



# The Windchest

Newsletter of the Delaware Chapter,  
American Guild of Organists

March 2022

[www.delawareago.org](http://www.delawareago.org)

## Letter from our Dean

**H**appy almost-spring to our pandemic-weary AGO friends. Each of us is praying that the end of the pandemic is in sight, but who knows? At the late January online AGO Leadership Conference 2022, our experience with this pandemic was described as a marathon runner who sees the finish line ahead, and each time she approaches it, the finish line is moved another mile away. Life now is exhausting but we will persevere to the finish line, no matter how many times it gets moved another mile away from us.

Our Delaware Chapter has lots coming up this spring, and Gabe Benton will fill you in through his column. I'd like to comment on two programs, however.

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza on March 19 is for young pianists age 10 and above who want to explore the organ. Each of these young people receives a year's membership in the AGO for FREE, as part of the Year of the Young Organist. They will be members of our chapter, so please welcome them. Help to spread the word about this rich opportunity today! Check out the flier for this event at [DelawareAGO.org](http://DelawareAGO.org)

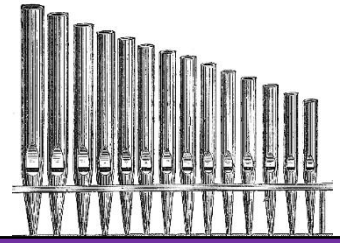
Our June 5 Banquet and Talk with the Rev. Victoria Sirota about the spiritual vocation of church music is intended for you and your clergy person to attend together. I hope you invite "your" clergy person today so it can be on the calendar of each. I have heard Victoria Sirota speak on this topic before, and believe me, it is remarkably moving and profound. You won't want to miss this.

This year your board has decided to ask you to chip in to help with program expenses. We have quite a variety of wonderful learning and fellowship opportunities to offer. Many, many chapters have been asking for donations such as this for years, but this is new to our chapter. I hope you'll want to contribute to our remarkable programming this season. Even a small donation will help us toward our goal of \$500 in member donations.

Send your check made out to AGO Delaware to: Michael Bareham; St. Paul's Lutheran Church; 701 S. College Avenue; Newark, DE 19713.

And finally, have you registered for the AGO National Convention in Seattle this summer? This promises to be a rich time together in this most interesting and beautiful city. I plan to attend and hope you will as well. Register today for this!  
<https://www.agohq.org/conventions/national-conventions/>

—David Schelat



## Delaware AGO Chapter Officers

**David Schelat**, *dean*

**Gabe Benton**, *subdean*

**Don McFarland**, *secretary*

**Mike Bareham**, *treasurer/registrars*

## Members-at-large

Dalaie Choie

Joe Loudon

Steven Patchel, *newsletter*

Jane van Valkenburg

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## Delaware AGO Member Spotlight

**Dr. Will Thomas**



## From our Subdean

**W**e hope you will join us for some exciting and informative programming sponsored by the Delaware chapter of the AGO!

### **Saturday, March 19 8:45-1:00 pm** **Pedals Pipes and Pizza**

Starting at First and Central (1101 N Market St, Wilmington, DE) and ending at Grace UMC (900 Washington St.)

The perfect young person's introduction to the king of instruments, this is sure to be fun and informative for kids and piano students of all levels. Flyers and more info on Facebook DelawareAGO

### **Saturday April 30 10:00am – 12noon** **(9:30 am reception)**

#### **"Singing for Life" with Suzanne DuPlantis**

Cathedral of St. Peter (500 N West St, Wilmington, DE)

Professional singer and voice teacher Suzanne DuPlantis will talk about and demonstrate techniques of waking up the body for singing, breath awareness and techniques for building better breath support, and techniques for singing well as the voice ages. All of us, as a gathered choir, will sing selected repertoire together, as well as warmups and exercises that may be useful in working with your own choir. We encourage you to come and to bring members of your choir to this time of singing and learning with Suzanne. You will love her warm and friendly personality and take home lots of useful tips and information.

