Visit the NYCAGO Chapter's website.

Help us grow our local audience.
Explore events presented by your friends and colleagues
and include your own on
the member-curated Concert Calendar of our Chapter.

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Dean's Message

A thousand thanks are due to the many people who made the President’s Day Conference such a resounding success: in particular, Peter Conte, Jack Coen, Lori Corrsin, Mark Heutlinger, and NYCAGO Chapter members Andrew Henderson, Danny Beckwith, and Sebastian Glück. Thanks are also due to our Sub Dean, James Wetzel, and his program committee team for masterminding the whole thing. Bravi tutti!

The summer may seem far away (or perhaps not, considering the unusually mild temperatures we’ve been experiencing over these past few weeks), and this is the perfect time of year to start planning your summer retreats. For players and listeners alike, these summer programs offer an invaluable opportunity to refresh our batteries, to be inspired by our colleagues, and to forge lasting friendships with people of a like-minded disposition. Your employer may well offer financial support for some or all of the cost of attending, and if you are self-employed, you may be eligible to deduct the expense of attending a conference.

Below is a selection of some fabulous events taking place this summer. There are, of course, many many others besides these. I hope that you’re able to attend one or more events and allow your soul to be refreshed.

Conventions and Festivals

AGO National Convention
Come to Atlanta for the AGO’s national convention, featuring a star-studded lineup of performers, workshops, social events, and more: July 6-10.
agoatlanta2020.com/schedule/

Organ Historical Society
The 65th OHS convention, held this year in Columbus, Ohio: July 26-31.
organhistoricalsociety.org/2020/

Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ, Portland, Maine
Attend the 2020 Port City Organ Festival to hear your own Dean (and Portland’s Municipal Organist) plus rock stars Olivier Latry, Katelyn Emerson, and Peter Krasinski: August 20-23.
foko.org/festival/

Spreckels Organ Society International Summer Organ Festival, San Diego
Civic Organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez and guests present programs throughout the summer (2020 schedule not on website as of publication).
spreckelsorgan.org

Educational Opportunities
AGO Pipe Organ Encounters
Several chapters are hosting POEs this summer for middle and high school students, as well as for adults.
agohq.org/education/poe/

Baylor University Summer Organ Institute
baylor.edu/busmc/index.php?id=929491

Indiana Pre-College Organ Academy
music.indiana.edu/precollege/summer/jacobs-organ-academy/

Interlochen Organ Academy
camp.interlochen.org/program/music/hs/organ

Oberlin Summer Academy
oberlin.edu/con/summer

Rochester Summer Organ Academy
summer.esm.rochester.edu/course/summer-organ-academy/
With my very best wishes for an active, inspiring summer!

James Kennerley, Dean

Program News

**Improvised Stations of the Cross**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

[Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola](#)

980 Park Avenue at 84th Street

New York, N.Y. 10028

7:00 PM

Renowned for their improvisational skill, chapter members [David Enlow](#), our
immediate past Dean, and Dr. Kalle Toivio, the 2018 winner of the National Competition in Organ Improvisation, share the bench in a sequence of improvisations on the Via Crucis.


The event is free to all AGO members. Tickets are $20 at the door for all other attendees.

Please note the change of location from what was published at the beginning of the season: it is now at Saint Ignatius Loyola on their remarkable Mander organ. Parts of the organ at Saint Mary the Virgin, where the event was originally scheduled to take place, had to be removed temporarily in preparation for restoration work on the rose window above it. Because of some delays with the City permits office, the work cannot now be completed by March.

Register for all choir dates here.
Register for drop-in dates here.
Quote of the Month

*Life exists for the love of music or beautiful things.*
~G.K. Chesterton

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From the Treasurer

**Annual Report of Donations Received**

The Executive Board wishes to express thanks to those who contributed generously to the Chapter, Pipedreams, and Pipe Organ Encounters.

