PitAGO PIPELINES

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter
American Guild of Organists

November 2026

We Gather Together…
As We Learn How to Improvise!
Monday, November 23, 2026

Join us as we welcome Garrett F. Martin,
Organist and Director of Music Ministries of
Westminster Presbyterian Church in Buffalo, NY!

Garrett will lead us as we
Learn to Improvise through Practical Approaches for Church Organists!





Shadyside Presbyterian Church
(Host: Mark Anderson, Director of Music Ministry)
5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Entering Shadyside Presbyterian Church on November 23rd:

For dinner, come in the atrium doors on Westminster Place or the doors to the Parish Hall, off the circular drive on Amberson Ave.

For the workshop, enter via the atrium doors on Westminster Place or the main sanctuary doors on Amberson Ave. Parking is usually fairly easy.

Dinner and Chapter Business Meeting at 6:00 PM; Meeting at 7:30 PM
Dinner will be catered by Atria's

Dinner reservations deadline (email to ***Reservations@pitago.org***)**: Monday, November 16th!**

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

NOTES FROM THE DEAN

Thank you to everyone who attended our September and October meetings! I was sorry to be away in October and to miss the October presentations. I'm grateful that so many of you have made our monthly meetings a priority this year. It is always a pleasure to see familiar faces and spend time together.



I have often said that one of the greatest gifts we can give one another is our time. Being present, taking part, and sometimes simply listening are among the most meaningful things we have to offer. Time is something we cannot buy more of, and how we choose to spend it says a great deal about what we value.

Each month, when we gather for a Guild meeting, I am reminded of how much this organization means to its members. Our chapter depends on people who give their time—both by attending our programs and by helping make them possible.

That spirit of service is especially on my mind as we begin thinking about nominations for 2027. It is hard to believe that, in just eight months, our current terms will come to an end. The time has gone by so quickly, and I admit to feeling a little sadness at the thought!

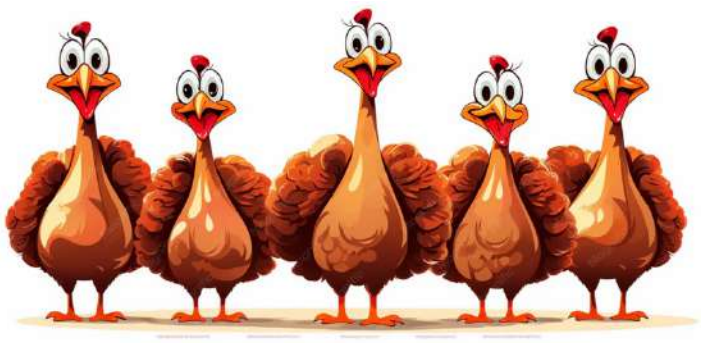
I have asked Alan Lewis to again chair the nominating committee. Alan was instrumental in our last election, bringing thought and care to the considerable task of finding members willing to serve. I especially appreciated his attention to each person's talents and his ability to recognize how those gifts might best serve the Guild.

Serving as both Subdean and Dean (twice) has been an important anchor for me in the Guild. It has strengthened my connection to the chapter and given me the pleasure of working alongside others who care about its future. Helping this organization grow has been rewarding work, and I am grateful to have had a part in it.

If you would like to feel more connected to the Guild, I encourage you to consider becoming more involved. As the nominating process begins, please give some thought to how your own interests, talents, and experience might serve the chapter. The gift of your time can make a real difference—to the Guild, to your colleagues, and perhaps to you as well.

Looking forward to seeing you in just a few weeks!