### **Sunday, June 5, 5:00-7:00 pm** **Annual banquet featuring guest speaker** **Rev. Victoria Sirota**

Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew,  
719 N Shipley St. Wilmington, DE

Plan to join your AGO family at our closing banquet to hear Victoria Sirota speak about the vocation of church musicians and their clergy partners. As both a fabulous organist and pastor, Victoria Sirota is uniquely well suited to speak about the vocation of the church musician. Please invite your pastor to attend with you, as this event is not only for church musicians, but for all musicians and clergy who minister in the church. Dinner will begin at 6:00 with speaker and dessert to follow. Price is \$30/person. Again, please invite your pastor to come as your guest to this special event closing our program year. Dinner is provided, and please invite your clergy as well - this is for them too!

—Gabe Benton

## **PEDALS** **PIPES** **& PIZZA**



**Saturday, March 19**  
**8:45 am – 1:00 pm**

**Starting at First and Central Presbyterian, Wilmington**  
Sponsored by the Delaware Chapter, American Guild of Organists

## **DELAWARE AGO** **2022** **Spring Events**

**Saturday, March 19**  
**8:45-1:00 pm**  
**Pedals Pipes and Pizza**

**Saturday, April 30**  
**10:00am – 12noon**  
**"Singing for Life" with**  
**Suzanne Duplantis**

**Sunday, June 5**  
**5:00-7:00 pm**  
**Annual banquet with speaker**  
**Rev. Victoria Sirota**



## Notable Events



### Key Locations

- Christ Church, Christiana Hundred 505 Buck Rd, Wilmington
- First & Central Presbyterian Church, 1101 N Market St, Wilmington
- Immanuel Church on the Green, 50 Market Street, New Castle
- Immanuel Church, Highlands, 2400 W. 17th Street, Wilmington
- Newark UMC 69 East Main Street, Newark
- Old Town Hall of DE Historical Society 504 N Market Street
- Presbyterian Church of the Covenant 503 Duncan Road
- Saints Andrews and Matthew Episcopal Church 719 N. Shipley St.
- St. Barnabas Episcopal 2800 Duncan Road, Wilmington
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church 701 S. College Ave, Newark

### MARCH

#### Sunday 6 March

##### 4:30 Prelude / 5:00 Evensong

Music for Viols and Organ  
The Sylvan Consort  
Bruce Barber, organ

#### Thursday 10 March 12:30 pm

##### Tiger Lily Trio

New chamber music for  
woodwinds and piano  
First and Central Presbyterian

#### Saturday 12 March 3:00 pm

##### Filament Trio

Music of the French baroque  
First and Central Presbyterian

#### Sunday 13 March 3:00 pm

##### Piffaro Renaissance Band

16th century Austria: music from  
court of Archduke Ferdinand II  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

#### Sunday 13 March 4:00 pm

##### A Celebration of Women in Song

Alize Rozsnyai, soprano  
Daniel Espie, piano  
Julia Marks, cello  
Music by Clearfield, Higdon,  
Dunphy, and others  
Featuring the Delaware premier of  
Melissa Dunphy's "Tesla's Pigeon"  
Freewill offering  
Presbyterian Church of Covenant

#### Sunday 13 March 4:00 pm

##### Lessons and Carols for Lent

Jack Warren Burnam, Choirmaster  
Schütz, Tchaikowsky, Britten,  
Gibbons, RVW, Beach, and Bach  
Immanuel Church on the Green

#### Thursday 17 March 12:30 pm

##### David Schelat, organist

J. S. Bach St. Anne Prelude  
plus music of David Schelat  
and Florence Price  
First and Central Presbyterian

#### Sunday 20 March 3:00 pm

##### The Song of the Soul:

##### Music for Voices and Viols

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

#### Sunday 20 March 4:00 p.m.

##### Chad Levitt, Organist

St. Barnabas Inaugural Series  
Farnam, Bach, Messiaen,  
Couperin, Bridge, Guilman  
2800 Duncan Road

#### Thursday 24 March 12:30 pm

##### Dallas Vietty accordion

Bach, Piazzolla, Ellington  
Free Bass Accordion Music  
First and Central Presbyterian

#### Sunday 27 March 3:00 pm

##### The English Choral Legacy Revisited

David Christopher, conductor  
Alan Morrison, organist  
Handel, Elgar, Parry, and Britten  
Saints Andrew and Matthew  
*Tickets DelawareChoralArts.org*

#### Thursday 31 March 12:30 pm

##### Jonathan Whitney Trio

Modern American songbook and  
other jazz favorites.  
First and Central Presbyterian

