

CRESCENDO

SEPTEMBER 2009

VOLUME LXXII, NO. 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

IN THIS ISSUE...

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER EVENT	1
DEAN'S LETTER <i>David Beaty, Dean</i>	2
CRESCENDO STAFF INFORMATION	2
REGISTRAR'S CORNER	3
PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER AGO: <i>Offices and Committees Directory</i>	3
CHAPTER PATRONS	4
CHAPTER EVENTS 2008-2009	5
SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST LIST	6
POSITIONS AVAILABLE	7
CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME	8
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	9
OCTOBER CHAPTER EVENT	9



Photo by Roy Harber

Service of Evensong and Installation of Officers Sunday, 27 September 2009, 4:00pm

The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia
201 South 21st Street, Philadelphia PA 19103

The Choir of the First Presbyterian Church
Mr. Andrew Senn, Director of Music and Organist
The Rev. Mr. Jesse Garner, Preaching

Our 2009-2010 season commences with a service of Evensong and Installation of Officers in First Presbyterian Church. The service will feature music of Howells, Stanford, and Senn. The choir has long been part of worship in the sanctuary at 21st and Walnut. The legendary Alexander McCurdy led the music program at the Second and then the combined First and Second Churches for over 40 years. A professional ensemble, it continues in the tradition of quality Christian music that was set by its predecessors.

Autumn is one of the most charming times of year in Center City Philadelphia, and the outstanding

Continued on page 9

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, i.e. 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.

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The deadline for the next issue, October 2009, is September 1, 2009.

•••

It was most apropos that I began my tenure as your dean by attending an AGO convention. As my work schedule precluded attending the Region III Convention, I headed north to the Regions I & II Convention in Boston. Outstanding performances filled the three-day event, and the entire occasion allowed me opportunity to reflect on the state of this American Guild of Organists, and of our chapter.



David Beatty

I remain in awe of the breadth, depth, diversity, and uniqueness of our membership. Our ranks include beginning organists of all ages as well as accomplished and talented performers. Among our members are seasoned organists, young and not-so-young, who have garnered international acclaim, whose concert performance schedules are completely full. We have those who perform concerts on a daily or weekly basis, and we have those who may only present a concert once in a decade. Our membership consists of those who make their full-time living in music, those who are part-time musicians, and those who have yet to earn any remuneration for their music making. While we are the American Guild of Organists, our music making is not limited to the playing of the organ. Some of the full-time musicians in our midst may spend the majority of their time teaching; some may focus on choral conducting; others may be composing; yet others consider a different medium to be their principal instrument. One indispensable group of our members has devoted their lives to the care and servicing of organs. We also have members who are not organists themselves, but share a love for the King of Instruments.

Many of our members provide music in religious service, with offerings spanning several faith traditions and denominations. However, more than a third of the members do not hold positions at a religious institution. More than ten percent of the membership is now on the "Substitute List". While we have members who have many decades of tenure in service of a single church, we also have those who have spent decades in the quest for their first permanent music appointment.

We play a diverse set of instruments: from one to six manuals; pipe, electronic, or reed; with electric, electro-pneumatic, or tracker actions; historic and contemporary; romantic, orchestral, baroque, or classic. Some have access to instruments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Others must relegate their rehearsal time to the wee hours of the night. Still others may only be granted access to an instrument once a month or less frequently.

Continued on page 11

CHAPTER EVENTS IN REVIEW



Alan Morrison and Dr. Harry Wilkinson, FAGO, at the Philadelphia Chapter Annual Meeting.

Philadelphia, PA June 5, 2009. Philadelphia Chapter members gathered for their Annual Meeting and a program lead by Dean **Alan Morrison**. Philadelphia Legends explored the rich musical traditions of the First Baptist Church, which was founded in 1698. Morrison, the church's current Musical Director and Organist, focused on past music directors (**Frederick Maxson, Walter Baker, J. Earl Ness, Jr., Jon Spong, John Richardson**), and played selections associated with those organists. He was assisted by soprano **Mary Elizabeth Williams**, an international opera star whose musical talent was fostered by the singers and organists at First Baptist.

Afterwards, guests attended a gala reception to thank our outgoing Officers, especially the evening's Recitalist and Dean, Alan Morrison. Newly elected Officers were announced: David Beatty, Dean, Rudolph Lucente, Sub-Dean and Executive Committee Members Ryehee Hong, Marcia Mau, Stephen Schreiber and Karen Whitney.

