

The Brooklyn Bombard

The Newsletter of the Brooklyn Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists

November 2018



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Dean's Letter

Dear Brooklyn AGO Members,

Greetings! As we know so well from firsthand experience, the holiday season can be a hectic time, particularly for those of us with careers in sacred music! In our harried rush from one *Messiah* performance to the next this month, I hope we'll take a moment to reflect on the critical role we play in making the spirit of the holiday come alive for so many. In a society that certainly does not pay its sacred musicians their due, in financial terms or otherwise, it's important that we retain the conviction that our work is uniquely worthwhile. Live music during the holidays, performed in a spirit of sincerity, can bring communities together and impel hearts toward the divine in a way that commercial recorded music simply cannot. Thank you for your hard work this season!

I'd like to take a moment to update you on the Brooklyn AGO's recent doings, and draw your attention to some events coming up around the corner. This past Fall we hosted four events: a lovely tour of Brooklyn's historic Green-Wood Cemetery, a thought-provoking choral conducting workshop led by Dr. Dennis Keene, a far-ranging organ recital by Dr. Michael Kaminski, and a dazzling joint performance by the three winners of our 2018 George R. Mathison Memorial Scholarship Competition. We were pleased to welcome many new faces at these events, and we continue our efforts to encompass the entire borough of Brooklyn in our range of programming. If you're a chapter member who typically doesn't attend our events, I can't encourage you enough to show up in person! Face-to-face meetings between our members are the essence of our organization's purpose, opening up new avenues for collaboration and new ways of thinking about music.

Our first event of 2019 will be our January Banquet, an excellent opportunity to decompress after the holidays and spend some quality time with friends and colleagues in the Guild. The Banquet will take place at Enoteca on Court on Monday, January 14th at 6:30PM, and you'll find instructions for reserving a spot on the flyer included in this Bombarde. Then on Saturday, January 26th at 11:00AM, we'll host "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Park Slope, where children can learn about the organ and play it themselves, often for the first time in their lives. This year's event will once again feature demonstrations by Chapter members Ellen Wright and John Klauder, and food courtesy of our great city, the Pizza Capital of the World. Once again, please consult the included flyer for further details, and if you know any potentially interested young people, please send them our way! And for those who prefer cabaret-style musical performance to televised brain trauma, we'll once again hold our "Not-the-Superbowl" variety concert on Superbowl Sunday, February 5th, at the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn.

These events are just the beginning of what is sure to be a busy 2019! Also included this Spring will be our 2019 Scholarship Competition, for which we're already accepting applications (full information is available on our website, www.brooklynago.org), our perennial Members' Recital, and much more! The Executive Board is grateful to all those who have contributed to make our recent events successful, and all those who are helping to plan and execute our upcoming events. We hope to see you soon, and we wish you the happiest holidays!

Very truly yours,

Dr. John A. Wolfe

Dean, American Guild of Organists, Brooklyn Chapter

Bach to Brooklyn 2019

For over thirty years, the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has presented a Fall bus tour of distinguished organs in diverse houses of worship, called Bach to Brooklyn. Tour guide Andrew S. Dolkart, author of *Landmarks of New York City*, would speak about items of architectural and historical interest in the featured churches as well as in the neighborhoods surrounding them. A chapter organist or the resident organist would showcase the instrument at each location.

This has been one of the most popular event of the year with over thirty people in attendance, including many non-chapter members. Over the last few years, however, it has been increasingly difficult to get churches to commit an hour on a Saturday, for various reasons. Our difficulty finding suitable churches led us to refrain from holding the tour this past year.

So, for the year 2019, we are asking our members to nominate their own churches as Bach to Brooklyn destinations. Any and all will be considered. The date will be Saturday, September 14, 2019, from 9am to 5pm. If you think your church would merit a visit and would be willing to host us, please let us know what would be the best time of day for a forty-five minute visit. Please also let us know whether an additional hour would be available for your church to serve as a venue for our bagged lunch. Thank you very much!

Serving on the Board

I got my first paid organist job at age 16. After more than 45 years in the profession, I decided it was time to start giving back. (One of my organ teachers earned her AAGO; another his FAGO.) About four years ago I offered to serve on the Brooklyn AGO Board. I'd been solicited in years past, but a teaching commitment on Tuesday evenings prevented me from serving. When that job ended, with it went my obstacle.

