



Executive Board

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Members Recital – Sunday, Feb. 5, 2006

One of the most traditional and popular events in AGO Chapters is the *Members Recital*. We will host one on Sunday, February 5, 2006 at the Second Congregational Church of Greenfield, MA (16 Court Square, on the Common). The concert begins at 3 pm.

Scheduled to perform are Peter Beardsley, Mike Gilman, Rod Gisick, Meg Irwin-Brandon, Amanda Mole, Eugenia Sullivan, and Lucius Weathersby.

The program has repertory including two of Bach's *Chorale Preludes*, and his *Prelude & Fugue* (BWM 548, *Wedge*) and *Fantasia & Fugue* (BWV 542). Messaien's *Dieu parmi Nous*, Dister's Partita on *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, and de Bergamo's *Sinfonia* will also be heard. Lucius and Rod will play four-hand (organ/piano) works including an arrangement they prepared of Debussy's *Claire de Lune*.

This recital is also serving as a benefit for the organ renovation fund. Their 1932 Möller organ (39 ranks across 3 manuals and pedal) has been partially restored, and the campaign continues to complete the work. Consequently, while admission to the concert is free, a ten-dollar offering is suggested.

A reception hosted by the Church will immediately follow the program. □

Dean's Corner

We had a wonderful Mini Convention at All Saints' Church in South Hadley on Saturday, November 12, 2005. It was a nice crowd of around thirty, including visitors from Berkshire and New Hampshire Chapters, but, I wish that there were more Springfield Chapter members in attendance. The small number of members at our events and concerts is a perpetual mystery. Members are interested enough to pay dues and renew their memberships year after year, yet, there are only approximately 20% of the

membership that actively participate in the program offerings of the Chapter. This is not unique to Springfield; it is a fact experienced by Chapters and discussed by Deans throughout the region and country. If you have any ideas about this dilemma, please write or call me.

Our recent membership survey indicated that the types of workshops presented at the Mini Convention (e.g., service playing, a recital, and an anthem read) are among the

most desired. Consequently, I was surprised that the church was not full for Peter Beardsley's *Anthem Read* and Peter Stoltzfus Berton's *Service Repertory* and *Noon-time Recital*. We also had an incredibly interesting slide show presentation by Greg Bover of the Fisk Organ Company (Gloucester, MA) regarding the installation of their organ in Lausanne, Switzerland, and a discussion on *Children's Chors* by Anne Vittoria, the new director of the South Hadley Chorale Children's Chorus. These were

Dean's Corner (continued)

1. To advance the cause of organ and choral music, to increase their contributions to aesthetic and religious experiences, and to promote their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment.

2. To improve the proficiency of organists and choral conductors.

seminars at the quality of a Regional and National Convention, and you *only* had to travel to South Hadley and spend twenty dollars (lunch included!).

Rod Gisick, *Sub Dean*, and I wish to express our appreciation and *thanks* to the presenters: Peter Beardsley, Peter Berton, Greg Bover, and Anne Vittoria, and to board members Ron Trunzo, Past Dean Don Hooton, and Warren Hutchinson for their work on the Convention committee. *Thank you* also to Ian McGee (music director), The Rev. Elizabeth Fowle (Rector), and the people at *All Saints'* for inviting us to their beautiful facilities and church.

While we will begin our planning for the 2006-2007 season in the spring, I have already started a discussion

with the Board regarding hosting, with the Hartford Chapter, a *Pipe Organ Encounter* (POE) in Northampton in July of 2007. These are terrific regional events that bring twenty to thirty young people (age 13 – 18) together for a five-day summer "camp" with intensive private lessons, organ visits, special workshops, and field trips. The Chapter has sponsored students to *POEs* the past two years and they have all returned with glowing reports. While the plans are still preliminary, the Board and I are very excited at the prospect of running this event.

Pipe Organ Encounter is a major initiative of AGO National and I have already spoken with James Thomashower (*Executive Director*, AGO), Lois

Toeppner (our Region I *Councillor*), and Eugenia Sullivan (*Dean*, Hartford) about the possibility of us hosting one. I have also received promises last month from Robert McDonald, Paul Jacobs, and Peter Berton to be three of our faculty.

Please let me know if you have any interest in helping with this project as it will take many people doing many tasks to make this a success.

Blessings of Good Health and Prosperity in 2006!

E Lary Grossman □



CHIFF CHAT GOES ELECTRIC!

Many members have asked about receiving the newsletter electronically. This is a common and convenient option with other publications and we will start offering it to our subscribers beginning with the next issue. As the cost of publishing and mailing each individual copy of *Chiff Chat* approaches one dollar, it also makes economic (and environmental) sense.

