

MARCH 2023

# Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## DEAN'S MESSAGE...

The first session for showing the Fugue State Films DVD "Bach and Expression" was postponed due to cold weather. The new date is March 11 at Central Methodist Church in Endicott. We will be holding it in the dining hall; gathering at 9:30am, and starting the showing at 10:00 am. The second session has not yet been set up. I will be sending out a reminder notice about the first session and will include the date of the second session if that has been determined by that time.

The positions of chapter Dean and Sub-dean will be open for elections for next year. Please let me know if you are interested in either of these positions for yourself, or, if not, get back to me if you have names of others you would like to nominate.

Congratulations to **Rob Oldroyd**, who organized, led and performed in a lovely service of re-dedication and celebration of the rebuilding of the 1945 Aeolian-Skinner organ, done by Smith and Gilbert, at First Presbyterian Church in Troy, PA. The service was live-streamed and can be viewed at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/TroyPAPresbyterian>.

Congratulations also to **Jean Henssler**, who performed a recital of the music of Guy Weitz, Robert Schumann and Henry Smart at Trinity Episcopal Church in Binghamton. Her performance was followed by a CandleChant service performed by the Men of the Trinity Choir, led by Tim Smith.

Marcella Keeler was a member of our chapter for many years and passed away on January 17, 2023. A funeral liturgy will be held on Saturday, March 4 at 3:00 pm at Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church, 44 Main Street in Binghamton.

We have some interesting programs set up for Spring. Check out the calendar below for the listings. I look forward to seeing you soon.

John

## Musical Offerings...

- ♦ Lenten Series at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Organ Recitals at 11:30am - Services at 12 Noon. For schedule go to <https://ststephenswb.org>

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ♦ **Saturday, March 11 - 10:00 am** - 1st session of the Fugue State Films "Bach and Expression." Gathering at 9:30 am with coffee/refreshment at Central Methodist Church, 17 Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott.
- ♦ **Sunday, March 12 - 3:00 pm** - Lenten Musical Offering - First Presbyterian Church, Montrose. Performers, Richard & Evelyn VanAuken
- ♦ **Saturday, March 18 - 4:00 pm** - Celtic Hymn Sing (**See announcement**)
- ♦ **Saturday, March 18 - 5:00 pm** - Brass and Organ Concert at First Presbyterian Church, 1030 West Main Street, Troy, PA. Many arrangements by Rob Oldroyd, Jean Henssler, organist.
- ♦ **Sunday, March 19 - 3:00 pm** - "**Music in March**" -part of the 2023 Schumann Festival. Music by Robert and Clara Schumann, Johannes Brahms and featuring the World Premiere of *Clara's Piano*, which is part of the Story Music Project. Park Church, Elmira. The Cantata Singers of Elmira.
- ♦ **Sunday, March 26 - 6:00pm** - Choral Evensong presented by the Trinity Choir, Trinity Episcopal Church, Binghamton. *Dyson: Evening Service in F; Howells: Like as the Hart*
- ♦ **Saturday, April 15 - 3:00 pm** - Organ Dedicatory Service at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 711 Farm-to-Market Road, Endwell. Organists, Tim Smith and Kathryn Baine
- ♦ **Friday, April 21 - 7:00 pm** - Organ Concert at Trinity Episcopal Church, Binghamton. Dr. Paul A. Thornock, organist, from Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist, Savannah, Georgia. Works of Bach, Buxtehude and Vierne.
- ♦ **Sunday, April 30 - 3:00 pm** - Musical Performance honoring P.P. Bliss at United Methodist Hall, Rome, PA. Organist, Richard VanAuken and Pianist, Evelyn VanAuken.
- ♦ **Sunday, April 30 - 4:00 pm** - A two hour workshop **Piano to Organ - How Do You Get There!** Church of the Holy Family, Endwell (**See Announcement**)
- ♦ **Sunday, May 7 - 2:00 pm** - Performance at the FORUM Theater at 236 Washington Street, Binghamton. Organists, Nancy Wildoner, Paul Cienniwa, Richard VanAuken and pianist, Evelyn VanAuken
- ♦ **Saturday, May 15 - 3:00 pm** - Ensemble concert at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Endwell, featuring the organ, soprano solo, duet selections and a brass quartet. Organist, Tim Smith
- ♦ **Sunday, June 11 - 4:00 pm** - Members' Recital at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Endwell.

