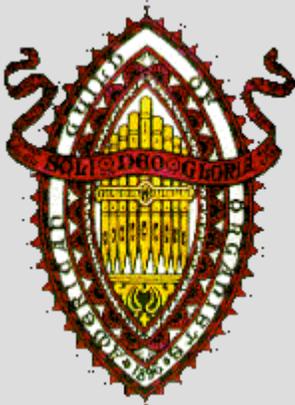


Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

May/June 2019

May/June 2019



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tom@thomasdressler.com

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janeerrera@aol.com

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484-863-9052

erinpetrella@gmail.com

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sfbueker@icloud.com

Executive Committee

Susan Hartney (2019)

Robert Richelderfer (2019)

Janice Butz (2020)

Luke DiGiacinto (2020)

Eric Gombert (2021)

Jackie Kuba (2021)

www.lvago.org

Dean's Mixtures

Stargazing.

Several years ago, I went through a period of difficult sleeping, where I'd wake up at 3 or 4 am and not get back to sleep. After resigning myself to just getting up on those mornings, I took up a practice that became intensely meaningful to me. I'd make my coffee and sit outside and gaze up at the stars. They became an excellent catalyst for contemplation for me, and even food for my soul.



When I gaze at the stars, my thoughts usually roam to the relative permanence of the constellations. Everything changes, yes, and the constellations do too, but if I've read correct information, it takes about 50,000 years for them to look meaningfully different. That helps me put a lot of things in perspective. Even 2,000 years of human history seems like countless years to our minds, and we can assume that while the constellations may have been in different places, they looked pretty much the same 2,000 years ago as they do today. And they'll look about the same 2,000 years into the future.

When gazing at these seemingly permanent bodies in the sky, I tend to

Continued on page 2

June Event

Annual Young Artist's Recital Banquet and Meeting

Aaron Patterson, organ

Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 4pm

Christ Lutheran Church

1245 West Hamilton Street, Allentown

*Dean's Mixtures**Continued from page 1*

muse on the fact that these stars were there when I was born, they were there when my parents were born, my grandparents, Mozart, Bach, the original composers of Gregorian Chant... people on all parts of the earth see these stars, including people of different races, different religious beliefs, criminals, saints... even Jesus, Buddha, Muhammed, and other religious figures. To me, the stars are our most visible connection to the Creator. Like eyes, they have gazed upon all of recorded human history. And when Bach looked up at the sky at night, he saw the same stars I see now. (Yes, the stars DO change, but from our vantage point, they are about as permanent as a human mind can entertain.)

The stars, then, help me connect in my mind to other people—other people living and other people long gone. We are living through changes that likely surpass anything previous humans have seen. Is there anything within us that stays constant, like the stars? I'll share my own reflective answer to that question. I believe yes there is, and it is what we refer to as "humanity."

I have a sizable collection of old vinyl record albums, and also old 78s, some of which are over 100 years old now. For me, listening to these old records is a bit like stargazing, if on a much lesser scale. I can listen to a singer or violinist who played 100 years ago and recreate that person's performance right in my own house. When I do that, I can, to a degree, connect to that person's emotions and thoughts, if they were strong performers who communicated well; and many of the old performers communicated with an intensity that, to my ears, surpasses that of modern humans who are too trapped by computers, the internet, the news, etc., to connect with their own thoughts and feelings. I can listen to performers play Bach 100 years ago, hearing the same music I know today. Some of the emotional inflection might be different (and that of the old performers tends to be quite vivid), but they were enjoying and reacting to the same sequences of pitches that I enjoy and react to today.

And that's where the humanity comes in.

We relate to historic music because it reflects the same fundamental emotions and human percep-

tions as we experience today. When I gaze at the stars, I am aware that the earth itself changes much faster than the night sky, and I get the sensation that the earth is changing under my feet as I connect with my eyes to a seemingly permanent part of creation. And when I listen to an old recording of Bach or some other composer, I am aware that the sequence of pitches that comprises the compositions remain the same, even though interpretations of those sequences might change or differ from one performer to another. It is almost as if art (music, visual art, etc) is like the stars, though probably less permanent. (It's ironic, though, that PEOPLE, who are sometimes called "stars," live only a short time compared to great musical compositions.)

