



Reverberations

The Newsletter of the Northern NJ Chapter American Guild of Organists

September 2021

Email: northernnjago@yahoo.com **Web:** northernnjago.org **YouTube:** [northernnjago](https://www.youtube.com/northernnjago)
Facebook: Northern New Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists **Instagram:** [northernnjago](https://www.instagram.com/northernnjago)

Dear Members,

Summer is coming to a close and a new AGO season is fast approaching. Our dedicated Program Committee members have been planning new adventures for our upcoming year.

Sadly, this past year we have lost four valuable members: David Macfarlane, Gloria Norton, Shannon Murphy, and Brian Tricoli. Much to my dismay, all of these people have relocated to other areas of the country and can no longer assist us. Frequently these members worked on both the Executive Committee and Program Committee. They tirelessly helped out with sharing ideas, scheduling and arranging our monthly events, volunteering to help in various projects, and offering their churches for monthly meetings/events and performances. We are extremely grateful for all they have done to assist our chapter in remaining active and productive, particularly in this last very difficult Covid year. I heartily thank all of them.

Their departure creates an opportunity for current members to step up and have a more active participation in the Guild. We are in need of new ideas for programming.

- Our upcoming member recital in November needs volunteer organists to perform. Can you perform an organ piece?*
- Do you have piano or organ students? Our recently purchased OrgelKit awaits a Saturday morning, October presentation to students, combined with an introduction to a real organ. We need students to participate.*
- Would your church be willing to host a meeting or an event?*
- Do any of you have Internet skills to share, such as Zoom, Facebook, Instagram, or other? With Covid guidelines continually changing, it's possible events might need to be once again online, and we need Internet savvy people to share their knowledge with us. (Continues...)*

As the 2021-2022 season gets underway, please consider contributing your minds and talents to our chapter. Our loss this year has been great, but I have confidence and faith that there are other members who have equal talents and will be willing to share them with us. Please don't hold back-- we need, welcome, and look forward to working with you!"

Sincerely, June Marano-Murray, Dean

Our SEPTEMBER Meeting

MONDAY September 20, 2021 7:30pm
EASY IMPROVISING SECRETS
FOR SERVICE MUSIC

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
155 Linwood Ave, Ridgewood

Jason Roberts returns to Northern NJ as he presents an overview of improvisation for service music. Many will recall when Jason led a masterclass for us on improvisation and then accompanied the silent film "SAFETY LAST." It's hard to believe that that was a year before COVID struck! We're bringing him back to lead a discussion and demonstrate with the assistance of a couple of chapter members

- ✚ The very basic skills of improvisation
- ✚ Learn how to create an original piece for a service
- ✚ Geared for the average organist who does not feel comfortable improvising



We will gather in the vast space of Bethlehem Lutheran's choir loft where there is ample room to adhere to "social distancing" guidelines around the organ console. Masks will be recommended for attendees.

We are hoping to record this workshop and post it on our YouTube channel. You can paste the following link in your browser to access Jason's improvisations on the hymn "I am the

Bread of Life" at Blessed Sacrament RC Church in Manhattan. It will be easy to see why he was a winner of AGO's improvisation contest!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chAA10NnrJq>

David Kopp and Ronnie Stout-Kopp, sponsors of the Salisbury Scholarships

These members of our chapter have a wonderful story in the May issue of TAO. They've established two new scholarships (\$10,000) for students enrolled in advanced degrees in sacred music, with options for study in organ, musicology, and choral conducting. It's an extensive article starting on page 46. It makes great reading. Ronnie is an ordained priest and Dave was CEO of a software development company. Dave and Ronnie are both organists. Dave, an accomplished theater organist, has performed for AGO conventions.

May:



Our Substitute and Musical Service Roster

Our list has been brought up to date and posted on our chapter's website. There are many changes. A hard copy will be included the chapter's 2021-2022 roster, which will be distributed in October.

Our OCTOBER Meeting

SATURDAY, October 16th 10:00 am -12:00pm
BUILDING A PIPE ORGAN – A FUN STEM*
PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Old Paramus Reformed Church
660 E Glen Ave., Ridgewood, NJ

Plans are under way to create this “hands-on” program, reflecting the National AGO’s emphasis on the “Year of the Young Organist.” It will feature children learning how pipe organs are built (showcasing our OrgelKit) as well as demonstrations on the church’s three-manual pipe organ.

Piano and organ teachers: We need your help! We hope you will distribute the attached flyer to your students and encourage them to attend this informal musical presentation. Not only will they help construct our new OrgelKit, they will walk into the Gallery division of the church’s organ (called an organ crawl). And, of course, students can bring a short selection to play on the pipe organ.