### APRIL

#### Sunday 3 April

##### 4:30 Prelude / 5:00 Evensong

David Hearn, organ prelude  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

#### Thursday 7 April 12:30 pm

##### Philadelphia Viola Quartet

Classical and popular music  
First and Central Presbyterian

#### Sunday 10 April 4:00 pm

Passiontide Jazz Vespers  
*The Micah Graves Project*  
Freewill offering  
Presbyterian Church of Covenant

#### Sunday 10 April 6:15 pm

##### Music for Passiontide

Augustine Mercante, countertenor  
Jack Burnam, organ  
Immanuel Church on the Green

#### Thursday 21 April 12:30 pm

##### Karlsruhe Concert Duo

German duo performs music of  
Beethoven, Schumann, Strauss,  
and Gershwin  
First and Central Presbyterian

#### Sunday 24 April 4:00 p.m.

##### Douglas Jayd, Organist

St. Barnabas Inaugural Series  
2800 Duncan Road

#### Thursday 28 April 12:30 pm

##### Kevin Cope, guitar

Composer Kevin Cope performs  
his own music on classical guitar  
First and Central Presbyterian

#### Saturday 30 April 3:00 pm

##### Pyxis Piano Trio

Music of Shostakovich, Dvořák,  
and American composer  
Gwyneth Walker  
First and Central Presbyterian



## MAY

**Sunday 1 May 4:00 pm**

**Wilmington Handbell Ensemble**

Presents "Originals"

Kerry Dietz, Director

Freewill offering

Presbyterian Church of Covenant

**Sunday 1 May 5:00 pm**

**Easter Lessons and Carols**

Philip Moore,

*Musician in Residence*

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Thursday 5 May 12:30 pm**

**Opera Delaware Presents**

Highlights of Mozart's

Marriage of Figaro

First and Central Presbyterian

**Thursday 12 May 12:30 pm**

**Center City Chorale**

Memorable melodies and rhythms  
from around the world.

First and Central Presbyterian

**Saturday 14 May 4:00 pm**

**Wilmington Handbell Ensemble**

Ebenezer UMC Newark

525 Polly Drummond Road

**Sunday 15 May 3:00 pm**

**Wilmington Handbell Ensemble**

Ware Presbyterian Village

7 East Locust St. Oxford, PA

**Sunday 15 May 3:00 pm**

**Piffaro Renaissance Band**

Piffaro bids its founders a fond

farewell with music from Spain

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Saturday 21 May 3:00 pm**

**Mastersingers of Wilmington:**

"Bach and Haydn"

Bach Cantata 131, Haydn Nicholas

Mass, Bach organ concerto

First and Central Presbyterian

**Sunday 22 May 4:00 p.m**

**Rodney Cleveland, Organist**

St. Barnabas Inaugural Series

2800 Duncan Road

**Sunday, May 29 at 3PM**

**New Ark Chorale**

**American Tapestry XVII**

Dr. Michael Larkin's "Requiem

Composed in Troubled Times"

Tickets at [newarkchorale.org](http://newarkchorale.org)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## JUNE

**Sunday 5 June 4:30 pm**

**The Rainbow Chorale of Delaware**

Anthony Condoluci-Smith, Director

With special guests Joyful Noise

Rob Kennan, Director

Freewill Offering

Presbyterian Church of Covenant

**Sunday 5 June**

**4:30 Prelude / 5:00 Evensong**

David Brensinger, organ prelude

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

**Sunday 12 June 3:00 pm**

**Wilmington Handbell Ensemble**

Newark UMC

69 East Main Street



### Positions Available in our area

More information at [DelawareAGO.org](http://DelawareAGO.org)

**Director of Music/Organist**  
**St. Elizabeth Catholic Church,**  
**Wilmington, DE**

Email a cover letter and your CV  
to [bjwasilewski@aol.com](mailto:bjwasilewski@aol.com) or [ncarroll@steparish.org](mailto:ncarroll@steparish.org) To learn more about St.  
Elizabeth Parish, visit us at St. Elizabeth  
Catholic Church - Wilmington, DE  
[steparish.org](http://steparish.org)

**Music Director/Organist**  
**The Presbyterian Church of Dover**

Part time position, approximately 20  
hours/week with a competitive  
salary. Send information to Vicky Cairns  
at [vcairns50@gmail.com](mailto:vcairns50@gmail.com)

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

by Steven Patchel



### **Dr. Will Thomas**

*St. Barnabas Episcopal Church*

#### **Will, where are you from originally?**

I was born outside of Nashville in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. While pursuing my Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, I lived and worked in the Knoxville, Tennessee area. During my Doctoral work, I lived in Tucson, Arizona.