In this time of rapid change that sometimes makes me, at least, feel like I am hurtling into ways of living that might even be unnatural to the human body, mind, and soul, the stars help me find within myself the parts that are the same as my parents, my grandparents, Mozart, Bach, the ancient Romans and Greeks, and even prehistoric humans. And by bringing the timeless music of Bach and other composers to life through performance, I feel I am helping a star to shine, throwing out a lifeline for others to find the same anchor within themselves.

I think all of us need to make musical stars shine. These days, people don't contemplate the stars like they did before. But the stars keep shining, and they never lose their purpose and meaning. I think the day will come when people will realize the need to slow down and contemplate the stars; and it will be common knowledge that music, especially a variety of historic and modern music, provides a similar food for the human soul. In the meantime, even if people are too glued to their phones and computers to contemplate the stars, the stars continue to shine, waiting patiently for people to look up and see what they have been missing. And we continue to play great music.

—Tom Dressler, Dean

POE+

Our chapter is starting more intense preparation for the POE+ next summer. Please, think about how you might like to become involved. Contact an officer or board member to let us know how you might help out.

June Event

Sunday, June 2nd 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Annual Young Artist's Recital

Featuring **Aaron Patterson**, current AGO Pogorzelski-Yankee Scholarship Awardee

Annual Banquet and Annual Meeting

Christ Lutheran Church

1245 West Hamilton Street, Allentown

Our Young Artist this year is Aaron Patterson, from Philadelphia. He entered the Curtis Institute of Music in 2018 where he studies organ with Alan Morrison. Aaron is the Charles and Judith Freyer Annual Fellow.

He won first place at the 2017 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition and the 2016 West Chester University International Organ Competition. Patterson is a recipient of the Pogorzelski-Yankee Memorial Scholarship from the American Guild of Organists and the Bart Pitman Memorial Music Scholarship from the Delaware Valley Music Club.

He has appeared as a soloist with the Olney Symphony Orchestra and has performed at the Kimmel Center's Organ Day and the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ Spring Concert. In the summers, he has attended the Philadelphia Young Artists Camp, Summer @ Eastman High School Organ Academy, and the Organ Institute at the Oregon Bach Festival. He has been an organ scholar at St. Thomas's Episcopal Church in Whitmarsh, Pa., an assistant Wanamaker Grand Court organist, and an occasional recitalist at Boardwalk Hall.

Aaron Patterson began his musical studies with the piano at age four and previously studied organ with Dennis Elwell. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, hiking, and bible study.



Following the recital we will gather for our annual banquet and annual meeting. During the meeting, we will vote on our new board nominations, Linda Maul and Robert Riday.

April Program

Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem, was the location for our April program presented by the AGO National Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Donald Saliers. Don was a warm and engaging speaker who encouraged us in our ministries of music. Social Tea Caterers provided cookies and punch for the reception that followed. A good time was had by all. In fact, Don enjoyed his visit so much that he wants to return to Bethlehem. He'll surely be welcome again.

Competition Winner

The AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists (RCYO) is held in odd-numbered years, in two separate stages. An initial competition is held at the local level by an AGO chapter. The chapter winner then advances to a regional competition, where a regional winner is selected. The competition cycle culminates the following year when the regional competition winners—now AGO Rising Stars—perform at the Rising Stars recitals at the AGO National Convention.

On Saturday, April 6, our chapter held a local competition at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. Judges were Lou Carol Fix, Tom Dressler, and Stephen Williams who was also our host for the event. Our winner was Rachel Schulz of Ephrata. Rachel is a student at Lebanon Valley College where she majors in Music Education and minors in Economics. At college she sings in two choirs and plays viola or violin in two orchestras. Her primary instrument is the organ, which she studies with Shelly Moorman-Stahlman. Rachel serves as organist and choir director at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Annville.

