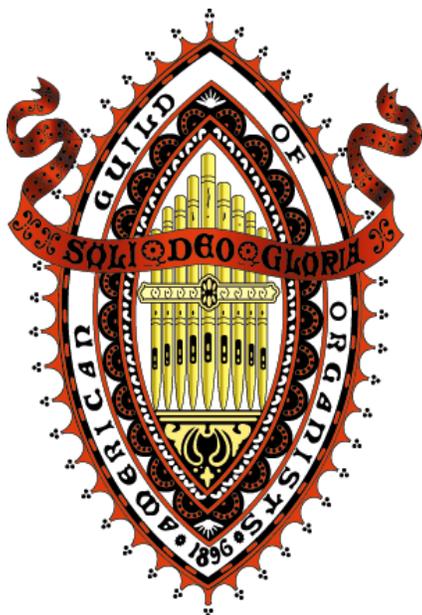


American Guild of Organists – Harrisburg Chapter



Our mission is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.

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From the Dean

Well, here we are, colleagues, at the start of what is undoubtedly the busiest month of our musical year. If you're anything like me, you've been planning for the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany cycle since last summer. All that preparation is about to reach its apex as we approach these joyous and festive times. I hope that all of you take some time, away from all the practice and extra rehearsals, to savor for yourselves the joy of the coming season. As church musicians, we often get so wrapped up in our work that we forget to step back and allow time for ourselves and our families. Yes, I know that there are so many details to worry about: Will my best soprano call in sick? Will the organ cipher during *Silent Night*? Will the reeds stay in tune long enough to get through *O Come, All Ye Faithful*? Try not to let the little things get you down. Enjoy this Holy season, and have a Blessed Christmas. Speaking of enjoying the season, don't forget to listen to the live radio broadcast of the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College, Cambridge at 10:00 am on December 24th on WITF-FM. Some of us had the pleasure of visiting with Stephen Cleobury, current director of the choir, last summer in Minneapolis. What a pleasant and easy-going chap he is!

Looking ahead to the new year: Please scratch from your calendars January's Twelfth Night Celebration. Our host for the affair, Peter Hewitt anticipates some surgery in the coming weeks and will be unable to have us to his home on January 6th. The good news is that we have already rescheduled that event for January of 2010. If you haven't already done so, please mark February 3rd on your calendars. We'll be celebrating the 200th birthday of Felix Mendelssohn with a concert devoted exclusively to his works at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg. Have you played anything of his lately?

If you are looking for something to do in lieu of that Epiphany party, I invite all chapter members to the next meeting of the board and officers. That meeting will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill at 7:00 p.m. on January 13, 2009. All such meetings are open to the entire membership.

Lastly, let me give kudos to the myriad of folks who helped make the Organ Spectacular a rousing success. The well thought out preparation made the day come off without a hitch. Most importantly, the large audiences at each of the four venues were treated to some spectacular music and performances. I do believe that we have won some new friends of the organ. Thanks to all for the good work. BRAVO!

Blessings of the Season to you all!

*Arnold Sten
Dean*

Carolyn J. Evens

February 3, 1934 - November 8, 2008

Memories of a Wonderful Friend

How I have been blessed to have Carolyn as a best friend for so many years. She came into my life when I moved to Mechanicsburg in 1968. When I transferred my AGO membership to Harrisburg, she was the first person to welcome me as she has welcomed new members for all the years she was a part of the organ guild. She has made an effort to get to know everyone in the guild through her gift of hospitality. She loved calling members on the phone to keep in touch and to hear from them what was going on in their lives. Always concerned for others, Carolyn reached out to everyone.

Carolyn was always there for her friends. Through the crises in my life, I could always count on a call from Carolyn. She held me up when our son was diagnosed with leukemia. She was there to cheer me on through two knee replacements. When I broke my wrist on a Saturday night in July, she was on the organ bench in the morning to play the service for me. Carolyn did not play the organ in the summers except in an emergency and this certainly was one for me. She did not play weddings after she retired from Trinity Lutheran and I knew better than to ask her to play a wedding for me.

Carolyn and I roomed together countless times at National and Regional Conventions. The first one together was in 1976 in Boston. It was extremely hot especially for Boston and we had to keep washing out our coolest clothing to make it to the many churches we visited, all without air conditioning. We always laughed about the one concert we attended at a church that had recently varnished their pews. At the end of the concert we stood up for a standing ovation for the choir that had performed and there was this loud noise as everyone's clothing peeled away from the pews. The choir from Kings College in England wore heavy vestments which should have made them pass out from the heat.

In our first fifteen years or so when attending AGO conventions we always marveled at the elderly folks who could hardly walk who came to the conventions year after year. About ten years ago we realized that we were they – elderly persons who could hardly get around but kept coming to conventions because we loved them.

