

JANUARY
2025

Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

DEAN'S MESSAGE...

Recently I had an interesting exchange with a singer I know, who posed the question, "what is 'traditional'?" He remembered various Christmas songs being sung at his previous church in Florida, but when he asked if some of those could be done at his church in upstate NY, he was told that they weren't traditional. My response was that traditional is a pretty subjective term, at least as most people use it. Probably, most folks mean something like "what I grew up with" or "what I am most familiar with." And while there is truth to the saying "familiarity breeds contempt" I have noticed that, often, familiarity breeds enjoyment and positive feelings.

Of course, if one adds an adjective, such as "Anglican tradition," it becomes a much more specific term, and less likely to be an expression of what an individual person prefers. On the other hand, saying "I like the folk tradition" can mean lots of different things to many people. So it's helpful to ask for specific examples, in an open, inquiring way, just to make sure everyone involved is thinking of the same styles and heritage when discussing traditional music.

Having said all that, as we begin 2025, I want to thank board members, and you, dear readers, for stretching our local chapter tradition just a tiny bit this past year. We did something completely new, with the sponsorship of a Christmas tree at the Roberson Museum in Binghamton. Over 40 photos of organs (pipes, consoles, etc.) were submitted, mounted and used to decorate a wonderful tree, which was seen by hundreds, maybe thousands of people during this Holiday season. This has, I hope, raised the awareness of the AGO and of our chapter, in the general community, perhaps beyond what any concert or recital might have done. Many thanks to Carol Bartlett, who chaired the committee, Becky Mebert, Peggy Snizek, Nancy McNamara, Jennifer Donovan, Tom McNamara and to all those who submitted photos.

It's not too late to go see the tree (Home for the Holidays exhibit runs through January 4), or to help undecorate it (January 7). (See next page).

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hilton

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ♦ **Tuesday, January 7 - 9:30 am** - "Take - Down" of chapter tree at Roberson Museum, 30 Front Street, Binghamton. (See Below)
- ♦ **Sunday, January 12 - 3:00 pm** - Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra presents **Ensemble Intermezzo** at Phelps Mansion, 191 Court Street, Binghamton. [Www.binghamtonphilharmonic.org](http://www.binghamtonphilharmonic.org)
- ♦ **Sunday, January 12 - 5:00 pm** - Post-Holiday Chapter Dinner at Cortese Restaurant, Robinson Street, Binghamton. (See Below)
- ♦ **Saturday, February 15 - 10:00 am** - Fugue State Film's DVD on Bach's **Great Toccata**. Gathering at 9:30 am with coffee/refreshments followed by the presentation at 10:00 am at Central Methodist Church, 17 Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott. Jean Henssler, host. (See Page 3)

TAKE-DOWN OF AGO ROBERSON TREE...



On Tuesday, January 7/9:30 am, there will be a *Home for the Holidays Christmas Tree* take down "ceremony" at the Roberson Museum, 30 Front Street, Binghamton. If you have the time, please come to help pack away all the music ornaments to store for next year. In addition to making the work go quickly, it will be an opportunity to see the tree and the 44 cut out wooden organ/piano ornaments that were created from your submitted photos!

Blessings,
Carol Bartlett, Chairperson

AGO POST-HOLIDAY DINNER...

Let us come together for food and conversation.

Friends and colleagues are welcome to attend!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024 - 5:00 pm

Cortese Restaurant/117 Robinson Street, Binghamton

Reservations Are Required by
Thursday, 1/9

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

FEBRUARY 15 EVENT...

Fugue State Films has DONE it again! They have released a fascinating DVD delving into the mysteries behind Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in d minor BWV 565*, aka **The Great Tocatta**. Due to its use on Halloween and in horror movies, it is arguably the most widely-recognized piece in the entirety of organ literature.

BUT...was it written for the organ? Did Bach actually compose it? The answers to these pressing :-) questions will be revealed on Saturday, February 15, 10 am at Central Methodist Church, Endicott. Refreshments at 9:30 am.

Jean Henssler



FROM YOUR REGISTRAR...

ONCARD IS OUT - iMIS IS IN

The long anticipated updated National AGO Website has been uploaded with many changes.

1. Your username is now your email address.
2. You will need to create a new password.
 - Click on "Forgot Password" and follow instructions.
3. Once these first 2 tasks are done you are set to explore the many options by scrolling down or by using the drop-down menus. Both access RENEW.
 - One chapter member has already completed their renewal via credit card use online.
4. You can also click on your name on the homepage top bar to open your Account.
5. There has been a major change in Member Category choice. iMIS does not support the "Friends" category so National has changed the Friends membership category renewal rate to one of the existing categories. The Binghamton Executive Board has decided that this chapter will retain the "Friends" category and will continue the traditional mailed renewal form and rate.
6. It appears that iMIS is a platform "In Progress" by AGO so changes will be forthcoming. You can learn more about iMIS (non-AGO info) by entering it into your Search engine.

Richard

DECEMBER LUNCHEON AT THE DOT CAFÉ...



ONE LAST 🎵...

Gelukkige Nuwe Jaar

Sanatuljadeed sa'eed

Chestita nova godina

Urte berri on

Z Novym hodam

Xin nian kuai le

Šťastný nový rok

Godt nytår

Gelukkig nieuwjaar

Maligayang bagong Taon

Bonne année

Eftychisméno to néo étos

Akemashite omedetōu gozaimasu

Sa bai di pi haim

Feliz Ano Novo

Feliz año nuevo

Heri ya mwaka mpya

Shchaslyvoho Novoho roku

Athbhliain faoi mhaise

Frohes neues Jahr



**WISHING YOU A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH ABUNDANT BLESSINGS,
GOOD HEALTH AND LOVE.**

Nancy

Dean Hilton Baxter hiltonb@binghamton.edu

Sub Dean Peggy Sniezek sniezeks@yahoo.com

Newsletter Nancy McNamara nmcnamara58@gmail.com

Website Peggy Sniezek www.binghamtonago.org