

Pipeline

The Newsletter of the Nassau Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists
<http://www.nassauago.org>

February 2024



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from the dean...

♪♪Music Matters♪♪

Dear Nassau Chapter members,

Happy New Year! I hope your endeavors for November and December are all happy memories now, and that you are ready to celebrate St Valentine's Day on Ash Wednesday. (Have you seen the meme? Do you think your priest will draw an ashy heart on your forehead?)

We lost a long-time member of our Chapter as the New Year began, Mark Van Schenkshof had battled ALS for a long time, but was taken from us. He was a Master educator, and mentored many students from Manhasset High School through the years. We are sharing a few words from two of his students and two of our members Frank Crosio and Leonard Lehrman.

This past weekend we hosted Christa Rakich, and shared a fabulous few days with her. She arrived Thursday and met the Casavant at Christ Church, and reported that she'd set about 70% of her recital by that evening. She shared news of her students at Oberlin, and some of the exciting things she does with them, including a tradition of taking them to Europe to play various instruments during the January break.

Luckily she had opted for time off this January, and NAGO and Christ Church was so blessed to have her! The workshop on Saturday was amazing. She presented two valuable methods for our members to develop, to aid in improvisation – a skill not often taught, but which is so handy during many of our worship services. See handout #1. She checked which of the people attending did NOT plan to play, and called on them, showing

Chapter Calendar Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 21, 3-5 PM:
Tour & benchtime on 3
organs in Oyster Bay:
Christ Church (61 E Main
St), Church of St. Dominic
(91 Anstice St) and First
Presbyterian Church (60 E
Main St).

Saturday, June 1, 9 AM – 4
PM: Handbell workshops
with Kathleen Ebling Shaw,
St. Luke's Lutheran Church,
145 Prospect St,
Farmingdale.

Saturday and Sunday, June
8 & 9: Pennsylvania Youth
Choir at Trinity Lutheran
Church. Open rehearsal on
Saturday morning & concert
Saturday evening.
Participation in worship
service Sunday morning.
40 W. Nicolai St, Hicksville.

how painless it actually was, to play parallel thirds in the left hand, and have the right play the 5th, moving to the 6th (to form a 1st inversion chord), and work your way up a scale...for starters. Her pedagogical skill was very positive and persuasive!



Participants in the MasterClass.



Masterclass Participants

She practiced all afternoon, and the board took her to an early dinner Saturday evening. The conversation was so interesting! What a lovely, relaxing time together!

Sunday afternoon we had board members and church vestry gathered to hand out programs and welcome the people that arrived for the

recital...and the zoom worked this time. (We were so disappointed that the Spooky Organ Concert had a hard fail with that technology, that afternoon.)



Ms Rakich during the recital.

The recital was fantastic. It was not a typical program that we so often hear – see the program that's attached. She began with Bach, but a twenty minute work of variations on a chorale that is rarely played. She made use of incredibly

interesting registrations throughout the program. And the organ behaved! No cipher, as we had at the first recital last October (2022). She played three of the four known works by Nadia Boulanger, a set of her variations on Melita (having worked at WestPoint for almost 25 years, I almost yelled out “Beat Navy!” but I do like “Eternal Father” so held my peace.) She had studied with Anton Heiller in Vienna as an undergrad, and played a wonderful piece of his that is never played. What a treat!



Ms Rakich at conclusion of recital.

And she concluded with a piece by Florence Price, which was a great closer.

If you could not attend, you missed a stunning performance. But it is on the Church's YouTube channel, so please listen to it soon. The Chapter spent \$3000 on her appearance, the church paid in \$1500 and paid for her hotel stay. We had coffee and donuts on Saturday, and a lovely reception of wine and cheese, crackers, etc, after the recital. We had a good audience, but we missed having YOU attend. Please evaluate why you are a member of AGO if you do not attend meetings, or speak with the board to let us know

what might interest you! Again – I don't think that being on a substitute list is valid for being the only reason you joined our Chapter. Be part of the full experience!

Here's to a wonderful new season!

Harmoniously,

Meredith

YouTube of Christa's recital – feel free to send \$10 to Nassau Chapter, AGO to my address, if you enjoy hearing this program!

