

Lehigh Valley Chapter

# American Guild of Organists

January/February 2015

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## **Executive Committee**

Aram Basmadjian (2015)  
Gloria Snyder (2015)  
Gail Hanzl (2016)  
Judith Love (2016)  
Thomas Busteed (2017)  
Matthew Wary (2017)

[www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org)

## Dean's Mixtures

Happy New Year! (And if you are reading this before January 6, Merry Christmas!)

My greeting to you this month will be short, because there are many important items in this newsletter for you to read. I want you to get right to it!

First, I hope that many of our chapter members will attend the January Jumpstart, sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter and which we support as a participating chapter. This year the line-up is top drawer – including National Cathedral (Washington, DC) Director of Music Canon Michael McCarthy and Organist and Associate Director of Music Benjamin Straley. The Washington National Cathedral Choir will be singing – so the music will be spectacular.



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## January Meeting

Saturday, January 17, 2015  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

## January Jumpstart

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr

## February Meeting

Saturday, February 7, 2015  
9:00 am to Noon

## *Playing the Organ While People Sing in Church*

Christ Lutheran Church  
1245 Hamilton Street, Allentown

## Dean's Mixtures

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Add to that an array of invigorating workshops, lunch, and a music display by Young's Music, and this event should not be missed.

To register for the Jumpstart go online to <http://pcagoo.memberlodge.org/event-1795127>. You may also mail in the form from the brochure – if you need another copy contact me and I will get you one. When you register, do so as an “AGO - Participating Chapter Member”; the fee is \$25.00. Lunch is an additional \$15.00, or you can bring your own.

Other things to look for in this newsletter – information on both our February (hymn playing) and March (Bach Marathon) programs. Please sign up to play for the Marathon – you will want to take the rebuilt organ at Muhlenberg College “out for a spin.”

Finally, we want to arrange a car pool to the Jumpstart – please email me if you can drive or need a ride. And look for more information about this soon!

I hope 2015 is a wonderful year for you, both musically and personally!

Michael Krentz  
Dean

## January Meeting

The Philadelphia AGO Chapter's January Jumpstart will be held on January 17, 2015 from 8:00am to 4:00 pm. See the brochure e-mailed with this newsletter for details. Or, request a brochure from Mike Krentz.

The January Jumpstart has always featured a wide variety of workshops and presenters. This year is no exception. In particular note that LVAGO member Gwyneth Michel will present a workshop on Moravian Music. Take a look at this year's offerings.

**Michael McCarthy, Benjamin Straley:** *Planning a Service at Short Notice, Rehearsal for a Service, Service with the National Cathedral Choir, Considerations of Service Playing; Considerations of Choral Rehearsal*

**Bertrand Catiaux:** *Six Centuries of French Organ Building*  
**Dr. Steven Ball:** *An Introduction fo the Carillon, its History and its Technique*

**Jeffrey Brillhart:** *Choral Repertoire*

**Lee De Mets, Christopher Kehoe:** *AGO Exams and Requirements*

**Dr. Amelia Garrisch:** *Overcoming Auto-Pilot: Effective Arm-up Strategies to Teach Choral Music*

**Nancy Wicklundgray:** *Erik Routley: Great Britain's Envoy to North America*

**Erik Meyer, Rae Ann Anderson:** *CHOIR Camp – Build It and They will Come*

**Gwyneth Michel:** *What is Moravian Music and How Can I Use IT?*

## February Meeting

### “Playing the Organ While People Sing in Church”

A workshop by Dr. Karl Moyer, FAGO

Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Feb.21<sup>st</sup> snow date) 9am-Noon (30 minute coffee and snack break to be provided mid-morning)

Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA

Dr. Michael Krentz, host musician; Mr. Thomas Busted, coordinator

Once upon a time, the organist begins the introduction to the next hymn. The hymn is unfamiliar to the congregation. The congregation timidly begins singing verse one. All is well until they begin the middle section of the hymn... the choir begins speeding up as the organist begins slowing down. Suddenly, the congregation changes to 2 different keys as a shaky soprano begins singing a descant in the style of John Cage. The trumpet players attempt to remedy the situation by playing Vivaldi's Gloria. The organist finishes playing verse 3 and forgets to play the 4<sup>th</sup> verse as a cloud of incense engulfs the choir. The organist swears to herself to never try a new hymn ever again and instead repeat “Amazing Grace” every Sunday for the rest of her career.



