

CRESCENDO

SEPTEMBER 2012

VOLUME LXXV, NO. 1

Newsletter of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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September Start-Up

Saturday, September 15, 2012

11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Overbrook Presbyterian Church

RECONSIDERING "TOO OLD TO SING": CAN SINGING SKILLS BE REVIVED?

Michael Kemp, Featured Clinician

There is a poignant movie called "Christmas without Snow" (see 48:05 at www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cGnoRhoYAw) in which John Houseman plays the part of a recently retired college choral director who has taken on a small volunteer church choir. One scene in the movie portrays Houseman giving the most faithful, committed member of the choir the dreaded "too old to sing" talk. But is the problem purely one of age, or can singing skills be revived or adjusted?

We are facing a dilemma. Church choirs are aging at a momentous rate. Senior singers, who used to be a rarity in our choirs, now constitute a significant proportion of our singers. We can no longer afford to say "you are too old to sing", and philosophically, we shouldn't.

Physical aging is a fact, but the good news is that many of the most noticeable vocal problems typically blamed on aging are in reality due to slipping physical habits which happen naturally when we are young, but need consistent attention when we are older. Michael will help conductors solve the following common senior singer concerns: wobbles, flat singing, sharp singing, inability to blend, spread vowels, scooping, lack of agility, breathiness, no head tone, inability to project, and helping senior singers who must sing from a seated position. He will also suggest adjustments to rehearsal technique and the best choral warm-ups for a choir which includes senior singers.



Michael Kemp

This year we are launching our new season by presenting a short day of invigorating workshops to support you and your choral ministry. In addition to the above seminar, there will also be: a second seminar by Michael Kemp presenting his Unique Solutions for Church Choirs; a Choral Reading Session led by eight chapter members who will present two of their favorite anthems pertaining to the liturgical year; AGO Exam Requirements for this year.

Young's Music (<http://www.youngsmusic.com>), who works with us on January Jumpstart, has graciously agreed to provide free choral packets for each of the related sessions.

The Chapter will provide a catered lunch so a definitive headcount will be needed to ensure enough food for everyone. Please register for this event by e-mailing Clair Rozier at crozier@stdavidschurch.org or calling 610-658-2014.

The registration deadline is: September 9.

CRESCENDO, the official bulletin of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is published monthly, September through June. **All material for publication must reach the Editor by the 1st day of the month preceding the date of issue**, eg. November 1 for the December issue.

This must be type written and e-mailed (text supplied in an attachment), or mailed. A hard copy should be included for display ads. Submissions become the property of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO and will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. Crescendo reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Articles in Crescendo reflect the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Guild. All advertising must be arranged through the Advertising Manager. As noted in 2008, Crescendo season and professional card advertising automatically renew for each successive volume, unless we receive notification of cancellation of the advertising.

Advertising Rates

Camera-ready: One-Time Season

1/8 page:	\$40	\$285
1/4 page:	\$70	\$530
1/2 page:	\$85	\$630
full page:	\$140	
Professional card:	N/A	\$60
(members only; no phone numbers)		

Camera-ready art only accepted according to stated deadlines.

Editorial Board

CRESCENDO

Mary Elizabeth Campbell, Editor
484-995-6110
email: Crescendo@agophila.org

Tom Lever, Publisher
215-855-0287
email: Tom.Lever@agophila.org

Katherine Reier, Circulation Coordinator
215-517-4160
email: Katherine.Reier@agophila.org

Calendar of Events

Kathleen Scheide, Coordinator
email: Calendar@agophila.org

Positions Available/Substitute Listings

Allen Popjoy, Coordinator
610-269-7069
email: Allen.Popjoy@agophila.org

Advertising

Mary Elizabeth Campbell, Coordinator
484-995-6110
email: Advertise@agophila.org

Visit our website at www.AGOPhila.org

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D E A N ' S L E T T E R

THE FUTURE IS NOW... ??

I wish I had a nickel for every time I've seen that phrase either in print or uttered by someone on the radio or television. Frankly, in my opinion the phrase is completely incorrect. The future isn't "now," the present is now. The future is yet to be decided – by all of us. And I believe that's where we are as the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



As we approach another "season" of chapter activities, meetings and events, we can look back on the past few years with a great deal of satisfaction. The chapter has maintained a healthy financial status, which in turn has supported a number of world-class events. Even at a time when the economy had a negative effect on most aspects of the cultural arts, our membership continued to support the chapter to the best of each person's ability. **So the first part of my initial message this season is to encourage everyone who has not yet renewed their membership to do so as soon as conveniently possible.**

Interestingly, it's not primarily the funds that come to the chapter as a result of membership renewal and gifts that is most important. Yes, those funds are necessary for the operation of the chapter and the presentation of chapter programs. But what is even more important is the encouragement that the many volunteers on the Executive Committee and other committees get from seeing the people whose continued membership and support make their volunteer work so rewarding. We have traditionally been one of the largest and most active chapters in the Guild, and I don't think it's just a "numbers game." I believe that we have a mindset and a spirit that continues to set an example for many others.

This is my final year as Dean, and I want to communicate some of my personal goals for this season. First of all, I will be working with the elected members of the Executive Committee to continue to evolve the mechanisms and guidelines of chapter operation in order to improve communication and access to information, programs and events. The AGO national office has recently re-aligned many of their positions and protocols toward these efficiencies, and many similar organizations are engaged in much the same activities. Secondly, I will be working with our Sub-Dean Tim Evers and the members of the Program Committee to assist in making the events and programs we will present appropriate to the needs and interests of our membership, while following the best principles of stewardship in the use of the assets that the membership provides to support those programs and events. **Last but not least, I would like to start this season by encouraging every member to make a renewed effort to support the chapter by attendance at chapter events, and assistance in getting the word out to others about the benefits of chapter membership.**

A couple of interesting news items that may be of interest: our own **Mib Campbell** recently had an article published in *The American Organist*. Once again the Philadelphia Chapter contributes important and meaningful information to the membership at large. Congratulations to Mib! Another member, **Brandon Artman**, will be changing to "student membership" as he has entered St. Charles Seminary. I see this as a unique way to engage in clergy-musician relations – infiltrate their ranks!!!

In closing I'd like to thank each and every member on my own behalf as well as **that of the entire Executive Committee for your support and participation** in the past, especially those who have already renewed their membership for this year, and I would once again ask that membership renewal be a priority with all who have not yet done so. And please look for the exciting programs being planned as Tim Evers announces them. This year looks to be quite exciting indeed.