<https://youtu.be/cbUvMBoXv2E?si=8ITeRCcbyymQXx8i>

Meredith Baker
15 Audrey Court
Malverne, NY 11565

Chapter Events

Sunday, April 21, 3-5 PM: Tour, organ crawl and benchtime on three organs in Oyster Bay: the Casavant at First Presbyterian Church, 60 E. Main St, the Hook and Hastings at St. Dominic Catholic Church, 61 Anstice St, and the Wolf at Christ Church, 61 E Main St.

Saturday, June 1, 9 AM – 4 PM: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Farmingdale. Handbell workshops with handbell expert Kathleen Ebling Shaw of Westminster Choir College. Several years ago, Ms. Shaw conducted a handbell

workshop for our chapter that was both fun and informative. We are very pleased that she will be returning to conduct another such workshop for members of the Nassau and Suffolk chapters. Contact Gene McCoy for further information.

Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9: Pennsylvania Youth Choir at Trinity Lutheran Church, 40 W. Nicholai St, Hicksville. Open rehearsal on Saturday morning, concert on Saturday evening and participation in worship service on Sunday morning.

Other Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 28, 2 PM: The Island Symphony Bach Festival featuring works by Bach and Brahms Symphony #4. Stephan Garamy is the featured organist. St. Peter's by the Sea Episcopal Church, 500 South Country Rd, Bay Shore. Adults: \$15; students \$10. Snow date is February 4th. See flyer for further details.

Monday, January 29, 11 AM – 2:00 PM. Pedals, Pipes and Pizza. Sponsored by the Brooklyn Chapter of the AGO. All Saints Episcopal Church, 286-88 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. See the flyer for further information.

Saturday, March 2, 9:30 AM – 3 PM. Keyboard and Guitar Extravaganza, Hofstra University. A day of hands-on clinics and master classes for high school pianists and guitarists. See the flyer for further details. Registration deadline is February 1st. For further information, contact Matthew Koraus at matthew.j.koraus@hofstra.edu.

Sunday, March 3: Pedals Pipes and Pizza, Church of St Patrick, 400 Main St, Huntington. An event intended to introduce young people to the organ. Contact Chris Cusumano for further information at chapelcus@optonline.net.

Upcoming Events- St John's of Lattingtown:

Sunday, January 21, 4 PM: Choral Evensong featuring by Tallis, Byrd and Bull.

Sunday, February 18, 4 PM; Choral Evensong featuring music by Tallis, Morley and Walmsley.

Sunday, March 3rd: Organ Recital by Ruairaidh Sutherland featuring music by Handel, Hollins and Vierne.

Sunday, March 24, 4 PM: Stainer's CRUCIFIXION

Sunday, April 7, 4 PM: Vocal Recital by Katherine Reese-Lerner

Sunday, April 21, 4 PM: Choral Evensong featuring music by Tallis, Stanford and S. S. Wesley. St John's of Lattingtown is located at 325 Lattingtown Rd, Locust Valley. For further information, contact Ruairaidh Sutherland at 516-671-3226 or music@stjlat.org. See the flyer for further information.

Sunday, May 5, 7:30 PM. Cathedral Music Master-Work Series including Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" and J. S. Bach's "Magnificat in D Major." The Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra of St Agnes Cathedral, 29 Quealy Pl, Rockville Centre.

Welcome to a New Chapter Member

We would like to welcome new chapter member, Mr. Steven C. Petersen. We hope to meet him at an upcoming chapter event.

Substitute Position

Easy organist or pianist position available at Holy Name of Jesus Church located at 690 Woodbury Rd, Woodbury, NY, 11797 10:15 Mass January 21 – March 17. Stipend \$125, somewhat negotiable. Singer much preferred.

