

# CRESCENDO

MARCH 2012

VOLUME LXXIV, NO. 7

Newsletter of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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## A Brilliant Splash of Brass and Organ ... and then ... A Post-Concert Chapter Party

We are dovetailing with a wonderful Kimmel Center Program for our March event:

**Jeffrey Brillhart, Organ,  
and the Canadian Brass  
In Concert at the Kimmel Center  
Saturday, March 10, 3:00 pm**

Tickets are available through the Kimmel Center box office, or online through [www.kimmelcenter.org/events/?id=4108](http://www.kimmelcenter.org/events/?id=4108)

Highlights of this exciting event include:

**J. S. Bach:** *Prelude and Fugue in G Major*  
**Brahms:** *Fugue in A flat minor*  
**Scheidt:** *Galliard Battaglia*  
**Vierne:** *Symphonie No. 6 in B minor, Op. 59, V: Final*  
**J. S. Bach:** *'Little' Fugue in G minor*  
**Kompanek:** *Killer Tango*  
**Gabrieli:** *Canzon primi toni*  
**Faure:** *Cantique de Jean Racine, Op. 11 (arr. Reed)*  
**Ellis:** *Prayer for Understanding*  
**J. S. Bach:** *Toccata and Fugue in D minor*



Jeffrey Brillhart at the console of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

**Chapter Party: Immediately following the Concert, 5:30 – 7:30 PM,  
at Valanni Restaurant, 1229 Spruce St., Philadelphia**

The Chapter has reserved a private room for a Post-Concert Party. Your cost per person is only \$20 to be paid at the door. It includes the House Brand White & Red Wine; White, Red & Seasonal Sangria; domestic Beer and Well Liquors, plus the menu listed below.

To register for this party, please send all names of those attending to Rae Ann Anderson at [rande84@verizon.net](mailto:rande84@verizon.net). Please do not make a reservation and not attend, as space is limited. Come with \$20 / person in cash to enjoy the party. The Registration Deadline is March 7.

### TAPAS RECEPTION MENU

**Baked Brie:** herb fococcia, Grand Marnier soaked cranberries, sliced pears, hazelnuts  
**Trio of Spreads:** grilled pita with hummus, tirokafteri and muhammara  
**Serrano Ham Croquettes:** Béchamel, chipotle aioli  
**Spicy Pulled Chicken Empanadas:** Warm manchego, cilantro, chipotle horseradish aioli  
**Spanakopita:** Phyllo dough, spinach, feta, carmelized onion, tzatziki

**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.

#### Editorial Board

##### CRESCENDO

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email: [Advertise@agophila.org](mailto:Advertise@agophila.org)

Visit our website at [www.AGOPhila.org](http://www.AGOPhila.org)

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MARCH 2012

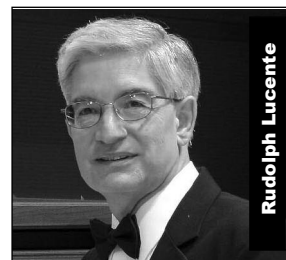
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CRESCENDO

VOLUME LXXIV, NO. 7

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

## Just When You Thought You Could Rest . . . .



Rudolph Lucente

**A**s we approach the month of March, looking at the calendar for some will perhaps be a little stressful. Having just started to catch our breath after a busy holiday season in November and December, we barely have a moment to rest before embarking on Spring concerts, Lent and Easter programs, weddings, or any of the other obligations that we organists seem to collect from one season to another.

The good news is that our chapter programs over the next few months are wonderful opportunities to spend some time together away from those obligations. We make every effort to avoid conflict with as many other programs and concerts as possible, and as a result have come up with a calendar of events that should allow for a large portion of our membership to attend. While all these terrific events are listed elsewhere in this issue, one in particular comes to mind that bears mention: the May event at St. Clement's Church.

During the past few months, quite a few folks have remarked that they would like to see a program or two in a major Philadelphia city church. Our program committee had already made the decision to revive our "**Legends of Philadelphia**" series – highlighting historically significant locations in the city. This season's offering at St. Clement's has a number of unique elements. The organ is one of the finest examples of an "American Classic" instruments, but with a definitely-English accent! In addition, another historic instrument is being installed in the church to function in a dual role: the chapel organ as well as the antiphonal for the main organ. The artist will be Wanamaker Grand Court Organist **Peter Richard Conte**, who also directs the renowned music program at St. Clement's. While every month up to and including June has a worthwhile program for us to enjoy, I would also like to mention a significant bi-annual event taking place this July: the **AGO National Convention**. The website for the convention describes all of the concerts, lectures, workshops, reading sessions, and several special events taking place between July 01 and July 07 in Nashville, Tennessee. The Philadelphia Chapter is always well-represented, and both our Sub-Dean Tim Evers and myself will be there. I would encourage any chapter member or friend who is considering attending to review the information on events and registration procedures in The American Organist or on the AGO national website (the convention has its own section easily accessible there).

I'd like to offer a brief update on the many changes and updates that have been a part of the chapter's operation since last September. We're getting a good handle on the new database software – but we're still learning many of its capabilities and how it can help all of us. The issue of membership renewal will come up again this year, and the executive committee is committed to providing our membership with sufficient alternatives to meet everyone's needs and preferred methods. The Program Committee is very likely the best we have had in a long time, and it has recruited a large and diverse group of members who are working diligently to plan many enjoyable and meaningful events for us. Communications, including Crescendo as well as general public relations, are evolving quickly into an effective mechanism for accomplishing our mission of Bold, Public Visibility. The website will undergo some changes in the coming months as well to better serve both members and the general public who views it. We will provide regular updates to everyone, but know that these tasks are somewhat daunting in that they are happening simultaneously. But happy tasks they are to those who are accomplishing them! Our officers and committee members are amazing, and it is a privilege to work with them on everyone's behalf.

