From the Dean

Insurance is an important factor of our modern way of life. It is illegal to drive without it, and you had better have it when you go to the doctor's office unless you anticipate an extended stay in the poor house. We have insurance for our computers, travel, musical instruments, etc., etc., etc. What about insurance for church choirs – insurance that an acceptable anthem will be forthcoming on Sunday at the appropriate time, and at an acceptable performance level? I know of none you can buy over the counter, but I know of several anthems that you can sing without tenors, without men, optional altos, optional descant – whatever.

These are the anthems you can make sound good no matter your resources for a given Sunday – insurance policies. A suitable text, set to something very easy and flexible, is much better than a suitable text with divided men, and high "C's" for the sopranos. It always helps to practice these insurance policies in various ways early in the season so that when the occasion arises, you can whip them out and they are ready to go at a moment's notice. With only a few singers a well known melody helps the confidence level which is sorely needed if the choir is to sound good. "Insurance Anthems" are a win-win situation. The congregation hears a nice anthem, the choir feels good about their performance, and you can enter the church knowing that even with the worst case scenario the choir can produce.

Insurance pieces for weddings are also a must. Most of us have an old wedding book that we can play from cover to cover if need be. (I won't embarrass myself by giving away the title of mine – published in 1923.) However, when the usher comes up and whispers that the bride will be 20 minutes late, I reach for my insurance policy, knowing that I can play from cover to cover if need be.

Yes, insurance is an important fact of modern life – it is there to make life easier, dependable, and normal. "Musical insurance" can do the same for you, your choir, and your congregation.

Steven Cooksey, Dean
**Concert Calendar**

**Saturday, March 5  7:00 p.m. American Boy Choir**, Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, Litton-Lodal Music Director. “How Can I Keep From Singing” Tour. Trinity Episcopal Church, Upperville. Suggested Donation $20. Please see photo and additional information on next page.

**Sunday, March 6  4:00 p.m. Vocal Point**, Women’s Quartet: Pam Reim, Laura Lofton Lemasters, Commie Robeson, Barbara Rupert. Kick-off for second season of concert season at Christ Episcopal Church, 809 Bishop Meade Rd., Millwood, Virginia. (Also known as Cunningham Chapel). No admission charge. A reception will follow. For additional information, contact Carol Westervelt at carolwestervelt@hotmail.com

**Sunday, March 6  5:00 p.m. Jason Farris and Timothy Duhr, Organ Duet Concert.** Grace Episcopal Church, 6507 Main Street, The Plains, Virginia. Grace Church Concert Series: $25 at the door; $10 for members of DC, NOVA, and Winchester AGO chapters. To take advantage of this special AGO rate, contact the Grace Church Concert Series at (540) 253-5177, ext. 107, or concertseries@gracetheplains.org

**Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. The Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir and Brass Ensemble**, of Hickory, NC, in concert. Grace Lutheran Church, 26 W. Boscawen St. Winchester. Freewill Offering.

The touring choir of student vocalists and ten top instrumentalists has a fine reputation stemming back for many decades. Composer/conductor Paul Weber, in his concluding year before retiring to Staunton, has elevated the choir’s expressive and repertory standards to excel amid the enviable Lutheran collegiate choral tradition.

This sacred concert is sponsored by the Hoffmeier/Keyl Church Music Endowment, which provides an annual church music-related event for the congregation and community.

**Thursday, March 24  7:30 p.m. The Grove City College Touring Choir**, under the direction of Dr. Katherine Miller, will give a concert at Greenwich Presbyterian Church, 15305 Vint Hill Rd., Nokesville, VA, 20181. Music of Fauré, Debussy, Poulenc, Hogan, Clausen, and more. For more information, call 412-576-2737.
Didier Hennuyer, organist
Cathédrale de Boulogne-sur-Mer, France

Master Class
10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 9
Students from Shenandoah Conservatory
Works by Gigout, Franck, and Alain

Recital
7:00 p.m. Monday, April 11
Braddock Street United Methodist Church
115 Wolfe Street
Winchester, VA 22601
No admission charge
Virginia Theological Seminary presents

**Organist Marilyn Keiser in Concert**

Friday, March 18, 2016

7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Immanuel Chapel

Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

The public is invited to a recital by organist Marilyn Keiser. Dr. Keiser is Chancellor’s Professor of Music Emeritus at Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington. She has appeared throughout the U.S. in concerts sponsored by churches, colleges, and chapters of the American Guild of Organists as well as playing internationally, and has been heard in performance on NPR. In May 1995, she was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa) from Virginia Theological Seminary. Free admission. No tickets or registration required. *This event is part of the Immanuel Chapel Dedicatory Year of Celebration.*

[www.vts.edu/chapel](http://www.vts.edu/chapel)

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**Thursday, March 31, 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)**

**The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford**

Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary,
3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

Free admission.

