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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

The Chapter That Keeps on Giving

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7 (KJV)

Kudos to a Chapter that keeps on giving. Hopefully you watched the very recent November program (Lancaster Church of the Brethren's Starlight Tea Series - Keyboard Connections) where you saw a lot of people who put much time in planning this event - getting the instruments together, tuning and maintaining to be sure they are in top shape, players having spent hours learning their parts not only as an individual, but as duets, trios, and quartets. Our Chapter has been blessed to have many folks who give willingly of their time, talents, and money. Otherwise, we couldn't accomplish what we do.

You need to be aware that this was the maiden voyage of the newly installed Sanctuary live-streaming system that was set-up only the week prior to the program. It was questionable if it could be done, but because of the giving of one person's time and talents it was successfully complete. The man who installed it and ran it for the program is a musician and knew what to focus in on and when. It was pretty amazing. You can tune in via the following link:



<https://lancob.org/events/starlight-tea-concert-series-american-guild-of-organists-keyboard-connections/>



(Continued on page 2)

All these folks' efforts were well spent as the program came off beautifully. It was rewarding as I understand there were 340 in attendance and only 150 programs printed, so even the audience gave of themselves to be attendance. There was a lot of concern if people would come out considering the times we live in. As we approach the month of December and the beginning of Advent, let's not forget the greatest gift sent down to us from Heaven above!

"From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home;
glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing:
To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this little child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth."

- Greg Gehman, *Dean*

CHAPTER PROGRAMS

DECEMBER PROGRAM: CHRISTMAS AT THE ORGAN

On Wednesday, December 29, at 7:00 p.m., our chapter will present its annual CHRISTMAS AT THE ORGAN recital and carol sing. This year it is part of the Dorothy Rose Smith concert series at Highland Presbyterian Church on Roseville Road. Players include Eileen Laurence, Mark Herr, Karl Moyer, Jonathan Lefever, John Zielinski, Greg Gehman, John Huber, Margaret Marsch, and Ross Ellison. The program is interesting and diverse, and is sure to please our audience. The instrument at Highland is lovely, and the acoustics there are very conducive to organ music. Please support your fellow organists with your attendance, and please promote this program in your churches. Like the recent KEYBOARD CONNECTIONS recital at Lancaster Church of the Brethren, the CHRISTMAS AT THE ORGAN program will gain new friends for our instrument and promote the activities of our chapter.



Carol sing-along
Festive organ works



Wednesday, December 29 | 7:00 PM
Highland Presbyterian Church: 500 East Roseville Road, Lancaster
Free Admission!

***A full-sized PDF poster to promote this concert has been sent with this month's newsletter.
Please post this in your churches.***

21-22 PROGRAM CALENDAR

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 15 8 AM - 4 PM
January Jumpstart
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA
19010
Register in November at agophila.org
Cost: AGO members - \$40, None-members -
\$60, Students - \$10, lunch included

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

Fri, Apr. 22 7 PM
Silent Movie Night (Don Kinnier)
First United Methodist Church
68 North Church Street, Ephrata

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

REMINDERS

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

REPORTS

Oct. 25 - Executive Board Meeting Highlights

1. Offering from November concert to be split equally between the two scholarship funds.
2. Program committee budget for 2022-2023 set at \$5345.00
3. Summer Arts concert site to be at St. Mary's Catholic Church on West Vine Street in Lancaster.

- Jenny Fritsch, *secretary*

Treasurer's Report

11/20/21

Bank Acct Name:	Balance:
Checking	\$15,439.35
Beginning Organist	\$3,340.13
Lunt/McConnell	\$4,200.14
Concert Savings	\$12,217.25
Checking/Donations	\$118.76
Moyer Concert Fund	\$20,000.00
Total	\$55,315.63

-Patricia Bleecker, *treasurer*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SPECIAL GIFT

You will notice in the Chapter Treasurer's report that there is a significant increase because of a recent monetary gift by Dr. Karl Moyer. He says, "My gift, coming to the chapter in bits and pieces over the next one to three years, is in memory of Carolyn and is drawn from a life-insurance payout following her death. Income from the principal of the gift, once it is complete, shall fund a recital every other year by some top-level American or world-famous concert organist in Lancaster, something that used to happen, especially through the good offices of Reginald Lunt, but which has been largely absent from our cultural life for perhaps a decade or more." Thank-you, Karl!

