

CHIFF 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: mike@mdulac-music.com (note new email address). Our website is: www.springfieldago.org.

AGO Annual Banquet
June 3rd
Storrorwton Tavern

There is a space reserved for YOU!

Join your friends and colleagues for the annual chapter get together, this year, at Storrorwton tavern in West Springfield, on the grounds of the Big E.

Details and reservation form on the insert in this newsletter.

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Dean's Message – May 2005

IT'S COMMENCEMENT TIME!

First of all, I am most pleased, proud, and appreciative, on behalf of the Board and Chapter, to thank all those who supported the recital and Masterclass by **Ken Cowan** at Mount Holyoke College in April! Recital attendance was reported to be about 200, with about 25 for the Masterclass the next morning — rewarding settings certainly for the recitalist, and for listeners alike. Thanks in particular to Charles Page for handling Ken's contract details, and to College Organist Larry Schipull for the hospitality and logistical arrangements at Mount Holyoke College. Predictably, Ken Cowan's performance was stunningly wonderful, making complete use of the four-manual Ernest Skinner organ. The Masterclass was successful for the willing participation of Michael-Thomas Gilman, Rod Gisick, and Peter Beardsley, who put their talents on the line for the visiting performer, and for a formidable audience of colleagues. Ken Cowan's attention to these players was described as spirited, intense, and challenging, making for a worthy academic exchange throughout the morning. In addition to being an impressive, if humble, organist, Ken Cowan has proven also to be a most capable teacher, offering support, direction, and stimulation to the Masterclass players, after perceptive and critical listening. The Board and Chapter are most gratified to have this kind of support in the audiences, for the events that we invest in for our collegial benefit. Thank you Ken, and thanks to our membership. Look for more, similar opportunities next season, too!

Speaking of opportunities, this is the last call for names of students qualified for and interested in attending the **POE (Pipe Organ Encounter)** program to be headquartered at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT between July 10 - 15, 2005. Members and teachers should ask their organ or piano students, or young choir members who exhibit some interest in the organ, between the ages of 13 and 18, to commit now, as this Chapter will subsidize a significant portion of several registrations to this event, but applications and financial arrangements are due presently. This program remains an unforced and comfortable experience for youngsters to gain a closer familiarity with the pipe organ, inside and out, and for appropriate and well-chaperoned social opportunities with their peers. Please contact the Sub-Dean promptly with your recommendations.

Our Treasurer Peter Beardsley has distributed already **membership renewal forms**, and new member applications, for next season. Please act promptly to renew your membership in this AGO Chapter, as your presence and participation is vital to the caliber and success of the events that we work to provide for each other. Furthermore, there remains a great deal of opportunity to grow this Chapter larger, and commensurately more active and effective. Please make use of those yellow, new-member forms by inviting a friend or musical colleague to join us. The renewal mailing also included pink survey forms that are very important to mark up and return, according to your own, honest evaluation of Chapter activities and functions. Please take the time to complete these survey forms, so that the Board and Officers can consider the candid input of our membership, to do a better job in future seasons to provide attractive and effective programming. Thank you!

The Nominating Committee has worked very hard to assemble a slate of willing candidates, so the **Chapter Election** papers now will be mailed imminently to all qualified voting members of the Springfield Chapter. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read biographical sketches of those members newly running for election. It is very important that you vote for the leadership of this Chapter; please complete your ballot and return it promptly, according to the instructions provided. Elections will be concluded by May 31, 2005; the results will be announced at the Annual Banquet, and then published in the June Chiff-Chat.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will read a more formal report of the departure, soon, of **Michael Dulac** and wife Cathy Waldron from this area and Chapter. We all heartily congratulate Michael on his recent appointment as Music Director of the Cathedral and Diocese of Lansing, Michigan, to begin early in July. As is so often the case, Michael's departure will be a bittersweet one! ... good for him; bad for us. The Board and Nominating Committee have had to scramble to fill Michael's position as Newsletter Editor, but Mike Dulac's contributions did not stop there. It looks like it may take four people to fill the shoes in which Michael walked on behalf of the Springfield AGO! On the Ballot, and at the Banquet, you will learn who has stepped forth to take over Mike Dulac's various duties. If you look at the Calendar listings in this issue, though, you will see several events dur-

ing June that will feature Mike Dulac and his choral group, Schola Nova. I urge you all to select one (or more) of these events to attend, to honor Mike for his many years of dedicated and high-quality musical (and graphics!) work for this Chapter, his friends, and various organizations. Extend some good words to Mike and Cathy, please.