Sometimes we went early to a convention to enjoy the sights in a new city. In Denver, San Francisco, Houston, Chicago we took advantage of the city we were visiting to see more of the city than just churches. Carolyn was always the tour director and planned everything for our trip from getting the reservations in early for the discount, finding the best air fare, learning where all the venues were located when we arrived at the convention, finding restaurants to eat in, and my favorite – being sure we left the correct amount for the maid.

One of my husband's favorite memories is Carolyn's caring for him when we were at graduate school in 1986-87. She would send newspapers to him with all the Penn State news along with a video of the game. In Kent, Ohio it was not possible to see the Penn State games on T.V. Who else but Carolyn would do such a loving thing for someone?

Carolyn and I went to so many concerts together here in our area. We always felt safer being together if we were going to a concert in Harrisburg. However, we never worried about safety issues when we were in convention cities. We walked in all sorts of neighborhoods where we should not have been. I know she will be hearing and being a part of many concerts in heaven.

I admired the many years that Carolyn was a substitute organist for many churches in our area. She had so many funny and exasperating stories to tell almost every week that she played. It was something that she enjoyed doing because of the person she was. I know that when I retire in two years, I will not be doing that kind of work. The stress of playing in churches you have never been to before is something that I could never take on but Carolyn enjoyed.

I will always treasure these and many more memories of Carolyn. She was one of a kind.

God's peace to you,

Sue Klinedinst

Memories of Carolyn Evens

She was always there! Maybe it was a hello, a hostess, a participant, the cookie lady or as an observer. She would say that she was Carolyn Evens and would welcome a newcomer to the meeting. She was the unofficial greeter and her personality was contagious.

Whenever we traveled, she was an ambassador for the guild. We attended nationals in Atlanta, Denver, New York and regionals in Annapolis, Pittsburgh, and Poughkeepsie. Carolyn attended more than the ones I've mentioned. We were in Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and France together. What a wonderful time all of us had at these gatherings, and much of it was due to Carolyn, who many times was our coordinator and leader.

She probably did more substituting than anyone in the guild. Her stories (and there were many) made us laugh and cry; however, her work and guidelines made it easier for all of us to substitute.

Who is going to fill her shoes? I do not believe anyone can, but we all can try to welcome others to our meetings and to be helpful to newcomers in our guild. This we can do to honor Carolyn.

Judy Schrack

Scholarship Reports from Students

Thank you for giving me organ lessons over the summer. I enjoyed taking the lessons. I have learned so much about the organ that I never knew before. For example, I didn't know that there were so many stops that did similar things. Another thing is that there are different pipes for different organs. It has been a great experience for me. I wish to continue taking organ.

Quinn Schrum

I enjoyed the ride down to Charlotte and I was able to study under some great teachers. I learned how to tune a pipe organ and how to play a few new pieces and was also taught some ways of making arrangements for hymns by changing chord structure. Mr. John Brock, the Emeritus Professor of organ for the University of Tennessee was my teacher for the week and it truly was inspiring to have lessons with him and get to know him. Also I have really advanced in my organ playing through the POE, they are truly a fantastic way of helping people get to know the pipe organ better. Also while at the POE I was able to play and tour the Calvary Organ at Calvary Church, Charlotte NC. So I want to extend a huge thank-you to the Harrisburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Thank-you so much.

Daniel Dorty

Thank you very much for providing organ lessons through the Shenk Scholarship. I have become a much better organist through the lessons and have enjoyed working on challenging music. I appreciate all you do to give opportunities to young musicians.

Jonathan Bensing

Upcoming Chapter Programs

Tuesday, February 3, 2009 - 7:30 PM

Saint Patrick Cathedral

212 State Street, Harrisburg

Mendelssohn 200th Birthday Celebration Concert

Sacred music for organ, choir and voice.

Sunday, March 22, 2009 - 4:00 PM

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

2000 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill

Hymn Festival with Michael Burkhardt.

Sunday, April 26, 2009 - 4:00 PM

Grantham Brethren in Christ Church

421 Grantham Road, Grantham

Organ PLUS - organ with other instruments.

Tuesday, May 19, 2009 - 6:00 PM

Karen Appel's residence

465 Countryside Lane, Harrisburg

Banquet / Picnic - Election / Installation of Officers.

Treasurer's Report

Cash in Bank as of 9/30/2008	\$ 6,079.73
Total Receipts (+)	\$ 1,229.00
<u>Disbursements (-)</u>	<u>\$ 2,220.44</u>
Cash in Bank as of 10/31/2008	\$ 5,088.29
Total Invested Funds:	
Cassel	\$ 6,691.45
Stahle	\$ 1,072.72
Shenk	\$ 2,064.54
Yocum	\$ 1,754.77
General	\$ 6,675.94

A total of \$989 in contributions was received at the Carlisle, Harrisburg, and Hershey Organ Spectacular events.