---Elizabeth Cochran

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

JOE LEWIS, REGISTRAR

NEW YEAR STARTS AGAIN!

Welcome back to all of our returning and new chapter members for the 2009-2010 membership year! So far we have 327 members registered (as of our publication deadline), but we still haven't heard from about 147 previous 08/09 members on their intentions for joining. Please expect a gentle "reminder call" sometime soon from one of our chapter officers or Executive Committee members to get your dues form in to me, or at least to let us know your plans for 2009-2010. Even though we have passed the July 1st, 2009 beginning of this new membership year, you can, of course, still join us. If you have misplaced your form, simply request another sent to you by mail from me, or download one from our chapter website <www.agophila.org>.

NOTE: This September issue of Crescendo is being sent to all 2009-2010 members as part of their membership benefits. AND it is also going to all our now lapsed 2008-2009 members, BUT only as a courtesy, in hopes it will serve as a reminder for them to get their dues sent in.

IN MEMORIAM

We learned (too late to get published in our June issue) that member Ruth H. Smith, CAGO, passed away this spring. I was also informed that past member Franklin Zigman passed away this summer during the week of 6/21/2009. His service was on July 2nd at the Church of the Redeemer in Springfield. Our thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of these members.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We were fortunate to have 19 brand new members join us this summer. Please make sure that you make them feel welcome and get them involved in our chapter activities and programs:

Mr. Stephen M. Benscoter, Hilltown, PA;
 Mr. David Deratzian, North Wales, PA;
 Mr. Christopher Drummond, Philadelphia, PA;
 Ms. Kristine L. Fosbenner, Sellersville, PA;
 Mr. John M. Grecia, Broomall, PA;
 Mr. John P. Hare, Springfield, PA;
 Mr. Zachary D. Hemenway, Philadelphia, PA;
 Mr. Michael Clair Huffman, Allentown, PA;
 Dr. Michael E. Krentz, Bethlehem, PA;
 Ms. Madeline J. Lee, Philadelphia, PA;
 Mr. Sean Ludwig, Sellersville, PA;
 Rev. Richard G. Miller, Telford, PA

*Continued on page 11***MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

JOSEPH LEWIS, 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 our Registrar, Joe Lewis at: 49 North Spring Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460
 610-935-0895
 Registrar@agophila.org

PHILADELPHIA
 CHAPTER
 AMERICAN GUILD
 OF ORGANISTS

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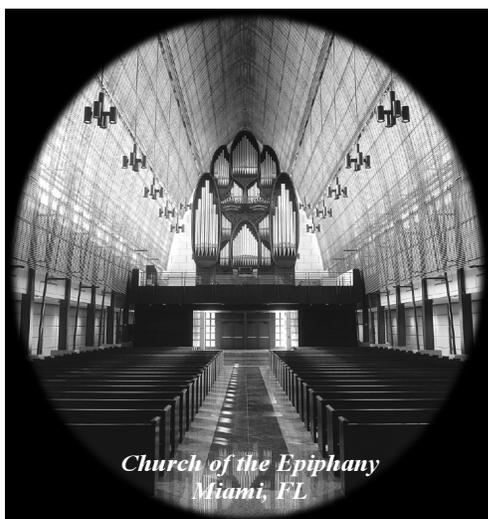
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CHAPTER EVENTS

2009-2010 PROGRAM YEAR

Sunday, 27 September, 2009, 4:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia
Evensong and Installation of Officers

Saturday, 3 October, 2009, 11:00 am
St. Mark's Locust St., Philadelphia
A weekend with Barry Rose

Sunday, 8 November, 2009, 4:00 pm
St. Martin's-in-the-Field, Chestnut Hill
Members Recital: Music of Felix Mendelssohn

TBD December, 2009
Encore, Noël, Encore
Pot-luck Dinner and Christmas Conviviality

Saturday, 16 January, 2010
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
January Jumpstart

Sunday, 28 February, 2010, 4:00 pm
Grace Epiphany, Mt. Airy
Chapter and Regional competition winner, Tom Sheehan, in concert

Sunday, 18 April, 2010, 4:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran, Lansdale
Recital: Isabelle Demers

Saturday, 8 May, 2010 (tentative)
An Introduction to the Organ for children

Sunday, 13 June, 2010
End of Season Celebration
Spirit of Philadelphia Cruise (tentative)

Kimmel Center Presents: Master Musicians: Organ
Co-sponsored by the
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Saturday, 17 October, 2009, 3:00pm
OLIVIER LATRY

