



Chiff Chat

Springfield, MA Chapter
American Guild of Organists

A Message from the Dean

Dear Friends,

Summer greetings from your Dean-in-training. Thank you to all chapter members for your vote of confidence. I am looking forward to serving you as Dean, confident that the transition time will be pretty painless. Having a strong, well-organized board is a real blessing; everything is in very good order for the forthcoming season. The programs scheduled for the year promise to be fantastic. Be sure to note the listings in this issue for the falls celebration of the **International Year of the Organ** and mark your calendars right away. It is a good thing to come to events and support your chapter and colleagues.

Last month, several Springfield area organists participated in the **Pipe Organ Encounter** in Worcester, MA, as students, teachers, and coordinators. One of the largest POE's in the country, Assumption College was host to 42 students who were given daily private lessons, attended concerts and master classes, and went on a road trip to the Fisk factory and to Methuen. At the end of the week, they played in a group concert for each other, their families, and a large crowd of local people who came because they saw TV interviews and newspaper articles reporting the week's activities. It is so encouraging to watch the next generation of

organists get together to learn about the instrument and its music, and to form a not-so-silent coalition of strong advocates for the future of the profession.

As I am new to this business of convening meetings and coordinating schedules, I will be most grateful for your comments and helpful ideas.

Let's have a great year!

Grant Moss

Chapter Leadership

Dean	Grant Moss
Sub Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
Secretary	Mary Jeanne Tash
Treasurer	James Barnes
Directors	Karen Banta
	Don Hooton
	John Karalekas
	Rev. Jerry True
	Larry Picard
	Michael Thomas Gilman
Chaplain	Fr. Richard Wallis
Education	Martha Sienkiewicz, John Karalekas, Don Hooton
Membership	Richard Matteson, Charles Page
Chiff Chat Editor	Ronald Trunzo
Yearbook Editor	Peter Beardsley

AGO Certification Opportunity!

Welcome to the "Year of Education"! In this our anniversary year, the **Education and Outreach Committee** hopes to encourage Guild Members to study, practice and seriously consider applying for one of the certificates that the Guild offers, most notably the *Service Playing Certificate*. In November, we hope to begin a class to prepare ourselves for the Service Playing Certificate and we would invite all members to join us. The requirements for the Service Playing Certificate are really not much more than what most of us do every Sunday, but it does require recording a performance test, which may be a little intimidating. So we plan to be our own support group, study the music together and perform for each other. The Committee determined that the hardest part of the test is the requirement to transpose music. Methods of transposition and helpful hints from those skilled in this art will be part of the class. Once the class meets in November, we will set our own pace and meet several more times, each with a focus on part of the exam. Then the class will all travel together to the exam site in the Spring (must be done by April 30) and hopefully achieve valid AGO certification!

A list of the requirements and the music selections can be found on the national website and will also be available at the opening event September 21, 2008 at Trinity Methodist Church in Springfield.

For further information, you may contact any of the committee members: John Karalekas, Don Hooton, or Martha Sienkiewicz. This is the year to consider Professional Certification!

Organ Academy

The Organ Academy is a benefit of membership in the American Guild of Organists, Springfield Chapter. To promote the education of our members, the Academy has \$250 scholarships available to members who wish to take private lessons for organ or choral directing during this academic year (beginning Sept. 1). The scholarship offers a \$25 per lesson subsidy for 10 lessons. Students of all ages and economic status are welcome to apply. You must study with a Guild member and be willing to perform in a small venue at the end of the year. See the Organ Academy guidelines published on page 3 in this issue. To start the application process, please call Martha at 413-568-8033 or email: marthas@fastmail.fm

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS

In 2009 the Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians will hold a competition for church musicians who have graduated or will graduate from high school as of June 30, 2009. Awards from five hundred dollars (\$500) to twenty five hundred dollars (\$2500) will be granted. The scholarship can be used for a variety of music studies including:

- Organ lessons
- Undergraduate or graduate studies related to organ or religious music
- Participation in organ festivals, seminars, music camps, etc.

Information and applications can be obtained by visiting the scholarship website <http://www.chbscholarship.com>, or by writing "The Charlotte H. Bagnall Scholarship" at 17 Beaverbrook Rd., West Simsbury, CT 06092. Applications are due by December 31, 2008.

