

MAY 2023

Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

DEAN'S MESSAGE...

On April 15, we joined in the dedication and celebration of a new instrument in our area. Tat Baine, organist at Northminster Presbyterian Church, and Tim Smith, of Smith & Gilbert Organs, who built the organ, both introduced us to the substantial power and variety of sounds that the new organ provides. Along with Trinity Episcopal and Central Methodist, the Northminster organ is the third instrument that Smith & Gilbert has built in our area. Our congratulations and thanks to Tat, Tim, Rev. Rachel Helgeson, pastor of Northminster, and the Northminster congregation for bringing this new instrument to life.



We have decided to hold our members' recital on June 11 at Northminster, so all that want to perform in the recital will get a chance to enjoy the new organ. I will be sending out an invitation soon for you to sign up to perform in the June recital. I can send the stop list for the organ to anyone who wants to perform.

The executive committee will be meeting on the 13th to finalize the slate of officers for our upcoming election. The positions of dean and sub-dean will be vacant, so please let me know if you or someone you would like to nominate would want to be on the ballot.



Thanks to Nancy McNamara for preparing and delivering a wonderful program (*Piano to Organ - How Do You Get There?*) for pianists who are contemplating playing the organ and for pianists who are already playing the organ in church. Thanks also, to Tim Wetherbee for assisting in the presentation.

Our chapter is hosting the next session of the Fugue State Films "Bach and Expression" on Saturday, May 20 at Central Methodist. Check the calendar of upcoming events below for all that is happening in the next month.

John

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ◆ **Sunday, May 7 - 2:00 pm** - Performance at the FORUM Theater at 236 Washington Street, Binghamton. Sponsored by the Binghamton Theater Organ Society with organists, Nancy Wildoner, Dr. Paul Cienniwa, Richard VanAuken and pianist, Evelyn VanAuken. Tickets at door or online at www.BinghamtonTOS.org.
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 pm** - *Choral Evensong for the Ascension of our Lord*, Trinity Episcopal Church, Binghamton. The choir will offer Friedell's *Evening Service in F*, which includes a setting of the *Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis*, composed at the request of Searle Wright. The sung Compline is followed by Bullard's *Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*, composed in 2000. Tim Smith, Choirmaster and Organist.
- ◆ **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.

ORGAN CONCERTS...

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

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>

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).

FOLLOWED BY AN EVENING OF MUSIC...



An Evening with
BRIO!
vocal ensemble
and Friends

Sunday, May 21, 7 p.m.
Endwell United Methodist Church
3301 Watson Boulevard, Endwell, NY

Beethoven's "Scottish Songs," sacred classics and spirituals, plus instrumental works by our guest musicians!

Featured artists:
Doug Diegert, violin • *Mary Diegert*, viola
Stephanie Borrmann, cello • *Kenneth Borrmann*, clarinet

Craig Johnson,
founder and director
Carolyn Corse,
accompanist
Free will offering
Learn more
about BRIO on
Facebook!

FROM YOUR REGISTRAR...

By now, all members whose renewal is due before July 1, should have received an invoice from National AGO containing the increased dues. Once again, it is appreciated by Bob and myself if you renew online at ONCARD. Also, the traditional form from the Chapter will be mailed to you about June 1. Please remember that payment should be made before the due date either by check or credit card online!

Richard

FROM JEAN, YOUR SUB-DEAN...

Organ Dedication at Groton Hill Music School, Groton, Massachusetts

Our own Richard Hedgebeth began the project before his untimely death in 2019... *our own* Dan Lemieux (META ORGANWORKS, N. Argyle NY) completed the project... *and our* friend and colleague, Randy Steere played a dedication recital on the spectacular 4-manual Hauptwerk Digital organ on Friday, April 14.

After a 1/2 hour lecture - demonstration explaining the wonders of the technology which went into the instrument, Randy *wowed* the audience with organ literature played on 4 of the 15 available organ sample sets: Walcker (Doesburg, Netherlands) - C. Schumann and Reger; Rosales (Portland, OR) - Fey and Bingham; Sonnenorgel (Goerlitz, Germany) - Bach; Cavaille-Coll (Caen, France) - Guilmant.

Projected on the large screen above the stage (behind which were the numerous banks of speakers) was the picture of the instrument whose sample set was being used. It was a joyous celebration of the organ and a meeting of organ lovers from the region NW of Boston...and one from Vestal!

Congratulations Dan, Melissa, and Randy on the completion of this extraordinary project. Watch for an extensive article in an upcoming issue of TAO Magazine.



ORGAN CONSOLE DEDICATORY RECITAL...

Congratulations to our chapter member, John Jurgensen, who gave a breath taking organ re-dedication recital on April 16 at First United Methodist Church, Oneonta.

Along with works by Preston, Bach, Becker, Bédard, Mozart and Dupré, John gave a description of the work done (facilitated by Sidney Chase) with an accompanying slide presentation. The selected repertoire highlighted not only the magnificent new console but also the wide tonal expanse of the organ!

In the middle of the recital, the audience was delighted by the entertaining CAT SUITE by Bédard, with accompanying slides.

It was a sunny Spring Sunday afternoon well spent!



MORE FROM GROTON HILL...



FROM YOUR EDITOR...

In the past month, I have had the opportunity to attend some wonderful concerts. Music fills me with joy and I am very grateful for all the superb musicians who share their own gift of music with others!



Dr Paul Thornock,
Recitalist at Trinity
Episcopal on 4/21

On Another 

May is Mental Health Month.

In the midst of all that we do... our practicing ... and our rehearsals ... and our church services ... and our concerts... and our family... we must remember to take care of ourselves too....

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