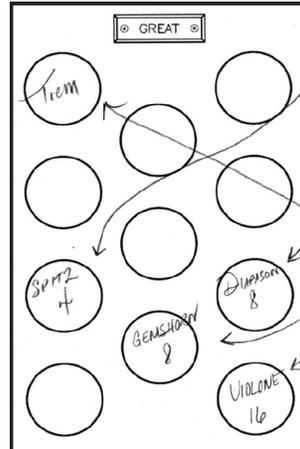
Saturday, 6 March, 2010, 3:00pm
CAMERON CARPENTER

Saturday, 8 May, 2010, 3:00pm
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- Principal 4
- Oktav 4
- Spitzflöte 4
- Super Octave 2
- Fifteenth 2
- Waldflöte 2
- Fourniture IV
- Grand Mixture XI
- Trumpet 8
- Trompette 8
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IN PERPETUITY

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Bruce Shultz

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 Church of St. Francis de Sales
 University of Pennsylvania

Lee de Mets, FAGO

St. Jude R.C. Church, Chalfont PA
 National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA

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Advent Lutheran Church, Harleysville, PA

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.

Substitute	Location	Phone Number
Frederick K. Astmann	Cherry Hill, NJ	856-424-3820
Robert A. Bader	Philadelphia, PA	215-413-0326
Debra S. Bacak	Sellersville, PA	215-257-0553
Dr. David P. Beatty	Hanover, MD	215-518-1025
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ALLEN POPJOY, COORDINATOR

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St. Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ
1193 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425
610-933-6419
www.stpeterspikeland.org

St. Peter's Pikeland UCC is a family-oriented church with a highly valued music ministry. We are seeking a part-time Organist/Choir Accompanist to join our music ministry. St. Peter's, located in Chester County near Philadelphia, has an established music program supporting a traditional worship service with Adult and Children's Choirs.

Responsibilities include providing traditional worship service music and accompanying the Adult and Children's Choirs; One traditional 10:00 a.m. service; Thursday evening Adult Choir rehearsal; Sunday morning Children's Choir rehearsal; Availability for other services as needed, including weddings and funerals. Instruments include an Allen 2-manual Digital Organ, piano, and Clavinova CVP30. Other opportunities exist for musical leadership, such as a Handbell Choir. Compensation is in the \$10,000-12,000 range and is based upon experience. A complete job description is available from St. Peter's Pikeland UCC, and more information about our church is available at our web-site, www.stpeterspikeland.org.

For further information and to apply, write St. Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ, Attn: Organist/Choir Accompanist Search Leader, 1193 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs, PA, 19425; or email St. Peter's at stpetersuc@verizon.net ; or phone the Church, office at 610-933-6419.

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
103 E. 9th Street, Chester, PA 19013
610-872-5711
stpaulschester@verizon.net

Music and liturgy are at the heart of St. Paul's parish life. We are seeking an Organist & Choirmaster to lead our music program. Our instrument is a very well maintained two-manual Aeolian-Skinner, and our parish choir consists of talented volunteers, many of whom are trained singers. Our Organist & Choirmaster will play for our Sunday 10:00am service, direct the choir, and rehearse after the service. There are no regular weekday rehearsals. Music is chosen in partnership with the clergy. The salary begins at \$16,000 per year with annual increases based on performance. Vacation is four Sundays per year, additional time negotiable. This position will be available in September. Please send your resume to Fr. Timothy Kroh at the address or e-mail above.

ORGANIST

Saint Anne's Church
2119 Old Welsh Road, Abington, PA 19001
215-659-1674
KBHastings@verizon.net

Saint Anne's Church is a theological sound, culturally diverse congregation in the Anglo-Catholic tradition committed to offering praise to Almighty God that is traditional and classical, contemporary and creative. The liturgy is the heart-beat of our parish life and ministry. We are interviewing individuals to serve as the organist. The person will serve with the present Choirmaster as they both

lead an adult choir and youth choir in a weekday rehearsal and Sunday liturgy. Compensation is in keeping with the Vestry budget and candidates' qualification. If interested, send your resume to Father Brewster Hastings at the address listed above.

