

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL
MEMBERS'
RECITAL

APRIL 30
GRACE CHURCH
HADDONFIELD



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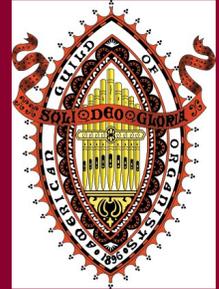
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VOLUME 6 ISSUE 8



APRIL 2017

Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists



Joseph Routon

The two organs in Mexico City's Metropolitan Cathedral, the oldest and largest cathedral in all of the Americas. The cathedral's organs were built by José Nassarre of Spain and completed in 1736. Photo by Joe Routon

Dean's Message -- by Rob Hobgood

Happy April!

As we look forward to a very busy time of year, I hope you will be able to take advantage of some of the many musical events happening in the area, whether it's a mid-week organ recital or special concert one evening. There are so many to choose from and they are a great way to give yourself that extra kick of inspiration and energy for these

last few weeks before Holy Week.

Our Members' recital will be held on April 30th at 4pm at Grace Episcopal Church in Haddonfield hosted by Max Esmus. Our very talented performers have been working on an impressive list of repertoire that should make for an enjoyable recital. In May, on Wednesday the 10th we have plans



for a trip to Atlantic City to tour the Boardwalk Hall organs. We are very fortunate to have some unique, world-class instruments in our own backyard and the Boardwalk Hall organs are no

...Continued on page 11

Sub-Dean's Report -- by David Rhody



"...We are truly blessed by the talent we have, both local and imported.....The Members' Recital...is an annual don't-miss event for our Chapter, come and bring friends."

Driving Chelsea Chen to Moorestown from the Trenton train station for her weekend with us gave me an enviable chance to talk organ shop with a leading young artist in our field. We discussed the number of current organ majors nationwide, the status of jobs for them in traditional churches, whether an organist can survive as a recitalist only, the Westminster Choir College situation, and many other hot topics. Finally I brought up transcriptions, mentioning that I first noticed the omnipresence of transcriptions on recital programs at the Nashville AGO convention (and two on her program with us), and she agreed, adding that she experienced a slight backlash after that convention when she was specifically asked NOT to program transcriptions for some of her bookings. I was recounting the negatives of hearing so many transcriptions when Chelsea

interrupted "But they're so much FUN!"

That FUN was evident in both the master class and her March 19 recital at Moorestown Methodist Church. Smiling and giggling while she played, showing her sense of humor when introducing her pieces (regarding the simple and abrupt end of the virtuosic Fugue in D Major, she quipped "I can imagine Bach's wife entering the room and saying, OK that's enough"), plus her joyous and energetic (and truly brilliant) playing and imaginative programming, all added up to a super enjoyable concert experience. Plus, the transcriptions were a highlight for everyone. The master class was a terrific seminar in organ registration, a great follow-up to Helen Carrell's workshop in September. Since our four performers were so well prepared, Chelsea concentrated almost entirely on registration, produc-

ing some amazing results and re-thought approaches. Many thanks to Glenn Rodgers and his team for hosting this amazing weekend of learning and enjoyment!

Next month we will again be spoiled by our fine members performing a wide range of pieces at the Annual Members' Recital, Sunday April 30 at 4 pm at Grace Episcopal Church in Haddonfield (see program details elsewhere in this issue). Thanks in advance to Ruthann Arndt, Ethel Geist, Carol Louise Knisell, Karl Tricomi, Vicki Nichols, Vernon Williams and Max Esmus. We are truly blessed by the talent we have, both local and imported. This is an annual don't-miss event for our Chapter, come and bring friends.

Watch for details of our May 10 revisit to Atlantic City to see the amazing progress in restoration of the Midmer-Losh and Kimball organs in Boardwalk Hall.