Tributes to Mark Van Schenkhof

The world lost a giant today after several years of battling ALS. Mark Van Schenkhof was a mentor from whom I learned so much every day while student teaching with him. From the first time I saw the Manhasset ensembles perform at Hofstra, I knew that I wanted to learn from him, and I was fortunate to do so. Your annual birthday wishes, attached with a recording of you singing in four-part harmony, were always a highlight. Early in my career, he told me he regretted that we only worked together for such a brief period of time. I'm thankful that we stayed in touch, and also for the network of educators you introduced me to and helped me connect with, especially through our annual student teacher dinner, many of whom I consider great colleagues and friends today. Perhaps one of the

greatest gifts he gave was of himself to the Manhasset community. His ability to identify every student's potential and help them realize it was a gift. I count myself among the many who have you to thank for the individuals we have grown to become. Every day, I am honored to follow in your footsteps, and hope to make even a fraction of the impact you have made. After I student taught with Mark, it was always a dream to come work at Manhasset. But I admit that walking in on the first day, like most in a new job, you have that moment of "what have I done?" I found a button on my desk of Mark saying the shehechyanu, and knew that it was meant to be. Since you were always one for quotes, here's one for you Mark. "When I die Give what's left of me away To children And old men that wait to die. And if you need to cry, Cry for your brother Walking the street beside you. And when you need me, Put your arms Around anyone And give them What you need to give to me. I want to leave you something, Something better Than words Or sounds. Look for me In the people I've known Or loved, And if you cannot give me away, At least let me live on in your eyes And not your mind. You can love me most By letting Hands touch hands, By letting bodies touch bodies, And by letting go Of children That need to be free. Love doesn't die, People do. So, when all that's left of me Is love, Give me away." -Merrit Malloy Zichrono livracha. May your memory be a blessing.

By Jared Berry

This incredible soul has moved on, after living for many years with ALS (an absolute bastard of a disease). Mark was a truly formative mentor in my life. In reviewing my notes from student teaching, I came upon his comments: "Tell stories!" "Don't hide behind the piano." "Occupy the basses." "Tenors tire easily...be careful." "Don't say it was excellent unless it was." "Choose your battles." Some battles choose us, though. ALS led Mark to an early retirement, but it did not "beat" him. Mark was always Mark, every time I visited him. He shared in joys, encouraged me to pursue my dreams, and never let me forget that he loved me. He is titan who will not soon be forgotten. It was indeed excellent to share our time together. Sing on, Kinsman.

By James Ludwig

I met Mark van Schenkhoof in the late 1970's when we were both studying at the Manhattan School of Music. After graduation he moved to LI and became the Director of Music at St Aloysius in Great Neck. At the time, I was at St Ignatius in Hicksville and our combined choirs sang several very rewarding Christmas programs together. A few years later, Mark and his wife, Carol formed a vocal ensemble called the Amicus Quartet with their dear friends Bob and Brana Williams. I served as accompanist for the group and we performed together in many libraries and churches throughout Nassau County. Mark was a gifted singer and conductor who also had impressive keyboard skills. He touched many lives as a performer, church musician and teacher and will be greatly missed.

by Frank L. Crosio



Mark Van Schenkhoof

I've known Mark and his wife Carol Dougherty since 1992. On March. 12th of that year, Carol premiered four of my songs in a Long Island Composers Alliance (LICA) concert at the Hewlett-Woodmere Library. Mark was also helpful to me when I worked for Cantor Jacob Yaron at Community Synagogue of Port Washington in 2002. Terrific musicians. I hope she's ok; he will be missed.

Sincerely, Leonard J. Lehrman



Left to right: Jared Berry, James Ludwig, Mark Van Schenkhof and friend.

Other Recent Passings

The Nassau Chapter Board notes with sorrow the recent passing of three outstanding musicians: Alice Parker (1925-2023), Charles Callahan (1951-2023) and Peter Schickele (1935-2024).

Alice Parker composed 11 song cycles and 4 operas, but her biggest contribution was her dedication to choral singing. She wrote music that was sung by choirs around the country. She worked with the Robert Shaw Chorale for many years. E. Wayne Abercrombie, professor of music emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, said of Alice Parker: "She wasn't about professional choirs. She was focused on getting everybody singing. She would go into the church for an hour or two and have people singing hymns." Of her collections of folk songs, he said "They are written so that amateur singers can sing them, but professional singers can bring them to a different level. That's a gift."

