

CRESCENDO

MAY 2021

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Newsletter of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

In This Issue...

CHAPTER NEWS	1
CRESCENDO STAFF INFORMATION	2
DEAN'S LETTER	2
REGISTRAR'S CORNER	3
PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER AGO: Offices and Committees Directory	3
CHAPTER EVENTS 2020/2021	4
TUESDAY NOON RECITALS	5
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	6
POSITIONS AVAILABLE	11
SUBSTITUTE ORGANISTS	14
WHERE AM I?	15
TALE PIPES	16

Creative COVID Coping

There may finally be a light at the end of the tunnel, and wonderful in person events on the horizon! I want to thank everyone who has contributed to our 'Creative COVID Coping' series – this has been a way to stay in touch, to welcome new members, maybe to get some ideas from each other, and hopefully to be inspired. If you would like to contribute some thoughts about how you have been coping, along with any pleasant positive surprises, please be in touch! And when the 'plague' is beyond us, it would still be nice to feature various folks in some way each month. This month our contributors are Jeff Brillhart, Patrick Murphy, Sándor Kádár and Cally Welsh.

From Jeff Brillhart:

Hey there!! I've really enjoyed reading members' perspectives about how they are coping with Covid!! Thought I'd throw in our story as well.

On March 8, 2020, the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Choir and The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia presented what would be the last public concert either ensemble would present before Covid-19 shut down our worlds. At that time the United States had registered fewer than 1,000 cases of Covid-19! Just five days after that concert the church shut down operations (announced at the time as "for a few weeks"). Thus, began the journey all of us have taken.

Initially, like so many of you, I tried to rehearse my choirs through Zoom. I quickly discovered the huge shortcomings of that medium so I shifted the focus away from rehearsing anthems toward intensive breath work (so much so that I found myself couching the exercises in terms of "Heaven forbid, if you get Covid, you'll want your lungs working in absolutely tip-top condition!), vocalizing, and choral music education. For the rest of the choir season I prepared presentations on everything from the Requiems of Brahms and Fauré to all of Bach's motets, spreading each composer out over several weeks. Meanwhile, we held two recording sessions of solos by our staff singers that could be spliced into several months of Sunday morning broadcasts of sermons and prayers. At that point, we simply provided organ leadership of one hymn. The pastors and music staff agreed that online, "less was more!"

Continued on page 7



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Editorial Board

CRESCENDO

Mary Elizabeth Campbell, CAGO, Editor
crescendo@agophila.org 484-995-6110

Karen Fallows & Tom Lever, Publishers
215-822-6762 215-855-0287

Roy Harker, Circulation Coordinator
it@agophila.org

Calendar of Events

Kathleen Scheide, Coordinator
calendarAGOPhila@gmail.com

Positions Available

Carolyn Boxmeyer, Coordinator
AGOPlacement@agophila.org
267-974-4702

Advertising

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DEAN'S LETTER

Douglas Backman, Dean



Reaching for the Apex

Back in the middle of April, my great uncle died of prostate cancer. As the family liturgical music expert, I was asked my input for the funeral mass. He was a decorated Marine who served his country with distinction in Vietnam. Instead of the typical Roman Catholic I Am the Bread of Life or On Eagles Wings for the processional, I chose the Servant Song. His sense of service, honor, and duty had a profound impact on me, and I felt the line "...let me be as Christ to you" was especially fitting. After the funeral and my improvised postlude on the Marine Hymn which contained N6 chords like ketchup on a filet cleaned all the relay contacts of a 1915 Casavant, my mind was ablaze on the drive back down from Massachusetts with how Lieutenant Colonel Louie was such a perfect example of a leader.

What is the definition of a leader? What is the "sine qui non" between an effective leader and poor leadership? Are there multiple leadership styles? Is there a difference between efficiency and effectiveness in an organization? These four questions written across the whiteboard of my very first college class are seared into my mind. After countless textbooks, lectures, peer reviewed journal articles, a 127 page thesis, and 3 degrees, I have never seen leadership defined in under 10 words. Most definitions I've witnessed have the verb "leading" in them. Others have "motivate" or "achieving". So, on the surface, it appears that a successful leader must be productive. This is all well and good, and I agree that a group of people working together to fulfill a common goal is the general idea, but we're still missing a key concept. How do you compel, coach, motivate, and guide that diverse group of people to stay focused and on task to complete the myriad of small mundane tasks critical to completing the larger goal?

There are two constants at the bedrock of leadership: 1. Instant gratification and procrastination are its antithesis. 2. Relationship dynamics are everything. I provide my own definition of leadership in 6 words, in my 2018 doctoral thesis on employee morale and turnover rates in the retail and quick service restaurant industries. "Leadership is taking a proactive approach to relationships." Leadership is not this big, scary, must succeed at all costs, monotonous, monochromatic, monolith. It is the combination and implementation of core life skillsets enabling one to provide stability in a fluid environment, remain calm and objective during challenges, and anticipate/adapt approaches to meet the ever-evolving landscape filled with both problems and opportunities. You cannot accomplish any of those verbs without first appreciating the process of fostering strong, dependable, and trustworthy relationships with others. Relationships you can rely on because you CANNOT "go it alone".

Continued on page 6

NEWS FROM SEPA

A new concert series takes root! Saint Colman Church Concert Series began in collaboration with SEPA AGO. The kick-off, hosted by SEPA-AGO and sponsored by the National AGO, took place safely with a live audience of 70 + attendees and can be viewed at sepaago.org.

The beauty and spaciousness (as Bill Gatens described, "imposing interior") of the Saint Colman interior lends for social distancing. As this factor has become a true measure of comfort, the December concert is a model of live concertizing in the midst of the pandemic.

