

CRESCENDO

JANUARY 2010

VOLUME LXXII, NO. 5

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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The Philadelphia, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh Valley, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwest Jersey, Reading, and York Chapters of the American Guild of Organists present:

January JumpStart

a workshop for the church musician seeking new ideas for a new year

Saturday, January 16, 2010

8:15am – 4:00pm

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA



John Walker

2010!! Where have those last 10 years gone? It's definitely time for that January "transfusion" of new ideas, exciting literature, old friends, new friends, and a gourmet luncheon together. So bundle up and join us on a blustery mid-January Saturday – this is our gift to all of you for your dedication to churches throughout the land. Venite to Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church!

This January, right after the morning workshop sessions, we will gather together in that beautiful sanctuary and lift our voices in praise to God. The Service of Morning Prayer will be led by The Reverend Dr. Thomas Troeger, Yale Divinity School, and Dr. John Walker, Peabody Institute. Dr. Troeger's message for us all will be "The Perfect Registration" – the interrelationship between word and music. And the preaching, the organ music, and the singing will be magnificent!

The morning and afternoon workshop sessions will be packed with talented presenters from across our region. They will be sharing their favorites, the Best of the Best (organ, choral, and handbell music), teaching us new techniques, elevating our expectations with new challenges, and inspiring us with new visions in our common mission as church musicians. Read on for the January Feast:

Organ Master Classes & Lecture/Demonstration

Dr. John Walker, Peabody Institute.

Playing in Tune: Worship as the Ensemble of Word and Music

Dr. Thomas Troeger, Yale Divinity School.

Cross-Cultural Music for Choirs and Congregations

David Schelat, Wilmington, DE

Useful Organ Repertoire Review

David Furniss, Lansdale.

Adapting Accompaniments and Conducting from the Console

Dennis Elwell, Philadelphia.



Thomas Troeger



David Schelat

Continued on page 4

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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1/4 page:	\$70	\$530
1/2 page:	\$85	\$630
full page:	\$140	
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(members only; no phone numbers)

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Inclusivity?

During my last interim organist assignment, I was to participate in the ordination of the parish's curate. As a deacon, she had been serving the parish for several months. For her ordination, she did choose a significant departure from the tradition of the parish. Much of the music was to be accompanied by a band (none of whom worship with the congregation). I'd like to share with you a few of the email messages exchanged in advance of the service, and then comment on observations made after the event.



David Beatty

David,

We are quickly approaching my ordination on Jan 24. How the time flies.

I would greatly appreciate it if you and the choir could supply the following pieces of music for the service:

- * the prelude
- * the processional: Hymn 370, St. Patrick's Breastplate
- * the psalm: Psalm 132: 8-19

I don't know that I have a strong opinion about what to play for the prelude. I'd love for it to be something that is very bright and welcoming. And, of course, we should show off our amazing instrument and your talents playing it. The theme for the day is "fire" (like tongues of fire from the Holy Spirit), so if that gives you someplace to start, that's great.

[...]

Let me know if you have any questions or if you'd like to talk more about musical selections.

Thanks!

[...], should be able to do those things. I do want to understand the remainder of the service and what visiting musicians may be covering. For a typical Rite II Eucharist, the choir would also typically be singing an anthem either at the offertory or at communion, and the choir & organ would also be leading the congregational singing for the other hymns and appropriate sung mass parts (Sanctus, possibly fraction anthem---I see that (like Baptism) the rubrics and service for Ordination do not include the Gloria).

Just so I'm clear in planning, and in speaking with the choir tomorrow evening, will the visiting musicians be handling any other hymnody, the mass parts, any anthems, and a postlude? I know that some of the choir members were anticipating that they would be singing an anthem at some point in the service, and I was waiting until you and I had conferred before selecting one. However, if that

Continued on page 11

CHAPTER EVENTS IN REVIEW



Performers at Philadelphia Chapter Members' Recital: (pictured left to right) Kathleen Scheide, Nicholas Fennig, Patrick Kreeger, Kevin O'Malia and Caroline Robinson.

