



Reverberations

The Newsletter of the Northern NJ Chapter
American Guild of Organists

February 2020

northernnjago.org

Get your calendars out and put your seat belts on!

This month's newsletter contains dates for the year for recitals and meetings that you won't want to miss.

*Some are not sponsored by our Chapter such as the Central NJ AGO chapter's celebration of their 100th Anniversary with a **Hymn Festival**. Feb 8th 7 pm with **Tom Trenney**, Bristol Chapel, Westminster Choir College, Princeton. (This might serve as a model for our own Hymn Festival planned for the fall.)*

*NNJ AGO events include a **MEMBERS' RECITAL: Psalms & Beyond** at St. Gabriel's RC Church in Saddle River.*

*Our **Welcome Back Dinner and Installation of Officers Dinner** on Monday, September 14th will feature **guest speaker Elizabeth George**, AGO Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development.*

*As the month unfolds, all members will be sent a **Program Survey** to provide you an opportunity to voice what you'd like to see on the calendar in the future. Please take the time to respond. We have a great Program Committee with members with such interesting and diverse backgrounds who are eager to hear your input.*

*Likewise, you may be hearing from our **Nominating Team** as they begin to grow another round of enthusiastic leaders for the 2020-22 chapter season. It's time to step up and become a volunteer. Find your way to help our chapter. Let us know what skills and expertise you enjoy and we'll try to find a place for you to join.*

*Best wishes for the month ahead
Cathie Ruppi, Dean*

HYMN
FESTIVAL
Planning
Meeting
2/11

THE HYMN FESTIVAL IS BACK! After a 5 year hiatus, the Executive Board approved a motion to sponsor another Hymn Festival in October of this year. As many will recall, this event featured as many as 10 or more churches including speakers, conductors, organists, and of course a massed choir with anywhere from 70 to 100 singers.

Are you willing to help us plan this huge event? Please join us for our first planning meeting to establish a "Steering Committee", and to outline the various aspects of how this festival will take shape.

Our first meeting will be a West Side Presbyterian Church on February 11th at 7pm.

NNJ CHAPTER MEETINGS

A list of all our chapter's upcoming programs is found on the last page of this edition of Reverberations

Our February Meeting

MONDAY • 17 FEBRUARY 2020 • 9:00 PM - 5:00 PM

NYC AGO PRESIDENTS' DAY CONFERENCE

TEMPLE EMANU-EL

1 EAST 65 STREET, NYC

The New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents a yearly conference on **Presidents' Day, Monday, February 17**. This year's gathering will visit Temple Emanu-El, the landmark Romanesque Revival synagogue on Manhattan's Upper East Side that houses the foremost congregation of Reform Judaism.

All attendees will enter through the Community House at 1 East 65th Street. The registration table will open at 9 AM, and a catered breakfast will be provided.

The conference itself will run from 10 AM until 5 PM, and will feature **Wanamaker Grand Court Organist Peter Richard Conte accompanying a silent film**. Temple musicians Jack Coen, Dr. Andrew Henderson, and Daniel Beckwith will offer an organ recital, highlighting the Temple's extensive musical legacy. The renowned Temple Choir will participate in a concert-lecture with Cantor Emerita Lori Corrsin. A tour of the historic campus, including the chapel and auditorium that also contain organs, will also be offered.

The organ in the Temple's Sanctuary was originally built in 1929 by Casavant Frères of Canada as their Opus 1322. Rebuilt by Austin in 1956, it was again rebuilt by Sebastian Glück of New York City in 2002 and now totals 135 ranks. Möller's Opus 9718 housed in the Lowenstein Auditorium from 1962 was rebuilt by Glück in 2007 at the same time Glück provided a new 3 manual/35-rank instrument for the Beth-El Chapel.

The conference's events are free for NYCAGO Chapter and dual members. The general public is most welcome and tickets may be purchased the day-of for \$40. Tickets for those attending only the 4 PM silent movie are \$20 each.

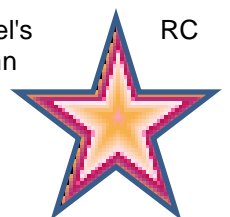
Please visit www.nycago.org for more information or contact NYCAGO Sub-Dean James Wetzel at jamesdaviswetzel@gmail.com.

