

CRESCENDO

NOVEMBER 2011

VOLUME LXXIV, NO. 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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Come Celebrate Alain's Centennial with the Philadelphia AGO!

Friday, November 18, 2011 - 8:00 pm

Saint Mark's Church, 1625 Locust Street, Philadelphia

100th Anniversary of the Birth of Jehan Alain

Featuring Organ and Choral Music performed by **Tom Bell**, organist, and
Saint Mark's Choir conducted by **Matthew Glandorf**

Program

Trois Danses

Litanies

Aria

Postlude for the Office of Compline

Deux Fantaisie

Fantasmagorie

Messe de Requiem



This month the Chapter is co-sponsoring a program with Saint Mark's Church that observes the 100th Anniversary of Jehan Alain's birth (1911-1940). A Parisian from a family of musicians, Alain's father studied with Guilmant and Vierne; his brother, Oliver Alain, was a composer, organist and pianist; and his youngest sister is the well-known organist Marie-Claire Alain. Between 1927 and 1939, he attended the Paris Conservatoire and won numerous First Prizes in Harmony, Fugue, Organ and Improvisation. He was appointed organist of Saint-Nicholas de Maisons Lafitte in Paris in 1935 where he stayed for four years.

Alain's short career as a composer began in 1929 at the age of 18 until the outbreak of the Second World War 10 years later. His composition influences include early Debussy and his contemporary Messiaen as well as his intrigue with the Far East's music, dance and philosophies (heard in *Deuxième fantaisie*, 1936), and in jazz (heard in *Trois danses* of 1939). His most famous work, *Litanies*, is prefaced with the text: "When, in its distress, the Christian soul can find no more words to implore the mercy of God, it repeats, times without end, the same fierce-faithed prayer. Reason reaches its limits and only belief can chase its flight". A skilled motorcyclist, Alain served as a dispatch rider in the French Army. He was killed on 20 June 1940 in a firefight with German soldiers.

Continued on page 10

CRESCENDO, the official bulletin of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is published monthly, September through June. **All material for publication must reach the Editor by the 1st day of the month preceding the date of issue**, eg. November 1 for the December issue. This must be type written and e-mailed (text supplied in an attachment), or mailed. A hard copy should be included for display ads. Submissions become the property of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO and will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. CRESCENDO reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Articles in Crescendo reflect the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Guild. All advertising must be arranged through the Advertising Manager.

Advertising Rates

Camera-ready: One-Time Season

1/8 page:	\$40	\$285
1/4 page:	\$70	\$530
1/2 page:	\$85	\$630
full page:	\$140	
Professional card: N/A	\$60	
(members only; no phone numbers)		

Camera-ready art only accepted according to stated deadlines.

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Visit our website at www.AGOPhila.org

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NOVEMBER 2011

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CRESCENDO

VOLUME LXXIV, NO. 3

D E A N ' S L E T T E R

Great News !!!

Our new registrar, Phil Shade, informed the Executive Committee that we have experienced an increase in the number of new members in the chapter this year over recent past years. In thinking about that, it occurred to me that this speaks volumes about many aspects of the Guild, both at the national and local level. If you haven't spent some time reviewing the website of the national office, I would encourage you to do so. It would be impossible for me to try to point out all the diverse and valuable information available there. Our own chapter website offers not only the current and past issues of Crescendo, but other data of more local interest. We will be revising and upgrading the site soon.



All that being said about the "organization" known as the AGO, the influx of new members is really more a testament to YOU, the many long-time faithful members of our chapter. Clearly, your example and your commitment to the organ, organ music, and its application to worship, performance and education have been more of an inspiration to others than you may realize. We on the Executive Committee are keenly aware of this, and it is a rewarding and in many ways humbling experience to be the stewards of the assets of the chapter, both tangible and artistic.

This year has seen a number of changes in our chapter, many of which were long overdue, and some of which have been more difficult than others. The new database system is turning out to be everything we had hoped for, but we're still learning and getting used to it. I know this has been inconvenient for some of our members, especially with regard to the amount of time it took to get the first registrations entered and processed. The change in registrar concurrent with the new database package has seen Phil Shade working many long hours on our behalf, and we're not quite there yet! We appreciate your patience and support in this effort.

Our Sub-Dean Tim Evers has embarked on one of the most aggressive program plans we have ever attempted. I'm hoping that our membership will recognize this and that our attendance at chapter programs will increase in response to these spectacular events. Programming is the single most important "line item" in our budget, and it is also the primary focus of our response to the membership's support of the chapter. An excellent example of this is our January Jumpstart program. Based on participant comments, we have once again "tweaked" the schedule and specific tutorial sessions to meet the stated needs of our members, and hopefully this will result in a record number of registrants this year. Please see more about all of this elsewhere in these pages.