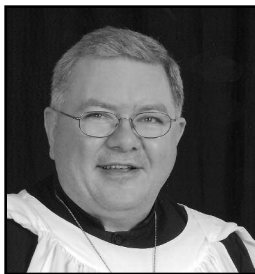
Rudolph Lucente

## REGISTRAR'S CORNER

P H I L L I P   S H A D E ,   R E G I S T R A R

### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

At publication time we stand at 365 Members. Last year at this time the Chapter roster stood at 369 members.



### DATA UPDATES

In the last month we have welcomed the following members. Please update your 2012 Directories:

**Ms. Hannah A Albrecht**, 9 E. Athens Ave. Apt. 9-3, Ardmore PA 19003. 610.658.3214  
Church of the Messiah, Gwynedd PA

**Mr. Theodore Bickish**, 501 St. Paul St. Apt 912, Baltimore MD 21202. 386.956.6020  
Christ Church, Ridley Park PA

**Mr. Jonathan Bowen**, 311 South 13th St. # 602, Philadelphia PA 19107. 215.732.1516  
Church of St. Luke and The Epiphany, Phila PA

**Ms. Audrey Charlton**, 700 Tenth Ave. Prospect Park PA 19076. 610.532.1483

**Mr. Donald H. McFarland**, 1912 Thomas Rd., Wilmington DE 19803-3102. 302-427-8465  
Cunningham Piano Company, Rodgers Organ Representative, Phila PA,  
Asbury United Methodist Church, New Castle DE

**Mr. Joseph R. Perry**, 1229 Main St. Linfield PA 19468-1019. 484-941-1884  
Grace Lutheran Church, Royersford PA, Student WCC

**Mr. Victor P. Serresseque**, 12 S. Merriment Dr., Newark DE 19702. 630-886-1320

We also have received the sad news of the death of two of our long time members:

**Mary Louise Varricchione-Lyon**, Doylestown PA – January 16, 2012

**Rev. Eugene C. Root**, Morrisville PA – October 15, 2011

*Continued on page 11*

## PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

### ELECTED OFFICES

<b>Dean</b>	
Rudolph A. Lucente	610-584-5054 Rudolph.Lucente@agophila.org
<b>Sub-Dean</b>	
Tim Evers	610-688-8700 SubDean@agophila.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Gerald Troy	610-626-5486 Gerald.Troy@agophila.org
<b>Secretary</b>	
Maria deJ. Ellis	610-896-6189 Maria.Ellis@agophila.org
<b>Registrar</b>	
Phillip Shade	215-723-8220 registrar@agophila.org
<b>Communications Coordinator</b>	
Charles Nelsen	610-246-8420 Communications@agophila.org

### Executive Committee

<b>TERM ENDING 2012</b>	
Mary Elizabeth Campbell	484-995-6110
Ethel Geist	215-529-1603
Stephen Schreiber	215-283-0417
Karen Whitney	215-424-8450
<b>Term Ending 2013</b>	
Lee de Mets	215-997-0219
Ralph Purri	610-789-2354
Caroline Robinson	864-561-7695
Harry S. Solomon, Jr	215-342-3448
<b>Term Ending 2014</b>	
Andrew Heller	610-789-0146
Judith A. Lang	610-623-8069
Paul Marchesano	215-287-8955
Kathleen Scheide	609-712-3119

### APPOINTED LEADERSHIP

<b>Chapter Chaplain</b>	
Rev. Bruce Thorsen	215-230-3980 Chaplain@agophila.org
<b>Competition Committee Chair</b>	
Alan Morrison	215-360-8336 Alan.Morrison@agophila.org
<b>Endowment Committee Chair</b>	
Dennis Elwell	610-658-2128 Dennis.Elwell@agophila.org
<b>Examinations Coordinator</b>	
Lee de Mets	215-997-0219 Lee.DeMets@agophila.org
<b>Historian / Archivist</b>	
To be appointed	
<b>Nomination Committee Chair</b>	
Ralph Purri	610-789-2354 Ralph.Purri@agophila.org
<b>Placement Coordinator</b>	
Allen Popjoy	610-269-7069 Allen.Popjoy@agophila.org
<b>Professional Concerns Chair</b>	
Judy Lang	610-623-8069 Judy.Lang@agophila.org
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Marcia Sommers	610-694-0554 TuesdayNoon@agophila.org
<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	
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<b>AGO Region III Education Chair</b>	
Ethel Geist	215-529-1603 Ethel.Geist@agophila.org
<b>Webmaster</b>	
Tom Lever	215-855-0287 webmaster@agophila.org
<b>NATIONAL COUNCILLOR for CONVENTIONS</b>	
Dennis Elwell	215-877-2744, x4 Dennis.Elwell@agophila.org

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

P H I L L I P   S H A D E ,   R E G I S T R A R

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 of the AGO Chapter Events 2011/2012

Sunday, September 18, 2011, 3:00pm  
Guild Service and Installation of Officers

Sunday, October 23, 2011, 4:00pm  
Richard Elliott, organ

Friday, November 18, 2011, 8:00pm  
Alain 100th Birthday Festival

Friday, December 30, 2011, 7:00pm – 10:00pm  
Chapter Christmas Party

Saturday, January 14, 2012, 8:00am – 4:00pm  
January Jumpstart

**Saturday, March 10, 3:00pm**  
**Concert, Dinner after concert**  
Dinner following Jeffrey Brillhart and the  
Canadian Brass' Concert at the Kimmel Center.  
5:30 – 7:30pm at Valanni Restaurant,  
1229 Spruce St., Philadelphia

**Saturday, April 21 (new date)**  
**Organ Crawl in New York City**  
Details forthcoming

**Monday, May 21, 7:30pm**  
**Philadelphia Legends VI**  
St. Clement's Church with Peter Conte  
20th and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia, 19103