ORGANIST

Trevose United Methodist Church
4937 Church Ave, Langhorne, PA 19053
(215) 357-0481

Trevose United Methodist Church, located at Brownsville Road and Church Ave. in Trevose, is seeking an organist for one Sunday service (11:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. during the summer, July 4 to Labor Day.) There are two services on Christmas Eve. No choir rehearsal; Allen organ. Salary based on experience. Please send resumé to the church address above.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

St John's United Church of Christ
315 Gay Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-933-5311

St. John's United Church of Christ is seeking a Director of Music with full responsibility for the music program including: playing the organ for 10:45 am service and for special services throughout the church year, selecting and preparing preludes and postludes appropriate to the day / liturgical season and selecting anthems for and directing the adult chancel choir, a youth choir, and a handbell choir. Church has a two manual Austin pipe organ. Current salary is \$14,500.00 with paid vacation. Applicants should send a resume and letter of interest to Organist Search c/o Ruth Brobst, St John's UCC, 315 Gay Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460 or reply via e-mail: gruber@stjohnsucc.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST

First Presbyterian Church
356 Summit Rd., Springfield, PA 19064
610-543-5110

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield (Delaware County) is seeking a dynamic individual to be Music Director/Organist. Applicant would be expected to lead a variety of music in worship including a Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Praise Band, Youth Choir and congregational singing. This is a part time position.

The organ is a 3-manual, blended instrument of Walker Digital electronics and Moller pipes with a 6-stop digital antiphonal section. The organ was designed and installed by C.M. Walsh Pipe Organ builders and is currently serviced by them as well.

Interested candidates should contact jmfonash@comcast.net or First Presbyterian Church at the address above.

ORGANIST/CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

Lansdale United Methodist Church
300 N. Broad St., Lansdale, PA 19446
215-855-8364

2 Sunday Services organ duties; One weeknight choir rehearsal; Begin July 2009; 3-manual Allen organ; Salary to be determined; Contact Pastor Max Jaouen at the church, 215-855-8364. Fax resume to 215-855-1534 or email: lumcmail@verizon.net.

*Positions Available
Continued from page 7*

ORGANIST

Gloria Dei Church
570 Welsh Rd., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215-947-8200
www.gloriadei.com

Gloria Dei Church in Huntingdon Valley, PA is currently seeking a staff organist. The church has a strong and growing music ministry. The organ is a 3 manual electronic Allen and is a fine instrument. Responsibilities include providing prelude, offertory, postlude, hymn accompaniment, and occasional accompaniment of the Cathedral Choir. (There is a permanent staff accompanist.) The choir consists of about 30 members made up of volunteers and scholarship singers from Rowan and Temple Universities. This group sings a wide range of musical styles ranging from the standard classical repertoire, to spirituals and contemporary works. This season they presented three major works with orchestra including the Faure *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*.

Job description:

- Play for one Sunday morning service at 11:00 a.m.
- Play for special services during the year (Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday, etc.)
- Accompany large works when necessary
- Play for scheduled weddings and funerals
- Salary is within AGO guidelines.

Please contact Ben Spalding, Director of Music at 913-226-5413 or benaspaldi@aol.com if interested.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Folcroft, PA
610- 583-4977

St. John's is seeking a church musician to provide musical leadership to enhance our worship experience.

Responsibilities include:

- Playing the organ or electric piano for all services throughout the church year (one Sunday morning service, mid-week Lenten services and other festival services throughout the year)
- Selecting and preparing preludes, offertories and postludes appropriate to the day/liturgical season
- Planning, in consultation with the pastor and worship and music committee, special services (i.e. Thanksgiving, Good Friday, weddings, funerals etc).
- Selecting anthems for and directing the choir.

The position involves approximately 6-10 hours per week (Sunday morning along with evening choir rehearsal during the week). Interested candidates should contact Pastor Cindy Ray at the number above.

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Linfield United Church of Christ
P. O. Box 4, Royersford, PA 19468
610-495-6480
linflducc@aol.com

Linfield United Church of Christ is seeking a part-time Choir Director for our small

but dedicated choir which seeks to learn and to grow. Linfield is a liturgical church and sings from the New Century Hymnal.

Duties include:

- Directing the adult choir at weekly rehearsals and 9 a.m. Sunday morning worship services from September to May
- Coordinating music for worship on Sundays and for special services (Lent, Holy Week, Advent and Christmas, Taizé) and coordinating special summer music
- Maintaining and expanding the music library
- Working closely with the pastor and the Worship and Music Committee
- Providing support and assistance for the leaders of the children's choir.

Salary commensurate with duties. Send inquiries or resumé to the above address.

ORGANIST

Nantmeal United Methodist Church
359 Nantmeal Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343

One Sunday service, no choir. Pipe organ. Contact church office at 610-469-8655.