Philadelphia, PA, November 8, 2009. A large audience turned out for the Philadelphia Chapter Members' Recital at The Church of St. Martin in the Fields, Chestnut Hill. The program featured Mendelssohn's organ sonatas and the c minor *Prelude and Fugue*. Chapter members performing were Nicholas Fennig, Patrick Kreeger, Kevin O'Malia, Caroline Robinson, and Kathleen Scheide. St. Martin's provided a lovely reception following the concert.
—Elizabeth Cochran

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

JOE LEWIS, REGISTRAR

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 383 (at time of publication)**RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Our annual January Jumpstart at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church is coming up this month on Saturday the 16th. This is an event which is especially filled with wonderful and varied attractions for **POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS!** It could be a great time to encourage your musical colleagues or that organist/choir director from down the street to come to this well-attended event. It just might encourage them to join us later and to take advantage of the many benefits and programs that we offer. Let us work eagerly together, both officers and members alike, to make Philadelphia a chapter that has creative retention AND recruitment ideas!

REDUCED DUES PROGRAM

Again this coming year, the National AGO office will sponsor a special **REDUCED DUES RATE** for the remainder of the current membership year (ending June 30, 2010). This reduced rate is for **NEW MEMBERS ONLY** who join between February 1 and March 31, 2010. This rate allows these new members to still receive nine monthly issues of *The American Organist* (beginning with the March, 2010 issue), and, of course, our local Crescendo newsletter (through the June, 2010 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 *The American Organist* sooner rather than waiting for the usual first issue in December (TAO subscriptions run Dec. 1 – Nov, 30).

NEW MEMBER

We welcome the following member to the chapter. Please greet him warmly at all future programs: Dr. Michael McGonigle III, Philadelphia, PA.

IN MEMORIAM

I am sad to inform our membership of the death of long-time Philadelphia AGO member Laurette E. Miller, who passed on December 6, 2009 while in Bryn Mawr Hospital. She had lived in Springfield, Delaware County for many years and was recently transferred to a nursing home in Broomall. Several of our members celebrated her 90th birthday with her this past fall. Laurette had been an AGO member since the early 1950's, served as Officer/Secretary for the chapter, and was a generous financial contributor to our many programs for many years. We will miss her dedicated service to the chapter, and we express our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

BEST WISHES

As we begin a new year, may I extend to you and yours my best wishes for a healthy, happy 2010!

Joe Lewis, Registrar
Registrar@agophila.org

PHILADELPHIA
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OF ORGANISTS

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Dennis Elwell	215-877-2744, x4	Dennis.Elwell@agophila.org

...

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

January JumpStart
Continued from page 1

I Have to Play a Gospel Hymn - Help!

Michael Krentz, Philadelphia

AGO Exams: The Proof is in the Pudding

Ethel Geist, Abington

SATB Choral Reading Session : Three's Company, Four's a Blessing!

Ted Barr, Cherry Hill, NJ

St. James Press: Choral reading and samples

Victor Fields, York

Toys, Tunes, and Children's Choirs

Rosemary Fraley, Shillington

Handbells I & II – the Basics and Beyond

Marcia Summers Mau, West Chester

Concert Series: Reach Out and Grab that 21st-Century Audience

Paul Fleckenstein, Wilmington, DE

Is your head spinning with the possibilities? And if we still haven't met your needs, you can request them for 2011 – we do read those evaluations! Young's Music Store (Whitehall, PA) will be returning to set up their music store on-site where you can browse and spend your Christmas money. The good news is that this year the music packets for the choral reading sessions are free.

Don't forget to bring music scores and CDs which you no longer use and donate them to the Used Music Table. Donations will help defray the costs of the Jumpstart.

Important Change Regarding Reading Sessions: all music used in reading packets will be FREE.

Get a jumpstart on the Jumpstart and write or email the registrar, Paul Marchesano today: 4818 A Florence Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143-3421 or JanuaryJumpStart@agophila.org. Questions? Contact Sue Petura, coordinator, at spetura@aem-inc.com or 610-247-8598.

JANUARY JUMPSTART – Organ Master Class Performers:

Plan to bring that special Sunday morning prelude with you, and come sit on the organ bench with this year's master teacher, Dr. John Walker. Dr. Walker has taught at the Manhattan School of Music, Duquesne University, and currently at the Peabody Institute. So play any music, anything you use for a prelude on a Sunday. 3 minutes, max. Or play an excerpt of a larger work. He will give you feedback on registration, technique, and musical communication. Plus you will be playing that magnificent Rieger Organ at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church! What an awesome experience!

