Deans’ Mixtures

Alleluias are still echoing in my head, and they will fill up the songs we sing in my congregation all through the 50 days of the Easter season, right up to Pentecost on May 15. For many of us, even though there were extra services and extra rehearsals leading up to Easter, the Christian “high holy days” are the easiest time to be musicians working in the church. Especially on Easter morning the lights are bright, the flowers beautiful, the people come, they sing.

And then life returns to normal. Which means that this is precisely the time we need to “step up our game,” to settle in for the not so grand times, the times of mourning, the everyday times. In these times, more than the festival times, our music is what is needed.

Take some time in these early spring days to think about some things. What

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April Meeting

Choral Workshop with Michael Kemp

Techniques for choir directors and singers

Sunday, April 24, 2016, 2:00 pm
Nativity Lutheran Church, Allentown
Dean’s Mixtures
Continued from page 1

words will you give your people to sing — both your choirs and your congregation? How will your music help people pray to God, or thank God, or tell what wonders God has done?

When the flowers are gone, and the pews are only half full (or less), it is easy to sink into the doldrums. Remember, then, that your music is a gift — to your people, and also to you. Think outside yourself, about what you can give your people.

And hum a few of those alleluias in your head throughout the year.

Michael Krentz, Dean

April Meeting

Attention Choir Directors and Singers!

Choir leaders and participants, please join us April 24th at Nativity Lutheran Church, 4004 Tilghman Street, Allentown. Michael Kemp, choral composer, author, and clinician, will lead our April program based around volunteer singers, blend, and getting the most from each voice. The day is two-fold, and we need both participants and listeners!

Those singing will meet at 2:00 pm. Mr. Kemp will lead short informational sessions and rehearsals through the day to apply his teaching. (There will be short breaks for fellowship and sustenance!) At 5:30 pm, Michael and the combined choir will lead a brief closing Hymn and Anthem Festival, open to the public, and celebrating the experiences of singing as one. We ask area churches to advertise our 5:30 pm closing event.

Mr. Kemp’s repertoire list is
- God So Loved the World (Stainer)
- Yes, My Jesus Loves Me (McDonald)
- Prayer for Today (Tucker/Kemp)

These selections are available at Young’s Music Store in Allentown at a 25% discount to any participating singers or choirs. Contact them to set up pick-up or delivery of your music! (610-437-5881) Simply let them know you are a participant in the AGO Choral Workshop on April 24th.

Please contact Drew Long (along2214@gmail.com) with any questions or to get your name added to the participant list! We’re looking forward to this time with Michael Kemp, and he is very excited to visit our chapter.

Nominating Committee

It is the time of the year when we will be looking for people willing to serve in leadership of our chapter. Each year we elect our officers (Dean, Sub-Dean, Secretary, and Treasurer) to a one year term, and two board members to three year terms.

If you are interested in serving, please contact your Dean or any member of the Executive Board.

April/May Concerts

April 12 (Tuesday) 12:10 pm; John Arnold, classical guitar; St. John’s Lutheran Church, Allentown; $5 Donation
April 16 (Saturday) 7:30 pm; Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra; Allen Birney, Artistic Director; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-434-7811
April 17 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; Spirituals, Songs, and Stories; Grace Spruiell Hocnella, soprano and storyteller; Ken Purcell, guitar and piano; Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown; Freewill offering
April 19 (Tuesday) 12:10 pm; Andrea and Hannah Langkamer-Smith, vocalist and violinist; St. John’s Lutheran Church, Allentown; $5 Donation
April 24 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; Song, Love, Light; Concord Chamber Singers, featuring John Rutter’s Magnificat; St. John’s UCC, Nazareth; Admission: Tickets $25 $10 with student ID
April 24 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; Lehigh University Soloists and Chamber Ensembles; St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Freewill Offering
April 24 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; Fred Swan, organ; Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1320 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD; $15 Tickets, $5 Students
April 24 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **The Meistersingers**; From Southern Lehigh High School, Matthew Wehr, conductor; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; $10 Donation

April 26 (Tuesday) 12:10 pm; **Muhlenberg College student vocalists**; St. John’s Lutheran Church, Allentown; $5 Donation

April 30 (Saturday) 7:30 pm; **The Camerata Singers**; A Festival of Choral Music, Allen Birney, Artistic Director; First Presbyterian Church, Allentown; Tickets: 610-434-7811

May 1 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Thomas Dressler**, organ; Associate for Traditional Worship, FPCA; Calvary Lutheran Church, Laureldale; Freewill offering

May 1 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **SATORI**; Nora Suggs, director; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; $10 Donation

May 6 (Friday) 7:00 pm; **Wittenberg Gospelchor**; Gospel choir from the Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany, Thomas Herzer, director; Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown; Freewill offering

May 6 (Friday) 7:30 pm; **Peter Richard Conte**, organ and **Andrew Ennis**, flugelhorn; St. John’s Lutheran Church, Allentown

May 15 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **SATORI Youth Concert**; Winners of April student competition; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; $10 Donation