## FROM THE REGISTRAR...

Did you see and read the article in February TAO, pages 14-15, "What Is Your Membership Worth?". Below is an excerpt from an email I just received from AGO headquarters. It only applies to Regular, Special, Young Organists and Dual Member Categories.

### UPDATE FROM AGO HQ

**NATIONAL AND CHAPTER DUES INCREASE:** The AGO National Council has approved a nominal increase in annual dues, effective July 1. This is the first increase in several years. Members who renew in July will see this change reflected on their renewal notices beginning in April. We'll be reaching out to members in coming months to educate them further about the dues increase.

Since members have always been able to renew early, I called Phylcia Ross (a very helpful person at AGO National) 212-870-2311 ext. 4321. She said she could handle my renewal at current rates if I would provide my credit card information. I replied that I would rather do that myself and so she opened the renewal feature on the Oncard Menu. I thanked her for her assistance. After I logged into Oncard, I entered my credit card info. I renewed at last year's rate, a savings of \$15.00. If you are interested, give it a try.

Richard

New Dues Structure, Effective July 1, 2023				
Membership Category	Description	TAO Format	National/Chapter Split	Total Dues
Regular	Ages 30–64, full voting	Print + online	\$75/45	\$120*
		Online only	\$67/45	\$112*
Special	Age 65 and older, full voting	Print + online	\$60/35	\$95*
		Online only	\$52/35	\$87*
Young Organist	Under age 30, full voting	Print + online	\$40/20	\$60*
		Online only	\$32/20	\$52*
Regular Dual	2nd chapter or more	n/a	\$0/45	\$45
Special Dual	2nd chapter or more	n/a	\$0/35	\$35
Young Organist Dual	2nd chapter or more	n/a	\$0/20	\$20
National Subscriber	Nonvoting	Print + online	n/a	\$85
		Online only	n/a	\$77
International Subscriber	Nonvoting	Print + online	n/a	\$105
		Online only	n/a	\$77
Lifetime Membership				\$3,500
* Independent members without chapter affiliation pay the total dues amount to AGO National Headquarters.				

## PIANO TO ORGAN - HOW DO YOU GET THERE?...

**WHAT:** 2 HOUR WORKSHOP

**WHEN:** SUNDAY, APRIL 30  
4 pm to 6 pm

**WHERE:** CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
3600 Phyllis Street, Endwell

1.) Did you (or someone that you know) begin your musical journey as a pianist and then answered the call to play the organ in church? And private, formal organ lessons were not possible at the time?

2.) Do you (or someone you know) still find some aspects of the organ mysterious and challenging? Please note: The majority of organists might answer "yes".

3) This workshop will cover some of the hurdles that pianists encounter in transitioning to playing the organ. Some topics to be covered are:

**Hymn Playing**

**Pedaling**

**Registrations**

**Leading with the organ versus Accompanying**

**Repertoire for Preludes and Postludes**

**Question and Answer Period**

## ORGAN CONCERTS...

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1030 West Main Street, Troy, PA**

Saturday 3/18: Oldroyd Brass and Organ, 5 pm. Jean Henssler, organist

Sunday 3/26: Dr Jeff Snedeker Organ Recital, 4 pm

Friday 3/31: Bach Birthday Recital, 7 pm. Rob Oldroyd, organist.