The primary duty of board membership is attendance at the monthly Executive Board meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday evening of each month at the Baptist Temple in Brooklyn. Board meetings aren't held in July, August or December. If you decide to do more the opportunities are plenty – budget planning, calendar planning, helping coordinate one of the many events/concerts we sponsor each year, serving on the Nominating Committee, as Treasurer or Secretary, etc.

I've enjoyed my time on the Board. As my first term comes to an end I'm working with my fellow Nominating Committee members Paul Richard Olson and Jared Lamenzo to present a slate of candidates to the membership. The new members' term will begin in June 2019 and run for three years.

I hope several of you will want to help plan the future of the Brooklyn AGO by serving on the Board. If you're interested, please let me or one of the other Nominating Committee members know ASAP. We need to present the slate of candidates by the end of February 2019.

Nick Martellacci

The 2018 George R. Mathison Scholarship Winners' Recital

On Sunday, November 18th, the Brooklyn AGO and St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Church hosted an organ recital by the winners of the chapter's 2018 George R. Mathison Scholarship Competition. The performers were third place winner Roshan Chakane, who graduated in 2018 with a master's degree in Organ Performance from Rutgers University, second place winner Evan Wesley Currie, who also graduated in 2018 with a master's degree in Organ Performance from Rutgers University, and first place winner Austin Philemon, who's currently working on a master's degree in Organ Performance at the Manhattan School of Music. Their wide-ranging program spanned the full breadth of the organ's literature, including music by J.S. Bach, Boulanger, Dupré, Messiaen, Peck, Reddy, Saint-Saëns and Vierne, all performed on the church's historic 1925 Skinner pipe organ. The performance raised money for the 2019 George R. Mathison Memorial Scholarship Competition, which will take place on Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 at 1:00 PM at Grace Church Brooklyn Heights.

Pictured left to right: Roshan Chakane, Evan Wesley Currie, Austin Philemon



Call for Performers

The Brooklyn AGO's Fourth Annual Not-the-Superbowl Concert,
Sunday, February 3rd, 2019

As a fundraiser for our Scholarship Competition, the Brooklyn AGO will be presenting its fourth annual "Not-the-Superbowl" concert at the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn on Sunday, February 3rd at 5:00 pm. The facility offers a four-manual, forty-seven rank Hutchings pipe organ and a grand piano. We strongly urge you, our chapter members, to volunteer your services as solo or ensemble performers to entertain refugees from the Superbowl, and to help young musicians with their music school tuition in the process.

Is there a something you've always wanted to perform, but have never found the right occasion? This is your time! We seek your most curious repertory: music to lift our spirits at the end of winter.

Would you sing a part in an ad-hoc vocal group? Do you have amusing part songs in your closet?

Please don't hesitate to contact chapter Sub Dean Thomas Hobson Williams, organizer of this event, at thomashobsonwilliams@gmail.com to let him know what you can offer, or just to talk about possibilities.

Gratefully yours,

The Board of the Brooklyn Chapter

Cooperative Choral Reading Workshop

Based on the responses to last month's email we haven't achieved the critical mass of 8-10 participants needed to make this workshop viable. Once again, the goal of this event is to introduce a piece of music that you love but one that the rest of us may not yet have heard. The music must still be in print – no sense getting us excited about a piece of music we can't purchase.

Thanks to our Registrar Gary Di Franco, we have the use of St Finbar's church on Tuesday, January 22, 2019. The workshop will begin at 7 p.m. We are committed to observing copyright law and therefore will be asking participants to provide 10 legal scores from your library for use during the workshop. Your responses to the questions listed below will enable us to provide an enjoyable and enriching experience. Please respond to me via email (nm11201@aol.com) by December 31 if you'd like to participate.