Rudolph Lucente

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

PHILLIP SHADE, REGISTRAR

Chapter Registration Report

Over the course of the summer I've been busy processing Member Renewal forms. As of the writing of this article in late July we had already processed almost 250 Member Renewals and New Member applications. I'm happy to report that the renewal process is moving along very smoothly this year, in part to the Chapter's on-line member database which has allowed us to process the renewals much faster. In addition, the response of the membership has been much faster due to the software's automatic e-mail renewal notices.

New Changes:

- User Names/Passwords
- On-Line Member Database Available
- Positions Available and Crescendo Password protected

By now you will have received an e-mail from the chapter inviting you to log onto the Chapter's website with a User Name (your personal e-mail address) and a software generated password. I urge you to log on, and change your password to something that is familiar and easy to remember. Once you have logged on and updated your password, you will have access to the Chapter's On-Line directory from anywhere with your computer or smart phone. In addition, you will be able to view and update your personal member profile when changes occur.

Your new User Name and Password will also allow you access to the Positions Available page of the Chapter's website and to the on-line edition of Crescendo. Last May the Chapter's Executive Council voted to make the Positions Available and access to Crescendo available only to members as we had received numerous reports of non-members utilizing the chapter's website for employment opportunities and access to Crescendo. This change should protect the Chapter Membership as well as provide an incentive to those who may have allowed their membership to lapse or have never joined to join our ranks.

All of these updates and improvements will expand our chapter's interaction and hopefully facilitate communication to and between our members. We trust you find these updates helpful to you in the busy world we all live in.

Phil Shade, Registrar

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Phillip Shade, Registrar

Want to join the Philadelphia chapter of the American Guild of Organists?
 Need to report AGO Directory changes on your current membership?
 Need to purchase a set of chapter mailing labels for your next music event?

Contact Registrar Phillip Shade at: 516 Berkshire Drive, Souderton, PA 18964
 O: 215-723-8220 C: 215-275-0778 registrar@agophila.org

**PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS****ELECTED OFFICES**

Dean	
Rudolph A. Lucente	610-584-5054 Rudolph.Lucente@agophila.org
Sub-Dean	
Tim Evers	610-688-8700 SubDean@agophila.org
Treasurer	
Gerald Troy	610-626-5486 Gerald.Troy@agophila.org
Secretary	
Maria deJ. Ellis	610-896-6189 Maria.Ellis@agophila.org
Registrar	
Phillip Shade	215-723-8220 registrar@agophila.org
Communications Coordinator	
To be appointed	Communications@agophila.org

Executive Committee

TERM ENDING 2013	
Lee de Mets	215-997-0219
Ralph Purri	610-789-2354
Caroline Robinson	864-561-7695
Harry S. Solomon, Jr	215-342-3448
TERM ENDING 2014	
Andrew Heller	610-789-0146
Judith A. Lang	610-623-8069
Paul Marchesano	215-287-8955
Kathleen Scheide	
TERM ENDING 2015	
Jonathan Bowen	
Mary Elizabeth Campbell	484-995-6110
Elizabeth Forsyth	
Zach Hemenway	215-242-2055 x35

APPOINTED LEADERSHIP

Chapter Chaplain	
Rev. Bruce Thorsen	215-230-3980 Chaplain@agophila.org
Competition Committee Chair	
Alan Morrison	215-360-8336 Alan.Morrison@agophila.org
Endowment Committee Chair	
Dennis Elwell	610-658-2128 Dennis.Elwell@agophila.org
Examinations Coordinator	
Lee de Mets	215-997-0219 Lee.DeMets@agophila.org
Historian / Archivist	
To be appointed	
Nomination Committee Chair	
Ralph Purri	610-789-2354 Ralph.Purri@agophila.org
Placement Coordinator	
Allen Popjoy	610-269-7069 Allen.Popjoy@agophila.org
Professional Concerns Chair	
Judy Lang	610-623-8069 Judy.Lang@agophila.org
Tuesday Noon Recitals Coordinator	
Marcia Sommers	610-694-0554 TuesdayNoon@agophila.org
Volunteer Coordinator	
Loretta Hartnett	610-352-5441 Loretta.Hartnett@agophila.org
AGO Region III Education Chair	
Ethel Geist	215-529-1603 Ethel.Geist@agophila.org
Webmaster	
Tom Lever	215-855-0287 webmaster@agophila.org

Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO Chapter Events 2012/2013

Saturday, September 15, 2012, 11:00am
Chapter Kick-Off Event
Overbrook Presbyterian Church

Saturday, October 13, 2012, 10:00am
Master Class with Area Musicians
Venue: TBA

Saturday, November 10, 2012, 9:00am
Youth Programming
Pedals, Pipes and Pizza in Doylestown

Friday, November 16, 2012, 8:00pm
Silent Movie with Don Kinnier
Greek Hall at Macy's

Sunday, December 30, 2012, 7:00pm – 10:00pm
Chapter Christmas Party
Venue: TBA

Saturday, January 19, 2013, 8:00am – 2:00pm
January Jumpstart
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Friday, February 15, 2013, 8:00 pm
Robert Elmore Centennial Concert
Norman Mackenzie, Guest Artist
Tenth Presbyterian Church

Saturday, February 16, 2013, 9:30 am
Choral Master Class
Norman Mackenzie, Guest Artist
Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr

Saturday, March 9, 2013, Time: 10:00 am
Youth Programming
Organ Crawl in Wayne Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 13, 2013, 10:00 am
Organ Master Class with Michel Bouvard

Sunday, April 14, 2013, 3:00 pm
Organ Concert with Michel Bouvard
St. David's Church, Radnor

Sunday, April 21, 2013, 4:00 pm
Competition Winners Recital
First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia

Monday May 13, 2013, 7:30pm
Philadelphia Legends VII
St. Luke's Church of the Epiphany

Friday, May 31, 2013, 6:00pm
Chapter's Closing Banquet and Officers' Installation

Saturday, June 8, 2013, 11:00am – 5:00pm
Kimmel Center Organ Day

We thank our 2012-2013 Patrons

(list updated monthly)

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Contributors

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Debra S. Bacak	Thomas A Bell, Esq.
Mary Elizabeth Campbell, CAGO	Marjorie L. Cummings, CAGO
Mary L. Fenwick, AAGO	Ruth D. Fisher, AAGO, ChM
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Organ Day at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center 2012

Jeff Fowler, Dean Emeritus

On Monday morning, June 11, the Program Committee of the chapter met to do some planning and to review Organ Day 2012 at the Kimmel Center which was June 9. Having attended and having had an unexpectedly positive experience, I volunteered to write a review.

