



The Harrisburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SHENK SCHOLARSHIP

In 2002 Melvin Shenk gave funds in memory of his mother, Violette Shenk. Recognizing the need to train new organists, the Harrisburg Chapter designated the *Shenk Scholarship Fund* towards encouraging qualified young middle and high school students to study the organ and to develop the skills and commitment to serve as church organists. The Guild offers qualified applicants a limited number of scholarship for free instruction in organ playing, the equivalent of ten weeks of half-hour lessons. Harrisburg Chapter members provide the Shenk Scholars with lessons. Each year the Chapter invites these students to participate in a Member and Student Recital. Before his death in 2021 Mel continued financial support for this fund. We encourage others to support this important outreach.

YOCUM SCHOLARSHIP

When Charles M. Yocum, Jr. retired in 2003 from a long and distinguished career as a church musician, his church honored him by establishing the *Yocum Scholarship Fund*. At his death in 2016 many memorial gifts from friends and family were given to the Yocum Scholarship Fund. The Harrisburg Chapter has designated these funds for providing full-tuition scholarships for students aged 13 - 18 to attend AGO Pipe Organ Encounters (POE). A POE is a 4-5 day regional event organized by a local AGO chapter under the sponsorship of the national organization, introducing teenagers to the world of the organ. The purposes of a POE:

- Provide individual and group instruction in the rudiments of organ technique and service playing.
- Give a general overview of organ literature and history.
- Expose the participants to concepts and examples of pipe organ construction and design.
- Offer opportunities to participate in ecumenical worship, so as to experience the role of the sacred musician.
- Provide an invaluable opportunity for young musicians to meet others with similar interests.

THRONE SCHOLARSHIP

In 2011 a gift was given to the Harrisburg Chapter AGO from Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Churchtown from a bequest of Ida Enck Throne who served that congregation as organist. The money was given to help train organists. The Harrisburg Chapter earmarked this fund to promote adult education.

Purpose of the Throne Fund:

- To provide or help provide assistance for education and / or certification of adult members of the Harrisburg Chapter AGO.
- Training and materials for certification of Harrisburg Chapter AGO through the AGO. This may include but is not limited to:
 - ◊ Paying teachers to help prepare and guide through the process.
 - ◊ Paying for registration and materials needed to be certified.
- Providing scholarships to a Pipe Organ Encounter Plus (POE+) for adults.
- Providing registration assistance for Harrisburg Chapter AGO members to attend educational conferences and workshops on organ related topics.

HOW TO APPLY

For the Yocum scholarship, basic keyboard proficiency is required, although previous organ study is not necessary. Deadline for application is March 15 each year.

The Shenk Scholarship is open to students entering grade 6 through those completing grade 12 and Yocum Scholarship is open to students age 13-18.

For the Shenk scholarship, students should have an interest in music. Ability to read music is crucial so having some experience with singing and / or playing another instrument is desirable. Deadline for application is April 30 each year.

For both scholarships a short application is required.. For the Shenk scholarship an additional requirement is to provide a recorded audition to be uploaded with the application. Visit harrisburgago.org and click education to find application materials. All young pianists are encouraged to apply!

WHO WE ARE

The *American Guild of Organists* (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 the Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music. The AGO encourages its members to strive for excellence and professionalism.

Membership in the Harrisburg Chapter is open to all and includes working professionals - organists, choir directors, and teachers - as well as students, clergy, amateur musicians, and dedicated supporters. The Guild does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, age, religion, musical ability, or anything else. Harrisburg Chapter members come from the full spectrum: from people who merely love the organ (but don't necessarily play) to occasional church organists, all the way to full-time musicians.

AGO membership numbers over 14,000 in the United States and across the world. The Harrisburg Chapter counts about 100 people as members.

Mission of the AGO: The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion or the organ.

DONATIONS WELCOME!

All of the work of the Harrisburg Chapter is supported by our members and friends who espouse the purposes of the Guild. Free-will collections at our programs also contribute to the Shenk and Yocum scholarship funds.

It costs approximately \$500.00 for each student to attend a Pipe Organ Encounter and \$275.00 to provide each student with summer organ lessons and a student membership. Since each year we like to offer scholarships to as many students as possible, our scholarship funds are always quickly depleted.

Could you consider making a contribution to the Harrisburg Chapter in order to support our efforts in bringing the world of the organ to our youth? The need is immediate and real - the youth of today are the organists of tomorrow!

Please make your checks payable to "*The American Guild of Organists - Harrisburg Chapter*" and send to: the treasurer
Shawn Gingrich, 1102 Ballyshannon Drive, Elizabethtown PA 17022

The Harrisburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit educational organization, as registered with the Internal Revenue Service. All contributions are tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.