#### **What are your earliest musical memories?**

My earliest musical memories are of my grandmother teaching me piano on her upright Gulbransen piano, which I now own.

#### **Where did you study organ?**

I graduated high school from Dekalb County High in Smithville, Tennessee. During my senior year, I studied organ at Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral, in Nashville with Dr. Michael Velting. I earned the Bachelor of Sacred Music from Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City Tennessee where I studied organ with Dr. J. Ryan Garber. I earned the Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville as a student of Professor John Brock. Additionally, I completed the DMA Degree in Organ Performance from the University of Arizona where I studied with Dr. Pamela Decker.

#### **What brought you to Wilmington and how are you enjoying it?**

The full-time position of Parish Administrator and Director of Music at St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church brought me to Wilmington. I love the area, especially being so close to New York City and only an hour and a half from the beach.

#### **Can you give us an overview of your position at St. Barnabas?**

As the Parish Administrator at St. Barnabas, I serve as an executive assistant to the Rector and oversee all communications in the parish. Some of the parish communications include preparing weekly bulletins, producing a monthly newsletter, managing the church's website as well as the social media accounts, and scheduling facility usage. As the Director of Music, I select the music and play the organ for both the Sunday 10:00 a.m. service and additional services throughout the year. I also direct the adult Parish Choir and will direct children and handbell choirs in the fall.

#### **Tell us about the new organ at St. Barnabas.**

The new Cornell-Zimmer electronic organ at St. Barnabas, on which I played the dedication recital this past November, demonstrates the incredible capability of digital organs imitating actual pipe sounds. In addition to plenty of general, divisional, and toe pistons, St. Barnabas's organ stop list includes resonant reeds, clear flutes, beautiful strings, and powerful foundation stops. On Sunday March 20th at 4:00 p.m., St. Barnabas welcomes organist Chad Levitt to the console. Mr. Levitt will perform a fantastic program that includes compositions from the French Classical, Baroque, Romantic, and Modern eras.

#### **How has the pandemic era been for you?**

Fortunately, during the pandemic, I have been healthy and have not suffered financially. I have been able to continue teaching private students via zoom. Moving forward, I hope that all AGO concerts are live-streamed.

#### **Any current repertoire or upcoming projects you're working on?**

In October, I will perform an alumni recital at my undergraduate institution Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City Tennessee.

My program will include both previously-learned and newly-learned repertoire. Soon, I will begin learning J.S. Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in G Major*, BWV 550 and an organ sonata composed by my undergraduate organ professor, Dr. J. Ryan Garber. Additional future projects include my own edition of Mendelssohn's *Six Organs Sonatas* that reflect components of my dissertation entitled, *Rhythmic Freedom in Mendelssohn's Six Organ Sonatas*.

**The AGO has named this the "Year of the Young Organist" - as a young organist yourself, do you have any hopes or expectations?**

I hope that AGO chapters will include more opportunities and activities for high school students. The more positive experiences people have during this time can have long-lasting effects.

**Any hobbies/interests outside of musical activities?** When my schedule permits, I enjoy movies and Broadway plays.

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## The Uncomfortable Reality of Donating Music

By Jane Van Valkenburg

I recently learned that a former colleague of mine in Ohio is suffering from Alzheimer's. In response to my offer to help, his wife asked if I had any ideas about what she could do with all his music. Interestingly, he and his family were/are in the funeral business, and no strangers to planning "final arrangements." It seems, however, that his music collection had never been discussed.

I did a bit of pondering and a bit of research to answer her question, and that process made me realize that we all will likely find ourselves in this situation someday. I know that I would do myself and my family a huge favor if I would make arrangements for my music collection. In the spirit of making things a bit easier for my survivors, I offer the following possibilities.

