

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists

February 2011



A message from the Dean...

New Year's Resolutions are a good thing to help us to re-focus on goals that are meaningful. For those of us who just 'go with the flow,' good resolutions will help to establish positive goals for the coming year. Two goals for every organist should be: 1) practice more consistently and 2) strive for an excellence in performance that will help promote the organ as a masterful instrument in these troubling times.

Malcolm Gladwell in his book The Tipping Point states that any musician who practices for 10,000 hours will reach a world class level of competence. 10,000 hours translates to approximately 4 hours a day for 10 years, a huge commitment. No desire to be a world class organist? We can still learn a big lesson from this research: regardless of our skill level, practice makes a better performance. This is nothing new....yet many of us have reached a satisfactory level of sight-reading hymns and a competent level of performance with favorite preludes which we play over and over. Even the choir settles into a routine of anthems for various seasons. Routine is very comfortable but growth only comes with new adventures and practice. Resolve to find six new preludes (maybe some of the ones in collections that you've never attempted), six new anthems for the choir and religiously practice at least one hour for every hour you perform. It will make a difference.

Promoting the organ is a priority of the Guild in our changing culture. Your own performance will speak volumes for the organ's majesty as an instrument. Strive to present works by classic composers as well as more contemporary ones. If your church has a bulletin, submit the title and composer (dates) to be printed as the prelude and/or postlude. This not only informs the congregation, but it also encourages you to plan ahead and then practice, rather than just pulling something out 30 minutes before Mass or Worship Service. We can take a lesson from our own Commonwealth Opera who organized a "flash mob" to sing the Hallelujah Chorus in the food court at Holyoke Mall on Dec. 17. While the Mall didn't have an organ to feature, the event did underscore the awesome wonder of classical music. We need to do what we can to fight against the degradation of fine arts in this culture of profanity. Your prelude can be a start.

Wishing you all to be the very best you can be in 2011.....**martha**

Are you good at Desktop Publishing? The Springfield Chapter AGO is looking for a volunteer to edit the annual yearbook. We're also looking for two people to serve as Members-at-Large on the Chapter Board. Contact martha@sienkiewicz.org.

Springfield Chapter Leadership

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|-------------------|---|
| Dean | Martha Sienkiewicz |
| Sub Dean | Don Hooton |
| Secretary | Mary Jeanne Tash |
| Treasurer | James Barnes |
| Directors | Barbara Boudo, Quentin Faulkner, Alan Dickinson, Mark Jacobson, Roger LaCross, Larry Picard |
| Chaplain | Fr. William Wallis |
| Education | Martha Sienkiewicz, Don Hooton |
| Membership | Karen Banta |
| Chiff Chat Editor | Larry Picard |
| Web Site | Allan Taylor |
| Investments | Charles Page, E Lary Grossman, William Czelusniak, James Barnes |

Next Chapter Event: Paraclete Press Anthem Reading Session at the Church of the Atonement, 36 Court Street, Westfield, February 19 at 10 a.m. (ending at noon). Packets of single anthems are \$5. Refreshments will be available at 9:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary in order to have enough packets. Contact Don Hooten dehoot@verizon.net or 413-533-8412.

And more chapter events...

March 20 (Sunday) 3:00 PM, **Members' Recital** at All Saint's Episcopal Church, South Hadley. Ian McKee, Emelyn Bashour, Roberta Morkin and Scott Bailey will perform.

April 9 (Saturday) 7:00 PM, **Peter Krazinski accompanies the silent movie "The General"** at United Congregational Church of Holyoke.

June 5 (Sunday) 2:00 PM, **End-of-year cookout** at the home of Charles Page, Enfield, Ct.

Organist/choir director wanted by Epiphany Episcopal Church in Wilbraham. One service each Sunday, 10 voices, SAB choir, and holiday services (Christmas Eve, Easter Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday). \$12,000 a year with four Sundays vacation. Wicks pipe organ, Yamaha piano and two-octave set of hand bells. Hymnal 1982, Lift Every Voice and Sing, and a self-published hymnal with a mixture of praise music and other contemporary music. Contact the Rev. Meredyth Wessman Ward, Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Epiphany, Highland Ave., Wilbraham MA 01095. 413-596-6080 (office) 508-353-2099 (cell).

