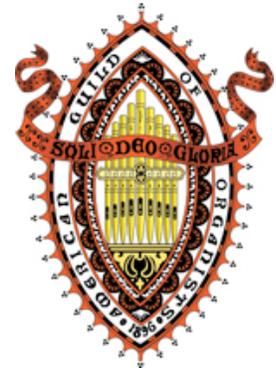


Soli Deo Gloria

September
2007

Chiff Chat

Springfield, MA Chapter
American Guild of Organists



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN...

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Greetings from your newest Dean! I am humbled and honored to step up to this important role. Rod Gisick recently announced his retirement as Music Director at Second Congregational Church in Amherst, as well as his resignation as Dean of the Chapter. *Thank you*, Rod, for your service as Sub Dean, and for all of your contributions! We will miss you, and wish you all the best as you plan to enjoy your retirement in the Philippines!

My move from Sub Dean to Dean necessitated a few other changes in chapter leadership. The Executive Board convened on Sunday, August 19, 2007, at the residence of Martha Sienkiewicz, to discuss the necessary reorganization. The Board unanimously supported the following appointments for Chapter leadership in 2007-2008:

Dean: Ron Trunzo
Sub Dean: Martha Sienkiewicz
Treasurer: Michael-Thomas Gilman
Secretary: Mary Jeanne Tash
Directors Karen Banta (2010), Fr. Jerry True (2010), Don Hooton (2009), John Karalekas (2009), James Barnes (2008), and Nicholas Russotto (2008)

As you will read elsewhere, Nick has also agreed to take over my previous position as editor of *Chiff Chat*.

We should all be proud of a major accomplishment within our Chapter: hosting the *Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) at Smith College, July 22 – 27, 2007*. We successfully hosted the largest POE offered this summer, with 42 teenagers, and 24 faculty members! Thank you to everyone who supported the chapter through your donations, volunteering, and by attending the recitals. Please join me in offering special thanks to our most recent Dean, Lary Grossman, who served as the Director of POE. Lary provided steadfast dedication and leadership for the POE Steering Committee! I would also like to recognize Charles Page, Bill Czelusniak, Martha Sienkiewicz, and Michael-Thomas Gilman for serving on the steering committee. Stay tuned for more reflections from the POE in an upcoming issue! We have a wonderful season ahead of us, with our first opening... (cont'd on page 2)

Leadership

Regional Councilor: E. Lary Grossman, PhD

District Convener: Frank Corbin, DMA

Dean: Ronald Trunzo

Sub-Dean: Martha Sienkiewicz

Treasurer: Michael-Thomas Gilman

Secretary: Mary-Jeanne Tash

Chaplain: Rev. Fr. William H. Wallis

Executive Board (terms ending)

2008: James Barnes, Nicholas Russotto

2009: Don Hooton, John Karelekas

2010: Karen Banta, The Rev. Jerry True

Membership: Charles Page

Chiff Chat Editor: Nicholas Russotto

Webmaster: Allan Taylor

Pioneervalleyorganists.com: John Anderson

Dean's Message Continued...

event on Sunday, September 9, 2007, at 3:00pm. Ian Watson will be giving an organ recital at South Church in Springfield. There will be a reception following the recital. I hope to see many of you there! We are also excited to offer another Columbus Day Weekend Organ Crawl in Albany, NY, with the Worcester and Albany Chapters. The crawl will take place on Monday, October 8, 2007. You can register on the Worcester Chapter website, www.worcesterago.org.

For those who have not renewed your chapter membership, please do so ASAP! We need your presence and support, and want your name in the annual directory! If you know of any new organists in the area, please forward their name to a board member, and encourage them to join our chapter.