ELLISON TO GIVE UPCOMING ORGAN RECITAL AT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

Dr. Ross Ellison, our chapter's sub-dean, will present a Christmas-themed organ recital and carol sing at historic Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg on Tuesday, December 28 at 8:00 p.m. This will be his 25th recital at the church, this time on their new Dobson instrument.

IN OTHER NEWS

The following appeared as part of the "Editor's Letter" in *Choir & Organ* magazine out of England followed by commentary by Karl Moyer.

"After 18 months, it feels like a miracle to be able to hear music live again. There is an immediacy to live music that is lost, or at least diluted, when filtered through technology — even though that same technology has been a lifeline during the pandemic. Hearing music live has an impact that cannot be simulated, like going for a walk on a wet and blustery day with nowhere to hide -- it cuts through everything.

"In my first concert "back," I was bowled over by the quality of sound of Merton College Choir, who displayed a professionalism that belied the disruption of the pandemic on their normal routine. Attending James O'Donnell's opening recital of the Westminster Abbey Summer Organ Festival felt as personal as a one-to-one sharing over a cup of coffee.

"What a difference a live audience makes. Though unable to attend in person Daniel Hyde's thrilling Poulenc [concerto performance] at the first night of the Proms or Martin Baker's engaging lunchtime recital two days later, the energy from the audience almost crackled over the airwaves and must have buzzed even more so in the Royal Albert Hall."

I think she's on to something. The value of being there "live" at concerts is just as beneficial as hearing the preacher "live," as opposed to hearing some famous preacher via a recorded sermon played through a loudspeaker set on top of the pulpit. It's direct communication, not "canned" words or music that are relatively impersonal. It is also a true experience with the human condition: one's hope for better speaking or performing, borne out of lots of practice but always with the reality that our performing and our very lives are never 100% perfect.

Thus, "live" performance evidences the value of one's self-disciplined efforts in music -- and thus a valuable metaphor for life generally. Whether success with free shots from the foul line or playing Bach with a high "batting average" or from a myriad other such efforts, the example and the value of striving for excellence is and should be contagious, including to us when we attend concerts.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

A warm welcome to the following new or returning members:

Mary Weinheimer

Jonathan Lefever

SUBSTITUTES & POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Chapter Substitutes List

Please check 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 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)

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.

Sun, Dec. 5, 2021, 6 PM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Lebanon

Adventvesper featuring Cantata 61 "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" by J. S. Bach with Con Brio Strings.
Freewill offering.

Sun, Dec 5, 2021, 3 PM

Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren, Quarryville

Dr. Ross Ellison, Sub-Dean of the Lancaster AGO Chapter, will present a Christmas-themed organ recital.

Sun, Dec. 12, 2021, 4 PM

Chiques United Methodist Church, Mount Joy

Tom Berdos will conduct the Christmas portion of Messiah at Chiques UMC in Mount Joy. Soloists include soprano Monica Ziglar, mezzo Amy Yovanovich, tenor Brian Ernestes, and bass Justin Beck. Full orchestra and community chorus with Deborah Berdos as organist. Tickets are \$20.00; contact Tom for more information: trberdos@gmail.com

LOCAL EVENTS CONT'D

Sun, Dec. 12, 2021, 4 PM

Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg

Reflect upon the beauty and anticipation of the Advent and Christmas Seasons as *Concerts on Colonial* welcomes Robert Horton in an organ and harpsichord concert featuring music from the French, Italian, and German Baroque, join Dr. Horton as he traverses a diverse musical landscape on two instruments.

Sun, Dec. 12, 2021, 6 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

Westminster Music presents a *Soli Deo Gloria Evening Worship Service* of Lessons & Carols featuring scripture readers, instrumental and vocal solos, with the Sanctuary Choir joined by the Heidelberg Brass quintet performing Christmas choral works by Julian Wachner. Freewill offering.

Sun, Jan. 9, 2021, 6 PM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Lebanon

Epiphany Lessons and Carols sung by the St. Luke's Festival Choir. Freewill offering.

LANCASTER CHAPTER AGO LEADERSHIP

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 ('22)</i>
Auditor	<i>Roger Kurtz ('22)</i>

APPOINTED POSITIONS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Program Committee: *Ross Ellison, chair ('23); Margaret Marsch ('22); John Huber ('22); Tom Berdos ('24); Karl Moyer ('24)*

Scholarship Committee: *David Schulz, chair ('22); Peter Brown; ('23); Christopher Prestia ('24)*

Nominating Committee:



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