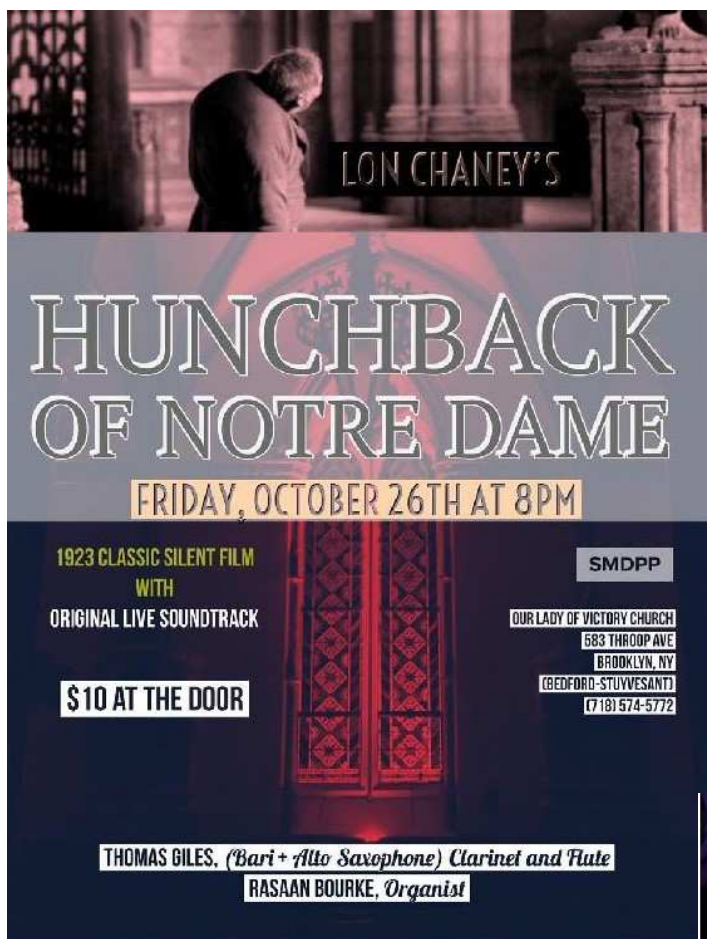
- 1 What is your name (if like me it's not spelled out in your email address)?
- 2 What piece would you like to present?
- 3 Would you be willing to bring some snacks to share?
- 4 In addition to the piece we'll be singing, do you have any other good resources for small/medium sized, non-professional choirs? I'd like to print a resource for everyone to take home and do further research on their own, e.g. Natalie Sleeth's anthology "Cantate Domino" has simple and tuneful SAB arrangements for each season of the Liturgical Year. But the \$10 price tag makes it something you might like to know about, but not necessarily purchase out of your own pocket.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask.

Thank you and good luck with your holiday music preparations!

Nick Martellacci

Hunchback at Our Lady of Victory



LON CHANEY'S

HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH AT 8PM

1923 CLASSIC SILENT FILM
WITH
ORIGINAL LIVE SOUNDTRACK

\$10 AT THE DOOR

SMDPP

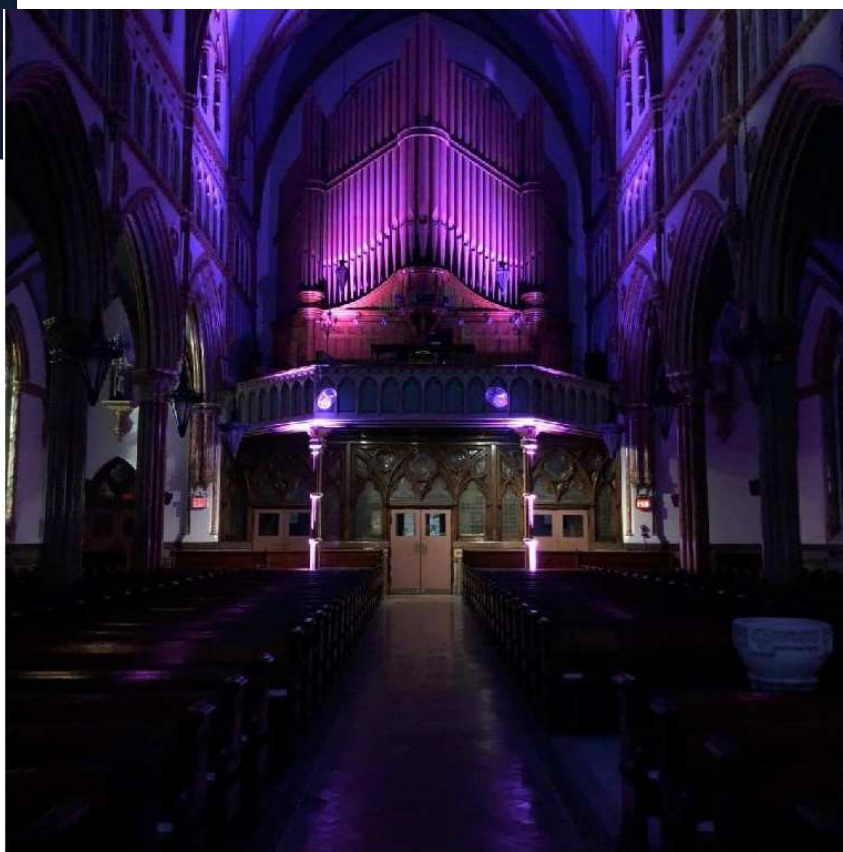
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH
583 THROOP AVE
BROOKLYN, NY
(BEDFORD-STUYVESANT)
(718) 574-5772