Soli Deo Gloria



Matters of Note



From the Hospitality Committee: We are in charge of the reception for the member's recital. You can bring anything you want but some suggestions are: cheese and crackers, deviled eggs, veggie tray, fruit trays, and desserts of any kind. Please email me to let me know what you will be bringing. Thanks - Cathy cmol25@aol.com

Publication News update: Evelyn Larter's chapter commissioned anthem was just published by St. James Music Press on Wednesday, March 22. Titled *Love Divine*, it is scored for SATB, solo violin and organ. It was written and performed for our annual guild service this past October. In addition to creating a Facebook page for Evelyn Larter Music, Evelyn is also working at uploading her unpublished music to Sheet Music Press, the digital publishing arm of SheetMusicPlus.com. Several new titles are available there, including her violin and organ fantasia like setting of O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded, which was previously only available at St James Music Press.

Sunday, April 9 at 7PM: The New Jersey MasterChorale, along with the Philadelphia Boys Choir and Members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and Friends, presents Maurice Duruflé's Requiem, W. A. Mozart's Regina Coeli (K. 276), and William P. Gorton's Te Deum in the sanctuary of Haddonfield United

Gallery: March Events



Top right, Vernon Williams looks on as Eric Plutz plays the newly renovated organ at Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown for a Lenten recital on Wednesday, March 22. Clockwise from right, Chelsea Chen gives an outstanding master class March 18 and recital March 19 at Moorestown Methodist. Photos courtesy of Joe Routon, Marilyn Rabbai, Cindy Rodgers, and Dan Nelson.



A Visit with Peter Homan -- by Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO

As we sat on his living room floor, we were literally bouncing ideas off each other. Peter was holding an inflatable music ball with song cues on it, my favorite of the many props he uses to engage the participants in Therapeutic Musical Programming at ten regional assisted living facilities each month. As people play "catch" with Peter, they have to furnish the name of a song title using the prompts on the ball. The prompt they are touching with their thumb when they catch the ball is the one they use; it could be anything from "Christmas Song" to "Song with the word 'Beautiful' in the title."

It sounds like fun, but it is also designed to engage and stimulate each person involved. During his rounds each month, he meets with groups in a variety of settings, including assisted living, rehab, long-term care and dementia/Alzheimers' patients (one of Peter's specialties.) He chooses his music very carefully to be uplifting or calming, energizing or soothing, in just the right amounts and combinations. Despite admonishments to the contrary in music therapy textbooks, he chooses music familiar to his audiences; songs they would have learned in their late teens and early 20s. These are the ones that trigger verbal responses, bonding, remembrances of life histories and interaction. When he

gets the reaction he's going for, the conversations start to flow and he can see the light bulbs going off and hear people still singing or humming when he leaves.

Peter started twenty years ago with a full time music position at Cadbury in Cherry Hill. His experience there taught him approaches with residents whose range of abilities varied widely. He has now developed programming for many different levels of function, and has honed a huge repertoire of songs and activities designed to be "the lubricant for interaction." Why do the textbooks discourage familiar songs? Because sometimes, they can be a source of an unhappy memory or emotional experience for a listener. But 97% of the time, familiar songs evoke the most significant and positive responses. Peter does not just work with groups in each facility; state regulations require one-on-one visits for those with severely limited mobility. Peter is able to bring his accordion and engage with these patients. There is a state certification process required of everyone who works in this capacity, but the most important tools in the box, according to Peter, include an encyclopedic knowledge of songs and intuitive sensitivity. The ability to know how to address the immediate needs of each individual, to create and modify appropriate programming as needed, is crucial. It is a unique combination of music and people skills.



There is always a theme for his programs, be it a seasonal topic (like Valentine's Day) or something general (like Travel.) No program will be repeated within the year. Activities include singing, playing instruments and talking. Through the conversations, Peter finds out a lot about the people in his groups. On a recent day when the theme was Travel, he found out just how well-travelled some of the residents were. Different instruments are used for different levels of function - rhythm instruments might be best for one group, while color bells or chimes are best for

....Continued on page 11

From the Registrar -- by Gail Gassaway

Dues time is coming soon! AGO headquarters will soon be sending out an email preparing you for dues renewal. You may already have received an email announcing a restructuring and increase in annual dues.