Position Open: The Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Westfield, seeks a part-time (8-12 hours per week) musician to play, direct and develop choral and congregational singing and enhance worship. Familiarity with liturgical forms, flexibility, and availability for 2 Sunday services and major holy days required. Salary will be based on experience and AGO guidelines. Position available beginning January, 2011. Please send resume and letter of interest to The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud at rector.atonement@verizon.net or The Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 36 Court St., Westfield, MA 01085.

An event that didn't fit on the Events Calendar page!

Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 4:00 pm Novi Cantori sings music by Benjamin Britten, including the Te Deum and Jubilate in C, and the Hymn to St. Cecilia. Also music by Howells, di Lasso, Palestrina, and Schumann, as well as solo organ works performed by organist John Anderson. Granville Federated Church, Granville. Tickets \$10 (\$8 student and senior). www.novicantori.org

MINI-CONVENTION XIII

Saturday, February 26, 2011

Sponsored by THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER, A.G.O.

Mini-Convention No. 13 is coming soon, and this will be lucky 13th! We look forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces and some new ones too, so invite a friend, student, or the new organist in town. We have another interesting and varied lineup for you again this year, based on suggestions by former attendees and our chapter members. **Spectrum Music** will be back with a large selection of organ and choral scores. Attendees are welcome to also bring "pre-owned" music, books and CDs for our Scholarship Fund flea market table. **The Party Connection** of Methuen will be providing a delicious catered lunch, and there will be time for socializing and browsing. Here's the schedule (bring it with you!):

- 8:30 – 9:00 Coffee and Registration**
9:00 – 9:45 Anthem Reading led by MVAGO members.
10:00 – 10:45 Lee Leach: "Carillons: A Carillonner's Perspective on Playing Church Bells"
11:00 – 11:45 Andrew Shenton: "The Organ Music of Liszt, Large and Small"
12:00 Noon Lunch, Conversation and Browsing
1:30 – 2:15 David Carrier: "Spicing up Your Choral Rehearsals"
2:30 – 3:15 Nelson and Beverly Pease: "An Introduction to Reed Organs"

The 2011 Mini-Convention will again be held at **First Calvary Baptist Church**, at the intersection of Route 125 and Massachusetts Ave. in North Andover (same location as last year). From I-495 take Exit 43 (Massachusetts Ave. – North Andover); follow Mass. Ave. south about two miles, past one traffic light, until you see another traffic light ahead (Rte. 125). The church is a modern building on the left, just before the intersection, and entrance to the large parking lot is just before you get to the church.

Full day registration is still \$48.00, and either a morning or afternoon half-day session is \$32.00. Lunch is included in all registrations, whether full-day or half-day. Students with appropriate i.d. may take \$10.00 off the cost. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To register, cut and complete the form below, enclose a check or money order payable to **MVAGO Mini-Convention** and mail to Ruth Bowers, Registrar, 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915-3729, by February 21, 2011.

Membership in the American Guild of Organists is not required for attendance at this Mini-Convention. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Barbara Owen (978-465-2068; owenbar@juno.com) or Ruth Bowers (978-922-8137; Ruth.Bowers@comcast.net).

Mini-Convention Registration

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____ E-Mail _____

All Day _____ Morning only _____ Afternoon only _____ Amount enclosed _____

Detach and mail this form with your registration fee to Ruth H. Bowers, 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915-3729 before February 21, 2011.

Getting to know our members...Elizabeth Zellmer

One of our newest AGO members, Elizabeth Zellmer can be found practicing the organ in the choir loft of Blessed Sacrament Church in Holyoke. Presently, she holds the position of choir director and organist of three weekend Masses, while working full-time as an administrative assistant. She also finds time to sing soprano in Schola Nova, to lead the music in the monthly Mass of the Third Order Dominicans, and to continue to take organ lessons to constantly improve her technique. Elizabeth came to this area from New York, after graduating from SUNY with a degree in piano performance.

When did you start playing the organ? I mostly studied piano, but I had some experience with the organ while I studied piano. Then I fell away from playing, as my full time work in the business field seemed to take over my life. After coming to this area, I joined the choir at St. Thomas in West Springfield, and because I showed an interest in the keyboard of the organ, I was given a key to practice the organ. That was the beginning of the road to where I am now. After working as a part-time organist in several area churches, I was offered a position as music director of Blessed Sacrament Church in Holyoke.

