

CHIEF CHAT

The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists



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Chiff Chat is published September through June. Closing dates are the 15th of the preceding month for Articles and Calendar/News Items, respectively. Please send material electronically, if possible, to: mdulac@crocker.com. Our website is: www.springfieldago.org.

*You are Invited to
Springfield Chapter's*

Opening Get-Together

*at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon,
September 26, 2004*

hosted by the board at the home of

CHARLES PAGE

*ONE BRIDGES ROAD on Shaker Pines Lake
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT*

Refreshments will be served

NO RESERVATION REQUIRED!

If you have questions or need directions,
call Charles at church, 413-737-1411, or at home, 860-749-7829, or call
Barbara Huber at 413-525-6142.

This will be a casual affair with an informal
Installation of the 2004-2005 Board.

*Come, rain or shine, to this opening event
(if you can, please bring a lawn chair);
enjoy renewing old friendship and making new ones.*

We hope to see you there!

Dean's Message – September 2004

Well, another summer has flown by; September is here; and, we will all be back in the thick of work by the time that you read this message. Perhaps like many of you, I was able to realize only a fraction of my personal goals and objectives for the summer months; but, a great deal of work was accomplished nonetheless, and most of my time was spent not far from pipe organs and from our collective artistry. So, there are some new thoughts and directions to share with you this season.

One highlight of the summer's accomplishments was for Lary Grossman and me to spend one day with the Worcester AGO's Pipe Organ Encounter, to see how the three students sponsored by this Chapter were doing, and to take in firsthand the excitement of all these youngsters as they became more acquainted with the pipe organ, its construction, playing techniques, and the general musical results of all that effort. It was very heartening to witness more than thirty youths interacting socially and enthusiastically with their peers, with new friends, with dedicated faculty, and in the exploration of diverse pipe organs. Not every one of these students will blossom into a church or concert organist, but *some will*; and there are other positive examples already of the nurturing of passions for the pipe organ that occurred during their week in Worcester.

Somewhat conversely, the National Council of the American Guild of Organists has taken steps to promote "digital inclusiveness" in programming and publicity, as some response to issues of membership retention in this organization. (For the full and proper explanation, read carefully "The American Organist", August 2004, page 73.) Amongst churches within Massachusetts, I can report (a.) that issues specifically of diverse musical demands in blended worship have sent incumbent musicians into another round of musical chairs, and (b.) that more than one mainstream church has reconfigured its sanctuary to function also as a formal performance space, so that concerts, coffeehouses, and plays will bring more people into the church (hoping of course for "into the Church"). My corporate work for the Boston Symphony Orchestra this summer included attention to

two concerts at Tanglewood that specified electronic organs, not that the available pipe organs weren't reliable, but just because the contemporary repertoire programmed scored that electronic tone. Thus, the blend and the blur in and between our vocations and avocations, our popular and our religious cultures, and our artistic and our temporal ideals and drives are becoming more strenuous and challenging with each passing year.

The more that our society progresses toward the instantaneous, the ephemeral, and all the amazing electronic accessories and conveniences of our existence, the greater the personal challenge to any artist, musician, or craftsman who remains dedicated to working toward a perceived higher ideal. The

more that any one of us may choose that monastic path toward the higher ideal, the smaller our audience may become. One year ago, I wrote in this space, "Where are we going?" I guess I'm asking the same question, in different words, now. I remain convinced personally that we should work hard for that in which we believe. The higher ideals will survive another generation – and longer – through dedicated personal commitment.

Therefore, I suggest to you, our Chapter members, that we are gathered together in the AGO through our committed interest in the pipe organ, and its music, and in sacred choral works, all executed to the highest ideals, and all promoted and propagated to future generations. Despite the challenges of contemporary style and interests, the AGO at the local level remains the most efficient and effective gathering of people, information, and resources for the sharing of publicity, support, and education in our common field and interrelated artistry. The more active our Chapter, the more stimulating and productive the environment. Thus, the AGO can have a very positive effect on our cultural community, and upon the younger generations, if we are active, if we work

hard, and if we cooperate to achieve these goals.

The Chapter's Program Committee has worked hard to prepare an attractive schedule for this year, which is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Please avail yourselves of these events. Good attendance is good work for the Chapter. If you wish to do more, the Board needs help making each of these events come off smoothly and successfully; there is still room for more volunteering!

