

SEPTEMBER  
2023

# Mixtures



Binghamton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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## DEAN'S MESSAGE...

Since becoming Dean in June, the chapter board and I have been working hard on programming for the coming year. A few details remain to be worked out, but the overall plan is in place. I hope there will be something interesting, enjoyable, uplifting for everyone reading this. During this planning process two questions have been in my mind: 1 - how will this event (concert, DVD viewing, etc.) benefit current chapter members? And 2 - how will it help bring new people to appreciate the organ and its music?

Given the demographics of our membership, and of organists in North America, the second question may be more important, ultimately, than the first. The AGO has done good things at the national level about this, but I sense that more can and should be done locally and in our region. Of course, it doesn't help that church attendance has declined a lot from 50 years ago. But if we are willing to be creative and do some things we haven't done in a while, or ever before, the future can be bright.

Over the coming months, I challenge all of us, to think of ways which can increase awareness among the general populace, especially younger folks, of the organ, its music and its history.

For example, recent issues of TAO had articles about the Orgelkids project, and I've wondered if our chapter could do something with that and local schools, after school programs, or other groups. Our chapter has advertised in concert programs with other music organizations, but the audiences of those groups may be older than the age cohort we should be targeting. The other evening I had a half-dream of putting a small pipe organ (or cardboard model?) on the front lawn of my house, with recordings of dramatic music "piped" to the people on the sidewalk (there's an elementary school a block away, so lots of impressionable kids pass by). Probably not realistic or practical, but who knows what might come of such a thing?

You may remember that, in the last Mixtures, I initiated a "survey" to learn more about you, the members of our chapter, hoping that would help me (and the Board) meet your needs well. If you haven't responded to the survey yet, please do (see next page).

Question D is a way to brainstorm how we can reach new, younger potential members. Wild and crazy ideas are welcome!

September is a chance for new beginnings! Hilton

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

- Sunday, September 10 - 4:00 pm - Organ Recital by Dr. Jeff Snedeker at The First Presbyterian Church of Troy, PA. (See article)
- Friday, September 15 - 5:30 pm - September Kickoff Potluck Meal at First Presbyterian Church, 2 Main Street, Johnson City. (See article)
- Saturday, October 14 - 9:30 am - Organ Crawl to Williamsport & Muncy, PA, hosted by the Chemung Valley AGO Chapter
- Saturday, November 4 - 9:30 am - 3rd session of the Fugue State Films "Bach and Expression." Gathering at 9:30 am with coffee/refreshment with the program beginning 10:00 am at Central Methodist Church, 17 Nanticoke Avenue, Endicott.
- Saturday, November 11 - 2:00 pm - Young Artist Series organ recital by Joseph Maxwell Ossei-Little. Further details coming next month! Meanwhile, for info about Joseph, go to <https://chapel.syracuse.edu/bringing-joy-from-ghanajoseph-maxwell-ossei-little-has-big-plans-as-inaugural-hendricks-chapel-organ-scholar/>
- Tuesday, December 5 - 11:30 am - Luncheon get-together at Needful Things and Vintage Vibes Café, 136 E. Service Road, Binghamton



## THE DEAN

### SURVEY...

- A. What do you value most about AGO membership?
- B. What chapter events or programs have you especially enjoyed or benefited from?
- C. Are there any events or programs that you would like to see our chapter sponsor?
- D. Any ideas for getting young people interested in the organ and its music?
- E. How often do you check the chapter's website?

Please send responses to our dean, Hilton Baxter at [hiltonb@binghamton.edu](mailto:hiltonb@binghamton.edu).

If you want to respond anonymously, please print your answers and mail them to  
Hilton Baxter  
47 Grand Boulevard  
Binghamton, New York 13905

## A VIEW OF THE ITHACA ORGAN CRAWL...



An excellent day!  
Many thanks to  
*Erik Kibelsbeck*  
*Matthew Hall*  
*Stephanie Ortolano*  
of the Ithaca  
Chapter AGO



## SEPTEMBER KICKOFF EVENT...

Event: September Kickoff, Friday, September 15



**Venue:** First Presbyterian Church, 2 Main Street,  
Johnson City

Parking lot in rear of church (Floral Avenue  
entrance)



**Time:** 5:30 pm - Gathering & Open Console

6:00 pm - Potluck meal - Please bring a dish to share  
(Casserole, vegetable, salad, or dessert).