*STEM is a common abbreviation for four closely connected areas of study: science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Membership News

Welcome to two new members:

- **Beth Moore, BME, MM:** Beth is a dual member, from Bayville, NJ. While she lives outside our immediate area, she has been following our chapter on the web. Email: Bethmoore124@gmail.com Cell: 732-814-4969
- **Mr. Hyunglak Han,** [48 Oak Ridge Rd.](#), Ramsey, NJ 07446 Email: hyunglak@aol.com
Phone: 201-962-7828
- **A NOTE FROM GLORIA NORTON:** “My connection to NNJAGO for the past 52 years has been VERY important to me. I have valued your wisdom and friendship. We worked on many projects together; our 1989 Regional Convention, my two years as your Dean, and 25 years on the Board of Managers of the Rodland Scholarship Fund will never be forgotten. I’ve also enjoyed going with several of you to various National and Regional Conventions. You’ve been wonderful colleagues and friends, and I’ll miss you all so very much.”

Electronic Organ Available: From Deborah Gilbert: I have an old (60 yrs) organ--that still plays well--up for donation to a good home, be that a small school, church or private party. Call for information: 973-610-2696

Letters to the Editor

FROM ALAN NEWMAN: Everybody’s been asking when choirs will start up again. With the new variant, in addition to the original Covid pandemic, I simply cannot answer. I originally thought we’d start in the fall, but now I’m not sure. In the meantime, I am happy to be able to provide organ music to our worship services in Old North Reformed of Dumont. Our church has been completely restored – a new paint color, windows, etc., at a cost of over a million dollars. Everything looks beautiful and should be good for many, many years. Now all we have to do is get the people back in the pews. I’m sure we’re not alone!

NNJ PROGRAMS FOR 2021-2022

- ✚ **Monday, Sept 20 - 7:30pm:** “Easy Improvisation Secrets for Service Music” Jason Roberts Masterclass - Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 155 Linwood Ave., Ridgewood, NJ
- ✚ **Saturday, Oct 16 - 10am to Noon:** “Building a Pipe Organ - A Fun STEM Program for Children and Adults.” - Old Paramus Reformed Church, 660 E. Glen Ave., Ridgewood, NJ
- ✚ **Monday, Nov 15 – 7:30pm:** “Members Recital with Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Music” - St. Gabriel’s Church, 88 E. Saddle River Rd., Saddle River, NJ
- ✚ **December:** NO MEETING
- ✚ **Monday, Jan 17 – 9:00am through afternoon:** “MLK Day Mini Convention” sponsored by METRO Chapter. Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 217 Prospect St, South Orange, NJ
- ✚ **Monday, Feb 21 – 9:00am through afternoon:** “President’s Day Conference” in NYC. Location TBA
- ✚ **Monday, Mar 14 - 7:30pm:** “A Taizé Service” - St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 43 Massachusetts Ave, Haworth
- ✚ **Spring: Date TBA:** St. Olaf College’s Rodland Scholarship winner in recital.
- ✚ **April:** NO MEETING
- ✚ **May - Date TBA:** “Gordon Turk Recital” - Westside Presbyterian Church 6 S. Monroe St., Ridgewood, NJ
- ✚ **Monday, June 13 – All Day:** “A day Trip to Longwood Gardens with METRO Chapter” departing & returning from Old Paramus Church, 660 E. Glen Ave., Ridgewood

Positions Available

St. Joseph's RC Church, 120 Hoboken Rd., East, Rutherford, NJ

Plan, prepare and provide music for Catholic Sunday liturgies, and be available for funerals, and weddings. Provide music with organ and piano. Direct, develop and rehearse adult choir weekly from September-June. Continue to develop a children’s choir. Train and provide parish cantors for all celebrations. Plan and provide music for all special celebrations throughout the year: First Communion, Confirmation, Penance Services, and Anointing Masses. Contact Fr. Joe Astarita at jastarita@gmail.com

The 750 member **Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township (PCCT)** is seeking a full-time music director in the longer term, but for now is looking to hire part-time for an interim position that could become permanent for the right candidate. We have a three-manual electronic Allen organ and our suburban campus includes a sanctuary to seat 500 with ample parking, rehearsal rooms, and a chapel. This interim position will start as part-time at 20 hours, but could become full time with benefits in the future. Please contact Ceri Gilpin, Church Administrator, to apply at cgilpin@pcct-nj.org, phone: (973) 635-2340.

Watchung Presbyterian Church, 375 Watchung Avenue, Bloomfield NJ 07003 website: www.facebook.com/WPCBloomfield. For further information, including job description, please email wpcb.worship@gmail.com

Germonds Presbyterian Church Seeks Organist/Pianist

A 245-member suburban PC(USA) congregation in NY’s Hudson Valley seeks a part-time organist/pianist to perform music during worship services and accompany the congregation and choirs.

The Organist/Pianist plans, prepares, and plays service music appropriate to weekly worship and holiday services; accompanies congregation, choirs, and special music offerings during services; accompanies the adult choir during scheduled weekly evening choir practices under direction of the Music Director. In the absence of the Music Director, the organist/pianist may occasionally be called upon to direct the choir. When available (and for additional compensation), the Organist/Pianist may also be requested to prepare and play for weddings, funerals, and non-recurring special services. Salary will be commensurate with experience and additional information about our church are available at germondschurch.org/employment-opportunities/ Please send a cover letter, resume, and performance samples (if available) to: germondsjobs@gmail.com We will continue to review applications until the position has been filled.