The issue will be posted on our web site (www.springfieldago.org) the day it is published. Concurrent with that posting, subscribers who elect to receive the newsletter electronically will receive an email informing them that the latest issue is available on our web site and providing a direct link to the issue. You can then read and print it. The newsletter, as with all the archived issues, will be posted in PDF format which insures uniform appearance (in full color) regardless of the computer platform (e.g., PC or MAC) that you are using.

To start receiving the newsletter electronically, please write to newsletter@springfieldago.org giving your name and email address in the body of the message. □

Positions Available

Somerville Congregational Church

22 Maple Street
Somerville, CT 06072
Organist/choir Director
1 Adult choir. Must have
experience in directing
choirs. 6 – 8 hours weekly.
\$9000/year. Contact: Victor
Netten 860-749-4332. ☐

Pioneer Valley Organists

As detailed in the Nov 2005
issue of *Chiff Chat* (available
on our website) John
Anderson has created a
valuable resource for area
organists. After a simple
registration process,

organists may post their
availability for substitute
coverage, weddings, and
funerals. Also, for churches
and organists looking for
coverage, a calendar makes
it easy to see who is
available to help. To get to
the web site, either point
your browser to our web site
(www.springfieldago.org)
and click on "Sunday
Substitutes" or go directly to
<http://pioneervalleyorganists.com> ☐

Amanda Mole in Recital Trinity Church, Boston

One of our youngest and
most talented members,
Amanda Mole, is playing a
recital at Trinity Church,
Copley Square, Boston at
12:15 pm on Friday 27
January 2006. This is part of
the *Fridays at Trinity* series.

Music will include Bach's
Fantasia & Fugue in g-minor
(BWV 542) and works by
Persichetti and Mulet.

Amanda, a sophomore at
UMASS/Amherst, is a
student of Larry Schipull.

www.trinityboston.org for
more information. Free. ☐

3. To evaluate, by
examination, attainments in
organ playing, choral
techniques, conducting,
and the theory and general
knowledge of music, and to
grant certificates to those
who pass such
examinations at specified
levels of attainment.

4. To provide members
with opportunities to meet
for discussion of
professional topics, and to
pursue such other activities
as contribute to the
fulfillment of the purposes
of the Guild.

The Purpose of the AGO

Help Wanted! – Chiff Chat Editor

The Chapter has an immediate opening for
Editor of our award-winning newsletter, *Chiff
Chat*.

Approximately eight issues of *Chiff Chat* are
published each year. These are generally
monthly with several combined issues around
Christmas, Easter, and summer.

Serving as Editor provides a great service to
the Chapter and its membership. The
newsletter is a vital part of our
communications and outreach to the public
and other Chapters throughout the Guild.

The newsletter has traditionally been
published using regular desktop software

(e.g., MS/Word or MS/Publisher) so please do
not feel that tremendous technical knowledge
is required. It would also be fine if two or
more people want to work on the project
together---sharing their expertise.

Let your inner soul blossom and become the
Editor and Publisher that you have always
wanted to be!

Our deepest appreciation goes to Liz Dawson
who produced the four fall issues. *Thank you!*

Please contact Lary Grossman if you are
interested or have questions. ☐



Upcoming Events

American Guild of Organists – Springfield Massachusetts Chapter

*Founded November 6, 1946
Celebrating our 60th Year!*

Serving the Counties of Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin in Western Massachusetts

For Membership information see our website at www.springfieldago.org

or contact our Membership Coordinator, Charles Page

28 January 06, Saturday

Mozart's Birthday! Arcadia Players at Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College, 7 pm pre-concert talk, 8 pm concert. For more info: www.arcadiaplayers.org □

5 Feb 06, Sunday, 3 pm

Members Recital at 2nd Cong.

Church, Greenfield. See story in this issue. Free-will offering to benefit organ renovation fund. □

19 Feb 06, Sunday 3 pm

John Scott (Organist & Dir. of Music at St. Thomas, Fifth Ave, NYC) in recital. Music of Bach, Messiaen and Dupré. St.

Paul's Church, Concord, NH. 603-529-1142. Free. □

26 Feb 06, Sunday, 2 pm

Meg Irwin-Brandon, Harpsichord. Music of the Bach Family. \$10 (under 18 free) Unitarian Universalist Society, 245 Porter Lake Dr., Springfield, MA □

About the American Guild of Organists

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. The Guild serves approximately 20,000 members in 348 chapters throughout the United States, and in Europe, Korea and Argentina.

Founded in 1896 as both an educational and service organization, the Guild seeks to set and maintain high musical standards and to promote understanding and appreciation of all aspects of organ and choral music. □

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