Chaz Bowers – Dean
Pittsburgh Chapter AGO



Notes from the Sub Dean

Our **Monday, November 23rd** meeting features **Learning to Improvise: Practical Approaches for Church Organists** presented by organist-conductor Garrett Martin at Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

Garrett writes: *For many organists, improvisation can seem like a mysterious skill possessed by a fortunate few. In reality, much of it begins with techniques already familiar to anyone who plays hymns. This workshop takes a practical approach to improvisation, exploring how a simple melody or harmonic progression can become a hymn introduction, interlude, modulation, or free improvisation. We will explore ways to develop musical ideas at the keyboard, with an emphasis on techniques that can be applied in worship.*



Garrett Martin is a distinguished organist and music director with a strong background in sacred music, community leadership, and collaborative performance, with a significant online presence for sharing his artistry and outreach. He has been Organist/Choirmaster at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Buffalo since 2013. Equally at home as an organist and a choral conductor, he is a featured artist for the Rodgers Organ Company and has recorded over 40 video performances available online. An avid improvisor, his weekly hymn playing shows the full capability of the Aeolian Skinner at Westminster Presbyterian. He is also in demand to accompany several silent movies. Garrett has been actively involved with the Royal School of Church Music in America and currently serves as Artistic Director and Conductor of the RSCM America National Choir for 2026-2028.

Martin holds music degrees from Carson-Newman University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Texas at Austin. His major teachers include Gerre and Judith Hancock, Peter Fyfe, Carl Smith, and J. Ryan Garber. He has also studied in Germany and Austria with Michael Gailit and Kristen Orkerlund. Upcoming residencies include Miami in 2027 and London and Paris in 2028.

Garrett will be in Pittsburgh to lead ***With Heart and Voice: A Festival of Hymns*** at Shadyside Presbyterian Church on Sunday November 22 at 3:00 PM. We are grateful that he is staying an extra night to present his improvisation workshop to our chapter on Monday.

If you are interested in being part of the leadership choir for the hymn festival, please RSVP to Mark Anderson by Nov. 15th at manderson@shadysidepres.org. Garrett will have a quick rehearsal from 1:30-2:30, prior to the 3:00 PM festival. Mark encourages guild members to invite members of their choirs to participate as well.

Hope to see you in November!

Pamela Shaw - SPC, MA, MLS
Sub-Dean

A Look at The Rest of Our 2026/27 Year

December	***No meeting due to the holidays!***
January 26, 2027 (TUESDAY!)	**Teutonia Männerchor Club, Northside** ***A Post-Christmas (and Pre-Lent!) Social Extravaganza***
February 22	**Calvary Episcopal Church, Shadyside** ***The Return of A Night of Options!***
March	***No meeting due to Lent, Holy Week, and Easter***
April	**Possible Joint Concert with the Organ Artists Series scheduled artist**
June 5 ***(Saturday!)***	**A Road Trip to Erie, Pennsylvania!** ***An Organ Crawl with friends from the Erie Chapter!***

ORGAN ARTISTS SERIES

With playing described as having "bracing virtuosity" (Chicago Classical Review) and being "fearless and extraordinary" (Amarillo-Globe News), Isabelle Demers has enraptured critics, presenters, and audience members around the globe.

She has appeared in recital throughout Europe, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Canada, including at the Cathedrals of Cologne and Regensburg (Germany); the ElbPhilharmonie (Hamburg); the Royal Festival Hall, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey (London); City Hall (Stockholm); the Royal Opera House of Muscat (Oman); the Forbidden City Concert Hall (Beijing, China); Victoria Hall (Singapore); Melbourne Town Hall (Australia); Auckland Town Hall (New Zealand); Disney Hall (Los Angeles), Davies Hall (San Francisco), the Meyerson Symphony Center (Dallas), the Kimmel Center, and the Wanamaker Organ at Macy's (Philadelphia); and the Maison Symphonique (Montréal).



Dr. Demers is in continual high demand by her colleagues as witnessed by performances for numerous regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Institute of Organ Builders and International Society of Organbuilders, the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society. She has released multiple CD recordings on the Acis and Pro Organo labels. Her latest CD, recorded at Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel, was released in January 2020, and includes works of Reger, Laurin, Dupré, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, and Macmillan.

A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers was recently appointed Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University (Montréal, Québec). She was formerly the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

Dr. Demers will display her brilliance on the **four-manual 97-rank von Beckerath** at Saint Paul Cathedral.