What began as a pre-pandemic group of concerts for organ solo and organ/other instrument(s) at various venues has been melded into a one-stop series of events, thanks to the hospitality of pastor Father John Ames at Saint Colman Church, Ardmore.

To date the exciting line up includes:

TBA, Aaron Patterson will return to the organ to accompany his mother, Joan Steinberg on harp, for a Mother-Son Organ and Harp duo.

May 30th at 3pm, Dylan David Shaw comes back for a CD-release concert.

December 5th, 3pm, the close of the series year will see the second annual Mandolin & Organ concert, again with **Ekaterina Skliar** and **Alexey Alexandrov** on Mandolin.

*All concerts will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.
Saint Colman Church is located on Lancaster Avenue (Rte 30)
across from the Lower Merion Police Station.*

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

John Kampmeyer, Registrar

If you're having any challenges with membership details, please be in touch!

Want to join the Philadelphia chapter of the AGO? 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 **John Kampmeyer** at: 610-731-4192 Registrar@agophila.org

ELECTED OFFICERS

Dean
Douglas Backman 508-736-3020
Dean@agophila.org

Sub-Dean
Charles Grove 717-949-2787
SubDean@agophila.org

Treasurer
Bruce Marshall 267-283-8019
Treasurer@agophila.org

Secretary
Meghan Meloy Ness 734-794-3810
Secretary@agophila.org

Registrar
John Kampmeyer 610-731-4192
Registrar@agophila.org

Communications Coordinator
Grace Kraybill 610-310-9285
Communications@agophila.org

Executive Committee

TERM ENDING 2021
Carolyn Boxmeyer 267-974-4702
Chris Gage 401-632-1863
Ralph Purri 610-789-2354
Ruth Rineer 267-536-5706

TERM ENDING 2022
Jeremy Flood 215-625-2747
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TERM ENDING 2023
David Burton Brown 267-297-6132
Mary Elizabeth Campbell 610-917-0649
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APPOINTED LEADERSHIP

Administrative Assistant
Meghan Meloy Ness 734-794-3810
AdminAssist@agophila.org

Historian / Archivist
Rae Ann Anderson 215-884-4921
Jeff Fowler 610-764-1524
Archivist@agophila.org

IT Director
Roy Harker 215-222-3831
IT@agophila.org

Webmaster
Tom Lever 215-855-0287
Webmaster@agophila.org

Endowment Committee Chair
Rudy Lucente 610-584-5054
Endowment@agophila.org

Nominating Committee Chair
(position available) Nominating@agophila.org

Program Committee Chair
Charles Grove 717-949-2787
SubDean@agophila.org

Education Committee Chair
Sandor Kadar, FAGO 609-540-6548
Examinations@agophila.org

Competition Committee Chair
Alan Morrison 215-735-8259
Competitions@agophila.org

Professional Concerns Chair
Judy Lang 610-623-8069

Tuesday Noon Recitals Coordinator
Andrew Heller 610-789-0146
TuesdayNoon@agophila.org

Examinations Coordinator
Sandor Kadar, FAGO 609-540-6548
Examinations@agophila.org

Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO Chapter Events 2020-2021

The Program Committee is actively working on possibilities for future offerings. During this time of uncertainty, we are blessed with a remarkable range of creative offerings online.



Our chapter website:
<http://agophila.org/>



Our chapter page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AGOPhila/>



Search: Organ Concerts Around Philly
for all concerts in the greater region



Our chapter channel:
Click here



We thank our Patrons

This list is updated monthly. We receive information updates regularly since members can join throughout the year. If you have made a donation and are not listed, please contact our chapter treasurer, Bruce Marshall, Treasurer@agophila.org.

It is now possible to make a donation to our chapter directly through our website www.agophila.org. Click the red **DONATE** button on the home page.

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TUESDAY NOON RECITALS

Andrew Heller, Coordinator
610-789-0146 TuesdayNoon@agophila.org

We are very proud to now be offering our Tuesday Noon recital series again, virtually and, where possible, with carefully limited in-person attendance. Here are the churches that have kindly agreed to partner with us to host and share these wonderful recitals:

February

Abington Presbyterian Church, John Sall, host.
3 manual Moller, 1969, rebuilt by Robert Gladden

March

St. David's Episcopal Church, Clair Rozier, Elaine Sonnenberg Whitelock, hosts. 3/46 Dobson organ, 2007

April

Trinity Lutheran Church, Emily Brands, host
Martin Ott tracker, 3 manual

May

All Hallows Episcopal Church, 262 Bent Wood Road, Wyncote, PA 19095. 215-885-1641.
Christopher Kehoe, host
3/19 E. M. Skinner organ, 1929

June

St. Asaph's Episcopal Church, 27 Conshohocken State Road, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. 610-664-0966.
Roy Harker, host.
2 manual Johannus Hybrid organ, 2020

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**All Hallows Church** started as a mission of the Church of Our Savior, Jenkintown in the 1890's and soon became a major hub for the then-growing village of Wyncote where the nouveau riche built homes to spend summers in the country. It was notably Cyrus H.K. Curtis' home parish as he and his wife paid for much of its interior furnishings and the first pipe organ--Farrand & Votey Opus 803. In 1929, a chancel fire completely destroyed this instrument and a modest III/17 instrument (Opus 769) by the Skinner Organ Company was installed. This instrument remains unscathed by the Organ Reform Movement's ideals that affected so many fine organs in and around Philadelphia. Over the last two decades, the instrument has been re-leathered, rewired, received a complete console restoration, had two of its four reed stops restored, and has most recently received the addition of a Dulciana and Unda Maris (from Opus 762) to complete the Choir division as conceived by Skinner. Come see why many organists find this a "little gem" amongst Philadelphia's fine pipe organs.