Do you play and sing? Sometimes I play and cantor for the Mass. It has taken me time to perfect this skill, and I keep working at it. I am much more comfortable playing and cantoring now, than I used to be.

How did you end up being a choir director? It was a total surprise. I have always sung in choirs, ever since I was a teenager. This experience helped me to work with a choir. But, it was not a position that I had planned for. Now I can say I truly love it, and I look forward to the musical challenges that it offers me!

Monica Czausz Wins National Organ Competition

Last Saturday (January 29) at Oklahoma City University, there was a nationally-advertised competition for high-school-aged organ students. By the unanimous decision of the judges, the winner was Monica Czausz of Chicopee, a student of Peter Beardsley. She played the Bach G Major Trio Sonata (complete), the first movement of Vierne III, and the hymn *Lobet den Herren* with an elaborate introduction, modulation, and free accompaniment. She is pictured below at the 1968 Holtkamp organ in the chapel at Oklahoma City University.

A junior at Chicopee High School, Monica is also the Organist and Choir Director at St. Paul's Church in Holyoke. She is a member of Springfield Symphony Chorus and the Springfield Chapter AGO, and is involved in many other musical activities both in and out of school.

Because of airport delays due to weather, Monica arrived in Oklahoma in the middle of the night. The next day, she won the competition and, that evening, presented the winner's recital in the University Chapel, on which she also played the Duruflé *Veni Creator*. There was a substantial cash prize for the winner, and the promise of a scholarship should Monica decide to attend college there.

Monica will play the first in a series of recitals dedicating the renovated Austin organ of Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, at 7:30 Friday evening, February 25. Admission is free.



Upcoming Events

February 2011

Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Show Your Heart Benefit Concert at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield. The Greater Westfield Choral Association, the Accidentals of Longmeadow High School, The Jewish Chorus of Western Mass "Mak'hela", and The Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults perform. Suggested donation at the door is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for students and seniors. Jessica Hill at (413) 452-0839 or worship@diospringfield.org.

Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

Earl Raney's EPIC BRASS, a Boston area brass quintet playing classical to contemporary music. Historic First Church of Deerfield, 71 Main Street, Old Deerfield.
www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org

Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

A concert of music for two pianos, piano and organ, and two pianos and organ played by Grant Moss, Larry Schipull and Larry Picard. South Congregational Church UCC, 45 Maple Street, Springfield. Free-will offering. 413-732-0117 or www.sococh.org.

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Anita Cooper, soprano, accompanied by Grant Moss, and Miguel Campinho, piano soloist. Trinity Methodist Church, Sumner Avenue, Springfield.
www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org

Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

(Chapter Event) Anthem reading at Church of the Atonement, Westfield. See page 2 for more information.

Friday, February 25, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Organ Recital by Monica Czausz. Music of Bach, Franck, Duruflé, Widor, Dupré and Vierne Symphonie III complete. Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield
www.christchurchcathedralspringfield.org

March 2011

Friday, March 4, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Organ Recital by Peter Beardsley, FAGO Music of Franck, Duruflé, Alain, and the Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield
www.christchurchcathedralspringfield.org

Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents a program by the Junior Extension of the organization. Trinity Methodist Church, Sumner Avenue, Springfield.

www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org

Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

Christopher Houlihan plays works of Sweelinck, Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Vierne at First Church of Deerfield, 71 Main Street, Old Deerfield.

www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Tamila Azadaliyeva, piano, Neal Humphreys, cello and Eileen Ruby, mezzo-soprano. Trinity Methodist Church, Sumner Avenue, Springfield.

www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org

Friday, March 18, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Organ Recital by Griffin McMahon Music of Bach, Franck, Duruflé, Widor, Messiaen. Christ Church Cathedral, 35 State Street, Springfield
www.christchurchcathedralspringfield.org
www.griffinmcmahon.com/

Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

(Chapter Event) Members' recital at All Saints Church, South Hadley.

Saturday, March 26, 2011, time TBA

Quimby Organ Competition, Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut St., Springfield
www.christchurchcathedralspringfield.org
<http://www.agohq.org/competitions/index.html>

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

Next chapter event is the Paraclete Anthem Reading Session, February 19 at 10 a.m. at the Church of the Atonement, Westfield.