Finally, I would like to mention again that I'm hoping that those members who haven't yet renewed will do so, and that we would all continue to encourage friends and colleagues to consider joining the chapter. And please take advantage of the great programs the chapter is presenting. They are well worth your valuable time!

Rudolph Lucente, Dean

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

PHILLIP SHADE, REGISTRAR

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

At publication time we stand at 333 members. This figure represents a net loss of 26 members from where our membership stood last year at this time. If you have not renewed your membership yet, I would invite and urge you to do so right away so that you can be included in our Directory. The membership database will go out for printing shortly after your receive Crescendo this month.



DUES COLLECTION FOR 2011-2012 STILL CONTINUES

We encourage you to reach out and contact some of your musician friends and those who love organ music who have yet to join and encourage them to consider AGO membership. In the past our National headquarters has instituted some unique membership drives, such as the "Each One, Reach One" campaign. Our own members are the best source for increasing our numbers. Who can better demonstrate the advantages of Guild membership than YOU? And in these times when organists are getting harder to find for many churches, we need to stick together, and to expand our group to better serve the needs of the academic, concert and religious communities. If each member reached out to just one potential new member, imagine what we could do!

MAILING LABELS

If you are looking to advertise upcoming concerts, recitals, and other events, you may want to take advantage of one of the benefits of membership, which is access to our Chapter Mailing Labels. Included in these labels are the addresses of all those who have joined the Philadelphia Chapter A.G.O. for the 2011/12 season, plus the names and addresses of those institutions, individuals, regional/national officers and advertisers who receive monthly courtesy mailings from us. These last 4 categories are particularly beneficial to you and your affiliation, since these go to music stores, music schools and libraries in the extended area, which would publicly place your music poster in areas where many would see them, and could substantially add to your audience. To order labels, send me an email, letter or phone message clearly stating your name, affiliation/organization, an address where to send them, and how you would like them sorted (by zip code or alphabetically). The labels cost \$30.00 per set to members in good standing. A invoice will be included with the labels. Please allow several weeks for delivery.

Continued on page 4

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

PHILLIP SHADE, REGISTRAR

Want to join the Philadelphia chapter of the American Guild of Organists?
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 Registrar Phillip Shade at: 516 Berkshire Drive, Souderton, PA 18964
O: 215-723-8220 H: 215-723-7907 registrar@agophila.org

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
To be appointed

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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To be appointed

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Judith A. Lang 610-623-8069
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Kathleen Scheide 609-712-3119

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To be appointed

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NATIONAL COUNCILLOR for CONVENTIONS
Dennis Elwell 215-877-2744, x4
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Registrar's Corner

Continued from page 3

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

We welcome the following new members to the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO. We trust that you'll take advantage of the Chapter Programs and resources available to our membership. Please introduce yourself at our chapter events and get to know each one:

Suzanne Erb **Philadelphia, PA**

Kat Bowman **Berwyn, PA**

Jeremy Triplett **Dresher, PA**

Phil Shade, Registrar

Philadelphia Chapter Events 2011/2012

Sunday, September 18, 2011, 3:00pm
Guild Service and Installation of Officers
The Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter & Paul
18th Street & Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, Philadelphia

Sunday, October 23, 2011, 4:00pm
Richard Elliott, organ
Overbrook Presbyterian Church
6376 City Ave, Philadelphia

Friday, November 18, 2011, 8:00pm
Alain 100th Birthday Festival
with Tom Bell and St. Mark's Choir
St. Mark's Church
1625 Locust Street, Philadelphia
(reception following)

Sunday, December 30, 2011
Chapter Christmas Party
(location TBA)

Saturday, January 14, 2012, 8:00am – 4:00pm
January Jumpstart
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

WE THANK OUR 2011-2012 PATRONS

(list updated monthly)

BENEFACTORS

Norman J. Geist and Ethel Geist, CAGO
Jeffrey B. Fowler
Rudolph A. Lucente

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Jeffrey L. Brillhart
Theodore W. Didden, CAGO
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Allen R. Popjoy, Jr.
John A. Romeri, AAGO, ChM, and Karen A. Romeri
Stephen F. Schreiber
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David W. Stettler	Gloria E. Todd
Gordon H. Turk	Edward Wilk
Bradford T. Winters	Kathleen E. Wirth

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TIMOTHY M. EVERS, COORDINATOR
610-688-8700, x227 • TIM.EVERS@AGOPHILA.ORG

Friday, November 4, 8:00 PM

Abington Symphony Orchestra with Timothy Schwarz, violin. John Sall, conductor. 40th Anniversary of Music at Abington series. Brahms's Violin Concerto. Also, choruses by Handel and Mendelssohn sung by the youth and adult choirs. Free-will offering. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4530 www.apcusa.org/MusicatAbington