At the Board Meeting on Sunday, May 15th, a newly-revised set of Guidelines for the application to and operation of the Springfield Chapter **Organ Academy**, our scholarship program for the education of member organists, was approved. These Guidelines will be put into effect on July 1, 2005, to apply to the academic year of September 2005 through August 2006, and annually thereafter. The Guidelines will be published in the next issue of Chiff-Chat, so that all members, teachers, and students will be informed of the new operating policies. In the meanwhile, please consider making an additional donation to the Chapter, when you submit your membership dues, perhaps earmarked for the Lawrence Buddington Fund, which supports the Organ Academy.

In about one month's time, we'll have the opportunity to attend the **AGO Regional Convention** in the greater Hartford area. The Convention program is of particularly high quality, a varied, rich and stimulating array of concerts, workshops, and opportunities to commune with peers, and to broaden one's sights and experiences. While this event has been well publicized already, I want to add a few words myself to encourage your personal consideration of attending this Convention. It's close to home, but it's filled with new flavors and invigorating prospects. Go for it!

Lastly, I'll mention our Chapter's **Annual Banquet**. The details are included in this newsletter, along with a reservation form that needs to be *returned promptly*. Please complete the form, and return with check, to Barbara Huber by May 28th. At the Banquet, we will hear short reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, Nominating Committee, Sub-Dean, and Dean about the season completed, about the work ahead, and most excitingly, about Chapter Elections and next season's program. I have promised the Board not to threaten a long-winded speech of my own, so please relax, come to the Banquet, relax some more, and enjoy a light, social evening, with friends and colleagues, and with the fine food and drink of Storrorwton Tavern. See you there on Friday evening, June 3rd!

I will close by returning to the headline: It's Commencement Time. For those on a collegiate schedule, this is hardly news, and usually represents some stress. We'll all make it through fine; but, this is also a commencement time for this Chapter. My term as Dean will be over in a month. I've done what I could, and soon, you will have a new Dean, new leadership, and new thinking. The Organ Academy will continue to function and to serve the future of our profession, but under a tighter organization. There are always ways to renew and grow membership and programming ideas, so there can be a commencement for these objectives, as well. While some terms come to an end, we can look forward to new starts and new thinking, and I hope personally, to new members, new activities, and new participation. Do what you can to help these commencements. I'll see you all for parting words at the Annual Banquet.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Bill Czelusniak
Dean

FROM THE SUB-DEAN

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Our long-time member, past-dean, and current board member, Mike Dulac, has announced that he has accepted the positions of Director of Music for St. Mary Cathedral and Music Consultant for the Diocese (RC) of Lansing Michigan. This is a major position that is well-suited to Michael's passion and skills. He will begin work in early July, 2005.

The sadness is of the loss of a good friend and associate. Mike and I talk nearly every day. His work as church musician, recitalist, and leading Schola Nova and South Hadley Chorale (the children's chorus led by his wife, Cathy) has added tremendously to the cultural fabric of our region, and the void will not be easily filled. A review of his web site, www.mdulac-music.com is a reminder of the breadth of his musical activity.

Mike's service for our Chapter is also significant. He is currently the editor of our newsletter, *Chiff Chat*, produces the annual directory, is the web master for our web site, www.springfieldago.org, and is regularly called upon to design and produce programs and ad copy for publication. I think that it will take several people to replace him in these roles!

Please join me in wishing Mike our heartfelt thanks and best wishes as he begins this new chapter in his musical life.

E. Lary Grossman
Sub Dean

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The following members of our chapter are running for positions on the 2005-2006 Board of Directors. To help you make an informed decision in the upcoming chapter election, the candidates have provided the following information about themselves and their activities.

WARREN HUTCHINSON has been an active and dedicated member of the Guild for over 25 years. A student of Charles Page, he holds the AGO Service Playing Certificate. Warren has previously worked on AGO committees and served as organist at several churches in the greater Springfield area. He is presently at Enfield (CT) Congregational Church, serves as organist for his Masonic Lodge in East Longmeadow, as well as several other area Lodges. Warren is employed at Milton Bradley Co., East Longmeadow.

RON TRUNZO is currently the Organist of Holy Trinity Church in Greenfield, MA, a position he has held since November of 2003. Ron was previously an organist at Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Hadley. He works full time for Housing Services at UMass, Amherst. Ron has lived in MA since 1998, and is a native of central New York. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Hobart College in 1993, and a Master of Music in Music History and Literature from Northwestern University in 1995. While at Northwestern, he studied organ with Margaret Kemper and piano with Roger Goodman. Ron

looks forward to the opportunity to become more actively involved with the Springfield Chapter.