Charles Callahan was a concert organist, church musician, composer and writer. He wrote two volumes on the history of organ building in America. His compositions included commissions by Harvard University and the archdioceses of St. Louis and New York, the latter for visits by the Pope. His advice was frequently sought on the design of new organs and the restoration and modification of older instrument. He taught at Baylor University,

Middlebury College, the Catholic University and Rollins College and served as church musician for churches in three cities. The AGO honored Charles Callahan with its 2014 Distinguished Artist award "for his illustrious career as composer, performer, teacher and consultant and his lifelong service to the sacred music profession."

Peter Schickele wrote more than 100 works, which were performed by the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra and Joan Baez, but he is undoubtedly best remembered as the creator of P.D.Q. Bach. The comic aspects of P. D. Q. Bach were endless. Mr. Schickele "found" manuscripts by P.D.Q. Bach in unusual places such as the East River. Unusual instruments made their appearance in the compositions of P.D.Q. Bach. Once such instrument, which older New Yorkers can especially relate to, is the Hardart, featured in the Concerto for Horn and Hardart. Examples of other compositions included Concerto for Two Pianos vs Orchestra and the carol O Little Town of Hackensack. His entrances to the concerts and his on-stage comments were equally as humorous and witty as these titles indicate.



CHRISTA RAKICH

Concert and recording artist Christa Rakich performs widely throughout North America, Europe, and Japan. She is Visiting Professor of Organ at Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. Near her home in Connecticut, she maintains two Artist-in-Residencies: St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford and the Congregational Church of Somers. Past Artist-in-Residencies have included the University of Pennsylvania and First Lutheran Church in Boston.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Christa Rakich studied with renowned Bach interpreter Anton Heiller at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Austria. She holds Bachelor's degrees in Organ and German from Oberlin College (Phi Beta Kappa). After receiving her Master's degree with honors from New England Conservatory, she joined the faculty there, teaching for many years, and serving ultimately as department co-chair. She has also served on the faculties of Westminster Choir College, Brandeis University, and the University of Connecticut, and as Assistant University Organist at Harvard.

An avid collaborator, Christa Rakich frequently performs with her colleague Susan Ferré at the Big Moose Bach Festival in New Hampshire. With flutist Wendy Rolfe and gambist Alice Robbins, she is a founding member of the Marion Baroque Ensemble, based in Massachusetts, and was for many years keyboardist for the Fanfare Consort, a Connecticut-based ensemble that included baroque trumpet, strings, lute, organ, and harpsichord. With cellist Kathleen Schiano, Rakich commissioned and premiered a Sonata for Organ and Cello by Dutch composer Margaretha Christina de Jong.

One of her recent concerts for the Boston Clavichord Society, an organization she also serves as Vice-President, included a performance with clavichordist Erica Johnson of Mozart's Jupiter Symphony on 2 clavichords.

A prizewinner at international organ competitions, Rakich has received particular acclaim for her interpretations of the music of J.S. Bach. She has recorded his Clavierübung III, Leipzig Chorales, and Trio Sonatas.

- Bio from Christa Rakich website.

THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

- | | |
|---|---|
| I. Sei gegrüßet, Jesu gütig, BWV 768 | J.S. Bach
(1685-1750) |
| II. Suite du 2 ^{me} Ton
Tierce en Taille | Jean-Adam Guilain
(c. 1680- c. 1739) |
| III. Trois Pièces (1911)
Prélude
Petit Canon
Improvisation | Nadia Boulanger
(1887-1979) |
| IV. Meditation on <i>Ecce Lignum Crucis</i> (1967) | Anton Heiller
(1923-1979) |
| V. Fugue & Prelude on <i>Melita</i> (2023) | Christa Rakich
(b. 1952) |
| VI. Suite #1 (1942)
Fantasy
Fughetta
Air
Tocatto | Florence Price
(1887-1953) |