This is your year to take the January plunge! Send your selection to the Master Class coordinator, Alan Morrison, at alanmorrison@comcast.net or 215-360-8336.



REGISTRATION
January JumpStart

a workshop for the church musician seeking new ideas for a new year

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

I am an AGO member. Chapter: _____

I will attend the workshops on 1/16/10
(free to AGO members, \$30 for others)

I will attend the luncheon
(\$15 for everyone) (brown-bagging is OK)

I am enclosing a check for the proper amount made payable to AGO Philadelphia

I will pay that day (we trust you!)
(cash, checks, or money orders – no credit cards)

Please tear off and mail to:

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4818-A Florence Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3421

Or e-mail your registration to Mr. Marchesano:
JanuaryJumpStart@agophila.org

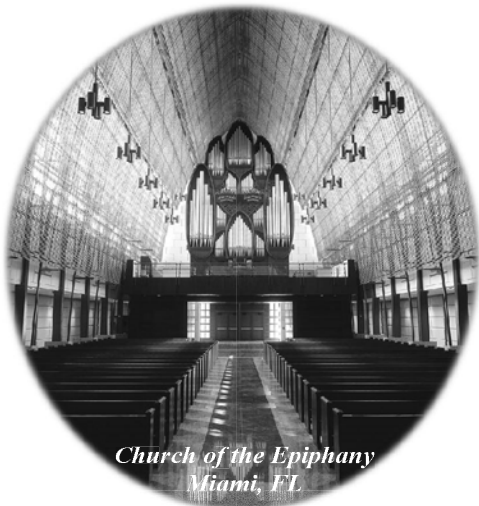
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CHAPTER EVENTS

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-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill
Members Recital: Music of Felix Mendelssohn

Sunday, January 3, 2010, 5:00-8:00pm
A Holiday Party
Pot-luck Dinner and Christmas Conviviality
Home of Roy Harker and Bob Ranando, Philadelphia, PA

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

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

Sunday, 18 April, 2010, 4:00pm
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)

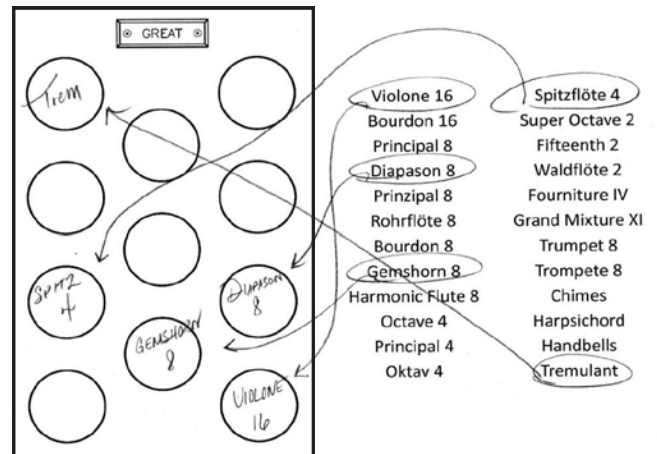
Kimmel Center Presents: Master Musicians: Organ
Co-sponsored by the
Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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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IN PERPETUITY

The American Guild of Organists Philadelphia Chapter's lively concern for education and outreach previously prompted the formation of an Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to expand programs for leadership development among AGO members, to educate new organists, and to cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. This fund is prudently administered by the Chapter's Endowment

Committee. Tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income support for the Chapter's educational programs and projects. Contributions may be accepted in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, or other assets. You are also encouraged to consider including the AGO Philadelphia Chapter in your will and bequests. Prior consultation with your financial advisor and/or legal counsel is advised. For providing your gifts or seeking further

information, please contact the Chair of the Endowment Committee by e-mail at

David.Furniss@agophila.org.

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.

