



# Pipeline

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



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## May 2025

### ♪♪Dean's Message♪♪

Dear Colleagues,

Well, if you are reading this, you have survived Easter 2025!! I hope that all your efforts for Easter were successful.

Now, looking toward the future, please place on your to-do list, the Organ Crawl/Open Bench we are having on Sunday, May 18th, between 1:30 and 5:30 pm.

The churches we will visit this year are: Garden City Community Church, 3 manual, 55 rank Moeller; St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Garden City, 3 manual, 50 rank Ruffatti; and the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Garden City, 3 manual, 103 rank Casavant.

This is a chance to play some really remarkable organs and experience them in the rooms for which they were voiced. Please come and play these instruments.

Suffolk AGO scholarship recital is June 1 at 4 PM at St Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Melville.

On Saturday, June 7th, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hicksville, the Pennsylvania Youth Chorale will present a concert at 7:00 pm in their Sanctuary. That morning at 9:45 am there will be an open rehearsal providing an opportunity for attendees to observe how the conductor achieves musical vocal results. The next morning, Sunday, June 8th, the Youth Chorale will participate in morning worship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hicksville.

We are working on putting together next year's programs and will have more information in next month's Pipeline.

## Chapter Calendar

Sunday, May 18.  
Organ crawl of  
organs in Garden  
City.  
GC Comm Ch:  
1:30-3:00 PM.  
St Joseph Church:  
3:15-4:15 PM.  
Cathdral Incarnation:  
4:30-5:30 PM.

Saturday June 7 &  
Sunday June 8.  
Pennsylvania Youth  
Chorale at Trinity  
Lutheran Church, 40  
W. Nicholai St,  
Hicksville. Sat: Open  
rehearsal at 9:30 AM;  
concert at 7:00 PM.  
Sun: Participation in  
Sunday worship  
service.

Friday, September  
12: Chapter Social:  
Church of Our Savior  
Lutheran, 1901  
Northern Blvd,  
Manhasset.

Sunday, October 26:  
Spooky Organ Music  
Concert, Christ  
Episcopal Church,  
1351 Northern Blvd,  
Manhasset.

Monday, January 19:  
MLK Day Workshop  
with Tom Trenney.

With planning ahead in mind, please consider making a contribution to the Nassau Chapter of the AGO. We have some exciting events planned for next year, highlighted by a Martin Luther King event next January.

Hope to see you on May 18<sup>th</sup>!!

All the best,

Gene

## Chapter Update

Chapter members are reminded that if you can't find the most recent Pipeline, you can check our calendar of events on the home page of our website, [www.nassauago.org](http://www.nassauago.org).

The chapter board is requesting that you consider making a monetary donation to the chapter when you renew your membership. The amount of money that the chapter gets from dues payments is not sufficient to fund all the activities and events that we offer. Therefore, any donation would be greatly appreciated! You can make a donation online to your local chapter as part of the renewal process or you can send any donation directly to our treasurer, Lawrence Bourguet, who can be contacted at the email address [treasurer@nassauago.org](mailto:treasurer@nassauago.org).

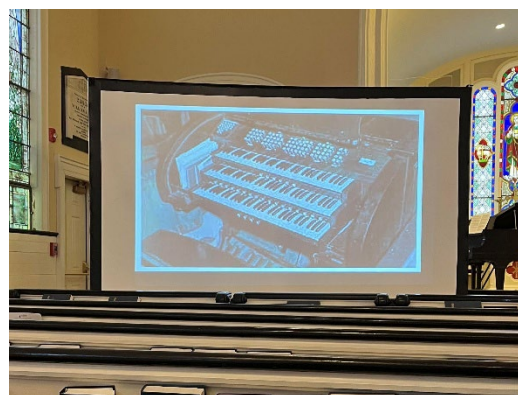
## The Alfred Hollins Lecture Recital

On February 23rd a true scholar, Ruairaidh Sutherland, Sub dean of the Nassau Chapter of the AGO, presented a splendid lecture recital on the life and works of Alfred Hollins, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Cold Spring Harbor.

Hollins (1865-1942) was a blind organist/pianist/composer of boundless talent and adaptability given his considerable handicap. Our presenter took us through his life, starting with his early years in the city of Hull, to his fame as a recitalist, both on piano and organ, a rare thing then, and even more rare at the present time, right to the end of his life, mostly in Edinburgh, by which time he'd become internationally famous.



Ruairaidh Sutherland speaking about Alfred Hollins.  
Photo by Elizabeth Bailey.



The stops on this organ were indicated by lights. A challenge for a blind organist, but Alfred Hollins figured out how to deal with it! Photo by Elizabeth Bailey.