**May 4th - Dr. Jeffrey Fowler**, Music Director at Christ Church, Ithan, and former Dean of the Philadelphia Chapter AGO.

### May 11th - Josh O'Kraybill

Josh is a homeschooled high school senior who will enter Cleveland Institute of Music in the fall to study under Todd Wilson. He is the recipient of CIM's Martha Bell Sanders Excellence Scholarship. He has been studying organ with Dr. Gordon Turk for 5-1/2 years, and piano with Jason Shaffer-Valerius for 7. He has been the recipient of the AGO Phila "Next" Scholarship and was chosen to attend the Philadelphia Young Artist's Organ Camp. He is an avid golfer and chess player.

### May 18th - Dr. David Burton Brown -

Esteemed retired professor of music, and we are honored to have him on our chapter substitute / supply list.

### May 25th - Michael Smith -

Organist/Choirmaster at St. Thomas Whitemarsh.

**Christopher Kehoe, Host**

**3/19 M. Skinner organ, 1929**

**All Hallows Episcopal Church**  
262 Bent Wood Rd, Wyncote, PA, 19095  
215-885-1641

**Live Stream Concerts:**

[www.facebook.com/All-Hallows-Episcopal-Church-361528563963769](https://www.facebook.com/All-Hallows-Episcopal-Church-361528563963769)

## Dean's Letter

*Continued from page 2*

How do we connect and implement these concepts into the very foundation of our organization? The good news is that for the most part, they already are here. As the AGO's first chapter, we were forged by relationships with similar interests and a singular goal in mind. While past leaders and I will be the first to admit that we have failed from time to time, since I moved to the Philly area in 2008, I have seen this chapter make tremendous strides to correct deficiencies. There is still much work to be done, but I am emboldened and convinced that our chapter's best days are yet ahead. I am happy to report that I have received my annual report from the Endowment Committee and the financial gains made over the past year have been very fruitful. This, combined with the fact that we haven't taken a significant withdrawal from the fund in the past few years means that we will be able to host some very special events in the 2021/2022 program year. More to come on that in the June issue.

**This month I challenge all of you to step out of your comfort zone and work on one task that you've routinely brushed away over the past year.**

*"If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed. If you make your bed every morning, you will have accomplished the first task of the day. It will give you a small sense of pride, and will encourage you to do another task, and another, and another. By the end of the day, that one task completed will have turned into many tasks completed. Making your bed will also reinforce the fact that the little things in life matter. If you can't do the little things right, you'll never be able to do the big things right. If, by chance, you have a miserable day, you will come home to a bed that is made. That YOU made. And a made bed gives you encouragement that tomorrow will be better."*

- William McRaven, Admiral US Navy



Doug Backman

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kathleen Scheide, Coordinator  
[CalendarAGOPhila@gmail.com](mailto:CalendarAGOPhila@gmail.com)

*All Upcoming Events for Crescendo publication should be sent to Kathleen Scheide in advance of our publication submission deadline, which is the first of the month preceding publication (e.g. April 1 for the May issue).*

**Sunday, May 2, 4:00 p.m.** Mark Mummert, organist. In person and live-stream. FREEWILL OFFERING. St. John's Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Circle, Phoenixville, PA 610-933-3947.  
[www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org](http://www.stjohnluthphoenixville.org)

**Sunday May 30, 3:00 p.m.** Dylan David Shaw will present a CD-release concert at St Colman Church, 11 Simpson Rd, Ardmore, PA 19003, Phone: 610 642 0545, presented jointly with SEPA AGO

### Covid SemiSequestration MiniConzerts

by Paul Fejko, Fridays, 9pm, LIVE at  
[facebook.com/paul.fejko](https://www.facebook.com/paul.fejko) - online only

### David Clark Little, harpsichordist

YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCZE\\_n\\_f5Fs615Vh\\_u2ZZ7A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZE_n_f5Fs615Vh_u2ZZ7A) April uploads feature Preludes and Fugues in E Major and A Major from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1 by J. S. Bach

### MusicSouthampton

YouTube channel  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8MIbhP4YDmh2Abn999usg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8MIbhP4YDmh2Abn999usg) featuring Kathleen Scheide and musicians of the Southampton Chamber Music Society

### Voluntaries 2020

YouTube channel  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjvxT7FNhdCu-eXyWdv1PA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRjvxT7FNhdCu-eXyWdv1PA) featuring Kathleen Scheide, the Wissinger organ and musicians of Church of the Loving Shepherd

**Please share your  
 livestream music!**

*We are now featuring quarantine YouTube channels too. Send us your listings!*



## Chapter News

*Continued from page 1*

Later in the spring, we ran a three-week pilot of Facebook Live recitals. Much to our delight, we were stunned that more than 3,000 people from all over the world tuned into watch these offerings. A new program was born!

Over the summer, Edward Landin-Senn and I began to develop our "covid-coping" plans for the new year. We realized that with an abundance of space here at the church, we could safely bring small groups of singers together, masked and distanced of course. With the new choir season launched in September, our Zoom rehearsals shifted back to the traditional format of breath work-vocalizing-rehearsal of anthems. But, now, with microphones strategically placed in the space and connected through Zoom, my "at home" singers could see and hear an ensemble being rehearsed. The overall experience for the choir was dramatically improved and truly was a game changer for the Zoom experience. Typically, we spend the first hour of the rehearsal on Zoom, then our staff singers head upstairs to the church for a recording session for the Sunday broadcast. With the addition of the singers to the hymn recordings, members of the congregation are overjoyed at being able to sing with a "choir!"

