

CRESCENDO

NOVEMBER 2010

VOLUME LXXIII, NO. 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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Give Thanks for a Local Treasure



We have a fantastic opportunity being offered at one of our local treasures by up and coming artists. Come to Philadelphia's own world renown Curtis Institute of Music for our November 2010 Chapter event. On Sunday November 14 at 4:00 p.m. in the Field Concert Hall of The Curtis Institute at 18th and Locust Streets the students of Alan Morrison will present an all French program. This will be in keeping with the theme of the year at Curtis - French Music - and will feature: Cesar Franck - *Choral III in A*

Minor; Maurice Durufle - *Prelude, Adagio and Choral Variations on Veni Creator. Prelude and Fugue on the Name ALAIN*; Louis Vierne - *Romance & Final from Symphony IV*, opus 32; Olivier Messian - *Dieu Parmi Nous* from *La Nativite*; and Joseph Bonnet - *Variations de Concert*, Opus 1. Recitalists will be Bryan Anderson, Patrick Kreeger, Daniel Razional and Caroline Robinson. The organ is a five manual 116 rank Aeolian-Skinner with a new Turner console (2000.) For more information about the organ please visit www.curtis.edu.

Ralph Purri and St. Denis RC Church of Havertown have graciously agreed to host the Tuesday Noon Recitals for the month of November. Artists to include Rudy Lucente, and final performers TBA. Performers will be listed on the church web site in advance. Recitals will not be held on Nov. 2, All Souls Day, or Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Week. St. Denis Church is accessible to the Wynnewood stop of the Norristown Route 100 line from 69th street.

The church is located on 2401 St. Denis Lane, Havertown, PA 19083
www.stdenishavertown.org 610-446-0200

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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.

Advertising Rates

Camera-ready: One-Time Season

1/8 page:	\$40	\$285
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1/2 page:	\$85	\$630
full page:	\$140	
Professional card:	N/A	\$60

(members only; no phone numbers)

Camera-ready art only accepted according to stated deadlines.

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

Hospitality and Hunting Season

In the beautiful march of days, as the seasons come and go, the month of November will herald the end of ordinary time and the beginning of Advent. As a nation, we will also take time to give thanks. On 3 October 1863, despite being in the midst of a devastating civil war Abraham Lincoln instituted this national day of thanksgiving with the following words:



“The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. [...] I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.”

As a chapter, despite being in the midst of a devastating time for the organ, we also have much for which to give thanks. We have been blessed with financial abundance providing more resource than we have volunteer personnel to prudently spend. Nearly 2/3 of our chapter members have been blessed with opportunities to play the organ in the past year. Some members have celebrated significant anniversaries of service, and others have retired after decades of dedicated commitment to the King of Instruments.

Our national tradition of Thanksgiving observance typically involves gatherings of family and friends, accompanied with outpouring of hospitality. **At the AGO National Convention this past summer, Eileen Guenther, our national president, challenged us all to expand the hospitality of this American Guild of Organists.** This prompts the question, “What specifically can we do to become more hospitable?” While there will be no complete answer to that question, I do believe there are a number of things that can increase our hospitality.

First, I encourage you to attend the events of this chapter. Part of being hospitable is being a good host. May I suggest that all of you are, by membership, hosts of the chapter events? In most circumstances, it would be questionable hospitality if the hosts did not come to greet their guests. With the exception of the Tuesday noon concerts, held during

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

JOE LEWIS, REGISTRAR

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

At publication time we stand at 359 members.