Rachel's competition program included two movements from Dan Locklair's *Rubrics*, Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in D Major*, BWV 532, the Allegro from Mendelssohn's *Sonata No. 1*, and two settings of the hymn-tune *Coronation*. Rachel will take this program to the regional competition, the opening event of our Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention in June.

Help Wanted

Our planning for the 2019-20 program year is almost finished. We have the programs and the presenters in order. Now we need locations for these events. Can your church serve as a site for an AGO program? We need two churches for members' organ recitals, one church with a piano for an anthem-reading session, and one church for the **Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza** program. For more information or to recommend your church, please contact Jane Errera (janeerrera@aol.com; 610-865-4837) or any other LVAGO Board member.

May/June Concerts

May 18 (Saturday) 3:00 pm; **Bach and Handel Chorale: 35th Anniversary Concert**, Randall D. Perry, Conductor; Choral music by Bach and Handel, featuring Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*; St. Mark's Church, Jim Thorpe; Adults: \$20, Students and Seniors 65+: \$18; More information: www.bhchorale.org

May 19 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Music Among Friends**; Lucille Kincaid, director; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bethlehem; Freewill offering

May 19 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Robert McCormick, organ**; Organist and Choirmaster at St. Mark's, Philadelphia; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

May 19 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Valley Choral Society**; Andrew Lutz-Long, artistic director; Seth Trumbore, accompanist; Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkaspie; Free-will: \$5-\$10 suggested

May 22 (Wednesday) 12:05 pm; **Camerata Select Choir**; Wyomissing Area High School; Sharon P. Luyben, director; Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading; Freewill offering

May 31 (Friday) 7:30 pm; **Elysium String Quartet**; In collaboration with The Allentown Symphony Orchestra; St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Freewill offering

June 11 (Tuesday) 12:10 pm; **Bach at Noon**; St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown; Freewill offering

June 23 (Sunday) 3:00 pm; **Sean Burns, organ**; St. John's Lutheran Church; Allentown, Freewill offering

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.

Dale Bonenberger	Mon-Fri	917 328-9041
Ruthann Brandt	Mon-Sat	610 262-3304
Janice Butz	Mon-Fri	610 882-9388
Stephen Cable	Mon-Sat	484 866-6019
Carol Dzurenda	Mon-Sat	215 538-7273
Kevin Freaney	Sun-Sat	610 283-1944
Ellen Erb	Saturday	570 350-0343
Charles Glandorf	Sun-Sat	610 416-1055
Eric Gombert	Mon-Sat	610 435-1641
Gail Hanzl	Mon-Sat	610 264-5859
Bryan Holten	Mon-Sat	585-633-8705
Michael Huffman	Mon-Sat	610 433-6563
Joe Kaczmarek	Sun-Fri	484 433-4336
Jacqueline Kuba	Mon-Sat	570 386-4480
Michael Kuhnert	Mon-Sat	215 536-4345
Dodd Lambertson	Sun-Sat	484 935-3505
Andrew Lutz-Long	Mon-Fri	610 704-7805
James Matz	Sun-Sat	610 367-8094
Linda Maule	Mon-Sat	610 258-5006
John McEnerney	Sun-Fri	215 794-7338
Richard McIntyre	Mon-Sat	908 283-4691
Erin Petrella	Sun-Sat	484 863-9052
Maria Prochnau	Sun-Sat	610 866-2560
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
Matthew Wary	Mon-Fri	610 473-8777
Stephen Williams	Mon-Fri	610 737-5196
Stephen Ziminsky	Mon-Sat	610 417-2669
Freda Zimmerman	Sun-Sat	610 381-3089

Positions Available

Director of Music (1)

Church: Christ Church United Church of Christ, 75 E. Market St., Bethlehem, PA 18018, 610-865-6565