Friday, November 4, 8:00 PM

Tenebrae Choir from London, England. For tickets and more detailed information see website or call. Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul, 18th St & Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Phila PA 215.587.3696 www.CathedralPhila.org

Friday, November 4, 8:00 PM

Vermilion Vespers. Curt Cacioppo's Cantata of Angels. Concert length modern vespers. Scott Dettra, organ. Tickets: \$15 GA; \$12 Seniors; \$8 Students; \$5 (7-17). Info call 610-896-1011 or nmerriam@haverford.edu St. David's Episcopal Church, 763 Valley Forge Rd, Wayne PA 610.688.7947 www.stdavidschurch.org

Saturday, November 5, 7:30 PM

Karl Jenkins, The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace. Dvorak's Te Deum. The Wayne Oratorio Society, a ministry of Wayne Presbyterian Church. 180 voice choir & professional orchestra and soloists. Free will offering. Handicapped accessible. Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave, Wayne PA 610.688.8700 www.waynepres.org

Sunday, November 6, 3:00 PM

Bryan Anderson, Curtis student, presents an organ recital. St. Luke Lutheran Church, 203 N. Valley Forge Rd., Devon PA 610.688.0122

Sunday, November 6, 3:00 PM

Faure's Requiem in D minor. Service of Remembrance. Patty Brown, violin; Felicia Coffey, harp; Loretta Hartnett, organ; Ralph Purri, conductor. St. Denis Church, Eagle Road at St. Denis Lane, Havertown, PA 610.446.0200 rpurri@stdenishavertown.org

Sunday, November 6, 5:00 PM

Cindy Castillo, organ. Works of Bach, Reubke, and Boesmans. First Sundays at 5 evening music series. Free admission. 1972 Austin IV/108. Christ Church, 2nd St above Market, Philadelphia PA 215.922.1695 www.christchurchphila.org

Sunday, November 6, 7:30 PM

Karl Jenkins, The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace. Dvorak's Te Deum. The Wayne Oratorio Society, a ministry of Wayne Presbyterian Church. 180 voice choir & professional orchestra and soloists. Free will offering. Handicapped accessible. Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave, Wayne PA 610.688.8700 www.waynepres.org

Thursday, November 10, 12:30 PM

John Charles Schucker, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rd, Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir

Friday, November 11, 8:00 PM

Vive La France! Deuxième Partie (French Organ Music) Eric Plutz, organist. Free Admission. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir

Sunday, November 13, 3:00 PM

Joyful and Triumphant Music for Trumpet and Organ, Lawrence DePasquale, organ; Thomas MacWilliams, trumpet. Works by Purcell, Bozza, Puccini, Ropartz, Hohne and others. Free. For info call: 856-981-4011 or VisitSalemCountyNJ.com Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church, 312 Aldine-Daretown Rd., Elmer, NJ 856.358.1104 www.daretownpres.org

Sunday, November 13, 3:00 PM

An Interfaith Choral Concert for the Month of All Souls featuring Settings of the Ave Maria and works by Moses Hogan. Mary E. Campbell, organist and conductor - St. Basil the Great Church, Seven Stars and Kimberton Rd., Kimberton, PA. For directions www.stbasils.org, for questions 484-995-6110.

Sunday, November 13, 4:00 PM

Choral Evensong. Cathedral Singers directed by Thomas Lloyd and accompanied by organist John Andrew Bailey. Includes choral music James MacMillan, Walter Lambe, Gabriel Jackson and Thomas Tallis. Also Arabesque by Vierne & Buxtehude's Passacaglia in d. Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal), 3723 Chestnut St (38th & Chestnut), Philadelphia PA 215.386.0234 x104 www.philadelphiacathedral.org

Calendar of Events

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Thursday, November 17, 12:10 PM

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Chester County. Lunch and Listen Concerts held from 12:10pm - 1:00pm. Attendees are welcome to bring a bag lunch to eat during the concert. For more info call 610-696-4640 ext. 17 or e-mail music@HTrinityWC.com. Church of the Holy Trinity, 212 S. High St, West Chester, PA 610.696.4640

Thursday, November 17, 12:30 PM

Tom Bell, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rd, Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 elutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir

Sunday, November 20, 3:00 PM

Rodney Long, organ concert. Free admission. Wickes Organ. First Presbyterian Church, 502 N. Easton Rd, Willow Grove, PA 215.659.5938 <http://firstpreswg.org>