**Saturday, June 9, 12:00pm – 7:00pm**  
**Kimmel Center Organ Day and Chapter's**  
**Closing Banquet and Officers' Installation**

## Kimmel Center Concerts

Friday, November 18, 2011, 8:00pm  
Marilyn Keiser

Saturday, January 21, 3:00pm  
Jeremy Filsell

**Saturday, March 10, 3:00pm**  
**Jeffrey Brillhart with the Canadian Brass**

**Saturday, April 21, 3:00pm**  
**John Weaver (with Alan Morrison, Ken**  
**Cowan, Diane Belcher, and Chelsea Chen**

## We thank our 2011-2012 Patrons

(list updated monthly)

### Benefactors

David P. Beatty  
Norman J. Geist and Ethel Geist, CAGO  
Jeffrey B. Fowler  
Rudolph A. Lucente  
Harry Wilkinson, FAGO

### Sponsors

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## VOX HUMANA

## HOW TO \$SAVE MONEY ON MUSICAL SCORES

Has your Church's music budget been reduced in these days of shrinking Church membership? You may be able to save considerable sums of money by using a lending library. The village church where I play the organ presents special programs of music throughout the year. We couldn't even think about programming this repertory if we had to purchase all the musical scores, instrumental parts AND, of course, pay the required professional musicians a fair wage. Although I sometimes bug my colleagues in Wayne for a loan, I have learned that there are other options for borrowing musical scores and perhaps the best lending library is here in Philadelphia! This list is not an exhaustive survey, but I have listed a few of the lending libraries I have used as well as examples of scores I have borrowed.

The Free Library of Philadelphia ([www.freelibrary.org](http://www.freelibrary.org)) has a large Music Department and a helpful staff to guide you through the borrowing process. In addition to their regular collection of scores and organ music, the Free Library houses the Edwin A. Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music and the Drinker Choral Music Library. For a reasonable fee, one can rent vocal and orchestral scores and orchestra parts. In the past, I have rented the orchestral score and a set of parts for Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Haydn's *Creation*. Most recently, I was able to rent 35 choral scores for Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio* from Drinker, walk a few steps to Fleisher, and rent the orchestral score and parts. Total cost for all these materials was approximately \$100, including Drinker's annual membership fee! It is always a good idea to reserve works well in advance of the performance date.

If your church has small instrumental ensembles, you may also want to search the Chamber Music collection of the Free Library. These works may be borrowed with a

small deposit that is refunded when the music is returned. Some of the works I have borrowed from this collection are Corelli's *Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 8 (Christmas Concerto)* and a wonderful woodwind quintet arrangement of dances by Rameau.

Sometimes the Free Library might not own what you need. The Bagaduce Music Lending Library ([www.bagaducemusic.org](http://www.bagaducemusic.org)), the New Amsterdam Singers Rental Library ([www.nasingers.org/rental-catalogue](http://www.nasingers.org/rental-catalogue)), and the New York Choral Society ([www.nychoral.org/outreach/music-rental](http://www.nychoral.org/outreach/music-rental)) are three other sources to check. One needs to consider the membership fee, possible rental per score, and postage to determine how cost-effective these sources are. For example, I was able to borrow Schoenberg's *Weihnachtsmusik* from the Bagaduce Music Lending Library at a savings over the purchase price; however, Buxtehude's cantata, *In dulci jubilo* was not inexpensive because of the charge per vocal score. But for a work that the choir will probably not repeat, the church still realized a savings.

Three good online sources for downloading scores are the Choral Public Domain Library ([www.cpdlib.org](http://www.cpdlib.org)), the International Music Score Library Project ([www.imslp.org](http://www.imslp.org)) and Musicaneo ([www.musicaneo.com/](http://www.musicaneo.com/)). I was able to upload a score of d'Indy's *Suite in Old Style* from Musicaneo for about \$9.00. This was the only way to obtain a score of this work.

Perhaps you know of other lending libraries or sources for music? Contact the Crescendo Editor at [Crescendo@agophila.org](mailto:Crescendo@agophila.org).

Liz Cochran

## Hey ladies ... and maybe some of you gents!

Spotted in Montreal, the perfect fashion accessory for the Organist! The Hermès Spring Collection features a silk twill scarf with an organ design, inspired by engravings from the 18th century treaty, *L'Art du facteur d'orgues* by Dom Bedos de Celles.

Entitled *Point d'Orgue*, the scarf comes in several colors and is soooo Diane Bish. For about the fee of 2 funerals you, too, could be organista fashionista.

Check it out at [www.hermes.com](http://www.hermes.com)

Liz Cochran

Thank you so much to Liz Cochran for submitting these articles – and by the way, I thought it might be fun to call any Liz columns 'String Theory...' (Liz is a Bass player as well as an Organist!)

Mary Elizabeth Campbell, Editor

## TUESDAY NOON RECITALS

Marcia Somers, Coordinator  
610-694-0554 • TuesdayNoon@agophila.org

Please note - these programs will start just after 12:00 to enable working people to arrive, park, etc.

### March



**The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia**  
201 S. 21st Street (at Walnut Street)  
[www.fpcphila.org](http://www.fpcphila.org) 215-567-0532

March 6 - **Andrew Senn**  
The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia

March 13 - **David Beatty**  
Past Dean, Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO

March 20 - **Edward Landin**  
Grace Epiphany Episcopal Church, Philadelphia

March 27 - **Mary Elizabeth Campbell**  
with **Suzanne Erb**, soprano

The congregation of **The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia** was established as the "Mother Church" of American Presbyterianism in 1698. The building in which the congregation currently resides was built in 1872 as the Second Presbyterian Church. The two congregations merged in 1948, retaining the name of First.