ORGAN ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES
Springfield (MA) Chapter, American Guild of Organists

1. The Purpose of the Organ Academy Scholarship is to encourage the development and proficiency of the individual organist and/or Choir Master. All applicants, regardless of age or economic status, who demonstrate a genuine interest in the field of church music are welcome to apply.
2. The Education and Outreach Committee will administer the scholarships.
3. All students who receive the Organ Academy subsidy are required to be regular, special, or students members of the chapter and are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in various chapter events. Applications for the Organ Academy Scholarship must be submitted to the Education and Outreach Committee annually. This committee will notify the Chapter Treasurer of all necessary information on each student following his/her acceptance into the Organ Academy and the Chapter Treasurer will get all the appropriate forms to the teacher.
4. The total Organ Academy allocation and the scholarship per student are subject to annual Executive Board review. Currently, the subsidy is set at \$25 per lesson and \$250 per student for the academy year which runs from September 1 to the following August 31. The scholarship is intended for organ or choir master study only.
5. The per lesson subsidy is paid directly to the teacher upon receipt by the Chapter Treasurer of a properly completed and signed Reimbursement Request Form. Both the student and the teacher must sign each request form. The student is responsible for the remainder of the cost of each lesson which is to be paid directly to the teacher.
6. All teachers must be members in good standing of the American Guild of Organists and accepted by the Education and Outreach Committee and the Executive Board.
7. All Organ Academy participants will be expected to perform once annually in some form of a program as determined by the Executive Board and the Education and Outreach Committee.
8. Re-application for an Organ Academy Scholarship is required on an annual basis; acceptance will be determined by the Education and Outreach Committee along with the Executive Board.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ORGAN BEGINS AT NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

NEW YORK CITY—The 2008–2009 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ORGAN was officially launched at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) held recently in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn. Nearly 2,000 members of the organ and choral music community attended the week-long event, which took place in the Twin Cities and featured a variety of organ concerts, workshops, exhibits, and regional meetings of AGO chapters from around the country.

A New Year's Eve-style celebration, complete with noisemakers, fanfare, and a wide variety of organ music performed by internationally renowned organists and guests, was held at Wooddale Church in suburban Eden Prairie, Minn., to herald the start of the International Year of the Organ (IYO). A year-long celebration that will continue through June, 2009, the IYO will feature a multitude of activities ranging from organ concerts and recitals to organ building workshops and special organ music appreciation classes for students.

"It was very uplifting and exciting to see so many people celebrating a year set aside to honor the King of Instruments," said James E. Thomashower, executive director of the AGO. "We are thrilled to have this opportunity to introduce the organ and organ music to those around the world who are not aware of this amazing instrument and its many contributions to our society and culture and the impact it has had on music as a whole."

Highlighting the IYO will be an "ORGAN SPECTACULAR," a daylong celebration scheduled for October 19, 2008. On that day, more than 250 concerts will be held around the world to showcase the organ, its colorful history and its ability to enchant young and old alike. The organ's roots date back some 2,000 years to ancient Egypt, making it the world's oldest keyboard instrument.

Excitement continued throughout the convention as AGO President Frederick Swann honored three award-winning composers. The AGO Distinguished Composer Award, presented biennially to recognize outstanding composers of organ and choral music, was presented to Stephen Paulus of St. Paul, Minn. The AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition, carrying a cash prize of \$2,000, publication provided by the ECS Publishing Co. and a performance at the AGO National Convention, was presented to Stephen R. Fraser of Ontario, Canada. The AGO Award in Organ Composition, with a cash prize of \$2,000 provided by the Holzkamp Organ Co., publication by Hinshaw Music Inc., and a performance at the AGO National Convention, was presented to Rachel Laurin of Ontario, Canada.

In addition to honoring these three award-winning composers, the AGO bestowed its two highest awards of national distinction during the convention. The AGO Edward A. Hansen Leadership Award, honoring the memory of the Guild's distinguished past president, was presented to Marianne Webb of Carbondale, Ill., for her outstanding leadership of the AGO. The AGO President's Award, presented biennially to recognize outstanding contributions to the art of the organ, was given to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley C. Dudley of Williamsburg, Va. The prestigious award recognizes the Dudleys' dedicated support of the AGO and generous patronage of the King of Instruments, particularly through Pipedreams broadcasts, bringing the voice of the organ into American homes from coast to coast and beyond.

Also announced at the convention were newly elected officers of the 2008–2010 AGO National Council, including eight national councillors and nine regional councillors. The newly elected AGO National Council, led by President Eileen Guenther, dma, and Vice President John Walker, fago, dma, will serve a term of two years, beginning July 1, 2008, and continuing through June 30, 2010.

The results of the AGO National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance (NYACOP) and the National Competition in Organ Improvisation (NCOI) also were announced at the convention. The National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance serves as a springboard for emerging young organists who develop their performance ability by participating in the various competition stages.