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Congratulations and Welcome

to Ted Didden for successfully completing the Colleague Examination! The American Guild of Organists was initially chartered as a educational organization, with certification as a key component. Ted Didden, CAGO, now joins the esteemed ranks of certificate holders.

While we always welcome new members, we are especially delighted that, as a result of attending this summer's Pipe Organ Encounter in Bethlehem PA, Andrew Michael Dierkes, Elizabeth Dierkes, John Paul Hare, Madeline J. Lee, Hanna Schoendorfer, and Alexander M. Smith have each become members of our Philadelphia Chapter. During POEs held throughout the country, teenagers were introduced to the organ in a variety of settings. Each of the POEs offered private lessons and coaching to all attendees during the week. Students participated in master classes, workshops, organ crawls, organ factory tours, and concerts. For many, the POE is the beginning of a life-long relationship with the AGO. We encourage all of members to make an extra effort to welcome these young people into our chapter and to support their ongoing interest in the King of Instruments.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 12:30 PM

Eric Plutz, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. (Note new day this season is THURSDAY!!) Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 12:30 PM

Daniel Beckwith, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 7:30 PM

Kathleen Scheide, faculty harpsichord recital. Works by Bach, Forqueray, Roegen-Champion. Free. Westminster Choir College, Williamson Hall, 101 Walnut Lane, Princeton NJ 609.921.7100

Chapter September Event
Continued from page 1

music making and excellent preaching that have long been the legacy of First Presbyterian will energize you as you begin your new program year.

First Presbyterian is located at the southeast corner of Walnut and 21st Streets, just two blocks west of Rittenhouse Square.

Directions for transit by car:

From 95, take the Vine Street Expressway and exit at the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Turn right off the ramp onto 22nd Street, first right onto the Parkway, and first right onto 21st Street. Take 21st Street to Walnut Street.

From the Schuylkill Expressway, enter the Vine Street Expressway and immediately take the Benjamin Franklin Parkway/23rd Street exit. Follow the signs to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, but turn right at 21st Street. Take 21st Street to Walnut Street.

Directions for transit by SEPTA

From the Market Frankford elevated train, transfer to any of the subway surface routes at 30th Street if going east, or at 15th Street if going west. From the subway surface routes, stop at 19th Street and transfer to the 17 bus. Disembark two blocks south at Walnut Street. Either transfer to a west-bound bus on Walnut Street or walk west two blocks to 21st Street.

From the Broad Street subway, stop at Walnut/Locust, or at Walnut Street if taking the C bus. Transfer to any of the west-bound busses on Walnut Street, and disembark at 21st Street.

CHAPTER OCTOBER EVENT

A Weekend with Barry Rose, OBE

Saturday, 3 October, 2009

11:00 A.M. Open Rehearsal

1:00 P.M. Lunch

1:30 P.M. Lecture

Sunday, 4 October 2009; 11:00 A.M.

High Mass: Communion Service in G - C.V. Stanford

4:00 P.M. Choral Evensong and Benediction

Responses: Anthony Piccolo

Service: Evening Service in G — C.V. Stanford

Anthem: O Lord Our Governor — Rose

St. Mark's Church

1625 Locust Street, Philadelphia PA 19103

On Wednesday 29 July 1981, millions of television viewers around the world tuned in to the live telecast of a service from St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The event was a royal wedding, and the memorable choral works, reverberating through the cathedral and into living rooms everywhere, were conducted by Barry Rose. Aside from a renowned tenure (1974 – 1984) at St. Paul's, Rose has also been Master of Music at Guildford Cathedral, Master of the Choirs at the King's School, Canterbury, and Organist & Master of the Choristers at St. Albans Cathedral, from which he retired in 1997. His discography is impressive, with outstanding representation of the finest in cathedral music, as well as lighter crossover fare. (The album, *Jubilate! Golden Favourites from St. Paul's Cathedral*, with the incomparable performances of "O for the wings of a dove", "My Way", and "I'd like to teach the world to sing" acquired a cult-like following in certain circles.)



Barry Rose, OBE

It is seldom that we have the opportunity to learn from such luminaries of the profession. Attend all, or as many, of the events as your schedule permits. We are most grateful to be able to co-sponsor the Saturday portions of this weekend with Barry Rose, sponsored by St. Mark's Church, Matthew Glandorf, Organist and Choirmaster.

