bowers
Dean, Pittsburgh Chapter AGO

**The Leadership of PitAGO
wishes each of you
a blessed Thanksgiving!**





Greetings, PitAGO Chapter Members!

Tempus certainly does *fugit*, doesn't it? Thanksgiving is right around the corner, the Christmas choir music is handed out and festive holiday decorations have been up in the stores for several weeks!



As you know, we moved our November Chapter Meeting to Tuesday, November 18th. The email blast sent by Dean Chaz Bowers a few weeks ago explained the logistics of dinner and entry to the concert. Read on for the details in his email....

"We'll move our November Chapter Meeting to Tuesday, November 18, and pair it with the OAS concert that evening. Before the concert, we'll gather for a chapter dinner in the undercroft at Epiphany Church.

- *Dinner: \$20 per person*
- *Concert ticket: FREE for current AGO members (covered by the chapter!)*
- *Nonmembers: \$20 dinner + \$20 concert ticket*

In other words, if your membership is current, your dinner includes a free concert ticket — a \$20 value and a great way to spend an evening among friends and colleagues. We'll also move the original November meeting topic on Dorico to our "Night of Options" in February."

On a personal note, let me express my sincere gratitude for the support I received from the Program Committee and for the many prayers offered for my husband Tom during his recent illness and hospitalization. He is on the mend.

Pamela Shaw - SPC, MA, MLS
Sub-Dean

Remaining Meetings for the 2025-26 Chapter Year

DATE	LOCATION	TOPIC
November 18	Epiphany R. C. Church	<i>Combined Meeting with the OAS Organ + Concert!</i>
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>
		<i>* Yes, we know it's a Tuesday, and it's earlier in the Month!</i>
May 18 *	Ingomar Methodist	<i>Workshop and Hymn Festival, led by Tom Trenney</i>
		<i>* Third Monday due to Memorial Day!</i>



Late-breaking...John Dixon sent this to Pam Shaw following our Chapter's October meeting at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church.

Pittsburgh. Oct. 27, chapter members met at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church for dinner and a program by AGO Treasurer **John S. Dixon**, CAGO, combining information about the Guild with performances of Dixon's own pieces, played on the Fratelli Ruffati pipe organ (3m/32, 2002 with 4-stop Antiphonal Division by J. Zamberlan and Company.) The program was presented as an autobiographical journey, starting from the day Dixon became organist at Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach when the incumbent organist was taken to hospital five minutes before worship was due to start. He emphasized the important role played by the AGO in supporting and shaping his professional development, especially through his various roles as a volunteer for the organization. Chapter members took home several of the pieces he has given away at conventions since 2010, along with copies of his published collections, four with Zimbel Press and nine with Lorenz.



Pittsburgh Chapter Members at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church
Photo by Karen Dixon



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.





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 October 23, 2025 are included!

###

Sunday, November 2 at 3:00 PM
Concerts on the Casavant

St. Michael the Archangel Parish/St. Bernard Church
311 Washington Road, Pittsburgh, PA

Ian Michael Brown presents a reflective program of music for All Souls' Day, featuring music of J. S. Bach, Herbert Howells, Max Reger, and Alexander Guilmant. The program will explore music of consolation and remembrance, bringing depth and beauty to this solemn feast day.

###

Sunday, November 2 at 4:00 PM
Alan Lewis and the Calvary Choir

Calvary Episcopal Church
315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA

Alan Lewis conducts the Calvary Choir, Jon Tyillian, organist, and a chamber ensemble, in a liturgical presentation of the **Durufié Requiem**, Op. 9, for All Souls' Day. The event will be livestreamed at calvarypgh.org.

###

Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 PM
Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh

Epiphany Roman Catholic Church
184 Washington Place, Pittsburgh PA

Michael Hey and the PSO Brass presents music for Organ + Brass! See the write-up on the front page of this issue of *PitAGO Pipelines*

###

Thursday, November 20 at 12:15 PM
Pamela Shaw, Organist

Heinz Memorial Chapel
S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh (Oakland) PA

Our Chapter's current Sub-Dean will present a half hour organ concert, featuring works she recently performed at the 2025 Royal College of Organists residential summer study program in London. Composers include Theodore Dubois, Nicholas de Grigny, J. S. Bach, John Dixon, and Joseph Wilcox Jenkins. The concert is free.

###

Friday, December 5 at 7:00 PM
Music on the Avenue

Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church
601 Washington Avenue, Carnegie PA

The Harmony Singers of Pittsburgh will present a varied program of music for the holiday season! The program is free, with a free-will offering to help offset costs.

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
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		
Rollett	Tony	412.726.8569	anthonyrollett@icloud.com	X			X	X		
Rubright	Sandy S.	724.994.8872	wpmaa@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
Shrewsbury	Christina	716.465.8704			X	X	X	X	X	X
Skroupa	Dane	724.265.4840	dgskroupa@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		



November Used Music Sale Benefiting the Pittsburgh Organ Academy

Please join us before the November 18th Joint PitAGO Chapter Meeting and OAS Concert for a special Used Music Sale benefiting the Pittsburgh Organ Academy! Browse a wide selection of organ scores and other music treasures — all at great prices!

Proceeds support the Pittsburgh Organ Academy to provide scholarships and educational programs for aspiring organists. Music will be available to browse during and after dinner. Come early, find something new for your collection, and help support the next generation of organists!





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

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