

APRIL 2023

Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

DEAN'S MESSAGE...

It is great to welcome Spring again (it is snowing as I write this)! There are some wonderful events coming up in the next couple of months that I hope you will be able to attend.

Since its founding in 1896, the AGO has been rooted in education and service. With this in mind, our chapter is presenting a short workshop on Sunday, April 30 called **PIANO TO ORGAN - HOW DO WE GET THERE?** Many of us know someone who has had formal piano training and then answered the call to play the organ in their church. Even with years of piano experience, transitioning to the organ can be daunting! This workshop will address some of the common hurdles that pianists encounter at the organ. Spread the word to non-member organists, pianists who are thinking about the organ and students alike who may find this topic beneficial. Attendance of members is encouraged to not only welcome guests but also to assist in the question/answer section. Further workshop details are found on page 4 of this newsletter.

On April 15, 3:00 pm, member organists, Tim Smith and Tat Baine, will perform a dedication recital celebrating the renovation and expansion of the organ at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Endwell. The improvements of the instrument were done by Smith & Gilbert Organs.

Trinity Episcopal Church will host a recital by renowned organist, Dr. Paul Thornock, on April 23. Further details are found on page 5.

Thanks to a break in the weather, our chapter was finally able to hold the first session of the Fugue State Films DVD on Bach. The next session will be on May 20 at Central Methodist Church in Endicott.

Congratulations to Rob Oldroyd for organizing and leading a concert for organ and brass ensemble at his church in Troy, PA. Also, congratulations to members Jean Henssler (organ) and Patti O'Connell (French horn) who participated in the program.

The executive committee will be producing a slate of officers for our chapter's upcoming elections. The positions of dean and sub-dean will be vacant, so please let me know if you have any suggestions or nominations for those positions.

John

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ♦ **Saturday, April 15 - 3:00 pm** - Organ Dedicatory Service at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 711 Farm-to-Market Road, Endwell. Organists, Tim Smith and Tat Baine
- ♦ **Sunday, April 16 - 3:00 pm** - Organ re-dedication recital at First United Methodist Church, Oneonta. John Jurgensen, organist
- ♦ **Friday, April 21 - 7:00 pm** - Organ Concert at Trinity Episcopal Church, Binghamton. Dr. Paul A. Thornock, organist, from Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, Georgia. Works of Bach, Buxtehude and Vierne.
- ♦ **Sunday, April 23 - 4:00 pm** - The Madrigal Choir of Binghamton will present "The American Songbook: Broadway Show Tunes from Gershwin to Now". St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Binghamton. Adults \$20, Students \$5. More info at <https://madrigalchoir.com> or <https://www.facebook.com/MadrigalChoir/>
- ♦ **Sunday, April 23 - 4:00 pm** - Chemung Valley AGO Chapter Members Recital at Grace Episcopal Church, Elmira
- ♦ **Sunday, April 30 - 4:00 pm** - A two hour workshop **Piano to Organ - How Do You Get There!** Church of the Holy Family, Endwell (**See Page 4**)
- ♦ **Sunday, April 30 - 3:00 pm** - Musical Performance honoring P.P. Bliss at United Methodist Hall, Rome, PA. Organist, Richard VanAuken and Pianist, Evelyn VanAuken.
- ♦ **Sunday, May 7 - 2:00 pm** - Performance at the FORUM Theater at 236 Washington Street, Binghamton. Organists, Nancy Wildoner, Paul Cienniwa, Richard VanAuken and pianist, Evelyn VanAuken
- ♦ **Saturday, May 13 - 3:00 pm** - Ensemble concert at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Endwell, featuring the organ, soprano solo, duet selections and a brass quartet. Organist, Tim Smith
- ♦ **Saturday, May 20 - 10:00 am** - 2nd session of the Fugue State Films "Bach and Expression." Gathering at 9:30 am with coffee/refreshment at Central Methodist Church, 17 Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott.
- ♦ **Sunday, May 21 - 7:00 pm** - Spring Concert of **BRIO AND FRIENDS** at Endwell United Methodist Church. Craig Johnson/director and Carolyn Corse/pianist.
- ♦ **Sunday, May 21 - 4:00 pm** - **MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON** at Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Spencer. Organist, David Jackson
- ♦ **Sunday, June 11 - 4:00 pm** - Members Recital at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Endwell.

FROM JEAN, YOUR SUB-DEAN...

Check out the online arts blog, The Boston Musical Intelligencer's fascinating interview of Randy Steere discussing the Hauptwerk instrument installed by Dan Lemieux (META ORGANWORKS owner and Binghamton chapter member) in the Groton Music School, Groton, MA.

<https://www.classical-scene.com/2023/03/28/let-fifteen-organs-bloom/>, It includes audio clips of Randy demonstrating some of the 15 organs which are available. Congratulations Dan and Randy!

CONCERT SNAPSHOT...