Presented in cooperation with the Saint Paul Cathderal Concert Series.

Tickets available at the door (cash, check, or card).
General admission $20.
Student free with valid ID.

Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh

MUSICAL HAPPENINGS

Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 4:00 PM — **Calvary Episcopal Church**
Music at Calvary — **315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

The Fauré Requiem will be sung in a liturgical presentation by Calvary's Choir and a chamber orchestra, directed by Alan Lewis.

# # #

Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 7:30 PM — **Saint Paul Cathedral**
Saint Paul Cathedral Concerts — **108 North Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh *(Oakland)* PA 15213**

Johann Vexo, organist at Nancy Cathedral in Nancy France, will present a recital on the cathedral's 4 manual/ 97 rank von Beckerath Organ. Free.

# # #

Friday, November 6, 2026 at 7:00 PM — **St. Michael The Archangel Parish/St. Bernard Church**
MASSterworks at St. Michael's — **311 Washington Road, Pittsburgh (Mt. Lebanon) PA 15216**

The Choir of St. Michael's, **Chaz Bowers**, Director, will be accompanied by organist **J. Christopher Pardini** and chamber orchestra as they sing **Dureflé's *Requiem***, in the solemn setting of the Mass.

# # #

Friday, November 6, 2026 at 7:30 PM — **East Liberty Presbyterian Church**
ELPC Cathedral Concerts — **116 S. Highland Avenue, Ptitsburgh, PA 15206**

The ELPC Chancel Choir and Friends will present **Dureflé's *Requiem***, conducted by **Dr. Edward Alan Moore** and accompanied by organist **Jon Tyillian**.

# # #

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 12:00 PM — **First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh**
First with Friends Concert Series — **320 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

Trumpeter **Chad Winkler** in concert. Chad has been a member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra since 2008 and has appeared as a featured soloist with the orchestra. A three-time winner of the National Trumpet Competition, he has performed with leading orchestras across the United States and is an active educator, presenting masterclasses nationwide. The concert is free, but a Free-Will offering to the First Church Music Ministry is welcome.

# # #

Friday, November 20, 2026 at 7:30 PM — **Saint Paul Cathedral**
Co-Sponsored by the Organ Artists Series and The Saint Paul Cathedral Concerts — **108 North Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh *(Oakland)* PA 15213**

Isabelle Demers, organist at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, will play a concert on the cathedral's 4 manual/97 rank von Beckerath Organ.

# # #

Saturday, November 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM — **Divine Grace Parish – St. Gregory Church**
Organ Concert — **2 West Beaver St., Zelienople, PA 10163**

Edward Kapsha, Organist and Choirmaster of Christ Episcopal Church, North Hills, will present "In All Circumstances Give Thanks," a concert showcasing the Allen Organ GENESYS Voices on the parish's recently rebuilt and expanded instrument by Allen Organ Co. and Luley Organ Co., creating a new 4 manual/102 rank hybrid instrument. Gina Morgano will be his special guest artist. Free.

# # #

Saturday, November 22, 2026 at 3:00 PM — **Shadyside Presbyterian Church**
Music in a Great Space — **5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh PA 15232**

Garrett F. Martin presents *With Heart and Voice: A Festival of Hymns*. *(See this month's Sub Dean's article on Page 3 for Garrett's bio.)* This festival brings together hymns from across the church's musical tradition, interwoven with scripture, poetry, and organ improvisations. Familiar melodies take on new character through imaginative accompaniments, contrasting harmonizations, and festive descants. Above all, this is an occaion for everyone to sing and to experience what happens when a congregation makes music together. All are welcome!

NOTE: *If you are interested in being part of the leadership choir, please RSVP to Mark Anderson by Nov. 15th at manderson@shadysidepres.org. Garrett will have a quick rehearsal from 1:30-2:30, prior to the 3 :00 festival. We encourage guild members to invite members of their choirs to participate as well.*

# # #

Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 12:00 PM — **First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh**
First with Friends Concert Series — **320 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222**

The Fink Sisters, Pittsburgh-based piano and organ duo **Corinne Fink-Adkins** and **Alaine Fink**, have performed together since 2017. Both are alumni and former teaching artists of the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts. Corinne serves as director of Music at Glenshaw Presbyterian and Alaine at First Presbyterian Pittsburgh. The concert is free, but a Free-Will offering to the First Church Music Ministry is welcome.