But wait! All of a sudden in her local AGO newsletter she sees a notice for a workshop by **Dr. Moyer** on hymn playing called “**Playing the Organ While People Sing in Church.**” At this workshop, there are many organists of

varying levels of proficiency from many different denominations in attendance. A newer organist seated next to her is looking to learn the basics of hymn playing. In the back row sits a virtuoso who is eager for fresh ideas and a new challenge. Another organist is there mostly using the workshop as an excuse to network with colleagues. Another organist there is hoping to refine his congregational leading and accompaniment and better distinguish between the two. Another organist is there hoping to learn how to encourage more a cappella hymn singing in her church. Then Dr. Moyer, a retired Millersville University music professor, combines his decades of practical experience serving various churches in different denominations with good sound scholarship in a witty and enriching presentation that both informs and delights all in attendance.

Enriched by Dr. Moyer's presentation and encouraged by the fellowship and support of her colleagues, the organist returns to her church next Sunday ready to effectively lead the congregation in singing a new song to the glory of God...

My dear colleagues, I heartily invite you and strongly encourage you to attend Dr. Moyer's workshop "Playing the Organ While People Sing in Church," a workshop aimed at inspiring and teaching us to be the most effective leaders of congregational song that we can be.

I also invite you to join me for lunch afterwards at a local restaurant (I'm open to suggestions) for a time of fellowship and discussion. If possible, email me before Feb 7<sup>th</sup> if you'd like to join me for lunch so I can have a rough head count: [busteedtd@gmail.com](mailto:busteedtd@gmail.com).

Thank you. –Tom Busteed

## LVAGO Chapter Milestones

We would like to extend our sincerest condolences to long time LVAGO member Alice Luetzel and her family. Her husband, William Luetzel, passed away on December 8, 2014.

We would also like to extend our sincerest condolences to the family of George Schermerhorn. George was the Executive Director of the Community Music School, Allentown and past president of the Friends of Music of Bethlehem and LVAGO member. His passing was on December 8, 2014.

## January/February Concerts

**January 11** (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **The Touring Choir of the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts**; David Macbeth, director; \$10 suggested donation; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

**January 25** (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Organ Birthday Concert**; Stephen Williams, organ; \$10 suggested donation; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

**February 8** (Sunday) 4:00 pm; Snow date 02/22/15; **St. Thomas Episcopal Gospel Choir**; Back by popular demand; Trinity Episcopal Church, Bethlehem

**February 15** (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **"Songs of Love**; Lehigh Valley vocalists perform songs about love; Admission: Freewill offering; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bethlehem

**February 21** (Saturday) 2:00 pm; **Satori**; Music for three; Admission: \$10 Suggested donation; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

**February 24** (Tuesday) 6:30 pm; **James D. Hicks, organ**; Concert organist and recording artist; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

## Looking Ahead: March Program

**BACH MARATHON** – Sunday, March 8, 2015

As you prepare organ music for the upcoming Christmas, Epiphany, Lenten and Easter seasons, think about learning some of the dozens of chorale prelude settings and free organ works written by J.S. Bach. Then you'll be ready to participate in our upcoming Bach marathon organ event held in Egner Memorial Chapel at Muhlenberg College in Allentown on Sunday, March 8 of 2015. You are invited to play for any length of time, from 5 minutes to 15 minutes to 1/2 hour or more. We will find a spot for you to participate. We welcome chapter members and other musical friends to perform and help celebrate the music of Bach in our annual LVAGO Bach marathon.



Please contact Lou Carol Fix by Feb. 1 if you are interested to perform: [LCFix@moravian.edu](mailto:LCFix@moravian.edu). Information needed is: name / contact info / titles and BWV # of pieces / short bio. / time (+ alternate time) you would like to play between 2:00-7:00pm. Happy practicing!

Lou Carol Fix

## 2015 AGO/Quimby Regional Competition

This year, the Lehigh Valley Chapter will be hosting an AGO / Quimby regional competition. If you are 24 years of age or younger as of August 1, 2015, this competition is for you. This year's competition will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Pennsburg, PA on Saturday March 14, 2014. The October 2014 issue of *The American Organist* explains the rules and requirements of the competition. You can also find them on-line at: <http://www.agohq.org/performance-competitions/rcyo/rcyo-rules-locations/>.

This year, the winner of the Lehigh Valley Chapter regional competition will get a \$1000 stipend and will be invited to play a concert for the chapter's Annual Banquet in May to be held at St. Mark's in Pennsburg. The second place finisher will receive a \$500 award. Note that a competitor must only enter in the AGO region of either the school at which you are enrolled, or the competitor's permanent residence or the chapter of which the competitor has been a member for at least a year. The Lehigh Valley Chapter is in the Mid-Atlantic Region which covers the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Applications are due to AGO Headquarters by January 15, 2015 and are completed on-line at: <https://www.agohq.org/2015-agoquimby-rcyo-entry-form-2/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the competition coordinator, Greg Kuklinski at [gjk4@alum.lehigh.edu](mailto:gjk4@alum.lehigh.edu).