The first instrument in this building was installed in the gallery by the Hutchings Company. An almost entirely new instrument was installed in 1926 by Austin Organs, retaining a handful of Hutchings stops. Over the succeeding decades, the instrument was rebuilt and added to by various builders - most notably by Moller in 1953, with the addition of the Chancel Organ. In 1999-2000, a completely new gallery instrument (incorporating many of the beloved color stops which made the previous instrument famous) was built by Reuter. Most recently, the 1953 Moller Organ in the Chancel has been given a face-lift - replacing approximately half of the pipework with stops salvaged from 1901 Haskell organ of the former Chambers Wylie Memorial Church on Broad Street (now Broad Street Ministries).

The complete instrument can be described as a clearly American organ with a distinct English flavor. In addition to its mystical soft voices and earth-shattering reed choruses, it now has a vast palette of mezzo-forte stops, and is at home playing just about every genre of literature.

### Future Tuesday Noon Recitals

**April** - White Horse Village Retirement Community,  
Newtown Square, PA

**May** - First Presbyterian Church in West Chester, PA

**Roy Harker**

Church of Saint Asaph  
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

**Harry Wilkinson**

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

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Allen Popjoy, Coordinator  
610-269-7069 allen.popjoy@agophila.org

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Doylestown Presbyterian Church  
127 E. Court St. Doylestown, PA 18901

Doylestown Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, seeks a Director of Music and the Arts to lead their music program. We are a vibrant congregation of over 1800 members and the music program is a vital part of the church's ministry and outreach in the community. Responsibilities include the leadership and oversight of 4 vocal and 3 handbell choirs, as well as the church orchestra. A bachelor's degree in music with vocal emphasis is required. A master's degree or commensurate experience is preferred. This position is full time and the salary is dependent on degree and experience.

Desired skills include envisioning, designing and implementing a comprehensive music ministry; excellence in communication, leadership, organization, administration, and collaboration; extensive knowledge of church music repertoire and Reformed worship; accomplishment in choral conducting and instruction in vocal technique; ability to build upon the existing music program through continued development and expansion. Please send resume, minimum of 4 references, and DVD or sample of work to:

Geri McMullin  
ATT: Music Director Search Committee  
c/o Doylestown Presbyterian Church  
127 E. Court St.  
Doylestown, PA 18901

Or email Geri.dpcsearch@comcast.net  
Deadline: April 1, 2012

Visit [www.dtownpc.org](http://www.dtownpc.org) for full position description.

### ORGANIST

Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church  
1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, Pennsylvania 19343  
610-942-2626

Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church seeks an organist to give leadership to the worship services of Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church, EPC by using the organ to lift the congregation in music for the praise of God. The organ is a two-manual instrument built by the Dutch Craft Organ Company of New Jersey.

Responsibilities: Subject to review and adjustment in conjunction with the Director of Music, the following constitute the major responsibilities of the Organist:

We are happy to advertise positions available for churches in the Greater Philadelphia Area as a free service. We need to request that all ads stay within a 250 word limit – applicants should be directed to the church for further information. We would also be very grateful if churches encourage their organists to join our chapter – and many include dues payment as a contract perk!

1. Select organ music at all Sunday worship services, mid-week worship occasions, and all special celebrations of worship where the organ is the primary instrument used.
2. Accompany vocalists and instrumentalists as scheduled by the Choir Director or Pastor.
3. Provide organ music for weddings and funerals held at the church when the organ is the primary instrument used. Fees for these services are not provided by the church, but are honorariums from couples and families at an amount determined by church policy. The use of the organ by another organist requires special permission.
4. Advise and assist, as requested, in providing for qualified substitutes for all absences.
5. As needed, provide periodic reports specifying maintenance needs to the Choir Director and Board of Trustees.

#### Working Conditions

1. The Organist shall rehearse sufficiently to maintain a high quality of music at the organ.
2. The Organist serves under the supervision of the Director of Music and Worship Team. An annual performance review will be done with the Choir Director.
3. Five (5) weeks/Sundays off per year plus other times agreed upon with the Choir Director. An arrangement for substitutes is the responsibility of The Organist.
4. Cooperate with all staff and the congregation so that the music ministry is enhanced within the life of the church.
5. The Organist shall have permission to conduct private organ lessons and make the organ available to qualified students.

#### Skills and Qualifications

1. Sufficient keyboard ability to sight read hymns, liturgy, and easy anthem accompaniments.
2. Knowledge of church worship traditions and a theological understanding of the church sufficient to appropriately advise and assist in selecting music and texts for worship.
3. Experience as a "team player" in a church setting, or similar environment, working with staff, musicians, and volunteers.

Contact: Send all inquiries to the Steve McFalls, Director of Music at [stevemcfalls@comcast.net](mailto:stevemcfalls@comcast.net)

*Continued on page 10*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kathleen Scheide, Coordinator  
610-712-3119 • [Calendar@agophila.org](mailto:Calendar@agophila.org)

### Thursday, March 1, 12:30 PM

Colin Lynch, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Princeton University Chapel, Nassau Street and Washington Road, Princeton NJ 609.258.3016 [eplutz@princeton.edu](mailto:eplutz@princeton.edu) [www.princeton.edu/~choir](http://www.princeton.edu/~choir)

### Saturday, March 3, 10:00 AM

Open Rehearsal with John Rutter, Musician in Residence. Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Box 3510, 505 E. Buck Road, Wilmington, DE 302.655.3379 [www.Christchurchde.org](http://www.Christchurchde.org)

### Saturday, March 3, 2:00 PM

"Confessions of a Composer," lecture by John Rutter. Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Box 3510, 505 E. Buck Road, Wilmington, DE 302.655.3379 [www.Christchurchde.org](http://www.Christchurchde.org)

### Sunday, March 4, 11:00 AM

Choral Eucharist, John Rutter, Director. Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Box 3510, 505 E. Buck Road, Wilmington, DE 302.655.3379 [www.Christchurchde.org](http://www.Christchurchde.org)