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**SINGULAR “PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER PLUS” OFFERED IN GRANTHAM, PA**

From **July 10-14, 2016**, the Harrisburg Chapter is hosting **the only POE+ in the nation** at the beautiful campus of Messiah College, Grantham, PA. The event offers organ training from beginners to advanced for students 19 and older who are interested in developing and improving their service-playing abilities. Also welcomed are pianists who want to learn the basics of organ playing. This is an important endeavor to help organists refine their skills and inspire them to become well-trained church organists. Please pass this information along to piano teachers of your acquaintance, if possible!

Information with details about costs, housing, faculty, churches and organs is available at [www.harrisburgago.org](http://www.harrisburgago.org) or [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org). Applications are exclusively online this year. Payment, however, must be sent to the Harrisburg Chapter registrar (address on separate payment form). **The deadline for early registration is April 1 (price reduced) and the deadline for regular registration is May 1st.**
**Positions Available**

1. **Church Organist**

Hebron Presbyterian Church, 423 Hebron Road, Staunton, VA 24401 (540/885-1648)
hebronchurch@msn.com
Taylor & Boody mechanical pipe organ
Wednesday rehearsals, Sunday morning worship services and other special services throughout the year.
Salary negotiable based on experience and ability

2. **Church Organist/Pianist**

**Description:** Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church (SPC), located in Shepherdstown, West Virginia (70 miles northwest of Washington, DC) is seeking a part-time organist to support its ministry in the community. The organist will play the church’s two manual pipe organ built in 1905.

SPC is an open and inclusive spiritual community seeking to practice the radical hospitality of Jesus. All people regardless of age, race, ability, sexual orientation, marital status, social class or religious affiliation are welcome. The church is rooted in the Christian faith and connected with the Presbyterian Church, USA.

The church is seeking a part-time organist/pianist to:

- Provide organ and/or piano music during the 10:45 am Sunday service
  - Select and present music for the interlude and postlude (arrange for alternate pianist/organist if needed)
  - Provide accompaniment for the choir—September to June

Coordinate with the Choir Director to:

- Provide accompaniment for weekly choir rehearsals (Tuesday evenings 7:30 – 9:00pm)
- Schedule and conduct special practice sessions with musicians as needed
- Participate as a member of the Music Committee (meets 4-5 times/yr)
- Provide accompaniment for special services (as available)

The position requires a musician with an ability to play a wide variety of music. Experience with sacred music is preferred.

*Interested individuals should submit a resume to the attention of Lois Spreen at Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church, PO Box 268, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 or via email at* office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org
Announcing:

Church Music Institute
Shenandoah Conservatory

Sing to the Lord ... with Understanding
A study of the history and repertoire of Congregational Song and its role in choral and organ settings.

Featuring . . .

June 26-July 1: Donald McCullough
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• Traditional and Folk Hymnody
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• Sacred Harp Sing & Dinner on the Grounds
• World Music Service
• Spirituals Concert
• Lutheran HymnVespers
• Roundtable Discussions – Perspectives in Church Music
• Vocal and Choral Technique
• Hymn Playing and Elementary Improvisation
• Reading Sessions of Choral and Organ Music

For more information, visit the CMI website at www.su.edu/cmi or contact the director, Dr. J. Thomas Mitts at cmi@su.edu
WAGO BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

On Tuesday, February 9, the WAGO board met for a light supper and wide ranging conversation. The following were discussed, and several decisions were made.

- The **evensong with Ronald Stoltz** originally scheduled for April has been moved to next September.

- In its place, the **April** meeting will center around the **works of Glen Caluda**, local guitarist and composer. The date for this meeting is **Tuesday, April 26**, and is to be held in the sanctuary of Braddock Street United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. with **Glen and Elizabeth Caluda, presenters**.