The opening event of our Chapter will be largely social, at the beautiful lakeside home of Charles Page in Enfield, Connecticut, on Sunday, September 26th. This gathering will include the Installation of Officers, and the introduction of the new Chaplain for this Chapter, Rev. William H. Wallis, Administrator of Immaculate Conception R. C. Parish in Easthampton, where our Sub-Dean is the chief musician. Also, the three young students that this Chapter sponsored at the POE are invited to attend, that they may describe for us briefly their experiences and the highlights and benefits of that week in Worcester. I hope that most of you will attend our Chapter's opening event, so that we might be reacquainted and rallied for the coming season. Support and encourage the youngsters with your presence, too. See you there!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Bill Czelusniak
Dean

Worcester POE



On Wednesday, July 21, 2004, Bill Czelusniak and I spent the day with the Pipe Organ Encounter class in Worcester. As you recall, The Springfield Chapter had sponsored three students for this week long class, and they joined thirty other young people who gathered from all over the United States (and even one Russian student) for a week of private lessons, recitals, trips, food, and fun.

This was the most wonderful day I have spent in a long time! We started at Trinity Lutheran/Worcester where Ken

Grinnell was finishing a seminar on hymn playing. Then after a boxed lunch, we all went to Mechanics Hall where the 4-manual Hook was demonstrated and we explored the Hall. Then back on the bus to Gloucester for three hours at the Fisk Organ Company. This was unbelievable! They made a 2-manual organ for an Episcopal Church in Chicago erected for testing and not only could we crawl all over it, but the students were allowed to play it as they wanted. The kids got divided into two groups and while one was taking the 1-hour tour, the other group had open console (and open chambers!). Then they switched. After all that, we had a picnic dinner in the large employees' lounge and balcony and eventually got back on the bus for Methuen. The people there reserved the first six rows for our special students and we had Michael Murray (middle initial "S.") give us nearly two hours of great playing on that monster. All kinds of special attention was focused on this unique group of young people including introductions, souvenirs, and allow them free run of the stage and organ console during the extended intermission.

Bill and I spoke to many of the faculty and students, and everybody was having a blast. It was so heartwarming to be part of something like this, and to know that AGO/Springfield sent three students. I wish we could have sponsored more! I even made inquiries to our Regional Councilor, Lois Toepfner, about our Chapter hosting a Pipe Organ Encounter in the near future.

by E Lary Grossman
Sub Dean

Instrument For Sale

Available Immediately! Saville Sovereign 9923 Custom Electronic Organ, 2 manuals and pedal. Stops: Great, 12; Swell, 16; Pedal, 12. Purchased new in 2001 by Trinity Church, Lenox, MA for \$31,500, and used for two years in the 300-seat sanctuary while their pipe organ was being restored. The organ was designed and voiced by Graham Blyth, and installed by DenTronics, Ltd. of Somerville, NJ, who are available to provide service if you wish. Included are the console, bench, amplifiers, four speakers including subwoofer, and connecting cables. This is a handsome looking, fully professional instrument in excellent condition, capable of filling a medium size building with beautiful sound. Come play it yourself!

Asking: \$19,000

For additional details or to schedule a demo, please contact: Spike Dana, (413) 637-0451, SpikeDana@adelphia.net

JOB LISTINGS

Baritone/Bass Vocalist/Section Leader

Cathedral of St. Michael, State St.,
Springfield
Description: Rehearsal: Thursdays 7:00-9:00 PM
Salary: Competitive
Contact: Ladislav Pfeifer 413-452-0839

Organist/Choir Director

St. Mary's R. C. Church, 519
Longmeadow St., Longmeadow, MA
Description: Adult Choir, Children's Choir to be developed, oversee 6 cantors. Minimal experience and education required. 15-20 hours weekly (weddings & funerals extra)
Saturday Masses: 4:00 and 5:30 PM
Sunday Masses: 9:00, 10:15, 11:30 AM
Gilbert/Southfield Organ - 29 ranks, excellent condition
Salary: \$25,000
2 weeks vacation
Contact: Father Reilly at 413-567-3124