THOMAS GILES, (*Bari + Alto Saxophone*) *Clarinet and Flute*
RASAAN BOURKE, *Organist*

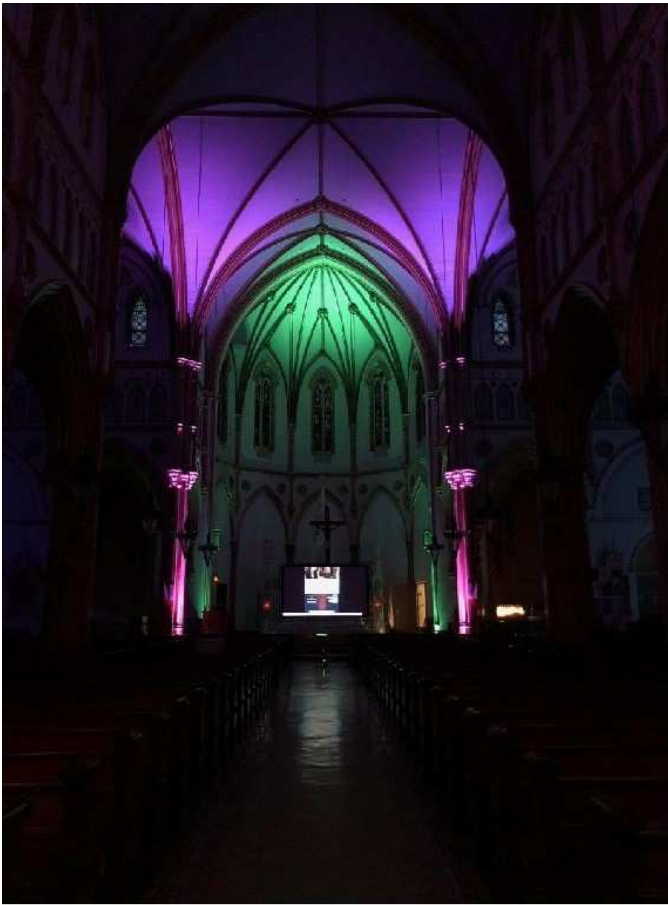
Rasaan Bourke, chapter member and Director of Music performed his 2nd Silent Film Performance: Hunchback of Notre Dame this fall.

On a chilly fall night recently, I was one of many to enjoy Rasaan Bourke accompany "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at Our Lady of Victory in Brooklyn. I do not associate an unaltered 1895 Reuben Midmer with silent film accompaniment, but the forty-two rank organ and Rasaan were up to the task. What a thrill! Skipping theatre organ convention, Rasaan improvised in his own style an emotional accompaniment to this 1923 romantic/horror drama. Go listen and watch if he does this again.

John Klauder



A new light certainly shines on this unaltered 1895 Midmer organ. The instrument boasts 42 ranks spread over 3 manuals and pedal and is currently serviced by Doug McKeever of Foley Baker Co.



Our Lady of Victory Church of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Bedstuy was decked out with awesome lighting for the Silent Film Performance on 10/6.



