

Chiff Chat

*Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists*

May 2012



A message from the Dean...

Discernment--

Cleaning out the Organ music (or choir music) files is always a challenge. What to keep? What to pass on to someone else? What to assign to the recycling bin?

I was reminded of this very problem recently when Bill Hughes called and wanted to find a home for a fine music collection that is no longer needed. For some, their annotated music is like college notes: priceless, very personal, impossible to recycle. For others, picking up someone else's music, annotated or not, is a real treasure, a bargain--like finding a gem at a tag sale or rummaging through the thrift store looking for "vintage" items. We all have piles of music we do not use or never bothered to learn. We all have gems that we value and save with special affection. Every now and then we need to look with discernment at our musical closet. Why not do it this summer?

The schedule next season promises to include a "music swap" or music recycle table. Go through your files and place in a box any usable music that you no longer enjoy or never have performed. If the collection is extensive, you might itemize and send a small article into the Chiff Chat for publication. If you think the collection is of random value, then bring what you can to the swap table. Some years ago, I found a "gem" in just this very manner when I spied on a swap table volume II of a communion collection from Augsburg that I had lost--it contained a favorite partita of variations on 'Picardy' and had gone out of print. Think about it. A popular song says "Gotta know when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em...." It is an allegory on life. So here's a benediction to ponder: May God grant you the wisdom to know what to keep, what to assign to the swap table and what to just ruthlessly put into the paper recycling bin. - **Martha**

Available to a good home: 3-4 boxes of good solid music for the church organist. The music is a legacy from retiring Bill Hughes and posthumously from Crete Kochanek, both lifelong organists who have made a difference in their worlds. Anyone interested can call Bill Hughes after May 15 at 265-5127 or email him at bill@hughesstudio.com. If no interest is expressed, the music will come into the hands of Dean Martha Sienkiewicz for distribution at a future time.

Passing the baton: This is the last issue of Chiff Chat for the summer. After four years of turning out this journal for the Springfield chapter I have decided to let someone else have the thrill, so you will receive your September issue from none other than Klaus Becker. You can continue to submit concert listings, job-openings, etc. by emailing him at klanbe@gmail.com. Many thanks for your cooperation and patience! - **Larry Picard**

**Final Chapter Event for 2012: Friday, June 15, 2012, 6:00 pm at Delaney House,
Holyoke: Annual Meeting & Banquet**

May, 2012

Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Doug Purcell, trumpet & flugelhorn and Grant Moss, organ, perform at St. Theresa of Lisieux Church in South Hadley. Free-will offering.

June, 2012

Saturday, June 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Schola Nova performs a program entitled "Alleluia! Amen!" at Our Lady of the Valley Church in Easthampton. Free-will offering. www.scholanova.org

Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. Schola Nova performs a program entitled "Alleluia! Amen!" at Church of the Epiphany in Wilbraham. Free-will offering. www.scholanova.org

Sunday, June 17, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Organist Andy Kotylo performs at United Church Holyoke. Free-will offering. www.uccholyoke.org

Position Available: Minister of Music/Church Organist

The First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC of Suffield, Connecticut, seeks a Minister of Music comfortable in a UCC church distinguished for its historically rich, vibrant music program. We seek a professional with church music experience and skills as an organist/choir director to enrich and develop our comprehensive program.

This 20 hour or less per week position includes playing the organ, rehearsing and directing the adult Chancel Choir for one weekly Sunday service and having supervisory responsibility for leaders of youth and handbell choirs. It includes collaborating with volunteers to plan and implement a distinguished concert series and coordinating with the senior pastor.

We seek a person with an appropriate Master's degree or equivalent education and experience. Compensation based on ability, education and experience. Full announcement, job description and specifications of our recently restored Gress-Miles mechanical organ are available at www.firstchurchsuffield.org.

Send resume with cover letter either to musicsearch@firstchurchsuffield.org or by mail to Music Search Committee, First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC, 81 High St., Suffield, CT 06078. Interested candidates may call Janet Banks, 860-668-5650 to inquire about the position.

Position Available: Choir Director

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amherst, MA; beginning September 1, 2012; part time. The all-volunteer adult choir of 16-20 voices sings for the Sunday morning service September through mid-June and for special services and events, with rehearsals on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. The choir typically sings two anthems a week in addition to preparing a larger work or two each semester. The church has a strong tradition of supporting music and the arts in worship. Resources include a small Moller pipe organ, a grand piano, a large music library, and an accomplished organist. There may be opportunities for developing a children's choir or other groups. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. www.immanuel-amherst.org/music_program.html. Send resumes to immanuelamherstaff@gmail.com.