

# Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter  
American Guild of Organists

October 2011



## A message from the Dean...

The Guild has planned an exciting year to celebrate its 65th anniversary! 65 years. I'm in awe. I called Charles Page to see if he knew anything about how the Springfield Chapter got started. He recalled that his predecessor at Old First Church, Charles Schilling, and an energetic woman from First Church Longmeadow named Ruth Perry were probably the moving force behind getting the chapter started. You'll see their names as the first two deans beginning back in 1946. This might actually be a good year to gather what we know of our history, write it down and place it on the website, so anyone who has recollections about the Guild in years past, please email them to me at [martha@sienkiewicz.org](mailto:martha@sienkiewicz.org). All anecdotes and memories will be welcome and we'll present the history as we know it at the anniversary dinner in June. This could be an exciting project if we can get a lot of participation. Think on it....

A fine beginning took place with the installation of officers at St. Paul Lutheran on Sept. 18, and you'll be glad to know that the board has taken the oath before God to serve you well. It was all done by our District Convener Robert Browne, who came from the Cape and even wore his academic robes. We are installed indeed. Paraclete Press is also planning to come from the eastern end of the state to give a fine anthem reading on Saturday Oct. 15 (9:30-12:00) at Church of the Atonement in Westfield. Everyone is welcome to bring choir members! Paraclete packets of music will be yours for a mere \$5. On Sunday Nov. 6, we travel north to Greenfield for an organ event and evensong. More details will follow. The Pastor-Organist dinner (it's OK to

come without your clergyperson) will feature none other than the national president of the Guild, Eileen Guenther as guest speaker on Monday March 5. The silent movie this year is "Speedway" with the incomparable Peter Krasinski. A choral festival is in the works for Sunday May 12 at Trinity Methodist Church with Becky Isaacson and Allan Taylor working their magic. The Anniversary Banquet will end the year on June 15 at Delaney House. The price is \$40 which for many is a little pricey. If there's money left in the budget, we'll try to subsidize that price so all can come.

The Membership Directory/Yearbook is now at the printers and will be coming to your mailbox soon. If there are any errors in your information, please email me. I'm the one who put it together this year and I have a very warm respect for Ron Shepard and Peter Beardsley who have done this job for so many years. I'd like to correct any errors in my files as I plan to volunteer for yearbook duty after I retire from being dean. My sincerest thanks to everyone who volunteers time to make our chapter one of the best. This calendar of events is exciting in an exciting year, thanks to all of you who make it possible. **Martha**

**EROI Festival 2011**  
November 10 - 13, 2011  
Eastman School of Music  
**Improvisation and Organ Pedagogy**  
[www.esm.rochester.edu/eroi/festival-2011.php](http://www.esm.rochester.edu/eroi/festival-2011.php)

### Springfield Chapter Leadership

Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
Sub Dean	Don Hooton
Secretary	Mary Jeanne Tash
Treasurer	James Barnes
Directors	Quentin Faulkner, Alan Dickinson, Mark Jacobson, Roger LaCross, Elizabeth Dawson, Lori Bourret
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

## *Anthem Reading Session at Church of the Atonement, Westfield Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>*

The Springfield Chapter of the AGO will present an anthem reading session on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Registration is from 9 to 9:30, with the reading session starting at 9:30 and ending at 12. The fee for the packet of music is \$5.00. Bring some of your choir members and go home with music that you can use with your choirs.

If you are planning to attend this event, please send the information to Donald E. Hooton, 43 Prospect St, South Hadley, MA. 01075, email address, [dehoot@verizon.net](mailto:dehoot@verizon.net) or phone, 533-8412 by **October 7, 2011.**



The presenter for this event is Jim Jordan, DMA, who is the Sheet Music Editor and Gregorian Chant Specialist for Paraclete Press. Dr. Jordan has worked in the sheet music field for over 20 years, working on review committees and editorial boards, which gave him an opportunity to experience a vast number of published and unpublished choral works. He has been organist for Gloria Dei Cantores, whose repertoire ranges from chant to contemporary works.

### **Beauty Unceasing: Choral music designed for varied groups and limited rehearsal time.**

This session is designed to offer a wide range of choral works for your choir with the understanding that your choir may range from SATB to SAB to Men/Women, all within the space of a few weeks! Also, we all know that rehearsal time is at a premium these days and that the music we use must fulfill roles of beauty in worship and functionality within our given time frame.

Given these parameters, we will explore choral anthems that range in voicing, styles, and texts for the church year with an emphasis on 3-part works or 4-parts that can also be performed in a 3-part version. We will also spend time talking about teaching methods for these pieces so that we can make best use of our rehearsal time.

I look forward to seeing you on October 15<sup>th</sup>. - **Don Hooton**

---

**Benjamin Parker** would like to introduce himself as an organ and piano player with over fifteen years experience playing in churches. He is looking to play on weekends, and perhaps evenings during the week. His contact information is: Benjamin Parker, 17 Saybrook Circle, South Hadley, MA 01075; 413-210-3682.