This was the second Organ Day at the Kimmel Center, the first being June 2011. I did not attend last year. I admit up front to being skeptical of the event. But do give me credit, I came this year and stayed for the six hour event save the first part where little tykes were shown the instrument on stage and allowed to push down a few keys.

Kimmel Center ushers stated that 560 people came through the doors not counting anyone twice. I happened to sit in the back corner of the room, a convenient vantage point for checking out the audience. Organ Day is a free event designed for people to come and go as they wish. Hundreds of people arrived, many with kids in tow, often sitting on the laps of their parents. I was amazed at how attentive this young audience was and how captivated they were by the proceedings. When attention spans expired, parents wisely removed their family from Verizon Hall. This was OK: part of the plan by design.

You could sense that some people made the trek to the Kimmel Center aware of what was going on, while others simply moseyed in with no idea what they were getting themselves in for. This was also by design. Do as you wish. Like it? Then stay. Leave when you want. **It's the Kimmel Center and the awesome Fred J. Cooper organ for free!**

At Noon, Sub-dean **Tim Evers** opened with Toccata and Fugue in d minor, after which ten young organists played about ten minutes each. **Michael Barone** (of Pipedreams) casually introduced and interviewed each organist, generally keeping things moving while the bench was adjusted and everything was being set. Each young artist played incredibly well especially given the paltry amount of practice time they were each allotted. Sixth grade organist, **Aaron Patterson**, was among them. Just barely tall enough to reach the pedals, he played the Vierne "Berceuse" and the Buxtehude "Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne". Amazing! As the young musicians played and as Michael Barone spoke, families quietly came and went as they pleased.

The young artists segment of the program was followed by a sing along led by soprano **Amanda Frederick** accompanied by chapter notables **Rudy Lucente** and **Michael Stairs**. An intermission followed. Phew.

After intermission, theater organist **Wayne Zimmerman** accompanied a Laurel and Hardy slap-stick silent movie, "Putting Pants on Phillip". Just then, a gentleman came in and sat in the row in front of me bringing three young boys with buzz cuts, none clearing the back of the seat when they sat. The boys had the best time. They laughed their way through the entire movie. They totally "got it"!

A Philadelphia Chapter members recital played by seven (more seasoned) performers followed the movie. The three boys in front of me stayed and were attentive as they listened to the first performer, **Erik Meyer**, play Sowerby and Reger. With that they were whisked away by the adult who figured he'd better not push his luck! The members recital was followed by a second silent movie accompanied by Zimmerman. This took us to just past 5:00 p.m. and the end of Organ Day.

Here's the sermon. **There is nothing the chapter could ever do better to expose our art to the public, young, old, and in between...than Organ Day.** The event is a win-win for both the Philadelphia AGO and the Kimmel Center. It is a simple, (comparatively) inexpensive, and non-threatening way to get people into the room who may have never been in Verizon Hall and may have never considered coming to an organ recital, especially with their kids! There must have been at least a few children who later said "I'd like to do that".

Organ Day is also a great way to showcase incredible local talent and to counter the notion that our art is passé. This year's event was incredibly successful in spite of poor publicity on the part of the Kimmel Center and the Philadelphia AGO. I cannot imagine what might have happened if the public had really known. The Program Committee agreed at their meeting on Monday that we will do more in this regard for Organ Day 2012, which is already set for June 8.

This is a window of opportunity with exciting potential. **Please thank with me...Fred Haas, the Philadelphia AGO, and the Kimmel Center** for their vision for and their financial support of Organ Day.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23 NRSV

The summer has flown by and the Fall season is here, ready or not. Since the world goes faster and faster there is more and more change. Every one of us will experience some kind of change in our lives in this season, whether at home, our health, our families' health and in our job(s). On one hand we would welcome change in our programs if it meant more people or more commitment, but not if it means cutting back.

In my last article I asked you to review your programs to see if there was a new way of involving people. I believe we need to do this more and more as people's lives are changing. In therapy we have a word we like to use – "reframing". It means taking a situation or program and looking at it from a different angle.

This summer in the congregation in which I work, we went from 3 services on Sunday to 1 on Sundays and 1 on Wednesdays. We have done our best to in a sense combine 2 styles into 1 worship service. As I developed the worship formats, I tried to keep each style intact. Format I began traditional and ended contemporary, Format II began contemporary and ended traditional.

Of course we enjoy a full church on Sunday mornings, but not everyone has been able to adjust and will be returning when we go back to 3 services. Wednesday evenings have been more informal, but meaningful. This next year the church will have to examine all options for how worship and its schedule will look 1 year from now.

As change happens around us it is important to have something that never changes. For us as people of faith it is the steadfast love of the Lord that never ends. God is always merciful. When we can rest in this it is easier to see newness every morning.

This fall as we encounter new situations or challenges can we reframe it to find something in it refreshing? Remember that God's hand is in it in some way, but the challenge will be whether we invite God into our thinking as to how to handle it. God promises to be faithful, but never promises that life will remain the same.

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness."

Chaplain Bruce

Kimmel Center Concerts

Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ

2012/2013

Saturday, January 19, 2013, 3:00pm

Isabelle Demers

Saturday, March 9, 2013, 3:00pm

Thomas Trotter

Tickets available online at:

www.kimmelcenter.org/facilities/organ/events.php

Or by calling: **215.893.1999**

Ron Coles, MM, M.Ed. Admin.

Roxborough Sr High School, Arts Department Chair
Saint Ignatius of Antioch Roman Catholic Church
Cabrini College

Mary Elizabeth Campbell, C.A.G.O.

