

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists

April 2013

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



Greetings,

It does not seem like it is spring as there is still snow on the ground. All the spring flowers are poking their heads through the snow. I want to wish our Christian friends a very happy and blessed Easter, and to our Jewish friends a very blessed Passover. Did you know that on April 22nd it is Earth Day and on April 26th is National Arbor Day?

On March 10th we had our major Concert with Christopher Houlihan, organist at the Brick Church in Deerfield, MA. It was great to see so many of our members at this recital. I want to thank Jean Pittman Turner for asking us to co-host this concert with them as part of their concert series.

The next big event that our chapter will have is the Choral and Hymn Festival (on the Apostle's Creed) that will take place on April 14th at 4 pm. It will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA. There will be a rehearsal on Saturday April 13th beginning at 9:30 am. Nine churches are participating in this event. The director of the festival will be David Pulliam, the new organist and choir master at Christ Church Cathedral. Becky Rosendahl Isaacson, the organist, choir director and carillonneur at Trinity will accompany the program. The Flutist is Janet Dixon-Metcalf and there will be a Brass Quartet and Percussion. The congregation will make up the rest of the choir with congregational singing. A reception will follow in Asbury Hall where you may greet the participants.

The board hopes that you will put a flyer up in your church to help us promote this event. You will find a copy of the flyer in the

newsletter and please invite a friend or relative for this very inspiring event.

On May 11th at 7 pm. there will be a silent movie entitled "Steamboat Bill, Joe Jr." with organist Peter Krasinski. It will take place at United Congregational Church of Holyoke.

Time is running out to register for the Hartford Regional convention, which will run from Sunday, June 30th through Wednesday July 3rd. Here is a link to the website, <http://hartfordago2013.org/>.

I look forward to seeing you at the choral and hymn festival.

Happy Holidays,
Don Hooton

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CURRENT EVENTS

WE BID A FOND FAREWELL TO ARLENE HOWES

Arlene Howes died peacefully on Thursday, February 28, 2013, at her home following a long, well fought battle with cancer. Arlene grew up in St. Cloud, MN and was a graduate and valedictorian of her high school class. She went on to attend Macalister College and the University of Minnesota simultaneously, graduating from the University of Minnesota with the Class of 1956. She had a passion for music, serving as the organist and choir director for Calvary Presbyterian Church in Enfield, CT for 38 years and she also directed the Second Baptist Church Handbell Choir in Suffield, CT. Arlene was active with the Springfield Symphony Chorus for over 40 years and with the St. Michael's Players of East Longmeadow, MA. She was a longtime member and former treasurer of the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Arlene was also active with the Springfield/Hartford Chapter of the Choristers Guild where she often served as accompanist for their annual children's concert. She also enjoyed traveling around the U.S. and Europe. A kind, caring and loving mother, grandmother and friend she will be greatly missed. Donations may be made to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Arlene's memory to support cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA. 02284.

BAY PATH COLLEGE CHORALE & PAGE SINGERS

Area women are invited to join the Bay Path College Chorale and Page Singers in the premier of a new composition by New York-based composer, Rachel Peters. This piece will be included within Bay Path's April concert, *Prism: A Celebration of Women in the Arts*, centered around the college's annual theme, "Leading With Compassion." Established women's choral groups are welcome to perform a few selections of their choosing. All singers will need to attend a rehearsal for the new Rachel Peters piece on **April 19** from 7:00 - 8:30PM. (Rehearsal MP3 files will be emailed to all participants.) Performance dates are **April 20** at 8:00PM and **April 21** at 2:00PM. Singers may participate in one or both of these concerts. All events will be held in the Mills Theater at Bay Path College.

If interested please contact Michael Rheault at mrheault@baypath.edu for further information.

PEDALS, PIPES & PIZZA HAD PIZZAZZ!!

Saturday, March 16th was a delightful day at All Saints Episcopal Church in North Adams! Dr. Matthew McConnell, Minister of Music at All Saints and member of the Berkshire Chapter of the AGO, led an outstanding and delightful "hands-on" experience for twenty children, ages 6-18, who learned a wealth of information about the "King of Instruments," the pipe organ.