A total of **$7,245** was given when these members renewed:

**$5,000**
Hampson Sissler

**$500**
John Byrne

**$250**
Svetlana Fehretdinov
Bishop John O'Hara

**$100-249**
Louise Basbas
Kenneth Dake
James Kennerley
David Klepper
Renee Louprette
Maxine Thevenot

$50-99
Alan Barthel
Thomas Cowan
Benjamin Epstein
Shannon Murphy
George Novak
Rev. Victoria Sirota
Kent Tritle
James Wetzel

$25-49
John Brooks
Brenda Clark
Larry Long
Deanna Muro
Andy Sarnoff

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Babcock, *Treasurer*
From the Editor

Saint Groundhog's Day

Candlemas
The Presentation of the Lord, traditionally called the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and commonly known as Candlemas, fell on a Sunday this year. It is one of the most beautiful Feasts on the calendar, and is a personal favorite. But for most Americans, February 2nd is the annual celebration of Groundhog Day. As Bill Murray put it in the brilliant, eponymous movie, "Once again the eyes of the nation have turned here to this tiny village in western Pennsylvania, blah, blah, blah." (Watch the clip here.) Although our civic Solemnity, the Superbowl, supplanted Groundhog Day in 2020, we still observed the lesser-ranked Feast with a commemoration, by way of this clever Jeep® commercial.

Growing up near Pittsburgh—as did, it seems, a disproportionately large number of organists—Punxsutawney Phil and the 1993 film loom large from my childhood. But for those unfortunate souls unfamiliar with the premise, Bill Murray’s character, a self-absorbed weatherman, is doomed to relive Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney until he learns how to make the most of every opportunity. (Please go down the rabbit hole of estimating the length of his purgation wherein he masters the piano, French, and ice sculpting, as many
The Needle Stuck in the Groove
Especially for those of us in a liturgical denomination, much of the Church's life follows the same pattern year over year: seasons, vestments hues, lectionary cycles, orations and Propers, a monthly collection for this, the annual Sunday for that. There is a great deal to be said for this institutional order and consistency, but should the *same* be said for our music lists?

How much of our professional life has become a Groundhog Day: creatively moribund, predictable, and boring, rehashing the same anthems and voluntaries every year? Is there life beyond Eccard's *When Mary to the Temple Went* for Candlemas or Allegri’s *Miserere* for Ash Wednesday?

This is, of course, a complex question, and many things need to be weighed in the balance. For example, it would probably cause a minor revolution if, for the sake of variety, *O Come, All Ye Faithful* or *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* were omitted from the hymn-board on Christmas Eve or Easter morning. Shrinking congregations may be unable to retain a broad swath of hymnody, and aging volunteers may limit a choir's ability to learn new anthems. With the ever-present burden of administrative and clerical (both meanings?) issues, it can be challenging to invest the time to find and prepare new repertoire. So what to do? Throw the baby out with the bathwater (otherwise known as the mid-century approach) or just leave the needle in the grove? Where is the *via media*?

Over the coming spring months, we will explore this issue's many facets, in the hope that the warming weather and lengthening days—if not this column’s verbiage—will inspire a like renewal in ourselves as well. Grateful for your attention, I am,

Sincerely,

James D. Wetzel, *Sub Dean and Chair of the Program Committee*
Joke of the Month
Getting to Know You

Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola
980 Park Avenue at 84th Street
New York, N.Y. 10028
General Information

The Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola, founded in 1851 and entrusted to the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in 1866, is a vibrant parish located in Manhattan's Upper East Side. The church building was designed by J. William Schickel of Schickel and Ditmars, and was dedicated on December 11, 1898. The exterior is reminiscent of the exterior of Il Gesù, the Jesuits’ mother church in Rome, while the interior is a dazzling display of multi-colored marbles from North America, Europe, and Africa. Among the church's many stunning features are the mosaic Stations of the Cross, some of which were shown in exhibition in Turin prior to installation. Today almost 4,000 families call Saint Ignatius their spiritual home.

Musical History and Current Program

Saint Ignatius has a long-established history of great music, both in liturgy and concert. Four adult choirs—including the 20-voice professional Choir of Saint Ignatius Loyola—and three children’s choirs provide musical support to the prayers of the congregation, with styles ranging from Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony, and motets of the 17th through 21st centuries at the Solemn Mass, to pop, folk, rock, and gospel at the Wallace Hall Family Mass. For more than 30 seasons the renowned Concerts at Saint Ignatius, Park Avenue series (formerly Sacred Music in a Sacred Space) has made a vital contribution to the culture of the New York metro area and beyond and whose recent performances have been lauded by the New York Times as “stirring…positively thrilling” and “broad, wide-ranging, and powerful.”