Positions Available

Organist: St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hanover is seeking to fill the position of Part-time Church Organist. Duties include playing one service per week, one night per week for choir practice, and additional holiday worship services throughout the year. For full information regarding job description, terms and salary, please contact our church office 717-637-8904 or by email at stmarkhanover@yahoo.com [**From our webmaster:** *This church's organ is a beautiful J. W. Steere rebuilt by Moller and further enlarged over the years. Virgil Fox was organist in this church from 1934-1935 playing this organ.*]

Director of Adult Bells: Camp Hill United Methodist Church. To identify, recruit, equip and deploy persons for ministry in Camp Hill United Methodist Church with primary responsibility for organizing and leading Adult Bell Choirs and continuing to elevate the quality and variety of worship music in the church. **Responsibilities:** Strive to develop as a servant leader through means such as worship, prayer and Bible study, involvement in a small group for spiritual growth, and faithful stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. Work respectfully as a member of a team with other church staff in a way that will provide support for the team while helping to meet the goals and fulfill the vision and mission of the church. Preparation of special music and hymns for worship. Manage Adult Bell Choirs rehearsals and performances. In concert with the Director of Music plan CHUMC music (regular and special occasions). Provide training for new ringers. Attend regular planning meetings with Music Department leaders. Develop budget for Adult Bell Choirs with Director of Music and Church Administrator. Maintain expenditures within budget. Keep the administrative staff informed of music/events for purpose of calendar, weekly church bulletin, and church communications. Coordinate with the church music leaders, in setting priorities for the Department. Other duties as assigned by the Music Director and Lead Pastor. **Qualifications:** Proven musician and performer; Degree in music (preferred); Experienced as a director of bell and vocal choirs. **Physical Dynamics of Position:** Able to meet physical demands of extended rehearsals and worship services; Able to lift, bend, carry packages and equipment All CHUMC staff must obtain a Criminal Record Check and PA Child Abuse History Clearance showing no reportable incidents. **Interested candidates send a letter of application along with a resume to:** Mr. Keith T. Roden, Director of Sanctuary Music, Camp Hill United Methodist Church, 417 South 22nd Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

Organist: Grace Lutheran Church, Charles & High Street, Red Lion, is looking for a full-time/shared organist/director. If interested, please call 244-5987 or email: Pastor Anne@gracelutheran.com or Jessie Fishel:sgtref@aol.com

Organist: The Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren is seeking an organist for their 9 AM Traditional Sunday Service. The church is located at 219 Hummel Street in Harrisburg. Responsibilities include accompanying the adult choir at their Thursday evening rehearsal, September through May; working with the pastor and choir director on seasonal music, special services and hymn selections. Salary is based upon ability and experience. The church has a Reuter Pipe Organ. Interested persons may contact the church office at 717-234-0415. Letters of interest and experience summary may be sent to hbgfirstcob@yahoo.com.

Organist: Charlton Church in Harrisburg is seeking an organist to play for its 2 traditional services and accompany the choir. If you are interested, send resume to Charlton Church at 5920 Jonestown Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112. If you would like more information about the position, contact the church office at 717-545-2000.

Music Minister/Organist: St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church in Middletown seeks a music minister/organist for its existing worship program. St. Michael's is a small congregation seeking to re-grow over time. Hymnody and Prayer Book Service Music is our first priority. Other skills and interests will enhance our worship. One Sunday service (9:30 AM) and limited holyday services (Christmas, Holy Week) as needed. Some joint planning time needed. Electronic organ and piano. Modest part-time salary offered along with very collaborative style of parish ministry. We may be tiny but we are mighty! For more information, contact Rev. Dr. David A. Zwifka at dazwifka@comcast.net or 717-319-7717 (cell).

Director of Music: Grace United Church of Christ, 1947 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 is opening its search for a half-time Director of Music. Regular responsibilities include music leadership for Sunday morning worship and all special services; also leadership and accompaniment for adult, youth and children's choirs. The congregation seeks a musician with strong skills across a wide range of music, with choir directing experience and demonstrated abilities on organ, piano and keyboard. For more information, please contact: The Reverend Rachel G. Hackenberg at (717) 397-1012.