Sunday, November 20, 7:30 PM

The Williamson Voices from Westminster Choir College. For tickets and more detailed information see website or call. Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul, 18th St & Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Phila PA 215.587.3696 www.CathedralPhila.org

Wednesday, November 30, 7:00 PM

Choirs of St. Denis Church perform Advent and Christmas music at Longwood Gardens. Ralph Purri, conductor. 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM performances. Longwood Gardens, US Rte 1, Kennett Square PA 610.388.1000 www.longwoodgardens.org

THOMAS MURRAY HONORED BY AGO NATIONAL COUNCIL

Celebration of Brilliant Performer,
Teacher, and Friend

NEW YORK CITY — The American Guild of Organists (AGO) presented its eighth annual Recital and Gala Benefit Reception on Sunday, May 15, at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. An estimated audience of 500 colleagues, students, and friends came together to celebrate the lifetime achievements of Thomas Murray on the occasion of his thirtieth anniversary at Yale.

The gala was sponsored by the AGO National Council and its Development Committee. Major funding was provided by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and Pemcor Inc. of Lancaster, Pa., printer of *The American Organist*. The event raised \$30,000 to be invested in the AGO Endowment Fund in Thomas Murray's honor.

The recital, which was played by Thomas Murray on the world renowned Newberry Memorial Organ in Woolsey Hall, was introduced by Craig Whitney, New York Times assistant managing editor (retired) and author of *All the Stops: The Glorious Pipe Organ and Its American Masters*. Professor Murray's program included Bach's Toccata in F Major (BWV 540), Sonata II (1937) by Hindemith, selections from Symphony I on Gregorian Themes (1932) by Guy Weitz, and the Symphony in D Minor by Franck, transcribed by Calvin Hampton. A reception, which was attended by 125 individuals, followed in the Yale President's Room.

Established in 1994, the AGO Endowment Fund provides income to expand programs for leadership development among AGO members; educate new organists; and cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. Tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income support for essential Guild programs and educational projects.

Those who were unable to attend the gala can receive a copy of the souvenir program book with their contribution of \$25 or more to the Endowment Fund. Contributions in honor of Thomas Murray can be made online at www.agohq.org or by mailing a check to: AGO Endowment Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115. All gifts will be acknowledged in *The American Organist*. For information, please call 212-870-2311 (ext. 4308) or e-mail gala@agohq.org. ■

TUESDAY NOON RECITALS

TIM EVERS, COORDINATOR
610-688-8700 Tim.Evers@agophila.org

No Tuesday Noon recitals are scheduled for November. Future venues TBA.

Hosting and/or performing these programs can be a great way to help the AGO, encourage membership, serve your local congregation and community, and more! Please contact Tim Evers if interested.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ALLEN POPJOY, COORDINATOR
610-269-7069 ALLEN.POPJOY@AGOPHILA.ORG

ORGANIST

Church of the Transfiguration
51 Columbia Avenue, Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-618-2241

We are a small Anglican Church in Phoenixville which has traditional hymns at our 10:30 service. We are beginning a 9:00 modern language service which will meet the first Sunday of October, November and December, then every week after that. There is more latitude in creativity at the 9:00 service. We pay up to \$200 per week at this time, which will be adjusted as we begin the second service. The time needed for the single service is 2 - 2.5 hours per week.

Please contact Rev. Steve Lybrand, at steve@anglicanpa.org or 610-618-2241

ORGANIST

Sandy Ridge Baptist Church
47 Sandy Ridge Road, Stockton, NJ 08559

Sandy Ridge Baptist Church is seeking an organist. We are a small, historic American Baptist Church in a beautiful rural setting, a 40-minute drive from Princeton. Our average weekly attendance is around 40. Our worship service is at 10 a.m. during the summer months (June-August), and at 11 a.m. the rest of the year.

Duties:

- Provide service music and accompaniment for one hour-long worship service per week. Practice time as needed.
- Attend choir rehearsals and work with our Choir Director on accompaniment for the choir as needed. Rehearsals are held Tuesday nights for an hour during the school year.
- Provide accompaniment for occasional special services: Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Holy Thursday

Instruments:

- Allen AP-15 Digital Organ (Protégé Series)
- Steinway grand piano

Qualifications: Applicants should be proficient on both organ and piano, and have a love for Jesus Christ and a desire to express that through the gift of music.

Salary: \$3,640 per year. Includes two paid vacation Sundays per year.

