



**BOMBARDE**  
**BUFFALO CHAPTER**  
**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**



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 141 Cleveland Drive  
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**NEXT EVENT: ROBERT DUERR — ORGAN RECITAL**

**Sunday, April 22 — 3:00 PM**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church, 724 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo**

*Cosponsored by the Buffalo Chapter American Guild of Organists and Westminster Presbyterian Church*

This recital by Robert Duerr will be the third in a series of recitals by organists who were members of our chapter during their high-school years — returning now, several years later, to perform for us. During his high-school years Robert studied organ with Hans Vigeland who was organist and choirmaster at Westminster Presbyterian Church from 1949 to 1975. After graduating from North Tonawanda High School Robert attended Valparaiso University for a short time before transferring to the University of Southern California where he studied organ with Ladd Thomas and Cherry Rhodes and received a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance in 1977 and a Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting in 1980 — studying with Daniel Lewis. In 1976 Robert won first place in the AGO’s Los Angeles Young Artist Competition and went on to win first place in the AGO’s National Organ Playing Competition. He was Organist and Choirmaster at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, California from 1978 to 1980 (Assistant 1976-78), and Director of Music and Organist at Great St. Mary’s — the University Church in Cambridge, England from 2003 to 2005.

**THE RECITAL**



<i>Christ Lag in Todesbanden</i>	J. S. Bach
<i>Prelude and Fugue in D Major</i>	J. S. Bach
<i>Prière</i>	César Franck
<i>Three Pieces</i> (premier performance)	Nils Vigeland
commissioned for the occasion	
<i>Partita on “St. Anne”</i>	Paul Manz
<i>Trio Sonata No. 1 in E-flat Major</i>	J. S. Bach
<i>Symphony No. 1 - Finale</i>	Louis Vierne

Mr. Duerr is an award-winning musician with a varied and international career as an organist, choral director, conductor of symphonic and chamber orchestras, operatic conductor and vocal coach, specialist in Baroque and Classical repertoire and recognized advocate of contemporary music and composers. He has studied choral conducting with Robert Shaw, Helmut Rhilling and Howard Swan and orchestral conducting with Seiji Ozawa, Leonard Bernstein and Gustav Meier. He was invited to be the first and only conductor in the Metropolitan Opera Young Artist Development Program (1988-91) where he conducted several operas. In addition to this he has conducted the New York City Opera, the Los Angeles Opera, the University of Southern California Opera, and the Greater Buffalo Opera as well as several others. He has also conducted the Julliard Orchestra and Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Master

Chorale, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and the American Guild of Organists’ Centennial Concert (1996) as well as many other orchestral and choral concerts.

In addition to his extensive music career Robert studied theology at the University of Cambridge and in 2006 was ordained an Anglican priest in the Church of England. He has served in parish churches in Middlesbrough and Scarborough, England. Since he has been back in the Buffalo area he has been serving as a supply priest and substitute organist in area churches and also as Assistant priest at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in North Tonawanda — his home town. On Friday, April 20 (just two days before his recital at Westminster) Robert will conduct the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra in its spring concert – *Songs of Eternity: Choral Spectacular*. [see Date Docket listing ... and a poster for this concert was previously e-mailed]

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Mr. Duerr's recital program is listed on page one. Nils Vigeland, composer of *Three Pieces*, is the son of Hans Vigeland who (as previously mentioned) was Robert's organ teacher during his high school years — forty years ago — when he played his first organ recital at Westminster. These pieces, commissioned by Robert for this recital, celebrate the 40th anniversary of his first recital and honor the memory of Hans Vigeland. Nils Vigeland will be in attendance for the recital.

A more complete biography of Mr. Duerr is attached for those with e-mail. Take some time to read about the amazing accomplishments of this extremely talented man.

This is a Patron event, so bring your patron card to put in the freewill offering. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located on the west side of Delaware Ave. between Summer and North Streets. There is a large parking lot behind the church/building next door . . . drive in from Delaware along the south side of the church. A reception will follow the recital.