# # #

Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM — **Holy Cross Church**
Organ Concert — **711 Depot Street, Youngwood PA 15697**

Pamela Shaw, MA, MLA, SPC, presents a program featuring music of Hope, Salvation and Joy by Bach, Brahms, Dupre, and contemporary composers. The concert will also include seasonal works for organ and piano, featuring Dr. Eugene Dangelo, Holy Cross Church Music Director.

If you have a concert or program you'd like to promot
to our members and friends,
please send them to Editor@pitago.org or jhgray433@gmail.com
by the 20th of the month preceding the event date!!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church
5001 Baptist Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15236
Contact: Helen Akers at 412-973-0885; email cover letter and resume to BCUMCMusic@gmail.com

Baldwin Community United Methodist Church in the South Hills of Pittsburgh is seeking a part-time Director of Music Ministry. The ideal candidate is an energetic, creative, Christ-centered individual with the musical skills as a principle organist and choir director. This person will become actively engaged and involved in supporting the ministries and values of our church.

Our sanctuary houses a 1977 3 manual/52 rank Austin Pipe Organ with an Antiphonal division. An upgrade was made two years ago to solid state equipment and a MIDI system. We also have a grand piano, handbells, and a large music library.

# # #

Baldwin United Presbyterian Church
201 Knoedler Road,
Baldwin, PA 15236
Contact: Church office at (412) 653-1400 or baldwinupchurch@gmail.com

We are seeking an organist to play traditional and some contemporary music for our 11:00AM, Sunday morning worship services, in addition to observed, liturgical holidays and possible weddings and funerals. The salary range is $13,500 - $15,000, to be determined by qualifications and experience.

# # #

First Baptist Church
201 S. Sixth and Vine Streets
West Newton, PA 15089
Contact: Nancy Allen, 459 Turkey Hollow Road, Rostraver, PA 15012 724-787-8059

First Baptist Church is looking for an organist to play the pipe organ every Sunday from 11:50am - 12:00pm and Christmas Eve at 7:00pm. Congregation is approximately 30 persons each week. Instrument is a 5 rank Möller Pipe Organ. Salary is negotiable, and the position is open immediately.

# # #

First Hungarian Reformed Church, Homestead
221 Johnston Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
Contact: Chief Elder Lisa Toth-Maskarinec at 412-352-7077

The First Hungarian Reformed Church of Homestead in Munhall, PA, has an open position for an organist/pianist due to the relocation of our current organist. The Church currently has a Sunday service at 10:00 a.m completely in English. We have a beautiful Schantz Pipe Organ. The complete details and job description can be found by contacting the Chief Elder, Lisa Toth-Maskarinec.

# # #

Grace Community Presbyterian Church
2751 Grant St.
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
Contact: Elder Michael Cochenour, retiredcochenour@gmail.com or the church office at secretary@gracecommunitypresbyterian.org

Grace Community Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell is seeking an organist/choir director to play traditional and contemporary music for our 10:00 am Sunday service and liturgical holidays. Also, directing weekly choir rehearsals selecting appropriate hymns and anthems to enhance worship service. The salary range is $13,000 - $15,000 a year, to be determined by qualification and experience.

# # #

Harrold Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
671 Baltzer Meyer Pike
Greensburg, PA 15301
Contact: Rev. Andrew S. Fitch, Senior Pastor at pastorfitch@outlook.com, 724-837-7327; or Carol Trent, Personnel Committee Member at 954-415-6197

Two part-time positions, separate or combined (1) Church Organist and (2) Vocal, Bell & Ensemble Director/Conductor. Organist: $14,000/year; Choir Director: $12,000/year; one person filling both the Organist and Choir Director positions: $26,000/year. Allen Digital Organ, MDS/70S. Forward cover letter and resume to above folks.