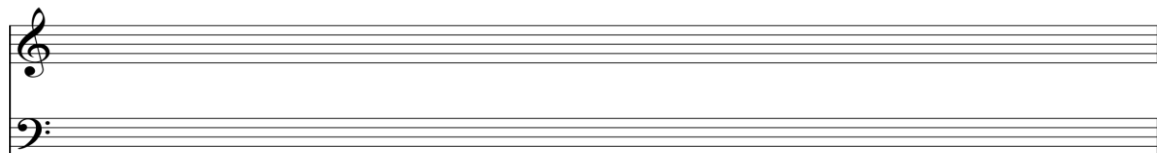
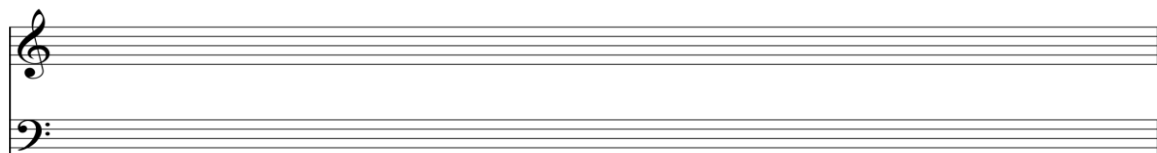
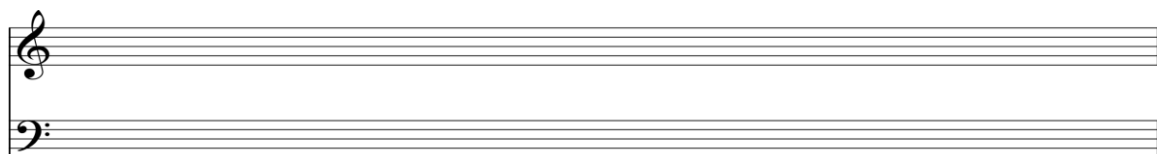
Improvisation Workshop
Nassau Chapter AGO
January 13, 2024
Christa Rakich

1: Getting comfy with chords (Harmony 101)

Make any given melody note the root, third, or fifth of a chord. Start with a C major scale. Then practice with a hymn tune.



Now put the scale in the bass. Make each note the root or third of a chord. Then practice with a hymn tune.



