

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists
October 2009



A Message from the Dean...

Something for everyone –

We in the Pioneer Valley are so fortunate to have access to an enormous range of artistic activities, from art and craft shows to concerts of every type (classical and folk and rock and dance and everything in between) to museum presentations to you-name-it. It is a glorious embarrassment of riches, which often makes one have to make a choice of what to attend.

Just this past weekend our opening Guild event coincided with the opening concert of the Arcadia Players. The Arcadia Players are well-known for historically-informed performances using instruments and playing techniques appropriate to the music presented. The Arcadia concert was, according to one of our Guild members, *ravishing* in its beauty and perfectly suited to the intimate ambience of the White Church Community Center in Deerfield. I attended the solo recital by Christopher Houlihan at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield, partially because of the officers' installation ceremony, held after the recital. It was wonderful to see the Cathedral packed with many hundreds of attentive listeners – congratulations to Lad Pfieler for the superb publicity work which resulted in a really full house. And the use of a camera to project Chris and his work at the console onto a large screen at the front of the sanctuary was so helpful.

Being able to see the incredibly intricate work involved in playing so large an instrument is a thrill to both layperson and organist alike, who otherwise would just have to sit quietly and look at the floral arrangements or the stenciling on the walls while hearing the torrents of sound coming from the balcony. Chris Houlihan is a very personable young man, and his spoken commentary between pieces was helpful in feeling connected to the music, and to the performer. Though his 1960's-style kaleidoscopic Bach playing was definitely *not* to my taste (I'm an academic-type, after all, and prefer the music to speak for itself) the program was very enjoyable for all, and the standing ovation and call for an encore were well deserved. It was a grand occasion in a grand space.

The events listed in the calendar section of the Chiff Chat demonstrate more of the rich musical offerings in the Valley. There really is something for everyone. I hope to see you at many of these events, well-planned by your board and deserving of attendance just as large and enthusiastic as the opening concert at the Cathedral. Have a great fall!

Grant

Springfield Chapter Leadership

Dean	Grant Moss
Sub Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
Secretary	Mary Jeanne Tash
Treasurer	James Barnes
Directors	Karen Banta, Barbara Boudo, Quentin Faulkner, Don Hooton, Mark Jacobson, Larry Picard
Chaplain	Fr. William Wallis
Education	Martha Sienkiewicz, Don Hooton
Membership	Karen Banta
Chiff Chat Editor	Larry Picard
Yearbook Editor	Peter Beardsley
Investments	Charles Page, E Lary Grossman, William Czelusniak, James Barnes

September Chapter Event



Christopher Houlihan entertains a large audience in concert at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield, Saturday, September 26. Below: Chapter members with the artist; Charles Page conducts the installation of officers, including Larry Picard. Don Hooton, Jim Barnes, Martha Sienkiewicz, Mary Jeanne Tash, Grant Moss, and Fr. William Wallis.





Springfield AGO Chapter Event

Almut Rössler, organist

**St. Theresa of Lisieux Church, 9 E.
Parkview Drive, South Hadley**

Friday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Lecturer at the *Landeskirchenmusikschule* Düsseldorf since 1959 and Professor of Organ at the Robert-Schumann-Conservatory since 1977, she also had a 30-year tenure at the Johanneskirche in Düsseldorf. She has received many awards for her work including "Organist of the Year 1986" from the University of Michigan. The music of Bach and Messiaen has had a major influence on her work.

Chapter Events 2009-2010

October 16 (Friday) 7:00 PM at Abbey Chapel, Mt. Holyoke College, **Almut Rössler**, concert organist from Düsseldorf and renowned interpreter of Messiaen.

November 10 (Tuesday) 7:00 PM at Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Northampton, **Anthem Reading (bring your own) and music tag sale**, followed by coffee and potluck desserts.

February 13 (Saturday) 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield, **Mini-convention**, with workshops on Catholic liturgy, Anglican chant, choral direction, hymn playing, and children's choirs. Also, publisher's reps., music giveaway and lunch.

March 13 (Saturday) 10:00 AM at the Brick Church in Old Deerfield, **Organ Master Class with Stephen Hamilton**.

March 21 (Sunday) 4:00 PM, **Members' Recital** at St. Patrick's, Monson, reception to follow.

April 24 (Saturday) 7:00 PM, **Peter Krazinski accompanies the silent movie "For Heaven's Sake"** at United Congregational Church of Holyoke.

June 7 (Monday) 6:30 PM at St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield, **Annual Banquet**.

Upcoming Events

October 2009

Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Larry Schipull plays the third recital in a series (see Sept. 27) this one being performed on the Richards/Fowkes Opus 13 tracker organ at the First Church of Deerfield. The program will feature two of Mendelssohn's organ sonatas as well as one of his preludes and fugues, as well as music by Bach. For admission please bring canned goods for the local food pantry.

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. Concert pianist Corbin Beisner plays at the opening meeting of the Tuesday Morning Music Club at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield. Admission is \$10.