## Springfield AGO Chapter Events...

**Saturday, October 15, 2011, 9:00 am to 12 noon at Church of the Atonement, Westfield:**  
*Anthem Reading Session, presenter, Jim Jordan from Paraclette Press (see page 2)*

**Sunday, November 6, 2011, at 2:30 pm at St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield:**  
*Walking Tour of Organs ending with Evensong*

**Monday, March 5, 2012, at 6:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield:**  
*Pastor-Organist Dinner, Eileen Guenther, AGO President, Guest Speaker*

**Saturday, April 14, 2012, at 7:00 pm at United Congregational Church of Holyoke:**  
*Silent Movie, "Speedway" Peter Krasinski, Organist*

**Sunday, May 12, 2012, at 4:00 pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Springfield:**  
*Choral Festival, Allan Taylor, Director, Becky Isaacson, Organist*

**Friday, June 15, 2012, 6:00 pm at Delaney House, Holyoke, MA**  
*Annual Meeting & End of Year Banquet*

## Congratulations to one of our Student Members

In sending out the renewals for our chapter, I received a note from a very proud mother telling me about the accomplishments of her son, Justin. In April, Justin Murphy-Mancini placed second in the Arthur Poister International Organ Scholarship Competition and will present a solo recital at Syracuse University in November.



Justin has been studying for the past three years at Oberlin Conservatory of Music with Jack Mitchener. During that time, he has performed in master classes with Olivier Latry, Philippe Lefèbvre, and John Ferguson, and has played recitals in Oberlin, Round Lake (NY), and Banff (AB). Currently, Justin serves as the assistant organist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lakewood, OH. From 2000 to 2008, he studied privately with Cheryl Wadsworth at the Hartt School of Music Community Division.

Justin is also an avid singer. Since 2008, he has been the bass choral scholar at St. Peter's Lakewood, and he has been a member of the Collegium Musicum Oberliniense every semester he has attended Oberlin. With that group he has performed not only in Oberlin but also in Cleveland and Pittsburgh on multiple occasions. In November 2010, he sang the tenor solo in David Lang's Pulitzer Prize-winning composition *the little match girl passion* with the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble in a portrait concert of the composer. This program was performed under the composer's supervision at Oberlin and at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

In addition to his organ study, Justin is also pursuing a major in composition. His principal teachers have been Josh Levine and Nicolas Scherzinger; he has also worked with Lewis Nielson, David Ludwig, and Robert Cuckson, among others, and has participated in master classes with George Tsontakis. Most recently, his ensemble piece, *slafevace* was performed by fellows at the Atlantic Music Festival in Waterville, ME, which he has attended twice. In February 2011, the JACK Quartet gave a public reading of his first string quartet.

Justin is starting his second semester of harpsichord study with Webb Wiggins, and once spent a winter learning to play the bass viola da gamba.

Keep up the good work and we look forward to hearing you play in the near future. **Don Hooton**

## *Upcoming Events:*

### October, 2011

**Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.**

The Tuesday Morning Music Club season opens with Mary Brown-Bonacci, mezzo-soprano and Miguel Camphino, piano, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield. [www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org](http://www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org)

**Sunday, October 9, 2011 at 2 p.m.**

Nunsense A-men, the popular musical comedy about nuns putting on a fundraiser, is performed by an all-male cast at South Congregational Church, Springfield. Suggested donation \$10. [www.sococh.org](http://www.sococh.org)

**Sunday, October 9, 2011 at 3 p.m.**

Baritone David McFerrin and pianist Kenneth Huber perform a program of works by Liszt, Ravel, Rachmaninov and Schumann at First Church of Deerfield. Suggested donation \$10. 413-774-2657 [www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org](http://www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org)

**Saturday, October 15, 2011 from 9 a.m. to noon (Chapter Event)** Anthem-reading session at Church of the Atonement, Westfield. See page 2 for details.

**Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 7 p.m.**

Silent film: *The Last Command*, with Peter Krasinski at the organ. Sponsored by Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MiFA) and United Congregational Church of Holyoke, in the main sanctuary, located at the corner of Appleton (Rte. 141) and Maple Streets. Admission \$10. [www.uccholyoke.org](http://www.uccholyoke.org)

**Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.**

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents the Peter Beardsley, organist, and the Pioneer Consort: Chris Devine, violin, Michael Nix, banjar, and Greg Snedecker, cello. Providence Place, Holyoke. [www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org](http://www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org)

**Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 2 p.m.** The Pioneer Consort plays on the music series at United Congregational Church, Holyoke. Chris Devine, violin, Michael Nix, banjar, and Greg Snedecker, cello. [www.uccholyoke.org](http://www.uccholyoke.org)

**Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 3 p.m.** Klaus Becker celebrates his arrival at St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow with a festive organ performance. He will play a selection of pieces by Bach, Grison, Elgar, Vaughan William, and Bedrich Wledermann.

### November, 2011

**Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.**

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Kirsten Hadden Lipkens, oboe, Sudie Marcuse, soprano and Thomas Slowick, piano, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield. [www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org](http://www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org)

**Sunday, November 6, 2011, at 2:30 pm (Chapter Event)** Walking Tour of Organs ending with Evensong at St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield.

**Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.**

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Nancy Babb, piano, Laura Jenkins, soprano and Ellen Redman, flute, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield. [www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org](http://www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org)

**Saturday, November 19 at 3 p.m.** The Children's Chorus of Springfield with special guests, the Central High School Madrigals. Conductors - Lee Hagon, Kayla Werlin, and Jeanne Parks perform at Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield. [www.childrenschorusofspringfield.org](http://www.childrenschorusofspringfield.org)





***New members of the Springfield Chapter AGO board were installed at the opening event of the season, which happened at St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Longmeadow. Massachusetts District Convener Robert Browne performed the installation.***



***Above: Host Alan Dickinson plays during the installation ceremony. At right, Sheila Heady and Emelyn Bashour, who performed a recital afterward.***



**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](mailto:newsletter@springfieldago.org). Submissions are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Also, visit our website at [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)!

*October Chapter Event: Anthem-reading session at Church of the Atonement, Westfield, Saturday, October 15 from 9 a.m. to noon.*