2: Using an octatonic scale

Octatonic Scale, Mode 2



Triads



Messiaen's harmonies



Available Major / Minor Triads



3: The Rake

LH moves stepwise in whole notes, making 3-note chords using parallel fourths

Ped moves stepwise in quarter notes, in contrary motion to LH

RH plays a melody (minor mode melodies work best) in half notes

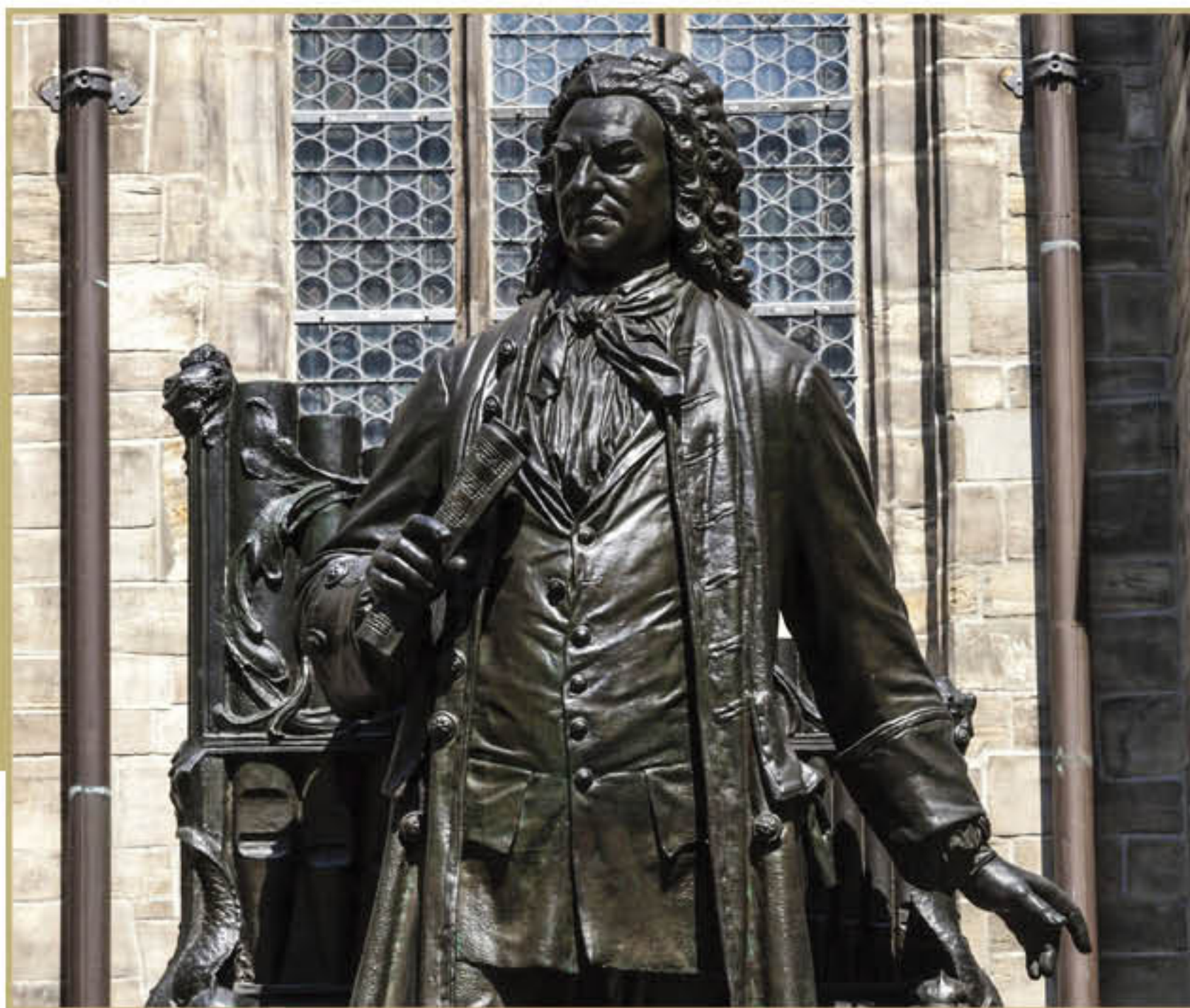




ISLAND
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Eric R. Stewart, Music Director

The Island Symphony Bach Festival



Featuring works by Bach and Brahms Symphony No. 4

Guest Soloists

Tianyou Ma, Violin

**Winner of the 2021 Lillian and Maurice Barbash J.S. Bach Competition
and**

Stephan Garamy, Organ

Sunday, January 28, 2024 | 2:00 PM
(Snow Date: February 4)

St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church
500 South Country Road, Bay Shore

Tickets at the Door: Adult / \$15 Student / \$10

info@islandsymphony.org



HOFSTRA
UNIVERSITY®

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

The Hofstra Music Department presents a

Keyboard and Guitar Extravaganza!

Saturday, March 2, 2024

9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.



A Day of Hands-On Clinics and Master Classes
for High School Pianists and Guitarists

Coach Your Audition Repertoire
Learn to Improvise
Try Out the Harpsichord and Pipe Organ
Play Duos with Other Pianists and Guitarists

Then enjoy a recital by
the Hofstra Keyboard and Guitar Faculty

Shapiro Family Hall and Monroe Hall
Hofstra University, South Campus
Hempstead, NY

Free of charge

Deadline for registration is Thursday, February 1, 2024.

*Scan the QR code for more
information on how to join this
special event.*



For more information:

Pianists contact: **matthew.j.koraus@hofstra.edu**

Guitarists contact: **mariano.aguirre@hofstra.edu**

MUSIC AT SAINT JOHN'S SPRING 2024

For more information, please
call or the email parish office,
516-671-3226, or the music
department,
music@stjlat.org

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, January 21 at 4 pm

Music by Tallis, Byrd & Bull

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, February 18 at 4 pm

Music by Tallis, Morley & Walmsley

ORGAN RECITAL

Sunday, March 3 at 4 pm

Ruaraidh Sutherland (St. John's)

Music by Handel, Hollins, & Vierne

Stainer's CRUCIFIXION

Palm Sunday, March 24 at 4 pm

St. John's Parish Choir, directed by Ruaraidh Sutherland with
Bryce Westervelt (tenor), Nathan Siler (bass), and Henry DeVries (organ)

VOCAL RECITAL

Sunday, April 7 at 4 pm

Katherine Reese-Lerner (mezzo soprano)

