

CHIEF CHAT



The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists

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CHORAL FESTIVAL – Concluding Chapter Event

On Sunday afternoon, May 16, 2004 our Chapter will present a Choral Festival at Christ Church Cathedral at 4 PM. The Festival Chorus, comprising about 150 singers, is made up of several area choirs as well as individual Chapter members. This major event is the concluding program of a busy 2003-2004 season.

The program, consisting of a variety of Psalm Settings from Schütz and Parry to Mathias and Mawby, will be accompanied by organ and brass. Peter Beardsley, Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral and the New England Brass Quartet will also provide new brass and organ accompaniments for opening and closing hymns.

Director of the Choral Festival is Bruce McInnes. Since his education at Yale School of Music and Paris's Conservatoire Nationale de Musique, where he studied with the famed Nadia Boulanger, his 40-year career has included positions at Amherst College, the University of Wisconsin, and the Cleveland Institute of Music. He also was Organist and Choirmaster at Grace Church in Manhattan, and most recently has completed a period as Interim Organist/Choirmaster at St. James' Church, West Hartford. He continues as Director of the MasterSingers Chorale that tours Europe every other summer. Last summer they took first place at the prestigious Eisteddfod Festival in Wales.

The Springfield Chapter is very fortunate to have Bruce as Director of our own major Festival! Please do help spread the word about this exciting event and join your Chapter friends on this special occasion.

Charles Page, Chairman
AGO Choral Festival



IN THIS ISSUE

MAY EVENT —Choral Festival	p. 1
Dean's Message	p. 2
New Schoenstein in our area	p. 3
Recent & Upcoming Organ Activities	p. 4
JUNE EVENT Springfield AGO Annual Banquet	p. 6
Job Listings	p. 6
Calendar	back cover
AGO Banquet Reservation Form	insert

DEAN'S MESSAGE — May 2004

With the demands of the Easter season that we all have faced and endured, the entire month of April seems to have disappeared already with barely a recollection. Our Chapter events did bracket that month and its holy days, however, with musical success, so acknowledgments are due again, with pleasure.

On Palm Sunday afternoon, April 4th, the Chapter helped to sponsor an ecumenical **Vespers Service** at St. Paul the Apostle R. C. Church, Dwight Road, Springfield, which featured Schola Nova and Edie Gilbertson most ably at the console of the 1963 Phelps Casavant organ in that beautiful acoustical and worship space. At least fourteen Chapter members attended this program (*not* including those participating on the altar), in addition to numerous parishioners of St. Paul's and other followers of Schola Nova. Some members drove great distances to participate in this worshipful experience, executed elegantly in high and historical Roman style by Fr. C. Lee Gilbertson. Schola Nova's music, under the direction of Michael Dulac, was absolutely first rate, and the program included excellent singing experiences for those of us in the pews, as well.

The Vespers homily, delivered by the Reverend Franklin Darling (retired pastor of the Springfield Diocese), was ecumenical, educational, and captivating. Father Darling illuminated the evolution of music and the roles of the musician and organist in the Christian church from the ancient Jewish traditions, from whence much of Christian worship (particularly in the Catholic church) stems. We extend thanks, also, to Cathy Waldron and Larry Wood, Cantors, for their participation; to Jackie Johnson, Organist of the Church, for her assistance with arrangements; and, to the Parishioners of St. Paul's Church for the generous reception provided after the service.

The Palm Sunday Vespers service held bittersweet distinction, however, as this was reported to be the last performance by Edie Gilbertson with Schola Nova, and the beginning of the last month for Fr. Gilbertson as Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church, Springfield. Plans for retirement became the next priority for the Gilbertsons, and the idea of living seasonally in Maine and Florida, with a new sailboat at hand, sounds like an enviable retirement! So, we bid the Gilbertsons Godspeed and hope that they will grace our neighborhood (if not our consoles, too!) with return visits in the future.

The mother of our Chapter member Michèle Smith passed away in April, following a period of failing health, through which Michèle served at her side. The Chapter extends its collective sympathies to Michèle and her brother Tom. Michèle reports her immediate availability for substitute work, or for an eventual church music position, for which we should keep her in mind at all times.

The month of April ended on the proverbial high note with the so-well-attended Fred Swann recital at St. Michael's R. C. Cathedral in Springfield. The Chapter is indebted to members Charles Page and Don Hooton for helping Diane Little, of Old First Church, to arrange and present the reception in the Bishop Marshall Center following the Fred Swann program, which was our contribution to the Cathedral festivities. Full details of this event are reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Looking ahead to the rest of the season in this Chapter, there remain several activities that demand your attention during a short and busy time of the year. As you read this newsletter, the deadlines for **voting** in the Chapter elections and for placing your **Annual Banquet reservations** will be imminent. Both should be postmarked by Saturday, May 15th. It is very important that you express your choices for leadership in this Chapter, so *please do* complete your ballot and return it by mail to Martha Sienkiewicz according to the specific instructions, and on time!

