



Pipeline



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

July 2024

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♪♪Music Matters♪♪

from the dean...

Dear Friends,

Greetings, I am the incoming Dean of the Nassau Chapter and I look forward to working with you and on your behalf for an exciting new season.

As a foretaste of the year to come, we are planning to have: the rescheduled handbell clinic with Professor Kathleen Shaw, we are planning a 'Movie Transcription Recital' with the Suffolk Chapter, a Nassau chapter social to include the installation of officers at Jonathan's in Garden City Park, a chapter 2nd annual Spooky Music Organ Concert on October 27th, a joint Martin Luther King Day program with the Suffolk chapter, an Organ Crawl/Open Bench, and a joint Nassau/Suffolk Hymn Festival of hymns worthy of sharing with our congregations on March 2nd.

More detailed information will be sent later this summer.

I hope to see all of you at the September social. Date to follow.

I'd be interested in hearing your ideas for chapter events.

I hope everyone has a relaxing and safe summer - complete with at least a short vacation to recharge for the upcoming year.

All the best wishes,

Gene McCoy

Chapter Calendar

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 27, 4 PM.
Spooky Music Organ Concert
at Christ Episcopal Church,
1351 Northern Blvd,
Manhasset.

Sunday, March 2, Hymn
Festival, Church of St Patrick,
400 Main St., Huntington.
Further information will be
forthcoming.

Closing Remarks by the Outgoing Dean, Meredith Baker

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Dean for the last two years. It has been a pleasure getting to know a few of you better, and I look forward to enjoying the next few years as an active member.

I must send out appreciation for all the work the members of the board contributed to each and every meeting, and their willingness to attend board meetings, both in person and on zoom.

A great deal of planning goes into each and every monthly meeting. To have such busy folk giving so much time and energy month after month was exciting. I hope all of our members take advantage of the meetings that are presented next year.

I look forward to supporting Gene McCoy's leadership. It has been a treat getting to know him better in these two years. I know you will be blessed by his efforts.

Enjoy your summer! Get your batteries charged, find inspiration where you can, and please mark all meetings in your calendars, and try to give them some preference as other events begin to be announced.

Harmoniously,

Meredith

A review of the "Come and Sing Evensong" on Saturday, June 1

I had the luxury of being able to ask my wife to bring both kids to Queens College on Saturday, June 1st, dropping me off earlier in the day so I could have a "playdate" myself from 9-5pm, as a man in my 30's, the only way I know how, as a gainfully employed professional musician: attempting, at sight, some of the most ornate and difficult English choral works in existence in an environment with absolutely no pressure to be

perfect. So much about that day was emblematic of what I seek to cultivate at my own church post: a love of the triumphs of English choral music, presented in a fun, informal manner, where you're able, at whatever level of musician or singer you are, to just appreciate it, like a trip through the Museum of Natural History, or testing the patience of the "free serving" idea at the local ice cream shop.

Sometimes, in a cathedral setting, or places where a "choral mass" or choral liturgy is promoted, there is a little classicism: nobody thinks you're chopped liver for being an attendee of a sublime lessons and carols service, and nobody, realistically, should hold it against you that you can't immediately sing the descant of "Once in Royal David's City" if it's put in a program handed out to you as a participant, but---the more you know about places that can support really elaborate and sophisticated displays of polyphonic brilliance, the more you can sometimes feel like you're not allowed to sing a note unless you feel confident that if CBS was recording, your contribution would be as valued as the tenor soloist's. That was not the case at St. John's of Lattingtown that Saturday.



Photo courtesy Ruaraidh F. Sutherland

Evensong Participants

Being able to sing the Sowerby version of "I Was Glad", which, for me, was a deep cut, because I just knew the Hubert Parry (and again, you know, this is all a game of relation, because I'm sure there are people at your own church that you could ask, 'what's your feeling about Parry's "I Was Glad"?' and that's the quickest way to hear the crickets chirp) in a situation where I learned of its existence and sang it to a high level in the course of a day, and to do that in a place where it has the ease and informality of a pick-up basketball game was just the bee's knees for me. (Of course, you're not wearing liturgical vestments in a pick-up basketball game, but the analogy stands, as far as I'm concerned.)

There is an association with places that can do an Evensong---sure, it's great, but unless you have x number of dollars and this much support, don't even dream about it. That perceived limitation thrives when you DON'T have things like the "Come and Sing Evensong" at St. John's in Lattingtown. There's also an idea that unless you have the right singers and the right amount of them and they've had a very specific training, don't even attempt these things with a 10 foot pole----again, this thwarts that idea. Maybe your choir can only do the first page of Palestrina's "O Bone Jesu". Maybe they can only sing the first note! There's still a value in chipping away at the marble to get a David statue years from now, or months from now. Great music is for everybody--we should be having pick up choirs and portable organs doing Sowerby's "I Was Glad" as they cut the ribbon on finishing the construction of a luxury condo somewhere, or the launch of a cruise ship from its home port---this helped remind me of that and approach with renewed enthusiasm going for the best choral music out there at my church. Come to the next one if you can!