SUZANNE ANDERSON came to the organ from having studied and played the piano for years. My first church organist position was as a last-minute replacement for an ailing organist at Haydenville Congregational Church over twenty years ago. She then studied with Dr. Ernie May at UMASS/Amherst. Suzanne has a degree in Comparative Music from UWW (University Without Walls) at UMASS/Amherst and has been the music director/organist at Annunciation RC Parish in Florence, MA for over ten years. She is currently the director of the music program at Cathedral High School in Springfield. She maintains an interest in both the vocal and dance accompanying worlds. Suzanne is running for a position on the AGO/Springfield Board because the opportunity to work with and for her organist colleagues in the community is exciting.

JIM BARNES is not an organist, although he did take organ lessons through the AGO's Organ Academy several years ago. He has always been fas-

cinated with organs, and tries to attend many of the activities of the Springfield AGO. Jim sings in the choir at Church of the Atonement in Westfield, and is the unofficial choir librarian. He is currently employed by Hamilton Standard in the Information Technology department.

VOTE
&
RETURN
YOUR
BALLOT AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE!



COMMISSIONED WORKS

AND SIGNIFICANT NEW MUSIC
TO BE FEATURED AT THE
2005 REGION I CONVENTION

June 26-29
Hartford, Connecticut

The 2005 Region I Convention will feature a great amount of new music for organ and choir, most of which will be available for perusal and purchase. So, if you have not done it yet, complete the convention registration form, select the workshops you wish to attend, and make your hotel reservations – NOW!

The commissioned works are by Connecticut composers Peter Niedmann and Paul Halley. We want to keep some secrets about some things, but let's just say you won't be disappointed. I can tell you this: David Briggs will offer the first performance of Peter Niedmann's piece (Sunday, June 26) and CONCORA will offer the first performance of Paul Halley's piece (Monday, June 27).

Adding new music to the canon of organ and choir repertoire is one of the goals of the AGO. Region I is blessed with many first-rate composers. You might recall that we asked for entries for a collection of works to be published and offered for purchase at the convention. Entitled *The Hartford Organ Book*, nearly 40 works were submitted for consideration! A selection committee chose 17 to be published. We hope that you will

find this collection to be a perfect addition to your library and repertoire. Offering new music to our congregants, choir members, students, and colleagues keeps senses stirred and inspired.

The best way to see and hear what's new is to be sure to visit the numerous exhibits. We have planned specific "exhibits only" times and we hope you will take advantage of them. Not only are they a great way to get new things; they are perfect for socializing and conversing with colleagues.

Here's the almost last-minute checklist for you:

- 1) Complete and mail, with payment, the registration form (including workshop choices) to our registrar, Stephen Z. Cook, at
Greater Hartford AGO Region I Convention
P.O. Box 331060
West Hartford, CT 06133-1060
- 2) Make your hotel reservation by calling 1-800-HILTONS. The Hilton Hartford Hotel has reserved a block of rooms at \$109 plus tax (single/double) and \$225 plus tax (suite) on a first-come basis through June 11. Be sure to mention "American Guild of Organists Region I Convention" when making your reservation.
- 3) Make your travel plans. Carpooling is a wonderful way to reduce expenses. The train station (Amtrak) is but a two-block walk from the hotel. Bradley International Airport is convenient to downtown Hartford by taxi or rental car.

Be sure to visit www.HartfordAGO.org for updates and new information. We look forward to seeing you in Hartford!

All best,
Jason Charneski, Dean
Greater Hartford Chapter
Publicity Chair,
AGO Region I 2005 Convention

JOB LISTINGS

Organist/Choir Director

Second Congregational Church of Stafford, 197 West Stafford Rd., Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Description: 1 Adult Choir (6 members); minimal experience required; 5-7 hours work weekly; Hammond organ

Salary: \$6859.93

Contact: Sheila Hoefle, 860-872-8837

Organist/Choir Director

Somersville Congregational Church Somersville, CT 06072

Description: 1 Adult Choir, Children's Choir to be developed; 10 hours per week; new Allen Organ

Contact: Church Office:
860-749-7741

E-mail: somcong@aol.com

Fax resume to: 860-749-5132

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: please call

Contact: Laurie Novak 413-736-2919

Organist/Choir Director

First Congregational Church, Montague Rd., Leverett, MA 01054

Description: organist/choir director for one Sunday service, minimal experience required. Organ: Estey pipe organ

Salary: \$5,280

Contact: Richard Hankinson
(413) 297-6643

Tenor/Bass Section Leaders

United Congregational Church, High & Appleton Sts., Holyoke, MA

Description: Service at 10:30 on Sunday, rehearsal at 7:30 on Thursday.