Similarly, we hope for a strong turnout at the **Annual Banquet** in Amherst on Monday, June 7th. The evening will remain light and social, and the business meeting will be brief! We will be treated also to a view of the musical facilities at the University of Massachusetts and to some sounds from the music students there who also work in churches and are our colleagues. It is important to recognize and support these young and committed members, and we should use this opportunity also to invite and include other youthful members of this Chapter who can relate to their peers with solidarity and encouragement. The full description of the Annual Banquet is printed elsewhere in this newsletter, along with the reservation form. Please make your commitment now to attend this culminating event of our Chapter's season, and do make an effort to reach out to some young musician to bring along, as well. Plans for the next AGO season will be revealed at this meeting.

Membership renewal forms for this Chapter will be mailed to you soon, and we hope that the value of this organization and its activities and publications will be sufficient reason to continue your commitment to the AGO. This Chapter works very hard to provide a full, rich, and productive schedule of events in the course of the year, really trying to benefit our members (and we're always open to help and advice!). National headquarters has determined an increase in dues to be effective with this present renewal, but that increase is only \$4.00 at the Regular Voting Member level (a 5% increase, which is split half-and-half between Chapter Treasury and National operations, including "TAO"). After several years of a steady dues rate, the need for an increase is not surprising, as with all things in the general economy. This Chapter hopes to maintain a high retention rate of its enrollment, though, so we do strive to provide value for your membership contribution. Please renew promptly upon receipt of the forms, and feel free to express your opinions to the Chapter about the cost and value of AGO membership, as it affects you personally. That input will help us to work better on your behalf in the future. Let me take this opportunity, also, to remind full members in church positions that you should, as a common professional benefit, apply to your employer to have AGO dues paid by the Church. Please continue your involvement in the AGO, so that we can work together with strength for mutual benefit and support in our musical duties and for the glory of God.

Outside of this Chapter, two brief comments are worthy. As well as the importance of voting within the Chapter, it is urgent that you express your selections in the **AGO national elections**, which are due before the Los Angeles Convention this summer. As written to members from the New York headquarters, for the first time in the Guild's history, you can now vote in the AGO National Election by casting your ballot online. This timesaving procedure is quick, easy, and cost-effective both for you and for the Guild. All voting instructions were included in the e-mail message about this procedure. If you do not have that electronic capability, or if you prefer to use a paper ballot, simply retrieve that form from the April issue of "TAO" where it has been bound between pages 48 and 49. Study the ballot, review the qualifications of candidates, cast your votes, and submit the

A NEW SCHOENSTEIN ORGAN NEAR SPRINGFIELD

First Congregational Church (UCC) Glastonbury
Dedication Recital 14 March 2004 by Thomas Murray

By Allen Langord

Exactly one hour from Northampton (35 minutes from Springfield) a new Schoenstein pipe organ has been installed and dedicated. Although this article was to be only a review of this new organ, I would be remiss in not offering some commentary on the recitalist as well. Additionally, information, as known by your reviewer about the firm and its President & Tonal Director, is included. Chapter members perhaps do not know of this pipe organ-building firm and of their current work.

Tom Murray was at the usual superlative heights of his technique and musicianship. Tom's programming and performance were top-drawer, and especially appropriate for an organ dedication. His exploration of the resources of this instrument was exciting, artistic, and complete. The program included music of Bach, Schumann, Howells, Guilmant, Wright, and Jongen. The dedication started with a sturdy hymn, which Tom played, giving the audience an immediate sense of the grandeur of this instrument. To achieve his gorgeous tonal results requires considerable hand registration, a lot of button-pushing, and artistic use of the expression and other controls. Tom accomplishes all this with great economy of motion and enormous security in both his keyboard technique and in his use of the instrument.

My wife and I have known Tom since he won the AGO young organist national competition years ago. I well remember at the 1972 Dallas National AGO Convention when Tom and Judy and I together enjoyed a Texas barbecue on a huge real working Texas ranch as part of the convention festivities. Just the three of us were at a picnic table all by ourselves, and Tom was then the same polite, gracious, and witty person that he remains today. What a joy and inspiration he must be for all his students at Yale.

This new organ is an instrument of 25 voices and 31 ranks disposed over 3-manuals and pedal. It conveys a majesty and versatility that belies these resources, especially so in a very acoustically dry room. The organ has a big voluptuous ensemble sound with strength and solidity, but without a scintilla of stridency. The light registra-

tions sparkle with a magic one might not think possible, given aspects of the tonal philosophy of the firm, which will be summarized later.