[To facilitate appropriate provisioning for the brief light lunch on Saturday, we ask that you notify David Beatty, dpbeatty@erols.com, 215-518-1025, no later than Sunday 27 September, if

you intend to partake of the physical food. The entire weekend will provide you with abundant spiritual food.]



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David P. Beatty, Ph.D.

(215) 518-1025

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.

Church of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont
Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park
American Record Guide

Roy Harker

Church of Saint Asaph
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

Dean's Letter
Continued from page 2

Our members have been exposed to the organ in widely varying fashion. We have members who grew up in towns where the largest instrument was a Hammond spinet. We have others who from infancy have experienced the sound of magnificent 3, 4, or 5 manual instruments every week at church, and some who have bathed in the sumptuous colors of an even larger department store organ since they were toddlers. Some of us were exposed to live performances of organ works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, Widor, Vierne, Dupré, and Messiaen routinely from earliest childhood. Others never heard organ works of Bach until purchasing recordings much later in life.

Some of our members prefer to play works composed before 1750. Others find fulfillment in the intensity of Max Reger. Some experience religious ecstasy in the mysticism of Olivier Messiaen. Yet others choose to avoid key signatures with sharps (or flats).

Our diversity is not limited to our exposure to the organ, but extends to our personalities, our skills, our cultural heritages, and our extracurricular activities. We have extraverts and introverts, "Yes" people and "No" people, optimists and pessimists, engineers, educators, accountants, chemists, physicists, physicians, nurses, lawyers, artists, those who are financially independently wealthy and those who scrape by from gig to gig.

Among our membership we have a wide variety of strongly held, and often conflicting, opinions. Our members contribute to the ebb and flow in editorial battles regarding the nature of the organ: Are electronic organs legitimate? Must an organ have tracker action to be authentic? Is it a sin to enhance a pipe instrument with electronic stops (or to enhance an electronic instrument with pipe ranks)? Should instruments be preserved for all eternity in the manner they were originally built? Do multiple memory levels and modern combination actions defile historic instruments? Can we have an "authentic" performance without an "authentic" audience that has never experienced motor vehicles, radio, television, or the internet? We also debate repertoire and performance practices. Is all memorized performance robotic and lacking spontaneity? Does all performance from score represent failure of the artist to learn the work? Are organ transcriptions "legitimate" in an organ concert? Should organ repertoire for public performance exclude dissonance? Should we eliminate the tritone within a V7 chord in deference to the more aurally sensitive? Are our concerts too "high brow", esoteric, and cerebral, or are they too "low brow", trivial, and infantile?

Each of us is unique in our opinions and in our experiences. Yet, regardless of what we think an organ is, and regardless of what we think constitutes the ideal instrument, performance practice, or repertoire, we are all united as members of this Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We have all chosen to align with an organization whose purpose is "to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members."

We have been blessed for the last two years with the most capable, calm, and thorough leadership of Alan Morrison as Chapter Dean. I am excited about the term before me, and delighted with the Executive Committee and

elected officers who will be helping to realize the purpose of the guild. However, the efforts of the 18 elected are merely the starting point. I ask and I charge each and every one of you to take this Mission Statement of the AGO to heart. Throughout the coming year, consider what you can do to manifest each of the elements of the mission statement. What will you do to promote the organ? Have you encouraged excellence in performance today? In this diverse chapter of unique individuals, will you be supportive of a colleague whose uniqueness clashes with yours?

David P. Beatty

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Registrar's Corner
Continued from page 3

Ms. Patricia Nyce, Douglassville, PA;
Ms. Caroline J. Robinson, Philadelphia, PA;
Ms. Hannah Schoendorfer, North Wales, PA;
Mr. V. Paul Serresseque, New Castle, DE;
Mr. Thomas Sheehan, Red Hook, NY;
Mr. Theodore Thomas, Philadelphia, PA.

Joe Lewis
Registrar

Home address: 49 North Spring Lane, Phoenixville PA 19460-2621
Email: registrar@agophila.org Phone: 610-935-0895

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The AGO national Committee on Career Development and Support announces its workshop for the 2010 Washington, D.C. national convention. The topic of the workshop will be "Lightning Rod Topics - Maintaining Professionalism While Resolving White Hot Issues".

To assist the committee, all AGO members who would like to have the panel discuss their question/situation should submit their question/situation by email to Roy Roberts, Committee Director at careerdevelopment@agohq.org. In order to protect privacy, all names, dates, locations, and other identifying features will be changed.

CRESCENDO

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Katherine Reier, Circulation Coordinator
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