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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
D. Stephen Cable	Bethlehem, PA	610-865-4984
Barbara A. Cahill	Norristown, PA	484-684-7653
Rosemary Colson	Philadelphia, PA	215-848-1995
Doris J. Dabrowski	Philadelphia, PA	215-387-6635
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 4:00 PM

The Third Annual Epiphany Lessons & Carols featuring the Grace Epiphany Choir and Guest Soloists. Music of Darke, Leighton, Franck, and Bach. Grace Epiphany Church, 224 E. Gowen Ave, Mt. Airy PA 215.248.2950 www.grace-epi.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 12:00 PM

Vincent M. Ryan, organ. Philadelphia AGO's Tuesday Noon Recitals. Free admission. St. Luke's United Church of Christ, 125 N. Main St, North Wales, PA 215.368.2884 www.stlukesnorthwales.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 12:00 PM

Rudolph A. Lucente, organ. Philadelphia AGO's Tuesday Noon Recitals. Free admission. St. Luke's United Church of Christ, 125 N. Main St, North Wales, PA 215.368.2884 www.stlukesnorthwales.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 7:30 PM

Seminar on *The Dream of Gerontius* by Elgar. Dr. Jeff Fowler presenting in anticipation of rehearsals for May 1 and 2 concerts. Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave, Wayne PA 610.688.8700 www.waynepres.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 12:00 PM

Marian W. Archibald, organ. Philadelphia AGO's Tuesday Noon Recitals. Free admission. St. Luke's United Church of Christ, 125 N. Main St, North Wales, PA 215.368.2884 www.stlukesnorthwales.org

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 8:00 PM

Fauré *Requiem*, Saint-Saëns "Organ" Symphony. Westminster Conservatory Community Orchestra & Chorus, Ruth Ochs and Devin Mariman, Conductors. Eric Plutz, Organist. Admission: \$15, students/seniors: \$10. Call 609.921.2663. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.rider.edu/888_1118.htm

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 12:00 PM

Scott P. Myers, organ. Philadelphia AGO's Tuesday Noon Recitals. Free admission. St. Luke's United Church of Christ, 125 N. Main St, North Wales, PA 215.368.2884 www.stlukesnorthwales.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 7:00 PM

Due Solisti (Zofie Vokalkova, flute and Kathleen Scheide, organ). New music by American and European composers, including US premieres of works by Pamela Decker, Lynn Job and Michal Macaurek. Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal), 3723 Chestnut St (38th & Chestnut), Philadelphia PA 215.386.0234 x104 www.philadelphiacathedral.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 3:00 PM

Music for strings and organ. Elysian Camerata and Roy Harker, organist. Music by Dvorak, Handel, Franck, and Debussy. Church of Saint Asaph, Bala Cynwyd, PA, Conshohocken State and St. Asaph's Roads. Free-will offering. www.saintasaphs.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 4:00 PM

Due Solisti (Zofie Vokalkova, flute and Kathleen Scheide, harpsichord). Works by Bach, Forqueray, Leclair and Roesgen-Champion. All Hallows Church, 262 Bent Rd, Wyncote PA 215.885.1641 www.allhallowswyncote.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 4:00 PM

Roots Music. The African American Influence in the Concert Hall presented by Follow the Drinking Gourd, a vocal and piano ensemble. Music from spirituals, gospel vocal settings and rock. Free-will offering. Handicapped accessible. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4530 www.apcusa.org/MusicatAbington

A HOLIDAY PARTY!

It's time to mark your calendar for a Holiday Party... after all our work is done so that we can relax and enjoy good friends and great food!

The Date: **Sunday, January 3, 2010**

The Time: **5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

The Location: **The home of Roy Harker**
4514 Chester Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Your assignment for this event is ...

#1 – to come!!!

#2 – to pick a favorite food to bring.

#3 – to RSVP to Rae Ann Anderson at rande84@verizon.net by Monday, December 28 with your full name and names of any guests you may be bringing with you, and the food dish you plan to bring.

• • •

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR

First Presbyterian Church
118 West Main Street, Freehold, NJ 07728
Phone: 732-462-0234
Fax: 732-462-7621
www.fpcfreeshold.org

First Presbyterian is seeking an organist/music director. Applicants should be Christian, and will be asked for a brief statement of faith and philosophy of church music.

The position requires approximately 15 hours per week, for one traditional worship service (September – May) and one blended worship service (June-August). There are currently two choirs, adult vocal and adult handbells. The music director will oversee the contemporary worship leader.

The organ is a two-manual Austin (Opus #2663), with 24 stops and 22 ranks. Other instruments include 5-octave Malmark handbells, 4-octave choir chimes, and a Hallet, Davis & Co. grand piano.

There is an opportunity to provide private instruction using church instruments.

There is a possibility to split the position between organist and director. The position is available January 1, 2010.