With the successful pilot of the Facebook Live series we launched an eleven-week series in the Fall. To enhance those broadcasts, we invested in the Sling Studio platform, which allows several iPhones to be used as cameras for the broadcast. This wonderful technology gives us the possibility of numerous camera angles and has hugely enhanced the viewing experience. Our primary goal with the series was to support musicians whose livelihoods were lost because of Covid-19. To be able to engage so many of them in our series is gratifying on countless levels. Remarkably, by the end of the series, more than 12,000 viewers from all over the world tuned in. With the start of our third Facebook Live series, we are certain that some kind of virtual concert experience is in our future.



While a year ago, few of us could wrap our heads around virtual experiences, we see not only continued virtual concert offerings but the potential for Zoom to greatly enhance what we do with the choirs. For example, our decades-long tradition of 12th Night Choir parties had to go virtual this year. Thanks to Zoom we were able to include choir alums from all over the country in the party. The format shifted from an in-person formal dinner party to a choir talent show, with members offering musical selections from their living rooms for all to enjoy. A former member, a talented jazz singer now living in Chicago, joined us and offered a fabulous solo. Two beloved former retired Pastors joined in the party from their home in Virginia and offered a holiday story. From all accounts, this virtual party was described as "the best choir party we've ever had." Post-pandemic, we are excited by what we have learned and envision using Zoom to hold rehearsals on snow days, virtual "open rehearsals" to the congregation, and including the Zoom technology in every rehearsal so that alums or choir members stuck at home with a cold can stay connected.

Meanwhile, like many of you, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church remains closed. With mitigation efforts like continued social distancing, masks, and vaccines, we can begin to feel some optimism about the future. I am certain that we will come through this strengthened by our resilience (musicians ARE by nature resilient) and filled with creativity.

*Continued on page 8*

### Marjorie Lynch Cummings

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

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

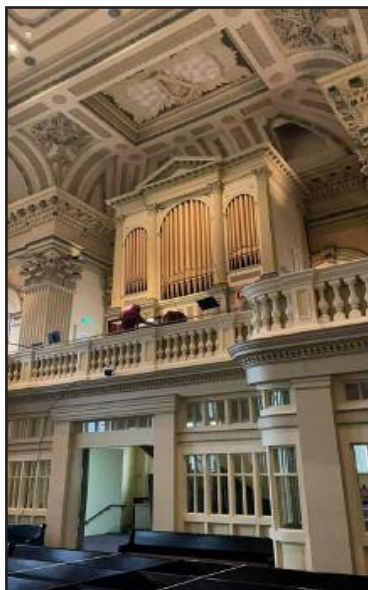
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Bridgeport, PA  
Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park  
American Record Guide

## Chapter News

*Continued from page 7***From Patrick Murphy:**

I caught up with Pat and asked how things were going. He mentioned that he's observed that churches who are doing live-stream and other related virtually accessible formats seem to have fared pretty well. It's been a good learning process in how to keep less mobile parishioners involved even beyond the pandemic. The Patrick J Murphy and Associates Pipe Organ Builders (PJM Organs) was able to get a PPP loan which helped enormously. They have found that in some cases it's been somewhat difficult to get certain big projects to commence, because of wariness to commit. But there have been people who want to do smaller maintenance related projects – cleaning, maintenance, upgrades. Fundraising has been strong in the churches willing to engage it, and folks seem willing to support it, where churches have made a commitment.

“We have two large projects pending but not committed. We're learning how to adapt, to think outside the box, how to keep all of our clients safe, happy and secure. We're keeping people from using any spray disinfectant – NO AEROSOL – we recommend clorox wipes. Giving has been relatively steady – the bump wasn't as hurtful as we thought, churches have made it easy to give on line and have been able provide worship, which has also enabled us to work.”



An iinstallation in Baltimore by PJM Organs

“We had two academic projects – Swarthmore and Ryder College - both were in conjunction with major construction projects, and both included snags in the construction. We took a few instruments from what was Westminster Choir College to Ryder – three practice organs, and the Cassavant from the Scheide Hall basement (bunker), in Dayton Hall dorm to Gill Chapel at Ryder. This instrument had been Joan Lippincott's studio organ – the room used to flood. We got it to fit the new location, and put in a new console and control system. This was the first time

in 50 years it saw the light of day! We also moved and renovated Schantz and Holtcamp and Bristol Noack practice organs, and refurbished all three. This was a summer project that went into September for the chapel organ, and into January for the practice organs.

Pat was very happy to report that no staff were impacted by COVID. When I asked about possible pleasant surprises, he mentioned being able to meet new clients via Zoom – I know what you look like without traveling a great distance.

**From Sándor Kádár :**

Sándor is the music director at 1st Presbyterian Church of West Chester, and he reports that even before COVID they were live streaming services so that less mobile folks could still take part.



During the past year they have been taping worship services and have been using various combinations of folks within music: vocal quartet, instrumentalists including clarinet, cello, violin, trumpet duo and solo, viola, flute – all appropriately masked, including bell covers for wind instruments. All music is pre-recorded, not played live on Sunday.

In September Sándor was able to begin allowing small groups to rehearse because in the church itself they could be appropriately socially distanced. Those groups included a brass ensemble and two different Hand Bell choirs. For Christmas they were able to do a full concert that was recorded and streamed. For the bells, Sándor had reached out to members of each ensemble back in the summer and 95% enthusiastically wanted to come back, as long as they could do it safely. Within the church they are able to set up so that each ringer has their own table, bells and music, well apart from others, and that has worked well.

On a personal note, last spring Sándor thought he would 'freshen up the colors in his house,' figuring as we all did that restrictions would be short lived. The painting project took two months but is complete! During the summer he was able to return to Europe to stay with family for 5 weeks – this during a time when the COVID spread seemed better contained there than in the U.S. - and he was able to continue working for the church virtually! From Szeged, Hungary!