Contact:

Rev. John Valiant, Pastor
6686 Upper York Road, New Hope, PA 18938
215-297-0236; jvaliantjr1@yahoo.com

ORGANIST

Church of the Loving Shepherd
1066 S. New St., West Chester, PA 19382
610-692-8280

Church of the Loving Shepherd (West Chester, PA), a 110 family member Christian church affiliated with the International Council of Community Churches, is seeking a part time (3-5

hrs/wk) organist to start mid-September. Primary responsibility would be accompanying congregational hymn singing and special music. The organist would play for 10 am worship services at least three Sundays a month and for special services, as well as weddings and funeral/memorial services (paid separately). A 12 - 20 adult member choir, a number of whom are professionally trained, sings once monthly. Special music at other services is provided by in-house or paid musicians - professionals and advanced students - so proficiency as an accompanist is desirable, as is good sight-reading ability. A children's choir sings 2-3 times a year.

While our worship is structured, we are not averse to flexibility. Our tradition is based in classical music, with occasional jazz or folk music. The congregation contains a number of professional musicians, and everyone appreciates the high quality of music. We need an enthusiastic and versatile organist who can collaborate with the pastor and an active music committee and music coordinator.

We have a digitally catalogued music library. Our organ is a 9 rank mechanical organ (Wissinger tracker with electronic bellows). Also available: a Steinway B grand piano, basic handbell set and various percussion instruments.

Visit www.lovingsshepherd.org for more information.

Salary consistent with AGO guidelines: \$8,000-12,000 depending on qualifications and final determination of responsibilities. Please send resume, cover letter and references to Starr: StarrSCB@aol.com.

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church
1188 Ben Franklin Highway, P.O. Box 396
Douglassville, PA 19518

Phone: 610-385-3144 Fax: 610-385-7072
www.stgabriels.us

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Douglassville, Pennsylvania is looking for a part-time Organist/Choirmaster working on the average of 15 hours per week. This person should be an accomplished organist and choir director, open to various musical styles and settings and committed to enhancing and developing the musical programs at the parish.

Familiarity with the Episcopal liturgy and seasons of the Christian year is a plus. The candidate must be competent in organ playing and choral directing, possess a working knowledge of sacred choral music, the ability to work effectively with adults, children/youth (or those who work with them) and the ability to be sensitive and responsive to the capabilities, needs and interests of the entire parish family.

In preparation for Services, the Organist/Choirmaster will plan and coordinate service music with the rector, and work with a volunteer choir. Other significant liturgical occasions - Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, Funerals and Weddings - will require extra planning and rehearsals.

The annual salary is commensurate with the abilities and experience of the candidate. The position is available September 10, 2011. Please send your resume to office@Stgabriels.us Office: 610-385-3144

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karl jenkins
the armed man, *a mass for peace*
 antonin dvrák
te deum

the wayne oratorio society
 saturday & sunday, november 5 & 6, 2011, 7:30 pm

175 Voice Choir, Professional Orchestra & Soloists

Jeffrey Fowler, Conductor

Soloists: Melanie Sarakatsannis, Kerry Ann Erickson-Felps, Brian Meneely, & Michael Krueger

Free Concert / Free Will Offering

a ministry of Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 East Lancaster Ave., Wayne, PA 19087

610-688-8700 / www.waynepres.org

Image: Holocaust Memorial, Berlin

Positions Available
Continued from page 7

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

St. David's Episcopal Church
763 South Valley Forge Rd., Wayne, PA 19087

Large (3,000 member) historic Episcopal church with a long-standing tradition of musical excellence seeks an accomplished, dynamic full-time Associate Director of Music with energy to work as a team with the Director of Music to lead a large and growing music ministry. Responsibilities include the direction of children, youth and handbell choirs, as well as the accompaniment of the adult choir. Organ playing responsibilities will be shared with the Director of Music. The successful candidate, an experienced church musician with knowledge of the liturgy and a degree in music, must be an accomplished organist especially gifted in working with children and youth. The youth choral program has also included musical productions and tours.

St. David's church, built in 1715, is located in a Philadelphia suburb. Instruments include a 3-manual Dobson (Opus 84, 2007) organ in the large church, a 2-manual Skinner/Turner organ in the small historic church, four and one-half octaves of Schulmerich handbells, and a 2-manual harpsichord rebuilt by Willard Martin. Competitive salary with benefits. Website: www.stdavidschurch.org. Send cover letter, resume, and ref-

erences to Elaine Giese, Music Assistant, egiese@stdavidschurch.org or to St. David's Church, 763 South Valley Forge Road, Wayne, PA 19087

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

First Presbyterian Church
145 Main St., Phoenixville, PA 19460
 610-933-8816

Seeking organist and choir director. This position, available November 1, has been filled by two people, and currently that is what is being sought. However, depending on qualifications and abilities of applicants, this could be combined into one. The church has a beautiful new Kegg organ, and excellent music is part of our congregation's tradition. Please contact Bob Kline for additional information at 610-933-4873.