## Positions Available

### Director of Music (1)

**Church:** St. John's United Church of Christ; 139 North 4th Street, Emmaus, PA 18049; 610-965-9158

**Website:** <http://www.stjohnsuccemmaus.org>

**Contact:** Richard Miller, Office and Personnel; Cell Phone: 610-703-1430

**Weekly services:** 2

**Ensembles:** Senior Choir (16), Youth Choir (8), Handbells (14)

**Instruments:** 2 manual Austin pipe organ, rebuilt 1980

**Music budget:** \$1,400

**Weekly attendance:** 150

**Position fill date:** ASAP

**Deadline:** None listed

**Total hours per week:** 9

**Salary:** \$13,000

**Weeks vacation:** 1, after 6 mos. through 3 years

**Benefits:** None listed

### Director of Music (1)

**Church:** Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church; 535 W. Emmaus Ave., Allentown, PA 18103; 610-797-4774

**Website:** <http://tmlconline.org>

**Contact:** Rev. Carey Miller, 610-797-4774, [cnjsk@rcn.com](mailto:cnjsk@rcn.com)

**Weekly services:** 2

**Ensembles:** Adult Choir, Bell Choir, Sunday School youth, Women's choir (3-5)

**Instruments:** 3 manual Rodgers

**Music budget:** \$300

**Weekly attendance:** 100 - 120

**Position fill date:** ASAP

**Deadline:** None listed

**Total hours per week:** 15

**Salary:** \$16,000

**Weeks vacation:** 2

**Benefits:** \$100 professional allowance

### Minister of Music (1)

**Church:** First Baptist Church of Norristown; 445 Burnside Avenue, Norristown, PA 19403; 610-539-7075

**Website:** <http://www.fbcnorristown.org>

**Contact:** Rev. Kelly Legg, 610-539-7075, [fbcnorr@verizon.net](mailto:fbcnorr@verizon.net)

**Weekly services:** 1

**Ensembles:** Adult Choir (8), Handbells (8-10), Praise Team (4); Responsible for Adult Choir, support others

**Instruments:** 2 manual Allen, Kohler and Campbell grand piano

**Music budget:** \$1,300

**Weekly attendance:** 75

**Position fill date:** 02/01/15

**Deadline:** 01/01/15

**Total hours per week:** 13.5

**Salary:** \$14,000-\$16,000

**Weeks vacation:** 3

**Benefits:** Continuing ed

**Statement:** We are a church on a mission of shepherding broken and messy people on life's journey with our Savior and Healer. We are an established suburban and growing American Baptist fellowship with average attendance of 75 people of all ages. We have a committed adult choir, as well as a praise team and bell choir both with volunteer leadership. We have had a drama ministry and we look forward to expanding our worship experiences. We are praying for a musically gifted individual with a personal faith in Jesus who is anxious to join us on this journey with Christ through music.

### Organist (1)

**Church:** Good Shepherd Church (Episcopal), P.O. Box 132, 1634 Hilltown Pike, Hilltown, PA 18927, (215) 822-3930

**Website:** <http://goodshepherdhilltown.org>

**Contact:** Rev. Catherine D. Kerr, 215-253-7990, [revc-kerr@gmail.com](mailto:revc-kerr@gmail.com)

**Weekly services:** 1

**Ensembles:** Adult choir (8), Handbells (8), Accompany choir only

**Instruments:** 2 manual electronic

**Music budget:** Approaching \$0

**Weekly attendance:** 65

**Position fill date:** Early 2015, Possible immediate supply

**Deadline:** None listed

**Total hours per week:** 2.75

**Salary:** \$100

**Weeks vacation:** 0

**Benefits:** Non listed

**Statement:** We are a small church with a very strong sense of community but with few resources. Part-time priest, part-time administrator, no other employees. We rely on volunteers for most services. Our retiring organist was also a volunteer. We do expect to pay our new organist but cannot offer much.

### Director of Music (1)

**Church:** Holy Trinity / Salem Pastoral Charge, 514 Third Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Website:** <https://holytrinitybethlehem.wordpress.com/>

**Contact:** Madeline Deegan, 610-559-1699

**Weekly services:** 2

**Ensembles:** Adult (9-12), Youth/childrens (15)

**Instruments:** 3 manual Gerger, rebuilt 2004, 2 manual Allen

**Music budget:** \$1800.00

**Weekly attendance:** 80-90

**Position fill date:** Immediately

**Deadline:** Open:

**Total hours per week:** 15-20

**Salary:** \$15,000-\$24,000

**Weeks vacation:** 2-4

**Benefits:** Non listed

**Statement:** Part-time Director of Music - expertise in organ, piano and choral direction required. Three or more years church music experience preferred. A degree in music or equivalent in private music training is required.

Check out LVAGO activities on Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LVAGO/>



### Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

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### Placement Service

Please visit the Placement page on [www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org) for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet

### Newsletter deadline

(March issue)

Thursday, February 19, 2105