

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists
December 2012



[A message from the Dean...](#)

Greetings,

On Monday November 12th your chapter held our Pastor/Organist Dinner at the Church of the Atonement. I want to thank the members of the church for allowing us to hold this event and a big thank you to the Kitchen crew for putting on a very delicious meal. Those in attendance were treated to appetizers, chicken breasts stuffed with apple-cherry chutney, rice pilaf, and green beans. The desert was delicious brownies with ice cream and for a beverage you had a choice of wine, coffee, tea or water. The co-hosts for this event were Jan Duffé and Jim Barnes. They did an excellent job in making all the arrangements so that the event would run smoothly.

The featured speaker was The Rev. Matthew Alcombright who was a former Chapter member and now is an ordained priest. The title of his speech was, "From Organ to Altar: Understanding both sides of the equation." He emphasized that both the pastor and organist must work together in order to make the service meaningful to those in attendance. Matt mentioned that the organist job was to give support to the singing and not to sound like a recital piece. It is the teamwork that makes for a meaningful service.

Please mark on your calendars Saturday, February 9, 2013 for a Choral Reading Session. It will take place at the First Congregational Church, West Springfield, MA. The host for this event will be Jim Maes and the presenter will be Quentin Faulkner. More information will follow in the next newsletter.

I will also have information concerning the Choral Hymn Festival in April. As Church Musicians, one of our busiest seasons is now approaching and I look forward to seeing you at some of the many Holiday concerts.

I want to wish you and your family a blessed holiday,

Don Hooton

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CURRENT EVENTS

PASTOR-ORGANIST DINNER SNAPSHOTS



A SHARING OF THOUGHT FROM LAD PFEIFER

Dear Colleagues,

I want to convey this to all of you cause like me you labor for mostly religious institutions and you do it for high ideals. The situations we work under vary, but I'm sure that every position entails a certain amount of stress, worry, and extra demands on our psyche. I'm not one for "*sharing*", but not too long ago a member of our chapter told me that we are "to provide peace and serenity" to our congregations. Not that we are to play serenely, but that we are to refresh and uplift souls and help them reach the relaxed state in which they may begin to contemplate the divine. Not a simple thing in a crazily frenetic world.

While playing one event after another with different requirements and performance pressures I have found myself mentally recalling the phrase "to provide peace and serenity". Today while playing the Gloria with the swell reeds & mixtures blaring, and the added edge of transposing it up a step cause the altos say it's too low, I recalled the phrase "to provide peace and serenity". The Gloria never went so well. Somehow that advice redirects me enough to settle down and let go of the petty annoyances and enough of my personal brain clutter to allow me to provide some peace and serenity. We have all been told something to this effect repeatedly, but like water it can evaporate or roll off our backs. But for some reason this phrase stuck with me and I have the awful compulsion to ask the editor to pass it on to you. Who doesn't need a gentle reminder from time to time? I did.

Sincerely, Lad

PERFORMANCE VENUES NEEDED

There's a need for a venue to give a small brass concert next year in Westfield, Holyoke or Chicopee.... This would be of no cost to the hosting church as the group is applying for a grant from the cultural council. The concert would consist of four brass (2 trumpet, 2 trombone) soloists and piano accompaniment. All of the players are very professional and known locally. Is there anyone out there interested in bringing this to your church? If so, please contact David Neil at [413.732.4137](tel:413.732.4137) or email him at tbn8@aol.com.

HARPSICHORD FOR RENT

Mark Wojcik offers his harpsichord for rent in the Springfield – Hartford area. The rental fee includes delivery and tuning. The instrument is a Flemish, single manual harpsichord, and a historically accurate copy built by Adam J. Decker in 2003. Disposition: 1x8', 1x4' and buff. Compass: 57 notes GG-d". Pitch: A415 and A440. Dr. Decker's harpsichords have been played at venues such as the Boston Early Music Festival. If interested, contact Mark at (413) 563-5125.

"I WANT TO BE YOUR ACCOMPANIST"

Michele Feldheim is looking for employment opportunities in a church setting as piano and organ accompanist. Please inquire, calling 413.584.7694.

SCHOLA NOVA EVENTS

Schola Nova celebrates the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany holidays with Charpentier's delightful *Messe de Minuit pour Noel*, carols from ancient sources such as the *Pie Cantiones* of 1582, and motets by the Renaissance masters William Byrd, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, and Peter Philips. Accompanied by Klaus Becker, Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Longmeadow.

Saturday, December 1, 2012. *Canite Tuba!* **St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**, West Springfield, Mass., 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 2, 2012. *Canite Tuba!* **St. Mary's Catholic Church**, Longmeadow, Mass., 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 5, 2013. *Canite Tuba!* **Blessed Sacrament Church**, Holyoke, Mass., 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 6, 2013. *Canite Tuba!* **Our Lady of the Valley Church**, Easthampton, Mass., 2:00 p.m.

All concerts are free, but free-will offerings are gratefully accepted.

NOVI CANTORI EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 4:00 pm

Novi Cantori at the **First Congregational Church**, 18 Broad Street, Westfield. This family-friendly carol festival features the New England Brass Quartet and the Young Singers of Greater Westfield, along with an audience carol-sing to usher in the holiday season. No admission charged; donations welcomed at the door. www.novicantori.org

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:00 pm

Novi Cantori at the **Basilica of St. Stanislaus**, 566 Front Street, Chicopee. The grandeur of this basilica, with its majestic organ, is an ideal venue to listen to motets, madrigals, and music for vast sacred spaces. No admission charged; donations welcomed at the door.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 3:00 pm

Novi Cantori at the **Old Meetinghouse**, 683 Main Road, Granville. The Meetinghouse, with its superb acoustics, offers the intimacy and charm of an early nineteenth-century building in a small New England town. No admission charged; donations welcomed at the door.