I look forward to serving you and the Chapter as Dean, and to a great year together. I have much to learn, and certainly big shoes to fill! Please join me in supporting and participating in the Chapter. Please feel free to email me at rtrunzo@comcast.net if you have any questions or suggestions. I look forward seeing you all soon. Sincerely,

♪ **Ron Trunzo**

News From the Neihart International Organ Competition

The directors of The Carlene Neihart International Organ Competition Foundation held their annual meeting on June 9, 2007. Plans for the Foundations 3rd competition to be held on April 12, 2008 were completed. The Foundation, with a 501(C)(3) tax exempt status was formed to organize, present the competition, fund the prize money and sustain the future of the competition. After extensive research and study, the founding directors determined a competition of this stature is paramount for the continued development of organ performance. The competition is held every two years. Articles about the competitions, held in the spring of 2004, and 2006 appeared in The Diapason and American Guild of Organists national magazines. This internationally recognized competition brings a prestigious performing arts activity to the Kansas City Area. We urge you to give thoughtful consideration to share in this opportunity for young and talented organists to pursue their dream. Donations of any amount would be greatly appreciated and may be made by sending a check to: Nancy A. Stankiewicz, 8907 Foster Lane, Overland Park, Kansas 66212. Please see the web site organcompetitions.com for more information.

Thank you,

Board of Directors
organcompetitions@yahoo.com

News from Chapter Members



Christopher Houlihan, has been appointed Assistant Cathedral Musician at the American Cathedral in Paris from September 2007 through August 2008. He will work with Edward Tipton, Canon Precentor, Organist & Choirmaster, while studying in France for the year. Houlihan, 19, is entering his Junior year at Trinity College, and will spend it in Paris participating in the Trinity-in-Paris Program. He will also study organ and harmony with Jean-Baptiste Robin, Professor of Organ at the Conservatoire National de Région de Versailles and Titular Organist at Le Cathedrale de Saint-Pierre in Poitiers. At Trinity College, Houlihan is a student of John Rose, with whom he has studied since age 12. During his freshman year at Trinity, he was organ scholar at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, and during his sophomore year served as Trinity College Organ Scholar at the Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford. Houlihan is also a past winner of the Albert Schweitzer USA Organ Competition and the 2007 recipient of the Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians. This past July he was a featured performer at the Pipe Organ Encounter sponsored by our own Springfield Chapter, and he recently recorded his first CD featuring the Second Symphony by Vierne which will be released on the Towerhill label. We wish Chris all the best as he continues his organic endeavors as 'An American in Paris'.

News from the Springfield AGO...



Dear AGO Members and Friends,

As your new *Chiff Chat* editor, I hope that I will carry on the fine tradition of an excellent newsletter in the Springfield Chapter. I congratulate Ron Trunzo, our former editor, for having created and maintained an excellent, informative newsletter during his tenure, and wish him well as our new Dean. I would also like to take the time to make few housekeeping notes: When submitting material for inclusion in *Chiff Chat*, please email the information to nrussotto@gmail.com. Please submit in a text format (e.g., .doc, .cwk, .pdf, .txt, etc.) When mailing submissions, please make sure that submissions are legible. Typed submissions are preferred, and you may mail to: Nicholas Russotto, 24 White Birch Circle, Somers, CT, 06071-1007. Thank you, and I look forward to being your new *Chiff Chat* editor.

Very Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Russotto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pictures from the POE...



Looking over Abbey Chapel, Mt. Holyoke



Meg Irwin-Brandon at The Brick Church, Deerfield.



A lesson at Helen Hills



A lecture at St. John's Nhamph



Peter Stoltzfus-Berton plays the Skinner at United Church, Holyoke

Peter Sykes to Play in Westfield

Allan Taylor



In 1987 our chapter hosted a large regional convention, with several hundred organists attending from all over the country. The convention was based at Mount Holyoke College, but the recitals, lectures, and workshops were conducted all over the valley. One such recital was held at First Congregational Church, Westfield, on the new (well, ten-year old) Fisk pipe organ. The performer was a young, up and coming organist named Peter Sykes, and he presented a fine program of Bach and Mozart. This was his first performance for the American Guild of Organists, and an important event in his budding career. Twenty years later First Church's new pipe organ is celebrating its thirtieth birthday, and the up and coming organist of twenty years ago is now one of the world's finest organists. It seems appropriate, then, to have Peter Sykes return to play a recital marking this anniversary; he will perform at 3:30 on Sunday, September 23. Mr. Sykes is quite a versatile musician who can play music in any style with amazing facility. He is widely recognized as an authority on early music, and he seemed a natural choice to play the Fisk. He has chosen a program with broad appeal, and this concert will be an important event in the cultural life of our area. There is no admission charge, and there will be a reception after the concert. Call 568-2833 for further information, or visit westfieldchoral.org.