The white and mahogany drawknob console is handsomely executed. The console sits on a concealed dolly and can be moved to the center of the chancel for concerts. There is no pipe façade. The entire organ is under expression in three chambers – [1] Great and Pedal, [2] Swell, and [3] the double expression box housing high pressure stops (both flue and reed) located behind a second set of shutters within the main organ chamber. The action is Schoenstein's electric-pneumatic (*sic*) coupled with their *expansion cell* windchests with an individual action for each pipe. The keys are by P & S of England; the pedalboard is from OSI; drawknob mechanisms are Harris. An ample number of pistons, toe studs, reversibles and other controls, including a crescendo pedal, are provided.

Space considerations preclude presenting a complete stop list here. The organ is really only a two-division instrument with two independent pedal stops (16' open wood and 8' Principal). The Great Division Principal chorus is complete through a Mixture IV. The secondary Principal chorus on the Swell Division is effective. There are several flutes, two pairs of celestes (string and flute), solo and chorus reeds, aliquots, and five high-pressure stops (all under double expression).

The 16' open wood was not as convincing as your reviewer thought it should be — perhaps several reasons account for this. There is considerable duplexing (especially to the Pedal), an abundance of couplers (unison, sub, and super), extensions, and some unification. The voicing and tonal finishing are absolutely exquisite. The flexibility of the instrument to serve the musical requirements of the church and the literature is remarkable. The Great Harmonic Flute is especially wonderful, retaining its beauty and power all the way to the top of the compass – the treble ascendant voicing is obvious and highly successful. The 3rd manual serves as a Solo Division with solo and chorus stops from the Great and Swell duplexed to form this Division. The arrangement

provides significant performance flexibility. Of local interest, David A. J. Broome of Windsor Locks, CT, personally voiced all the reeds for this organ.

This Schoenstein organ is the firm's first organ in New England. But in June 2005 installation of a new Schoenstein of 67 stops and 51 ranks will begin in historic Christ Church Episcopal in Harvard Square, Cambridge. This organ will replace a 1940 4-manual Aeolian-Skinner. Director of Music and Organist Stuart Forster told me that the organ will be ready for use in the Fall of 2005. Designed so far as a 3-manual instrument, the church is considering adding a 4th manual to duplex some stops "for convenience and flexibility". Stuart said "the main reasons the church selected Schoenstein were: [1] their exceedingly high quality of workmanship, materials, voicing and reputation; [2] their unbeatable success in creating musical instruments in chambers with poor acoustics in the church itself; and [3] the double expression [which] increases the expressive and coloristic powers of the organ enormously". "Everyone we asked about working with Schoenstein couldn't rave enough about the pleasure of dealing with the entire staff".

Schoenstein was a small very old San Francisco firm that specialized in pipe organ maintenance and rebuilding, but also built, on average, one modest-sized new organ every 18 months or so. It's business was limited essentially to California, although I personally recall it did maintenance work in Hawaii, and built a few organs in the Pacific Northwest. Founded in 1877, it is the oldest continuously operating organ company in North America. During its first 100 years, it built 69 new organs, and rebuilt 129 organs, in addition to its maintenance and service business. Founded by Felix Schoenstein, his son Louis then managed the company for 64 years, retiring in 1962. Louis' younger brothers, Otto and Erwin, continued family management of the firm. Otto died in 1969, and so, after bringing this family firm to 100 years in 1977, Erwin sold it in that same year to Jack M. Bethards of San Francisco.

Bethards is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley where he wrote his Master's Thesis on the pipe organ industry. He is a musician (player and conductor) and a businessman. Formerly with Procter & Gamble, he also worked for Booz-Allen & Hamilton, the nation's largest management consulting firm. He is a professional pipe organ technician, and was trained through installation and service by a major national organ builder. He has written widely on the organ, collaborated with experts and scholars on research in acoustics and on the organ, and lectures.

cont'd on p. 7

For those who find great value in this newsletter from the announcement of coming events, the following musical programs, conveniently located up and down the Valley, are well worth emphasizing for attendance and support.

Sunday, May 16, 2004, 4:00 PM, Christ Church Cathedral, on the Quadrangle at Chestnut & State Streets, Springfield, Mass.: **CHORAL FESTIVAL** with Bruce McInnes, Conductor; Peter Beardsley, Organist; New England Brass Quartet, plus Timpani; and a Chorus of 150 voices drawn from area churches. This major choral concert will feature a variety of Psalm settings prepared by members of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists; a free-will offering will be taken to augment the Lawrence Buddington Fund, which supports the Organ Academy scholarship program of this Chapter. Please plan to support this event and enjoy the spectacular choral concert by your colleagues, under the baton of Bruce McInnes, as Bruce prepares to depart our Valley and Chapter for retirement on Cape Cod.

Saturday, May 22, 2004, 7:30 PM, Second Congregational Church, Court Square, Greenfield, Mass.: **ORGAN RECITAL** by William Phelps Rugg on the M. P. Möller organ. Including works by Langlais, Messaien, and Dupré, the recital carries the theme of "Christian Faith in French Organ Mu-

UPCOMING ORGAN ACTIVITIES

sic". Ticket donations will benefit the Church's Organ Maintenance Fund. Now retired to Arizona, Bill Rugg was for many years the Organist at Second Congregational Church, Greenfield, and oversaw personally the rebuilding of the Möller organ into its present design in 1962. He was also a long-standing member of the Springfield Chapter, AGO. It is a pleasure to welcome Mr. Rugg back to his hometown for this special event.