He played some wonderful examples of his works on the organ: *Concert Overture in C, Adagio Cantabile in D, Berceuse, in E, A Trumpet Minuet, and his last work: Andante and Finale*. Mr. Sutherland, on piano, was most ably assisted by Bryce Westervelt, Director of Music at St. John's, singing two of Hollins's most popular songs: *The Silver Cord, and My Mary*. The combination of Ruairaidh's fine accompanying, and Bryce's wonderfully sensitive singing brought very emotional reactions from us in the audience! Deeply moving music making indeed!





Ruaraidh Sutherland playing one of Alfred Hollins' compositions. Photo by Elizabeth Bailey.



Ruaraidh Sutherland and Bryce Westervelt. Photo by Elizabeth Bailey.

Ruaraidh enriched his lecture with some visuals on a screen, and what he told us helped bring this fine man's life and talent alive. Our presenter also showed the same remarkable versatility on piano as well as organ, just as Hollins himself did!

We all felt that we'd experienced a rare and very special afternoon of learning and music! Thank you so much, Ruri!

Submitted by Chris Cusumano

## Festival of Hymns

The Church of St. Patrick in Huntington was the site of a truly monumental FESTIVAL OF HYMNS on Sunday, March 2. This event was co-sponsored by the Nassau and Suffolk Chapters of the AGO.



The choir for the hymnfest and the audience. Photo by Chris Cusumano.

A massed choir from TWENTY Churches/Choral groups, numbering ONE-HUNDRED singers gathered there, after the previous day's nearly six-hour rehearsal, energized both vocally and spiritually, before a large and most appreciative congregation. Of the 14 hymns that were performed, many required enthusiastic participation on the part of the assembly, and those of us in attendance heard truly glorious music-making!



Henry DeVries on organ and other instrumentalists who took part in the hymnfest. Photo by Chris Cusumano.

We were so ably led by the Festival Co-Directors: Michael C. Haigler, Matthew Koraus, and Bryce Westervelt. Their careful, instructive teaching resulted in absolutely triumphant sounds from a group of singers for whom we have boundless gratitude and appreciation! These wonderful singers were supremely complemented by Henry

DeVries's sensitive and wonderful organ accompaniment, ably assisted by a fine brass quartet and tympanist, producing thrilling sounds when all combined.



Hymnfest director and organizers. Left to right: Chris Cusumano, Matthew Koraus, Bryce Westervelt, Michael C. Haigler and Henry DeVries. Photo by Elizabeth Bailey.

One of the highlights was a performance of *Deep River* arr. by Hogan, with rich divisi parts and some high notes that every soprano there can still take pride in!

The co-directors showed their talents as arrangers/composers in many of the hymns we sang. Very careful and skillful directions were given for each verse of each of the hymns involving the congregation, and all followed these very well indeed. Their skills as conductors were wonderfully obvious seeing the attention the singers paid to them, and the results they achieved.

Some further highlights: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, arr. Haigler; *The Church's One Foundation*, arr. Ferguson; *Come Ye Thankful People, Come*, arr. Koraus; *Abide With Me*, arr. Koraus; *The Day of Resurrection* arr. Haigler; *America the Beautiful*, arr. Koraus. These were all with organ, brass and tympani, and these arrangements are truly inspired by gentlemen of deep and abiding faith, and one can hear it in every single measure!

Henry DeVries favored us with some organ solos as we gave our voices a bit of rest: *Karg-Elert March Triomphale on NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT*, with brass, arr. Koraus, and later:

*Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*, by Bach, and *When in Our Music God Is Glorified*, by Robert Hobby. Wonderful playing, perfect registration on the fine Gluck organ.

Many more wonderful things can be said about this event, but many think the best is: WE WANT ANOTHER ONE NEXT YEAR, said by so many at its conclusion.

Submitted by Christopher Cusumano

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### Sunday, May 18. Organ crawl of organs in Garden City.

The schedule for the organ crawl is as follows:

1:30 – 3:00 PM: Garden City Community Church, 245 Stewart Ave.

3:15 – 4:15 PM: St Joseph Church, 130 Fifth St.

4:30 – 5:30 PM: Cathedral of the Incarnation, 50 Cathedral Ave.

See the flyer in this newsletter for further information.

**Saturday June 7 & Sunday June 8. Pennsylvania Youth Chorale** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 40 W. Nicholai St, Hicksville. Sat: Open rehearsal at 9:45 AM; concert at 7:00 PM. Sun: Participation in Sunday worship service. See the flyer in this newsletter for further information.