Cantor: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Spring and Union Streets, Middletown, PA, 17057. Liturgical ELCA congregation. Provide organ and piano music and direct the choirs. 3 manual Austin pipe organ, Steinway grand piano. Two Sunday services per week; special services for church festivals and holy times. Currently liturgy and hymns: LBW, WOV, and ELW, and access to the planning resource Sundays and Seasons from Augsburg Fortress. The adult choir practices Wednesday evenings September to May with summers off. Current music ministry includes adult, youth and children's choirs. Cantor oversees and serves as resource for volunteers in choir leadership positions. Cantor is responsible for music in all areas: Saturday evening, Sunday morning, mid-week services and Vacation Bible School. Position will begin January 2009. Salary for this 20 hr/wk position is negotiable and commensurate with experience; currently budgeted as maximum \$14,000. A service orientation is sought. Please submit letter of interest and resume (including educational background and experience) to Ann Swartz, Cantor Search Committee, at the church, or by email at als25@comcast.net. Provide telephone contact information and times you can be reached if you wish to discuss.

Organist or Organist/Choir Director: St. James Lutheran Church, 53 Chestnut Street, Lebanon, 17042 is seeking an organist or Organist/Choir Director. We are a growing congregation looking for a liturgical organist who can lead the congregation in worship. The organ is a rebuilt Mohler, two manual, Baroque style pipe organ. For questions about the position and a job description, please contact Elsa Quanbeck, search committee at 717-933-9211 or quanbeck@comcast.net.

Organist: Asbury United Methodist Church is seeking a part-time Organist. Responsibilities include but are not limited to 2 weekly traditional worship services, weekly choir rehearsals as well as special worship events. Preference will be given to candidates with related music degrees and prior worship team experience. Interested applicants can e-mail resumes to info@asburyork.org or fax to 717-846-2731 or mail to Asbury UMC 340 E. Market St. York, PA 17403. If you would like more information please feel free to call 717-843-0733.

Minister of Music (Organist/Choir Director): Emmanuel UCC Church, Center Square, P.O. Box 356, Abbottstown. Experience preferred. Must play organ and piano. Responsible for directing Adult choir and selecting music for same, coordinate Sunday Worship music in cooperation with minister. 10:15 AM Sunday worship service (9:30 AM during summer months) plus additional special services for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Lent. Wednesday choir rehearsal. Additional stipend for Weddings and Funerals. Allen organ. Four week vacation. Salary—\$10,000 per year. Mail resume to above address or e-mail to eucca-town@juno.com. Inquiries may be directed to the church office at 717-259-9614.

ANNOUNCING

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER COMPETITION FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

to select a competitor for the 2009 AGO/Quimby
Regional Competition for Young Organists in Summer, 2009.

1. The competition will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2009, 11am at Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA.
2. Competitors must have a permanent legal residence in AGO Region III OR attend a school in AGO Region III.
3. Competitors must be under 23 years of age as of August 1, 2009.
4. How to enter:
Each competitor must send the following items to Chapter Competition Coordinator, Corrine Adkins, 1004 Charles Street, Glenshaw PA 15116
 - official application form (available from AGO Headquarters at www.agohq.org)
 - proof of age (photocopy of driver's license, birth certificate, or passport)
 - \$50 registration fee payable to Pittsburgh Chapter AGO
 - biography and head-shot photograph in digital form

Applications must be postmarked no later than January 17, 2009.

5. Repertoire requirements for the competition are also found at www.agohq.org

Area Events

Wednesday, December 3, 2008—12:15 PM

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church, 101 North Twenty-third Street, Camp Hill, PA. presents organist Timothy Koch on the new 39-rank Schantz Pipe Organ. Light lunch will served at the church prior to the recital from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM. A free-will offering will be received. (717) 737-0488 www.thechpc.org

Saturday, December 6, 2008—7:00 PM

Pine Grove United Methodist Church, 2523 Pine Grove Road, York presents the Hershey Handbell Ensemble in concert. The program is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be received.

Saturday, December 6, 2008—7:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church, 225 E. Market Street, York, presents *At the Manger*, a concert by *Jubilate!* Choral Ensemble, Dr. Robert C. Lau, Artistic Director. Works by Lauridsen, Rutter, Wood and Vaughan Williams. Freewill offering.

**Sunday, December 7, 2008—8:30 & 11:00 AM
Worship Services**

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church, 101 North Twenty-third Street, Camp Hill, PA. CHPC Singing Choirs present Music for Advent & Christmas David Binkley, Organist/Choirmaster

Saturday, December 13, 2008—12:00 PM

Strawberry Square Shopping Complex, 11 North third Street, Harrisburg presents the Hershey Handbell Ensemble in concert. The program is free and open to the public.

**Sunday, December 14, 2008—8:30 & 11:00 AM
Worship Services**

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church, 101 North Twenty-third Street, Camp Hill, PA. CHPC Brass Choir presents Music for Advent & Christmas David R. Getz, conductor

Sunday, December 14, 2008—4:00 PM

Pine Street Presbyterian Church, 310 North Third Street, Harrisburg presents "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" with Brass Choir. Admission is free and an offering will be received at the door.