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, April 21 at 4 pm

St. John's Parish Choir with the St. John's Girls' Choir
Music by Tallis, Stanford & S.S. Wesley

St. John's of Lattingtown, 325 Lattingtown Road, Locust Valley NY



M

USIC AT SAINT JOHN'S
SUMMER 2024

We offer a variety of *free* events and
ticketed events. For more information,
please call or the email parish office,
516-671-3226,

COME & SING CHORAL EVENSONG

A Singing Day with

Katherine Dienes-Williams

Organist and Master of the Choristers, Guildford Cathedral, UK

SATURDAY 1st JUNE 2024

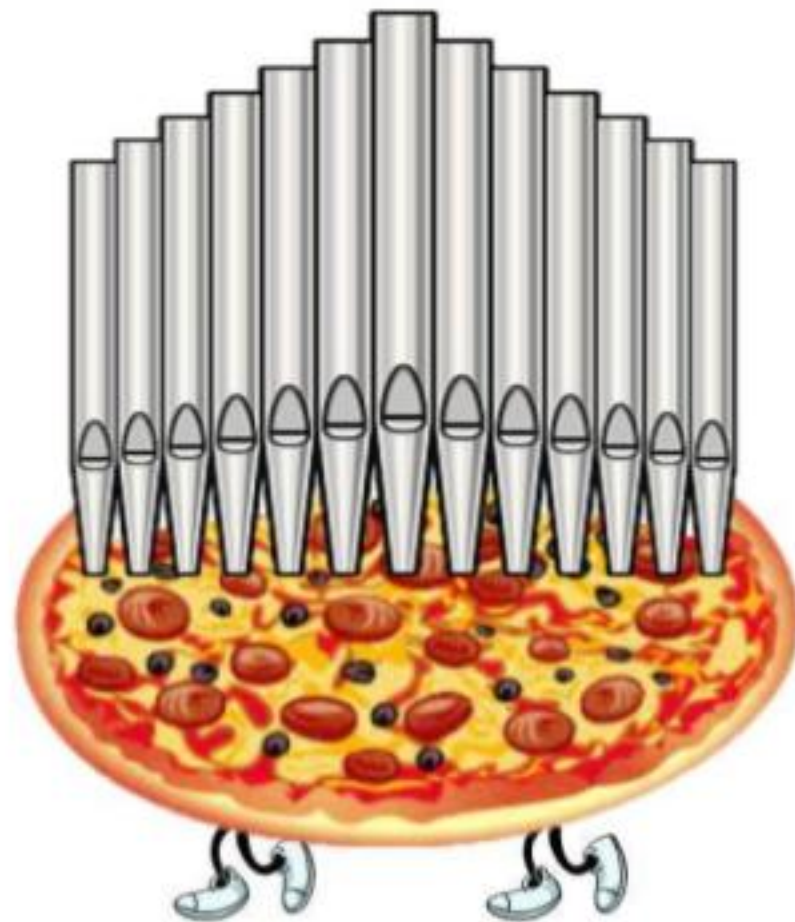
ST. JOHN'S OF LATTINGTOWN, LOCUST VALLEY

If any man love me *Thalben-Ball*
Preces & Responses *Tallis*
Evening Service in C *Stanford*
O Lord, the maker *Mundy*
Lead me, Lord S.S. *Wesley*

Contact music@stjlat.org for further information
or to register.

9:30 Registration
10:00 Sing
11:15 Break
11:30 Sing
12:30 Lunch
1:45 Sing
3:00 Break
3:15 Sing
4:00 Evensong

St. John's of Lattingtown, 325 Lattingtown Road, Locust Valley NY



PEDALS, PIPES & PIZZA!

January 29
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

All Saints' Episcopal Church
286-88 7th Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215



Children and youth in Grades 3-6 are invited to come hear, play and explore the pipe organ and learn how a pipe organ works. Students will hear professional organists demonstrating the different sounds of the stops. Students will also have the opportunity to explore the instrument themselves.

PIZZA LUNCH IS INCLUDED!

REGISTER at Eventbrite using QR code above

This event is sponsored by the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Guild of Organists