Starting with July 1 renewals, dues will increase five dollars and partner dues will be eliminated. You will also have the option to receive the TAO online. If you opt for this

delivery, you will receive an eight dollar credit. Please consider your options and choose either the hard copy magazine or access to an online version. In the past, several of our members have asked why they must receive the TAO- here's an opportunity to reduce your paper consumption!

For more information, please consult the March and April issues of *The American Organist*.



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
SOUTHWEST JERSEY CHAPTER ANNUAL MEMBERS' RECITAL

Grace Episcopal Church, Haddonfield, NJ

Sunday, April 30, 4 pm

Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 550

J. S. Bach

Ruthann Arndt

Variations on "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Walter L. Pelz

Theme, Variation I *Cantabile* (canon at the octave), Variation IV *Vivace*, Variation IX *Lively*,
non legato (Fugato/Finale) *Please see text in program notes*

Ethel Geist

Divinum Mysterium

Richard Purvis

Variations on the Hymn "Holy Jesus"

Carol Louise Knisell

Carol Louise Knisell

Prelude and Fugue in E minor, BWV 548

Bach

Vernon Williams

INTERMISSION AND OFFERING

Symphonie Gothique – I. Moderato

Charles Marie Widor

Vicki Nichols

Toccatà on the Sixth Tone

Frescobaldi

Ciacona in F minor

Kuhnau

"Wer nur den lieben Gott lasst walten," BWV 642

Bach

"In dir ist Freude," BWV 615

Karl Tricomi

La Nativité

Olivier Messiaen

IX. Dieu parmi nous (God Among Us)

Maximillian Esmus

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS ENDOWMENT FUND DISTINGUISHED ARTIST AWARD

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PHOTO CHRISTIAN STEINER

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

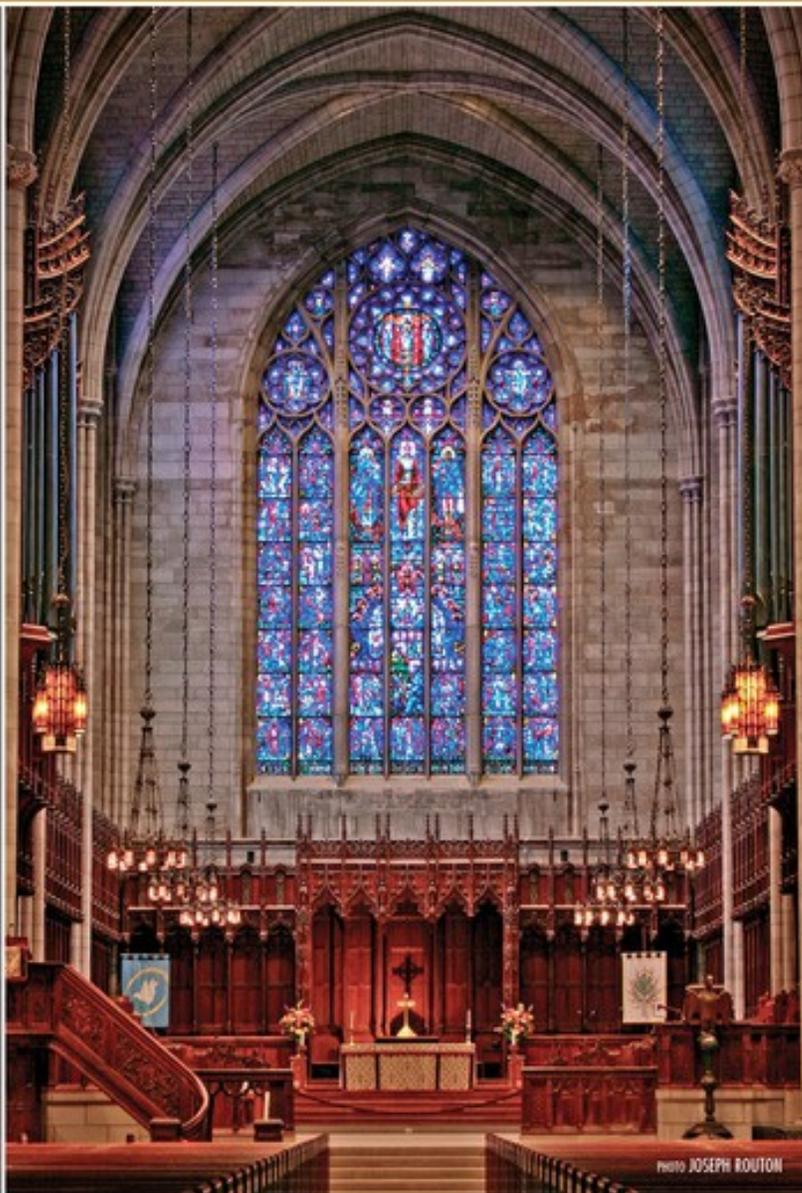


PHOTO JOSEPH ROUTHON

FREE RECITAL BY THE HONOREE, SCOTT DETTRA, AND ERIC PLUTZ AT 7 P.M.
GALA RECEPTION FOLLOWING BENEFITS THE AGO ENDOWMENT FUND.
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For sponsorship opportunities, to advertise in the commemorative program book, purchase tickets, or to make a tax-deductible contribution in honor of Joan Lippincott, visit Agohq.org, e-mail gala@agohq.org or phone 212-870-2311, ext. 4308. This event is organized by the AGO National Council's Finance and Development Committee, Barbara Adler, Treasurer; Michael Bedford, AAGO, CHM, President.

Matters of Note,

continued from page 2

Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd., Haddonfield. Free tickets may be obtained by calling the church office at [856-429-0403](tel:856-429-0403) one month before the concert.

Wednesday, April 19 at 7 PM: Christopher Daly will present an organ recital of German, French, and English music from the Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic, and Modern eras. Compositions of Gibbons, Bach, Tunder, Walther, Froberger, Vierne, Cocker, Rowley, and Dupre will be featured. This program will take place in the Church of St. Thomas of Villanova, located on the campus of Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA. The event is free, and is open to the public.

Important News from AGO National HQ

Earlier this March the Committee on Career Development and Support met in Indiana with several other national Guild leaders to identify new resources that the AGO could provide for the benefit of all members. The participants agreed to create a telephone hotline and dedicated email address that members can use to request assistance with questions relating to their employment and careers. In addition, they began drafting two new documents. One is an updated worksheet to help members and their employers calculate the number of hours required to handle the myriad responsibilities of an organist in a religious institution. The second document describes recommended procedures for employing church musicians. It will include principles for compensation and list specific components of equitable compensation packages for full-time and part-time church musicians. Updates on these initiatives will be provided to all members in the weeks ahead.



Sunday June 25 - Wednesday June 28 2017: Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention. The transportation package is a separate fee item and includes all bus transportation between the various Convention venues. Several meals are fully included in the registration fee - three daily lunches (Monday through Wednesday), one breakfast (the Regional meeting on Tuesday), and one dinner (Wednesday). Here are the rates you will see on the registration page of the website:

\$370 after March 31st

Spouse / partner rates: \$320 after March 31st

Student rate: \$125

Daily rate: \$125 per day

Transportation package: \$60 for travel

<http://2017.richmondago.org>



The New Composers' Dictionary:

Adagio formaggio - To play in a slow and cheesy manner.

Angus Dei - To play with a divine, beefy tone.

A Patella - Unaccompanied knee-slapping.

Frugalhorn - A sensible, inexpensive brass instrument.