From a pool of 24 official NYACOP competitors, three finalists participated in the final round held at St. Mark's Cathedral in downtown Minneapolis. The prizewinners were determined following two performance rounds after submission of recordings and applications outlining their recital experience and demonstrating their readiness for the rigorous performing demands required of the first place winner. The \$2,000 Lillian Murtagh Memorial Prize and two years of management by Karen McFarlane Artists were awarded to first place winner Michael Unger from Rochester, N.Y., who also won the audience-choice prize. The second place prize was awarded to Andrew Kotylo from Bloomington, Ind., and third place prize to Monica Harper from Ocilla, Ga.

The National Competition in Organ Improvisation (NCOI), which was also featured at the convention, advances the art of improvisation by recognizing and rewarding superior performers in the field. The NCOI held its semifinal and final rounds at the House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul and at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis. The competition concluded with the presentation of the \$2,000 first prize to Jason Roberts from West Hartford, Conn., second prize to Steven Ball from Ann Arbor, Mich., and third prize to Herbert Buffington from Atlanta, Ga.

Upcoming Events

September 2008

Sunday, September 14, 3:00 p.m. Opening Concert, Music on Main Concert Series, First Congregational Church, 165 Main Street, Amherst. Rod Gisick and Dick Matteson, past and present Music Directors at the church. Works of Bach, Brahms, Demarest and others for solo piano, solo organ and piano/organ duet. Featured pieces: the original scoring of Franck's *Prelude, Fugue and Variation* and Daniel Burton's *Rex: The King of Instruments* (Rev. Vicki Kemper, Pastor, Narrator). In celebration of the church's 1897 Steinway Model "A". Tickets - \$12 Adults/\$10 "Seniors" /\$6 students & children to benefit the piano restoration fund. For more information, please call the Church at (413) 253-3456.

Sunday, September 21, 2008, 2:00pm – Springfield AGO Chapter Opening event: Introducing the Year of Education, with Cheryl Duerr, Regional Educational Coordinator. Trinity Methodist Church, Springfield, Mass. Officer Installation, Welcome reception, and Introduction to AGO certification program.

Wednesday, September 24, 2008 7:30 PM Christopher Houlihan, Organist, with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, in Samuel Barber's *Toccata Festiva* for Organ and Orchestra. The William H. Mortensen Hall, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, Hartford, Connecticut.

October 2008

Celebrating the International Year of the Organ!

Sunday, October 5, 2008, 3:00pm Springfield Chapter of AGO and Saint Theresa's R.C. Church present John Weaver in the dedicatory pipe organ recital at St. Theresa of Lisieux R.C. Church in South Hadley, Massachusetts. This will be the Pioneer Valley's opening event commemorating the American Guild of Organists' International Year of the Organ. *Please post the enclosed poster!

Friday, October 10, 2008 7:30 PM Christopher Houlihan, Organist, Trinity College Organ Series. Music of Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, Alain, Duruflé, & Sowerby 300 Summit Street, Hartford, Connecticut

Saturday, October 11, 2008, 7:30pm. (Springfield

AGO Chapter event) Choral Vespers at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield, Mass. Lad Pfeifer Conducting the Cathedral Choir, with Christopher Houlihan, Organist.

Saturday, October 19, 2008, 7:00pm Pipe Organ Spectacular – Celebrating the International Year of the Organ! (Springfield AGO Chapter event) Featuring Robert MacDonald, Organist. Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Mass. www.christchurchcathedralspringfield.org

Saturday, October 26, 2008, 4:00pm (Springfield AGO Chapter event) Organ, Strings and Percussion Concert, St. John's Episcopal Church, 48 Elm Street, Northampton, Mass. Featuring Nancianne Parrella, Associate Organist, Saint Ignatius Loyola, New York, NY. Strings and Percussionists from University of Massachusetts Orchestra, Lanfranco Marcelletti, Jr., Conductor. Concert includes "Concerto for Organ, Strings and Percussion" by Stephen Paulus; "Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani" by Francis Poulenc. Sponsored by the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Saint John's Church (Episcopal), Northampton, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

November 2008

November 2, 2008, 3:00pm. First Church of Deerfield, Deerfield, Mass. Brick Church Music Series, Organ Recital with Lee Ridgway. Mr. Ridgway's program will include works by J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, Froberger, Distler, and Pinkham. \$10 suggested donation. www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org

Tuesday, November 11, 2008, 6:00pm (AGO Chapter Event) Service Playing Certificate (SPC) Informational Supper Meeting to discuss SPC materials and set class schedule. Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield, Mass.

November 16, 3:00 PM. First Church of Deerfield, Deerfield, Mass. Brick Church Music Series - Yumi Okada, violin and Fumi Masugata, piano. \$10 suggested donation. www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org.



