

JANUARY
2024

Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

DEAN'S MESSAGE...

I have to admit that, with the 4th Sunday of Advent doing double duty as Christmas Eve made for one of the most difficult holiday seasons in memory. But, thanks be to God, I got through it all with only a few unfortunate moments. I hope everyone reading this had a joyful Christmas - and a chance to relax after any and all worship services you were involved in.

And I wish you a good beginning to 2024. Years ago, I was living in Basel, Switzerland and enjoyed several celebrations and traditions particular to that city. One which was especially remarkable and memorable was their commemoration of New Year's Eve. People gathered around the Basel Cathedral as a brass quintet played from a balcony overlooking the Munster Platz. Then, for about 10 minutes before midnight, the lowest bell in the tower tolled slowly, symbolizing the sorrows, difficulties and negatives of the year about to end, and releasing them to the past. At midnight, all the highest bells began to ring briskly with an energy of joy that couldn't help to bring in the New Year with optimism, good cheer and the spirit of a fresh start. To see the Cathedral go to <https://youtu.be/iMNj69MJ0yA?si=vq2aMyxDL4f3LdqR>.

I always think of that experience around this time of year, much more meaningful and symbolic to me than the Times Square tradition which dominates American popular culture. Whatever your personal traditions for New Years are, I hope 2024 brings many good things and positive experiences your way.

An early opportunity of course, is our chapter gathering for dinner at Cortese Restaurant in Binghamton on January 14 (details on page 2). Please invite friends and colleagues, and make your reservation by contacting Nancy McNamara so we have enough space for everyone. Looking forward to seeing you!

Hilton

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UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ♦ Sunday, January 7 - 4:00 pm - Service of *Lessons and Carols*, Trinity Episcopal Church, 44 Main Street, Binghamton, with the Trinity Choir and Trinity Ringers and (Binghamton Chapter Member) Randy Frye, Director of Music.
- ♦ Sunday, January 14 - 5:00 pm, Our post-holiday dinner at Cortese Restaurant (West Room) 117 Robinson Street, Binghamton. Reservations are required by contacting Nancy McNamara (See below)
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ 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.

AGO POST-HOLIDAY DINNER...

Let us come together for food and conversation.

Friends and colleagues are welcome to attend!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024 - 5:00 pm

Cortese Restaurant

117 Robinson Street, Binghamton

Reservations are required.

Contact Nancy McNamara at (607)237-5477 or
nmcnamara58@gmail.com

NEWS FROM AGO NATIONAL...



Meredith Ossei-Little

The AGO Student Commissioning Project is one of the AGO's most recent new music initiatives. Each year, grant of \$1,000 are awarded to four collaborative composer/organist teams for the composition and performance of four new works for the organ. There are no restrictions with regard to compositional style; however, all composers and organists must be enrolled as full or part-time students at an accredited U.S. college, university, or conservatory. Among this year's

winner were Ryan McQuay Meredith, composer and Joseph Maxwell Ossei-Little, organist, Syracuse University. As you recall, Joseph performed here in Binghamton this past November 11 as the guest organist in our Young Artist Series Concert. Congratulations to Joseph and Ryan!

A REQUEST FROM A FELLOW ORGANIST...

Dear fellow Organists,

My name is Tony Carson and I am a Doctor of Ministry student at United Seminary of the Twin Cities in St. Paul, Minnesota. I am currently in the dissertation writing stage of the program. The question I am researching and writing about is:

"What practical knowledge and skills do church organists need to know in order to meet the music ministry needs in their congregational setting?"

Who better to answer such a question than those playing for church each Sunday. In addition to the "knowledge and skills", I would ask that you include information about your training experience and career (if other than being a professional organist). Please indicate your willingness to participate in a follow up interview. My contact email is: dtony1964@msn.com.

Thanks for your consideration and indulgence in this effort.

Tony Carson

BME University of South Carolina Columbia, SC (1988)

MCM Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Louisville, KY (1993)

Service Playing Certificate/American Guild of Organists (2004)

DMin United Seminary of the Twin Cities St. Paul, Mn (In progress)