Music Therapist – MAMT – BC
Music Director, St. Basil the Great, Kimberton
Private Music Teacher, Therapist, EDMR Practitioner



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kathleen Scheide, Coordinator
Calendar@agophila.org

Sunday, September 9, 3:00 PM

Southampton Chamber Music Society presents Le Meslange des Plaisirs: James Day, violin; Cheryl Dungan Cunningham, harp; Kathleen Scheide, fortepiano. Works by Bochsá, Mozart, Paganini. \$14/\$9 student/senior at the door. Southampton Old School Baptist Meetinghouse, 1256 Second Street Pike (Rt. 232), Southampton, PA 215.357.4723 scms25@msn.com

Saturday, September 15, 12:30 PM

Eric Plutz, organist. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir

Saturday, September 15, 7:00 PM

The Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley debuts its Wurlitzer 3/25 Opus 585 Theatre Pipe Organ with a concert by Mark Herman. The program, which will include the Buster Keaton comedy short "The Boat" in addition to a wide variety of musical selections, will be presented at the Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville, PA. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12. www.tosdv.org

Thursday, September 20, 12:30 PM

Sook Hyun Kim, organist. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir

Thursday, September 27, 12:30 PM

Julie Vidrick Evans, organist. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir

Saturday, September 29, 8:00 PM

Concerts at the Cathedral Basilica presents: Choral Arts Philadelphia Performing Rachmaninoff's Vespers. \$30 General, \$20 Senior, \$10 Students. Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul, 18th St & Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Phila PA 215.587.3696 http://cathedralphilaconcerts.org

Saturday, September 30, 4:00 PM

Solemn Evensong and Benediction for The Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels. Lee F. Milhous, Organist and Choirmaster. Freewill offering. Saint Mary's Parish, 145 W. Broad St., Burlington, NJ 08612 www.StMarysBurlington.org

All Upcoming Events for Crescendo publication should be sent to Kathleen Schiede in advance of our publication submission deadline.

TUESDAY NOON RECITALS

Marcia Sommers, Coordinator
610-694-0554 • TuesdayNoon@agophila.org

Tuesday Noon Recitals will continue this season, keeping alive a vital and interesting facet of our Chapter's personality, continuing to present live musical offerings throughout the year. As of this writing, we have openings for two venues, in February and June of 2013, which may be filled by the time you read this. However, if you would like to offer your instrument for a month of Tuesday Noon concerts, either for this season or in the future, please contact me as soon as possible. I am looking forward to a great season of programs.

SEPTEMBER no recitals

OCTOBER **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**
Glenside; host – Rae Ann Anderson

NOVEMBER **Ardmore Presbyterian Church**
host – Gary Garletts

DECEMBER **Abington Presbyterian Church**
host – Ethel Geist

JANUARY **St. Luke's United Church of Christ**
North Wales; host – Jon Leight

FEBRUARY TBA

MARCH **Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)**
Harleysville; host – Sue Ellen Echard

APRIL **First Presbyterian Church**
Philadelphia; host – Andrew Senn

MAY **First Presbyterian Church**
West Chester; host – Kevin Freaney

JUNE TBA

Marcia Sommers, Coordinator
Director of Music and Fine Arts Ministries
First Presbyterian Church of West Chester
130 W Miner Street, West Chester, PA 19382
610-696-0554
msommers@firstpreswc.com



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Allen Popjoy, Coordinator
610-269-7069 allen.popjoy@agophila.org

ORGANIST

Saint John's Episcopal Church
576 Concord Road, Glen Mills, PA 19342
610-459-2994 www.saintjohnsconcord.com

Saint John's Episcopal Church is seeking an organist. The church, in Glen Mills, PA, is a growing suburban parish with three school-year Sunday Services (music/organ at 9:15 & 11am). Our new, talented music director is in place, 3 years graduated from Temple. Our vision is for a collaborative church-music team. The organist plays two school-year services with Sunday Choir Rehearsal, and one summer 10am Sunday service. Salary: \$11,000-\$12,000, with one month's vacation. Allen Organ. Contact John Sorensen: rector@saintjohnsconcord.com

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

First United Methodist Church
501 Market Street, Perkasio, PA 18944
215-257-4626 (office and fax)

First United Methodist Church of Perkasio is seeking a gifted and well-trained musician to serve as a part-time Organist and Choir Director for our Sunday morning traditional worship service, along with additional seasonal and other special services, when scheduled. This individual will possess a strong and vital faith in Jesus Christ, which will serve to guide worshipful organ and choral music that is pleasing to God, uplifting to the congregation and supports our church's mission. Possessing a Bachelor's Degree or its equivalent in practical experience (organ playing and choir directing) is required. Additional requirements include having a working knowledge of sacred choral music, demonstrating the ability to work effectively with others and being a team player. The position currently involves only our traditional worship service, but involvement could branch out in the future into our contemporary worship service, as well.

If interested, please request a job description and brief application from the church office at fumcperkasio@verizon.net. E-mail submission of completed applications and resumes is preferred. Candidates will be contacted regarding interviews.

MINISTER OF MUSIC

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
3206 Big Road, Obelisk, PA 19492
610-754-7762 www.stlukeschurchpa.com

St. Luke's Lutheran Church in the village of Obelisk, PA is looking for a Minister of Music. Duties would include playing the organ at two worship services on Sunday,

We are happy to advertise positions available for churches in the Greater Philadelphia Area as a free service. We need to request that all ads stay within a 250 word limit – applicants should be directed to the church for further information. We would also be very grateful if churches encourage their organists to join our chapter – and many include dues payment as a contract perk!

and directing the adult choir, bell choir, and youth choir. A full job description can be found on our website, www.stlukeschurchpa.com, under the "News" tab. Salary is negotiable. Please send resumes to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3206 Big Road, Zieglerville, PA 19492 – attention Pr. Chapman.

TENOR STAFF SINGER

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
22 E. Chestnut Hill Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118
(215) 242-2055 www.stpaulschestnuthill.org

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church is a large and energetic Parish located in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of northwest Philadelphia with an active music program. The auditioned choir is comprised of approximately 45 members, both volunteer and professional, and sings a wide range of repertoire (early music to 20th century), with a focus on the English Cathedral tradition.

We currently have a paid tenor position open for which compensation is \$75 per appearance. The position includes Thursday night rehearsals, Sunday Morning Services, and Sunday evening Choral Evensong once a month, as well as extra services such as the Annual Carol Service, Christmas Eve, and Holy Week services.

Saint Paul's is easily accessible by rail. Both the Septa R-7 and R-8 lines stop within two blocks from the church. If interested, contact Zach Hemenway, Director of Music, 215-242-2055, ext 35, or zhemeway@stpaulschestnuthill.org

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

St. John's Presbyterian Church
217 Berkley Road, P.O. Box 399, Devon, PA 19333
610-688-5222 www.stjohnsdevon.com

St. John's Presbyterian Church is seeking an Organist/Choir Director. This is a salaried, part-time position (10-15 hours/week) that is responsible for the overall music programs of the church. Currently there is a small, capable adult choir which rehearses Thursday evenings, and a children's choir K-4 which rehearses after the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service. We also have a volunteer brass quintet which the director may want to use. In addition to the Sunday service there are two Christmas Eve services and a Maundy Thursday service. The director will coordinate with the Hand Bell and Praise Band directors and attend Worship & Music committee meetings. The organ is a 3-manual digital Rogers/Moller hybrid.