Our thanks to Westminster Church for providing the place and wonderful Aeolian Skinner organ for this event, printing the programs, designing a beautiful poster, and hosting the reception. PLEASE DISPLAY THE POSTER IN AS MANY PLACES AS POSSIBLE

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**ABOUT WEDDINGS**

Now that the wedding season is fast approaching I would like to address an issue that many of us have dealt with and that I believe is the most often violated item in our Code of Ethics, i.e. fellow Guild members accepting engagements to play weddings in other members' churches. Several times in the past I have been contacted by brides, their mothers or the organists themselves to ask permission to play a wedding in the church in which I am employed. This puts the onus on me and places me in the unenviable position of either having to forfeit much needed additional income or being perceived as the "bad guy" who is complicating someone's wedding plans.

Whenever I am asked to play for a wedding in another church I always ask if that church employs an organist. If not, no problem. If so, then I ask if there is a reason the organist is unable to play (maybe they're away that day or just not interested). If there is no reason then I inform the bridal couple of Guild policy [see Rule 4 in the Code of Ethics] and the reason behind it. I have declined to play weddings in other churches rather than agree in advance and then put a fellow organist in an awkward position.

I believe that if we observe the Guild policy regarding weddings we could prevent ill feelings among our colleagues as well as with brides and their families. — Paul Cena, Chapter Member

**DATE DOCKET . . . a listing of members events**

*All events are free unless otherwise noted*

Sunday, April 15, 1:00 PM at Church of the Nativity U.C.C. 1530 Colvin Blvd., Kenmore — Soprano Soloist – Multiple Award-winning Vocal Prodigy –**Emily Tworek Helenbrook** accompanied by David Bond; Ticket donation: \$10 - All proceeds to benefit One Great Hour of Sharing

Friday, April 20, 8:00 PM - Kleinhans Music Hall - Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus & Orchestra - **Songs of Eternity: Choral Spectacular** - Fauré *Requiem* and Vaughan Williams *Dona Nobis Pacem* – Robert Duerr conducting; Tickets: \$30 \$40 \$50

**ORCHARD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – EVENTS:**

Friday, May 4, 7:30 PM – **Svyati Duo** - Julian Collins, Organ and Rebecca Hews, Cello on their U.S. Tour from London, England; Admission: \$10

**ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, BUFFALO – EVENTS:**

go to: [stpaulscathedral.org](http://stpaulscathedral.org) and click on 'Music'

**LOG ON TO:** [www.OrgAlt.com](http://www.OrgAlt.com) for listings of organ recitals in Western New York & across Canada. Send your listings to: [info@orgalt.com](mailto:info@orgalt.com)/416-356-3138 or 103 King St., Georgetown, Ontario, CANADA L7G 2G8

**COMPETITION WINNER**

Our congratulations to Peter Gonciarz who won first place in the Young Artist Contest which took place on Saturday, March 10 at University Presbyterian Church. Peter is organist at St. Stanislaus RC Church in Buffalo and is a senior at Villa Maria College studying organ with James Flood.

**POSITIONS OPEN . . .**

**Note:** *Only churches providing F.I.C.A. and Workers' Compensation as well as Unemployment and Disability Insurance are listed, and a written contract will be provided for all positions listed unless otherwise noted.*

**Previously Listed – Still Open**

- Organist: Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Lockport
- Organist: St. David's Episcopal Church, West Seneca
- Organist: Immanuel Lutheran Church (LCMS), East Aurora
- Organist: Akron First United Methodist Church, Akron: play one 10:30 AM Sunday service with choir, 4 extra services, weekly choir rehearsals, possibly one or two cantatas/year, want to develop a childrens program; 2-man, Schlicker organ (from Larkin Bldg.); Benefits: 4 weeks paid vacation and continuing education funds; Salary: \$6,000 – \$7,800 [Evaluation = Adequate] contact Carol Weidman at Hm: 542-6098 or Ch:783-0737

Music Director: for the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus – [see complete description of the position on our web site – [www.agobuffalo.org](http://www.agobuffalo.org)] send resumé in electronic format, with three professional references, by April 30, 2012 to [bpchorus@gmail.com](mailto:bpchorus@gmail.com)

PLEASE NOTE: For information about Roman Catholic Church positions please call Alan Lukas at 652-6565

IMPORTANT: You are reminded that listing of positions in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the Buffalo Chapter A.G.O. or any of its committees. Appropriateness of a position must be judged by the applicant him/her self. For help with this, you may wish to contact the Placement Chair for additional information about a position and/or consult with a member who previously held the position. You are also reminded to be very cautious about accepting a position without a written contract.

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