### Family Members

It's a good idea to talk with your family members about where you'd like all of your

possessions to eventually end up! Before you get rid of the music, check with family members to see if anyone wants any of it. Maybe one of your children remembers a certain piece that you played and would love to have one of their kids learn. Maybe a grandchild would consider it cool to have some of your music. Maybe a cover of some sheet music could be framed as a memento or maybe the first page of a composition could be an interesting focal point in a collection of photos. Suggest to them that sheet music pages could be used in crafts – as wrapping paper, origami or drawer lining. Let them know that, if nobody wants it, it is okay to throw it away!

### Students

Invite keyboardists, choristers, or classroom students to look through your collection and take what they want.

### Area AGO Chapters

Let deans of area chapters know that you have music to donate to anyone and offer to arrange for chapter members to peruse it and take what they want. Often, chapters have music exchange events in which you can participate.

Delaware Chapter – David Schelat  
[davidschelat@gmail.com](mailto:davidschelat@gmail.com)

Southern Delaware Chapter – Jon Rania  
[jonrania@hotmail.com](mailto:jonrania@hotmail.com)

Baltimore Chapter – Sean O'Connor  
[Smatthewoconnor@gmail.com](mailto:Smatthewoconnor@gmail.com)

DC Chapter – David K. Houston  
[paris66man@yahoo.com](mailto:paris66man@yahoo.com)

Philadelphia Chapter – Douglas J. Backman  
[phillyago@gmail.com](mailto:phillyago@gmail.com)

### **Other Local Musicians**

Post on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter that you're downsizing your collection – you probably have lots of friends who are musicians.

### **Churches or Funeral Homes**

Some churches keep a selection of organ music on hand that can be used by whomever is playing there. Check with various houses of worship or funeral homes.

### **Organ Departments at Area Colleges and Music Schools**

Reach out to organ faculty at area schools, asking them to let their students know you can donate music:

#### **Music School of Delaware**

David Schelat [davidschelat@gmail.com](mailto:davidschelat@gmail.com)

#### **The Catholic University of America**

(Washington, D.C.)

Benjamin LaPrairie [laprairie@cua.edu](mailto:laprairie@cua.edu)

#### **Curtis Institute of Music (Philadelphia)**

Alan Morrison

#### **Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute (Baltimore) –**

John Walker

#### **Westminster Choir College of Rider**

**University** (Princeton, NJ)

Margaret Cusack [mcusack@rider.edu](mailto:mcusack@rider.edu)

#### **Yale Institute of Sacred Music**

(New Haven, CT) – Martin Jean

### **Yard Sale/Estate Sale**

It's not uncommon to see boxes of music at estate sales. A big box would probably go for five dollars or less, but if someone buys it, it's because they have some interest in it.

### **Local Artists**

Check with the local Art Guild. Pages of music can make interesting backgrounds for paintings or can be used in papier-mache. Perhaps you could commission pieces as gifts.

**Wilmington Art Association** – Brad Carter,  
*president* – [president@wilmingtonart.org](mailto:president@wilmingtonart.org)

**The Gilbert W. Perry, Jr. Center for the Arts**  
(Middletown) – [info@theeverett.org](mailto:info@theeverett.org)

**The Dover Art League** – 302/492-5087 (text/call)  
Also check with local crafters on Facebook.

### **Ebay**

This is the likely the most labor-intensive option! You *could* just list the entire collection and name a price, but you get more interest if items are listed individually with a photo.

### **National Music Donations**

#### **AGO Organ Library**

Will accept donations of organ music *only*, sold to other organists at discount prices. Rare items are added to the permanent collection. AGO Organ Library, attn: Dr. Carl Klein c/o C. B. Fisk, Inc. 21 Kondelin Road Gloucester, MA 01930

#### **Michael's Music Service (Charlotte, NC)**

[info@michaelsmusicervice.com](mailto:info@michaelsmusicervice.com); 704/567-1066  
Ship in a sturdy box at USPS "media mail" reduced rate.

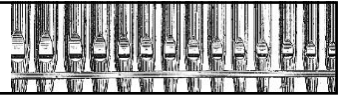
#### **Metropolitan Youth Orchestras of Central Alabama**

Accepts donations of new and gently used sheet music and books for all instruments. Scrollworks c/o St. Paul United Methodist Church 1500 6th Ave N Birmingham, AL 35203



## Substitute List

KEY: (S) Sunday, (C) choir, (HB) Handbells, (SS) Special Services, (W) Weddings, (F) Funerals



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# Happy Spring!

