

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists

January 2013

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



Greetings,

I want to wish everyone a very healthy and Happy New Year. With one busy season over we have a short time to catch our breath and then start planning for the Lenten and Easter season.

This is the year of education and now is the time to plan and work on taking one of the Guild Exams. For those who attended our work shop on Introduction to the Service Playing Certificate Exam please let me know how it is going and how we can help you. It now gives me great pleasure to announce that Elizabeth Dawson who has been working on taking the CAGO exam has passed it with flying colors. Congratulations Liz and keep working on those exams.

The chapter is now planning for our next event, which is a Choral Reading Session. This will take place on February 9th at the First Congregational Church, West Springfield, MA starting at 9 am. and go to noon. The host for this event is James Maes and the presenter will be Quentin Faulkner.

It is now the time to start working on our Choral Hymn Festival which will take place at Trinity United Methodist Church, 366 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA., on April 14th. The director for the festival is Becky Isaacson. This festival will give the churches that have small choir, a chance to sing and be a part of a larger choir. It will be a, *Choral and Hymn Festival on the Apostle's Creed.*

The anthems for the choral festival are the following: "For the Beauty of the Earth" by John Rutter, (Hinshaw 245), "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child", Joel Raney, (Hope C 5245), "Lamb of God", Mark Hayes, (Lorenz 10/3929L), "On the Third Day", Allen Pote, (Hope F1000). Becky can supply copies of "Salvation Is Created by Tschesnokoff", and "Hymn of Promise", JB Talley. JB Everyone who comes will be a part of the program with the help of singing

hymns. If you have any questions about the list of anthems, or do not sing in a choir at this time and would like to join us, please call me.

It is the hope of the board members to have a large choir for this festival. I have already a church choir planning to be a part of this festival. If you are interested in joining us please let me know, either by email which is dehoot@verizon.net or call me at 533-8412.

I look forward to seeing you at our next event, which is the Choral Reading Session on February 9th.

Don Hooton

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CURRENT EVENTS

TRAVELING AND SINGING

The community chorus *Vallis Musicæ*, created in June 2006 and co-directed by Gabriel Löfvall David Garrido and Rodrigo Queiroz (all of them musicians with plenty credentials), will be **touring and singing** for 13 days around both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland next July (7 thru 19). This is a wonderful opportunity to perform with a choir as you discover the warmth and beauty of that unique island. With five planned performances, there is a wide range of concert opportunities throughout the island. Sing at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where Handel's Messiah was first performed, and in towns and villages throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland. Follow in the footsteps of St. Patrick and St. Columba. In Dublin, see the Book of Kells, considered the most striking manuscript ever produced in the Anglo-Saxon world and one of the greatest masterpieces of early Christian art. Other stops include Galway, Killarney, the Dingle Peninsula, the Blarney Stone, the Cliffs of Moher, Trinity College, plus visits to Belfast and Derry in Northern Ireland, which are the newly blossoming and welcoming cities. Section leaders to support the choir include Ray & Kathleen Hardman, Jeffrey Soto and Pam Johnson.

Anyone interested, please contact Gabriel Löfvall at [\(860\) 869-5475](tel:8608695475) or at gabilof@yahoo.com for more information and registration details.

Looking forward to sharing a wonderful culturally filled tour with you!

CHORAL AND HYMN FESTIVAL ON THE APOSTLE'S CREED

This event is for all choir members in churches served by organists and choir directors in the Springfield Chapter.

Sunday April 14, 2013, 4 pm.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, Ma. Ample Parking
Becky Isaacson, Organist – Director to be announced

Saturday April 13th, rehearsal 9 to 12

Warm up for the concert will be determined on Saturday

Anthems for the Festival: This information is also in the Dean's message.

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| For the Beauty of the Earth | John Rutter | Hinshaw 245 |
| Gentle Mary Laid Her Child | Joel Raney | Hope C 5245 |
| Lamb of God | Mark Hayes | Lorenz 10/3929L |
| On the Third Day | Allen Pote | Hope F1000 |

Becky can supply copies of:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Salvation Is Created | Tschesnokoff |
| Hymn of Promise | JB Talley |

A reception will follow.

This is a great opportunity for the small church choir to be a part of a larger choir to sing to the glory of God. If you are not singing in a choir at this time and want to be a part of this festival please call me so that you can be a part of this event. My email address is, dehoot@verizon.net or phone no. is 533-8412.

Please let me know if your choir is going to be a part of this Choral and Hymn Festival and I will let you know how you get the music and cost. I need to know by **February 1, 2013**, if you or any of your church choir will be taking part in this festival.

GREATER WESTFIELD CHORAL ASSOCIATION

The Greater Westfield Choral Association, under the direction of Marc Winer, will present their 36th Annual Spring Concert on Sunday, **March 10, at 4:00 P.M.**, in the sanctuary of First Congregational Church, 18 Broad Street, Westfield. Major works this year are Mozart's Missa Brevis in D, and John Rutter's Te Deum. Admission is free; however a free will offering will be accepted.