*Continued on Page 9*



## Chapter News

*Continued from page 8***From Cally Welsh:**

Cally Welsh is director of music at Nativity BVM in Media, and also the long-standing editor of the newsletter of the Association of Church Musicians of Philadelphia as well as a member of the ACMP Board for several years. Cally relates that her parish tried to maintain the same level of liturgy and music, in accordance with Archdiocesan guidelines. Congregational singing was basically limited to refrains, hymns were only entrance and communion with preparation and dismissal being done instrumentally or with cantor. Of course social distancing was observed. The musical parts of the Mass were retained, except for the Gloria due to length. Priests did not walk the length of the church when processing in, but rather just a shorted distance.

Cally worked to maintain high quality music while staying safe. She alternated between piano and organ, as well as harp when possible. The requirement to have congregations restricted to only singing hymn refrains was limiting, and hymnals were removed from pews for safety. In an attempt to introduce some new music, a new Gospel Alleluia and a new Lenten Gospel Acclamation were employed. It also became her task to prepare a weekly worship aid in their stead, which made weeks with feast days especially challenging! She also prepared worship aids for every funeral. The numbers at church initially were quite low, but now they are increasing. There is one Mass per Sunday that is live streamed.



Cally's singers have special masks expressly for vocalists, and they use individual mics. They stand at least 8 feet apart and work in quartets. The trumpets that have been part of special liturgies, including Confirmation recently, have special bell covers for safety.

She reports that it has been especially hard on clergy not to be able to do pastoral visits with the sick. On the positive side, she has gotten very adept at creating worship sheets in Word, and has gotten quite comfortable with Zoom this year!

**NEWS FROM NATIONAL****The Year of the Young Organist!**

The AGO National Council is committed to membership recruitment, retention, and growth within our organization. As more of our members have reached the "Special" membership category (present company included!), we recognize that new initiatives must be developed to attract and welcome younger members into the Guild. We want them to experience the wealth of benefits, professional opportunities, and camaraderie we have enjoyed during our careers.

To this end, we have established the "Year of the Young Organist," July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022. During these 12 months, any individual under the age of 30 can become a new member or renew her/his membership for free as part of this program.

We are writing to ask you and every other chapter dean to embrace this initiative with enthusiasm and support. We will not collect membership dues for young organists, neither the national nor the chapter portion, during the upcoming membership year for those under the age of 30. All will receive full membership benefits, including TAO. New/renewing young organists can take advantage of this offer by visiting [AGOhq.org/free-membership](http://AGOhq.org/free-membership).

During the Year of the Young Organist, please make a special effort to welcome young organists, keep them engaged with your chapter, and retain them as members after the free membership year has expired.

**Thank you for your time and support of this yearlong initiative. If you have any questions, please reach out to a member of our membership team by phone, 212-870-2310 or email [members@agohq.org](mailto:members@agohq.org).**

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

Music Therapist – MAMT – BC

Church of the Epiphany, Royersford



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## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Carolyn Boxmeyer, Positions Coordinator  
267.974.4702 [AGOPlacement@agophila.org](mailto:AGOPlacement@agophila.org)

*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! Positions available are listed for 6 months in Crescendo; the on-line list may include older postings.*

*Due to Covid and some shifting of staff, applicants should expect some delays in processing applications.*

**Organist / Accompanist**  
**Doylestown United Methodist Church**  
**320 E. Swamp Rd, Doylestown PA 18901**  
215.348.5224 [www.doylestownumc.com](http://www.doylestownumc.com)  
Posted 3/23/21

Doylestown United Methodist Church, Doylestown, PA, a vibrant congregation of the United Methodist Church, seeks an organist / accompanist for liturgical worship services.

#### Position Summary:

We are seeking a principal organist to play for the one Sunday service and Special (e.g. Ash Wednesday, Christmas Eve) liturgical / traditional worship services and music ministry of Doylestown United Methodist Church, accompanying the choir or offering instrumental support for all liturgical/traditional worship services. This position will also accompany vocal choirs, instrumentalists and soloists when the COVID restrictions are lifted.

The sanctuary organ was built in 1926 by the Midmer-Losh Company (known for their unique “lever-arm” chest actions and later as the famed firm that built the Atlantic City Convention Hall organ, which is the largest in the world). The instrument was moved 1967 to the current church building. Emery Brothers re-leathered the chests of the Swell and Great around 2010 and 2013, respectively. In 2019-20, a new console and chamber relay system was installed, three new ranks of pipes were added, the console was completely rebuilt with new keyboards and controls, and all reed pipes were restored.

The plan is for this to be a salaried position when the church fully opens and resumes the music ministry.

Immediate Supervisor: Director of Music Ministries

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

- \* Provide organ and piano service music for all liturgical/traditional services.
- \* Accompany the choir for weekly rehearsals.
- \* Provide instrumental support for additional services at the church, Additional compensation will be given.

Contact: John Bechtel at  
[jbechtel@doylestownumc.com](mailto:jbechtel@doylestownumc.com)

**Director of Parish Music**  
**Saint Albert the Great Parish**  
**212 Welsh Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006**  
215.947.3500 [pastor@stalbertthegreat.org](mailto:pastor@stalbertthegreat.org)  
Posted 3/10/21

Seeking a professional who holds specialized credentials in music and who has a thorough understanding of Roman Catholic liturgy. This person of faith is responsible for the effective planning, coordination, and execution of music within the liturgical celebrations of the parish. The candidate will have a working vision of how a local Church will encourage active participation of the faithful at sacred liturgies and parish celebrations. This is a part-time exempt position which requires a flexible schedule, including night and weekend hours, and is benefits ineligible.

Applicants for the position: Must be a Catholic, in good standing, in full communion with the Catholic Church, and an active member of a Roman Catholic Parish.