Robert Oldroyd, Organist and Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Troy, PA, organized and led a concert for brass ensemble, organ and percussion on March 18 in celebration of the recent renovation and expansion of the 1945 Aeolian-Skinner organ done by Smith and Gilbert Organs. The program consisted of arrangements for the ensemble done by Oldroyd, highlighted by skillful arrangements of Grainger's Colonial Song, Handel's Largo from Xerxes and the Fdinale of Symphony #3 ("The Organ Symphony") by Saint-Saens. As part of the celebration, volunteers who assisted the Smith & Gilbert staff during the renovation, were introduced and honored by each being given a part of the organ that was taken out as a result of the renovation, with a brass plaque attached with the name of the volunteer. Participants included chapter members Jean Henssler and Patti O'Connell. The concert was live-streamed and available for viewing at: <https://www.facebook.com/TroyPAPresbyterian/>.

Volunteers



Music Ensemble



PIANO TO ORGAN - HOW DO YOU GET THERE?...

WHAT: 2 HOUR WORKSHOP

WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 30
4 pm to 6 pm

WHERE: CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
3600 Phyllis Street, Endwell

- 1.) Did you (or someone that you know) begin your musical journey as a pianist and then answered the call to play the organ in church? And private, formal organ lessons were not possible at the time?
- 2.) Do you (or someone you know) still find some aspects of the organ mysterious and challenging? Please note: The majority of organists might answer "yes".
- 3) This workshop will cover some of the hurdles that pianists encounter in transitioning to playing the organ. Some topics to be covered are:

Hymn Playing

Pedaling

Registrations

Leading with the organ versus Accompanying

Repertoire for Preludes and Postludes

Question and Answer Period

ORGAN CONCERTS...

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1030 West Main Street, Troy, PA

Friday 4/7: Endless Mountain Choral Society Charles Wood's Passion
according to St Mark, 7 pm

Sunday 4/23: Randy Frye Organ Recital, 7 pm

Friday 5/5: Max Esmus Organ Recital, 7 pm

Saturday 6/10: Jean Henssler Organ Recital, 4 pm

*Most of the performances will be livestreamed on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/TroyPAPresbyterian>*

ONEONTA ORGAN CONCERT...

John Jurgensen, a chapter member, will be giving an organ re-dedication recital on Sunday, April 16, 3:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta.

Alleluyas - Simon Preston

Toccata, Adagio, & Fugue (BWV 564) - J.S. Bach

Scherzo (from "Sonata 1" Op.40) - René Becker

Cat Suite - Denis Bédard

Phantasie in f (K. 608) - W.A. Mozart

Cortege et Litanie (Op.19, No.2) - Marcel Dupré

ORGAN RECITAL BY DR. PAUL THORNOCK...

Trinity Episcopal Church in Binghamton welcomes the recitalist, Dr. Paul Thornock, organist at the Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist in Savannah, Georgia for a concert on Friday, April 21 at 7:00 pm. Dr. Thornock has achieved a remarkable record of achievement as an organ virtuoso, choral conductor and organ consultant.

He earned the Masters of Music degree from Notre Dame and the Doctor of Music degree from Cincinnati Conservatory. Dr. Thornock built outstanding choral ensembles in Columbus, Ohio; Seattle, and Savannah, Georgia; where he conducts the Cathedral music program and the Symphony Chorus. The Columbus Choir's recording was featured on National broadcast.

Paul has coordinated substantial new organ projects in Columbus, Ohio; Richmond, Virginia; and Hillsdale, Michigan. His keen sense of context, historical musical tradition, and successful large event planning has won him a substantial career within the National Church.

His Binghamton concert will feature music of Louis Vierne, Max Reger, Dietrich Buxtehude and others. He will explore all the colors and resources of the Trinity organ. You will be dazzled by his precision and daring artistry. Not to be missed: please invite friends to enjoy this musical milestone.



ON THE BENCH...



MUSIC FOR A SUNDAY AFTERNOON...

This concert will be held at Christ the King Presbyterian Church, 75 N. Main St, Spencer. The program will include organ, piano, voice and congregational singing. Performers are chapter member David Jackson (organ), Brenda Yeier (piano) and Jewel Griffith (voice).

FROM OUR NEIGHBORING CHAPTER...

The Chemung Valley AGO Chapter will be holding their Annual Members Recital on Sunday, April 23 - 4:00 pm at Grace Episcopal Church, 375 W. Church Street, Elmira. Performing will be Dan LaBar, Reggie Piatt, Claude Cornwall, David Jackson, Julia Peckham and James Reifinger, Jr.

FROM YOUR EDITOR...

This first week of April 2023 is a special moment among three faith traditions -
- Judaism, Christianity and Islam -
as major annual observances will overlap this year.

May this holy season for all of our faith traditions be a time of rich renewal to foster healing, reconciliation, peace and compassion in our struggling world.

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