THOMAS GILES, HORNIST

RASAAN HAKIEM, ORGANIST

Rasaan Bourke was joined by Thomas Giles, who played Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax and Baritone Sax. A brilliant collaboration.



The vestibule lights shone beautifully through the gorgeous Tiffany Windows separating the interior from the exterior Throop Ave entrance of Victory. Pre-performance on 10/6.

Calendar

11/30/18 - 7:00 PM

NAKED with Beverly "Song" Burton, Vocalist

St Peter Claver Church, Brooklyn

12/04/18 - 12:30 PM

Advent Noontime Recital

Paul Richard Olson, Organist

Grace Church Brooklyn

12/09/18 - 4:00 PM

Community Carol Sing

Nick Martellacci, Organ and Piano

Grace Lutheran Church

12/11/18 - 12:30 PM

Advent Noontime Recital

Craig Whitney, Organist

Grace Church Brooklyn

12/18/18 - 12:30 PM

Advent Noontime Recital

Judith Hancock, Organist

Grace Church Brooklyn

01/08/19 - 7:30 PM

Board Meeting

Baptist Temple

01/14/2019 – 6:30 PM

January Banquet

Enoteca on Court

01/22/19 - 7:00 PM

Choral Sharing Workshop

St Finbar's RC Church

01/26/19 - 11:00 AM

Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Brooklyn

02/02/2019

Cutoff Date for Scholarship Competition

Applications

02/03/19 - 5:00 PM

Not the Superbowl Concert

First Unitarian Congregational Society, Brooklyn

02/10/19 - 4:00 PM

Let Our Praise Arise

St Peter Claver Church, Brooklyn

02/12/19 - 7:30 PM

Board Meeting

Baptist Temple

03/09/19 - 12:00 AM

Scholarship Competition

Grace Church, Brooklyn

03/12/19 - 12:30 PM

Lenten Noontime Recital

Ellen Wright, Organist

Grace Church Brooklyn

