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# HERALD TROMPETTE

The monthly newsletter of the  
**Lancaster Chapter** *of the American Guild of Organists*

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## DEAN'S LETTER

### A Musical Heritage to Carry Onward

"And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ." ~ Genesis 4:21 (KJV)

If you're reading this, you're most likely an organist, although we do have those who are choir directors, organ enthusiasts, and those who for other reasons are part of our membership. My question is, "Why are you playing the organ?" Just recently I was reminded of why, or better yet, because of whom I became an organist.

A very dear lady, Elmira Good, (pictured) who was organist at my home church for many, many years in whose steps I followed, passed away this past August at the age of 92. She became organist in 1946 and played until her retirement in 1982, although she continued playing off and on for years after that. She was a big influence on my life through Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Triple B, youth group, and choir. I learned to play piano as a child and loved the sound of the organ, but never thought that would be something I'd ever do until she decided to retire. "Well now, who shall we get?" That was the question. At some point I was approached and asked if I would consider. Because of her example, I decided to take the challenge. They were willing to allow for lessons and time to learn. I remember well that first Sunday - and yes, I did survive.



So how or because of whom did you begin playing the organ? Maybe one of your parents played and you're following in their footsteps? Or maybe



*(Continued on page 2)*

you had a natural knack and love for the organ? Take some time to let those people know you are thankful for their influence in your life. Think back to Jubal, the earliest mentioned musician in the Old Testament and the string of musicians that have followed over the centuries for a multitude of reasons.

Now the question becomes, "Who are you influencing to begin or continue their study of the organ?" It is now our mission to keep the line of organists going on into the future - that's part of what our local AGO Chapter is all about. So jump in and help us do the work to continue the heritage.

"Thank-you, Elmira, for the influence of your Godly life and work as a church organist."

*"For the perfecting of the saints,  
for the work of the ministry,  
for the edifying of the body of Christ:"  
~ Ephesians 4:12*

- Greg Gehman, *Dean*

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## CHAPTER PROGRAMS

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### OCTOBER MEETING: WILBUR HELD WORKSHOP

Here is a chance for you to sit back and take in some inspiration from David Schelat who was at one time a student of Wilbur Held. Held was a centenarian having passed on in 2015. Throughout his life, he was an organist-choirmaster, professor at Ohio State University for over 30 years as well as a clinician and recitalist. As a composer, his music was published by numerous publishers.



David Schelat will fill us in on the life and music of Held. He will lead us through a wonderful assortment of repertoire from the composer that will take us through the liturgical seasons and more as demonstrated by himself and various members of our Chapter.

The date is Monday, October 18. The time is 7:00 p.m. The location is Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster.

We would be very pleased for you to plan in joining us for this wonderful program as we continue our 2021-2022 season!



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## 21-22 PROGRAM CALENDAR

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Sun, Sept. 26                      5 PM / 6:30 PM / 7 PM  
**Picnic/Officer Installation/Hymn-Sing**  
Memorial United Methodist Church  
101 South Hess St., Quarryville

Mon, Oct. 18                                      7 PM  
**Wilbur Held Masterclass (David Schelat)**  
Church of the Apostles  
1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster

Sat, Nov 13                                      7 PM  
**Starlight Tea Concert Series:**  
**Organ/Piano/Harpsichord Duets**  
Lancaster Church of the Brethren  
1601 Sunset Ave, Lancaster

Wed, Dec. 29                                      7 PM  
**Christmas at the Organ:**  
**Carol Sing & Recital**  
Highland Presbyterian Church  
500 East Roseville Rd, Lancaster

Sat. Jan 11                                      8:30 AM - 4 PM  
**January Jumpstart**  
St. David's Episcopal Church  
763 South Valley Forge Rd, Wayne

Mon, Feb 7                                      6:15 PM  
**Member's Recital & Repository Shopping:**  
***Favorite Hymn Arrangements***  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2151 Oregon Pike, Lancaster

March - date TBD                                      Time: TBD  
**Louis Vierne:**  
***The Blind Organist of Notre Dame***  
Lititz Church of the Brethren  
300 West Orange St, Lititz

April - date TBD                                      7 PM  
**Silent Movie Night (Don Kinnier)**  
Location: TBD

Mon, May 9                                      5:30 PM  
**Annual Chapter Banquet & Meeting**  
Lancaster Church of the Brethren  
1601 Sunset Ave, Lancaster

June - date TBD                                      7 PM  
**Lancaster Summer Arts Festival**  
**Organ Recital**  
Location: TBD

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## REMINDERS

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- **The *Herald Trompette* newsletter deadline** is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send all submissions to our Chapter's Newsletter Editor, Frank Dodd: frankdodd1@gmail.com.

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## REPORTS

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### August Executive Board Meeting Minutes

1. Current membership 87 including 12 young organists, 3 scholarship winners yet to register
2. Voted to donate \$100 to AGO annual fund
3. Financial audit completed
4. Operating Procedures accepted by both Regional and National AGO

- Jenny Fritsch, *secretary*

### Treasurer's Report

9/20/21

<b>Bank Acct Name:</b>	<b>Balance:</b>
Checking	\$16,035.85
Beginning Organist	\$4,100.07
Lunt/McConnell	\$4,200.06
Concert Savings	\$12,217.05
Check/Donations	\$118.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,316.63</b>

8/19/2021

-Patricia Bleecker, *treasurer*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Many boxes of organ and choral music** by American composer John Mitcheltree were donated to the Chapter Repository by his surviving niece, Judy Kruse who lives in Lancaster. This collection consists of hundreds of new copies of his compositions and will be made available for free to you—our Chapter Members—at our February 2022 repository shopping meeting. Please contact Frank Dodd (frankdodd1@gmail.com) if you'd like to arrange a look at the music before February. [HERE](#) is a bio/obituary on Mitcheltree.