Please send resume, brief statement of faith, and philosophy of church music ministry.

Contact: Revs. David or Cindy Bowman at the church address or phone listed above, or by e-mail: ceb6455@aol.com.

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Church of the Holy Comforter
1000 Burmont Road, Drexel Hill, PA 19026
610-789-6754

We are seeking a Minister of Music who has a heart for teaching people and inspiring them to sing and will work with youth as well as adults, as well as recruiting/growing existing choirs. The ideal candidate should have a strong background in both traditional and contemporary forms of worship music. Familiarity with Episcopal service and worship resources is preferred. We currently use music from the Hymnal 1982, Renew!, Gather, and various other sources. The Minister of Music will be responsible for musical leadership at one Eucharist each Sunday and at all festival services; leading the adult choir and the children's choir; one mid-week rehearsal with both choirs; and other responsibilities as laid out in the letter of agreement. Well-maintained, 3-manual Austin pipe organ and Kawai piano in sanctuary. Send resume and references to holycomfortermusic@gmail.com.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Christ Church Ridley Park
104 Nevin St. Ridley Park, PA 19078
610-521-1626
www.ChristChurchRidleyPark.org

Two Sunday services; one mid-week rehearsal; one adult choir. We are looking for an organist and choirmaster who has a good background in church music and the Anglican liturgy and is at home with more traditional hymnody and organ repertoire. Wonderful congregation and beautiful sanctuary designed by Theophilus Chandler/George Natress. Superb 3-manual, 74-stop pipe/digital Cornel Zimmer, 2003, featured on the cover of the Diapason magazine. Salary: \$17,000 - \$19,000. 4 weeks paid vacation. Send resume to Fr. Douglas Tompkins, Rector, at above address, or fax to 610-521-4988, or e-mail to dg.tompkins@verizon.net. Position description soon to be posted on web site.

ORGANIST

St Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
20 Church Rd., Hellertown, PA 18055

St Luke's Church at Old Williams is looking for a part-time organist for an average of 6-10 hours a week, to include one choir practice and one Sunday service. There may also be special festival services throughout the year.

Organist is to provide preludes, offertories and postludes appropriate to the day / liturgical season. We need a person who can work as a team member and minister of music with the pastor and worship and music committee and choir director to assist the congregation to engage in worship through music.

The instrument is a three-manual Allen Renaissance organ, and includes a MIDI unit. Church also has a Yamaha Clavinova which is used for choir accompaniment. Organist may also serve in other capacities in future. This is a salaried position. Send resume and three references. Inquiries at 484-661-1927.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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

Responsibilities:

1. Shall be proficient in playing the Austin pipe organ with 2 manuals and 14 ranks in the sanctuary.
2. Shall be designated the primary organist. Therefore all playing of and maintenance to the organ shall be consulted with the Director of Music (DM).

Continued on page 10

Positions available
Continued from page 9

3. Assist the Pastor in planning the order of service relating to music for all public worship of the church.
4. Have administrative responsibility for necessary replacement organist, pianist, and/or choir director. Any "guest" organist or pianist for public and private services must be agreed upon in consultation with the DM.
5. Have administrative responsibility for all invited musical groups including soloists and children's choirs.
6. Plan and have administrative functions for all music ministries including special music for services and weddings, funerals, etc.
7. Lead and direct the chancel choir for one Sunday morning and any special services from September through May, including up to 1.5 hour weekly rehearsals.
8. Lead and direct the primary choir to sing at approximately eight services annually between September and May including up to one 0.5 hour rehearsal weekly.
9. Responsible for weekly organ playing for one Sunday morning service in the sanctuary, one service on Christmas Eve, one service on Ash Wednesday, one service on Maundy Thursday, one service on Good Friday, two services on Easter Sunday, any special public services of worship, and First Sunday 9:30 am services in the sanctuary from October through May.
10. Perform other duties as assigned in consultation with the Pastor as appropriate to a DM.
11. The supervisor of the DM shall be the Pastor and employment authority shall rest with the Consistory with Spiritual Council serving as the Personnel Committee.

Remuneration and Compensation: The DM annually shall receive four Sundays off with pay. The DM is responsible to secure her/his own replacement. Vacation time may be taken in cooperation with the Pastor at any time during the church year except for Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. Current annual salary is \$14,556.00, paid monthly.