DUES COLLECTION FOR 2010-2011 CONTINUES

There is still an opportunity to join the Guild, even though our Philadelphia Chapter Membership Directory has been published for 2011. Please contact some of your musician friends and those who love organ music who have yet to join and encourage them to consider AGO membership. In the past our National headquarters has instituted some unique membership drives, such as the "Each One, Reach One" campaign. Our own members are the best source for increasing our numbers. Who can better demonstrate the advantages of Guild membership than YOU? And in these times when organists are getting harder to find for many churches, we need to stick together, and to expand our group to better serve the needs of the academic, concert and religious communities. **If each member reached out to just one potential new member, imagine what we could do!**

MAILING LABELS

As Registrar, it is my responsibility to send out sets of mailing labels to those who request them in order to advertise certain upcoming concerts, recitals, and other events. Included in these labels are the addresses of all those who have joined the Philadelphia Chapter A.G.O. for 10/11, plus the names and addresses of those institutions, individuals, regional/national officers and advertisers who receive monthly courtesy mailings from us. These last 4 categories are particularly beneficial to you and your affiliation since these go to music stores, music schools and libraries in the extended area which would publicly place your music poster in areas where many would see them, and could substantially add to your audience. To order labels, which cost \$30.00 per set to members in good standing, send me an email, letter or phone message clearly stating your name, affiliation/organization, an address where to send them, and how you would like them sorted (by zip code or alphabetically). A statement will be included with the labels, so no need to send me a check at first. Allow several weeks for delivery.

Joe Lewis Registrar@agophila.org 610-935-0895

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 Registrar@agophila.org 610-935-0895
49 North Spring Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460

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IN PARADISUM

It is with sadness that we share the news that long time chapter member **Glenna Mary Elizabeth Giesken Winkler Sprang** died on Oct. 13, 2010.

She was born in Putnam County, Ohio, in 1932. While in Ohio she worked in industry as well as with the Council for the Arts, and she also taught elementary music while serving as Music Director at St. Rose Catholic Church in Lima, Ohio. She and her husband moved to the Philadelphia area in 1980 and she is very fondly remembered by all who knew her in our chapter. She was always one of the first people to step forward and volunteer for anything - she signed the volunteer form 'whatever you need!'

Glenna served terms on the Executive Committee as well as on the Nominating Committee. She has been a regular guild substitute and interim but has also routinely played at the Valley Forge Military Academy and College Chapel. Her obituary can be viewed at www.limaohio.com/articles/lima-56190-sprang-giesken.html



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(list updated monthly)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Monday, November 1, 7:00 PM

Due Solisti (Kathleen Scheide, harpsichord and Zofie Vokálková, flute) with Martina Kociánová, mezzo-soprano. Dux femina facti. Jewels by Blanka Matragi. Free admission. Bohemian Hall, 321 E. 73rd St, NYC. 646.422.3399

Friday, November 5, 8:00 PM

Abington Symphony Orchestra, Barbara Prugh, trumpet, John Sall, conductor. World Premiere of Finko: Trumpet Concerto. Also, Mendelssohn: "Trumpet Overture" and Hanson: Symphony No. 2 "Romantic". Free will offering. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4530
www.apcusa.org/MusicatAbington

Sunday, November 7, 3:00 PM

Faure Requiem sung as part of the annual Service of Remembrance. Maureen Schlegel, soprano, Larry Indik, baritone, Patricia Brown, violin, Loretta Hartnett, organ, Ralph Purri, conductor. St. Denis Church, Eagle Road at St. Denis Lane, Havertown, PA 610.446.0200
rpurri@stdenishavertown.org

Sunday, November 7, 4:00 PM

Due Solisti (Kathleen Scheide, harpsichord and Zofie Vokálková, flute). Dux femina facti. For ticket information, call 908.996.3087. Locktown Stone Church, Locktown, NJ

Sunday, November 7, 4:00 PM

Gordon Turk in dedicatory recital for new Kegg pipe organ. The program will include the premier of an anthem commissioned for the occasion, "Behold the Best, the Greatest Gift," by Philadelphia composer Kile Smith. First Presbyterian Church, 145 Main Street, Phoenixville PA. For additional information, call Mary Nicol at 610-933-6239.