A New Radio Program in the Pioneer Valley



Steve Curylo, longtime broadcaster on WFCR Amherst, has begun a new radio program, "Evening Classics", on WWOJ Northampton (103.3FM). This program presently airs every other Tuesday, with the next program (which includes Mozart's Requiem in D minor) taking place on Tuesday, September 11th, beginning at 9 PM. The program also streams online at valleyfreeradio.org. The inaugural program included Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C; von Suppé's Overture to 'Light Calvary'; Maurice Durufle's 'Quatre Motets sur des Themes Gregoriens' (Ubi Caritas, Tota Pulchra Es, Tu Es Petrus, Tantum Ergo); and Schubert's final song, "The Shepherd on the Rock" (D. 965).

Upcoming Events

September 2007

September 7, 2007 7:30 PM

Albert Schweitzer USA Organ Festival (opening night). Paul Jacobs, Frederick Hohman, Diane Meredith Belcher, and David Spicer in concert on the Austin Organ at First Church of Christ, Wethersfield CT.

September 8, 2007

ASOF/USA Festival, First Church Wethersfield High School Division, 9 a.m.– 12 noon, Young Professional Division, 2-5 p.m.

September 9, 2007 3 PM

Ian Watson, Organist
Benefit Concert, South Congregational Church, Springfield

September 15, 2007 9:00 AM

Introductory Workshop on Certification Exams with Ken Grinnell, United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road, Worcester, MA. Free to Members - no pre-registration required.

September 23, 2007 3:30 PM

Peter Sykes in recital at First Church, Westfield MA, on the two-manual Fisk organ. Free admission; directions and more information at churchonthegreen.org.

September 30, 2007 4:00 PM

Larry Schipull in concert at on both the Fisk Organ and Skinner Organ at Abbey Chapel, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley MA. Works of Rogg, Bach, Rheinberger, Willan, and Couperin.

October 2007

October 2, 2007 10:30 AM

The "Tuesday Morning Music Club" at Trinity United Methodist Church, Sumner Ave in Springfield, hosts the Pioneer Consort. \$10 Admission.

October 8, 2007 All Day.

Fall Organ Crawl with Worcester, Hartford, and Eastern New York Chapters to Albany and Troy New York.

October 11-16, 2007

(11th, 13th, 16th at 8:00 PM, 12th at 1:30 PM)

Simon Preston gives four performances of Francis Poulenc's Organ Concerto in g minor with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, James Levine conducting.

October 12, 2007 7:30 PM.

Paul Jacobs in recital on the Austin Organ at Trinity College Chapel, Hartford, CT.

October 12, 2007 8:00 PM

Raymond Nagem in recital on the three-manual Casavant at St. Paul the Apostle, Springfield. Reception to follow by the Springfield AGO.

October 14, 2007 3:00 PM "The Brick Church Music Series"

TRIO TULSA. Diane Bucchianeri, cello, Maureen O'Boyle, violin, Anna Norberg, piano. Gwyneth Walker's Craftsbury Trio, Haydn's Trio in G Major, and Dvořák's Trio Op. 90 "Dumky".

October 16, 2007 10:30 AM

"Tuesday Morning Music Club", Woodwind Ensemble at Providence Place, Holyoke. Larry Picard (South Congregational, Springfield), organist. \$10 Admission.

October 20 & 21, 2007.

"The Poet as Prophet", hymn workshop with Dr. Thomas Troeger at Center Church, Hartford.

October 26, 2007 7:30 PM

Frederick Swann in concert on the Æolian-Skinner organ at All Saint's Church, Worcester.

November 2007

November 4, 2007 4:00 PM

The Yale Camerata, under the direction of Marguerite Brooks, Thomas Murray will accompany on the four-manual E.M. Skinner organ at United Church of Christ, Holyoke.

November 11, 2007 3:00 PM "The Brick Church Music Series"

CHRISTA RAKICH, organ. Concert, recording artist, and Distinguished Artist in Residence at First Lutheran Church, Boston. Ms. Rakich will play works by Buxtehude and Bach on the two-manual Richards & Fowkes organ, Opus 13, at the Brick Church.

December 2007

December 2, 2007 3:00 PM

Paul Jacobs in recital on the Gress-Miles Organ in Mead Chapel, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.

Positions Available...