*Table service and beverage will be provided.*

7:00 pm - Short Program

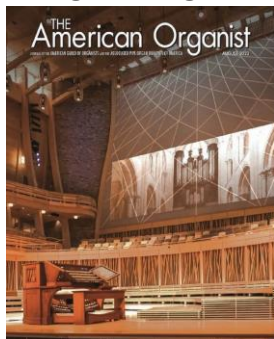
"2023 National and Regional Convention Highlights" **Spouses and  
guests are welcome!**

## UPCOMING ORGAN RECITAL...

Dr. Jeff Snedeker, AGO Ithaca, will play an organ recital at The First Presbyterian Church of Troy, PA, on Sunday, September 10 at 4:00 pm. Jeff is highly regarded not only for his superb playing, but also for his *unique* page turning technique. Tim Smith recently expanded the historic Aeolian-Skinner organ. Robert Oldroyd, host. If you would like to ride with me (max. 3 people), please respond at [jhhmusik@aol.com](mailto:jhhmusik@aol.com). Jean Henssler

## A FIRST!...

**A digital organ on the cover of a TAO magazine!** The honor went to a Binghamton Chapter member Dan Lemieux, owner of META ORGANWORKS (Argyle, NY) for the 4 manual Hauptwerk instrument at Groton Hill



Music School, Groton, MA.

In the fascinating Cover

Feature article on pgs. 2629 of the August issue, Dan graciously acknowledged the work of Richard Hedgebeth. Randy Steere, project organ consultant and dedication recitalist, will be our chapter's guest recitalist this Spring.

Congratulations Dan, Melissa and

Randy! <https://www.agohq.org/august-2023-tao-feature-article/>

## ORGANIST JOB OPENING...

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Montrose, PA is seeking an organist for a weekly position for Sunday Eucharist. The musician will also assist with music ministry for major Holy Days, and extra services when required, as available. At the Eucharist, the incumbent will play a brief prelude and postlude, hymns as well as service music. We use hymnals approved by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church for services. Music is selected by the Priest in Charge in consultation with the organist. Musician has access to church for practice purposes. Standard compensation rate. Start date immediate. Please send resumé to Mother Liz Grohowski at [erdaliz@hotmail.com](mailto:erdaliz@hotmail.com) and Cc [stpaulsmontrose@epix.net](mailto:stpaulsmontrose@epix.net).

## HAMMOND ORGAN....

A 1957 M3 Hammond Organ, S/N 87500 is in need of a new home! Like all its peers from that era, it needs technical TLC. Please contact Rich Saxton, First Baptist Church, Owego, NY 13827 at (607)972-7628 or [sparky99@stny.rr.com](mailto:sparky99@stny.rr.com)



## AND ANOTHER HAMMOND...



Free Hammond 8214 spinet organ.

If interested please call Diane Campbell of Owego at (607)239-0121.

## ORGANIST/CHOIR

## DIRECTOR POSITION...

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca, NY has an opening for an organist/choir director. Their recent incumbent (Dr. Anna Stepler) has returned to Cambridge, UK and has left behind an invigorated choral program and a

congregation anxious to sing. The church's Schlicker organ is well maintained and is tuned twice a year by Parsons. Please contact Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector, at [mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto:mtrmegan@stjohnsithaca.org).

## SUMMER PICNIC HIGHLIGHTS...

Our chapter's summer picnic was held on August 5 and was graciously hosted by Peggy and Dan Sniezek at their home in Owego. Members and guests enjoyed fresh veggies straight from the Sniezek's garden for appetizers and then a delicious meal catered from Phil's Chicken House. Outgoing dean, John Holt, and sub-dean, Jean Hensler, were recognized for their years of dedicated service in

their offices and celebrated with a special cake for dessert.



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