Sunday, May 23, 2004, 4:00 PM, Basilica of St. Stanislaus, Front Street, Chicopee, Mass.: **ORGAN RECITAL** by Allan F. Taylor III on the 3-manual pipe organ most recently renovated tonally and mechanically by him. This will be Allan's first full solo organ recital in a number of years, and the first time that Allan has performed on an instrument that he has rebuilt. We are all more familiar with his consummate talent as the choral conductor for Novi Cantori, and as Organist - Director at the First Congregational Church in Westfield. This recital is an excellent opportunity to enjoy again Allan's technical skills at the keyboard, and to judge his work behind the façades, as well! The generous acoustics of the Basilica will augment the sonic pleasures of this

afternoon's program. Let's support our colleague with attendance at this special performance, as we congratulate the Basilica Parish on their investment in the mighty pipe organ.

Monday, June 7, 2004, 6:00 PM, University Club, Stockbridge Road, Amherst, Mass.: **ANNUAL BANQUET @ MEETING** of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists. This event on the flagship campus of the University of Massachusetts will display some of the facilities of the Department of Music & Dance and will include demonstration performances on piano and organ by some of the several, very-talented students in the Department who serve also as Organists and Choir Directors in western Massachusetts. Let us come out in force to meet and support these young colleagues who are also AGO members in Springfield and Berkshire. Read the full description of this meeting elsewhere in this newsletter, and return your dinner reservation promptly, please!



Recent Organ Activities

The last two weeks have brought a flurry of attention to important pipe organs in the Pioneer Valley, and our AGO Chapter, as well as the public, has supported all these events.

On Saturday evening, April 24th, Robert Barney (Director of Music, Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord, Mass.) played a recital upon the 1874 Johnson & Son organ in Wesley United Methodist Church, Warehouse Point (East Windsor), Connecticut, in celebration of the presentation at that time of a citation from the Organ Historical Society, designating the worthiness of preservation and protection of this instrument. The Johnson organ, while appearing as new work (#424) on the Opus List of the firm, actually retains the chassis, wind-chests, and much pipework from a ca. 1830, G-compass, New-York-built instrument, most probably of Erben manufacture. This organ received a thorough restoration to strict historical

standards by S. L. Huntington & Co. of Stonington, Connecticut during 2000-2001. Mark Brombaugh of Yale University was the Consultant for that project, and Robert Barney assisted Scot Huntington in the tonal finishing of the organ. Volunteers from the congregation, under professional supervision, replicated the colorful stenciling on the façade pipes. The result of the Church's investment in their pipe organ is a durable and reliable musical instrument, of great historic value, with sweet and viable tonal qualities to support hymn singing and the organ literature, and to serve the glory of God in worship. The citation plaque was presented by Scot Huntington, who also serves currently as the Vice President of the Organ Historical Society, and was received on behalf of the Church by Christopher King, their Organist and Choir Director. Thus, this organ, so carefully renewed, has a long and secure future ahead in serving this Church.

On Sunday morning, April 25th, the First Church of Deerfield dedicated during the regular worship service their new Opus 13 of Richards, Fowkes & Co., Ooltewah, Tennessee, the progress of which instrument has been followed so closely by this Chapter and its members. The music for morning worship was prepared and led by Thomas T. Pousont, Organist and Director of Music Ministries at First Church, and was augmented by a string quartet. Tom's work was highly praised that afternoon, which was a proud compliment to our young and successful Chapter member in this enviable position.

At 3:00 o'clock that same afternoon, a formal inaugural recital for the Richards-Fowkes organ was presented by William Porter, Professor of Harpsichord and Organ Improvisation at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, and also at Yale University.

continues next page (p. 5)

This interesting recital brought forth innumerable, imaginative colors from the resources of the organ, and featured improvisatory works and more historically-based interpretations of the Bach works, which are the hallmarks of Prof. Porter's research and teaching. The Church should be very gratified by the 120 people in attendance, including about 20 members of this AGO Chapter. Some luminaries from the Organ World, who were notable by their attendance, included Bruce Fowkes, Mark Brombaugh, A. David Moore, Meg Irwin-Brandon, and William Baker. With the cooperation of Deerfield Academy, with the ever-present hard work of Wayne and Jean Turner, and with the generosity of other donors, the recital event was followed by an elegant reception in the Academy's Memorial Hall. The festivities of this entire day were a fitting celebration of the serious study, commitment, and investment which this Church has made for its musical future. Another round of congratulations to our friends in Deerfield!

