

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

November 2025

www.lvago.org



Chapter Officers 2024-2025

Dean: Susan Frickert

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Secretary: Linda Maule

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Treasurer: Stephen Bueker

610-657-4188

sfbueker@rcn.com

Executive Committee

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

Robert Riday (2028)

Michael Fister (2028)

Notes from the Dean

Do you spend large chunks of your time pouring over anthem catalogues and websites, searching for the perfect anthems for your choirs? It's a very tedious job of discernment, with so many considerations! Is the text well-written, theologically sound, and appropriate for the theme of a particular Sunday? Does the music truly illuminate the text, and is it well written, or does it have the same tired, trite, formulaic harmonies that so many other anthems copy today? Is it within your choir's capabilities to master in about six rehearsals? Is it intriguing, a bit challenging and yes, even fun? I have found lots of anthems that would be considered appropriate, but they're just plain dull! I love my singers much too much to give them mediocre music to sing, and I'll bet you do, too. That's why I'm very excited about our November 18 anthem sharing workshop at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Bethlehem. You are invited to bring twenty-five copies of a few of your best loved anthems for us to sing. Each of us will get the opportunity to lead the group as we sight-read through them, and give our insights as to why they are so special for our choirs. Several of your officers and board members are excellent sight-readers, so we are happy to jump in and accompany you on the piano if you wish to stand and direct the group. This fruitful afternoon will conclude with a light supper and fellowship. Look for a registration form in this newsletter. The workshop is free, but the delicious supper is being offered at a very reasonable cost, only \$10 per person. We encourage you to bring some of your singers, or maybe a church choir director colleague who isn't a member of the guild (yet!). And yes, even if you don't have any anthems you feel like sharing, come join us anyway to get some great new ideas. Many thanks to Janice Butz for organizing this valuable event, and to Jeffery Raub for hosting us!



Program Year 2025-26

Look ahead at what our LVAGO Chapter Board has planned for this program year. Hope you can join us for several of these events!

NOVEMBER 16, 3:00 p.m. —Bring two or three of your favorite anthems to share with chapter members on Sunday afternoon, November 16. Following the program, we'll enjoy fellowship and a light supper. The location is at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Bethlehem Township. Please see more info in this newsletter.

DECEMBER—No program, as we “deck the halls with music” in our own local churches.

JANUARY 17—Chapter members are encouraged to be inspired for the new year by attending the Philadelphia Chapter's annual January Jumpstart, a day filled with workshops and a featured organ clinician. The event will be held at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

FEBRUARY 21—A choral workshop in observance of Black History Month will be presented by Dr. Derrick Thompson, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at Kutztown University. Location to be announced and details to follow.

MARCH—A celebration of women composers, hearing perhaps some organ works, choral anthems, or hymns composed by women.

APRIL—On the road for an organ crawl, tentatively traveling to Philadelphia, the birthplace of our country's freedom, to see new and historic organs.

MAY 31—LVAGO member Luke DiGiacinto, currently pursuing studies at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, will be our featured young artist recitalist at Christ Lutheran Church in Allentown. A banquet and annual meeting follows the recital.



LVAGO 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
Ellen Erb	Mon-Sat	570 350-0343
Charles Glandorf	Mon-Sat	610 416-1055
Eric Gombert	Mon-Sat	610 435-1641
Susan Hartney	Mon-Sat	610 360-6934
Joe Kaczmarek	Mon-Sat	484 433-4336
Jacqueline Kuba	Sun-Sat	570 386-4480
Michael Kuhnert	Mon-Sat	215 536-4345
Cristina Dinella Makowicz	Mon-Sat	585-732-8017
James Matz	Sun-Sat	610 367-8094
Linda Maule	Mon-Sat	610 258-5006
Richard McIntyre	Mon-Sat	908 283-4691
Jeffrey Raub	Saturday	484 541-8322
Michael Seroka	Mon-Sat	570 516-7207
Barbara Thomson	Sun-Sat	908 591-4499
Bruce Tonkin	Sun-Sat	610 220-5457
Dennis Varley	Sun-Sat	610 739-3567
Matthew Wary	Mon-Sat	610 743-0921
Stephen Ziminsky	Mon-Fri	610 417-2669