Organs

The building originally housed a three-manual, 51-rank Hook and Hastings, Opus 1710 from 1896, which was enlarged to 80 registers in 1913 as their
Opus 2326. By 1975, the organ had fallen into disrepair and was replaced by a Rodgers, augmented with thirteen ranks of Ruffatti pipes. The current four-manual, 91-rank N.P. Mander organ was installed in 1992-1993, under the guidance of then-music director Kent Tritle. It is the largest mechanical action organ in the metro area and has achieved an international landmark status. David Higgs played the dedication recital to a standing-room only audience in April 1993, and the catalog of recitalists since then is a veritable “who’s who” of the organ world. There is a link to the organ’s discography below.

(This information graciously compiled by K. Scott Warren.)

Chapter Members at the Church

Since 2011, Director of Music Ministries K. Scott Warren has led a dynamic music team consisting of more than 150 individuals, professional and volunteer, in providing music at approximately 400 liturgies annually. He is the principal conductor of the professional Choir of Saint Ignatius Loyola, which, along with the Orchestra of Saint Ignatius Loyola, form the backbone of the parish’s critically acclaimed concert series Concerts at Saint Ignatius, Park Avenue.

Mr. Warren served Fifth Avenue's Temple Emanu-El as Assistant Organist from 2002 to 2004 and as Organist and Choirmaster from 2006 to 2018. In this capacity he led the 17-voice professional Temple Emanu-El Choir in 120 full choral liturgies annually.

As a collaborative musician, Mr. Warren has appeared as organist with the New York Philharmonic, the American Symphony Orchestra, the New York Pops, the Orchestra of Saint Luke’s, and the Dresden Philharmonic, in venues ranging from Carnegie and David Geffen Halls to the Ravinia and Bravo! Vail music festivals. Mr. Warren has also had an active career as choral accompanist, working with Voices of Ascension, Musica Sacra, the Choir of Trinity Church – Wall Street, the Oratorio Society of New York, and the New Jersey Oratorio Society, among others. His work as accompanist has been featured on National Public Radio.
Mr. Warren is a native of Dallas, Texas, and a graduate of the University of North Texas, where he studied organ with Dr. Jesse E. Eschbach. His choral music is published by Oxford University Press and has been performed throughout Asia, Europe, and North America.

Daniel Beckwith is Principal Organist at the Upper East Side Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola and Associate Organist at Temple Emanu-El. Former church positions include the posts of Assistant Organist at several New York City Landmark houses of worship: The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church; Saint Bartholomew’s Church, the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, and Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal).

Mr. Beckwith has conducted in many of the major opera houses throughout North America and Europe, including the Metropolitan Opera (making his house debut with Don Giovanni in 1995), the Glyndebourne Festival, and the opera companies of Arizona, Baltimore, Edmonton, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver. His has a particular affinity for the Baroque, early Classical, and bel canto repertory, exemplified by his New York City Opera debut in a production of Rameau’s Platée with the Mark Morris Dance Group.

A frequent partner with soprano Renée Fleming, they have performed in concert at Carnegie Hall, Spain’s Santander Festival and television appearances on Good Morning America, The View, and Martha Stewart Living.

Visit Online and in Person
- Church Website
- Virtual Tour of the Church
- Concerts at Saint Ignatius
- Recordings from Saint Ignatius

The Solemn Mass with the Choir of Saint Ignatius Loyola is on Sundays at 11:00 AM.

The next concert is on Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 PM: Improvised Stations of the Cross with David Enlow and Kalle Tovio sponsored by the NYCAGO.

The Church is open to the public all day on weekends and from 8:00 AM until
4:00 PM on weekdays. During Lenten weekdays, it will remain open until after the 5:30 PM Mass.

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**FREEDOM TO PLAY THE PIANO**
March 6-8, 2020 - NYC
A three-day workshop on the Alexander Technique & Lister-Sink Method for organists & pianists.

For information & registration visit:
balanceartsat.com/upcoming-events

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**News from Our Neighbors**

Dr. Donald McDonald, esteemed organ professor for many decades at Westminster Choir College and director of music of Christ Church Methodist on Park Avenue, celebrated his 95th birthday on February 22nd. Nancianne Parrella, of blessed memory, wrote this [tribute](#) in 2014. Many of us in the Chapter have been blessed to count Donald as a friend as well as colleague and miss him since he moved to Texas.

*If you would like to wish him well, please write:*
Dr. Donald G. McDonald
The Villages of Dallas
550 East Ann Arbor Avenue
Dallas, Texas  75216

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Visit our amazing website!