

DECEMBER
2024

Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

DEAN'S MESSAGE...

December is such a busy time for most organists, myself included. It can be difficult to enjoy the holidays with various pressures piling up - lots of music to prepare, gatherings with friends and family, shopping for gifts, decorating, not to mention possible challenges with winter weather. I try to remind myself that it doesn't have to be perfect and that a person can only do what they can do. Also, someone wise once said, "In five years, or even a couple of weeks, what from today will really matter or have a lasting impact?" With all that in mind, I hope you have a wonderful, joyful December, with many magical moments.

One such moment can be our chapter event December 10 at the Dot Café in Your Needful Things, Binghamton. Please see details on page 2 of this newsletter.

Also, sometime during the next five weeks, take a break and check out the Holiday Trees at Roberson. Details are found on page 6. It is the first year our chapter has sponsored a tree - the 44 handmade wooden ornaments made from the pictures you sent are certainly a wonderful testament to the instruments that we love and play!

And speaking of our favorite instruments.... I subscribe to the New Yorker magazine and was surprised and happy to notice a short article about the restoration of a pipe organ in the Little Italy neighborhood of NYC. It isn't often such a major general-interest publication has something about pipe organs. Here's a link:

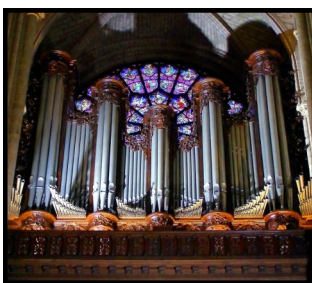
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2024/11/25/with-help-from-martin-scorsese-a-little-italy-organ-gets-a-sprucing-up>

Also, the restoration of Notre - Dame de Paris is complete! After 5 years, the Cathedral will open for worship services once again on Sunday, December 8. The link below shows comparison photos and the organ looks great, along with everything else.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c0Qdj80py3no>

Happy reading!

Hilton



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UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ♦ **Thursday, November 21 - Friday, January 4** - *Home for the Holidays* - Celebration of Joy and Community at Roberson Museum. *Details on page 6.*
- ♦ **Fridays, December 6, 13, 20 - (12:15 pm - 12:45 pm)** - Pipe Organ Advent(ures) at United Presbyterian Church, Cortland. *Details on page 3.*
- ♦ **Saturday, December 7 - 3:30 pm** - Binghamton Philharmonic presents "Winter Wonderland" with a pre-concert organ recital at 3:00 pm, Broome County Forum, Binghamton. www.binghamtonphilharmonic.org (607)723-3931
- ♦ **Tuesday, December 10 - 11:30am** - Chapter Holiday Luncheon at the Dot Café in Your Needful Things, 136 E. Service Road, Binghamton, 13901. Reservations are required by this Friday, December 6. *See below.*
- ♦ **Sunday, December 29 - 2:00 pm** - BTOS presents Dennis James/organist. at the Broome County Forum, Binghamton. *Details on page 4.*
- ♦ **Sunday, January 12 - 5:00 pm** - Post-Holiday Chapter Dinner at Cortese Restaurant, Robinson Street, Binghamton.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT THE DOT CAFÉ...

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 - 11:30 AM

THE DOT CAFÉ in YOUR NEEDFUL THINGS Store

136 E. SERVICE ROAD

BINGHAMTON, NY 13901

**Reservations are required by Friday 12/6! Contact Nancy at
(607) 237-5477 or email nmcnamara58@gmail.com**

SUBSTITUTE ORGANIST NEEDED...

Chapter member Larry Hoey is seeking a substitute organist for Saturday, December 28 & Sunday, December 29.

Organist will be responsible for playing a total of four Masses. Two Masses are on Saturday: the first at 4:00 pm at Epiphany Church, Sayre, PA; the second at 6:00 pm at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ridgebury, PA. The stipend offered is \$400 for the four weekend masses plus \$50 for travel expenses.

On Sunday there are two Masses at Epiphany Church in Sayre at 9:00 am & 11:00 am.

Cantors will be provided for each Mass. Organist needs to meet the cantors 15 minutes prior to each Mass.