Possess a Bachelor's Degree in Music (or a related field) with a demonstrated knowledge of Catholic worship and liturgy.

Should have a minimum of 3 years of experience in directing a parish-based music ministry program/liturgical choir, possess exemplary communication/interpersonal skills, and be minimally proficient in both organ and voice performance.

Formal training and proficiency as an organist is required. To be considered an organist the following is required: a complete understanding of organ technique for both manuals and pedals; know how to register the organ; proficiency in hymn playing and Gregorian Chant; accompanying a cantor; improvisation skills; and, understanding how music and the organ can both lead and animate the congregation.

Exhibit a comprehensive knowledge of the breadth of the repertoire of hymnody in the Roman Catholic Church as well as the relevant documents regarding liturgy and sacred music as promulgated by the Holy See, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Complete job description available upon request. Please contact Monsignor Joseph P. Duncan, Pastor, Saint Albert the Great Parish, 215-947-3500

*Continued on p. 12*



Positions Available  
Continued from page 11

**Principal Organist**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield, NJ**  
**20 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, NJ 08033**  
856.429.1960 [www.haddonfieldpres.org](http://www.haddonfieldpres.org)  
Posted 2/22/21

First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield, NJ seeks a half-time organist to play for two Sunday morning services and one Thursday evening rehearsal per week. The targeted salary is \$30,000. We seek a musician who demonstrates a professional level of skill at the organ and is comfortable at the piano as well. BA/BS/Undergraduate is preferred, and full-time organ students are encouraged to apply. The Organist's responsibilities include two Sunday morning services and one Thursday evening rehearsal, monitoring and maintaining the keyboard instruments, selecting and preparing preludes, postludes, offertory, Communion mediation music, and accompanying smaller ensembles and soloists in worship. Special services include: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, Sunday evening before Thanksgiving, Candlelight Service, and three Christmas Eve services.

The sanctuary organ is a 46-rank Austin pipe organ (1966). (Includes zimmelstern, four digital voices, recently refurbished reeds, new OSI keyboards, and a newly rebuilt OSI pedal board. The organ is maintained by Emery Bros. of Allentown, PA and is in excellent condition.) The Chapel organ is a two-manual Rodgers digital organ with two ranks of pipes. The Organist is given two weeks of vacation, as well as use of the church for private lessons and recitals. The Organist will also be given first refusal rights for weddings and funerals. For a full list of requirements and responsibilities, to submit resumes, and to schedule auditions, please email Peter Leibensperger, Minister of Music: [PLeibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org](mailto:PLeibensperger@haddonfieldpres.org)

**Organist and Choir Director**  
**Heidelberg UCC, 1101 Cowpath Road, Hatfield PA**  
610.622.3005 <https://heidelbergucc.org>  
Posted 2/18/21

Heidelberg UCC is seeking a part time Organist and Choir Director. This position is expected to entail about 15 hours per week and involves one Sunday morning service at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary on a Rodgers electronic two manual organ. In the summer, we move to the air-conditioned Light Hall with an electronic Kawi keyboard at 9:30 a.m.

The choir is comprised of about 7 individuals who are very dedicated (4 men and 3 women). We would

like our new Organist and Choir Director to encourage growth in this area and formulate a youth choir. In the summer, choir is in recess, however we would ask the Organist and Choir Director to plan for special music, that being soloists or ensembles for which there is a designated budget.

Our service is liturgical and we sing 3 hymns. Please direct inquiries to Rev. Dr. Marianne Unger 610.622.3005 or email [RevM123@gmail.com](mailto:RevM123@gmail.com). To view our services, please visit our YouTube channel at HeidelbergChurch <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGs7NVqlzGz0y2brQQS9ghw> or visit our website at <https://heidelbergucc.org>.

Our choir is currently not meeting because of Covid, but some members are available for solos or ensembles. The congregation is wearing masks and we are social distancing. We are also not meeting for social events or lingering after worship.

**Music Director**  
**The Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
Posted 11/18/2020

The Church of the Holy Trinity on Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia, PA seeks a Music Director to develop and implement a vision for our future. The successful candidate will have experience leading one or more music ensembles. Advanced degree in music preferred. The Music Director will work collaboratively with clergy, staff, choir members, congregants, and community leaders to expand the use of its considerable musical assets for meaningful worship and a growing commitment to the surrounding neighborhood. The Music Director will assist in the imminent installation of an historic Moeller Opus 8128 organ and maximize its value for worship and community outreach. The Music Director will expand opportunities for participation in music programs for adults and children. Our historic building was originally designed for acoustical excellence and subsequent alterations have added to its city-wide reputation for musical performances that extend beyond weekly worship. The Music Director will utilize our building, our historic instrument, and our welcoming posture to those outside of our doors to develop and nurture relationships with Philadelphia's rich and diverse musical community.

Interested applicants should submit:  
1) a one page cover letter describing their vision for the music program at our church

Continued on p. 13

## Positions Available

*Continued from page 12*

2) CV/Resume

3) either audio or video recordings demonstrating musical ability with choir, organ or other music ensemble.

Submit application to: [applications@htrit.org](mailto:applications@htrit.org).  
Full Job Description, including skills desired and responsibilities can be found at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/CHTMusicDirectorPost>

**Principal Organist**  
**Morrisville Presbyterian Church**  
**771 N. Pennsylvania Ave, Morrisville, PA**  
215.295.4191 [www.mpcusa.org](http://www.mpcusa.org)  
Posted 10/10/2020

Morrisville Presbyterian Church seeks a Principal Organist. The organist plays weekly for one Sunday morning service. This position will also accompany vocal choirs, instrumentalists and soloists when the church fully reopens and resumes the music ministry. The salary currently is \$200 per service with an additional \$80-100 per hour for additional recordings or accompaniment. The position will have a yearly salary with vacation time when the position is fully active.