### Sunday, March 4, 5:00 PM

Choral Evensong, John Rutter Director. Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Box 3510, 505 E. Buck Road, Wilmington, DE 302.655.3379 [www.Christchurchde.org](http://www.Christchurchde.org)

### Sunday, March 4, 4:00 PM

A Handbell Vespers featuring Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Youth Handbell Choirs. Free will offering. 625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 610.525.2821 [www.bmpcfinearts.org](http://www.bmpcfinearts.org)

### Thursday, March 8, 12:30 PM

Practitioners of Musick. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Princeton University Chapel, Nassau Street and Washington Road, Princeton NJ 609.258.3016 [eplutz@princeton.edu](mailto:eplutz@princeton.edu) [www.princeton.edu/~choir](http://www.princeton.edu/~choir)

### Friday, March 9, 8:00 PM

Gregory Hand, organ. Gospel Preludes of William Bolcom. Free-will Offering. Princeton University Chapel, Nassau Street and Washington Road, Princeton NJ 609.258.3016 [eplutz@princeton.edu](mailto:eplutz@princeton.edu) [www.princeton.edu/~choir](http://www.princeton.edu/~choir)

### Friday, March 9, 7:30 PM

Jonathan Ryan, winner of 2009 Jordan II International Organ Competition, in concert at Emmanuel Church, 101 North Cross St., Chestertown, MD. \$20 at the door. Located on MD Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, scenic town with ample overnight accommodations.

### Thursday, March 15, 12:30 PM

Andrew Kotylo, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Princeton University Chapel, Nassau Street and Washington Road, Princeton NJ 609.258.3016 [eplutz@princeton.edu](mailto:eplutz@princeton.edu) [www.princeton.edu/~choir](http://www.princeton.edu/~choir)

### Saturday, March 17, 7:30 PM

Academy Of Vocal Arts, "Jubilate" Concert. Emerging opera stars in concert of sacred music with orchestra. David Lofton, Conductor. Tickets at door. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lancaster & Louella Aves, Wayne, PA [www.stmaryswaynepa.org](http://www.stmaryswaynepa.org)

### Saturday, March 17, 7:30 PM

David Higgs, organ. Admission at the door: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 18 and under. 625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 610.525.2821 [www.bmpcfinearts.org](http://www.bmpcfinearts.org)

### Sunday, March 18, 3:00 PM

Chamber Music at Bournelyf presents Festive Brass Quintet with Kathleen Scheide, organ. \$15 suggested donation. 1066 South New Street, West Chester, PA. Response line 610.692.5662

### Sunday, March 18, 4:00 PM

Music at Abington Fortieth Anniversary presents Mozart Requiem. Abington Symphony Orchestra, Oratorio Choir, and soloists, John Sall, conductor. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington, PA 215.887.4530 [www.apcusa.org](http://www.apcusa.org)

*Continued on page 10*

### Rudolph A. Lucente

Dean, Philadelphia Chapter AGO  
Asst. Wanamaker Grand Court Organ

### Ron Coles, MM, M.Ed.Admin.

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

## Nominees for Executive Committee

Jonathan Bowen  
Mib (Mary Elizabeth) Campbell  
Ted Didden  
Suzanne Erb  
Elizabeth Forsyth  
Judy Stebner  
Zach Hemenway

In addition to the slate proposed by the Nominating committee, the Chapter Operating Procedures stipulate that direct nominations may be made by petition signed by at least five (5) members of the Chapter in good standing and submitted to the Secretary for inclusion on the ballot prior to April 1.

Completed petitions should be addressed to the chapter secretary, Maria Ellis at [Maria.Ellis@agophila.org](mailto:Maria.Ellis@agophila.org) or sent to her at 33 St. Paul's Road, Ardmore PA 19003-2808. The nominee's agreement to serve if elected must be secured before the petition is submitted.

Biographies on each candidate will appear in the April issue of Crescendo. Although the deadline for receipt of direct nominations is April 1, all biographies to be included in Crescendo must be received by March 1, the publication deadline for that issue.



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#### THE PYXIS QUARTET

Meredith Amado, *violin* Amy Leonard, *viola*  
Jie Jin, *cello* Hiroko Yamazaki, *piano*  
*Works by works by Strauss, Turina and Saint-Saens.*

23 March at 8 p.m.

#### CONCERTOPERA PHILADELPHIA: CARMEN

20 May at 3 p.m.

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### SWARTHMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHOIR AND GUESTS PRESENT

Johannes Brahms'

Requiem  
sung in English

& Ludwig van Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*

Sunday, March 11, 2012, 4:00 p.m.  
Lang Hall at Swarthmore College

Jeffrey DeVault, *director*  
Jennifer Check, *soprano*  
Eric Dubin, *baritone*

Orchestral accompaniment featuring players  
of the Philadelphia Orchestra

Proceeds to benefit Chester Children's Chorus  
and A Better Chance Strath Haven

Suggested donation \$20



This performance celebrates the life of Gay Grissom

### Dennis Elwell

Overbrook Presbyterian Church - Philadelphia  
AGO National Councillor for Conventions

### Mary Elizabeth Campbell, C.A.G.O.

Music Therapist – MAMT – BC  
Music Director, St. Basil the Great, Kimberton  
Private Music Teacher, Therapist, EDMR Practitioner

Positions Available  
Continued from page 7

### ORGANIST

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church  
1680 Aquetong Rd., New Hope, PA 18938

Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church (TMPC) is a 400-member Presbyterian USA Church located two miles south of New Hope, Pennsylvania. TMPC holds two traditional worship services on Sunday morning. The organist prepares organ and piano music for worship and accompanies three choirs as well as other service and small ensemble related responsibilities. Rehearsals held on Thursday afternoon and evening. Approximately 15 hrs/week. Salary is commensurate with experience in the range of \$18,000 to \$22,000 per year. Requirements:

- Minimum 3 years' experience with organ and accompanying
- BS in Music or equivalent with emphasis in Organ and Piano
- Good communication skills, working well with volunteers and all age groups
- Understands the role of music in worship with knowledge of appropriate repertoire
- Experience with other instruments (strings, brass, etc) preferred but not required
- Position requires a background check

For more information or to submit your application, contact: Ralph A. Powell, Personnel Committee, [personnel@tmpc.org](mailto:personnel@tmpc.org)

### ORGANIST/PIANIST

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church of Valley Forge  
600 Walker Road, Wayne, PA 19087

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church of Valley Forge has an immediate opening for an Organist/Pianist. We are seeking a committed individual with a desire to serve Christ through organ/piano accompaniment. Candidates should be committed to their role as worship leader and desire to work as part of a ministry team with the Senior Pastor, Director of Music, and other worship planners to enhance our worship.

Responsibilities include providing music for 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday services (worshiping an average of 175 people) and accompaniment for the Chancel Choir, children's choir and guest soloists.

Forward resume, salary requirements and references to [pastordawn@stmatthewsvf.org](mailto:pastordawn@stmatthewsvf.org) (email preferred) or by regular mail to:

St. Matthew's UMC of Valley Forge  
Attn: Staff-Parish Relations Chairperson  
600 Walker Road  
Wayne, PA 19087

Calendar of Events  
Continued from page 8

### Sunday, March 25th, 4:00 PM

Gordon Turk, organist, in recital. Church of the Good Samaritan, 212 West Lancaster Avenue, Paoli, PA 610.644.4040 [www.good-samaritan.org](http://www.good-samaritan.org)

### Sunday, March 25, 2012, 3:00 PM

Glenn Hough, organist, returns for an afternoon of music and merriment. This is the final "shake down" presentation of the 3/24 Wurlitzer prior to its formal debut. The Colonial Theatre, Bridge St., Phoenixville, musical interpretations and humor! Adults \$10, Children 12 and under \$5 (note that the Colonial charges an additional \$1.50 per ticket "box office surcharge" on all tickets. Info: [www.tosdv.org](http://www.tosdv.org)

### Sunday, March 25, 3:00 PM

Brahms Requiem and children/youth anthems. Choirs of Ardmore Presbyterian Church, Overbrook Presbyterian Church, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ardmore. Dennis Elwell and Andrew Heller, conductors. Iris Fairfax, Soprano, Daniel Lickteig, Baritone. Orchestra and Gary Garletts, Organist. Free-Will Offering. Ardmore Presbyterian Church, 5 Montgomery Avenue, Ardmore, PA 610.642.6650 [www.ardmorepres.org](http://www.ardmorepres.org)

### Thursday, March 29, 12:30 PM

Mark Trautman, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Princeton University Chapel, Nassau Street and Washington Road, Princeton NJ 609.258.3016 [eplutz@princeton.edu](mailto:eplutz@princeton.edu) [www.princeton.edu/~choir](http://www.princeton.edu/~choir)

## Marjorie Lynch Cummings

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

## Cormac Brady

FTCL, B.MUS  
Director of Music / Organist  
St. Cosmas & Damien Parish, Conshohocken, PA

Registrar's Corner  
Continued from page 3

### REDUCED DUES PROGRAM

The National AGO HQ sponsored special REDUCED DUES RATE for the remainder of the current membership year (ending 6/30/2012) is now in effect. This reduced rate is for NEW MEMBERS ONLY who join between February 1 - March 31, 2012.

This rate allows these new members to still receive nine monthly issues of The American Organist (beginning with the March 2011 issue) and, of course, our local Crescendo (through the June 2012 issue).

This is a great way to get anticipated new members to become part of the chapter prior to the start of our normal May/June membership drive, and for them to receive TAO sooner rather than waiting for the usual first issue in December (TAO subscriptions normally run December 1 thru November 30).

The reduced rates for the remainder of the year are:

<i>Membership Category</i>	<i>Reduced Dues (remainder of 2012)</i>
Regular	\$68
Special	\$50
Full-time Student	\$28
Partner	\$50
Dual	\$26
Student Dual	\$10
Chapter Friend	\$23

AGO National Headquarters have informed us of new annual dues rates for the coming season. The dues rates for the 2012-2013 Season which begins July 1 2012 are as follows:

<i>Membership Category</i>	<i>Dues (2012-2013 season)</i>
Regular	\$97
Special	\$72
Full-time Student	\$37
Partner	\$72
Dual	\$38
Student Dual	\$15

#### **Phil Shade, Registrar**

registrar@agophila.org www.agophila.org  
516 Berkshire Drive, Souderton PA 18964 215-723-8220

## IN PARADISUM

### Rev. Eugene C. Root

Morrisville PA, October 15, 2011

Pastor Eugene Root was born in Fremont, Ohio, where he graduated from high school in 1964. He then earned a BA in Humanities from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, and his Master of Divinity from Hamma School of Theology (now Trinity). His first parish after ordination was Faith Memorial Lutheran Church in the near west side of Detroit.

Upon completing an M.A. in International Relations and Economic Development in Washington, D.C., Pastor Root served as a teacher and chaplain at the Malosa Secondary School in Malawi, Central Africa. In 1990 he began a ministry at Holy Cross Church in North Philadelphia, followed by interim-transition ministries in Roxborough, Levittown, Olney, Southampton, and University City.

Outside of pastoral ministry he was an accomplished organist and served in that capacity for the Church of the Incarnation in Morrisville, and St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Newton. He was also passionate about social justice and politics. He was active with Men of All Colors Together, and from the time of the Vietnam war when he actively protested, to the present he had the courage to speak out for what he believed politically.