Springfield Chapter 2008-2009 Program Schedule

Sunday September 21, 2008, 2:00pm

Introducing the Year of Education
Trinity Methodist Church, Springfield, Massachusetts
with Cheryl Duerr, Regional Educational Coordinator
Officer Installation, Welcome reception, and Introduction to AGO certification

Sunday, October 5, 2008, 3:00pm

John Weaver inaugurating the 1964 Casavant (Opus 2791)
St. Theresa of Lisieux R.C. Church, South Hadley, Massachusetts

Saturday, October 11, 2008, 7:30pm

Choral Vespers St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield, Massachusetts
Cathedral Choir led by Ladd Pfeifer, with Christopher Houlihan, Organist

Sunday, October 19, 2008, 7:00pm

Organ Spectacular! Robert MacDonald, Organist
Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, Massachusetts

Sunday, October 26, 2008 4:00pm

Organ and Brass Concert, Nancianne Parrella, Organist
St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton, Massachusetts

Tuesday, November 11, 2008, 6:00pm

Service Playing Certificate Informational Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield, Massachusetts
Supper meeting to discuss materials & set class schedule

Sunday, January 25, 2009, 5:00pm

Pastor-Organist Dinner
Sacred Heart R.C. Church, Easthampton, Massachusetts
5:00pm Reception, 5:30pm Dinner
Speaker: Rev Barbara Briggs, former member of Taize

Saturday, March 14, 2009, 7:00pm

Silent Movie "October" with Peter Krasinski, Organist
United Congregational Church of Holyoke

Sunday, April 26, 2009, 4:00pm

Members Recital, inaugurating the 1897 Casavant Opus 78
St. Mary's R.C. Church, Westfield, Massachusetts

Sunday, June 7, 2009, 5:00pm

Annual Meeting & End of Year Banquet
Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield
Entertainment by Steve Hays from Drama Studio

Positions

The Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal) in West Springfield, MA, is seeking an organist. The position is limited to a 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday and occasional funerals and weddings. Inquires should be made to the church at (413) 734-1976 or via email at secretary@goodshepherdws.org

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Holyoke, Massachusetts

Organist & Choir Director, part-time. Start date on or about September 1, 2008.

Qualifications: Ability to perform competently on both organ and piano. Candidate should be familiar with choral repertoire; both classical and contemporary composers. Ability to rehearse and lead a choir, knowledge of Episcopal traditions preferred. 2 manual, 39 rank Casavant, 1969-70 (Phelps).

Responsibilities: Select and prepare appropriate music offerings for Sunday services, including prelude, postlude and choir anthems for offertory and communion. Coordinate with Rector on hymns and service music. Play organ for Sunday services and encourage congregational signing. Play for these seasonal services: Christmas Eve (two services), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday (2 services). Hold choir rehearsals one evening (currently Thursday) a week (except July and August when the choir breaks for the summer). Meet with choir on Sunday before the service to rehearse and review anthems, hymns and service music. Accompany (on piano or organ) and direct choir during offertory and communion anthems. Prepare music for special occasions such as "Lessons and Carols" during Advent. Prepare and accompany the choir for one or two special programs during the year. This schedule varies from year to year. The organist has first call to play for funerals or weddings, to be paid by the families concerned. Terms: Salary will be according to education and experience. Application: COVER LETTER and RESUME to: The Rev. Barbara Thrall; Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton Street, Holyoke, Ma. 01040, stpaulsholyoke@yahoo.com.

Pilgrim Congregational Church (UCC)

Street Address: 26 West Street, Leominster, MA 01453

Position Information: Music Director/Organist/Choir Director/Jr. Choir Director. Up to 10 hours per week. Year-round 9:30am worship. Senior Choir rehearsal one evening per week plus before service, September through June. Junior Choir rehearsal once per week during school year. Work with leader of bell choir. Play for special services including (but not limited to) Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday. Select organ music for worship; hymns selected by pastor.

Compensation: \$18,400 plus Social Security. Vacation and sick days.

Instrument(s): Steer & Turner (Op. 70, 1873), possibly the largest Steer & Turner pipe organ in existence with 2 manuals, 28 stops and 33 ranks. Baby grand piano in sanctuary.

Contact: Diane Dion, Personnel Committee, Pilgrim Congregational Church, 26 West Street, Leominster, MA 01453. Send e-mail to ddion@constantcontact.com or pilgrimchurch1743@comcast.net.

Springfield,
Massachusetts
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 2008 issue are due September 15, 2008.

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 62 Years as a Chapter!

CHIFF CHAT

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

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