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 12:35 p.m. Peter Beardsley performs Saint-Saëns "Carnival of the Animals" at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford. Admission is free. www.cccathedral.org

Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford. Cathedral Choristers, Kevin Jones, Canon Precenter & Director of Music.

Friday, October 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Chapter Event: Almut Rössler in recital at St. Theresa of Lisieux Church, 9 East Parkview Drive, South Hadley. See previous page.

Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Gail Archer, concert organist, lecturer and recording artist, plays works of Buxtehude, Sweelinck, Bach, Mendelssohn and Barber at the First Church of Deerfield. Suggested donation \$10 with reception.

Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. The Tuesday Morning Music Club meets at Providence Place, 5 Gamelin Street, Holyoke. Featured performers are Mary Brown Bonacci, mezzo-soprano, Grant Moss, organ, and Larry Picard, organ. No admission charge.

Sunday, October 25, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Brett Maguire plays a program of French organ music at St. Mary's R. C. Church, 30 Bartlett Street, Westfield on the 1896 Casavant tracker organ, Opus 78. Brett is the Minister of Music/Organist at Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester, Mass. with academic credentials from Holy Cross College and Oberlin Conservatory. He is a student of James David Christie.

November 2009

Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Patrick Ball, Celtic Harpist and Storyteller, performs "The Fine Beauty of the Island," the second in the Mattunes House Concert series. Admission \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Contact Larry Picard for more information: lawrencepicard@comcast.net.

Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. A Service of Light at St. James Episcopal Church, Federal St. at Church St. in downtown Greenfield. The service will feature song, prayer, and meditation, to lighten the burden and to enlighten the heart. The songs will be taken in part from the music of the Christian communities at Taizé and Iona. All are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Sonja Funk, soprano, Thomas Slowick, piano, Kirsten Hadden Lipkins, oboe, Mary Ellen Miller, clarinet, and Rebecca Eldridge, bassoon at Trinity Methodist, Springfield. Admission is \$10.

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Tamila Azadaliyeva, piano, Neal Robertson Humphreys, cello, and Eileen Ruby, mezzo-soprano at Trinity Methodist, Springfield. Admission is \$10.

Sunday, November 22, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. The Hampshire Choral Society and Young People's Chorus sing the Bach Magnificat at Abbey Chapel, Mt. Holyoke College. <http://www.hampshirechoral.org>

Summer Wandering

By Mary Jeanne Tash

As a teacher I have the privilege of having the summer off, so a friend suggested I go to Lenox to see the 1868 Wm. Allen Johnson Organ Opus 281, the oldest Johnson still in service. There I met John Cheney, Springfield Chapter Dean from 1975-77, and presently a dual member with the Berkshire Chapter and the organist at Church on the Hill. He was instrumental in raising money to have the organ restored in 2001 by Andover Organ Co. John began his music career at Ohio Wesleyan and upon entering the Air Force was the Chaplain's assistant, organizing Glee Clubs in Waco, Texas, where he got his Bachelor of Music at Baylor. He got his Master of Sacred Music from the Boston University School of Theology. A teacher of music for 23 years, he taught in public schools in Sturbridge and East Longmeadow, taking an "early out" at 55. He moved to Pittsfield and was organist at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, retired (again) and started at the Church on the Hill in Lenox. He is the Artistic Director of the Berkshire Concert Choir leading numerous trips abroad. In fact he still has openings for anyone who would like to go to Salzburg and Vienna this fall. Besides working with the music program at Kimball Farms he is trying to organize a lifetime of sheet music and plans to finally "really retire" this spring. His future plans are to move to Longmeadow to Glen Meadow retirement community and participate in our chapter.



My friend who gave me the tip to go to Lenox exclaimed in disbelief "you traveled all that way and did not play the organ?" To be honest, the pedal board is off center and flat. Knowing myself a better photographer than organist, my answer was "I went to photograph it, not to play it." John played it and I enjoyed my visit immensely.

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Apologies from the Editor: If you receive your Chiff Chat by email this issue probably reached you five days late. By snail mail it would be more like six or seven. My sincerest apologies to those who had programs listed in Upcoming Events for this past weekend. Last week a perfect storm of commitments and deadlines formed for me, not the least of which was closing on a house I just bought and moving into it. To really make things enjoyable, my internet access disappeared for the weekend. I look forward to a slightly calmer October and a November newsletter that arrives by November 1. Thanks for your patience! - Larry

CHIFF CHAT

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

Larry Picard, Newsletter Editor

173 Thompson Street

Springfield, MA 01109-4036

Chiff Chat Newsletter

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Celebrating 62 Years as a chapter!**

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email newsletter@agospringfield.org. Submissions for the November 2009 issue are due October 20, 2009.

Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org!

*October 16 Chapter Event - Almut Rössler in concert at
7:00 p.m. at St. Theresa of Lisieux Church, South Hadley.*