I invite our chapter to join me in offering heartfelt condolences to his sister and partner. Donations can be made in his memory to the Reach Out Foundation, 229 Plaza Boulevard, Ste. 19, Morrisville, PA 19067.

*MEC, Editor*

#### Bruce Shultz

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

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

Blessed John Henry Newman Fellowship  
Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park  
American Record Guide

## IN PARADISUM

### Mary Louise Varricchione-Lyon

Doylestown PA, January 16, 2012, age 77

Mary Louise Varricchione-Lyon was born in Burlington, VT and graduated from Cathedral High School. From there she attended the Boston Conservatory for undergraduate work, and earned an MA from Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY. Throughout her adult life she lived music, directing choirs and playing the organ. She lived and worked in various states, including Vermont, New Jersey, and most recently Pennsylvania.

Recently she was part of our chapter's substitute list and held several long term interim positions. She also served as director of the Joyful Singers in Bucks County, a

group that took part in the 'Singing For Seniors' festivals through Bucks County Choral Society, with Helen Kemp. She is very fondly remembered by her singers for her musicality and grace.

She and her husband, himself an 'amateur' musician, lived most recently in Doylestown. I invite our chapter to join me in offering heartfelt condolences to Mary Louise's husband George, of Doylestown, and her son George Lyon IV. In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that donations be made to Doylestown Hospital 595 West State St. Doylestown, PA 18901.

*MEC, Editor*



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## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR ANGLICAN MUSICIANS

The Association of Anglican Musicians is an organization for professional musicians and clergy who are members of the Anglican Communion or who work in a church or church-related institution of the Anglican tradition. Programs and conferences offer education, collegial support, professional growth, spiritual nourishment, and personal refreshment. Through these programs and in the pages of the monthly Journal, AAM works to support composers and other artists who create for the church, to be a force for just compensation and benefits, to foster relationships of mutual respect and trust between clergy and musicians, and to communicate with the Episcopal Church through Diocesan and national committees. A mentor program works to connect young church musicians with more experienced mentors.

Philadelphia has been front and center in the Episcopal Church from its founding at the first General Convention in 1789 to the ordination of women to the priesthood at Church of the Advocate in 1974 – and beyond. This year we are honored to dedicate the conference to the late Dr. Gerre Hancock, founder of AAM with James Litton and Raymond Glover.

For more information, membership information, or to download a brochure, see the AAM website [www.anglicanmusicians.org](http://www.anglicanmusicians.org). Those not eligible for membership may support its aims and efforts as a Friend of AAM. We would like to make our AGO colleagues aware of the wonderful educational opportunity being offered in June:



*The following is an article submitted by Martha Johnson about the AAM, in keeping with our ongoing series recognizing and cooperating with sister organizations towards a common goal.*

## THE JUNE CONFERENCE FOR EPISCOPAL MUSICIANS June 17-22

This June will bring several hundred members of the Association for Anglican Musicians to Philadelphia, “where it all began” to worship together, hear some magnificent choral and organ concerts, and gather for workshops and fellowship. The conference is open to both members and non-members, and will be of interest to both musicians and clergy.

*Some highlights:* **A Festive Arrival** includes the spectacular “Crossing” choir and a late night visit to the Kimmel center to see Alan Morrison playing the Dobson organ; **A Day in Old Philadelphia** with Opening Eucharist at Christ Church, Philadelphia, and a recital by Mark Laubach at historic St. Peter’s; **A Day in Princeton, NJ**, with a stop for Morning Prayer at St. David’s, Wayne, with the choir of St. Paul’s, Chestnut Hill (Zachary Hemenway, Organist/Choirmaster). Princeton will include vocal ensemble Tenet and the Paul Fritts organ at Princeton Seminary, Princeton University Chapel for Evensong, the choir of Trinity Church, Princeton, with director Tom Whittemore Organist Eric Plutz. **A Day for Musicians and Clergy**, led by Dr. William Roberts (Virginia Seminary) along with The Rt. Rev. Paul Marshall (Diocese of Bethlehem) and the Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander (Diocese of Atlanta), **Spectacular Finale** with Closing Eucharist featuring area Children’s Choirs at St. Luke and the Epiphany.

See the website ([www.aam2012.org](http://www.aam2012.org)) for detailed registration information. There are special discounts for students and daily rates are also available. Also see the website to download brochures for Clergy Day and the Friday trip.

Please look for the AAM 2012 advertisement in next month’s Crescendo!

The interior of Christ Church, Philadelphia, where the Opening service of AAM2012 will be held

## SAINT MARK'S CHURCH

**MARCH 25th at 4pm****Solemn Evensong and Benediction for the Feast of the Annunciation**

Ave Regina Caelorum a 8 - Victoria Preces and Responses - Bernard Rose

Ave Maria - Felix Mendelssohn O Salutaris - Herbert Howells

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis - Roxanna Panufnik

(World Premiere - a joint commission Saint Mark's Church and the Exultate Singers in Bristol)

**The Choir of Saint Mark's Church, Matthew Glandorf, Organist and Choirmaster****Thomas Sheehan, Organist**

Roxanna Panufnik (born 1968) is a British composer of Polish heritage. Since studying composition at London's Royal Academy of Music, she has written a wide range of pieces including opera, ballet, music theatre, choral works, chamber compositions and music for film and television which are regularly performed all over the world. Her most widely performed works include Westminster Mass, commissioned for Westminster Cathedral, and The Music Programme, an opera for Polish National Opera's millennium. Her compositions have been widely recorded and 2008-09 saw no fewer than 18 premieres in nine different countries, including artists such as the Mobius Ensemble, Tasmin Little with the Orchestra of the Swan, The Sixteen, the Dante Quartet, and the choir of King's College Cambridge, plus an interfaith prelude with a Jerusalem premiere given by Valery Gergiev and the World Orchestra for Peace.