Continued on page 9

Positions Available
Continued from page 8

Job requirements:

- Bachelors's degree in music or related field preferred.
- Two years of experience directing a church choir
- Demonstrated ability to lead, direct, and inspire others and a strong spirit of cooperation.
- An enthusiastic and proficient musician who is able to work well on a team with others; who has a heart for sharing the gospel by invigorating the worship experience of the congregation through music.

Salary is commensurate with experience. There is additional compensation for weddings and funerals. There is no relocation assistance for this position.

Interested applicants please send your credentials and cover letter to Julie Rockhold at jrockhold@comcast.net or Rich Scott at rscott@ipginc.org.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Augustus Lutheran Church
717 West Main Street, Trappe, Pennsylvania 19426

Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe, PA is seeking a candidate familiar with traditional Lutheran liturgy and hymns. Augustus Church offers an established music department: an Adult Vocal Choir with 4 paid section leaders; an Adult Bell Choir; two (2) Children's/youth Choirs ranging in age from 6 years old to 13 years old. Compensation commensurate with AGO guidelines: \$30,000 for 17 hours weekly. Position available October 1. Please e-mail resume to Karen McClain at parishsec@oldaugustus.org.

ORGANIST

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
204 Wayne Ave., Haddonfield, NJ 08033

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior is seeking a part-time (8 – 10 hours a week) organist/accompanist to select and/or provide organ/piano music for all Sunday morning services and other services of the church including, but not limited to, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Other duties include:

1. Accompany the Adult Choir at one mid-week rehearsal and on Sunday morning.
2. Accompany various choirs and ensembles on Sunday morning during the 10:30 service.
3. Rehearse with instrumental and vocal soloists as necessary.
4. Opportunity of providing organ music for all weddings and funerals held at the church, consulting with wedding

couples or families if requested. The organist gets first right of refusal.

5. Provide an annual report detailing the condition of the organ and piano(s) and specifying any necessary maintenance for submission to the Director of Music to be included in the Annual Report.

6. Arrange for a capable substitute at least two to four weeks in advance of any approved absences.

7. Provide music for additional special events including, but not limited to, musicals, pageants, festival rehearsals, and concerts.

If interested, please send a cover letter and resumé to John Drozdall (john.drozdal@gmail.com). Electronic submissions are preferred, but materials will be accepted at the church, Attn: John Drozdall. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

ORGANIST

Old Swedes Church
606 North Church Street Wilmington, DE 19801

Part-time assistant organist. One Sunday service only, no choir. Please contact Terry Gaus-Woollen at terry@trinityparishde.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST

St. Matthias Church
128 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
610-664-0207

700-family suburban parish with well-established, traditional music program seeks part-time Director of Music/Organist who will be an active member of the parish staff. Responsibilities include overseeing and directing entire music program: playing the organ for 3 weekend Masses (1 Saturday evening, 1 Sunday morning, 1 Sunday night), holy days, weddings and funerals, other Masses/services as requested; accompanying 20 voice choir at weekly rehearsals and bi-weekly Sunday Masses (there is a Choir Director) from September through May; rehearsing with cantors and occasional instrumentalists; scheduling music, choir and cantors.

Qualified candidate will be a practicing Catholic well-rooted in his/her faith, having a comprehensive knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy and music with excellent organizational, leadership and interpersonal skills. Candidate with several years' experience and strong organ skills preferred. Position opens late July. Please mail or email (matthias@saintmatthias.org) cover letter and resume to Monsignor Michael T. McCulken.

Continued on page 10

Positions Available
Continued from page 9

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Harrisburg Men's Chorus
P.O. Box 62201, Harrisburg, PA 17106

The Harrisburg Men's Chorus will be hiring a new Artistic Director for the 2012–2013 concert season. Experience in choral directing and conducting is required, along with the skills and abilities to lead the group on a continued path of growth and development. Application deadline: May 15, 2012. Interviews will begin immediately.

Full job description, and application materials are available at www.harrisburgmenschorus.org. Please send a resume and our Cover Letter (download at website) to: Paul Foltz, President, Harrisburg Men's Chorus. Email: hmconductor@gmail.com, mailing address: P.O. Box 62201 Harrisburg, PA 17106.



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Ph.D., F.A.G.O.

Dennis Elwell

Overbrook Presbyterian Church - Philadelphia

Roy Harker

Church of Saint Asaph
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

Cormac Brady

FTCL, B.MUS
Director of Music / Organist
St. Cosmas & Damien Parish, Conshohocken, PA

William J. Gatens, D. Phil., F.A.G.O., Ch.M.

Blessed John Henry Newman Fellowship
Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park
American Record Guide

Bruce Shultz

Girard College
Church of St. Francis de Sales
University of Pennsylvania

Marjorie Lynch Cummings

C.A.G.O.
First Presbyterian Church of Olney

Rudolph A. Luente

Dean, Philadelphia Chapter AGO
Asst. Wanamaker Grand Court Organ

SUBSTITUTE LIST

Allen Popjoy, Coordinator
610-269-7069 allen.popjoy@agophila.org

This list is published as a courtesy to the chapter membership. Although the AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship or reliability of substitute organists, Guild certificates and other degree programs indicate preparation beyond the minimum.

The codes preceding each name have the following meanings:

S - available to play on Sundays or weekdays

O - available only on weekdays to play for special services, weddings or funerals

S/C - available to play and/or direct a choir on Sundays or weekdays

O/C - available only on weekdays to play and/or direct a choir for special services

Please note: This list includes only current members of the Philadelphia Chapter. To be included on this list, please be sure your membership is current and contact Allen Popjoy at 610-269-7069.