On Friday, April 30th, AGO National President Fred Swann performed a celebratory evening recital for the 75th Anniversary of the *née-Casavant* organ in the Roman Catholic Cathedral Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Springfield, Mass. This monumental instrument, which actually stands behind the Hook casework original to the building, is based upon the 1929 installation of a four-manual, seven-division organ (Opus 1323) from the shops of Casavant Frères, Limitée, St-Hyacinthe, Québec, and which Claver Casavant supervised personally. Much altered during the last four decades, first by the Berkshire Organ Co., and then largely reconstituted by Theodore Gilbert and Associates, the most recent revisions have been made by the American Classic Organ Co., Ltd., of Chester, Connecticut. Partners Richard G. Taylor and Michael B. Fazio declared their aspirations to the original Casavant qualities in their reworkings, in collaboration with the musical advice of Cathedral Organist and Director of Music, Ladislav J. Pfeifer. In this year, the Casavant firm is celebrating its 125th anniversary, and the American Classic firm is celebrating its 15th year in business. Congratulations on all these accounts were exchanged; and, the Casavant firm was present through its New England Representative, Richard Knapp and his wife Demi, of West Simsbury, Connecticut.

Fred Swann needs no introduction to readers here, but certainly earned accolades for his performance Friday evening. Handling this large instrument deftly, bringing out a wide variety of power, colors, and tonal variations, plus a demonstration of the percussion accessories during the encore, and introduc-

ing each piece with accessible verbal program notes, all kept the audience attentive to and appreciative of every piece of the repertoire. Particularly interesting, well presented, and educational were Fred Swann's renditions of the Rheinberger "Introduction and Passacaglia" from Opus 132, and Sir C. Hubert Hastings Parry's "Fantasia and Fugue in G", for some at least, the most valuable highlights of the program. Ever the gentleman but typically low-key, Fred Swann's professional presence in Springfield was a credit to the Cathedral's attention to high musical standards, to the hard work of its Musical Director, Lad Pfeifer, and to that of his colleague in the Office of Worship, Christine Sylvain, among others. Likewise, this important anniversary recital was blessed by the visible and accessible presence of the new Bishop, the Most Reverend Timothy A. McDonnell; the Vicar General, Monsignor Richard S. Sniezyk; and the Chancellor, Reverend Daniel P. Liston, among numerous other clergy from the Cathedral and Diocese.

Further credit to Lad Pfeifer's hard work, and successful publicity, was the stunning crowd of nearly 800 people in attendance for this recital (don't believe the under-stated newspaper report). This crowd was a diverse and very appreciative group (providing a standing ovation), including a *large number* (thank you very much!) of AGO members from this Chapter, and others from the Worcester, Hartford, and Berkshire Chapters. The weather was beautiful for the recital, and the large crowd remained comfortable in the Cathedral space, as the breezes of a spring evening wafted through (thus challenging the tuning qualities of the organ, however). There was great support by parishioners throughout western Massachusetts, who came to enjoy the good music and to celebrate this landmark instrument of their Diocese, which is, in fact, the largest pipe organ between Worcester and Albany. In opening remarks, Lad Pfeifer recited the history and evolution of this organ, acknowledging prior rebuilders, and also credited this Chapter of the AGO for our contribution of the wine-and-cheese reception in the Bishop Marshall Center following Fred Swann's performance.

We Chapter members owe a large debt of gratitude to Charles Page for arranging with Lad our most appropriate participation in this celebration and recital, and for contracting the complete and personal services of Diane Little (of Old First Church, Springfield) to present the reception; also, to Don Hooton who assisted Diane in all the preparations and clean-up in the Hall, to Lary Grossman who helped to arrange access with Lad Pfeifer and Christine Sylvain, and to Chapter members Gary Smith, Christo-

pher Thornley, Lori Bourret and her husband, and visitor Malcolm Bosma (AGO Los Angeles), among others, who rose spontaneously to assist by serving wine and our hospitality at the reception. It was most gratifying for this Chapter to be part of such a large, festive, and well-supported recital and celebration as this. Our congratulations to the Cathedral Parish of St. Michael the Archangel, Springfield!

It will serve this Chapter well to enter such collaborations and to support our membership mutually in the future, at events similar to all of these recent celebrations. It is the hope of your Dean that our members will come forward to discuss and coordinate their planning of recitals and celebrations with the AGO. This Chapter exists to serve its members mutually and equally with education, assistance, and professional support. Read elsewhere in this newsletter about the next such celebration, as Allan F. Taylor III will play a recital at St. Stanislaus Basilica in Chicopee on May 23, 2004.

Dean's Message

cont'd from p. 2

ballot. It will only take a few moments, but every vote makes a real difference. Please vote today both in this Chapter and nationally!