03/12/19 - 7:30 PM

Board Meeting

Baptist Temple

03/19/19 - 12:30 PM

Lenten Noontime Recital

Michael V Kaminski, Organist

Grace Church Brooklyn

03/26/19 - 12:30 PM

Lenten Noontime Recital

Nick Martellacci, Organist

Grace Church Brooklyn

From the Editor

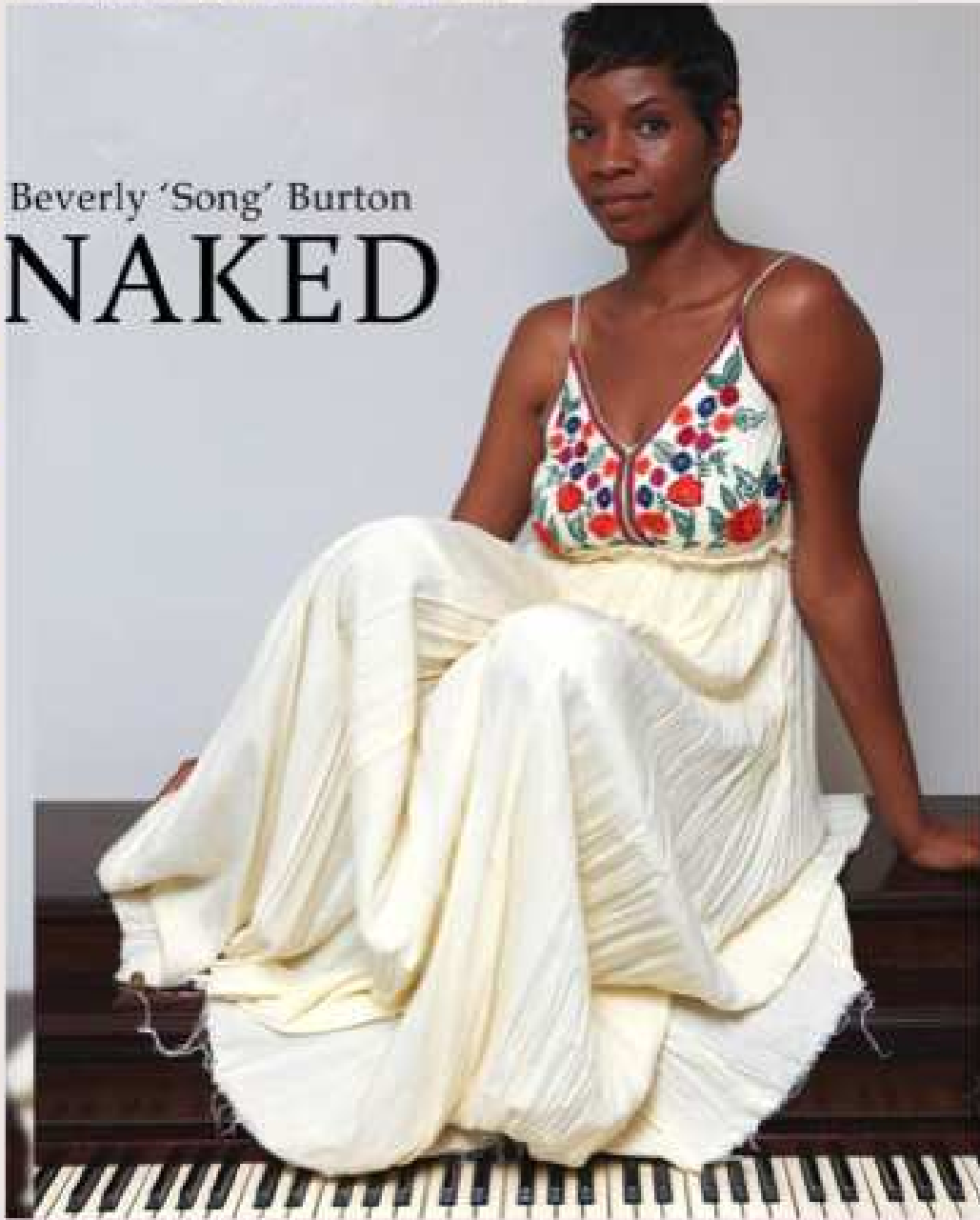
Please feel free to send along any articles, advertisements, and calendar submissions to me at nm11201@aol.com. Word, PowerPoint, and JPG files work best.

Flyers

"THE ACT OF UNCOVERING
MY WEAKNESS TO SHOW THE CHRIST IN ME"

"STRIPPING DOWN THE MUSIC"

Beverly 'Song' Burton
NAKED



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH AT 7PM

St. Peter Claver Church

29 Claver Place

(between Jefferson and Fulton)

Brooklyn, NY

smdpp.org | info@smdpp.org

Rasaan H. Bourke,
pianist
Joseph P. Murray,
pianist

FREE WILLING OFFERING

MUSIC MINISTRY OF ST. MARTIN DE BOERES BASILICA

*Community
Carol Sing*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018 – 4:00 P.M.

Grace Lutheran Church
103-15 Union Turnpike
Forest Hills, NY 11375
718-268-6189

*Reception to follow.
Cash prize for the craziest
Christmas sweater!*

The American Guild of Organists
Brooklyn Chapter Invites You To Our
JANUARY 2019 BANQUET



Monday, January 14th at 6:30PM
Enoteca on Court
347 Court Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231
(Take the F or G Trains to Carroll Street Station)

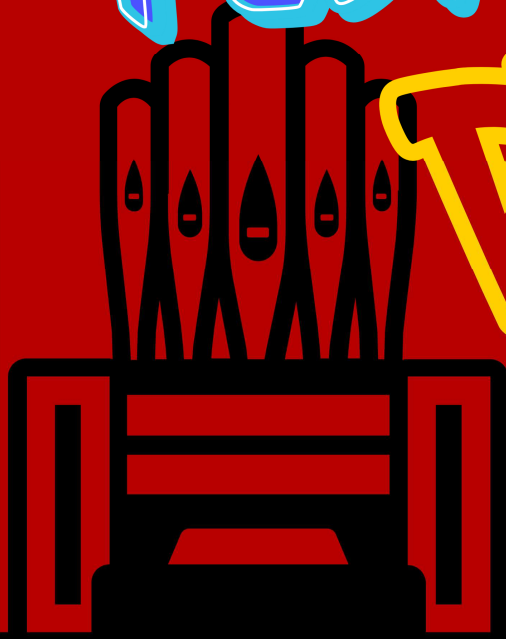
\$50 per person

Including salad, antipasto, pizza, choice of three entrées, cake and coffee.
There will be a vegetarian option and members may bring guests.

