

# MIXTURES

MARCH 2022



## DEAN'S MESSAGE...

This month, I would like to offer a special thanks and congratulations to **Jean Henssler**, who has put in an enormous amount of work in preparing her excellent February 5 presentation, **In the Footsteps of Bach**, while also learning and subsequently performing beautifully the organ part of the Poulenc Organ Concerto, which she played as part of the Oldroyd All-Star Brass Ensemble concert in Troy, PA on February 19. The hour and fifteen-minute slide presentation at Main Street Baptist was a retrospective review of her 2019 Pipedreams tour of East Germany, which included an array of pictures and specifications of the organs that were visited, as well as East German landscape, cultural information, and oddities, all accompanied with a soundtrack of music played on the actual instruments that she visited. Especially enjoyable was the video of her playing Craig Phillips' *Festival Piece* on the magnificent IV/63 Schuke organ at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial church in Berlin. As a special treat, she also played a 20-minute DVD of phenomenal organist, Cameron Carpenter, who had given a private concert for the tour group at his warehouse studio in Berlin.



We also thank **Andy Chadwick** who provided critical expertise on the projection and sound system for this presentation. We heard from several people after the event who said they were not able to attend due to the bad weather that day, so we are considering a repeat performance sometime to accommodate those who couldn't make it.

Our congratulations also go to one of our newest members, **Rob Oldroyd**, who conducted a benefit concert to raise funds for the Tim Smith renovation/expansion of the 1950 Aeolian-Skinner organ at the First Presbyterian Church of Troy, PA. (see last month's Mixture for the instructions for donating to the organ fund). The Oldroyd All-Star Brass Ensemble consists of

17 professional brass/percussion players from all over the East/Mid-Atlantic including Patti O'Connell (French Horn). The program, played to a large, enthusiastic audience, included Rob's arrangement of Poulenc's Organ Concerto. Jean played the organ part on the Aeolian-Skinner organ (which had only 3 working general pistons!) while Rob conducted the ensemble. The Poulenc, interestingly, was commissioned in 1934 by Princess Edmond de Polignac (nee: Winnegreta Singer, heiress to the Singer sewing machine fortune), and was first performed in the Polignac salon in Paris on an organ of similar size to the Troy organ, although it was a Cavaille-Coll! It was conducted by Nadia Boulanger, with the organ part played by Maurice Durufle. The Troy program also included several "classical" works, some arranged by Rob, and a newly composed four movement piece by Rob, *Sacred Harp Suite*, based on four familiar Sacred Harp tunes. Jean also played a solo performance of Widor's *Cantabile* from the 6<sup>th</sup> Symphony.

The program is archived at: [https://youtu.be/I0OZARRy0\\_4](https://youtu.be/I0OZARRy0_4)

John



Organist Jean Henssler with  
Conductor/Arranger Robert Oldrighi

## Your Editor's Message...

Last week we had a breath of what is to come...Spring! I don't know about you, but we were outside finishing taking in the Christmas Crèche, which had been frozen in the front yard! It was refreshing to be outside and to be comfortable with the temperatures. It is time to look forward to activities springing up that we can drive to comfortably. (no ice or snow ☺). There are many concerts on the calendar in this issue. Be sure to attend some of them.

Are you watching for the birds? I have had several people tell me they have Robins in their yard. Must be our yard is still cold, for we have not had a single one.

Speaking of Birds...I really enjoyed playing The Magic Flute last week at BU. I hope some of you got to see it. The students were awesome and it was very rewarding to make music with a few of my colleagues again!

So, for now I wish you well and hope you have much to look forward to this Spring.

Your Editor,  
Patti



Oldroyd's All Star Brass Band

Organist, Jean Henssler  
French horn, Patti O'Connell  
Conductor, Rob Oldroyd

First Presbyterian Church  
Troy, PA

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

**Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm:** Rudy Sumpter: **Lenten Organ Meditations** at First Presbyterian Church, Montrose, PA, in the Sanctuary.  
Meditations will be available on Zoom, and on the church's website: [FPCMontrose.org](http://FPCMontrose.org)

**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm:** Bicentennial Service: Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan of the Presbyterian Synod of the Trinity. Ithaca College Brass Choir. New works for choir by Oldroyd.  
Concert is Live at First Presbyterian Church of Troy, PA and live streamed <https://www.facebook.com/TroyPAPresbyterian/>

**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm:** Martha Denkenberger and Jean Starzek (piano and organ): **Lenten Organ Meditations** at First Presbyterian Church, Montrose, PA, in the Sanctuary. Meditations will be available on Zoom, and on the church's website: [FPCMontrose.org](http://FPCMontrose.org)

**Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 7:00pm:** Bach Birthday Concert: Organ favorites from his early works, the Weimar Period and the Orgelbuchlein. Works for Lent and Holy Week. Robert Oldroyd, organ.