ORGAN CONCERTS at THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

Sunday, February 3, 2013, 3:00 p.m., at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, **HARRY HUFF**, organ, will perform works by DuMage, J.S. Bach, Franck, Cooman, and Mancini on a Richards, Fowkes tracker organ. This concert is presented by "The Brick Church" Music Series, Jean Pitman Turner, Artistic Director. Suggested donation \$10.00. with a reception following.

Sunday, March 10, 2013, 3:00 p.m., "The Brick Church" Music Series at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, will feature **CHRISTOPHER HOULIHAN**, organ, playing works by J. S Bach and Mendelssohn among others on tracker organ Opus 13 by Richards, Fowkes. Suggested donation \$10.00 with a reception following. This concert is co-sponsored by the American Guild of Organists/Springfield Chapter.

PIANIST THOMAS PANDOLFI at UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in HOLYOKE

Starting the year 2013, we will have the young **American pianist Thomas Pandolfi** performing on **Saturday January 12th**. Thomas is an exciting virtuoso who, with each passing season, is becoming more and more sought after by audiences worldwide. His orchestral appearances often feature not only the beloved masterpiece concerti by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Liszt, but also the equally brilliant ones by Paderewski, Rubinstein and Moszkowski.

JOY of MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

On Sunday, **January 13 at 4:00 pm** the Joy of Music Concert Series presents harpsichordist Jacqueline Nappi at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 758 Main Street in Wilbraham MA. She will be performing elegant and exciting Baroque music on a beautiful Italian harpsichord featuring works by Italian, English, and German composers. The program will include inventions and sinfonias by J.S. Bach, works by English virginalist William Byrd, and energetic Italian music by Girolamo Frescobaldi . Don't miss this chance to hear a Baroque specialist play fantastic music on a rare and gorgeous instrument. Suggested donation is ten dollars and refreshments will be served following the program.

JOHN and MARIANNE WEAVER HONORED by NATIONAL AGO at KIMMEL CENTER



Chelsea Chen, Ken Cowan, Marianne and John Weaver, Diane Meredith Belcher, Alan Morrison, and Michael Barone

concert that followed (see picture caption).

John told of his very early years in Mauch Chunk, PA (the town now called Jim Thorpe), where his father was the Presbyterian minister. It was here in this coal mining and transportation town that John first developed his fascination with the sound of train whistles and, not unrelated, with the sound of the pipe organ in his father's church. When the family moved to Baltimore, his perfect pitch and special musical ability were discovered and he received piano and then organ instruction at the Peabody Conservatory. He played his first organ recital at the age of 14 (with brother Bob turning pages) at the downtown Baltimore church where John was organist. Later, at Curtis, he studied with Alexander McCurdy, and upon graduation moved to New York as organist of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Central Park. It was here that he met Marianne Gruhn, a flutist and member of his choir (and now his wife for the past 47 years). Marianne, originally from Milwaukee, has a masters degree in flute from Manhattan School working with William Kincaid. She has also studied at times with Samuel Baron, Jean-Pierre Rampal, and Marcel Moise. She participates in most of John's concerts which often include pieces for flute and organ, many of them composed by John himself. While at Holy Trinity, they started the famous Bach Cantata Vesper Services which have continued to this day under his successors at the church.



Beginning in 1970 and until his retirement, John was Director of Music at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church and Director of the St. Andrew Chorale Society. He also succeeded Dr. McCurdy as Head of the Organ Department of the Curtis Institute (1973-2003) and simultaneously chaired the Organ Department of the Juilliard School (1987 -2004). His career as a recitalist has taken them to many places in this country and abroad. He was pleased and proud to be honored by a number of his many students who

have themselves gone on to be recognized as among the top concert organists and teachers in the world. In retirement, living in northern Vermont, John and Marianne remain active in their many musical endeavors, and John continues with his passionate life-long fascination with trains -- both model and full-size.

[Photos, courtesy of Scott Stoneback and [The Media People of Albury, PA.](#)]

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

JANUARY 12, 2013 at 2:00PM

American pianist, Thomas Pandolfi, 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.

JANUARY 13, 2013 at 4:00PM

Joy of Music Concert Series at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 758 Main Street in Wilbraham, presents Jacqueline Nappi on a beautiful Italian harpsichord.

FEBRUARY 3, 2013 at 3:00PM

The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield. Harry Huff, organ.

FEBRUARY 9, 2013 at 9:00AM

First Congregational Church, 20 Lathrop Street, West Springfield. AGO Chapter Choral Reading Session.

FEBRUARY 10, 2013 at 3:00PM

Our Lady of the Valley, 33 Adams Street, Easthampton. Klaus Becker, organ

MARCH 10, 2013 at 3:00PM

The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield. Christopher Houlihan, organ.

MARCH 10, 2013 at 4:00PM

First Congregational Church, 18 Broad Street, in Westfield. The Greater Westfield Choral Association presents their 36th Annual Spring Concert.

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American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

Klaus Becker, Newsletter Editor

333 Shays Street

Amherst, MA 01002

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