EARLY MUSIC CONCERT AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH IN LONGMEADOW

On Wednesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., the Five College Collegium, directed by Robert Eisenstein, will present "The Floating City: Music of 16th Century Venice" for voices, winds and strings, at St. Andrew's Church in Longmeadow.

In the 16th century, the great medieval church of San Marco in Venice became the center for a vibrant musical culture whose purpose was not only to ornament the liturgy but also to announce the splendor of the Serene Republic. The voices of the Five College Collegium will present Advent and Christmas music by the great Josquin from early sixteenth century Venice as well as sacred and secular music by other illustrious composers of the time. Renaissance instruments and the viol consort will contribute dance music and fantasias, and the combined forces will conclude with grand polychoral pieces by Bassano and Gabrieli.

The Early Music Collegium is directed by Robert Eisenstein, a founding member of the Folger Consort at the Smithsonian Institution and an international early music authority. The performance is free and all are welcome. This is a rare opportunity in the Greater Springfield area to hear this engaging early music sung and played on authentic period instruments in a sacred setting...a musical feast for the senses!

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is located at 335 Longmeadow Street/Route 5, Longmeadow, Mass.

All are welcome to this free event; for directions to the church, please visit the St. Andrew's website: www.st-andrews-longmeadow.org

CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The 13th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, a celebration of light, will be presented by The Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults on Saturday, December 15th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, Springfield, MA.

Lessons and Carols is a service of alternating Scripture and song that dates back to the late 19th century. This popular holiday tradition begins in candlelight and will include the cathedral strings, hand bells and organ. Musical selections will vary from choral music by Vivaldi and Mendelssohn to beloved seasonal carols. For many people, Lessons and Carols at St. Michael's Cathedral has become an annual tradition.

As the official musicians of the Dioceses of Springfield, the choir preserves and promotes the highest artistic standards of cathedral choral traditions from around the world. The choir cultivates excellence in the boys of the choir through education in music theory and is the only boy and adult choir in the region.

Admission is free and open to all. For more information, please contact Office of Divine Worship at (413) 452-0839 or worship@diospringfield.org.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

December 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Schola Nova "Canite Tuba!" at St. Frances Cabrini, 475 Main Street, West Springfield, MA.

December 1, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Novi Cantori at the First Congregational Church, 18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

December 2, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Schola Nova "Canite" Tuba! At St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA

December 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Joint concert with the Greater Westfield Choral Association, under the direction of Mark Winer, and the Festival Chorus of Westfield, under the direction of Allan Tayler, at the Deer Auditorium of Westfield State University, Westfield, MA. You will hear Psalm 95 "Come Let Us Sing" by Felix Bartholdy Mendelssohn, as well as music by Jerry Noble, Jr. "Alice".

December 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Early Music Concert at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 335 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA.

December 8, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

G.F. Händel's Messiah at St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow St., Longmeadow, MA

December 9, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

G.F. Händel's Messiah at Our Lady of the Valley Church, 33 Adams Street, Easthampton, MA

Terry Larsen will lead Community Choirs of experienced choral singers in Händel's Messiah Christmas section, Hallelujah Chorus, and Great Amen. The two performances are part of the Cornucopia Benefit Concerts (www.cornucopiaconcerts.com), and all proceeds are to benefit the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

December 9, 2012 at 2:30 p.m.

Chapel at Providence Place, 5 Gamelin Street, Holyoke, MA

Candlelight Christmas Concert presented by the Trinity Chamber Singers, Handbell Choir, and the Chamberettes, directed by Becky Isaacson, with flutists, Lynette Varnon and Borys Bakum. Free admission.

December 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Novi Cantori at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, 566 Front Street, Chicopee, MA

December 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

The Adult Choir of St. Mary's Parish in Westfield, under the direction of Robert LePage presents "Lessons and Carols" at St. Mary's Church, 30 Bartlett Street, in Westfield, MA. Compositions by Hopson, Snyder, and others will be performed. Admission is free.

December 9, 2012 at 2:00 p. m.

The Holyoke High School Choirs at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke, Maple Street, Holyoke, MA, at the intersection of Appleton (Rt.141) and Maple Street. Please use the Maple Street entrances. They will present a holiday concert under the direction of Mark Todd. Mr. Todd is currently the Choral Music Department Head of the Holyoke Public

Schools. He has produced over 16 musicals and has performed four times at the Hatch Shell in Boston upon winning the State Jazz Vocal Title.

December 15, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Michael, 260 State Street, Springfield, MA

13th Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols – Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults, strings, bells, percussion, and not to forget the organ. Music includes chants, anthems by Handel, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn and others.

December 16, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Novi Cantori at the Old Meetinghouse, 683 Main Road, Granville, MA

December 16, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Sanctuary of Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

Candlelight Christmas Concert presented by the Trinity Chamber Singers, Handbell Choir, and the Chamberettes, directed by Becky Isaacson, with flutists, Lynette Varnon and Borys Bakum. Free admission, and a reception will follow the concert.

January 5, 2013 at 7:00p.m.

Schola Nova “Canite Tuba!” at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1945 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA

January 6, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

Epiphany Service of Lessons & Carols at the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 36 Court Street, Westfield, MA, with choirs and hand bells.

January 6, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

Schola Nova “Canite Tuba!” at Our Lady of the Valley Church, 33 Adams Street, Easthampton, MA

January 11, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

January 12, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

January 13, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Boar’s Head Festival at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

CHIFF CHAT

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

Klaus Becker, Newsletter Editor

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Chiff Chat Newsletter

***Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Celebrating 63 Years as a chapter!***

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email klanbe@gmail.com. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org