Thursday, November 11, 12:30 PM

Due Solisti (Kathleen Scheide, organ and Zofie Vokálková, flute). Dux femina facti. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. 1991 Mander, IV/137. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654
eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

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Calendar of Events
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Friday, November 12, 8:00 PM

"Vive La France!" University Organist Eric Plutz performs music by French composers. Admission: \$15, students free. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

Saturday, November 13, 2:30 PM

One Joyful Choir. Hallelujahs For Haiti. 500 singers from The Presbytery of Philadelphia. Pearl Shangkuan, conductor, Andrew Senn, organist, John Ferguson composer and organist and Martin Marty, liturgist. Tickets available through Kimmel Center. Verizon Hall, The Kimmel Center 215.893.1999 www.kimmelcenter.org www.onejoyfulchoir.org

Saturday, November 13, 7:00 PM

Due Solisti (Kathleen Scheide, organ and Zofie Vokálková, flute). Dux femina facti. Starlight Tea Concerts. Church of the Brethren, 1601 Sunset Ave., Lancaster, PA 717.397.4751

Saturday, November 13, 7:30 PM

Third Stream Jazz Ensemble. Free will offering. Part of Column Classics, the fine arts series of First Presbyterian Church, 130 W Miner St, West Chester PA 610.696.0554 www.firstpreswc.com

Saturday, November 13, 7:30pm

The Westminster Choir in Concert, Dr. Joe Miller, conductor. Music of Vaughan Williams, Brahms, Mahler, Bach, MacMillan, and a new commissioned work by Finnish composer Jaakko Mäntyjärvi. Admission \$10, free with valid student ID. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 150 N. Hanover Street, Pottstown, PA 19464 www.emmanuelpottstown.org

Sunday, November 14, 3:00 PM

Scott Myers, organ. Free will offering, reception following. St. Luke's United Church of Christ, 125 N. Main St, North Wales, PA 215.368.2884 www.stlukesnorthwales.org

Sunday, November 14, 4:00 p.m.

The Faure Requiem and select works by John Rutter. This beautiful musical work is being presented during the Month of All Souls as a way to honor loved ones past and as an invitation to unite in present community. The performance is by an interfaith choir. St. Basil the Great Church, Kimberton, PA. For directions visit www.stbasils.org/church or call music director Mary E. Campbell 484-995-6110

Thursday, November 18, 12:30 PM

Iain Quinn, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Free admission. 1991 Mander, IV/137. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

Saturday, November 20, 1:00 PM

Marathon recital featuring talented organ students from across the northeast performing on Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church's Rieger organ. Free will offering. 1PM-4PM Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr PA 610.525.2821 www.bmpcfinearts.org

Sunday, November 21, 3:00 PM

The Eternal Organ, David Clark Little, organ. Music by Palestrina, Byrd, Clérambault, Vierne, J. Pachelbel, R.V. Williams, D.C. Little, J.S. Bach. Free will offering. Rededicating a M.P. Moller / Jacob Gerger & Sons organ. St. John's Lutheran Church, 1224 Melrose Ave, Melrose Park PA 215.635.3465

Sunday, November 21, 4:00 PM

Joseph J. Lewis, organ, Joseph Kauffman, violin, Alisa Coffey, harp in works by Near, J.S. Bach, Saint-Saëns, Rheinberger, Hebble, Puccini, Wagner, Büsser and Biery. Free will offering. Reception follows. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 355 St. John's Cir, Phoenixville PA 610.933.3947

ONE JOYFUL CHOIR



Photo: One Joyful Choir,
17 November 2007

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Andrew Senn
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**ORGANIST / KEYBOARDIST -
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST**

Our Lady of the Rosary Church
80 S. 17th Ave, Coatesville, PA 19320

Our Lady of the Rosary Church is seeking an Adult Choir accompanist. This is an established choir with a Director. Responsibilities include: one Sunday mass a month – alternating 8:30 and 10:00 a.m., weekly Wednesday night rehearsals. We also sing Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, and Confirmation. Other masses are available as needed. Compensation is \$75.00 per unit of service. We have an Allen organ and a Yamaha Clavinova. For more information, contact Gail Mascherino at 610-696-8338 or send e-mail to lifejc87@aol.com