Option: Lead and direct the 3-octave handbell/3-octave hand chime choir(s) to play at approximately eight services annually between September and May, including up to 1.5 hour weekly rehearsals for an additional annual salary of \$2,004.00, paid monthly.

Consideration may be given to separating the Organist from the Director of Choirs. Separate job descriptions may be obtained by contacting the church.

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.

TUESDAY NOON RECITALS



ANDREW HELLER, COORDINATOR
610-789-0146, ANDREW.HELLER@AGOPHILA.ORG

JANUARY, 2010

St. Luke's United Church of Christ
125 NORTH Main Street
North Wales, PA.

RECITALS:

- January 5: Vincent Ryan
- 12: Rudy Lucente
- 19: Marian Archibald
- 26: Scott Myers

NEXT MONTH (February): Abington Presbyterian Church



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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.



Dean's Message
Continued from page 2

doesn't fit into the overarching liturgy, with the multiplicity of offerings from those wishing to celebrate your ordination, I'll let the choir know.

Thanks,
David

David,

I've attached the songs and the lyrics that the band will be playing for the other parts of the service. I also attached a draft copy of the service bulletin, in case it is helpful for you to have that.

I hadn't thought about having the choir sing an anthem, but I think that would be lovely. Would it work for them to sing an anthem at Communion? I'm guessing that communion will be long enough for two songs, so if the choir sings an anthem, then the band can follow it with one of the songs that we chose for Communion. Does that sound ok?

For the static parts of the service, you are correct that there is no Gloria, the band will lead us in the Sanctus, and I think we will skip having a fraction anthem. I'm going to ask the band to reprise the last song as the prelude (mostly because I like it so much).

As soon as you have chosen the psalm setting, please send it to me so that I can include it in the bulletin. Also, I'll need to know the anthem as well, so that I can add that.

Thanks so much for everything!
[C...]

Thanks so much! This is very helpful. In keeping with the theme of fire, and in looking at anthems in the library, and in trying to find something that will be quite approachable for the voices that will be coming together, I believe "The Gift of Love" arranged by Hal Hopson works very well. While that piece is sometimes overdone at weddings, it is quite appropriate for your ordination. I also believe that the folk idiom of the original tune should complement the music of the band appropriately.

The text is: [full text cited in original email]

I believe that this paraphrase of I Corinthians 13 certainly resonates with various themes of ordination, and resonates with what I have sensed in your preaching and your ministry.

Having this sung at the beginning of communion would certainly work well, during which time the praise band could partake of Eucharist. We can then make our way forward during the hymns and spiritual songs that will be led by the band.

I have a concern about how we might increase the congregational participation in the hymns and the Sanctus that will be led by the band. Certainly these are all outstanding texts, and I suspect that the texts and tunes have had a role in fashioning, strengthening, and supporting your faith. It's delightful that you're sharing this aspect of your musical culture and background with us. Unfortunately for some of us, it will all be foreign, and without having the printed tunes, we won't be able to join in the song. Can we secure scores for these, and get melody lines included in the service leaflet? By doing so, I believe then we can

avoid the perception that these are just "performances" by the band and meant to exclude those who have not been involved in the culture where these hymns flourish. I'm not suggesting that you change any of the tunes, rather that we provide avenues for increasing participation.

I'm also wondering if we could include one more item from the hymnal, something that is familiar to the St. [M...] family, in the service. While I certainly mentally agreed with your comment that we don't need to sing a fraction anthem, as I look at the balance of the music in the service, I'm wondering if use of H S-154 as a fraction anthem might provide something familiar to the parish.

I'm reviewing organ music for the prelude, and should soon have that for you. At the moment, I'm leaning toward a work by Maurice Duruflé based on the plainchant hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*. The variations at the end of the work can be interspersed with sung verses of the original hymn. I would include choir members singing those verses, then have them make their way out for the processional. The verses would be roughly those we find in Hymn 504. The hymn keeps with the fire theme: *Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire. Thou the anointing Spirit art, who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.*

The rubric on p. 533 of the BCP calls for the singing of either *Veni Creator Spiritus* or *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, and while you've selected a similar hymn to the Holy Spirit out of your musical tradition for that part of the service, I believe this organ work will resonate with the theme for the day.

