

Chiff Chat

*Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists*

April 2012



A message from the Dean...

Let's talk Easter. So many thoughts swirl around Easter because it is, of course THEE king pin of the Christian message: the promise of life after life. If you serve a liturgical church (I do), you are well acquainted with the sacred Triduum: Maundy Thursday Eucharist, Good Friday Tenebrae and Holy Saturday Vigil. Might as well bring your sleeping bag and just never go home.

For many, Easter Sunday means multiple services, special choir and hopefully a descanting instrumentalist. Its secular beginnings are obvious since the date changes according to the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox. Many wish the Vatican would set a singular date and be done with it. Women in my congregation still talk about Easter outfits and what to wear for Easter.

Me? I have always worn the same outfit, my choir robe. The choir robe (organist's robe) is meant to render you humble and generic before God. Wear it gladly. No Easter bonnet, no corsage, and please...no huge dangling earrings. The world would like to make Easter into a parade of too many calories, too much consumerism and too little real meaning. Be a beacon for Bach or a mentor for "my Lord, what a morning!" All those Christmas-Easter Christians who show up in church so rarely that you don't recognize them....they need you! They yearn for something they cannot name...the meaning of life NOT made into a satire by Monty Python. It's important...and you will reach many with your musical message. May God go with you in this endeavor. - **Martha**

Springfield Chapter Leadership

Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
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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

Help Wanted: Chiff Chat editor! Position open with September 2012 issue. Contact Larry Picard at lpicard@sococh.org or 413-348-3729.

Chapter events for 2012...

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

Friday, June 15, 2012, 6:00 pm at Delaney House, Holyoke: Annual Meeting & Banquet(Cost \$40)

NOTE: The Hymn/Choral Festival scheduled for Sunday, May 13, 2012, at 4:00 pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Springfield has been postponed until further notice.

Hymnspiring Your Congregational Singing

WorcAGO will be sponsoring a nuts-and-bolts 2-hour workshop for practical hymn-playing techniques.

4/14: 10-12noon Sudbury Methodist (**Sudbury Center**)

4/15: 2-4pm Pakachoag Church (**Auburn** somewhat near College of Holy Cross)

Handouts (an illustrated/annotated hymn; chart of hymn styles/contexts/registrations/treatments; hymn tips) are available online *prior* to the workshops. Check www.WorcAGO.org for details, handouts, addresses and a courtesy RSVP link. Our Region I neighbors are invited. Bring a non-member colleague to encourage them to join AGO! FREE!

MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST – Historic Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, MA seeks Music Director/Organist for active, community-oriented and diverse congregation. Beautiful downtown Cathedral, seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Western MA, has excellent acoustics and Austin Organ (53 ranks/5 divisions), vintage Henry Miller half grand piano, and harpsichord. All-volunteer choir & training choir and library of 500+ anthems. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Send cover letter and resume to: Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut St, Springfield, MA 01103-1786, Attn: Dean Munroe, or email: dean.javanet@rcn.com

The Nashville Chapter of the AGO invites you to Tennessee for a world-class convention, July 1-6, 2012. We have planned the schedule with your convenience in mind:

- Convention hotels in the heart of downtown
- Luxury motor coaches, with no need for early-morning departure times
- Ample time between events for meals
- All venues air-conditioned
- 65 workshops, all in the morning and just steps from your hotel room
- Recitals and worship services in the afternoon



www.ago2012.org

Upcoming Events: April, 2012

Friday, April 6, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

Schola Nova sings a service of Tenebrae at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Longmeadow. www.scholanova.org

Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Peter Krasinski accompanies the silent movie "Speedway" at United Church Holyoke. www.uccholyoke.org

Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Novi Cantori performs at All Saints Episcopal Church, South Hadley. www.novicantori.org

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Tamara Field, oboe, Diane Lipartito, bassoon, Grant Moss, piano, and David Garrido Cid, piano. \$10 for non-members. www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org

Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Novi Cantori performs at St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton. www.novicantori.org

Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Circa 1600, an ensemble of voices and early instruments, performs in the Latimer Room at Old First Church. Free-will offering.

www.sococh.org

Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 2:00 pm

Organ Concert by Scott Lamlein, celebrating 100 year anniversary of Skinner Memorial Chapel. Part of the "awakenings" conference at United Congregational Church of Holyoke. 532-1483. Suggested donation \$10 (\$5 students and seniors)

www.uccholyoke.org

Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Novi Cantori performs at Wilbraham United Church. www.novicantori.org

May, 2012

Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Lisa Woods, mezzo-soprano, Bob Sparkman, clarinet, and Jerry Noble, piano. Annual meeting and luncheon: reservations must be made two weeks in advance.

www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org

Alto's Lamente ...author unknown, ..but definitely must be an alto.

It's tough to be an alto when you're singing in the choir.
The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire.
The basses boom like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee,
But the alto part is on two notes (or if you're lucky, three).

And when we sing an anthem and we lift our heart in praises
The men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.
Of course the trebles sing the tune – they always come off best;
The altos only get three notes and twenty-two bars rest.

We practice very hard each week from hymn-book and the psalter,
But when the conductor looks at us our voices start to falter.
Too high! Too low! Too fast! You held that note too long!
It doesn't matter what we do – it's certain to be wrong.

Oh! Shed a tear for altos, they're the martyrs and they know,
In the ranks of choral singers they're considered very low.
They are so very 'umble that a lot of folk forget 'em;
How they'd love to be sopranos, but their vocal chords won't let em!

And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher,
Sopranos, basses, tenors – they'll be in the Heavenly Choir.
While they sing "Alleluia" to celestial flats and sharps,
The altos will be occupied with polishing the harps!

CHIFF CHAT

**American Guild of Organists
Springfield, MA Chapter**

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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!

April Chapter Event: Silent film "Speedway," accompanied on the organ by Peter Krasinski at United Congregational Church, Holyoke, Saturday, April 14 at 7 p.m.