Code	Substitute	Location	Phone Number	Code	Substitute	Location	Phone Number
S	Fred Astmann	Cherry Hill, NJ	856-424-3820	O	Steven J. McBride	Phoenixville, PA	610-633-3442
S/C	Debra S. Bacak	Sellersville, PA	215-257-0553	S/C	Meghan E. Meloy	Swarthmore, PA	610-368-2810
O	Lucas C. Brown	Philadelphia, PA	267-474-8476	S/C	Mardia Melroy	Maple Glen, PA	215-646-1975
S/C	Sean Burns	Hatfield, PA	215-723-0191	O/C	Lee F. Milhous	Doylestown, PA	215-348-8872
O	D. Stephen Cable	Bethlehem, PA	484-866-6019	O/C	Jonathan R. Moser	Bryn Mawr, PA	610-420-7222
O	Marjorie Lynch			O/C	Scott P. Myers	Furlong, PA	267-544-0212
	Cummings CAGO	Philadelphia, PA	215-728-1530	O/C	William L. Nash	Pottstown, PA	610-970-5749
S	Doris J. Dabrowski	Philadelphia, PA	215-387-6635	O	David R. Nelson	Aston, PA	610-497-0488
S/C	Adam F. Dieffenbach	Telford, PA	484-964-4002	S/C	Kirsten K. Olson	Collegeville, PA	610-489-3889
O	Anthony Dratwa	Essington, PA	610-595-6979	O/C	Frank K. J. Orman	Eagleville, PA	610-409-2529
S/C	Maria de J. Ellis	Ardmore, PA	610-896-6189	O	Aaron C. Patterson	Philadelphia, PA	215-725-0959
O	Suzanne Erb	Philadelphia, PA	215-568-5795	S/C	Patricia A. Pezick	Blue Bell, PA	610-279-9945
S	Gary S. Eslinger	Abington, PA	215-887-0479	S	Katherine J. Reier SPC	Abington, PA	215-517-4160
O/C	Paul Fejko	Chester, PA	609-462-9000	S/C	Mark L. Rippel	Newtown Square, PA	610-353-2763
S/C	Ralph E. Fisher	Philadelphia, PA	215-732-1408	S	Catherine M.		
S/C	Jeremy J. Flood CAGO	Philadelphia, PA	215-625-2747		Robinson SPC	Lansdowne, PA	610-626-4429
O	Elizabeth H. Forsyth	Doylestown, PA	215-230-0593	O	Paula Pugh Romanoux	Philadelphia, PA	215-467-1225
S	Robert H. Frederick	Philadelphia, PA	215-755-7648	O/C	Kenneth R. Rowe	Eagleville, PA	610-539-8052
O	William J. Gatens			O	Vincent M. Ryan	Schwenksville, PA	610-287-1842
	FAGO ChM	Chester, PA	610-876-5617	O	Stephen F. Schreiber	Ambler, PA	215-283-0417
O	Charles M. Griffin	Levittown, PA	215-547-7017	S/C	Phillip J. Shade	Souderton, PA	215-723-7907
O/C	Peter J. Hopkins	Philadelphia, PA	215-467-1225	O	Marilyn Lee Shenenberger	Morrisville, PA	609-871-8819
O	Evan J. Jackson	Aston, PA	610-497-6275	O/C	David E. Shunskis	Philadelphia, PA	215-748-4623
S/C	Raymond K. Johnson	Cheltenham, PA	215-635-9944	O/C	Robert J. Stoop	Philadelphia, PA	267-745-5709
S/C	Joel E. Klingman SPC	Southampton, PA	215-355-8445	S/C	Janet L. Tebbel	Philadelphia, PA	215-848-3915
S/C	Thomas S. Lever	Lansdale, PA	215-855-0287	S/C	Robert J. Upton	Broomall, PA	610-356-5245
O/C	David Clark Little	Feasterville, PA	215-953-0352	S/C	Virginia K. Vaalburg	Glen Mills, PA	610-358-0946
O/C	Rodney Long	Willow Grove, PA	267-636-3522	S/C	Matthew L. Valent	Collegeville, PA	610-924-5088
S	Elizabeth A. Manus	St. Davids, PA	610-293-9002	S/C	Esther M. Wideman	Philadelphia, PA	215-687-6258
O	Glenn M. Matis	Doylestown, PA	215-489-2548	O	Jerry L. E. Wright	Collingdale, PA	610-586-7381

AGO NATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL COMPOSITION AWARDS BESTOWED AT AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Distinguished Composer Award
Presented to Craig Phillips

AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition
Presented to Alan Smith

AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition
Presented to Nicholas O'Neill

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) honored three award winning composers at its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, July 4, during the AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn. AGO President Eileen Guenther presided over the award presentations to Craig Phillips of West Hollywood, Calif.; and to Nicholas O'Neill and Alan Smith, both of Great Britain.

The 2012 Distinguished Composer Award was presented to Craig Phillips. The prestigious award, created in 1986, is presented biennially to recognize outstanding composers of

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS' HIGHEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS BESTOWED AT AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION

President's Award
Presented to Martha Rivers Ingram

Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award
Given to Peter and Lois Fyfe

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) bestowed its two highest awards of national distinction in conjunction with the 51st biennial AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn. Award presentations were made by AGO President Eileen Guenther.

The AGO President's Award was presented to Martha Rivers Ingram of Nashville. The prestigious award, created in 1988, is presented biennially to recognize outstanding contributions to the art of the organ in the United States. The 2012 President's Award recognized Ms. Ingram "in gratitude for her generous patronage of the King of Instruments, vision for the Nashville Symphony and the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, and commitment to expanding the musical horizons of the Nashville community."

organ and choral music in the United States. Previous award recipients include: Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, Daniel Pinkham, Samuel Adler, Dominick Argento, William Albright, Conrad Susa, Emma Lou Diemer, Dan Locklair, William Bolcom, Alice Parker, Carl Schalk, Margaret Sandresky, Richard Proulx, and Stephen Paulus.

The 2012 AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition was presented to Alan Smith for his anthem, *There Is a Flow'r*, based upon a 15th-century text by John Audelay. The award included a cash prize of \$2,000 and publication, both provided by the ECS Publishing Co., and a performance at the 2012 AGO National Convention in Nashville. Mr. Smith is the first British citizen ever to receive the award.

The 2012 AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition was presented to Nicholas O'Neill for his *Festive Voluntary*. The award included a cash prize of \$2,000 provided by Marilyn Mason, publication by Hinshaw Music Inc., and a performance at the 2012 AGO National Convention. Mr. O'Neill is the first British citizen ever to receive the award.

Additional information, including biographies of the prize winners as well as official rules and applications for the 2014 composition competitions can be found on the AGO Web site, www.agohq.org. ■

Past recipients of the AGO President's Award include: Clementine Miller Tangeman, Alice Tully, Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Hulings, Amelia Lay Hodges, J. Michael Barone, Roberta Bitgood, fago, chm, Edward A. Hansen, aago (posthumously awarded), Anthony Baglivi, Craig R. Whitney, Pleasant T. Rowland, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley C. Dudley, and Messrs. Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee (posthumously awarded).