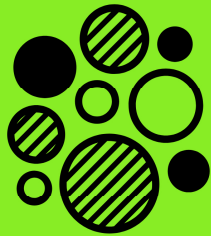
Please make checks payable to AGO Brooklyn Chapter and mail to:
The Brooklyn Chapter AGO
% John A. Wolfe
476 W. 141st St., Apt. 71
New York, NY 10031

For more info please contact
Dean John A. Wolfe at johnwolfe@johnwolfemusic.com

PEDALS PIPES



**JAN
26
19**



**11:00AM
TO 2:00PM**

**ALL SAINTS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**286 SEVENTH AVENUE
AT 7TH STREET,
BROOKLYN, NY 11215**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH
WHO HAVE HAD
SOME EXPERIENCE WITH THE
PIANO ARE INVITED
TO COME HEAR, PLAY AND EXPLORE
THE PIPE ORGAN**

Grades 3 - 6

FREE!

**RESERVE A PLACE
WITH AN EMAIL MESSAGE TO
DEAN@BROOKLYNAGO.ORG**



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WWW.BROOKLYNAGO.ORG**

MUSIC MINISTRY OF ST. MARTIN DE PORRES PARISH

Presents

LET OUR PRAISE ARISE

In Celebration of our Blackness

FEATURING

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES PARISH CHORUS
THE WIND ENSEMBLE AT NAZARETH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, EAST FLATBUSH

TIMELESS MUSIC BY FR. CLARENCE RIVERS, GRAYSON W.
BROWN, ANDRÉ CROUCH, KURT FRANKLIN AND MORE

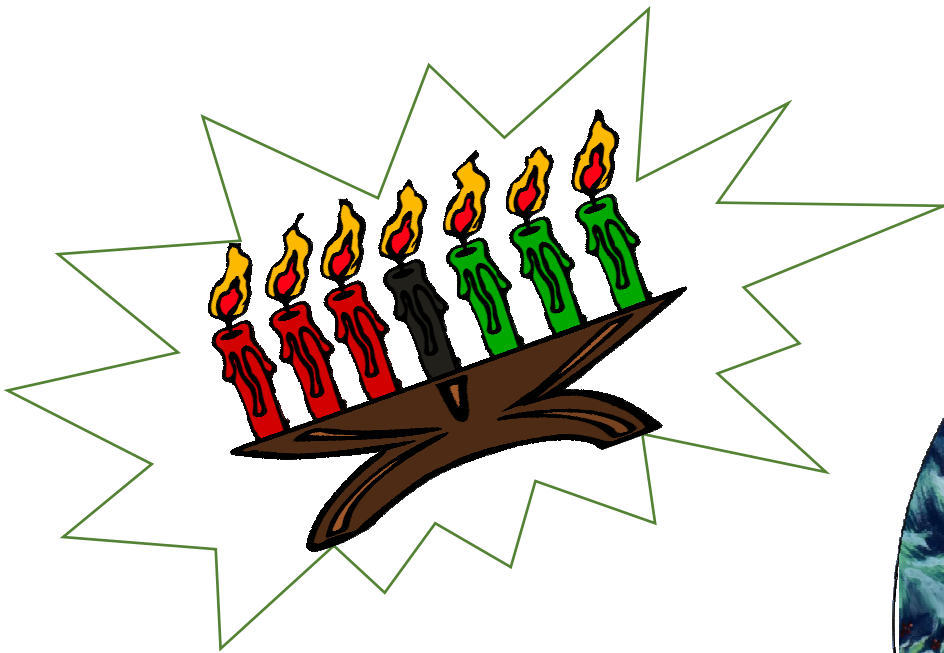
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH 2019
AT 4PM

TICKETS ARE \$20
SOLD AT THE RECTORY AND AT THE DOOR

ST. PETER CLAVER CHURCH
29 CLAVER PLACE
BROOKLYN, NY
718-574-5772
SMDPP.ORG

FR. ALONZO G. COX, PASTOR





**Best wishes for a blessed holiday season
and a happy and healthy New Year!**