

APRIL
2024

Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

DEAN'S MESSAGE...

Easter is on my mind as I write this, as well as occasional signs of spring in our area. Many years ago, when I lived in Basel, Switzerland, I knew a gifted flutist who was studying at the conservatory there. She was originally from Australia and one spring, she said something like "It's always so wonderful when Christmas is coming!" We then both laughed because she associated springtime with Christmas (having grown up where she did). Rather than thinking "spring = Easter." Of course, the Biblical events of Lent, Holy Week and Easter took place in the northern hemisphere, and so we have the confluence of spring, flowers blooming, trees budding, warmer days and Resurrection.

Here are some quotations and sayings which give me a bit of good cheer. Enjoy:

A true friend is someone who thinks you're a good egg, even if you're cracked.—Unknown

There would be no Christmas if there was no Easter.

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.—Clarence W. Hall

*Bunnies are cuddly, the large and the small
But I like the chocolate ones best of all.—Unknown*

Golf is just the adult version of an Easter Egg Hunt.—Unknown

Spring is nature's way of saying 'Let's party!' - Robin Williams

"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my day-dreams in music. I see my life in terms of music." -Albert Einstein

Finally, when I was younger, I served as organist/choir director for a church whose priest emphasized that Easter isn't just one day, who started each worship service with "Happy Easter" for almost two months each spring. Our chapter program for April is also something of an Easter event - a reminder there is always new life if we notice it, look for it, nurture it. Plan to come to Randy Steere's concert on April 19 and the presentation/discussion on the 20th (see details on following pages). Looking forward to seeing you there!

Hilton

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

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ♦ **Saturday, April 6 - 7:30 pm** - Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra presents "Roman Holiday", a crowd pleasing program exploring musical depictions of the countries of the Mediterranean, Broome County Forum Theatre, Binghamton. info@binghamtonphilharmomic.org.
- ♦ **Sunday, April 14 - 4:00 pm** - St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Binghamton. The Madrigal Choir of Binghamton. America Speaks: Readings and Settings of American Poetry with the Southern Tier Actors Read, accompanied by members of the Binghamton Community Orchestra. More info at <https://www.madrigalchoir.com>
- ♦ **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, April 21 - 4:00 pm** - First Presbyterian Church of Troy, PA. Organ recital by NYC based organist, Sean Cotty. Masterworks of J.S. Bach. Rob Oldroyd - host.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Sunday, June 2 - 4:00 pm** - Members Recital, United Presbyterian Church, Binghamton.

WE NEED YOUR HELP...

FACTS:

- 1) The organ is the King of instruments.
- 2) Attendance at our church services and organ recitals continues to decline.
- 3) AGO membership is declining as ever fewer churches have organs and people to play them.
- 4) A first class letter now costs a whopping \$.68!

YOU can help by printing the following letter and **personally** inviting your clergy, choir members and anyone who is interested in the future of the organ to both the April 19 recital and the important discussion the following morning. Randy Steere has been a friend of our chapter since 2019, having been a colleague of Rich Hedgebeth. Many of us attended Randy's recital at the unveiling of Binghamton Chapter member Dan Lemieux's digital organ (META Organworks) for the Groton Hill Music School, Groton, MA. Please help us welcome Randy with a full house and active participation the following morning!

Jean Henssler



The Binghamton Chapter
of
The American Guild of Organists

*“Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.
Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”
Psalm 150: 1, 3-4, 6*

April 2, 2024

Dear

Our churches have beautiful organs, but does organ music still ‘speak’ to our congregations? Is it relevant? Why are we lacking musicians who can play these glorious instruments?

On Friday, April 19, 7 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, Binghamton, organist Randall Steere will present a recital titled *A Concert for the Future*. It is designed to reflect his thoughts on a future path for the organ, and organ music which will *attract* and *keep* a growing audience. Audience reactions will be part of an interactive presentation the next morning (10 am, Saturday, April 20) to which all are invited.

A New England native, Randy holds a B.M. degree from Barrington College, an M.M. from Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music, a M.Div. from Yale Divinity School, and a Master’s of Computer Science from RPI. His wide experience in music ministry has included the position of Assistant Organist at Old South Church, Boston.

Members of the clergy, church musicians, worship and music committee members and all those who love the organ are invited to attend both events and share thoughts about *Paths to a Successful Future* of organs in our sacred spaces. More info can be found on our website <https://www.binghamtonago.org>

Wishing you a blessed Easter season,

Jean Henssler
AGO Binghamton Chapter



Randall Steere

Concert organist
Westford, MA

Friday, April 19, 2024 - 7 pm

Concert for the Future

Saturday, April 20, 2024 - 10 am

*Open Discussion: Visions for the Future
of the Organ in Church and Concert Hall*

Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church
44 Main Street
Binghamton, NY



Sponsored by:
The American Guild of Organists, Binghamton Chapter
and Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church



Binghamton, NY
Organ Concert, April 19, 2024

Randy Steere
A Concert for the Future

Toccata on "Amazing Grace"	J. Christopher Pardini (b. 1973)
Kum Ba Yah	arr. Adolphus Hailstork Tr. Randy Steere (b. 1941)
Intermezzo from Sonata No. 4	Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)
Wedding March	Margaret Sandresky (b. 1921)
Reflections on Arirang: Rolling Hills	A. Young Kim (b. 1979)
Adagio and Fugue in F Minor	Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

INTERMISSION

New Era	Nigel Ogden (b. 1954)
Ricercare	Gian Carlo Menotti (1911-2007)
<i>Andante</i> from Sonata in E Minor	Florence Price (1887-1953)
Prayer for Peace	Paul Fey (b. 1999)
Toccata, Op 1	Jon Kristian Fjellestad (b. 1984)