The sanctuary organ is a 4-Manual, 79 Stop Allen Quantum Digital Organ. The sanctuary piano is a rebuilt 1898 Weber Parlor Grand. The chapel organ is a two year-old enhanced Johannus Studio 170 organ.

The ideal candidate will have experience playing for worship services, playing solo repertoire, as well as

knowledge of choral repertoire and hymnody. A degree in music is helpful but not necessary. Pennsylvania's state criminal history and child abuse clearances are mandatory.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and a resume via email to [musicorganist-search@mpcusa.net](mailto:musicorganist-search@mpcusa.net)

**Director of Music Ministries**  
**New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**2941 Lutheran Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525**  
Posted 9/8/2020

The Director of Music Ministry is the principal musician of the congregation. He/she is responsible for coordinating the orders of service and liturgical music with the Pastor as well as selecting hymns for all services. This position selects and rehearses choral music for the vocal choirs – (2) children's and (2) adults – as well as coordinates with the Handbell Choir Director and the GRACE Praise Band leader to develop a welcoming and inclusive God centered atmosphere for all generations.

Please see the full job description at the link below, noting within the modifications made due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Instrument: II/19 Schantz (1986). This position is part-time.

Follow this link to the job full job description:  
<http://www.newhanoverlutheran.org/jobopenings.php>

Apply or direct questions to: Steven Eisenhart, Worship and Music Chair, at [eisensc@aol.com](mailto:eisensc@aol.com)

**Roy Harker**

Church of Saint Asaph  
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

**Rudy Lucente**

Wanamaker Grand Court Organist

**Sándor Kádár, F.A.G.O.**

Organist, Conductor, Accompanist, Improvisor  
First Presbyterian Church  
West Chester, Pennsylvania  
[sandorkadar.com](http://sandorkadar.com)

**Carolyn Boxmeyer**

**Flutist**  
215.333.8833

**SUNDAY SUBSTITUTES**

Organists on this list are available to play Sunday services

| Code | Substitute                     | Location         | Phone Number | Code | Substitute                    | Location            | Phone Number |
|------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| SOC  | Debra Bacak                    | Sellersville, PA | 215-257-0553 | SOC  | Constance H. Mickel           | Bryn Mawr, PA       | 610-527-9514 |
| SOC  | David Burton Brown             | Philadelphia, PA | 267-297-6132 | SOC  | Scott Myers                   | Ewing, NJ           | 215-715-1003 |
| SOC  | Lee de Mets, <i>FAGO</i>       | Chalfont, PA     | 215-997-0219 | SOC  | Steven H. Neau                | Media, PA           | 610-447-0214 |
| SOC  | Theodore W. Didden <i>CAGO</i> | Ambler, PA       | 215-646-0294 | SO   | Patricia Nyce                 | King of Prussia, PA | 267-252-3020 |
| SOC  | Joyce Drayton                  | Philadelphia PA  | 215-635-5778 | SOC  | Patricia A. Pezick            | Blue Bell, PA       | 610-405-3736 |
| SO   | Karen B. Fallows <i>SPC</i>    | Hatfield, PA     | 267-240-7800 | SOC  | Carol Portice                 | Wallingford, PA     | 248-840-2772 |
| SOC  | Paul Fleckenstein              | Wilmington, DE   | 302-753-9569 | SOC  | Katherine J. Reier <i>SPC</i> | Abington, PA        | 215-287-9939 |
| SOC  | Jeremy J. Flood <i>CAGO</i>    | Philadelphia, PA | 215-625-2747 | SOC  | William A. Riley              | Philadelphia, PA    | 215-479-9304 |
| SOC  | Louise M. Gerdelmann           | Souderton, PA    | 215-723-6975 | SO   | Alexander M. Smith            | King of Prussia, PA | 610-265-4390 |
| SOC  | Patricia Guth                  | Holland, PA      | 215-801-1445 | SOC  | Rich Spotts                   | Doylestown, PA      | 267-371-2687 |
| SOC  | Justin Hartz                   | Levittown, PA    | 215-806-4411 | SOC  | Janet L. Tebbel               | Glenside, PA        | 267-250-7727 |
| SOC  | Mary Eileen Johnston           | Havertown, PA    | 610-633-2264 | SOC  | Karen Whitney                 | Philadelphia, PA    | 215-424-8450 |
| SOC  | Joel E. Klingman <i>SPC</i>    | Southampton, PA  | 267-778-9993 | SOC  | Nathan Zullinger              | Ardmore, PA         | 857-205-8823 |
| SOC  | Fr. Glenn M. Matis             | Doylestown, PA   | 215-489-2548 |      |                               |                     |              |