And lastly, another reminder that the Worcester Chapter AGO will present a **POE** (that's for high-school-aged students) from July 19 to 23, 2004, at Assumption College. At last report, enrollment was high for this opportunity. The Worcester Chapter had been seeking support, both financially and for personnel for the week, so opportunities to help out, and to encourage the musical youth, may still remain. If you have an interest in this event at any level (recommending a student to attend, wishing to monitor the program, or offering financial or personal support), contact the Dean, or the Director of the POE event, Dr. Patricia Snyder, directly at the Pakachoag Church, Auburn, Mass. (508) 755-8718 or psnyder@pakachoag.org. These POE events are pivotal programs provided by the AGO to acquaint and encourage young musicians in the study of the pipe organ, which are subsidized generously by the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America and by the American Institute of Organbuilders. Let's offer our active support, as well.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Bill Czelusniak
Dean

AGO ANNUAL BANQUET IN AMHERST

Monday, June 7, 2004 — 6:00 PM

Cocktails @ Dinner at the University Club — A Visit to the Fine Arts Center

A Brief Business Meeting — Musical Demonstrations Included

Please plan *now* to join together for our annual meeting on Monday, June 7th, 2004, on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Allen Langord has arranged for the gustatory portion of our gathering to be hosted at the University Club on Stockbridge Road in the campus; parking will be free, safe, and close by in Lot 62, opposite the Fine Arts Center on North Pleasant Street. (More specific directions follow below.) The Faculty Club was established in 1935 in the Stockbridge House, the oldest house in Amherst, which dates back to 1728 and which still retains the charm and ambience of an old colonial home. Now called The University Club, it is gray, located about two buildings beyond Lot 62, with a sign in front (which may still read "Faculty Club").

We will convene around 6:00 PM for a social hour with cash bar; dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. (Make your selections on the reservation form following.) The Chapter will have as its guests two UMass students who are AGO members and church musicians. Undergraduate Matt Alcombright of Adams is a piano student who is also the Organist and Choir Director at the Sacred Heart of Jesus R.C. Church in Easthampton, and a new member of our Chapter. Graduate piano student Scott Bailey, of North Adams, is the Organist and Music Director at the First Congregational Church in his hometown. Scott's career in church music has been advanced by the scholarship program of the Berkshire Chapter AGO, of which he is a member. These men will play for us later in the evening. We hope that other young members of our Chapter will also attend this meeting and consider the musical resources of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

After dinner, we will walk across North Pleasant Street to Bezanson Recital Hall in the Fine Arts Center, where Chris Thornley will provide a verbal tour of recent renovations to this hall, which he oversaw from his position in the Music Department. We will have a brief business meeting of the Chapter, while comfortably seated in this room, to receive the reports of the Officers from the activities of the season ending, to receive the results of Elections, to receive the program schedule for the coming season, and to hear the objectives of the Dean for our Chapter. This

will be an informative and encouraging meeting, *important for all to attend!*

Following the meeting, we will proceed down several flights of stairs to Room 36 in the Fine Arts Center. In 1997, the large Oberlinger concert organ that was housed in this Room was packed into storage (where it remains) to facilitate building renovations. Since then, the mid-sized Oberlinger tracker organ has been relocated from Bezanson Recital Hall into Room 36 (where it remains), in order to facilitate the renovations upstairs. Bill Czelusniak will recount skeletally the history of these organs, and our guests will demonstrate the organ and the pianos in these respective rooms of the Music Department. The evening can conclude with personal socializing.

*Please complete the Annual Banquet reservation form included in the Chiff Chat, giving your entrée choices, and return it promptly with your payment to Allen Langord at his home address shown. All checks should be made payable to the Springfield Chapter, AGO. The University Club requires some advance notice for meal preparation, so **it is necessary to have all reservations postmarked by Saturday, May 15th**. Similarly and unfortunately, it will not be possible to issue refunds, if your plans change later; all reservations are final.*

NOTE: Please be aware that some amount of walking will be necessary to access the venues of this meeting schedule. The distances are not great, but may be an issue if infirmities are involved. Unfortunately, no elevator is readily available between Bezanson Recital Hall and Room 36; several flights of stairs are required. We hope that these conditions will not prevent anyone from attending.

JOB LISTINGS

Children/Youth Choir Director (pre-k-12th grade)

First Church of Christ Congregational
81 High Street, Suffield, CT 06078

Description: 8-10 hours/week
September - June

Contact: Deb Banks McIntosh
860-668-7223

Organist/Choir Director

Hope United Methodist Church
31 Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007

Description: 12-15 hours per week
1 Adult choir (21 members)
1 service (10:00 AM), 1 rehearsal (Thursday - 6:30-8:00 PM); 2 manual Rodgers organ; Choir does not sing during July and August

Salary: \$8684 per year
4 weeks vacation

Contact:

Rev. Bruce Arbour (413) 323-7584
Email - Bruce523@juno.com

Organist/Choir Director

Christ United Methodist Church
271 Rocky Hill Road, PO Box 701
Northampton, MA 01061