May 22 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **DeMarina Trio**; Clarinet, Piano and Violin; St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

May 22 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **The Cathedral Choir**; 2nd annual Spring concert; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; $10 Donation

**Looking Ahead: May**

Our recitalist for our May 29th 4:00 pm meeting is James Roman, a graduate of Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, NJ, where he earned a dual undergraduate degree in Organ Performance and Sacred Music and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Organ Performance. Previously a student of Joel Krott and Ken Cowan, he now studies with renowned organist Alan Morrison and has had additional studies with Grethe Krogh in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is currently the Church Music Intern at the First Presbyterian Church of Moorestown in Moorestown, NJ. In 2006, 2009, and 2015 he participated in the FPC choir tours of Denmark and Sweden. Recently, he has performed with the Westminster Symphonic Choir at Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center and New York City’s Carnegie Hall singing Verdi’s Requiem, Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, Rachmaninoff’s The Bells, Orff’s Carmina Burana, Mahler’s Symphony No. 2, Brahms’ Ein deutsches Requiem, and the NYC premiere of Christopher Rouse’s Requiem. He is also a member of Westminster Williamson Voices under the direction of Dr. James Jordan. He has given numerous recitals in the New Jersey area as well as having performed in the 2013 AGO Region III Convention in Winchester, VA. In 2013, he was the co-winner of the Joan Lippincott Organ Competition for Excellence in Organ Performance. He currently resides in Princeton, New Jersey.

**POE+ in Harrisburg**

On July 10-14, 2016, the Harrisburg Chapter is hosting the only POE+ in the nation at the beautiful campus of Messiah College, Grantham, PA. For more information please see the accompanying flyer. You may also visit www.harrisburgago.org or www.agohq.org.

**March Meeting**

Members and friends of the Lehigh Valley Chapter gathered at Egner Memorial Chapter on the campus of Muhlenberg College in Allentown for the annual Bach Marathon on March 13. The setting is particularly impressive because of the lovely architecture of the room and the magnificent three manual organ which has recently undergone a complete renovation by Berghaus Pipe Organ Builders. This year, as a slightly different focus, musicians were encouraged to offer selections by Johann Sebastian Bach and also compositions by other composers who were related to or influenced by Bach’s life, teaching and compositions.
In addition to works by J S Bach, we also heard compositions by Buxtehude, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Marchand, Pachelbel, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Haydn and Max Reger. Presenters played in twenty minute intervals beginning at 3:00 p.m. and continuing for four hours with an appreciative audience arriving and departing as their personal schedules permitted. Members of the Lehigh Valley Chapter and friends performing included Lou Carol Fix, Stephen Bueker and the Lehigh Valley Horn Ensemble, Pauline Fox playing with Joe Dorsch, Baritone Saxophone, Michael Krentz (chapter Dean and host for the occasion), Stephen Williams, Thomas Dressler and Andrew Long (chapter Sub Dean and coordinator for the program). It was a very satisfying way to commemorate the birthday anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Gloria Snyder

Organist Substitute List

If you would like to be included in the Organist Substitute List please forward your Name, Contact Information (phone/email) and Availability (Sundays, weekdays, etc) to Stephen Bueker, 2520 Clark Place, Easton, PA 18040; sfbueker@rcn.com.

Randall Perry Mon-Fri 570 325-9688
Erin Petrella Mon-Sat 484 863-9052
Shirley Platt Mon-Sat 610 838-5202
Michael Pletcher Sun-Sat 610 820-7554
Maria Prochnau Sun-Sat 610 694-0525
Bruce Rohrbach T,W,F and Sat 610 683-9496
Karen Scott May-Sept. 610 737-1701
Michael Seroka Mon-Fri 570 386-2378
Brian Snyder Mon-Thurs 484 838-0977
Donald Vaughn Mon-Sat 610 966-0682
Elizabeth Vaughn Mon-Sat 610 966-0682
Matthew Wary Mon-Fri 610 473-8777
Stephen Williams Mon-Fri 610 737-5196
Freda Zimmerman Sun–Sat 610 381-3089

Positions Available

Director of Music (1)

Church: Jordan UCC. 1837 Church Rd., Allentown, PA 18104
Website: www.jordanucc.org
Contact: Carmine Gagliardi, 610-966-0213, gagliace@ptd.net
Weekly services: 2
Ensembles: Adult Choir — 18, Handbells — 12
Instruments: 3 manual Allen
Music budget: $2,900
Weekly attendance: 250
Position fill date: May/June
Deadline: April 15, 2015
Total hours per week: 20
Salary: $25,000 - $28,000
Weeks vacation: 2, 3 wks @ 5 years, 4 wks @ 10 yrs
Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance, sick leave, continuing ed
Notes: None

Newsletter Editor and Webmaster
Mark Dennis, 610-867-0385, vmdennispa@juno.com

Placement Service
See the Placement page on www.lvago.org for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet.

Newsletter Deadline
May edition: Thursday, April 21, 2016