Submitted by Joseph Martin

Review of Concert by the Pennsylvania Youth Chorale

The Pennsylvania Youth Chorale is a nonprofit children's choir based in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, PA. There are two sections, a junior section for children in grades 2 through 4 and a senior section for children in grades 5 through 8. Eleven members of the Senior Section performed

a concert entitled "Adventures in Color" at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hicksville, on Saturday evening, June 8.

The evening started off with a demonstration of the choir's proficiency with modern technology. There were no paper copies of the program available. An usher had a piece of paper containing a QR code that audience members scanned to get a copy of the program sent to their cell phones. (To keep a copy of the program for the purpose of writing this article, I took a screenshot on my cell phone of each page of the program, as I knew that I would not have the QR code, so I would not be able to access the program online after the concert ended).

The audience was invited to use our imaginations to place ourselves in the scenes described in the songs. The program was as follows:

Luriana, Luralee by Nancy Telfer, text by Charles Elton. This piece described past sensations of interacting with nature: a China rose, a yellow bee, roaming through forests and flowers.

The Road Not Taken by Mark Williams, text by Robert Frost. This well-known poem is set in a yellow wood with leaves not yet trodden black.



Photo courtesy Andrea Martin, Pennsylvania Youth Chorale

Pennsylvania Youth Chorale

Notre Dame has approximately 8,000 pipes.

Dawn by Susan Brumfield, text by Kate Creighton describes a black sky turning into a tapestry of colors as the sun rises.

Clear Water by Robert I. Hugh, text by John Masefield. The audience could imagine the movement of rolling waves in the sea from the flowing vocal and piano parts.

Three Poems from A Child's Garden of Verses by Dave and Jean Perry, text by Robert Louis Stevenson.

1. The Swing. This described one of a child's favorite activities, going up in the air on a swing.
2. Looking Forward. A short little poem of a child picturing himself as an adult.
3. Where Go the Boats. This describes a child's boat floating down a brown river with golden sand and green leaves, to be found 100 miles away by other children.

Three colors from Adventures in Color by Ruth Watson Henderson, text by Mary O'Neill. These gave the audience many lyrical examples of things, moods, descriptions for which each color was appropriate. Too many were included for me to list them here! The three colors which were described were blue, gold and white.

Path to the Moon by Eric Thiman, text by Madeline C. Thomas. This describes sailing on a path to the moon in a boat with silver sails on a deep blue night.

Blue Skies by Irving Berlin, arranged by Roger Emerson. This is a well-known piece in which the speaker imagines an untroubled future described by blue skies.

The Pink Panther by Henry Mancini, arranged by Joy Althouse. Enjoyable arrangement of the movie theme.

Orange-Colored Sky by Milton Delugg and Willie Stein, arranged by Kirby Shaw. This piece describes sensations of unexpectedly falling in love under an orange sky.

Blessing by Katie Moran Bart. This is a familiar Irish song wishing the best to someone when saying farewell.

I Woke Up to a Rainbow by Mac Huff. This song describes seeing all the colors of the rainbow on the horizon of a perfect morning.

The choir members sang all the music from memory. They sang with precision and careful articulation, sometimes in unison and sometimes in parts. Occasionally they changed their positions; they were sometimes in straight lines and sometimes organized into other geometrical patterns such as triangles. When they changed positions, they did so quietly and with alacrity. Several solos were sung by various choir members as sections of pieces on the program. Some scat singing was included in one of the selections that had a jazzy feel. The choir was accompanied on piano by Senior Choir Accompanist Bonita Grady. A page in the program was dedicated to her, as she is retiring from this position. The group had obviously been well rehearsed! The concert was a pleasure to attend.

Submitted by Elizabeth Bailey

NAGO Board Election Results

A hearty thank you and good measure of gratitude to Henry DeVries in his role as nominating committee and putting together the slate of officers for this year. There were a total of 14 votes cast in favor of the proposed full slate of officers with no nays or abstentions.

Gene McCoy moves up from Sub Dean to Dean, succeeding Meredith Baker after her two years of service as Dean, and she will remain on the board as Past Dean and a Member at Large. We welcome Ruaraidh Sutherland to the chapter board as Sub Dean. Lawrence Bourguet is now elected to serve as Treasurer after being appointed to fill the unexpired term of Carol Dort who needed to step down for health concerns. Den Collins is continuing as Secretary.

Submitted by Den Collins

Notre Dame is scheduled to reopen on December 8, 2024

Report from the Registrar

ONCARD IS BACK ONLINE.