Friday 4/7: Endless Mountain Choral Society Charles Wood's Passion  
according to St Mark

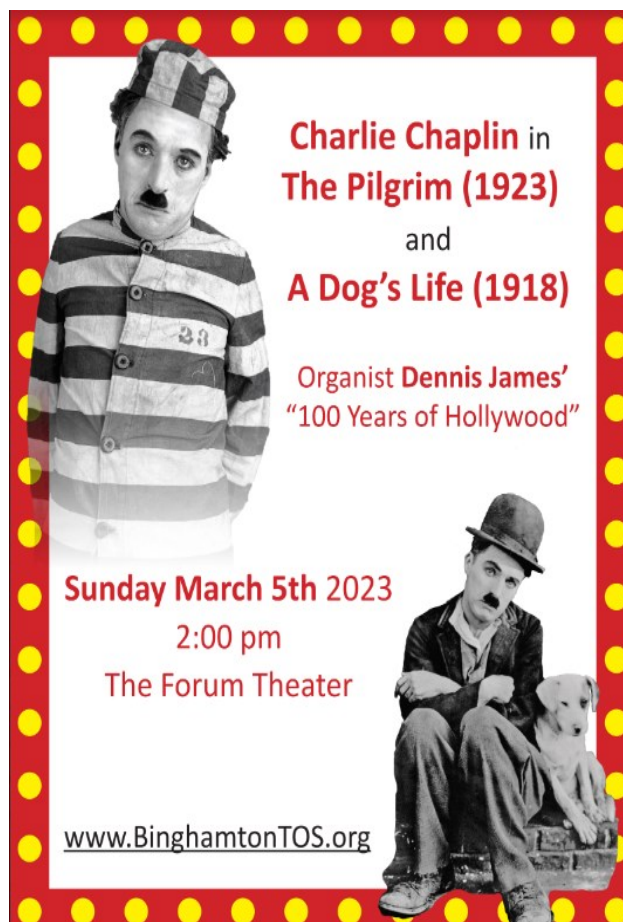
Sunday 4/16: Randy Frye Organ Recital, 7 pm

Friday 5/5: Max Esmus Organ Recital, 7 pm

Saturday 6/10: Jean Henssler Organ Recital, 4 pm

*Most of the performances will be livestreamed on Facebook:*

## THE THEATER ORGAN...



## CELTIC HYMN SING...

AGO member, Claudia Kachmarik will be retiring from her position at Fairview Methodist. The hymn sing is part of her farewell. Many blessings to you, Claudia!

Fairview United Methodist Church  
Invites you to a

### Celtic Hymn Sing

Hymns from Wales, Ireland and Scotland

**Saturday March 18, 2023 4:00 PM**  
**24 Robinson St., Binghamton, NY**

Enjoy an afternoon singing the classic hymns of the British Isles. We will be joined by harpist Melissa Collins on the Celtic harp.  
Free Will Offering to benefit the roof fund.

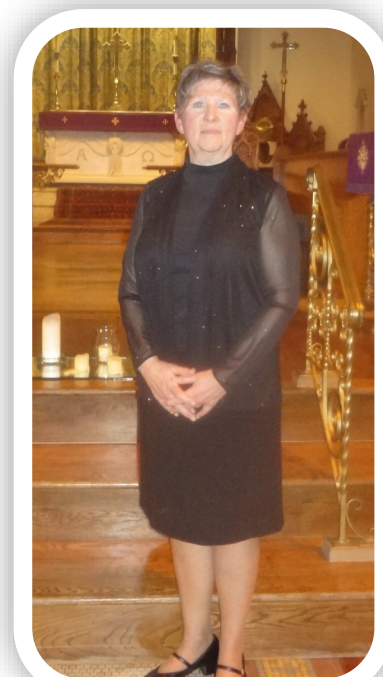
A Potluck dinner immediately following the program in the social hall.  
Bring a dish to pass.



## PHOTO LAB...



Randy Frye, Rob Oldroyd and Tim Smith  
Musicians/organists at the re-dedication  
First Presbyterian, Troy 2/25



Jean Henssler, organist  
Trinity Episcopal recital  
2/26



Rob Oldroyd directing Community Choir  
Tim Smith, organist  
2/25

## FROM YOUR EDITOR...

"MAY YOUR TROUBLES BE LESS. AND YOUR BLESSINGS BE MORE.  
AND NOTHING BUT HAPPINESS  
COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR."

- Irish Blessing -



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