DIRECTOR OF HANDBELLS

Abington Presbyterian Church
1082 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001
215-887-4530 www.apcusa.org

Seeking part-time handbell director to lead several existing choirs of various ages. Current schedule requires two evenings per week for rehearsals and one or two Sundays each month for worship. \$3,000-6,000. Experience leading new ringers is especially desirable. Will work closely with Director of Music Ministries to schedule worship leadership of all choirs and collaborate with combined choirs. The program is well established and has included additional opportunities for the ringers including workshops, festivals, and other occasional off-site ringing opportunities. Applications will be considered beginning November 8, with a start date in January 2011. Contact: John Sall, Director of Music Ministries, jsall@apcusa.org

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Jenkintown United Methodist Church
328 Summit Ave., Jenkintown, PA 19046
215-886-7250 Fax: 215-886-7185

The Jenkintown United Methodist Church is seek-

ing a part-time Organist/Choir Director. The position is available immediately. Responsibilities include:

- Accompanying the 10:30 AM Sunday Worship Service (traditional, with hymns and choral music) and other Services (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, etc.); weddings and funerals are additionally compensated
- Directing the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs (September through early June, all-volunteer choirs consisting primarily of adults)
- Helping to develop music ministries (with volunteers) with children and youth, especially use of Melody Chimes and/or Handbells

Salary is commensurate with experience and will range in the mid- to upper-teens. We will be glad to receive resumes from all candidates, but preference will be given to those with appropriate education or experience. Teaching privileges, using the church building and instruments, are accorded.

JUMC is located at 328 Summit Avenue (Summit Avenue & Walnut Street) in the residential part of Jenkintown. While the Worship style is traditional, we appreciate and encourage the performance of music from all genres that is appropriate to Christian Worship. For more information or to review the Job Description, please contact The Rev. Jay R. Newlin at (215) 886-7250 or jenkintownumc@gmail.com.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
1040 Chestnut Tree Rd, Honey Brook, PA 19344
610-942-2365

St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Honey Brook, Chester County, PA is seeking an Organist and Choir Director. This is job is an average of 8 to 12 hours per week plus special services. St. Mark's has one service most Sundays. The duties of the Director would include preparation, planning and music selection, practice, choir rehearsal and worship services.

Resumes and qualifications for this position should be sent to Jim Wagner, 3083 Creek Road, Honey Brook PA 19344. Please direct any inquiries to the Rev. Elizabeth Evans, 610-247-1725 (cell) or eeevans269@aol.com

Positions Available
Continued from page 8

MUSIC DIRECTOR

First Presbyterian Church
315 Cameron Road, Willow Grove, PA 19090
215-659-5938

First Presbyterian Church of Willow Grove, PA, seeks a part-time Music Director to lead us in glorifying God through excellent worship music in a variety of styles and instrumentation, and representing a full range of sacred music. There is one Sunday worship service, an adult choir (10-12 voices) and a small bell choir. There is one weekly rehearsal. The service is largely traditional but we seek a repertoire that includes excellent current music as well.

We will consider all candidates but preference will be given to those with a degree or certificate in music, and with experience in organ performance, directing vocal and bell choirs and leading congregational worship.

Instruments: A newly refurbished and electronically enhanced 2-manual Wicks organ, a baby grand piano, a rehearsal piano, and 3 octaves of handbells.

The position is for 12-15 hours per week (less in summer months). Salary is commensurate with level of experience. \$15,000 minimum.

A complete job description is available on our website: www.firstpreswg.org. Please send resume to First Presbyterian Church, 315 Cameron Rd. Willow Grove, PA 19090, or FAX to 215-659-2967.

