

Northern New Jersey Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Reverberations

The Newsletter of the Northern NJ Chapter
American Guild of Organists
July 2020

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Dear Chapter Members:

When I agreed to become Dean of the NNJ Chapter of the AGO, little did I realize that we would be in the middle of a pandemic. I am amazed at how the AGO throughout the country has held fast during this difficult time and continued to provide online concerts and webinars for all musicians to enjoy. I look forward to working with all our former and newly elected officers. Using our recent survey as a guide, we hope to continue to offer excellent quality programs going forth.

Please mark Sept. 14, 2020 on your calendars which is when our first event of the new season will occur. Guest speaker Elizabeth George from National will be our guest speaker and we will also be holding Installation of New Officers. May the remainder of your summer be productive but restful as we all look forward to this event. Stay well.

Sincerely,

June Marano-Murray, Dean

The Executive Board for 2020-2021

Dean	June Marano-Murray
Sub-dean	Claudia Smith
Treasurer	David Macfarlane
Secretary	Brian Tricoli
Membership	Rick Tegtmeier , Bob Wheeler

Newsletter	Stewart Holmes
Historian	Bob Wheeler
Hospitality	Gloria Norton
Class of 2022	Grace Eunkyung Woo, Stacy Yao
Class of 2024	Ed Hedlund, Shannon Murphy

Experiencing challenging times because of COVID-19?

The Executive Board of the Northern NJ chapter is keenly aware that Covid-19 has strained many of our members' financial positions because they have been released from their responsibilities or had their salaries reduced. Because the NNJ chapter is in a secure financial position, the board, at their recent June meeting, expressed a desire to aid those members who find it difficult to pay their AGO dues.

Therefore any member of the Northern NJ chapter may request a one-time payment of their dues for the coming year (2020-2021). If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, you must contact David Macfarlane by email davidmacfarlane58@gmail.com (preferred) or by phone 201-424-0463. Of course all members of the Executive Board are available to answer your questions.

NNJ CHAPTER MEETINGS

Our **SEPTEMBER**
Meeting

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 • 6:00 PM

WELCOME BACK DINNER

SPECIAL GUEST: ELIZABETH GEORGE

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

167 PALISADE AVE., BOGOTA

We are planning our Officer's Installation, dinner, and guest speaker Elizabeth George, Director of Member Engagement and Chapter Development at AGO headquarters. Should the pandemic be continuing, we will cancel the dinner and continue with the speaker and installation of officers. This will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bogota. The dinner is currently scheduled for 6:30 pm. More about this event will be forthcoming this summer. We will, of course, adapt plans to the requirements of our "Covid-19" restrictions which will no doubt change as we approach fall.

OTHER CHAPTER MEETINGS PLANNED:

- **Tuesday, September 8th at 1pm:** **Program Committee Meeting** Virtual or live? We will see!
- **Sunday, October 25th At 3pm:** **The recital by Michael Caraher**, the Rodland Scholarship recipient at St. Olaf College, is still scheduled but as of this date, nothing can be confirmed because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Stay tuned!

In Memoriam: Francis (Frank) Schott

"The Church Triumphant" is a perfect term as we mourn the loss of one of the patrons of Church music! It is with a profound sense of loss that I tell you that Frank Schott passed away on Sunday, July 12 at the age of 94. Frank was not an organist - but he loved the music of the Church. Many of us knew Frank because he served on the John Rodland Scholarship Fund Board of Managers since its inception.

While Frank was a leader in the profession of business economics (he served as President of the National Association of Business Economists) he was an avid supporter of organists and choir directors. He and his wife, Barbara, who passed away in 2017, worked tirelessly to encourage young artists to pursue careers in church music. He served on countless committees within his beloved Westside Presbyterian Church as well as within the town of Ridgewood. He also served on a number of boards, including the Foundation for Child Development and the Paterson, NJ Habitat for Humanity (2013 Volunteer of the Year).

The link to the New York Times obituary is <https://legcy.co/2OrnaPz>

agoorganfest2020.org



AGO
ORGANFEST
2020

*beauty in the
midst of chaos*

JULY 20-24, 8 PM EASTERN



American Guild of
ORGANISTS

ABOUT ORGANFEST 2020

Beauty in the Midst of Chaos...

OrganFest 2020 was born out of disappointment at the unfortunate need to cancel the AGO National Convention that was to have taken place in Atlanta in early July. The collective sadness at not being able to gather in person, to mingle with friends, attend concerts, hear new music, worship, and learn new skills in workshops, left us feeling deflated and frustrated.

The AGO decided that instead of simply moving the National Convention to a virtual format and charging a fee for members to attend, we wanted to create an online organ festival as a gift to our community; a gift of beauty in an otherwise chaotic time, and one that would be accessible to all free of charge.

The backbone of OrganFest is the performance of five newly-composed organ works, commissioned for the National Convention, preceded by a conversation with the composer. Appearances by two outstanding choirs, as well as by competition winners in interpretation and improvisation in recent American and Canadian organ competitions, supplement the conferral of awards and prizes and brief appearances by National Officers and Councillors.

OrganFest 2020 comprises five evenings of about an hour each of music, traversing a wide range of musical styles and instruments. The Festival premieres each evening at 8pm Eastern, and will be archived so that the contents may be enjoyed again at a later time.

We very much hope that in the chaos of pandemic and unrest these moments of beauty bring you respite and joy.

5 NIGHTS of SPECTACULAR ORGAN EVENTS...

More Information is available at: <https://agoorganfest2020.org/>

THE ARTISTS on MONDAY:

- Arron Tan in recital *Winner, (2018 AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance)*
- Thomas Ospital in Recital
- Atlanta Master Chorale concert
- Jens Korndörfer in recital

THE ARTISTS on TUESDAY:

- Kalle Torvio in recital *(2018 National Competition in Organ Improvisation)*
- The Rodland Duo in recital
- Choir of Trinity Wall Street Concert
- Amanda Mole in recital *(Our Rodland Scholarship winner in 2014!)*

THE ARTISTS on WEDNESDAY:

- Arron Tan in recital
- Alcée Chriss III in recital *(Winner, 2017 Canadian International Organ Competition)*
- Alan Morrison in recital
- Atlanta Master Chorale concert
- Thomas Ospital in recital

THE ARTISTS on THURSDAY:

- Amanda Mole in recital *(Our Rodland Scholarship winner in 2014!)*
- Joyce Johnson *(Recipient, 2020 Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award)*
- Catherine Rodland in recital
- Kalle Toivio in recital *(Winner, 2018 AGO National Competition in Organ improvisation)*
- Atlanta Master Chorale concert

THE ARTISTS on FRIDAY:

- Jens Korndörfer in recital
- Concert “With a Word, You Birthed Creation” *(Music by Tony Alonso- World Premiere, commissioned by AGO Atlanta Chapter)*
- Music by Tony Alonso *(World premiere, commissioned by the AGO 2020 Atlanta National Convention)*
Text by Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953) Ariel Merivil, tenor, Tom Trenney, piano, Sam Eschliman, cajón
- Arron Tan in recital
- The Choir of Trinity Wall Street concert *(Julian Wachner, director, Janet Yieh, organ)*
- Alan Morrison closing recital