Description: 1 Adult Choir;
Children's Choir to be developed; organ unknown

Salary: \$8,000.00, 4 weeks vacation

Contact: Rev. Peter Hey 413-584-5935

Organist/Choir Director

First Congregational Church
43 Silver St., Greenfield, MA

Description: Adult Choir, Youth Choir
BM/BA preferred. After 6 months 1 week vacation and 1 week sick leave

2 manual Estey Pipe Organ
Salary: \$12,000 (negotiable)

Starting date: June 2004

Contact: Ruby Agnir 413-774-7032

continues next page (p. 7)

Since becoming owner of Schoenstein he has totally transformed the company. All instruments clearly embody his personal ideas and convictions about organ building. Under his leadership over the past 27 years, new Schoenstein organs now have been installed all over the United States (and even Canada). He has developed and implemented his tonal and other concepts into instruments he terms the "American Romantic Organ". He at times refers to certain of his instruments as Symphonic Organs. His organs have been as small as six ranks, and the largest to date is a 5-manual organ of 130 ranks installed in the Conference Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Salt Lake City. Another very large instrument, called then in 2001 his *Magnum Opus*, is installed in the First-Plymouth Congregation Church of Lincoln, Nebraska. Several Dallas churches have recently installed Schoenstein Organs. And magnificent new Schoenstein organs have been installed in Atlanta and Washington, DC.

In 1984 he was commissioned to evaluate the famous Mormon Tabernacle organ (Aeolian-Skinner 1948-49) and in 1985 was awarded the contract to totally renovate and provide additions to this now 206 rank organ. According to the Tabernacle organists, Jack Bethards "polished the tonal regulation, less thoroughly finished by Aeolian-Skinner than was typical, [which] refined the organ's sound and capitalized on Schoenstein's

strengths in meticulous tonal finishing." Several years later, the Mormon Church awarded Schoenstein a contract to build an organ for the world's largest theater auditorium, the church's new Conference Center. This was a monumental task, given that the Center, with very dry acoustics, seats over 21,000 people. Smaller only than the Atlantic City Convention Hall (40,000 seats), one can gain a sense of the size when compared to London's Royal Albert Hall (6,080 seats), The Mormon Tabernacle (6,500 seats), and Myerson Hall in Dallas (2170 seats).

Continuing manufacturing from the building constructed in 1928 at Alabama and 20th Streets in San Francisco as an organ factory of 3 stories with offices, lofts, and a studio, he recently has built new expanded facilities in Benicia, CA, 35 miles northeast of San Francisco. Jack told me it even sports a 42-foot high erecting room! The original factory was designated San Francisco Historic Landmark No. 99 in 1983, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bethards believes ten key parameters are required to achieve majesty and versatility in pipe organs. These are incorporated in his organs and draw upon the Romantic traditions of Europe and America using tonal colors from each. He approaches the organ as a wind instrument, not a keyboard instrument, and has written convincingly about this in the past. These are the design elements:

- 1 – Wide variety of tonal colors particularly at 8' and 4' pitches;
- 2 – Vivid differentiation of voices. Jack calls this "committed voicing";
- 3 – Renewed emphasis on tonal colors unique to the Romantic organ;
- 4 – Treble ascendant voicing;
- 5 – Absence of chuff (absolutely prompt, clear speech, but avoidance of pronounced attack);
- 6 – Solid pedal bass;
- 7 – Uppercord subservient to the foundation;
- 8 – Equally balanced manual Divisions and multiple expression;
- 9 – Effective expression (exceedingly tight boxes, tight closed shades, and double expression);
- 10 – Smooth crescendo (no jarring dynamic or color steps).

The company developed a windchest with an individual action for each pipe to assure "lightening fast action". Absolutely steady wind is guaranteed by using an unusually large number of wind pressure regulators. Sometimes additional systems and tonal resources are employed: examples include triple expression, new tones (new inventions by Bethards) and variable tremulants (adjustable from the console).

In closing, your reviewer urges you to visit this new organ in Connecticut, and when in Washington or Atlanta, visit the organs in St. Paul's Parish (Anglican) and Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, respectively. And don't forget the new organ in Cambridge next year.

Finally, your reviewer directs you to a lengthy (692 pages!) book written by Louis Schoenstein and published in 1977 by Cue Publications of San Francisco entitled *Memoirs of a San Francisco Organ Builder*. The Library of Congress Catalog Number is 77-99221. Now out of print, try the OHS or contact the publisher to see if copies remain. It is noteworthy that this firm even built residence organs for some of the wealthiest San Francisco citizens who were among the giants of industry in their day in the early 1900's. Examples include organs for the residences of Mark Hopkins and Leland Stanford. The great San Francisco fire of 1906 destroyed many pipe organs, providing a windfall for organ builders. All were replaced – some with Schoenstein organs.