NNJ MEMBERS! For those of you who wish to get a ride to the NYC, event, we will have a van leaving from Old Paramus Church at 8AM. **RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!** Email or call Stewart Holmes to let him know you'd like to ride the van by **Friday, Feb 7th**.
stewholmes2018@gmail.com

Our next Executive Board meeting is Monday, June 15 at Old Paramus Church, Ridgewood

Deadline for the March issue of REVERBERATIONS is March 1, 2020

MEMBERS RECITAL IN MAY Would you like to play for our this on May 18 at 7:30 pm at (St. Gabriel's Church in Saddle River)? The theme for this recital is "Psalms". Free works or those based on a hymn tune would be fine. Each selection is limited to 5 minutes. In addition, since there are 2 consoles in the sanctuary, we would like to take the opportunity of using them for a couple of works for 2 organs! If you are interested and would like more information, please email Anita Bontekoe, alb1941@aol.com or phone her at 973-636-9633



Our March Meeting

Michael Caraher, Organist
Winner of St Olaf's Rodland Scholarship

SUNDAY • MARCH 29, 2020 • 3PM
WEST SIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6 SOUTH MONROE STREET, RIDGEWOOD, NJ

This is our annual celebration of the Rodland Scholarship winner from St. Olaf. We will bring Michael out from St. Olaf on Friday, March 27. **We need to have help from a number of members for the following jobs:**

- Pick up at Newark on Friday
- Provide lodging on Friday, Saturday and perhaps Sunday night
- Provide transportation to and from various venues during his stay
- Join us for dinners on Friday, Saturday, and post-recital pizza on Sunday
- Return him to Newark airport

If you are willing to lend a hand, let Stewart Holmes or Gary Grimes know. More hands make easier work!

Important News about a NNJ AGO Survey!

In a few days you will be receiving a survey created by your leadership team asking for your honest input about NNJ AGO programs. This will help your program committee meet the needs of our chapter members in the future. Your input and quick response is appreciated.

Thanks to Membership Coordinator Rich Tegtmeyer the chapter **Substitute & Musical Services** list has been updated again (!) and will be sent out with this newsletter. This has come about because the Executive Board recommended that musicians on this list should be members of our chapter. We have used the AGO National database to update our list. Therefore errors need to be corrected through national headquarters. Contact Rich or Chapter Administrator Stewart Holmes for further information.

CONCERTS and PROGRAMS COMING UP

Friday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 pm Film: Modern Times with Improvisational Organ Accompaniment by Austin Philemon at First Presbyterian Church, 1 E Passaic Street, Rutherford: Organist and composer Austin Philemon will improvise live accompaniment for the Charlie Chaplin film Modern Times. A commentary on the frustrations of industrialism and life during the Great Depression, the film stars Chaplin as a factory worker. With themes still relevant to our 21st century culture, and a timeless sense of humor, the film is sure to entertain. This event, combining the classic film with the artistry of acclaimed improviser Austin Philemon, is one you and the whole family will not want to miss! 1 E Passaic Ave Rutherford, NJ 07070

Sunday, March 8, 2020, 3:00 p.m. Glen Ridge Community Concerts presents the Harp/Violin Duo, Merynda Adams and Christopher Collins Lee. Christopher Lee has long been a favorite at the Marlboro, Aspen, Mozarteum, Maggio Musicale and other celebrated music festivals around the world. *The New York Times* termed Christopher Lee “an impressive, stylish violinist with something special to say.” *Musical America* twice listed him on their annual “Ten Young Musicians to Watch.” Described by the *Newark Star Ledger* as having “played the harp with color and great facility,” Merynda Adams is in great demand as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Canada. She has performed with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and many others. Their ensemble performance is stellar. Glen Ridge Congregational Church, 195 Ridgewood Ave., Glen Ridge, NJ 07028.
www.glenridgeconcerts.org. 973-743-5596 x26. Admission: \$20 Adults; \$15 Seniors; \$10 Students

Sunday, March 22, 3pm:, Paul Jacobs in Concert: Parlance Chamber Concert Series, West Side Presbyterian Church, 6 S. Monroe Street, Ridgewood. Paul Jacobs, head of the organ department at Juilliard, will celebrate Bach’s 335th birthday with a recital of towering masterpieces for The King of Instruments. The Grammy Award-winning organist will perform the famous Toccata and Fugue in D minor, a set of intimate chorale preludes, a sparkling Trio Sonata in E minor, the C-minor Passacaglia and Fugue, and other Bachian favorite. Adults (40 – 64): \$40; Seniors (65+): \$30; Young Adults (21 – 39): \$20 Students (Under 21): \$10. Tickets available at the door in advance at: www.parlancechamberconcerts.org

Sunday, March 22, 4pm; Tenet Vocal Artists: All Saints’ Episcopal Church, 40 Central Ave., Glen Rock: Preeminent NY City based early music ensemble presenting 17th Century Requiem and Lenten Motets for voices, brass and continuo. Suggested donation \$10

Saturday, March 28 at 3pm Bach Festival at First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford, 1 E Passaic Street, Rutherford: Featuring First Presbyterian’s Festival Choir and over 15 guest performers.