- The **May Progressive Dinner and Recitals** were discussed. **May 13** is the date
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appetizers/recital:</th>
<th>Grace Lutheran</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main course/recital:</td>
<td>Christ Church, Episcopal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recital/Dessert:</td>
<td>Braddock Street United Methodist</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

  The Appetizers and main course will be catered; dessert will be provided by WAGO members. This is **open to the public**. Talk it up and invite your friends NOW! Advance reservations will be required; watch this newsletter for details and deadlines.

  Committees:  
  
  | Food--- | Judy Connelly |
  | Set up and Clean up--- | Steven Cooksey |
  | Decoration--- | Daniel Hannemann |
  | Program Prep--- | TBA |
  | Publicity--- | TBA |
  | Menu and Cost--- | TBA |

- Permission was secured for the WAGO to enter into conversation with The Village at Orchard Ridge about the chapter providing a series of introductory 30-40-minute **programs on the new Letourneau** tracker organ to be installed in their chapel in March. Individual programs may be presented by one, two, or three chapter members jointly. By current Orchard Ridge rules, these monthly events would be open to the residents and WAGO members. We will try to have them opened to the community. Dr. Cooksey and Daniel Hannemann are to meet with Rev. George Sims of Orchard Ridge.

  Judy Connelly gave a report about the **"Bach in the Subway"** movement, and it was decided that this is an activity we would like to do **next year**. Judy is to head the committee.

- The **Christmas Candlelight Open Houses** were discussed and it was decided to continue this activity next year. The reactions have been **very positive**. A Follow up committee is to be appointed and will make a report. S Cooksey to head up this committee, which will include docents.

- The possibility of our chapter having a **mini organ festival** using the new organ **at Christ Church this summer** was discussed. More conversation with Dr. James Kriewald is anticipated.

- A **Nominating Committee** was appointed to secure officers for next year, with a report to be given at the May meeting. Committee members are: Judy Connelly, Daniel Hannemann, Heather Ankerbrand, Marcia Merry, and Dan Miller. Please give them suggestions.
Coming soon to 9114 John S Mosby Highway, Upperville, VA:

**American Boychoir**
Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, Litton-Lodal Music Director

On Tour ☆ How Can I Keep From Singing

Trinity Episcopal Church
Saturday, March 5, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Suggested donation $20.00

Of special interest is the recent appointment of the choir’s accompanist, Anna de Groot, who is known in the area, having grown up near Purcellville. Anna received the B.Mus. degree in piano performance from
JMU, and recently completed the M. Mus. degree in Collaborative Piano at Westminster Choir College. Anna's father, John de Groot, is a member of long standing in the Arts Chorale of Winchester.

**LAMPOONING OLD HYMN WRITERS**

Any *Short Meter* tune will do:
(Try *Potsdam, “How Good, Lord, To Be Here”*)

1. I love the hymns that put
Two three-foot lines in front, And then bring in an extra foot To give the third a bunt.

2. With Latin prosody
These learned authors thought It right to slide an "O" or "E" To gain the point they sought.

3. Nor was their work the worse, In that they had the nerve Their verbal order to reverse, And verbs for rhymes reserve.

4. How simple was their faith, These sober, staid, divines, Who buttressed an established Church With weakly founded lines,

5. And still maintain, today, When faith has more to meet, The even tenor of their way In odd iambic feet.

*Source unknown, believed to be a Punch magazine from the 1950s.*

**POINTS TO PONDER**

The one who follows the crowd will usually get no further than the crowd. The one who walks alone is likely to find himself in places no one has ever been. - *Albert Einstein*

Courage is like love; it must have hope for nourishment. - *Napoleon Bonaparte*

Common sense is not a gift, it’s a punishment; because you have to deal with everyone who doesn’t have it.

Tradition is the passing on of fire, and not the adoration of ash. – *Gustav Mahler*

Gratitude changes the pangs of memory into a tranquil joy. - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Since you cannot do good to all, you are to pay special attention to those who, by the accidents of time, or place, or circumstances, are brought into closer connection with you. - *Saint Augustine*

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving. - *Albert Einstein*

Live each day as if it were the last day of your life, because, so far, it is.

I am so blessed to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face.

Those who are lifting the world upward and onward are those who encourage more than criticize. - *Elizabeth Harrison*

Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You. 
— *Dr. Seuss, Happy Birthday to You!*

I've heard there are troubles of more than one kind; Some come from ahead, and some come from behind. But I've brought a big bat. I'm all ready, you see; Now my troubles are going to have troubles with me! - *Dr. Seuss*

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. - *Winston Churchill*