**MARCH 30th at 8pm****"The Musical Offering" (das Musikalische Opfer)**

A Tribute to one of Europe's grandest Monarchs: Frederick the Great

**With members of the Philadelphia Bach Collegium on Period Instruments**

Dr. Steven Zohn - Flauto Traverso Rebecca Harris - Violin

Christof Richter - Violin and Viola Stephen Bard - Oboe and Oboe d'Amore

Anna Marsh - Bassoon Matthew Glandorf - Harpsichord, Organ

The origin of Bach's masterpiece "The Musical Offering" lies in a visit to the court of Frederick the Great of Prussia in the year 1747. Frederick challenged Bach to improvise a fugue based on a theme created by the monarch. This tune is now known as the "Royal Theme." Some time later, Bach sent Frederick the score of a vast collection of works based upon this theme. The Philadelphia Bach Collegium will present the entirety of this collection of works arranged for six players. Scores will be provided for the audience to follow along with the performance of some of Bach's most complex and bizarre music. Directed by Matthew Glandorf.

**ST. MARK'S CHURCH**

**1625 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
215-735-1416**

**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: 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
Fred Astmann	Cherry Hill, NJ	856-424-3820
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
Doris J. Dabrowski	Philadelphia, PA	215-387-6635
Tedd Didden CAGO	Ambler, PA	215-646-0294
Joyce Gambrell Drayton	Philadelphia, PA	215-635-5778
Gina Dussair	Philadelphia, PA	267-495-9339
Karen B. Fallows	Hatfield, PA	215-822-6762
Susanna Faust	Coatesville, 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
Kirsten Olson	Collegeville, PA	610-764-6264
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
Karen L. Thomas	Yeadon, PA	610-931-9150
Robert Upton	Broomall, PA	610-356-5245
Virginia K. Vaalburg	Glen Mills, PA	610-358-0946
John Van Sant	Trenton, NJ	609-498-1768
Elizabeth C. Walsh	Huntingdon Valley, PA	215-801-8624
Karen Whitney	Philadelphia, PA	215-424-8450
Esther Wideman	Philadelphia, PA	215-687-6258
Robert H. Wilkinson	Ridley Park, PA	610-574-6866

## SAINT MARK'S CHURCH

**MARCH 31st at 8pm****The complete Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes**

The Curtis Institute of Music Organ Department perform on Saint Mark's historic 1937 Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ  
Caroline Robinson, Brian Andersen, Tom Sheehan, Patrick Kreeger

The Great Eighteen Chorale Preludes, BWV 651–668, are a set of chorale preludes for organ prepared by Johann Sebastian Bach in Leipzig in his final decade (1740-1750). They are adapted from earlier works composed in Weimar, where he was court organist. The works form an encyclopedic collection of large-scale chorale preludes, in a variety of styles harking back to the previous century. These works were used a prelude music to the service and are based on chorale tunes. Together with the *Orgelbüchlein*, the *Schübler Chorales* and the third book of the *Clavier-Übung*, they represent the summit of Bach's sacred music for solo organ. This evening of music will be performed by students in the organ studio of the Curtis Institute of Music.

**APRIL 1st at 8pm****THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN**

With Choral Arts Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Bach Collegium

Aaron Sheehan - Evangelist	Brian Ming Chu - Baritone (Pilate)
Colin Dill - Bass (Christus)	Clara Rottsohlk - Soprano
Steven Bradshaw - Tenor	Benjamin Starr - Counter Tenor
Erika Tacacs - Mezzo Soprano	Matthew Glandorf - Artistic Director and Conductor

According to Robert Schumann, The St. John Passion stands out as his greatest choral and orchestral works in the Western musical tradition. It has extraordinary dramatic content, choral writing and is more "unbridled" immediate in its expression and style. Our production will feature an exciting lineup of soloists, the Philadelphia Bach Collegium, and a choir of forty singers from Choral Arts, accompanied by an orchestra of period instruments. This promises to be the choral event of the Season!

Tickets: \$30 Regular, \$20 senior, \$10 students.

Please visit our website to find out about subscription discounts.:

<http://choralarts.com/bachfestival>

## ST. MARK'S CHURCH

1625 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
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## TALE PIPES



MARY ELIZABETH CAMPBELL, EDITOR

[Crescendo@agophila.org](mailto:Crescendo@agophila.org)

**What Wondrous Love is This - 1811**

*Tune Name: Wondrous Love Text: Anon.*

*Music: James Christopher (uncertain)*

This hymn is thought to have originated in the Appalachian Mountains where many settlers were of Scottish and Irish descent. The words were first published in A General Selection of the Newest and Most Admired Hymns and Spiritual Songs Now in Use in 1811 in Lynchburg, Virginia. In 1835 William Walker published the text together with the tune we now know as Wondrous Love in The Southern Harmony, the first edition of his shape note system hymn collections. Walker, born in 1809 in South Carolina, helped to bring the folk music he grew up with to print.

*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,...  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul...*

Folk hymns often involved a fair amount of repetition in order that pieces could be learned by rote. The inherent simplicity also has a stark poignancy and a beautiful, plaintive feel. The tune Wondrous Love has a modal feel to it, and is often described as 'haunting.' The author of the tune is in some doubt - this may have been a tune passed down through generations, and therefore changing as it went, and eventually written down. Walker credits James Christopher of Spartansburg, SC, in one of the later editions of Southern Harmony.

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,.....  
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great 'I AM.'  
While millions join the theme, I will sing....*

As we approach Lent and Easter, we can embrace this gem of American hymnody. It can be something to meditate quietly with. It can be sung very simply, or quite powerfully, especially in the final verse that speaks of freedom from death. It is also a beautiful and comforting possible hymn for a funeral or for use during the Month of All Souls.

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,....  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity I'll sing on...*

# CRESCENDO

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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