Sunday, December 14, 2008—4:00 PM

Baughman Memorial United Methodist Church, 228 Bridge Street, New Cumberland, presents *At the Manger*, a concert by *Jubilate!* Choral Ensemble, Dr. Robert C. Lau, Artistic Director. Works by Lauridsen, Rutter, Wood and Vaughan Williams. Freewill offering.

Sunday, December 14, 2008—4:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2000 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, presents the Trinity Christmas Celebration (combined choirs, bells and orchestra including Poulenc's *Gloria*.) Early seating advised. Donations accepted. 737-8635 www.trinitycamphill.org

Sunday, December 14, 2008—4:00 PM

Zion Lutheran Church, 265 North Enola Drive, Enola, PA, presents "A Candlelight Organ Recital and Carol Sing" with Organist Todd Davis, Director of Music-Organist of Christ Lutheran Church in York, PA. Reception to follow. (717) 732-9652 www.zionelca.org

Sunday, December 21, 2008—4:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church, 2000 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, and The Susquehanna Chorale presents "A Candlelight Christmas" Linda Tedford, director. Tickets: \$22 (214-ARTS) or at the door; Trinity Patrons - \$10. 737-8635 www.trinitycamphill.org

Wednesday, January 7, 2009—12:15 PM

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church, 101 North Twenty-third Street, Camp Hill, PA. presents organist Robert Lau on the new 39-rank Schantz Pipe Organ. Light lunch will served at the church prior to the recital from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM. A free-will offering will be received. (717) 737-0488 www.thechpc.org

Sunday, January 25, 2009—3:00 PM

First United Methodist Church, 64 West Chocolate Avenue, Hershey presents the Covington String Quartet in concert. Donations are accepted. www.fumc-hershey.org 717-533-9668 music@firstumchershey.org

Wednesday, February 4, 2009—12:15 PM

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church, 101 North Twenty-third Street, Camp Hill, PA. presents organist Chuck Yocum on the new 39-rank Schantz Pipe Organ. Light lunch will served at the church prior to the recital from 11:45 AM to 12:15 PM. A free-will offering will be received. (717) 737-0488 www.thechpc.org

Sunday, February 8, 2009—4:00 PM

Camp Hill Presbyterian Church, 101 North Twenty-third Street, Camp Hill, PA. CHPC Youth Perform A free-will offering will be received. (717) 737-0488 www.thechpc.org

Friday, February 20, 2009—7:30 PM

Pine Street Presbyterian Church, 310 North Third Street, Harrisburg presents organist Thomas Clark-Jones in concert. A suggested donation of \$5.00 will be received at the door.



Directory Updates

Please welcome two new members and returning member and insert the following in your directory:

Patricia Frysinger

4340 Crestview Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112
652-0722
pasf1@juno.com

Membership Status: Special Substitute

Jisun Laycock (Sunny)

43 Emlyn Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
796-7672
nadodo21@hotmail.com

Membership Status: Regular

Organ Assistant

Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church
300 E. Simpson St.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
697-0351

Shirley Newhart

921 Butler Ct.
Hummelstown, PA 17036
566-3988
snewhart@comcast.net

Membership Status: Regular

Director of Music

Presbyterian Congregation
Union and Water Streets
Middletown, PA 17057
944-4322

Please note change:

Jean Thurston

5299 Cherry Tree Court
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

New phone number for **Arnold 'Zack' Sten** is 791-9937 and new email address is: asten2@verizon.net

Please email us with any email address changes.

Please forward all changes to:
dorisagohbg@comcast.net

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church Sixth and Chestnut Streets, Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Presents

December 21, 2008 - 5:00 PM

Nine Lessons and Carols
Valley Forge Choir of Men & Boys
Paul Jacobs, Organist

January 4, 2009 - 5:00 PM

Christmas Cantata by Daniel Pinkham

February 22, 2009 - 7:00 PM

Choral Evensong and Organ Recital
Joseph Arndt

March 29, 2009 - 7:00 PM

Crucifixion by John Stainer
Saint Luke's Festival Choir

April 26, 2009 - 7:00 PM

Concert by Jubilate Choral Ensemble

May 17, 2009 - 7:00 PM

Choral Evensong and Concert
Eaken Trio

June 7, 2009 - 5:00 PM

Choral Evensong and Anthems
Valley Forge Choir of Men and Boys

An offering will be received at each event.
For more information about these events,
please call: (717) 272-8251.

A Candlelight Recital of Advent and Christmas Music at Grace United Methodist, Harrisburg

A candlelight recital of Advent and Christmas music for organ, piano, and voice will be presented on Sunday, December 7th at 5:30 p.m., at Grace United Methodist Church, 216 State Street Harrisburg, PA, by Mark A. Cole Director of Music/Organist, Grace United Methodist Church, Harrisburg, the Grace U.M.C. adult choir, and guest soloist, Elizabeth Jacobs. Works to be included by: Dupre, Poulenc, Buxtehude, Bach, Winston, Lantz, Story, Pinkham, Vierne, Handel, and others. This is a free recital open to the public.