**Friday, September 12:** Chapter Social. Location: Church of Our Savior Lutheran, 1901 Northern Blvd, Manhasset. Further information will be forthcoming.

**Sunday, October 26:** Third Annual Spooky Music Concert, Christ Episcopal Church, 1351 Northern Blvd, Manhasset. Save the date! Further information will be forthcoming.

**Monday, January 19, 2026:** Martin Luther King Day Workshop with Tom Trenney. Location: Congregational Church

of Manhasset, 1845 Northern Blvd, Manhasset. Save the date! Further information will be forthcoming.

## Other Upcoming Events

**Saturday, May 17, 7:00 PM: From the Sublime to the Ridiculous,** Long Island Choral Society. Location: Garden City Community Church. See flyer in this newsletter for more details.

**Sunday, June 1, 4 PM: Scholarship Recital** sponsored by the Suffolk AGO Chapter, St Elizabeth of Hungary Church, 175 Wolf Hill Rd, Melville.

**Sunday, June 1, 7 PM: The South Shore Symphony** at St Agnes Cathedral, 29 Quealy Pl, Rockville Centre. Suggested donation \$25/\$20.

**Sunday, June 22, 7 PM: Farewell concert and thank you reception.** The Cathedral Choirs Concert Tour to France, St Agnes Cathedral, 29 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre.

**June 22 – 27: Pipe Organ Encounters,** Harrisburg, PA. See flyer in this newsletter for further information.

## Quiz of the Month

What did Oliver Latry say about sound in the newly renovated Notre Dame de Paris Cathedral?

Our longtime chapter member and chapter archivist/historian, Judy Feuss, is retiring. For how many years has she been sitting on the organ bench playing at church services?

72 years! Congratulations, Judy!

Answers:  
I feel joy mixed with apprehension" he told Radio France Musique. The organ, undamaged in the fire, has been cleaned of lead dust pollution. But Latry worries about the acoustics. "They are not as they were before, and we organists will have to adapt to that. While the reverberation time is the same, the sound seems to resonate differently. We can't really tell so far, as the cathedral isn't yet in its finished state." (Quoted in literature sent by the Friends of Notre Dame de Paris).



## **Organ Crawl/Open Bench – Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Bring some music to play!!!**

### **Garden City Community Church**

**245 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, N.Y. 11530**

Organ: Moeller; 3 manuals; 55 ranks

Time: 1:30 to 3:00 pm

Parking: People should park on the Whitehall Blvd side of the church and enter through the Whitehall side entrance. There is no parking lot but there are parking spaces marked on the street.

### **St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**

**130 5th Street, Garden City, NY 11530**

Organ: Ruffatti; 3 manuals; @50 ranks

Time: 3:15 – 4:15

Parking: People should park in the off street church parking lot off of 4<sup>th</sup> Street to avoid ticketing.

### **Cathedral Church of the Incarnation**

**130 5th Street, Garden City, NY 11530**

Organ: Casavant Freres; 3 manuals; 103 ranks

Time: 4:30 pm – 5:30

Parking: People can park on the Cathedral grounds without any issue.

**Sponsored by the Nassau, NY Chapter of the AGO**

Wipe the dew from your spectacles, and

See that the

World is moving!

*A Concert of Music by Women*

*Saturday June 7, 2025 at 7:00pm*

*Trinity Lutheran Church in Hicksville, NY*



**Pennsylvania Youth Chorale**  
INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS THROUGH MUSIC



*The Long Island Choral Society presents ...*

From the

Sublime



to the **RIDICULOUS**

**Brace yourselves for a musical showdown between sheer elegance and downright absurdity!**

We're pitting the sublime melodies of Johannes Brahms against the utterly ridiculous antics of P.D.Q. Bach in a concert of contrasts.

In **Act 1**, we'll serenade you with Brahms's beloved **Liebeslieder Waltzes** — lush, romantic, and the very definition of choral perfection. Swooning and sighs of admiration are encouraged.

Then, we flip the script with **Act 2: Liebeslieder Polkas** by P.D.Q. Bach (the brilliantly absurd alter-ego of Peter Schickele). This musical prankster turns Brahms's elegance upside down with polka-fueled chaos, musical mayhem, visual hijinks, and seriously bad puns.

*Join us for an evening of beauty and buffoonery!*

**Saturday, May 17, 2025  
at 7:00 pm**

**Garden City Community Church  
245 Stewart Ave., Garden City**

**General admission: \$20  
Youth: \$10**

**Call to order: (516) 652-6878  
or purchase at door.**

**Long Island Choral Society**

Michael C. Haigler, Music Director



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