

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists

December 2011



A message from the Dean...

Hark the glad sound of Advent! It's that time of year to pull out favorite preludes and choir anthems and get in gear for Christmas. Busy, yes. But always an exciting anticipation of a full assembly, beautiful music and dramatic moments. Here are a few random suggestions for celebrating a meaningful Christmas:

1. Practice, practice, practice. No matter how many times you've played that carol or prelude, take a new look at it. Get the fingering right this year. Vary the registration.
2. Treat Choir Members with love. Some give gifts to their choir members but I think heartfelt, thoughtful words of praise and gratitude are even better. A little choir punch at the last rehearsal also helps!
3. Hire a musician. Adding an instrument to the musical lineup always makes the occasion seem special, especially if you can find an unusual instrument or one your congregation does not hear often. This also brings joy to unemployed musicians or experience to high school instrumentalists who have never descanted before.
4. Communicate with your clergyperson. Be sure to let the clergy know if you plan to add an Introit or an

extra anthem. The flow of the service or mass is always smoother if the musicians and the clergy work as an antiphonal team.

5. Get plenty of sleep and slow down the pace. Frantically flying about in a tizzy benefits no one. Carefully tend to the music. Make sure everything is in place ahead of time. Arrive early to give room for last minute glitches. Then get excited, apply some energy and really enjoy the moment as you make the king of instruments sing!

6. When it comes to gift giving, nothing speaks more for your passions than giving the gift of music. Bring your music to Christmas parties and sit down and play. Give CD's to people on your list or music videos to teenagers that are hard to buy for. Sing a lullaby to your grandchild, newborn niece, or aging father. Give someone a harmonica or small penny whistle.

7. Finally, make sure that underneath all this, you talk to God regularly...thankful for the skill of musicianship, in praise for the beauty of this world and in joyous celebration for being here at all. Wishing you all a most blessed holiday season from the Board of the Guild of Organists. - **Martha**

Springfield Chapter Leadership

Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
Sub Dean	Don Hooton
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Treasurer	James Barnes
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Chaplain	Fr. William Wallis
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Membership	Karen Banta
Chiff Chat Editor	Larry Picard
Web Site	Allan Taylor
Investments	Charles Page, E Lary Grossman, William Czelusniak, James Barnes

YEARBOOK ADDENDA

Here are error corrections for the yearbook. Please note them.

Names and Addresses: Ganger, Stanley should read **Gauger, Stanley**; Shepard, Ronald email address should read organsub@gmail.com; Snape, Leea new address and phone: **9 Catamount Hill Rd. Colrain, MA 01340, 624-8832 cell 522-3629**; Turner, Jean Pitman email address should read wj_turner@comcast.net; Zellmer, Elizabeth street address should read **601 Northampton St.**

Salary Guidelines for musicians are printed from the wrong year. The current guidelines are included in this issue. Here is the list of "other fees" from the national AGO website.

OTHER FEES

- The range of fees are for musicians with degrees in organ or church music or AGO certification.
- Fees vary regionally. The lowest figures reflect smaller, rural areas of the country.
- Fees will also vary based on training, experience, availability, responsibility, and dates required.

SUBSTITUTE MUSICIANS

- Single service (organist only or director only, no separate rehearsal), \$100-\$225.
- Additional services (organist or director only) not requiring additional preparation, \$50-\$125.
- Single service (organist-director combination, no separate rehearsal), \$150-\$275.
- Additional services (organist-director combination) not requiring additional preparation, \$75-\$175.
- Rehearsal fees range from \$25-\$100/hour, depending on whether the substitute is organist only, director only, or organist-director combination and the preparation required.
- The current, federally approved business standard mileage rate for reimbursement of business travel is charged if visits to church for practice, rehearsal, and service exceed 20 miles per round trip.
- The charge for contracting singers/instrumentalists is \$15-\$35/person hired.

WEDDINGS

- Service fees are \$100-\$350 (service only).
- Wedding rehearsal with bridal party is \$50-\$100/hour.
- Additional rehearsals are \$30-\$50/hour.
- The current, federally approved business standard mileage rate for reimbursement of business travel is charged if visits to church for practice, rehearsal, and service exceed 20 miles per round trip.
- The charge for contracting singers/instrumentalists is \$15-\$35/person hired.

FUNERALS

- Service fees are \$100-\$225 (service only).
- Rehearsals \$25-\$100/hour, depending on the difficulty of the music and the participation of choirs, soloists, or instrumentalists.
- The current, federally approved business standard mileage rate for reimbursement of business travel is charged if visits to church for practice, rehearsal, and service exceed 20 miles per round trip.

The 2011 Salary Guide is included with this newsletter.

Chapter events for 2012...

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

Upcoming Events:

December, 2011

Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.
The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Becky Isaacson, organ, Eileen Ruby, mezzo-soprano, and the Page singers of Bay Path College, Michael Rheault, Director, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield.
www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org

Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.
The 12th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be presented by The Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, Springfield. Works by Dvorak, Mendelssohn, Monteverdi, Mozart, Victoria and local composer, Robert Weaver. No admission charge.
www.diospringfield.org

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 1 p.m.
Novi Cantori performs their Christmas concert at the Old Meetinghouse, Granville.
www.novicantori.org

Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 2 p.m.
The Holyoke High School Madrigal Singers and Bell Choir perform at United Congregational Church, Holyoke.
www.uccholyoke.org

Sunday, December 18, 2011 at 3 p.m.
The Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra plays a "Messiah" sing at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield. Presented by City Music Springfield. www.sococh.org

January, 2012

Sunday, January 8, 2011 at 2 p.m.
Schola Nova performs a Service of Lessons and Carols at Our Lady of the Valley Church, Easthampton. www.scholanova.org

Sunday, January 15, 2011 at 2 p.m.
The Holyoke Civic Wind Symphony performs at United Congregational Church of Holyoke. www.uccholyoke.org

Position Open

The Christian Science Church in downtown Northampton is looking for a keyboard player for our Sunday morning and/or Wednesday evening services. The Sunday service includes prelude, an offertory, three hymns, postlude, and accompaniment for one solo vocal piece. The Wednesday evening service is the same without the soloist. They may be played on either our piano or our Allen electronic organ. Our church does not have a choir.

Position begins in January. You may apply for one or both positions. For more info or an audition call Jane at: 413-534-3882.

Smith College is sponsoring a Silent Movie, "Waxworks," with Peter Krasinski at the organ. Wednesday, February 15, 7pm in John M. Greene Hall on the campus. Free and open to the public. This is part of a Kahn Liberal Arts Institute project on evil and its function in various places and times. more info at: <http://www.smith.edu/kahninstitute/evil.php>

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American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

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