VOX HUMANA

KATHERINE REIER

Sacred Harp Singing

Sacred Harp singing is the most fun one can have while surrounded by harsh and abrasive musical sound. Get together with several dozen men, women, and children in a big, live, open room, sitting on folding chairs which have been set up in an open square. Trebles, altos, tenors, and basses sit in their parts on designated sides of the square. Everyone has the thick Sacred Harp hymnal. Someone stands in the center of the square, calls out a number, gives the pitches, and the song is launched. We “sing the shapes” the first time through, followed by several stanzas of the text. We do this all day long, one song after another. We come back the second day and sing some more. We go home refreshed in spirit, renewed in faith, enriched in friendships, and exhausted.



Shape-note music was a system of musical notation developed by itinerant singing teachers in 18th century New England to improve the singing in Protestant churches. It is a type of 'moveable do solfege,' in which the note-head of each degree of the scale is given a shape: square, round, triangle, diamond. The singing of the shapes is the learning process for sight-singing. There is no instrumental component. You might have seen it in the movies, *Cold Mountain* and *O Brother, Where Art Thou*.

The unique sound of the Sacred Harp singers is something to behold. It has a harsh, loud, nasal quality. It's not beautiful in a conventional way, but strong and sure. Standing in the center of the square, with dozens of singers in four parts all around, in full voice, in a live room—it has an effect to the marrow of one's bones.

A musician with conventional skills may find singing the shapes to be challenging. The score is printed in a very economical fashion. The text of the first stanza may be under the treble part, the second stanza under the alto part, the third stanza under the tenor, etc. Repeat signs are subtle, and not necessarily lined up exactly correctly. Leaders and singers keep the beat with an up-down arm motion, not conventional conducting patterns. The harmonies have many open fifths and open fourths, with few accidentals. The melody is in the tenor, but all parts have equal weight. Most of the songs have conventional hymnic meters. Many also have imitative sections, and the through-composed fuguing tunes can go on for several pages. The William Billings *Easter Anthem* is in the Sacred Harp and also in many conventional choir anthem libraries. Texts are from Watts and Wesley and their contemporaries.

Every musician should experience shape-note singing at least once in his/her life. Go to www.fasola.org and look for an all-day singing. Take a friend. Take some food for a pot-luck lunch (known as *dinner on the grounds*). Newcomers are always welcome. There are hymnals to use when you get there. If you don't have the nerve to lead a song on your own, at least once go up into the center of the square with an experienced leader so that you can hear the amazing sound. Do not go only to observe. If you do, take your earplugs. The music can only be enjoyed in the making of it. The sound is not beautiful, and it is not a concert. But it is a grass-roots, elemental folk music.

The people in this area who sing *Sacred Harp* are an interesting bunch. They are predominantly Caucasian Protestants, many without any particular church affiliation. There is a strong presence of Mennonites and other plain people. Some are college-educated professionals. People bring their children, who drift between singing and playing. The West Philadelphia singing has a good core of twenty-somethings and overgrown hippies. The all-day singings draw folks from the entire Mid-Atlantic, and some hard-core groupies go somewhere to sing nearly every weekend. There are monthly singings in this area which are smaller in scale: Havertown, Brandywine, West Philadelphia, Old City Philadelphia, Lehigh, Reading. Check the website, www.fasola.org.

Katherine Reier is our Crescendo Circulation Coordinator, tirelessly putting mailings together so that Crescendo reaches YOU!

Alain's Centennial

Continued from page 1

The program features London organist, Tom Bell, a student of the legendary Kevin Bowyer in Manchester, and Jacques van Oortmerssen in Amsterdam. He graduated with first class honors from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2006. His studies were supported by prestigious scholarships awarded by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, the Royal College of Organists, the Countess of Muster Musical Trust and the Michael James Music Trust. During his studies he held organ and choral scholarships at both Ripon and Manchester Cathedrals. He has performed widely as a soloist in the UK, playing at many Cathedrals, festivals and other concert venues, as well as visiting Scandinavia and Southern Europe. In 2009 he broadcast a live recital from The Temple Church in London for Dutch radio, and in 2012 he will be releasing two CDs.

From 2007 until 2011 Tom was Director of Music to the Parish of Esher, and is now Organist and Choir Master at St. Michael's Chester Square in London's vibrant West End. When not playing the organ or chasing steam locomotives, he enjoys a good pub and climbing hills.

Since the chapter is co-sponsoring this event, it means that our members do not need tickets to attend. But to help defray the cost of the event, a free-will offering with a suggested donation of \$20 will be taken.