ORGANIST/CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

St Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ
1193 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs, PA 19423
610-933-6419 www.stpeterspikeland.org

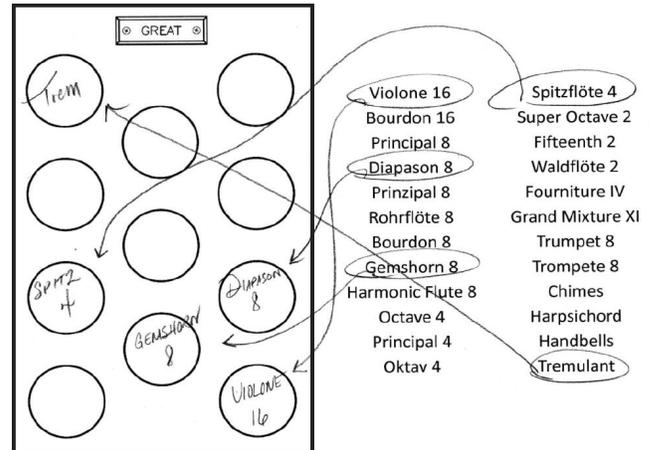
St. Peter's Pikeland UCC is a family-oriented church with a highly valued music ministry. We are seeking an Organist/Choir Accompanist to join our music ministry. St. Peter's, located in Chester County near Philadelphia, has an established music program supporting a traditional worship service with Adult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

Continued on page 10

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Positions Available
Continued from page 9

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 website, 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/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 email weiserl@verizon.net or contact the church office at the number above.

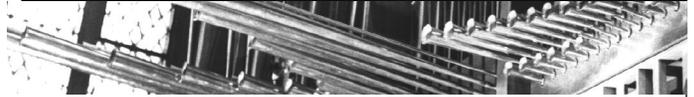
ORGANIST/PIANIST

Belmont Baptist Church
Sproul and Paxon Hollow Rds., Broomall, PA 19008
(610) 356-8211 www.belmontbaptistchurch.info

The members and friends of Belmont Baptist Church in Broomall love music and love to sing. We are looking for an Organist/Pianist who shares our love for music to play at our Sunday morning worship ser-

Continued on page 15

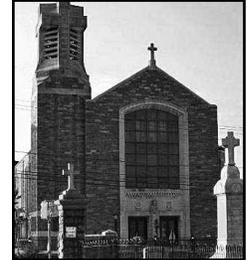
TUESDAY NOON RECITALS



RUDOLPH A. LUCENTE, COORDINATOR
610-584-5054 Rudolph.Lucente@agophila.org

NOVEMBER:

St. Denis RC Church
2401 St. Denis Lane
Havertown, PA 19083
www.stdenishavertown.org



HOST:

Ralph Purri, Music Director

RECITALISTS:(see church website)

- 2 (no recital - All Souls Day)
- 9 TBA
- 16 TBA
- 23 (no recital - Happy Thanksgiving!)
- 30 TBA

DECEMBER:

St. Basil the Great Church, Kimberton
Mary Elizabeth Campbell, Music Director



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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
Debra S. Bacak	Sellersville, PA	215-257-0553
Robert A. Bader	Philadelphia, PA	215-413-0326
Dr. David P. Beatty	Hanover, MD	215-518-1025
Cormac J. Brady	Philadelphia, PA	215-921-8640
Dr. Leon Tilson Burrows	Philadelphia, PA	215-924-9593
Doris J. Dabrowski	Philadelphia, PA	215-387-6635
Laurence P. Devlin	Blackwood, NJ	856-419-0110
Joyce Gambrell Drayton	Philadelphia, PA	215-635-5778
Karen B. Fallows	Hatfield, PA	215-822-6762
Ralph E. Fisher	Philadelphia, PA	215-732-1408
Dr. Jeremy J. Flood CAGO	Philadelphia, PA	215-625-2747
Robert H. Frederick	Philadelphia, PA	215-755-7648
James N. Grenhart	King of Prussia, PA	610-265-3984
Joel E. Klingman SPC	Southampton, PA	215-355-8445
Marianne Lipson SPC, CAGO	Philadelphia, PA	215-923-9132
David Clark Little	Feasterville, PA	215-953-0352
Rodney Long	Sewell, NJ	215-200-8799
Elizabeth A. Manus	St. Davids, PA	610-293-9002
Fr. Glenn M. Matis	Doylestown, PA	215-489-2548
Steven V. Matthews	Lansdowne, PA	516-368-0863
Scott P. Myers	Philadelphia, PA	215-715-1003
Irina Nenartovich SPC, CAGO	Cherry Hill, NJ	856-321-3465
Patricia Nyce	Douglassville, PA	610-689-3797
Kirsten K. Olson	Collegeville, PA	610-764-6264
Wesley D. Parrott	Philadelphia, PA	215-732-6732
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
Rev. Eugene C. Root	Morrisville, PA	215-431-5416
John W. Sankey, Jr.	Deptford, NJ	856-848-3589
Dr. Betty J. Scott	Warminster, PA	215-675-5528
Alexander M. Smith	King of Prussia, PA	610-265-4390
Richard P. Spotts	Doylestown, PA	267-371-2687
Dennis Charles Stevenson	Philadelphia, PA	267-258-9028
Sonata M. Stevenson	Philadelphia, PA	267-344-8263
Janet L. Tebbel	Philadelphia, PA	215-848-3915
Dr. Karen L. Thomas	Yeadon, PA	610-259-1043
Robert Upton	Broomall, PA	610-356-5245
Virginia K. Vaalburg	Glen Mills, PA	610-358-0946
John Van Sant	Trenton, NJ	609-498-1768
Mary Louise Varricchione-Lyon	Doylestown, PA	215-348-9507
Karen Whitney	Philadelphia, PA	215-424-8450
Esther Wideman	Philadelphia, PA	215-687-6258
John M. Woznisky	Paoli, PA	610-647-2530x131

Roy Harker

Church of Saint Asaph
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

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

Bruce Shultz

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

Dean's Message

Continued from page 2

normal working hours, we attempt to schedule our chapter events to minimize conflicts with typical working schedules for organists, both part-time and full-time. So come to our events, or let the program committee know if current scheduling decisions are preventing you from attending, and thus be hospitable!

To those chapter events, bring along others who share an interest in the organ and its music, or who might be unfamiliar with the organ but open to learning about it. While there, take time to meet the others in attendance. If you see someone you do not know, introduce yourself. Convey that you are a member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO, and ask if the other is a member too. Take the time to find the people you do not know and speak to them. After meeting someone, or if bringing non-members with you, introduce them to others in the chapter, or other newcomers.

While I was growing up in western Pennsylvania, the Thanksgiving holiday was always followed by a most important school holiday, the first day of deer season. It was essentially obligatory for all male (and many female) students to spend that Monday following Thanksgiving in the woods with their fathers, in the attempt to control the glut of white tailed deer. The elimination of natural predators and the prevalence of ample farm fields provide a fertile environment for the deer population to grow unchecked. Additionally, continuing development shrinks the forested land that the deer occupy. Unfortunately, these trends result in damage and conflict between deer and human populations.

In many ways that unchecked growth is similar to what we now see in the organ world. The education of organists is outstanding. At the national conventions and at competitions around the world, the quality of playing is ever increasing. However, the continuing decrease in the number of jobs has resulted in a massive overpopulation of organists. Has the time come for us to ask the state game commission to declare an official season for hunting organists?

If rifles aren't really your tool of choice, perhaps it would be appropriate to consider Jonathan Swift's fine essay of 1729, *A Modest Proposal*. Therein Swift makes the case for solving overpopulation and famine:

"I shall now therefore humbly propose my own thoughts, which I hope will not be liable to the least objection.

"I have been assured by a very knowing American of my acquaintance in London, that a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing, and wholesome food, whether stewed, roasted, baked, or boiled; and I make no doubt that it will equally serve in a fricassee or a ragout.