Website: www.christucc.org

Contact: Deb Brogan (Office Administrator), 610-865-6565, deborahbrogan@christucc.org

Weekly services: 1, An additional service is optional
Ensembles: Adult Choir (25), Youth Choir (6), Handbells (10)

Instruments: 4 manual Moeller/Allen

Music budget: \$6,000

Weekly attendance: 135

Position fill date: Immediate Opening

Deadline: 7/1/19

Total hours per week: 15 – 20

Salary: \$18,750 – \$25,000

Weeks vacation: 0

Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance

Notes: Christ Church United Church of Christ, 75 East Market Street, Bethlehem, PA. 18018 will have an opening for the position of Director of Music. The position is part time, and could possibly be shared, depending on area of expertise. The ideal candidate(s) will: (1) Provide a broad array of musical styles for all age groups, (2) Be proficient with keyboard (piano and/or organ), (3) Be able to lead and develop one or more adult, youth, or children's musical groups, and (4) Understand the role of music to enable faith formation and a spiritual worship experience. Christ Church has an updated Moeller/Allen organ. Please send application, including resume and salary requirement, directly to the church.

Director of Music (2)

Church: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 150 N. Hanover St., Pottstown, PA 19464

Website: www.emmanuelpottstown.com

Contact: Russ Purnell, 610-323-4312,
office@emmanuelpottstown.com

Weekly services: 1

Ensembles: Adult Choir (10)

Instruments: III/52 Moeller/Schantz (rebuild 1989), keyboard, grand piano

Music budget: TBD

Weekly attendance: 65

Position fill date: ASAP

Deadline: NA

Total hours per week: 8 – 10

Salary: \$13,000 – \$16,000

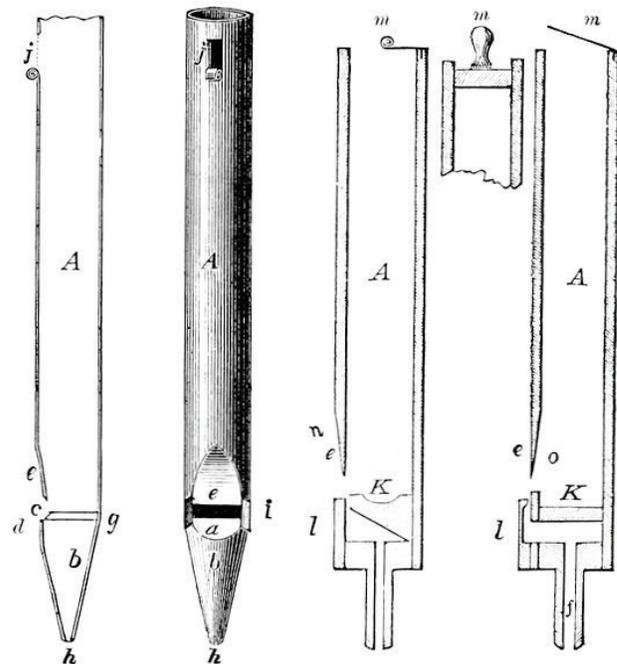
Weeks vacation: 4

Benefits: NA

Notes: Emmanuel Lutheran Church is seeking a part-time Director of Music to play the organ/piano/keyboard and provide leadership to our worship and music ministries, fitting with our vision of blending the best of traditional and contemporary worship styles. This person should be comfortable playing traditional hymns and anthems and contemporary Christian worship and praise. Responsibilities include directing our Adult Choir and accompanying (but not leading) the Praise Band. An ability to work well with others

is necessary, particularly with our pastor, Worship & Music committee, and lay leadership for planning and to promote the growth of our music ministry. A strong personal faith in Jesus Christ and spiritual maturity is expected.

Find us on Facebook



Newsletter Editor and Webmaster

Mark Dennis, 484-666-8511

vmdennispa@juno.com

Placement Service

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

Newsletter Deadline

Next Edition: Thursday, June 20, 2019