Organist/Director of Music Friendly and active congregational Church seek energetic and experienced person for the position of Organist/Choir Director at Somers Congregational Church (Somers Ct) available immediately. Part time (12-15 hours per week). Interested candidate must be proficient in playing the organ, have excellent manual and pedal board skills, direct a 15-20 member Senior Choir and be available for special services throughout the year. Salary is \$14,000 per year. There is also an extra stipend for weddings and funerals.

For more information about the church visit our website at www.somersnow.com/somerscong. Send resume and cover letter via email to somerscong@somersnow.com or fax to (860)763-5146. If more info is needed please call the church office at 860-763-4021.

Organist & Keyboardist, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. 585 South Street, Suffield, CT 06078. Service Times: Sunday, 9:00 (contemporary) & 10:30 AM (traditional). Contact Name: Lenore Brooks. Contact Phone Number: 413-530-7152. Salary: \$100/service. Vocal abilities and choir direction experience a plus but not necessary.

Organist, First Congregational Church of Chicopee, 306 Chicopee Street. Hammond Organ (1946), \$100.00 weekly, (August vacation). Please contact: Peggy McKinstry 413-562-8873 or 413-568-0555 for more information.

Organist & Music Director: The Catholic Community of Adams in Adams, Massachusetts announces an immediate opening for a part-time (15-20 hours per week) Director of Music & Organist who will plan and lead the music for weekly worship. The Catholic Community of Adams (in the Springfield, Mass. Diocese) comprises two parishes, three church buildings (Notre Dame/St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stanislaus Kostka) and a school in the beautiful Northern Berkshires. There are three weekend Masses with music. In addition to the salary, the Director has additional income from funerals (avg. 90-100/year) and weddings (avg. 12-15/year). The organs in Notre Dame and St. Thomas are both older model Allen Organs that have been repaired and upgraded (summer 2007). Notre Dame is contemplating the restoration of its 1902 three manual Casavant. Saint Stanislaus Kostka houses a beautiful two manual Casavant (installed in 1979). Successful candidates will have complete familiarity with the work of a Roman Catholic Parish Director of Music. This includes the Rites and Liturgies of the Church Year, and the liturgical planning ability and knowledge of resources necessary for a congregation and adult choir utilizing a mix of traditional and contemporary music. The minimum proficiency of organ and piano playing shall be at the B.Mus. (organ performance) or AGO Service Playing Certificate level, with a more advanced level desirable. The candidate will also have the skills necessary to rehearse the adult choir (SATB, 25-30 members) weekly. There is also a funeral choir (SSA) of approx. 15 people who sing at each liturgy of Christian Burial. The annual salary of \$20,000 includes two weeks vacation. Professional development and a book & music allowances are negotiable. Interested applicants should send their resume (including at least three professional references) and any other supporting material such as CDs, programs and reviews to Rev. Daniel Boyle, Pastor, Adams Catholic Community, Maple St., Adams, MA 01220. Please contact Fr. Boyle for any further information or questions at 413-743-0577.

Organist/Director of Music, St. Luke's Church, Bolton Street Hartford CT. Responsible for playing at 3 weekend masses, plus funerals and weddings and other liturgical celebrations. An additional duty includes directing the adult choir. At least 3 years of experience is preferred. References from previous employers are required. Contact Fr. Aniello at 860-296-8681.

Organist/Director of Music, Stowe Community Church, Stowe VT. The Stowe Community Church, a non-denominational Protestant church, seeks a Music Director and Organist to provide a meaningful ministry of music that is an integral part of the worship experience. This church is located in the village of Stowe and is a well-respected partner in the community, with an active and growing congregation. In addition to a traditional service calendar, the Church also hosts many musical performances throughout the year. The Church has recently restored its 1864 Simmons Tracker Pipe Organ (ed. Restored and enlarged to II/30 by Bob Newton and Andover Organ Co.) and also owns a restored 1898 Steinway Grand Piano. The Director of Music / Church Organist will oversee all areas of the music programs, including the music library, guest musicians for services, and adult and children's choirs. He or She will work with the pastor and the Music Committee in selecting music for services and special occasions, and will play for two weekly services during the September to June months, one service weekly in the summer and additional services for the Easter and Christmas seasons. Adult Choir 15-20 Possibility of a Children's Choir. Complete organ details available at www.andoverorgan.com under Instruments, Restored. Ed. Contact your editor about this position.