Thanks,
David

David

All of this looks great. The communion anthem looks particularly beautiful and I can't wait to hear it. Adding the fraction anthem is fine. I think you are right about adding another familiar piece for the congregation.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and your great ideas. I think this will be just wonderful!

Sent from my iPhone

[End of the email dialogue]

Ultimately, the ordination took place with the band performing six works (none with copyright predating 1995) that were allegedly to be "congregational song". No musical notation was provided to choir or to congregation. As I looked around the packed nave, only a handful of people were joining in the singing, although many chose to participate via body percussion and calisthenics. Several members of the choir asked "Where is the music? Where are the notes?" While the style of music may not have been their preference, they did want to attempt to participate. However, the message of exclusivity was clear: "You are not part of this tribal ritual; we do not value the years of choral participation and music education that enable you to lead singing in our regular Sunday services; moreover we do not want you to lend your voices to this occasion."

Afterward, I questioned a few of the handful whom I did see singing about their ability to participate. I learned that many of these works have been

Continued on page 12

Cormac Brady

FTCL, B.MUS
 Titular organist
 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Philadelphia, PA

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Vincent M. Ryan

Advent Lutheran Church, Harleysville, PA

Dean's Message
 Continued from page 11

widely played on particular "Contemporary Christian" radio stations. For all whom I asked, they noted that they would not have known any of the works without that radio exposure.

I also remember, over a decade ago, visiting a particular Episcopal church that was employing, for congregational use, a *Gloria* setting from a congregational service by John Rutter. Many in the congregation joined in the singing, but as a visitor, at the time completely unfamiliar with that setting, I had no ability to participate. My reaction to that event was that this supposedly "welcoming and affirming" parish was choosing to exclude and alienate those who might visit.

This past summer I also visited a Presbyterian church that was, for its morning service, utilizing a band, and projecting song lyrics, karaoke-style, on a screen lowered to cover the cross. There was limited participation from those in attendance, and there was no way for a visitor to join in the offering. The service was a 40 minute band concert with a 15 minute homily in its midst. I felt intensely uncomfortable and decidedly unwelcome during that concert. It was certainly a place I would never want to visit again.

Regardless of genre (and personal preferences surrounding use of various styles), these experiences have taught me how vitally important it is to include the musical notation as well as the text if participation is desired. Even for the well-known Old-Hundredth doxology, it is beneficial to provide the hymnal reference so that the congregation's customary rhythm can be deduced. Copyright Licensing agreements facilitate this practice. If the copyright license is not available, then perhaps the work should be employed as an anthem (rather than under the pretense of congregational song).

Thus, I encourage all of you who are privileged to work in a church to make an effort to be INCLUSIVE in welcoming your visitors. Provide them with the notation by which they may be able to join in the congregational song! May I also suggest that providing the notation may spark the desire for musical literacy? If congregants recognize that understanding the symbols on the page can lead to greater participation in the song, then they may be jumping at the chance to attend your next offering of "sight singing for the people in the pew!"

•••

Volunteer Opportunity

At the end of this volume of *Crescendo*, our long-time publisher, Roy Harker, will be handing over this position to new leadership in the guild. The Philadelphia Chapter is currently looking for a member who can volunteer to take on this project on an ongoing basis beginning with the September 2010 issue.

The publisher's responsibility each month is to layout the copy, ads, and other chapter communication in a print-ready fashion. The completed files are sent to a printer (electronically) and eventually sent to our Circulation Department (Katherine Reier and her "bees") for distribution to the chapter by USPS. Electronic versions are distributed by email to those members who wish to

receive *Crescendo* in this format. *Crescendo* provides an essential service to the Guild, along with the website, communicating our concerns, events, celebrations, and continuing education to musicians in the Delaware Valley and beyond. Your service to the Guild in the form of publisher is an invaluable gift to the craft and your colleagues.

Crescendo is currently layed out in Quark, an industry-standard desktop publishing format. Knowledge of this format is helpful, but other formats can be used, such as Word, InDesign, PageMaker, or any other format that can produce a print-ready PDF.

If you think you would like to consider this service to the Guild, please be in touch with Roy at Roy.Harker@AGOPhila.org.



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American Record Guide

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CRESCENDO

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Katherine Reier, Circulation Coordinator
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Abington, PA 19001-3702



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