The AGO Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award was presented to Peter and Lois Fyfe, also of Nashville. Created by the AGO National Council in 1999 to honor the memory of the Guild's distinguished past president, Edward A. Hansen, AAGO, the prestigious award is presented biennially to recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the AGO. The 2012 Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award was given to the Fyfes "in recognition of their commitment to excellence in music; unparalleled knowledge of sacred music; their roles as teachers and mentors; and their leadership, devoted service, and extraordinary generosity to the AGO."

Previous Hansen Award recipients include: Karen McFarlane Holtkamp, Ruth M. Caswell, Joyce S. Hesketh, Betty Jean Bartholomew, D. DeWitt Wasson, CHM, Marianne Webb, and Frederick Swann. ■

AGO NAMES PRIZEWINNERS IN NATIONAL ORGAN COMPETITIONS

Eight Prizes Presented to Six Organists at AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is pleased to announce the results of its National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP) and the National Competition in Organ Improvisation (NCOI). Competition prizewinners were recognized on Wednesday, July 4, 2012, at the AGO Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the 51st biennial AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn. The following competition prizes were awarded:

NATIONAL YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION IN ORGAN PERFORMANCE

First Place — Daryl Robinson

The Lilian Murtagh Memorial Prize: \$3,000 cash award and career development assistance provided by Karen McFarlane Artists; a CD recording by Pro Organo; and a performance at the 2014 AGO National Convention in Boston, Mass.

Second Place — Malcolm Matthews

\$3,000 cash award provided by John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders

Third Place—Thatcher Lyman

\$2,000 cash award provided by Kegg Pipe Organ Builders

Audience Choice Prize—Daryl Robinson

\$1,000 cash award provided by the Martin Ott Pipe Organ Company

NATIONAL COMPETITION IN ORGAN IMPROVISATION

First Prize—Robert Nicholls

\$3,000 cash award provided by McNeil Robinson

Second Prize—Patrick A. Scott

\$2,000 cash award provided by Dobson Pipe Organ Builders Ltd.

Third Prize—Douglas Murray

\$1,500 cash award provided by Pamela and Steven Ruitter-Feenstra

Audience Choice Prize—Patrick A. Scott

\$1,000 cash award provided by David and Robin Arcus

NATIONAL YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION IN ORGAN PERFORMANCE

The National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance promotes the highest level of organ performance. The competition serves as a springboard for emerging young organists, allowing them to continue to develop their performance ability by participating in the various demanding stages of this competition. Established in 1950 and held biennially, the competition is open to organists between the ages of 22 and 32.

The 2011–2012 NYACOP was conducted in four rounds. Twenty applicants were accepted as official competitors based upon their submitted recordings and applications outlining their recital experience and demonstrating their readiness

for the rigorous performing demands of the first-prize winner. In the anonymous, recorded elimination round that followed, seven NYACOP competitors were selected to advance to the semifinal round, which was hosted by the Cleveland (Ohio) Chapter at the Cleveland Museum of Art on May 25. Three finalists were chosen to participate in the final round, held in conjunction with the AGO National Convention, on July 1, at Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville.

Judges for the final round were Wilma Jensen, Sandra Soderlund, and John Chappell Stowe, AAGO, CHM. Major support for the 2011–2012 NYACOP was provided by Karen McFarlane Artists, John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, Kegg Pipe Organ Builders, the Martin Ott Pipe Organ Company, the Cleveland (Ohio) AGO Chapter, and the Nita Akin Competition Fund.

Repertoire, officials rules, and application form for the 2013–2014 NYACOP can be found on the AGO Web site, www.agohq.org, and will appear in the September 2012 issue of *The American Organist Magazine*.

NATIONAL COMPETITION IN ORGAN IMPROVISATION

The National Competition in Organ Improvisation advances the art of improvisation by recognizing and rewarding superior performers in the field. Improvisation is the pinnacle of achievement for a musician who can combine the elements of performance and composition simultaneously in the creation of a new work of art. Since 1990, the AGO NCOI has motivated and inspired hundreds of the most talented organists in America. Today, it is the preeminent competition in North America dedicated to preserving and advancing improvisation at the organ, and is open to all regardless of age or country of citizenship.

The 2011–2012 NCOI began with a preliminary recorded round in the fall of 2011. Five semifinalists were selected as official competitors in January 2012. Semifinal and final rounds, held in conjunction with the AGO National Convention, were held at Belmont United Methodist Church in Nashville.

Judges for the semifinal and final rounds were Matthew Dirst, Pamela Ruitter-Feenstra, and Todd Wilson. Major support for the 2011–2012 NCOI was provided by McNeil Robinson, Dobson Pipe Organ Builders Ltd., Pamela and Steven Ruitter-Feenstra, and David and Robin Arcus.

A flourishing tradition of improvisation has always been fundamental to a truly vital musical culture. Although musical extemporization has enjoyed a rich heritage in Europe for many centuries, the art form is in perilous risk of extinction in America except among a few organists and jazz musicians. As the premier competition for organ improvisation in America, the NCOI continues to set the standard for organists seeking to demonstrate their skill in extemporaneous performance, the highest and most challenging musical art form. ■

Biographies of the 2011–2012 competitors can be found in the September 2011 (NYACOP) and April 2012 (NCOI) issues of *The American Organist Magazine*.

AGO ELECTS 2012–2014 NATIONAL COUNCIL

Election Results Announced at AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn.

NEW YORK CITY—The AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS (AGO) announces a newly elected National Council for a term of two years, July 1, 2012–June 30, 2014. Election results were reported on Wednesday, July 4, during the AGO Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tenn. Members of the newly elected National Council include four national officers, four national councillors with portfolio, and nine regional councillors drawn from across the country. The non-voting AGO Executive Director serves as an ex officio member of Council.

PRESIDENT

Eileen Guenther, DMA
Vienna, Va.

VICE PRESIDENT

John Walker, FAGO, DMA
Baltimore, Md.

SECRETARY / COUNCILLOR FOR MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Lois Z. Toepfner, MM
Westborough, Mass.

TREASURER / COUNCILLOR FOR FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Calvert Johnson, DM
Decatur, Ga.

COUNCILLOR FOR EDUCATION

Joyce Shupe Kull, FAGO, CHM, DMA
Arvada, Colo.

COUNCILLOR FOR COMPETITIONS AND NEW MUSIC

Christian Lane, MM
Cambridge, Mass.

COUNCILLOR FOR CONVENTIONS

Mark A. Babcock, MM
Des Moines, Iowa

COUNCILLOR FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Marlene Hallstrom, CAGO, MM, MMUSED
Wichita, Kans.