"[...]That the remaining hundred thousand may, at a year old, be offered in the sale to the persons of quality and fortune through the kingdom; always advising the mother to let them suck plentifully in the last month, so as to render them plump and fat for a good table. A child will make two dishes at an entertainment for friends; and when the family dines alone, the fore or hind quarter will make a reasonable dish, and seasoned with a little pepper or salt will be very good boiled on the fourth day, especially in winter."

Now in applying this to organists, we do face the challenge that there are few organists of only a year old. It remains likely that the younger ones would be more tender (a point which Swift makes later on in his essay). It is already true that many of our members do take great sport in figuratively eating their colleagues alive with their criticism. Would the move to literal consumption be that far away?

Alternatively, population control at the outset, such as the "One Family, One Child" approach practiced in China, may prove less bloody. Combining that approach with our government's approach for pollution control (in the issuing of vouchers for emission rights) may work. Each employed organist would be granted one, and only one, voucher for their lifetime. Creating a new organist would require a voucher. If the employed organist chose not to create the new organist herself, she might sell her voucher to a school or another teacher of organists who wants to create a new organist. Much as industrial pollution is regulated, and emissions can be exceeded without purchasing emission rights from another company that has not gone over their limit, this process would limit the creation of new organists to those that could expect to find employment. (Note that this method would only address the creating of new organists. It is likely that existing organists, in their pursuit of their continuing education as advocated by the AGO, will provide ample fodder for the schools and teachers for decades.)

Continued on page 13

Dean's Message

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If all these methods still seem too radical, may I suggest an alternative that does not involve population control measures? The alternative would be to increase the opportunities for organists, such that we do not have a chapter organist unemployment rate in excess of 33%. Our nation has recently, and in the Great Depression, engaged in jobs programs, creating positions in order to take advantage of the untapped potential of many who were otherwise unemployed or underutilized. What if each employed member of the chapter chose to utilize those chapter members who are otherwise sitting at home or in the pews on Sunday morning? Rather than always hiring an organist who has a great reputation and hundreds of performing engagements in a year, why not bring in an organist who has been waiting in the wings for decades, eager for the opportunity to play? Would that not be the ultimate act of hospitality?

I recall hearing of the practice of Dr. Alexander McCurdy at the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, wherein he often featured other organists in a set of voluntaries prior to the prelude to service that he would play. Likewise, I've known of some churches that would employ secondary or tertiary organists for play mid-week services or the earliest Sunday morning service. Such practices could be models for decreasing the unemployment of our chapter members! They could also serve to increase the exposure of your congregation to a wider body of organ literature.

So, hospitality or hunting season, which do you prefer? I hope we as a chapter opt for hospitality!

David P. Beatty

...

Cormac Brady

FTCL, B.MUS

Titular organist

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Philadelphia, PA

Dennis Schmidt

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Perhaps you don't feel up to submitting an article to *Crescendo*, although that would be welcome. But maybe a Letter to the Editor would be more your speed - sharing your take on *Crescendo* content, chapter possibilities or remembrances, kudos or suggestions for improvement.