Open House

To members and friends of the Springfield AGO Chapter:

Quentin and Mary Murrell Faulkner invite you to attend an open house in their home at 18 Wildwood Lane, Amherst, on Thursday, September 13, 7 - 9:30 p.m., to see, hear, and play their house organ, a 2-manual, 5 stop mechanical-action instrument built by the Bedient Organ Company of Lincoln, Nebraska. You will also have the opportunity to meet Gene Bedient, the organ builder.

Quentin & Mary have recently resettled in Amherst, after living for 32 years in Nebraska, where Quentin taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mr. Bedient will travel to Amherst to re-assemble the organ, originally completed for the Faulkners in 1984. They are extending this invitation to any and all who have an interest in the organ.

Serial Presentation

This article, entitled "On Passionate Music Making", has been serialized and split into parts for publication in *Chiff Chat*.

ON PASSIONATE MUSIC MAKING

Stephen H. Best, Minister of Music, First Presbyterian Church, 1605 Genesee Street, Utica,
NY 13501

Dean, Central New York Chapter, AGO

Phone 315-732-5111 • Fax 315-732-5577 • E-mail stevebest@usadatanet.net

The question caught me by surprise: "Why is it that when students come home after studying with all kinds of well-known teachers, they don't play as well as they did in high school when they studied with you?" Talk about an unsettling query! After all, I've groomed those very students for a higher level of study. And yet, the question came from a highly respected church musician, a person who has built one of the most successful music ministries in our community, so I knew it wasn't just an off-the-wall pleasantry. I stumbled awkwardly with a trivial reply and went on my way, putting it out of my mind until recently, when someone else asked the same question.

And then there's another question that I hear frequently: "What's the matter with organ recitals today?" which usually means, "I thought I'd die of boredom before that organ recital was done." Now don't get me wrong: I attend organ recitals - lots of them. As an organist, organ teacher, and overseer of a successful concert series, I like to know what's going on. I've actually driven over 200 miles (one way!) to attend an organ recital. But my patience is often tested, and all too frequently I find myself disappointed by what I've heard, while at the same time relieved that the recitalist isn't one I elected to invite to my church. The usually minuscule audience is a godsend: at least if the numbers are small, there are fewer people who will vow to stay away from future organ recitals.

So on one hand there's the unexpected question about the way my students play, and on the other there's the pervasive question about dull organ recitals. It all got me wondering: is there a common thread between these two questions? It was time to do a little thinking.

I do a lot of organ teaching: at the present time there are 25 students ranging in age from 14 to 91. There are dazzling high school students who think nothing of ripping through a Dupré prelude and fugue or a Vierne finale, and there are older "beginners" whose biggest challenge is getting most of the notes and rhythms right some of the time. I'm not a specialist in any style of organ music, nor am I an authority on historic fingerings or the latest wave of "authentic" articulations. I play an eclectic electro-pneumatic instrument that hardly reflects the latest thinking in organ design, and I wouldn't think of replacing it. All this is hardly cutting-edge from an academic perspective, but nonetheless, I've actually had to institute a waiting list for students who want to study organ!

I also manage a recital series at my church in Utica, NY, a small upstate city which the economic upturn of the past decade has left behind. The church is a large Ralph Adams Cram building from the time when Utica was mistakenly projected to be upstate's answer to New York City. The congregation is dwindling and the future is uncertain. And yet, over 500 people attended a recent organ recital. A second program drew almost 300 and raised \$2500 for our scholarship fund for young organists, which since its inception in 1998 has brought in over \$25,000 in gifts! Conventional wisdom would say that something is wrong with this picture. It's unheard of: an overflow of organ students, great attendance at recitals, outstanding support for young organists, all in a city of 60,000 whose best days are long in the past. How can this be?

To Be Continued...

*Springfield, MA
Chapter, American
Guild of Organists*

Chiff Chat Newsletter

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email newsletter@springfieldago.org. Submissions for the October/November issue are due September 20, 2007.

If you prefer to receive an electronic copy of Chiff Chat newsletters, please let us know! Visit us on the web at www.springfieldago.org

Celebrating 61 Years as a Chapter!

*Have you paid your
dues yet?*

Chiff Chat

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

Nicholas F. Russotto, Editor

24 White Birch Circle

Somers, CT 06071-1007