Organist/Choir Director

Congregational Church of South Hadley Falls, 11 North Main St., South Hadley, MA 01075
Description: 1 Adult Choir, BM or BA required, 14 hours per week. Organ: 1984 Rodgers
Salary: \$8500
Contact: Laurie Novak 413-736-2919

Organist/Choir Director

Faith United Parish, 820 Main Street,
Fitchburg, MA 01420
Description: Available immediately, minimal education and experience required. Austin Organ (3 manual, 27 ranks)
Salary: \$8000-10,000, 5 weeks vacation
Contact: Rev. Patricia Hough
978-343-3307 or 978-342-4856
e-mail: fup@net1plus.com

Organist/Choir Director

South Church, Pittsfield, MA
Description: Adult Choir (14 members), Church School Choir, Handbell Choir. Organ: 3-manual Estey, rebuilt by BERKSHIRE in the 1970's. Two Steinway pianos in good condition — 1 in church, 1 in choir room. Music budget and Special Music Fund for hiring instrumentalists and to support special projects.
Contact: Rev. Joel Huntington
(413)442-7537

To list a position if the *Chiff Chat*, please contact Becky Isaacson either by phone at (413) 734-1623 or e-mail her: beckyisaacson@aol.com

CALENDAR

A quick note about the chapter calendar for 2004-2005:

Springfield AGO Chapter events are enclosed within a colored box. They are included among YOUR calendar items. In addition, chapter events are on the website with links as appropriate to the venue, performer, etc. In some cases, the venue may even have directions available on their website.

I do my best to keep everything updated, but if you find a discrepancy, please let me know so that it may be corrected. If you wish to have an event listed in the *Chiff Chat*, please e-mail me at mdulac@crocker.com

September 12

7:00pm
St. Joseph's Church, Howard St., Springfield
A recital of organ works based on Gregorian Chant themes, played by organist, Michael Dulac. Music by Demessieux, Near, Rheinberger, Eben, Frescobaldi, and Duruflé. Members of Schola Nova will be on hand to sing the chants of which each work is based. Reception following in church hall.

September 26

3:00pm
home of Charles Page, Shaker Pines Lake, Enfield, CT
Opening Tea and Installation of Officers

October 3

3:00pm
First Congregational Church, Main St., Amherst
Organ recital by Rod Gisick to benefit the church's Steinway restoration fund. Part of the new Music on Main series.
Admission \$10.

**American Guild of Organists
Springfield, Mass. Chapter**

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October 10

2:00pm
United Congregational Church, corner of
Maple & High Sts., Holyoke
Joint recital by Grant Moss and Larry Schipul
on the 1921 E.M. Skinner. Free admission,
reception follows.

October 24

4:00pm
Immaculate Conception Church, Adams St.,
Easthampton
Organist, Allan Taylor, playing music by Bach,
Handel, Franck, Mathias, and Widor.
Admission free.

October 29

TBA
St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton
Young People's Event

November 14

3:00pm
St. Joseph's Church, Hamilton St., Worcester
Lois Toepfner in recital on the church's 1928,
op. 1239 Casavant organ. Program will
include Dan Locklair's, "In Mystery and
Wonder: The Casavant Diptych" played in
honor of the firm's 125th anniversary.
Freewill offering. Reception follows.

November 15

4:00pm
St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton
Dedicatory recital of the new Austin organ (3
man., 39 ranks), featuring Tom Murray.

November 20

9:00am-3:00pm
United Congregational Church, corner of
Maple & High Sts., Holyoke
Mini-Convention

November 21

5:00pm
St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton
University of Massachusetts Orchestra,
Lanfranco Marcelletti, conductor. Program
includes Saint-Saëns, Symphony #3 (Organ
Symphony) and other works for orchestra.

January 14, 2005

6:30pm
home of Carol Spinelli, Longmeadow St.,
Longmeadow
12th Night Party

February 28

7:00pm
St. Michael's Cathedral, State St., Springfield
Anthem Reading Session

April 8

8:00pm
Abbey Chapel, Mount Holyoke College,
South Hadley
Ken Cowan in Recital

April 9

10:00am
Abbey Chapel, Mount Holyoke College,
South Hadley
Masterclass with Ken Cowan

June 3

6:30pm
Storrowton Tavern, Exposition Grounds, West
Springfield
Springfield AGO Chapter Annual Banquet