We are glad to report that ONCARD has been back online since mid-June. Re NAGO membership renewals, we are also glad to report that of the many memberships expiring July 1st, ONCARD currently shows only two members who still need to renew. We greatly appreciate your support in the past; please renew when it is time. National sends 3 renewal reminders, one of which is snail-mail, and our Nassau Chapter also sent reminders. As you know, National's grace period for renewing membership is no longer three months, but only two weeks. You may renew via your ONCARD record, or by telephoning the AGO national office (212-870-2310) with a credit card. Any questions, please call me at 516-248-2393.

Nassau Chapter's 95th Anniversary is this coming February. However, since several of our 90th Anniversary (2020) events had to be postponed for years due to the pandemic, we will not have specific events marking the 95th anniversary, but certainly will announce it in The Pipeline and at the MLK Mini Convention on January 20, 2025.

Submitted by Carol G. Dort

New Chapter Directory

We've been working on putting together chapter member information for an updated directory. The information is what you entered into ONCARD when joining the AGO or when renewing your membership. When complete, the directory will be available to chapter members online. Having an online directory will allow us to have it up-to-date at all times. A paper directory is out of date at the moment of printing. The online directory will allow us to better serve you.

Following the publication of this July 2024 issue of the Pipeline, Den Collins will be sending individual e-mails to each NAGO member at their e-mail address on record with the information we have for you to be included in the directory. To be included in the directory you will

need to respond to that e-mail indicating the information to be correct and that you agree to be listed in the directory.

Submitted by Den Collins

Position Available: St Mark's Episcopal Church, Islip

We are seeking a part-time Choirmaster & Organist at historic St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Islip, N.Y. (stmarksislip.org) beginning ASAP. Currently one service, 9:15 a.m. Sundays with 30 min. choir rehearsal; 90-min. mid-week rehearsal; additional music for Christmas/Easter, etc.; funerals every 6-8 weeks; 3 weddings/yr. (both paid in addition to salary). Three-manual Wicks organ circa 1992, well-maintained. Episcopal/Anglican church music experience strongly preferred. Salary \$25-35K depending on experience. Inquiries & résumé/CV to Fr. Edwin Beckham: revbecks@stmarksislip.org or (631) 581-4950.

Fr Edwin Beckham
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
754 Montauk Highway, Islip, New York 11751
mobile (706) 540-2027 / office (631) 581-4950.

Organ and Music Available

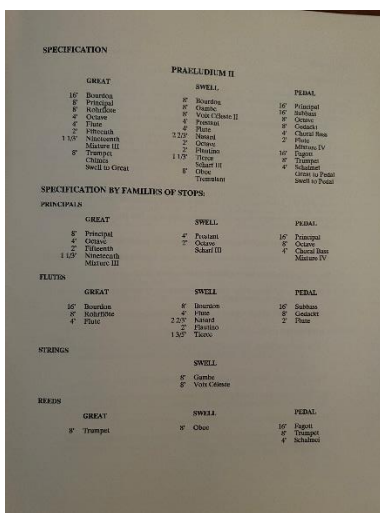
The Galanti organ pictured below is available for free. This organ has 2 manuals, a full lighted pedalboard, 31 stops sampled from pipe organs, chimes, Celeste tuning, multi-rank chorus, tracker touch action, crescendo pedal and much more. Contact Nancy Weiss at nrhwh@optonline.net for further information.





Tribute to Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

It is with sadness but also with great joy and gratitude that we celebrate the life and musical artistry of Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024) – American composer, organist and educator. Emma Lou, born in November of 1927, was 96 years old when she passed away at her home in Santa Barbara, CA on Sunday, June 2nd. Emma Lou was a prolific composer of sacred and secular works for organ and piano, chamber ensembles, choral ensembles, orchestra and solo instruments. She devoted her life to music - performing, composing and shaping the skills of untold numbers of students. Emma Lou's life and musical gifts touched so many. Rest in Peace.



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Free: 23 copies of Faure's "Cantique de Jean Racine", 12 copies of "Carols for School" edited by John Rutter for voices and guitar, "Come Sing and Ring" by Betty Ann Ramseth (Christmas songs for children with Orff instruments) and 29 copies of "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Dubois. Contact Judy Feuss for further information at rfeuss@optonline.net.

Organ and Music Available

The mother of Kathy Sonntag was a Nassau member and a Catholic organist. She has passed away, and Kathy would like to sell or give away a Hammond B2 organ and lots of organ music. The organ needs some TLC; they spent \$200 to have it oiled, but it still needs some care. If you are interested, please call Kathy at 516-423-1652.

Photo from www.emmaloudiemermusic.com

Quiz Questions from the Friends of Notre Dame de Paris

The Grand Organ at Notre Dame de Paris is the largest organ in France. How many pipes does it have? When is Notre Dame scheduled to reopen? The answers are hidden in this newsletter.