JANUARY JUMPSTART

Saturday, January 14, 2012 – 8:00 - 4:00

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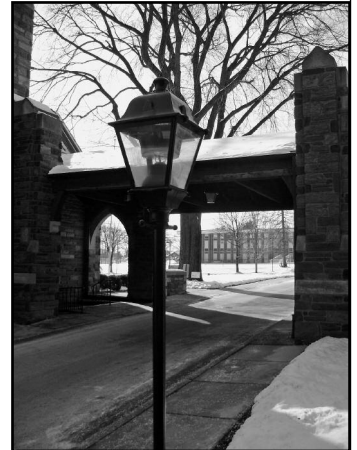
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11 December at 4 p.m.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols with the Parish Musicians

8 January at 3 p.m.

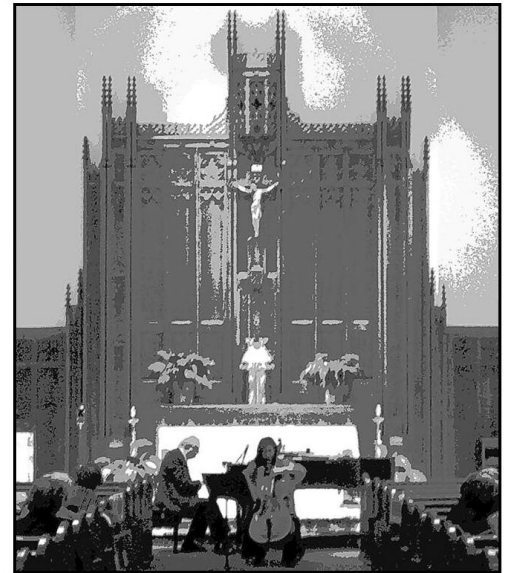
Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster David Kim, violin

29 January at 3 p.m. — The Keystone State Boychoir

19 February at 3 p.m. — Pyxis Piano Quartet

23 March at 8 p.m. — ConcertOPERA Philadelphia: *Carmen*

20 May at 3 p.m. — The Camerata Singers of Conestoga



Advertising Advertisement

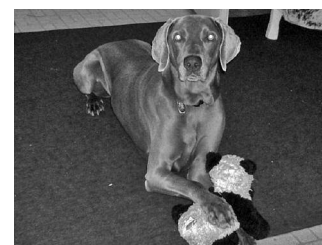
I just recently took over the reins of 'Advertising Coordinator' and would like to put out an invitation to our members, who cover so many varied aspects of our music industry.

PLEASE let me know if you would be interested in pursuing an ad in Crescendo!

Our rates are very reasonable, and it's another way that you can support the Guild - perhaps through your day job! It's possible that some contacts or requests were lost in transition - please get in touch with me. If you already have an ad and find that a correction is needed, please contact me.



Mib Campbell
 Crescendo@agophila.org
 484-995-6110



SUBSTITUTE LIST

ALLEN POPJOY, COORDINATOR
610-269-7069 ALLEN.POPJOY@AGOPHILA.ORG

This list is published as a courtesy to the chapter membership. Only members of the Philadelphia AGO Chapter available for regularly-scheduled services are listed. 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: The substitute list has now been updated for the 2011-2012 year. This list includes only current members of the Philadelphia Chapter. To be included on this list, please be sure your membership is current and contact Allen Popjoy at 610-269-7069.

Substitute	Location	Phone Number
Debra S. Bacak	Sellersville, PA	215-257-0553
Robert A. Bader	Philadelphia, PA	215-413-0326
Renee Barrick	Philadelphia, PA	646-823-8507
Richard J. D'Angelo	Philadelphia, PA	215-248-1582
Tedd Didden CAGO	Ambler, PA	215-646-0294
Gina Dussair	Philadelphia, PA	917-355-3253
Karen B. Fallows	Hatfield, PA	215-822-6762
Susanna Faust	Philadelphia, PA	215-823-9481
Ralph E. Fisher	Philadelphia, PA	215-732-1408
Jeremy J. Flood CAGO	Philadelphia, PA	215-625-2747
Robert H. Frederick	Philadelphia, PA	215-755-7648
Charles J. Glandorf	Coopersburg, PA	610-282-0483
Raymond K. Johnson	Cheltenham, PA	215-635-9944
Stephen Ketterer	Philadelphia, PA	215-834-1884
Joel E. Klingman SPC	Southampton, PA	215-355-8445
Thomas S. Lever	Lansdale, PA	215-855-0287
Marianne Lipson SPC, CAGO	Philadelphia, PA	215-923-9132
David Clark Little	Feasterville, PA	215-953-0352
Rodney Long	Philadelphia, PA	267-636-3522
Elizabeth A. Manus	St. Davids, PA	610-293-9002
Paul Marchesano	Philadelphia, PA	215-287-8955
Glenn M. Matis	Doylestown, PA	215-489-2548
Michael McGonigle III	Philadelphia, PA	856-993-0664
Mardia Melroy	Maple Glen, PA	215-646-1975
Scott P. Myers	Philadelphia, PA	215-715-1003
Patricia Nyce	Douglassville, PA	610-689-3797
Wesley D. Parrott	Philadelphia, PA	215-732-6732
Aaron Patterson	Philadelphia, PA	215-725-0959
Patricia A. Pezick	Blue Bell, PA	610-405-3736
Katherine J. Reier SPC	Abington, PA	215-517-4160
Catherine M. Robinson SPC	Lansdowne, PA	610-626-4429
Alexander M. Smith	King of Prussia, PA	610-265-4390
Janet L. Tebbel	Philadelphia, PA	215-848-3915
Robert Upton	Broomall, PA	610-356-5245
Virginia K. Vaalburg	Glen Mills, PA	610-358-0946
John Van Sant	Trenton, NJ	609-498-1768
Mary Louise Varricchione-Lyon	Doylestown, PA	215-348-9507
Karen Whitney	Philadelphia, PA	215-424-8450
Esther Wideman	Philadelphia, PA	215-687-6258
Robert H. Wilkinson	Ridley Park, PA	610-574-6866

