

FEBRUARY  
2024

# Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## DEAN'S MESSAGE...

A key element in any organization's success is the camaraderie and gathering of its members for special events. Over the past two months, in the midst of our rehearsals, concerts and church services, our chapter had the opportunity to gather together to break bread and to enjoy conversation with one another. We enjoyed wonderful times at our December luncheon at Vintage Vibes with quiche served on classy china along with personal steeping teapots and our January dinner at Cortese with delicious Italian/American food. There were over a dozen of us at Vintage Vibes, a café surrounded by fascinating antiques, creative crafts and unique gift items. More than twenty of us were at the January event, when we gave a birthday card to John Holt, our long serving Dean emeritus. Rev. Dave Werly, our chapter Chaplain, was able to join us as well. He told about his medical journey of the past year, and provided a blessing over our meal and gathering. Myself, I discovered some interesting connections between people I've known a long time, as well as with relatively new acquaintances. Definitely, enjoyable and rewarding!

February's program also promises to be rewarding. As a young organ student I learned several selections from J.S. Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*, a humbling and inspiring experience. I occasionally dust off one or another of those chorale preludes now, many years later, and find there is still much to be gained (musically, technically, spiritually) from doing so. The video program on Saturday, February 17 promises to be very enriching, and I encourage everyone to attend.

Thinking further ahead, in April we will host Randy Steere for an organ concert at Trinity Memorial Church in Binghamton, followed by a presentation/discussion the next morning. Details regarding the concert and presentation will be in next month's newsletter. Meanwhile, if you can help spread the word, through poster design, social media connections, personal word-of-mouth, or other creative ways, please let me or Jean Henssler know. If every chapter member attends and/or gets one other person to come...well, it would be amazing!

Hilton


## UPCOMING EVENTS...


- ◆ **Saturday, February 3 - 5:00 pm** - Oldroyd All-Star Brass Ensemble Concert, First Presbyterian Church, 1030 West Main Street, Troy, PA with Patti O'Connell (French Horn), Jean Henssler (organ) and Rob Oldroyd, director. Music by Berlioz, Respighi, Williams, Oldroyd, and more. Pre-Concert talk at 4:30 pm. Event will be livestreamed at <https://www.facebook.com/TroyPaPresbyterian/>.
- ◆ **Sunday, February 4 - 2:00 pm** - Binghamton Theater Organ Society presents an event featuring Dennis James (organ) at the Forum Theater, 236 Washington Street, Binghamton. See page 3 for details.
- ◆ **Sunday, February 11 - 3:00 pm** - Binghamton Community Orchestra Concert, **Nordic Treasures**, Maine-Endwell Middle School, Farm to Market Road, Endwell. Music director, Evan Meccarello.
- ◆ **Sunday, February 11 - 3:00 pm** - The Castalia String Quartet performance, Binghamton Philharmonic's Phelps Mansion Museum Series, 191 Court Street, Binghamton. For tickets (\$25 general admission) and further information, go to [www/BinghamtonPhilharmonic.org](http://www/BinghamtonPhilharmonic.org).
- ◆ **Ash Wednesday, February 14 - 11:30 am** - Lenten Organ Recitals at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA every Wednesday 2/14 through 3/27. The 1/2 hour recital is followed by a 1 hour service featuring local choirs/soloists.
- ◆ **Saturday, February 17 - 10:00 am** - DVD Program "Bach's Missing Pages". Central United Methodist Church, Endicott. Gathering with refreshments at 9:30 am followed by DVD at 10:00 am. The DVD looks closely at Bach's planned but uncompleted *Liturgical Year*. The presenter then improvises in the style of Bach, the remaining chorales. The DVD deals with the interpretation of Bach's *Liturgical Year* chorale settings as well as ideas for one's own improvisations. Jean Henssler, host.
- ◆ **Friday, April 19 - 7:00 pm** - Organ Concert, Trinity Episcopal Church, Binghamton. Randy Steere, organist.
- ◆ **Saturday, April 20 - 10:00 am** - Discussion/Workshop at Trinity Episcopal Church with Randy Steere, facilitator.


## BCO NORDIC TREASURES...

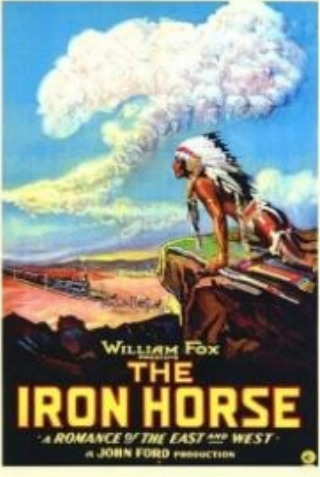
The next concert of the Binghamton Community Orchestra is entitled "Nordic Treasures". It includes the concert overture Efterklange af Ossian by 19th century Danish composer, organist, and conductor Niels Gade, whose compositional style is often referred to as the Nordic Mendelssohn. Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara's 1972 ode to the beauty of northern birds is captured in his Cantus Arcticus. Violinist Sua Choi is the winner of the STMTA (Southern Tier Music Teacher's Association) competition and we look forward to her performance of the first movement from the Bruch Violin concerto. Come to the Sunday, February 11 concert at 3:00 pm at the Maine-Endwell Middle School, Farm-to-Market Road, Endwell. Also, check out the pre-concert chat at 2:15 pm by the Orchestra's Music Director, Evan Meccarello.

## AN INVITATION FROM BTOS...


 **A Binghamton Theater Organ Society at the  
Forum Theater Film EVENT**  
**DENNIS JAMES, Organist**


 Western Epic  
**The Iron Horse** (1924)  
with Original Music Score!  
*Directed by JOHN FORD*

 This film about the first transcontinental railroad was deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the US Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the National Film Registry



**Sun. Feb 4, 2024 at 2 PM**  
**Broome Co. Forum Theater.**  
**Tickets: Adults \$20, Mem/vets \$15, Students free**

 **[www. BinghamtonTOS.org](http://www.BinghamtonTOS.org)**

 **Big Screen!**  
**Live Music!**  
**Low price!**

## ORGANIST POSITION OPEN...

Atonement Lutheran Church, Oneonta, is seeking an organist/choir director.

Sunday service is 10:30 am and the choir (currently small, about five people) meets at 9:30 am. Communion is on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, plus all festival days. The organ is a two-manual Carlson pipe organ. The church is ELCA and uses the green hymnal (LBW) and the *With One Voice* hymnal. Please contact Rev. Paul Messner (607)432-6852

## FEBRUARY CHAPTER EVENT...BACH'S MISSING PAGES - Fugue State Films DVD...

**Admit it...**as a beginning organist you chewed through (suffered through?) Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*. Literally translated: The **LITTLE** Organ Book...**BIG** understatement! Sietze de Vries introduces us to two glorious Dutch organs as he enlightens us on the context of compositional techniques used in these tiny gems. The 'missing pages' refers to the remaining chorale settings which Bach had planned to write, but alas, never finished. Herr de Vries, skilled improviser, completes these missing pages and provides us with ideas on how we can improvise (almost) like Bach! Jean Henssler - Host

**PLEASE BRING YOUR COPY(COPIES) OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR.**

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 17: Gathering with refreshments at 9:30 am,  
Presentation at 10:00 am.

**WHERE:** Central United Methodist Church, 17 Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott  
Enter from parking lot in back of church building

## JANUARY DINNER...



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