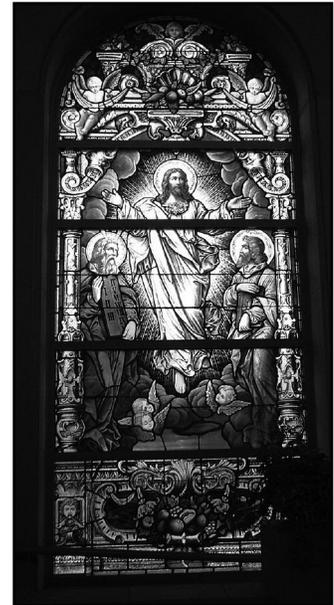
Send letters to Crescendo@agophila.org

VOX HUMANA

With the celebration of All Saints' Day on November 1st the glorious hymn "For All the Saints" comes to mind. Most often set to Vaughan Williams stirring tune *Sine Nomine* (composed in 1906), the text was written in 1864 by William Walsham How for that year's All Saints' Day observance. With November comes the Month of All Souls and a time to reflect on all those who have passed, and this hymn calls to mind the beautiful image from the Apostle's Creed of the Communion of Saints. Apparently upon initial publication it was listed as "Saints Day Hymn - Cloud of Witnesses - Hebrew 12:1." Our modern hymnals contain far less than the original 11 verses - I share some of the more familiar ones below and invite you to spend time with them this month. The final verse complements the story of St. Cecilia perfectly (see *Tale Pipes*), and the entire sense of the hymn is hopeful and triumphant. In closing I am reminded of a story I was told of my grandfather, Presbyterian minister T. Sinclair Dickson, singing this hymn with gusto at his own mother's funeral. When asked how he was able to sing so beautifully at such a time he replied, "I was singing to my mother."

Mary Elizabeth Campbell

1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia, Alleluia!
2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia, Alleluia!
4. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!
5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, Alleluia!
6. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia, Alleluia!



Ascension Window
St. Basil the Great, Kimberton
Originally from St. Anthony of Padua,
Philadelphia

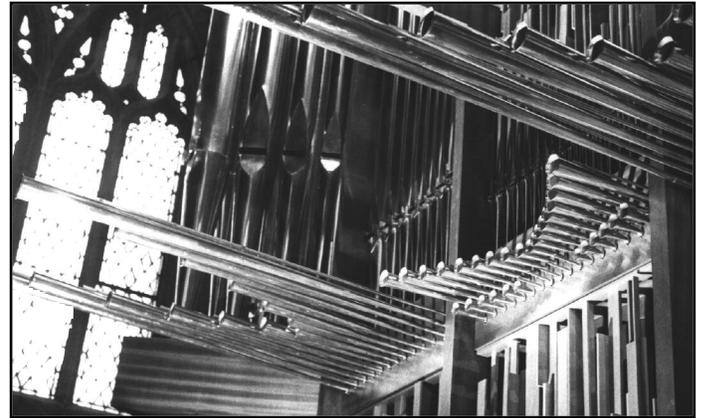
Positions Available
Continued from page 10

vices and special services throughout the year. We invite you to take advantage of this immediate opportunity for a rewarding music ministry in a warm, friendly church.

The organ is a Rogers electronic and the piano is a Howard baby grand. There may be an opportunity to organize and direct a small choir, as well. Salary is negotiable and will depend upon competence and experience.

Our church is located at Sproul & Paxon Hollow Roads in Broomall, PA, just above the Lawrence Park Shopping Center. For further details contact: Gary Kimmel at 610-328-9597 or send email to gdkimmel@verizon.net.

...



TALE PIPES

The feast day for St. Cecilia of Rome, patron saint of musicians, is celebrated by the Roman, Anglican, and Eastern churches on November 22nd. She is described as a believer for whom a profound and mystical spirituality is fully supported and deepened by her musical outpouring. She was said to be consumed with music during her arranged wedding to a pagan man. She held fast to her chastity saying that an angel guarded her. The story follows that her husband honored her chastity because, after consenting to baptism, he saw the angel protecting her. It is believed that Cecilia was martyred during the reign of Marcus Aurelius and legends tell of her lifting her voice to God as she faced death - and it is said that three times she survived attempts on her life. She inspired many to Christianity and deeper spirituality during her life, including her husband and his brother.

St. Cecilia is an inspiring example of music and unshakeable faith in the face of ultimate extremes. Hopefully as church musicians we're not facing anything of that nature, but the model of always bringing deep spirituality to music is a wonderful thing to strive for. I would suggest that in a sense this story is also one of the healing power of music - which we all have the power to offer to our congregations in many ways.

Mary E. Campbell, MAMT-BC

(Board Certified Music Therapist, MA Music Therapy)

Photo courtesy of
Saint Cecilia Church
525 Rhawn St., Philadelphia
<http://stceciliafc.org/>

CRESCENDO

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Katherine Reier, Circulation Coordinator
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