Dill Piccolo - A wind instrument that plays only sour notes.

Approximonto - A musical entrance that is somewhere in the vicinity of the correct pitch.

How to Read Sheet Music: (2 minutes of fun!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3WuQxnA7Hg>



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Pennsylvania Young Performers Orchestra



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Sunday, April 23, 2017 3 PM
Free Concert!

Salem Community College's Davidow Hall.
460 Hollywood Avenue, Carneys Point, NJ

Positions Available/Substitute List -- by Peter Homon

Editor's Note: We are updating and hoping to expand our Substitute List. If you are available to substitute, please contact Peter Homon, our Referral/Position Coordinator. Please forward or refer any items concerning positions available or substitute needs to Peter at lapajar@yahoo.com or call 856-665-0149.

Position available: St. Peter's Episcopal church, Clarksboro - Allen, 10:30 service, Adult Choir (10), rehearsal Wed. evening, position is open as of July 1. Rector@Stpetersclarksboro.org (3/17)

These musicians are available on Sundays and also for weddings and funerals other days:

Patricia Brady-Danzig 973-761-0041 (South Orange) pbradydan@erols.com - organ/piano, cantor, choir director

John Dow 856-327-1739 (Millville) jedowfam@aol.com

Mary Johnson 856-332-8869 (Pine Hill) mebayj47@yahoo.com

Nancy McLoud 856-667-6127 (Maple Shade) nairmc@verizon.net

George Mitchell 856-795-0970 (Cherry Hill) babayaga430@verizon.com

Irina Nenartovich, CAGO, SPC 856-321-3465 (Cherry Hill) knenartovich@hotmail.com

Joanne Owen 856-769-3212 (Woodstown) lbjkowen1982@comcast.net

These substitutes are available for weddings and funerals or Saturday work only:

Patricia M. Fronczek, 856-397-2773 (Blackwood) theloveofsong@comcast.net

Evelyn Larter, CAGO 856-358-1112 (Elmer) ERLarter@juno.com

Lee F. Milhous, 215-348-8872 (Doylestown PA) leefmilhous@verizon.net

Cathy O'Neill, 856-0192 (Sewell, NJ) cmo125@aol.com

Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO 856-589-3901 (Pitman) mwrabbai@verizon.net



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For more information on Professional Certification requirements, procedures, materials and deadlines, visit the website of AGO National Headquarters: www.agohq.org

Thank you, Patrons, Contributors and Advertisers

Our next issue will be May, 2017.

Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be
Tuesday, April 25.

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By Burt Shapiro, Featuring the Gergers

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Dean's Message, continued from page 1

exception. It's always fascinating to see (and hear!) the improvements completed on the Convention Hall organ since the last time we visited. All of these events are great ways for you to enjoy some wonderful music as well as supporting your fellow chapter members whether they are hosting the events or performing in the Members' recital. We hope that you will take every advantage of these and remember to invite a friend to come with you!

Peter Homon, continued from page 4

another. Over the years, Peter has noticed that acoustic instruments work significantly better than electronic ones for most residents. The clarity and quality of the live acoustic sound provides much more direct stimulation and, in some cases, "cuts through the dementia."

Peter always begins with a song that functions as the prelude. He says it is needed to get the brains ready to function optimally for the activities that follow, and that hearing a prelude is like "doing a sort" for the brain. The residents love it when Peter brings his golden retriever, Sasha, with him. Then, it's "all about the dog." It's hard to compete with her spe-

cial kind of companionship and stimulation. Peter's mission statement is "More than music: Music with a purpose." Since he started working with residents, his own music listening has become much more intentional and a lot less recreational. He has learned that the full moon truly does exert an awesome power over human beings (I am smiling because I witnessed this power teaching middle school.) When asked about occupational hazards, he told me that when someone dies, "it hurts because you become attached." He maintains that, as church musicians and teachers, "we are all music therapists, whether we realize it or not."