REGION I COUNCILLOR (New England)

Cheryl Duerr, AAGO, MM
Lexington, Mass.

REGION II COUNCILLOR (New York–New Jersey)

Agnes Armstrong, CAGO
Altamont, N.Y.

REGION III COUNCILLOR (Mid-Atlantic)

Glenn Rodgers, AAGO, MM
Delran, N.J.

REGION IV COUNCILLOR (Southeast)

Laura Ellis, DMA
Gainesville, Fla.

REGION V COUNCILLOR (Great Lakes)

David K. Lamb, CAGO, DMUS
Columbus, Ind.

REGION VI COUNCILLOR (North Central)

Marilyn Schempp, SPC, MM
Sioux Falls, S.Dak.

REGION VII COUNCILLOR (Southwest)

Michael Bedford, AAGO, CHM, DMA
Tulsa, Okla.

REGION VIII COUNCILLOR (Pacific Northwest)

Dean G. Jamieson, PHD
Shoreline, Wash.

REGION IX COUNCILLOR (Far West)

Leslie Wolf Robb, CAGO, BA
La Jolla, Calif.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (Ex officio)

James E. Thomashower, CAE, BA
New York, N.Y.

“The process of nominating candidates to the National Council requires a coordinated effort among ten Guild committees comprising more than 50 volunteers,” reported AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “The AGO National Nominating Committee and nine Regional Nominating Committees identified 34 candidates for nomination to the 17 positions on Council. We thank all of the nominees for their willingness to serve in these volunteer positions. We congratulate the newly elected councillors and extend our sincere thanks to the following individuals who completed their terms of service: National Councillor for Conventions Dennis Elwell; National Councillor for Competitions and New Music David Vogels, CHM; and Regional Councillors Paul Barte, DMA (Great Lakes Region), Jane Errera, CHM, MA (Mid-Atlantic Region), and Jan Kraybill, FAGO, DMA (North Central Region).”

“The 2012–2014 AGO National Council will have an extremely busy agenda addressing many resolutions adopted by the 2010–2012 National Council,” declared Thomashower. “Among the top priorities being addressed are the implementation of a new mission statement and reorganization of the Guild’s national and regional leadership responsibilities and committee structure. The new Council is well equipped to meet these challenges as five new Council members bring fresh stores of talent and energy to the table complementing the experience of our 12 returning members.”

The election was held from April 1–30 and managed by Intelliscan Inc., an independent election management firm engaged by the AGO to administer the election, receive the ballots, and tabulate the results. The total number of ballots cast was 5,305, representing responses from approximately 30% of the Guild’s membership. “The ability to vote and elect Guild leadership is not only a benefit of membership but also a responsibility,” added Thomashower. “Some of the races for Guild officers and councillors were particularly close. One race for Regional Councillor was decided by seven votes.”

AGO NATIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW MISSION STATEMENT

NEW YORK CITY—The AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS (AGO) announces a newly adopted mission statement, which was approved by the AGO National Council at its July 2012 meeting in Nashville. The new mission statement begins with a succinct, memorable statement that focuses on how the AGO makes a difference in the world. It is followed by a list of goals that help define how the mission will be accomplished.

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

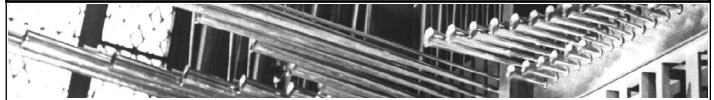
“The new mission focuses on more than just serving the needs of dues-paying members,” declared AGO Executive Director James Thomashower. “This is a mission that gives the work of the Guild meaning in the context of our society.”

The Guild’s prior mission statement was developed early in 1998. Over the last three years, the AGO National Council and various task forces have reviewed AGO members’ responses to a long-range planning questionnaire to determine what is most important to members and consider afresh what the Guild should plan to achieve organizationally.

In 2011, a task force was formed to develop a new mission statement. Members of the task force were AGO Councillor for Region IX Leslie Wolf Robb, Director; AGO Treasurer Calvert Johnson; AGO Councillor for Region VI Jan Kraybill; and AGO President Eileen Guenther (ex officio). The task force drafted three mission statement options and asked AGO members to complete an online survey in April 2012. Based upon the responses of Guild members, the AGO National Council endorsed the new mission statement to challenge, energize, and equip AGO members to continue and expand the work of the Guild both now and in the years to come.

“The Strategic Planning Workbook for Nonprofit Organizations defines a mission statement as ‘What you intend to accomplish, your organization’s overall goal, the reason you exist’,” stated AGO President Eileen Guenther. “Other books on leadership define it as what an organization can do uniquely—better than any other organization. Not-for-profit organizations must revisit their mission statements periodically to be sure they reflect current environmental realities as well as the organization’s current needs and objectives.”

TALE PIPES



MARY ELIZABETH CAMPBELL, EDITOR
Crescendo@agophila.org

THIS year I'm training for another endurance bike ride (Las Vegas, Sept. 22) with Team in Training (thus I'm doing fundraising to benefit Leukemia and Lymphoma Society), and so I've been thinking about the parallels between trying to ramp up the bike road time and miles, and the challenges of a church position.

- Practice is essential for optimum performance in both arenas
- Personal growth can be a distinct benefit
- Often there are unexpected detours - the township just oiled and cindered the road, the pastor decided to have special events on what was supposed to be choir night
- There are always others who excel far beyond your wildest dreams
- There are always those for whom YOU might be an inspiration
- There is always room for improvement
- Hills are challenging, but good for the soul (sole?); REALLY learning challenging music makes you a better musician
- The Pedals should not be ignored
- It's important to be alert and aware of the terrain ahead, and ready to adjust course as needed to avoid pitfalls
- Music and bikes are lovely ways to try to keep a bit ahead of aging, and reach for physical and therefore mental wellness
- Church/synagogue work is in service to God and seems to flow best when turned over to God; making prayer a regular part of the biking agenda certainly doesn't hurt, either. (I'm happy to include intercessory prayers on my long rides, but am also not above the occasional prayer for help on nasty hills)
- Some things can be blamed on equipment ...
- Biking in a group is lovely - and networking with other kindred musical spirits is inspirational, too.

I have to say that I had a very proud moment one day (for me): I was passed by the inevitable fit guys in spandex, but I caught up to them to ask the time. Don't discount the older ladies on the trail ... And by the way, I learned a few years back that it may be possible to get credit for biking to work when tax time rolls around!



CRESCENDO

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Katherine Reier, Circulation Coordinator
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