Concert is Live at First Presbyterian Church of Troy, PA and live streamed <https://www.facebook.com/TroyPAPresbyterian/>

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00pm:** *Forsaken of Man* - cantata by Leo Sowerby (1895 - 1968). Combined Madrigal Choir of Binghamton and Trinity Choir, Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church, Binghamton. Tim Smith, conductor; William Trafka, (NYC) – organ.

**Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am:** *Lenten Organ Meditation* – Andy Kotylo - organist St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, PA. More info soon...

**Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am:** *Lenten Organ Meditation* - Works by Tournemire, Bach, Reger, and Walcha. Jean Henssler - organist. St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

## CHURCH MUSICIAN OPENINGS...

Open Position: Church Musician  
Where: Nineveh Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 115  
2997 NY-7  
Nineveh, NY 13813

The Nineveh Presbyterian Church, (PCUSA), Nineveh, NY, is looking to hire a church musician to begin work January 1, 2022.

The church has a baby grand piano and a pipe organ in the sanctuary along with a studio piano in the social hall. It also has three octaves of handbells. Due to the pandemic, both the bell and vocal choirs were inactive. We are now looking for leadership to get both of these groups back up and running. Most recently, individuals and small groups of three or four have performed with recorded or piano/organ accompaniment. An electronic keyboard is available for the church pond side service which takes place each August.

The congregation has an average worship attendance of 35. In addition to Sunday worship, the church musician is expected to assist with worship leadership for its special services which last year included a Christmas Eve Service, a Service of Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday, and the yearly pond side service in August.

The salary is commensurate upon training and experience. Any interested persons should respond with a one-page resume to:

The Rev. Richard S. Tosh  
c/o Nineveh Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 115, Nineveh, NY. 13813

## MUSICIAN HUMOR...

### IF ORGANISTS WROTE THE NEWSPAPER WEDDING COLUMNS

On Saturday, the third of August, at well after the stated time of 2:00 p.m., Ann Jones and Bob Smith were married at Our Lady of the Sorry Acoustics. The delay was attributed to the late arrival of an aunt of the bride and was deftly covered by organist Reginald Laudfuss (now celebrating his seventh month at the church), who improvised on an original theme for over ten minutes. This improvisation was accomplished in all minor keys on the church's instrument, a fourth or fifth rebuild of what was originally a dreadful theater organ from the Roxy.

Mr. Laudfuss chose a lightweight summer robe of lustrous burgundy to conceal his cutoffs and T-shirt. The organist's shoes, in tasteful black, were by Organmaster, accessorized with upgraded laces from Thom McAnn. They are his third pair in about fifteen years. The wedding party wore the usual clothes.

There were a sufficiently large number of attendants to require a lengthy processional but, despite last night's rehearsal, they heedlessly hurried up the aisle, resulting in a drastic compression of "The Prince of Denmark's March. This critical number, featuring the 8' Tuba purchased pre-voiced over the internet, was therefore performed with no repeats, and Mr. Laudfuss pointedly ended on the dominant in protest.

After a few minutes of talking by a clergy type, the organist played the first four phrases of the Schubert Ave Maria on the shimmering Choir Gemshorn 8" (no tremolo) while the couple did something. Later, somebody's female relative sang a breathy rendition of The Wedding Song. The soloist, whose customary venue is a country-western bar, attempted to continue singing during the instrumental interludes. Mr. Laudfuss responded by trying to cover her erroneous entrances with an obbligato on the Swell Trompette 8' (Wicks, 1940's, revoiced by Gantt in the 1958 rebuild), totally destroying the ethereal effect created by the subtle chiff of the Choir Gedeckt 8'.

The recessional was the Mendelssohn, chosen despite Mr. Laudfuss's counsel to the contrary. It was played on a satisfying plenum in ABABA form as the wedding party exited the church, after which Mr. Laudfuss launched into the Widor Toccata. The guests rudely began conversing during the postlude, but the organist added stops to match them decibel for decibel, masterfully maneuvering each drawknob, coupler and piston without missing a single note, bringing the piece to a breathtaking conclusion using the Sforzando button. The bride and groom went to college somewhere, but they did not take any music courses. After their honeymoon they will disappear into suburbia and produce children. The highlight of their anniversary each year will be the replay of Mr. Laudfuss's stunning work via a wedding video.

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**Some Assembly Required**



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**Sub Dean and Placement Jean Hensler - 748-7285**

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