Newsletter Editor

Marta Oberlin, martasgig@gmail.com

Placement Service

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

Newsletter Deadline

(December issue) Monday, November 24, 2025

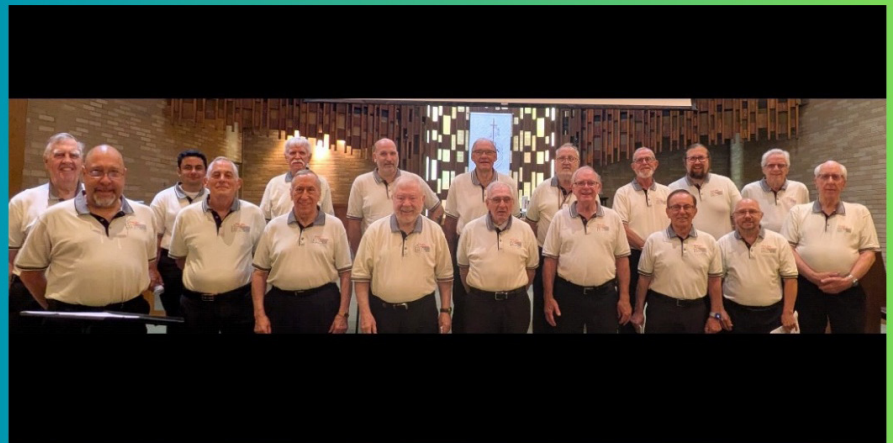
Octibiafest Recap

What a great time our chapter members had at our 2nd Octibiafest on Friday evening, October 10. After a wonderful feast of bratwurst, sauerkraut, red cabbage, and an array of other delightful side dishes and desserts, theater organist Ian Fraser from Plainfield, NJ, presented an exceptional hour of music. Beginning with music from the 1920's, Ian ventured into other styles of theater music including a wonderful setting of a movement from Ferde Grofe's Grand Canyon Suite. Self-taught as a theater organist and performing totally from memory, Ian captivated us not only by his musical skills but also by sharing with us many of the differences between theater and pipe organs. Thanks to Gary Raish and Bob Riday who hosted us in their home which houses two theater organs. As always, Octibiafest is a fabulous night of fellowship, delicious German-themed cuisine, and fantastic entertainment!



Join us for a concert with the Lehigh Valley Harmonizers! We are welcoming the Lehigh Valley Harmonizers back to Jordan UCC for a concert on Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 PM. Admission to the concert is free, but a free-will offering will be accepted with a suggested donation of \$10.

The Lehigh Valley Harmonizers are the Lehigh Valley's premier barbershop chorus. Under the direction of Willem Hordijk and Jimmy Gasper, they are thrilled to be joining us! Singing 'a cappella' arrangements in the barbershop style, they perform a wide variety of enjoyable music. If you are interested in singing with the group, men of all ages and singing abilities are welcome to stop by a regular rehearsal Tuesday nights at 7pm in the basement of Saints Simon and Jude Church, 730 W Broad Street in Bethlehem. For more information, call their toll free number: 800 482-1548 or visit online at lvharmonizers.com.



**AN AFTERNOON
WITH THE
LEHIGH VALLEY
HARMONIZERS**

**JORDAN UCC CHURCH 1837
CHURCH RD, ALLENTOWN,
PA 18104**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH - AT 3:00PM



BRING YOUR FAVORITE CHOIR ANTHEM!

CHORAL READING WORKSHOP AT OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH

NOVEMBER 16TH, 2025, 3:00 PM

3219 Santee Road BETHLEHEM, PA, 18020

BRING 25 COPIES OF 2 OR 3 CHOIR ANTHEMS

SOUP AND SANDWICH DINNER AFTER THE WORKSHOP

DINNER IS \$10 A PERSON, WORKSHOP IS FREE!

RSPV BY NOVEMBER 9TH, 2025

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JEFFREY RAUB Jeffrey.raub@MY-OLPH.ORG OR (484)541-8322

NAME: _____ NUMBER OF GUESTS: _____. DINNER? YES NO

CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO **LEHIGH VALLEY AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

PLEASE MAIL TO JEFFREY RAUB AT 3219 Santee Road, BETHLEHEM, PA 18020

A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY



UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS **JOIN THE ANGELS!**

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT
DIRECTED BY SUSAN L. FRICKERT
FEATURING:
UNION CHORALE | PRAISE BAND
GLORY RINGERS | JUNIOR CHOIR
STARSONG (TEEN) ENSEMBLE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 2PM

5500 ROUTE 873, SCHNECKSVILLE, PA
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW

A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED
BENEFITTING B.L.O.O.M. WOMEN'S MINISTRY

