

FEBRUARY 2023

Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

DEAN'S MESSAGE...

It was such a pleasure to see how many of you were able to come to our post-holiday dinner at Cortese. We don't get together as often as I would like, but when we do, it is such a lovely occasion. It was a treat to get to meet one of our new members, Linden Foster and his family.

Our next scheduled event for Saturday, February 4 at 10:00 am **has been postponed** due to covid issues and weather. This was to be the first of two sessions viewing the new DVD issued by Fugue State Films featuring the music of J.S. Bach. Currently, we expect to have the first of two sessions on Saturday March 4 at 10:00 am, with the second session to be arranged.

You will be seeing information about a new concert hall at Groton Hill Music School in Groton, MA. The new hall may prove to be one of the finest in the country, maybe in the world. Bids for the design and building of the organ for the concert hall were sent out several years ago. The contract was awarded to our own Richard Hedgebeth, who submitted the design for a 4-manual Hauptwerk organ. Richard passed away before he was able to complete the project, but it was taken over by another one of our members, Dan Lemieux, of Argyle, NY. The organ itself has been completed (we got to hear it at Dan's house/shop in Argyle), Randy Steere has played the new organ in the completed concert hall for Respighi's THE PINES OF ROME for an orchestral concert. There will be a concert on March 25 with orchestra and organ. Also, coming up will be a solo recital on Friday, April 14 at 8:00 pm. Randy Steere will be organist for both events. <https://grotonhill.org/concerts/randy-steere/>

Our condolences to the Keeler family for the January 17 passing of Marcella Keeler, a long-time member of our chapter. We have made a donation in her name to cover a year's membership dues for one of our chapter's young members. <https://www.pressconnects.com/obituaries/bps136111>

John



UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ♦ Sunday, February 26 - 6:00 pm - **Organ and Candlechant** in candlelit Trinity Episcopal Church (44 Main Street, Binghamton). Jean Henssler, organist with the Men of Trinity Choir. <https://www.trinitymemorial.org>
- ♦ Saturday, March 4 - 10:00 am - 1st session of the Fugue State Films documentary on J.S. Bach. Gathering at 9:30 am with coffee/refreshment at Central Methodist Church, 17 Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott.
- ♦ Sunday, April 30 - 4:00 pm - A 2 hour workshop **Piano to Organ - How Do You Get There!** This workshop will address the common hurdles that pianists encounter in transitioning to playing the organ in church. Place TBA.
- ♦ Sunday, June 11, 2023 - 4:00 pm - Members' Recital at Central United Methodist Church, Endicott

ORGAN CONCERTS...

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

Saturday 2/25: Organ and Chancel Rededication, 7 pm
Organists - Rob Oldroyd, Randy Frye and Tim Smith

Saturday 3/18: Oldroyd Brass and Organ, 5 pm. Jean Henssler, organist

Sunday 3/26: Dr Jeff Snedeker Organ Recital, 4 pm

Friday 3/31: Bach Birthday Recital, 7 pm. Rob Oldroyd, organist.

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

Sunday 4/16: Randy Frye Organ Recital, 7 pm

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

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

The original organ is a 1945, opus 1084 Aeolian-Skinner.....listed as three manuals, 17 stops, 20 ranks. The organ has recently been refurbished and expanded. Tim Smith has cleaned the entire organ, installed new electronics and added extra ranks of pipes.

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

AND MORE CONCERTS....



Concert Announcements



Meta Organworks is excited to announce the debut concerts of our Meta Organ at Groton Hill Music Center's newly constructed 1,000+ seat concert hall located in Groton, Massachusetts. This 32 channel, 41,000 watt Meta Virtual Pipe Organ features 12 sample sets of world-class organs by master organ builders.

Please visit <https://grotonhill.org/tickets/> for more information and to purchase tickets.

Vista Philharmonic Orchestra: Fleet Feet

Saturday March, 25th, 2023 - 7:30PM

Concert organist, Randy Steere will join the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra to perform:

Still, W.G.: Symphony No. 5 (The Western Hemisphere)
Barber: Toccata Festiva
Saint-Saëns: Symphony No. 3

Randy Steere: Solo Organ Concert

Friday April 14th, 2023 - 8:00PM

Concert organist, Randy Steere will showcase 4 of the 12 world class pipe organ sample sets contained within the Meta Organ at Groton Hill:

- The Walcker organ (Martinikerk - Doesburg, Netherlands)
- Sonnenorgel (Goerlitz, Germany)
- Cavaille-Coll's St. Etienne organ (Caen, France)
- Rosales' Trinity Episcopal Organ (Portland, Oregon)



Join us to hear Randy play exciting works from Camillo Schumann, Max Reger, Paul Fey, Seth Bingham, JS Bach, and Alexandre Guilmant.

MIDNIGHT TOCCATAS AND MORE!,,,

This concert by Stephen Tharp and David Briggs features the premiere performances of *Midnight Toccatas* for solo organ by Aaron Travers, Associate Professor of Composition at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music.

Midnight Toccatas was the winning work, from among 42 entries, in the Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund's 50th anniversary Composition Competition.

The program also includes the organists' own transcriptions of *Ride of the Valkyries* (Wagner), *Carnival* (Dvorak), and *Daphnis et Chloe* (Ravel).

The concert will take place on February 12 at St. James in the City, Las Angeles, CA at 6:00pm (PT) following Choral Evensong at 4:15 pm (PT).

The concert and Question/Answer session will be livestreamed.

SNAPSHOTS OF CHAPTER DINNER...



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