**OTHER SUBSTITUTES**

These organists are NOT available to play Sunday services

| Code | Substitute                          | Location              | Phone Number | Code | Substitute                    | Location         | Phone Number |
|------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| OC   | Lucas C. Brown                      | Philadelphia, PA      | 267-474-8476 | OC   | Karen Hepler                  | North Wales, PA  | 267-218-4342 |
| OC   | Joseph J. Buches                    | Philadelphia, PA      | 610-220-9307 | O    | H. Ray Hunsicker              | West Chester, PA | 610-399-4358 |
| OC   | D. Stephen Cable                    | Bethlehem, PA         | 484-866-6019 | OC   | Grete Ingalls, <i>CAGO</i>    | Philadelphia, PA | 267-253-4007 |
| OC   | Mary Eliz. Campbell, <i>CAGO</i>    | Phoenixville, PA      | 484-995-6110 | OC   | Beth Z. Jenkins               | Oreland, PA      | 215-478-3869 |
| OC   | Marjorie L. Cummings <i>CAGO</i>    | Philadelphia, PA      | 215-728-1530 | OC   | D. Damien Jones               | Wilmington, DE   | 215-432-2178 |
| OC   | Adam F. Dieffenbach                 | Telford, PA           | 267-738-2326 | OC   | Sandor Kadar, <i>FAGO</i>     | West Chester, PA | 609-540-6548 |
| OC   | Sue Ellen Echard                    | Harleysville, PA      | 610-585-5059 | OC   | Edgar M. Newton               | New Hope, PA     | 267-261-8919 |
| OC   | Maria de J. Ellis                   | Ardmore, PA           | 610-896-6189 | OC   | Kirsten K. Olson              | Collegeville, PA | 610-764-6264 |
| OC   | Paul Emmons <i>AAGO, ChM</i>        | Warminster, PA        | 215-675-6478 | OC   | Wesley D. Parrott             | Philadelphia, PA | 215-732-6732 |
| O    | Suzanne Erb                         | Philadelphia, PA      | 215-313-0550 | OC   | Aaron C. Patterson            | Philadelphia, PA | 215-725-0959 |
| OC   | John Ervin                          | Philadelphia, PA      | 267-886-8212 | O    | Ruth E. Rineer                | Cheltenham, PA   | 267-536-5706 |
| OC   | Paul Fejko                          | Philadelphia, PA      | 609-462-9000 | OC   | Valerie Rozek                 | Chesterbrook, PA | 440-478-8163 |
| O    | Patricia Gallo-Terrenzio            | Huntingdon Valley, PA | 215-947-4759 | OC   | Jeff Shuman, <i>FAGO, ChM</i> | Lightstreet, PA  | 570-784-1574 |
| OC   | William J. Gatens, <i>FAGO, ChM</i> | Chester, PA           | 610-876-5617 | OC   | Mary Sugar                    | Devon, PA        | 315-450-1585 |
| OC   | Charles Glandorf                    | Coopersburg, PA       | 610-416-1055 | OC   | F. Anthony Thurman            | Wilmington, DE   | 917-445-8162 |
| OC   | Eric Gombert                        | Souderton, PA         | 267-471-7003 | OC   | Matt Valent                   | Collegeville, PA | 610-924-5088 |
| OC   | Timothy Harrell                     | Doylestown, PA        | 908-399-4974 | OC   | John Walthausen               | Wilmington, DE   | 310-738-6155 |
| OC   | Lisa Hartman                        | Glenmoore, PA         | 610-806-0058 | OC   | John Woznisky                 | Paoli, PA        | 215-370-2019 |

The codes preceding each name have the following meanings:

**S** = Available to play on a Sunday

**O** = Available to play other services such as weddings/funerals/weekdays

**C** = will also direct a choir

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.

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 forward your information to Tom Lever at 215-855-0287 or [webmaster@agophila.org](mailto:webmaster@agophila.org)



## WHERE AM I?

Our April puzzle was provided by Marjorie Lynch Cummings, and is the Keates organ at Trinity Episcopal Church Oxford, the historical church where she's been playing.

This month's puzzle was kindly submitted by Patrick Murphy



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## TALE PIPES

Mary Elizabeth Campbell, CAGO, Editor

### Historical Tidbits about an Inspirational Hymn

#### My Life Flows On in Endless Song, tune *How Can I Keep From Singing*

Dr. Robert W. Lowry (1826-1899)

Many beloved hymns cross cultural, geographical and denominational boundaries, and often also flirt with pop culture. One such hymn that can be found in apparently 132 different hymnals is 'My Life Flows On in Endless Song.' Both tune and text have long been attributed to American Baptist minister Robert Wadsworth Lowry in 1860. Lowry was born in Philadelphia and (according to Hymnary.org) began attending 1st Baptist Church at age 17. He went on to study at the University of Lewisburg and then entered the ministry, serving his first church in West Chester, PA. He then served for a time in New York City, then Lewisburg (also working as Professor of Rhetoric), and eventually in Plainfield, NJ. He had already written many hymns and had a lifelong love of music. A publishing firm invited him to become the editor for Sunday School Hymnals – he dove into an in depth study of music, including examining its mathematical aspects. Some of his other hymns include 'Shall We Gather at the River,' 'All the Way My Savior Leads Me,' and 'I Need Thee Every Hour.'

In some sources there is question as to the author(s) of the words, some sources calling them 'anonymous', however most of the sources now seem to give Lowry credit. It is reported that Pete Seeger learned it from family friend Doris Plenn, a Quaker who had learned it from her grandmother. She described it as her favorite song, "made up years ago when people like us were thrown in jail for their beliefs." She herself penned a verse during the 'Red Scare' era (around 1950) - "When tyrants tremble in their fear, and hear their death knell ringing..." This powerful hymn of faith was sung by abolitionist Quakers and has been incorrectly called a Quaker hymn. This hymn was recorded through generations and by very diverse performers, more recently including Bruce Springsteen and Enya\* (\*apparently there was legal action because of use of Plenn's verse, but settled amicably.)

I find this to be a beautiful faith statement that can also be very helpful in difficult times - which may explain its wide appeal. Not only is this lovely as a general hymn of praise, but it's words become all the more poignant for funerals or other significant times of struggle. I learned this from a jazz vocalist from Canada, but then heard an absolutely gorgeous rendition for three part youth voices done by a district choir. I have used this with choirs and congregations over the years and it always seems to be very welcome, stirring, and comforting.

My life flows on in endless song, above Earth's lamentation.  
I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

**R: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.  
Since love is Lord of Heaven and Earth, how can I keep from singing?**

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing? (R)

What though the tempest loudly roars, I know the truth, it liveth.  
What though the darkness 'round me close songs in the night it giveth. (R)