Sunday, March 29 at 3pm Michael Caraher, Bach Festival at First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford, 1 E Passaic Street, Rutherford: Featuring First Presbyterian’s Festival Choir and over 15 guest performers.

Sunday, April 19 at 3pm; Organ Recital Organist Shannon Murphy, First Presbyterian Church, 1 E. Passaic Street, Rutherford. Program to include works by Bach, Alain, Dupre, and more.

Sunday, April 26, 2020, 3:00 p.m. Glen Ridge Choral Society & Chamber Orchestra: Happy Birthday, Beethoven Glen Ridge Community Concerts presents Happy Birthday, Beethoven. Join us to celebrate Beethoven’s 250th birthday! Be there to blow out the candles in honor of this magnificent creative genius who was influential, innovative and inspirational. Featured will be the glorious *Mass in C*, as well as some of his most beautiful melodies performed by voices and instruments. Enjoy post-concert birthday cake! Glen Ridge Congregational Church, 195 Ridgewood Ave., Glen Ridge, NJ 07028.
www.glenridgeconcerts.org. 973-743-5596 x26. Admission: \$20 Adults; \$15 Seniors; \$10 Students

EDITOR’S NOTE



As editor I have the benefit of promoting some of my favorite non-profits, *IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD*. Join us on **Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 4 PM** for a beautiful afternoon of music, as we come together to raise awareness and support for our neighbors here in New York City, who are struggling with food insecurity.

Faculty, students, and recent alumni from the Juilliard School will present Mahler’s *Rückert Lieder*, performed by pianist Lydia Brown and bass-baritone Will Socolof and Mendelssohn’s *String Quintett in B-flat Major*, performed by Laurie Smukler and Rebecca Benjamin, violins, Carol Rodland and Sergio Munoz violas, and Natasha Brofsky, cello.

The concerts take place at the Tenri Cultural Institute, 43A West 13th Street, New York,

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NNJAGO

2020-2021 Program Year

- February 8th** **7pm: “Will You Come and Follow Me” - A hymn festival featuring Tom Trenney:** Bristol Chapel, Westminster Choir College ; Sponsored by Central NJ AGO
- February 11th** **7pm: Steering Committee organizational meeting for the proposed Hymn Festival** in Ridgewood next fall. Those who wish to serve on this committee should attend. West Side Presbyterian Church.
- February 17th** **9am – 5pm: President’s Day Conference in NYC.** Joint meeting with METRO chapter. We will provide a bus (or passenger van). Transportation reservations necessary by Feb 1st through Stewart Holmes. NYC AGO members - no registration fee.
- March 22nd** **3pm: Paul Jacobs – Bach Recital as part of Parlance Chamber Concerts;** West Side Presbyterian Church. Admission charge.
- March 29th** **3pm: Michael Caraher in Recital;** a NNJAGO sponsored recital of this Rodland Scholarship winner at St. Olaf College Free Will offering. Stewart Holmes and Gary Grimes will coordinate.
- May 6th** **12pm: David Macfarlane in Recital** at the Basilica Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Lunch with David in Iron Bound section following recital, Dutch treat.
- May 18th** **7:30pm: NNJ Member’s Recital “Psalms and Beyond”;** Recital at St. Gabriel’s RC Church, Saddle River, NJ. Stacie Yao, host. Anita Bontekoe, Coordinator.
- June 2nd** **7pm: Program Committee Meeting:** June Marano-Murray’s home.
- June 8 or 9** **Trip to Longwood Gardens with METRO Chapter.** Van transportation provided for our members; Date and itinerary to be confirmed. Stewart Holmes Coordinator
- September 14th** **6:30pm: Welcome Back Dinner and Meeting:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Bagota; catered by Vitale’s Restaurant; Installation of officers; Speaker - Elizabeth George, AGO Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development. Rich Tegtmeyer, coordinator.
- October 25th** **3pm: Hymn Festival** at West Side Presbyterian Church featuring church choirs from northern NJ. Debbie Holden-Holloway, host; Coordinator to be named
- November 14th** **9:30am -12:30pm Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza: “Meet the King of Instruments” –** A gathering of young students to be introduced to the pipe organ. Old Paramus Reformed Church; Stewart Holmes, Host. Coordinator to be named.