**The Deborah Vowler Posner
Concert Series 2008-2009**

Baughman United Methodist Church
228 Bridge Street
New Cumberland, PA 17070
Phone: 774-2005

Sunday December 14, 2008 – 4:00 PM

Jubilate!

Annual Christmas Concert

Under the direction of
Dr. Robert Lau

Sunday April 19, 2009 – 4:00 PM

Tonic-Sol-fa

Jared, Mark, Shaun and Greg
sing a capella!

This group, well-known in the Midwest,
performs 150 concerts a year, and has appeared
on NBC's Today Show and
NPR's A Prairie Home Companion.
They have produced 6 CDs and have
sold over 1,000,000 albums.

WITF TV aired their sold-out Christmas Special in
December 2007 and will again broadcast their
2008 Christmas Concert this December.

The New York Times described Tonic Sol-fa's sound as
"A vocal kaleidoscope...unique to the human voice."

Go to www.tonicsoffa.com to see and hear clips from
their performances and to order CDs. Please tune in to
WITF HD-TV on Wednesday night December 3 at 9 p.m.
to see Tonic Sol-fa's Christmas Concert.
(Rerun at midnight on Thursday December 4th.)

Sunday May 17, 2009 – 3:00 PM

Bel Voce

**A concert of favorites –
something for everyone**

Under the direction of
Teresa Bowers



There is no admission for these concerts.
Please call (717) 761-7831 for more information.

The Bombarde Online

Please e-mail Shawn Gingrich at
<shawn.gingrich@firstumchershey.org> if you would like
to sign up to receive **The Bombarde** on line.

**Pine Street Presbyterian Church
310 North Third Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Sunday, December 14, 2008—4:00 PM

"A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" with Brass Choir
Admission is free and an offering
will be received at the door.

Friday, February 20, 2009—7:30 PM

Organist Thomas Clark-Jones
A suggested donation of \$5.00
will be received at the door.

Friday, March 20, 2009—7:30 PM

Three Cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach
Solo Cantatas 82 & 56 will be sung by
baritone soloist Jonathan Hays.

The church Chamber Choir with soloists Courtney
Gray, Kenneth Bateman and Mr. Hays will sing Cantata 29.
A suggested donation of \$5.00
will be received at the door.

Friday, May 1, 2009—7:30 PM

Organist Thomas Murray
A suggested donation of \$5.00
will be received at the door.

Friday, June 5, 2009—7:30 PM

"A Classical Pair - Concerto and Mass"
Pianist Shelly Moorman-Stahlman will play Beethoven's
Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 1. The Choir of Pine
Street will present Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*.
A festival orchestra conducted by Thomas Clark-Jones
will accompany both works.
A suggested donation of \$5.00
will be received at the door.



Monthly Lunch Bunch

I hope those of you who attend the
luncheons or those planning to come
for the first time can break away from
your demanding December schedule
to attend the luncheon on Wednes-
day, December 10th at 11:30 a.m. in
the Bridges Café at the Radisson,
Camp Hill. Please phone Doris Sav-
age at 697-4042 or email at dori-sagohbg@comcast.net no later than
Monday, December 8th whether you
plan to attend.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS HARRISBURG CHAPTER

Board of Directors Meeting November 11, 2008

Trinity Lutheran Church Camp Hill, PA, 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Chuck Yocum, Ken Walker, Kay Shupp, Karen Worley, Arnold Sten, Dr. Shirley King, Josephine Freund, Ken Kline, Mary Jane Nelson, Rev. Steven Middernacht, Doris Savage, Dr. Ralph Kneeream, Brian Rice, Ray Edmison, Dr. Ronald Sider, Karen Appel, Robert Carbaugh, Shawn Gingrich, Tom Notestine. Excused: Ellen Hunt. Absent: Tim Koch

Approval of the minutes from the August 12 meeting came after a clarification that \$750 of the \$4,500 amount set for programs was for advertising. Motion: Chuck Yocum; Second: Ken Kline.

Approval was given to Treasurer Brian Rice's written financial reports and Investments and CDs beginning August 12, 2008 and ending November 11, 2008. Motion: Rev. Steve Middernacht; Second: Chuck Yocum. Copies are attached to the official minutes of this meeting.

Shawn Gingrich, chair of the Education Committee, reported that the Cassell Scholarship Competition will be held February 24, 2009, at Market Square Presbyterian Church. On a motion by Shawn Gingrich and a second by Mary Jane Nelson the payment to scholarship lesson teachers will be \$200 per student beginning with the 2009 student winners.