Organist must be comfortably familiar with the Catholic liturgy including musical settings from the "Mass of St. Francis Cabrini" by Kevin Keil and the "Heritage Mass" by Owen Alstott. Both settings are used during Masses.

If interested, please contact Larry Hoey at larryhoey.music@gmail.com

FRIDAY ADVENT ORGAN CONCERTS...

**FRIDAY PIPE ORGAN
ADVENT(URES)**

You are Invited: 12:15—12:45 PM:
FRIDAYS Dec 6, 13, & 20

Bring your lunch, (or not!)
Come when you can,
Enjoy live Christmas music,
Stay as long as you want!



**BENEFIT:
GRACE SPACE**

**United Presbyterian Church
25 Church Street
Cortland**



FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR JOHN HOLT...

A farewell luncheon was held last Tuesday to celebrate our chapter's former dean (2013-2023), John Holt and his wife, Marianne. They will be moving to the State College, PA area next week to be closer to their son and daughter-in-law. John has been a positive voice for the AGO for many years, even before he became dean; and will be sorely missed! Our good wishes and gratitude for them continue as they enter this new phase of their life.



BTOS PRESENTS...



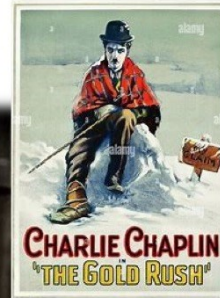
Binghamton Theater Organ Society at the FORUM Theater



DENNIS JAMES

Master Theatre Organist

**Charlie Chaplin in
THE GOLD RUSH (1925)**



December 29, 2024 at 2:00 PM

**Forum Theater. Tickets: Adult \$20, Mem/vets \$15,
Students free. [www. BinghamtonTOS.org](http://www.BinghamtonTOS.org)**

Live Music + Classic Comedy! *This program is funded by The Earlville Opera House's Arts in the Community Program, made possible by the NYS Senate with the support of the Office of the Governor, and administered by the New York State Council on the Arts. Additional support for the Broome ACG Program graciously provided by the Stewart W. and Wilma C. Hoyt Foundation, Inc. Funding is provided in part by a project grant from the Broome County Arts Council's United Cultural Fund. Student tickets free thanks to Owego Antique Center*



YOUNG ARTIST RECITAL-ANNE SPINK...



Syracuse University's Organ Performance graduate student, Anne Spink, continued our chapter's Young Artist Series with an outstanding performance, November 2 at United Presbyterian Church, Binghamton. She had a wonderful selection of music and spoke at different intervals during the concert about the pieces and composers. Many in the audience remained after to enjoy some light refreshments and to meet Anne. Many thanks go to United Presbyterian Church for not only co-hosting and livestreaming the event but also for projecting Anne at the organ on a screen in the church's sanctuary. Special thanks go to Anne Spink, Becky and Ken Mebert, Andy Chadwick, Scott Kindig and Polly Wendling for all of their work in making this event a success!

Aunts & Uncle of Anne



John Holt & Anne



Photos taken at dinner with Anne, 11/1 and after her performance 11/2.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS...

Our chapter tree is up at the Roberson Museum! *Home for the Holidays* runs from **November 21 - January 4**. Roberson will be open 7 days a week with extended hours! Home for the Holidays features hundreds of elaborately decorated trees, dazzling Holiday displays, and the International Forest - a collection of adorned trees and displays that represent the holiday traditions of cultures from around the world. This has been a community favorite for 70 years and we are so happy to now be a part of it!



Thank you for sending in photos of your instruments! It is difficult to explain how your photos turned into wooden ornaments, but it was definitely a labor of love. We extend our gratitude to member, Carol Bartlett, for chairing this committee, Tom McNamara of Binghamton (brother of an

AGO member) and Jennifer Donovan of Endicott (friend of an AGO member) for doing all of the "wood" work; Michael Donovan, Peggy Snizek, Becky Mebert, Nancy McNamara for the final painting touches and labeling; and Hilton Baxter, Becky, Nancy and Carol for decorating the tree at Roberson.

Consider taking a "breather" during this busy season and check out all the trees at Roberson.