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### **CHOIR MUSIC LIBRARY**

For many years the Mount Gretna Camp Meeting has had a lending library of choral music for choirs. Most of the music was used by the massed choirs with a majority of the anthems composed by well-known conductors of the massed choirs. Because of some space limitations where the music has been stored, a new location for the library is being sought. If there is a church or individual who would like to acquire these four filing cabinets of music, please contact Bob Kettering at 717-330-6774 or email him at [bobket@ptd.net](mailto:bobket@ptd.net). (A listing of the full inventory of music is available upon request.)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT'D

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### HOSPITABLE HELP

Thank-you to those helped in securing the needed members to fill out the Program Committee and Publicity. Tom Berdos and Dr. Karl Moyer have been invited to join the Program Committee as members in carrying out the plans for this year's programming and beginning to line up events for the next year (2022-2023). We are also glad to announce that Kyle Postlethwait is assuming the work of publicity in getting the news out about the events of our chapter! Thank- you, Frank, for your previous work on publicity! Welcome aboard, Karl, Kyle, and Tom!

For many years Nancy Maurer was our Hospitality Chair. Recently Margaret Marsch has been filling that job. As life is rather full for her, your Board is looking for either one or two people who would be willing to assume that role or be a help to Margaret. Would you consider offering your time and help to our Chapter in this way? It would involve providing snacks or refreshments at some of our Chapter meetings as well as playing a bigger role in organizing our Annual May Banquet. If you would, please let Greg Gehman know of your interest. It's an enjoyable task when there are numerous hands working together to help out!

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### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

As you are already aware, an updated membership is underway. By now you have already received a draft copy and hopefully have reported any edits and corrections to Deborah Berdos at [deborahsb.psg1@gmail.com](mailto:deborahsb.psg1@gmail.com) due by September 30. Would you also please make those changes in your OnCard account at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org) so your account is up-to-date. If there are no changes to be made, you don't need to do anything. Thank-you for helping us to keep track of our members and provide a means to be in contact with each other using correct information!

*Note: we provide our members' information to the Chapter with the understanding that it is for "internal use" only. It should not be handed out to third parties. With all the scamming, phishing, and advertising that goes on today, we would ask that you please use it wisely.*

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## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

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*A warm welcome to the following new or returning members:*

**None to report this month**

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## SUBSTITUTES & POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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### Chapter Substitutes List

Please check [www.lancasterago.org](http://www.lancasterago.org) for the current list. This list is published as a courtesy by the Lancaster AGO Chapter. The Lancaster AGO Chapter assumes no responsibility for the musicianship or reliability of substitute organists.

### Positions Available

Please check [www.lancasterago.org](http://www.lancasterago.org) for the current list. If you wish to list available positions here, please email your info to the Chapter's Placements Chairperson: Dr. Terry Heisey ([terryleb@aol.com](mailto:terryleb@aol.com))

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## LOCAL EVENTS

The following events are local organ, choral, or sacred music related presentations taking place during coming month. Submission are due by the 20th of the preceding month for inclusion in the newsletter.

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**Sun, Oct. 17, 6 PM**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Lebanon

Choral Evensong and Organ Concert by Mark Laubach, Organist and Choirmaster at St. Stephen's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Free-will offering.

**Sat, Oct. 23, 7 PM**

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

A Night of Copland — Cairn University Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Thomas Hong, will perform Aaron Copland's orchestral suites: *The Tender Land & Appalachian Spring*. Free-will offering.

**Sun, Oct. 31, 6 PM**

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

Reformation Sunday: Singing the Psalms — Join the congregation of Westminster Church for a service of Psalm-singing centered around Reformation themes and featuring the Sanctuary Choir with soloists Sarah Shafer, *soprano* and Tom Elliott, *trombone*. Free-will offering.

**Sun, Nov. 7, 2021, 6 PM**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Lebanon

Requiem Mass for Victims of COVID-19 featuring John Rutter's Requiem sung by the St. Luke's Festival Choir. Free-will offering.



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# LANCASTER CHAPTER AGO LEADERSHIP

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## ELECTED OFFICERS

Dean	<i>Greg Gehman ('23)</i>
Sub-Dean	<i>Ross Ellison ('23)</i>
Secretary	<i>Jenny Fritsch ('22)</i>
Treasurer	<i>Patricia Bleecker ('22)</i>
Member-at-large	<i>Deborah Berdos ('22)</i>
Member-at-large	<i>John Zielinski ('22)</i>
Member-at-large	<i>John Kracker ('23)</i>
Member-at-large	<i>Christopher Prestia ('23)</i>
Auditor	<i>Elaine Severein ('21)</i>
Auditor	<i>Roger Kurtz ('21)</i>

## APPOINTED POSITIONS

Chaplain	<i>Bob Kettering</i>
Historian/Archivist	<i>Jenny Fritsch</i>
Hospitality	<i>Margaret Marsch</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Frank Dodd</i>
Placements/Subs	<i>Terry Heisey</i>
Publicity	<i>Kyle Postlethwait</i>
Registrar	<i>Deborah Berdos</i>
Webmaster	<i>John Zielinski</i>

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Program Committee: *Ross Ellison, chair ('23); Margaret Marsch ('22); John Huber ('21); Thomas Berdos; Karl Moyer*

Scholarship Committee: *David Schulz ('22); Peter Brown; ('23); vacant*

Nominating Committee:



Lancaster Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
c/o Frank Dodd  
817 Eden Rd  
Lancaster, PA 17601