Salary: \$25 for rehearsal and \$25 for the service.

Contact: Michael Gilman at the church office, 413-532-1483, or by e-mail: asbestos103@yahoo.com

Organist

Whately Congregational Church, Chestnut Plain Rd., Whately, MA 01093

Description: organist for one (1) service, app. 2 hours on Sunday morning.

Organ: Estey pipe organ

Salary: \$80 per week

Contact: Wilma or Carl Brooks
(413) 665-3846

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

Director of Music Ministry

Storrs Congregational Church, 2 North Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06268

Description: 30 hour per week position, one worship service, adult choir handbell choir, supervise overall musical life of the church. Includes various administrative and programming duties. C.B. Fisk III/35 pipe organ. Complete description at www.storrscongchurch.org Requires Master degree or equivalent.

Salary: commensurate with AGO Guidelines for Master's Degree

Contact: DMM Search Committee (contact person: Elizabeth Cowles, Chairperson for the Music Board eah36@cornell.edu).

Conductor

South Hadley Chorale, South Hadley, MA

Description: This is a one year appointment for the 2005-2006 season, with the potential of renewal as the artistic director/conductor of the chorale. Application deadline is May 31st. For more information and/or interest in applying, please contact the chorale manager.

Contact: Barbara Ayers 413) 533-3833 or Ayebre@aol.com.

CALENDAR

Springfield AGO Chapter events are enclosed within a box. 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. If you wish to have an event listed in the *Chiff Chat*, please e-mail me at mdulac@crocker.com

May 28

7:30pm

Center for the Arts, Northampton, MA Concert featuring the 40-member plus Swindon Male Voice Choir (formerly known as The Great Western Railway Male Voice Choir). This English group is on a Boston-area American tour.

June 3

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

June 5

3:00pm
Second Congregational Church, Court Square, Greenfield, MA
Concert by Schola Nova under the direction of Michael Dulac. Program includes the Haydn, "Little Organ Mass" with strings and organ, Britten, Morning Canticles, and other works. Admission \$10 benefits the church's organ fund.

June 12

4:00pm
Immaculate Conception Church, Adams St., Easthampton, MA
Schola Nova presents their Spring Concert featuring Haydn's, "Little Organ Mass" with strings and organ, Britten, Morning Canticles, and other works.

June 19

7:30pm
St. Joseph's Church, Howard St., Springfield, MA
Schola Nova presents their Spring Concert featuring Haydn's, "Little Organ Mass" with strings and organ, Britten, Morning Canticles, and other works.

June 26

3:00pm
St. Joseph's Church, Howard St., Springfield, MA
Organist, Michael Dulac, will present a 45 minute recital prior to the final liturgy in St. Joseph's Church.

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, Mass. Chapter

Michael Dulac — Newsletter Editor

41 Riverview St.

Springfield, MA 01108-1634

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Don't forget to renew your membership in the
Springfield Chapter, AGO.
Renewal forms are out and due ASAP!*

Springfield Chapter, AGO

ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET

Friday, June 3, 2005

Storrorhton Tavern — Vermont Room
("Big E" Grounds, Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA)

6:30pm - Social Hour (Cash Bar)

7:30pm - Buffet followed by our Annual Meeting

COST: \$25 per person (*Advance Reservations REQUIRED*)

Buffet

- ♪ Fresh Fruit, Crudites with Herb Dip, and Assorted Cheese and Crackers
- ♪ Fresh Garden Salad with choice of Dressings
- ♪ Fresh Hot Bread Basket
- ♪ Chicken Marsala, Sole Florentine, and Vegetable Lasagna
- ♪ Twice Baked Potato
- ♪ Squash
- ♪ Coffee, Regular and Decaffeinated, and Tea
- ♪ Crème de Menthe Parfait

Name: _____ Number Attending: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Check enclosed in the amount of: \$ _____

Send this form and your check (payable to Springfield AGO), to: Barbara Huber, 315 North Main St., East Longmeadow, MA 01028-1826. If you have questions, call her at (413) 525-6142. *Guests welcome!*

DEADLINE: Reservations MUST be received by May 28!