

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts
Chapter
American Guild of Organists



February 2010

A Message from the Dean...

It's February already. Too late, I suppose to ask you how you made it through the Advent/Christmas season as you are likely focused on Lent and Easter. Some of you are already in high gear dealing with the details that go into presenting worship music for Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and the special events that always seem to pop up in May. Others may be grieving as Catholic parishes around the diocese closed their doors by the New Year, putting some musicians out of jobs. Still others continue to dedicate more hours than you are paid for presenting high-quality worship music, even though less budget money may be available to have section leaders or an occasional soloist or instrumentalist.

We still seem to be living in uncertain times. The citizens of Haiti certainly feel that in a big way and no doubt they hope for a return to some normalcy after a long period of rebuilding, but some things will surely be different. Likewise, as the rest of us try to wade out of the rubble left by economic tremors we also hope things will eventually return to normal. Normal, however, may end up being something completely different once the dust settles. So, how will we deal with the new "normal?"

Here is my two cents on that subject: continue to be the best you can. We all can do that by continuing to improve ourselves as musicians and by staying on top of whatever may be happening in our professions. Go to master classes and concerts, attend seminars, take lessons, and, most importantly, stay networked with

your colleagues. On the local level the Springfield Chapter is offering a mini-convention on February 13 with workshops on directing from the console, Anglican chant, children's choirs, Catholic liturgy and hymn playing. A registration form is inserted with this newsletter. Another opportunity presents itself on March 13 with a presentation by Stephen Hamilton focusing on creative and innovative ideas for the organist. On the national level, this summer's AGO convention in Washington DC should be spectacular if you are able to attend. If that proves too costly for you, what about attending more events locally and regionally? The Boston AGO is sponsoring a series of Master Classes at Harvard (see p. 2). The Yale Summerterm program in June includes, among other topics, two extremely interesting classes in congregational singing and global music for worship presented by Patrick Evans and we shouldn't forget that Alice Parker often does the same right in our area. The Hartt Summerterm also offers a huge variety of classes, and if you can get to any presentation by Mary Ellen Junda (University of Connecticut faculty) she is one of the best when it comes to children's choirs.

Too early to be talking about summer plans? Registration forms for many of these events are already available. Reservations need to be made, financing needs to be sorted out...well, better get to it. Meanwhile, let's all look forward with optimism to the new "normal!"

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

Chapter Events 2010

February 13 (Saturday) 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield, **Mini-convention**, with workshops, publisher's reps., music giveaway and lunch. Workshops on conducting from the console, Anglican Chant, children's choirs, Catholic liturgy and hymn playing. See insert for registration.

March 13 (Saturday) 10:00 AM at the Brick Church in Old Deerfield, **Lecture/Demonstration on Organ Repertoire with Stephen Hamilton**. Mr. Hamilton is a New York City organist who will present creative and innovative ideas on presenting organ music each week in the church setting. Coffee, donuts and socializing will begin at 9:30 AM.

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

April 24 (Saturday) 7:00 PM, **Peter Krasinski 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**.

Bach's Organ World Tour

Not all that long ago we were all confident we knew what the "Bach-organ" was. Then the Wall came down, and 18th-cent. organs (a surprising number still survive) began to be restored. Those organs make it clear that the stereotypical image of the "Bach-organ" needs major revising. Imagine organs with many colorful 8' stops, including strings and even celestes—Principal celestes! Organs with plentiful winding (with "good lungs," to quote Bach!) and lots of 16's, even 32's. That style of organbuilding hasn't caught on in the U.S. (or in Europe, for that matter!). It's largely confined to central Germany—Bach-territory. If you want to hear Bach's music played on the instruments he knew and championed, then you have to travel to central Germany—a treasure trove of magnificent organs of all types. That's the purpose of the Bach's Organ World Tour this coming July 19-30: to hear and play, to become familiar with the startling sounds and infinite range of colors those organs offer—to hear and play the music of Bach and his contemporaries on the organs they played and loved. - **Quentin Faulkner (See ad back cover)**

Upcoming Events

February 2010

Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents a concert of vocal music by Debussy, Delibes, Falla, Fauré, and Rossini, as well as piano music of Bach and Beethoven. Laura Jenkins and Jane Hanson will sing accompanied by Jerry Noble and Estela Olevsky. Miguel Camphino is the solo pianist. Concert takes place at Trinity UMC, Sumner Avenue Springfield. Admission \$10.

Sunday, February 7, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Monica Czauz will give a free organ recital on the historic 1902 Steere & Son instrument at Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Parish, Easthampton. Music by Bach, Franck, Schroeder, Sanders, and Gigout. Additional info: E. Lary Grossman at 413-247-9426.

Saturday, February 13, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

(Chapter Event) Mini-convention at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield. See insert in this newsletter.

Sunday, February 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Grant Moss and Larry Picard play a concert of music for two pianos at South Church, Springfield. Music of Debussy, Reinecke, Rachmaninoff, Rheinberger and others. This is a fundraiser for the Mattunes House Concert Series, suggested donation \$15.

Sunday, February 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

The Brick Church Music Series presents: The Kelet Duo with **Katalin Vizsmeg**, violin, and **Pi-Hsun Shih**, piano, of the Hartt School of Music. The First Church of Deerfield, Main St., Old Deerfield. Suggested donation: \$10.00, reception following. 413-774-2657.

Sunday, February 2, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Guitarist Peter Fletcher at South Church, New Britain, CT. www.southchurch.org.

Friday, February 26, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Schola Nova presents "Sing Joyfully," a program of motets, choruses and spirituals at the Newman Catholic Center, UMass, Amherst. www.scholanova.org

Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

Choral Festival Benefit for Gray's House at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield.

March 2010

Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

Monica Czauz performs on an organ recital at Providence Place, Holyoke.

Saturday, March 13, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

(Chapter Event) Lecture and demonstration at First Church of Deerfield by New York City organist Stephen Hamilton on the Richards, Fowkes organ. See p. 2 for details.

Sunday, March 14, 2010, 3:00 p.m. The Brick Church Music Series presents Stephen Hamilton, recitalist, recording artist, lecturer and church musician from NYC. Suggested donation \$10.00 with reception following. Information: 413-774-2657.

Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. The Mattunes House Concert series presents "A Marimba Equinox" with Fumito Nunoya, marimba. Concert takes place at a historic Springfield residence with desserts by the host. Reservations 413-348-3729.

Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Morris Robinson, Bass, at South Church, New Britain, CT. www.southchurch.org.

ONGOING: The Boston AGO will present a series of recitals and master classes at Harvard University to celebrate the historic Fisk organ. The dates and performers are as follows: Feb. 2 – Harry Huff; March 2 – Christa Rakich; April 6 – Nancy Granert; May 3 – Christian Lane. The concerts are at 12:15 p.m. and the recitals happen at 7:30 p.m.

For sale: Allen MD Classic 20 organ, two manuals, 20 bass pedals and 38 stops. Owned by area organist Betty Bolton. Contact June Houghton at phlopps@localnet.com.

CHIFF CHAT

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

Larry Picard, Newsletter Editor

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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 are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org!



Bach's Organ World Tour
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***Next Chapter Event - Mini-Convention at St. Michael's
Cathedral, Springfield - Saturday, February 13 at 9 a.m.***