Doris Savage, chair of the Membership Committee reported that we presently have 139 members. Rev. Steve Middernacht was appointed chair of the Nominating Committee for 2009/2010. Josephine Freund, chair of the Professional Concerns Committee reported that there are Salary Guidelines available. Shawn Gingrich distributed an updated copy of the Salary Guidelines, which will also be available on our website.

Dr. Ralph Kneeream, chair of the Program Committee, distributed a list of programs remaining in this season as well as proposed programs for the 2009/2010 season. On a motion by Josephine Freund and a second by Chuck Yocum the proposed budget amount for programs for 2009/2010 was set at \$5,000.

Mary Jane Nelson, chair of the Publicity Committee, reported that she has sent out to the chapter member with email addresses, copies of the announcements sent to the local new media regarding our programs.

Dr. Shirley King, coordinator of the Regional Convention, reported on her attendance at the New York meeting for coordinators. Dr. King also distributed copies of the overview plans for the convention as they presently stand. Progress reports will be given at each of our meetings in the months to come.

Dean Arnold Sten thanked everyone for the fine programs for the Organ Spectacular in October. Special thanks to Doris Savage and Ellen Hunt for their work on the "News Clip" which was aired on Channel 27 advertising our programs for the Spectacular.

Meeting adjourned. Next meetings: January 13, 2009 and April 14, 2009 Trinity Lutheran Camp Hill at 7:00 p.m.

Ken Walker
Secretary

Getting to Know Tom Mercer

by Mary Jane Nelson

Tom Mercer became a church musician more or less by accident. In 1968 a small Presbyterian church in a small Lancaster county town was quite desperate for an organist. Someone in the church knew that Tom had played the piano as a child and suggested approaching him about the job. What they did not know was that when he was six he had experienced a brief but life-changing encounter with an elderly Hammond and played John Thompson's Birthday Party ("Here we go, up a row . . .") on the pedals. So he was unable to resist the Presbyterians' offer, even though what they were offering was \$25 per month.

The organ was a Möller "Artiste", the deluxe model with four ranks, duplexed over two manuals and pedal; the pipes were in the attic and spoke through a grill in the ceiling. Legendary Lancaster music store proprietor Dale Hershey suggested some anthologies of easy music; the Lancaster public library had a remarkable assortment of books on the organ and organ music. Tom developed a technique of playing legato until he ran out of fingers, then leaping to a new hand position.

After a couple of years the choir director retired and Tom was asked to take that responsibility as well. The stipend increased proportionally to \$50. In 1971 the pastor showed Tom a flier he had received in a bulk mailing from something called the Lancaster Chapter A.G.O. The flier announced a series of workshops for the amateur organist and the pastor suggested that Tom attend.

The chief presenter at the workshops was Carl Schroeder. Tom soon began several years of lessons with Carl, learning the amazing trick of working out and writing in the fingering and then practicing slowly with the metronome and he joined the Guild. Carl also showed that it was possible to play the most unwieldy and mechanical of instruments expressively.

In 1972, through the offices of the Chapter, Tom got a new job as organist at a much larger church in another Lancaster County town with another Möller four or five times the size of the first. When he was hired he was paid the same salary as the previous incumbent because "that's all that's in the budget," but was promised (orally) that there would be a substantial raise in the new budget. When January came he was told that the salary would be the same since "you've only been here a few months." He immediately began looking for another job, but it took two years to find one.

In February 1975 Tom began what turned out to be 21 years as organist and choir director at First English Lutheran Church in Columbia. The church had suffered a fire and was using a small electronic with short offset manuals and thirteen pedals, but thanks to the insurance adjuster, in May they received their new organ – a Zimmer of 23 ranks, entirely straight. At Tom's insistence, Zimmer was persuaded to add a Sw/Gt 16' coupler. Tom's nagging also led to revoicing the larger flues until they produced more tone than air noise, and within a reasonable time after depressing the key.

The organ's most impressive feature was the pedal Fagot 16'. Franz Zimmer suggested that since most of the parishioners would likely never have heard a stop like that, perhaps Tom should delay its use for a few weeks. Tom felt the organ should be shown to its fullest advantage at its debut, and chose the Buxtehude *Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne* for the first prelude. So the first sound the congregation heard was the Fagot with the pedal chorus that included its own mixture!

All good things come to an end, and by the 1990s the church, through a period of frequent clergy changes and internal strife, had declined to where weekly attendance was around 40-50, eight to ten of them in the choir. In 1996 Tom took his current position at Ascension Lutheran Church in Willow Street, PA (*surprise....there is no Willow St. in Willow Street*) a growing suburban congregation with three services and multiple choirs that has twice enlarged the building in the past ten years.