Roy Harker

Church of Saint Asaph
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

Harry Wilkinson

Ph.D., F.A.G.O.

Dennis Elwell

Overbrook Presbyterian Church - Philadelphia
Philadelphia AGO National Councillor for Conventions

Marjorie Lynch Cummings

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

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

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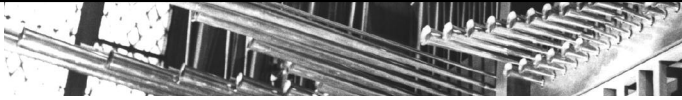
Bruce Shultz

Girard College
Church of St. Francis de Sales
University of Pennsylvania

Ron Coles, MM, M.Ed.Admin.

Roxborough Sr High School, Arts Department Chair
Saint Ignatius of Antioch Roman Catholic Church

TALE PIPES



MARY ELIZABETH CAMPBELL, EDITOR
Crescendo@agophila.org

Have you ever considered taking a guild exam? It can be a wonderful learning experience! Hone your skills, meet new people, advance your education, have fun, learn new things, dust off your details. Our Exam Coordinator would LOVE to hear from you, and for those of you who don't yet know Lee de Mets, I would like to offer an introduction.

Lee de Mets, AGO Exam coordinator for our chapter and member of the National Board of Examiners, was the youngest person in the country in 1965 to successfully pass the FAGO exam. He was 24 at the time and had passed the AAGO at the age of 21. His preparation included 6 years of concentrated study of all aspects of the exams with Dr. William T. Timmings. Mr. de Mets attended West Chester (then State Teachers College) where he studied with Dr. Harry Wilkinson, and then Temple University where he completed his Bachelor of Music Education. He fondly remembers practicing at the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in the basement of the Baptist Temple on their five rank Moëller organ during his Temple days.

Mr. de Mets has had a wide and varied career including church music since 1958 and high



school teaching that encompassed theater, 'Arts Coordinator,' band director, and music teacher. These are just some of the church posts he's held: 1965-75 at Trinity Lutheran in Lansdale, five years in Charlestown, SC, at St. Matthew's Lutheran, Christ Lutheran in Allentown and then the Church of Our Savior in Jenkintown. One particularly memorable post was with St. Peter's Lutheran in Lafayette Hill where they have the tradition of the Epiphany Boar's Head Festival - a full theatrical musical production. After various other posts he is now serving as Director of Music for St. Jude Roman Catholic Church in Chalfont where he's been since 2000, and for a time he also directed the choir at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochova. He also has worked in various high schools, some times juggling more than one position. Those schools included Central Bucks High School, Lansdale Catholic, and Kennedy Kendrick in Norristown. An incredibly busy man with many talents! He lives with his wife, Sally, in Chalfont and they have two sons and four grandsons.

Philadelphia AGO chapter member (and former Dean) Ethel Geist is the AGO Region III Education Chair - she has been hard at work helping to find resources for anyone who might want to try the exam adventure. She would also LOVE to hear from you! Please consider this great opportunity - I have to admit that I still regret not completing the AAGO, for which I had passed the performance exam, but let too much time get away before trying the written portion.

I would again like to invite our vast and varied membership to consider submitting articles for inclusion in Crescendo - from comments on previous editions or programs, to writings that are scholarly, thought-provoking, historical, humorous, etc. I would genuinely love to hear from you.

Mary Elizabeth Campbell

CRESCENDO

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Katherine Reier, Circulation Coordinator
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