

MARCH
2024

Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

DEAN'S MESSAGE...

We had a fascinating program in February about J.S. Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*. For the Saturday morning program, we watched three of the DVD's seven segments. Jean Henssler hosted the event and had prepared detailed handouts to guide us through the sections to be watched. The film gave an insightful introduction to the historic instruments and, while we followed along with our own scores, we were brought to new levels of inspiration from hearing and seeing these chorale preludes performed. Further highlights were the fabulous improvisations on the chorale tunes by the organist, Herr de Vries, who then showed how to break down the chorales into individual ideas for our own improvisations. We are grateful to Jean Henssler for not only hosting but also for all of the work that she put into making it a meaningful and successful! We hope to continue with the remaining sections sometime in the future. Meanwhile, since our chapter owns the DVD, any member who would like to borrow it would be welcome to do so!

There was snow the morning of the program, but still there was a good turnout. Nevertheless, I encourage everyone to attend our chapter programs and enjoy the educational and social benefits. For March, there will be opportunities to go to Wilkes-Barre for a concert and Lenten service and also to Montrose for a Lenten midday concert by Jean Henssler (see page 2) and keep an eye out for MixtureGram info as details become finalized.

Looking further ahead, please mark your calendars for our April event featuring Randy Steere. His organ concert on Friday, April 19 at 7:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, will include inspiring arrangements of "Amazing Grace," "Kum ba Yah" and a well-known Korean folk song. Alongside Gian Carlo Menotti's only composition for organ will be blazing toccatas and marches to round out the program. The next morning, Saturday, April 20, Randy will facilitate a discussion "Paths to a Successful Future", which will include a sharing of ideas that may be useful to churches and other institutions. Besides being a fine organist, Randy has had a successful career as a futurist and change facilitator. Please invite friends, clergy and colleagues, anyone who might be interested in what may be coming next for the organ and organ music.

Hilton

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ♦ **Wednesday, March 6 - 11:30 am** - St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 35 S Franklin Street, Wilkes Barre, PA. A 1/2 hour concert with Mike Sowa, organist, followed by an hour Lenten service with guest choir and reception. Member Becky Mebert will be driving to St Stephen's and has room for 3 passengers. If interested in riding, please contact Jean Henssler at jhhmusik@aol.com or call 607-
- ♦ **Wednesday, March 13 - 12 Noon** - First Presbyterian Church, 367 Church Street, Montrose, PA. Lenten Organ Meditation (45minutes). Jean Henssler, organist, followed by a soup luncheon.
- ♦ **Wednesday, March 13 - 11:30 am** - 1/2 hour recital by Alain Truche, organist, followed by an hour Lenten service at St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre.
- ♦ **Wednesday, March 20 - 11:30am** - 1/2 hour recital by Charles Sundquist, organist, (University of Minnesota at Duluth) followed by an hour Lenten service at St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre.
- ♦ **Wednesday, March 27 - 11:30 am** - 1/2 hour recital by Canon Mark Laubach, organist, followed by an hour Lenten service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre. Mark has served as organist and choir master at St. Stephen's since 1986.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Sunday, May 5 - 4:00 pm** - *Music for a Sunday Afternoon* concert at Christ the King Fellowship Presbyterian Church, 75 North Main Street, Spencer, NY. David Jackson, director and organist.

**FEBRUARY EVENT
"Bach's Missing Pages"**



SPREAD THE NEWS...

"Concert for the Future" will be presented on Friday, April 19, 7:00 pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church, Binghamton. This "Concert for the Future" was developed by the artist, Randy Steere, to reflect his vision for the future of the organ and organ music that will attract and keep a growing audience. It will form the basis for a discussion on this important topic being held at the church the next morning at 10:00 am.



The concert itself comprises a very diverse set of more contemporary composers to appeal both to a wider audience not familiar with organ music as well as the organ aficionado. New arrangements of "Amazing Grace" and "Kum Ba Yah" will be performed alongside meditative pieces from around the world, a rousing Toccata and even a fresh Wedding March! Just over an hour long, it will be an exciting concert to engage the audience on many levels!

The presentation on Saturday morning "Paths to a Successful Future" will feature Randy's articulation of his vision for the future of the organ as well as reaction and input from all in attendance. All are encouraged to attend (especially if you are NOT an organist or a member of the AGO!). Your input will be very valuable as Randy facilitates a discussion pertinent to all area churches and music lovers.

FROM YOUR EDITOR...

For many organists, this month will be grueling with a great deal of practice and many rehearsals! I found this Irish blessing to guide us during the upcoming days. And, please remember that your churches are very grateful for you!

May your mornings bring joy
And your evenings bring peace.
May your troubles grow less
As your blessings increase.



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