From the earliest days Tom has had an interest in early music and its peculiar instruments. While at the Presbyterian church in the late 1960s he formed a recorder ensemble and made arrangements of hymns and songs for the amateur musicians to play. He still uses the alto and tenor recorders he bought at that time. In 1982 he was a co-founder of the ensemble *Oriana*. Their debut was at the Mt. Hope Winery for a single three-hour afternoon event that over the years gradually turned into the Renaissance Fair. *Oriana's* personnel has turned over many times, with Tom the sole remaining founding member. *Oriana* played at one of our Chapter banquets several years ago. To supply his own musical need, Tom turned to instrument building, making a number of harpsichords (some from kits, some from scratch) and two Medieval instruments that the group uses in their twice-monthly gigs playing for Roman and Medieval feasts at the "Catacombs" in Mt. Joy: a psaltery and a string drum, a.k.a. tambourin de Bearn.

Continued on next page.

Tom lists his other interests as reading, solving word puzzles, (especially British-style cryptic crosswords), and bird watching. In pursuit of birds he travels two or three times a year to Cape May, New Jersey, the bird-watching capital of eastern North America, where it's easy in a few days to see 150+ species. He also leads bird-walks for Ascension Church.

During all this time Tom has been active in the Lancaster Chapter, playing in recitals, presenting programs on various topics, and serving three terms as Dean and eight years (on and off) as secretary and newsletter editor. Several years ago he joined our Harrisburg Chapter as a dual member and served as co-chair of the publicity committee for the POE at Lebanon Valley in 2001, co-sponsored by the Lancaster and Harrisburg Chapters.

We welcome Tom as a dual member and hope that more of the Harrisburg Chapter members learn to know him in the future.

Music Scholarship Opportunity Offered

The Harrisburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) is pleased to invite piano students from 13 to 18 years of age to apply for the Yocum Pipe Organ Encounter Scholarships to be offered during the summer of 2009. The Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) is a four to five-day event held in various parts of the country for young pianists who wish to explore the organ. The deadline for applying for this scholarship is January 31, 2009. More details, application forms and a list of the locations for the 2009 POE experiences are available on the Chapter website or by calling Shawn Gingrich, education chair of the Chapter, at (717) 533-9668, ext. 108, or by e-mail at shawn.gingrich@firstumchershey.org.

You may also request the brochure describing the Sherk Scholarship for summer organ lessons offered by several members of the Harrisburg Chapter, for youth of this age group. The AGO is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. The Guild was founded as both an educational and service organization, and seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music. This scholarship is named to honor Charles Yocum, a Chapter member of long-standing, who is still serves as Music Director at Zion Lutheran Church in Penbrook.

AGO NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY TO BE PRESENTED IN COOPERATION WITH YALE UNIVERSITY

**Teaching Church Music in North America:
An Old Vocation in a New Millennium
March 11–14, 2009, New Haven, Conn.**

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and Yale University are partnering to produce the 15th AGO NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY, March 11–14, 2009. The conference, designed in cooperation with the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education, will be hosted by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, an interdisciplinary graduate center dedicated to the study and practice of sacred music, worship, and the arts. The four-day conference will be held at the Institute, in the Sterling Divinity Quadrangle, as well as other locations at Yale University and in downtown New Haven.

Demographic, cultural, and theological shifts in recent years have had a great impact on Christian worship in North America. This conference will explore these factors, and participants will discuss the many opportunities and challenges involved in the field of church music today. These proceedings will be of interest and value to church musicians and those who train them.

The keynote address will be given by Martin E. Marty. The conference will include plenary sessions led by Marva Dawn, Quentin Faulkner, Robert Rimbo, and Don Saliers; master classes on teaching by Lorraine Brugh (global music), David Heller (hymn-playing), Mark Miller (Gospel accompaniment), Thomas Murray (choral accompaniment), and Bruce Neswick and Pamela Ruiten-Feenstra (improvisation for church musicians). Church music curricula will be presented by Michael Bauer, Lorraine Brugh, Craig Cramer, Peter DuBois, and Janette Fishell. Preceding the pedagogy conference there will be a three-day symposium on preaching and music: Listening Is Performing, Performing Is Listening, March 8–10.

Complete conference information, including online registration, is available at www.agohq.org. For further information, please contact the Yale Institute of Sacred Music at 203-432-3220 or e-mail albert.agbayani@yale.edu.

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The deadline for each edition of *The Bombarde* is the fifteenth of each month unless otherwise noted. Whenever possible, please submit your items in electronic format.



DEADLINE

Deadline for inclusion in the January 2008 newsletter is Monday, December 15, 2008. Please forward **all** submissions to:

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E-mail: bombarde@harrisburgago.com

Note: Please use *Bombarde* in the subject line of e-mail.

Thank you!