# # #

Linway United Presbyterian Church
600 Lincoln Highway
North Versailles PA 15137
Contact: jobs@linwaychurch.org (or via US Mail at the address above)

We are seeking a dedicated & skilled church organist to support worship and spiritual life of the church, collaborating with our Pastor and Music & Worship Committee. The organ is a hybrid 2003 three-manual Allen/Moeller. Sunday services (traditional at 10:30), plus Ash Wednesday, Lenten services, Maundy-Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve; occasional weddings & funerals. Choir Director is currently a separate person; rehearsals are Thursdays, 7PM. Salary negotiable. To apply, send applications/resume to the above email &/or US Mail address. Application deadline is open.

# # #

Ruthfred Lutheran Church, Bethel Park
3401 South Park Rd.
Bethel Park PA 15102
Contact: Robert Vogel, Music Director or organistjob@ruthfred.org

Part-Time Organist (20 hours/week); Salary: competitive, based upon experience & skill.
Start Date: January 2027. Organ: Austin Pipe Organ, 3-manuals, 35 ranks enlarged with numerous digital stops.
Synod: Association of Free Lutheran Churches *(Headquarters in Minneapolis)*

# # #

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

CONTINUED

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
55 Forsythe Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Contact: Pastor Maurice Fronz at pastor@ststephenpittsburgh.org

In search of a part-time organist/choir director for one Sunday morning choir rehearsal, one Sunday morning service, and the occasional wedding or funeral. The organ is a custom-built 1983 Gabriel Kney tracker, and we also have a professional upright piano. We use the rite of the 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship.* The choir is small but musically literate, with a willing spirit, an established repertoire and openness to new ideas.

# # #

FROM AGO-HQ

GRANTS AVAILABLE!

The New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will award grants of up to $10,000 in 2027 from the Centennial Millennium Fund.

Grant proposals (1-page, double-spaced maximum, in PDF format) are welcome for projects that will expand the general public's awareness of the pipe organ. Deadline for submission is December 31, 2026.

Please send your proposals to:
Dr. Andrew Henderson,
Chair, NYC AGO Centennial Millennium Fund Trustees
cmf@nycago.org

The Centennial Millennium Fund was created with proceeds from the 1996 National AGO Centennial Convention held in NYC.



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

NAME		PHONE	EMAIL	AVAILABLE TO PLAY:						
LAST	FIRST			SUNDAYS	W	F	E	S	L	N
Anderson	Gerald	412.251.6718	org723@gmail.com	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Clemens	Kevin M. *(CAGO)*	443.604.5072	kevinclemens@mac.com		X	X	X	X		
Dobbins	Craig	412.400.5996	cdobbins620@gmail.com	X		X			X	X
Dowds	Fr. James	202.905.6930	james.dowds2013@gmail.com		X	X	X	X	X	X
Dudzinski	Joe *(MM)*	508.332.8702	jdudzinski223@gmail.com	X	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
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	stephenrschall@msn.com		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	musettacs@gmail.com		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		
Will	Nicholas *(AAGO)*	412.566.9597	nicholas.jos.will@gmail.com		X	X	X	X		

Corrections to this list should be sent to our new Substitutes and Placements Coordinator, Wayne Earnest, at substitutes@pitago.org

2026-27 Chapter Leadership

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
Jeff Gray	jhgray433@gmail.com

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	chaplain@pitago.org
Dinner Reservations	Regina Kettering	reservations@pitago.org
Email Coordinator	Chris Cox	email@pitago.org
Education	Ben Cornelius-Bates	education@pitago.org
Newsletter Editor	Jeff Gray	editor@pitago.org
Organ Artists Series	Aaron Sproul Jon Tyillian	director@pitago.org director@pitago.org
Pittsburgh Organ Academy	Robert Kardasz	poa@pitago.org
Substitutes & Placement	Wayne Earnest	substitutes@pitago.org
Webmaster	Ryan Croyle	webmaster@pitago.org