Organist/Choir Director

Agawam Congregational Church
745 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001
Description: Adult Choir, Praise Band, 14 hours weekly. Emmons Howard organ - rebuilt 2001 with midi. B.M. or B.A (choir master equivalent) required
Salary: \$12,000 - negotiable
Contact: Donna Tapply 786-1413

Organist/Director of Music Ministries

Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main St., Worcester, MA 01608
Description: full time (40 hours) position includes Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, Handbell Choir, and Concert Series. B.M. or B.A. required
Salary: \$37,00-45,000 (based on AGO guidelines); 2-4 weeks vacation, retirement plan, health plan, and continuing education funds available. Organ is a 1925 E.M. Skinner, 73 ranks in good condition.
Available: July 1, 2004
Contact: send resume to Brent Drajask, Chairman of Search Committee at the church address.

Accompanist

The South Hadley Choral is seeking an accompanist for the 85-voice group. Season runs from January-March, culminating in a mid-March concert with orchestra. Rehearsals are Wednesday night from 7-9pm.
Salary: negotiable
Contact: Bobbie Ayers, 533-3833

Director of Music/Organist

Bedford Presbyterian Church, 4 Church Rd., Bedford, NH 03110
Description: Conduct Adult and Youth Choirs, supervise volunteer directors for Children's Choirs and Handbell Choirs. Bachelor's degree in organ or sacred music required. George Hutchings/Andover tracker organ, 12 ranks (1883), Two manual 41-stop Allen digital organ (1989). 30 hours of work weekly.
Available: immediately
Salary: negotiable
Contact: Director of Music Search Committee at above address or E-mail: musicministry@bpcnh.org

Organist/Choir Director

Congregational Church of South Hadley Falls, 11 North Main St., South Hadley, MA 01075
1 adult choir, B.M or B.A. required.
14 hours weekly work. 1984 Rodgers
Salary: \$8500, negotiable
Contact: Laurie Novak 413-736-2919 or Rebecca Weibel 413-593-0162

American Guild of Organists
Springfield, Mass. Chapter

Michael Dulac — Newsletter Editor
41 Riverview St.
Springfield, MA 01108-1634

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR

To have your event included, please send it (preferably by e-mail) to:
m.dulac@verizon.net

May 16

4:00PM (Please note corrected time!)

Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral,
Springfield

Featuring several area choirs under the direction of Bruce McInnes. (see. p. 1 article)

May 22

7:30 pm

Second Congregational Church, Court Square, Greenfield

"The Christian faith in French Organ Music" presented by William Phelps Rugg includes works of Langlais, Messiaen, and Dupré and benefits the church organ maintenance fund. Ticket donations are \$12/\$10/\$8 students, available at World Eye Bookshop, 156 Main St., Greenfield (413-772-2186) or at Second Congregational Church office by calling 413-774-4355.

May 23

4:00 PM

St. Stanislaus Basilica, Chicopee
Organ recital, Allan Taylor, featuring Bach, Handel, Vierne, Dupré.

May 30

4:00PM

Immaculate Conception R.C. Church, Adams St., Easthampton
Schola Nova concert featuring Rheinberger, Trinity Mass, op. 117, works by Latin American composers, and music by Thompson, Gibbons, Palestrina, Neswick, others.

7:00PM

St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Rt 5, Longmeadow
Music at St Andrew's presents John Anderson, organ recital. Strawberry reception to follow. Free admission.

June 7

6:00PM

Faculty Club, UMass, Amherst
In addition to dinner, there will be a tour of the "new" Bezanon Recital Hall, and a visit to the Oberlinger pipe organ in room 36 of the UMass Fine Arts Center.

June 13

7:30PM

St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Howard St., Springfield
Schola Nova concert featuring Rheinberger, Trinity Mass, op. 117, works by Latin American composers, and music by Thompson, Gibbons, Palestrina, Neswick, others. Free-will offering to benefit the organ fund.

AGO ANNUAL BANQUET IN AMHERST

Monday, June 7, 2004 — 6:00 PM Cash Bar Social

*Cocktails & Dinner at the University Club, Stockbridge Road,
University of Massachusetts at Amherst*

RESERVATION FORM

Please select an entrée from the following offerings, and indicate your choice next to your name below:

Boneless Breast of **Chicken** baked in an Orange-Ginger glaze

Lemon-Herb breadcrumb stuffing in **Scrod** baked in white wine and butter

Chef's Choice of **Vegetarian** Entrée

All dinners will be served with a House Tossed Salad with dressing, fresh-baked rolls & sweet breads, a vegetable du jour, potato or rice, dessert, and coffee or tea.

All dinner reservations are \$25.00 per person; no refunds are possible

Please make your check payable to the

Springfield, Mass. Chapter, American Guild of Organists

and mail to:

Allen Langord, 31 River Drive, Hadley, MA 01035-9531

by Saturday, May 15, 2004

Name Telephone E-Mail Entrée Choice

Name Telephone E-Mail Entrée Choice

Name Telephone E-Mail Entrée Choice

Total Reservations = _____ x \$25.00 each = _____ Total enclosed