The program began with an organ composition played by Dr. Matt on the church's Möller Organ: *Prelude from Te Deum* by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704) (arr. Lyndon Hills). This piece featured the various octaves of the trumpet stop on the organ. He beautifully executed the piece and demonstrated the majestic sounds of this reed stop on the organ.

The next piece played by Scott Bailey, member of the Berkshire Chapter of the AGO and member/Board Member of the Springfield Chapter of the AGO expertly demonstrated the melodious sounds of the flute stops of the organ in the composition *The Fifers* by Jean-François Dandrieu (1681-1738).

A "Brief History of the Organ" followed the musical selections. This talk was assigned to Bill Czelusniak, Organ Builder and Tuner from Northampton. However, he was ill, so Dr. Matt was the "pinch-hitter." Being a well-prepared teacher, he, at the last

minute,” pulled a rabbit out of the hat,” so to speak, and began to tell us the history of the organ. (His secret was that he brought some notes with him, just in case.)

The last segment of the first part of the program was “Comparing the Piano and the Organ.” Dr. Matt was at the organ and Charles Marshall, member/Board Member of the Springfield Chapter of the AGO, was at the piano. This spontaneous segment featured the sustaining power of the organ over the piano and the superiority of the piano to sustain arpeggios. It was concluded that each instruments had its own striking qualities. The Organ is a magnificent wind instrument and the Piano is a magnificent percussive/stringed instrument!

The first “hands-on” experience for the students was next: “How the Organ Works” and “A Look Inside the Organ.” Since Mr. Czelusniak was scheduled to be the facilitator of this part of the program, Larry Bishop, member of the Berkshire Chapter of the AGO, came to the rescue! Coincidentally, he had given a similar talk the week before; he was well prepared to “pinch hit!” All the students enjoyed seeing and hearing the organ at work – watching the “shutters” open and close for the *Swell* and *Choir* Divisions of the organ. It was *Great* fun!

Mr. Marshall adeptly played *Praeludium in F-Dur (Prelude in F Major)* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) to demonstrate the use of the pedals of the organ. While the “Tour of the Organ” was continuing, Mr. Bailey stepped up to the plate and played *Preludium & Fuga in d-moll (Prelude and Fugue in d minor)* by Bach. The reason he played this piece is that one of the students wanted to hear a piece on the organ that sounded like a “Haunted House.” Mr. Bailey played the piece magnificently (with special sound effects from the organist, himself, during the rests)!

During the break, while Dr. Matt was ordering the PIZZA, the students had an opportunity to play the Möller Organ, the Kurtzweiller Synthesizer, and the Steinway Upright Piano. Sometimes it sounded like cacophony, but once in awhile we heard the strains of “Heart and Soul,” almost simultaneously.

When the break was over, we returned to the program. Dr. Matt began with a demonstration of “Registration and Special Effects.” The students were amazed at the musical capabilities of the Organ! A Hymn Demonstration in which the tone colors of the

organ were used to enhance the meaning of the words that were sung, with audience participation, followed.

Next, Mr. Marshall played a piece from the Renaissance called “Gaillard” (Anonymous, 1529). Individuals sometimes incorporated this dance during exercises. Among those who used this style of music was Queen Elizabeth I of England when she was in her 50’s!

The last part of the program allowed the students to “shine.” Each one, who prepared a piece to play, had the opportunity to play it on the organ. Some even played extemporaneously! (Sometime during the last third of the program, the pizza passed by the audience.) We were all ready by the conclusion of the program to enjoy our pizza!

The 20 students and 7 adult participants consumed eleven boxes of plain, pepperoni, meat and mushrooms, and “the works” pizza along with several liters of soda! The program went extremely well. It will yield fruit, eventually: more organists for our churches in the future! We extend “Many Thanks” to Dr. Matt and the Berkshire Chapter of the American Guild of Organists for the investment made in the lives of young musicians at Pedals, Pipes and Pizza!

Sincerely submitted,

Charles W. Marshall, Member/Board Member, AGO/Springfield Chapter

Dr. Matthew McConnell, Minister of Music, All Saints Episcopal Church, North Adams, MA; Founder, Director & Instructor at Dr. Matt’s Music

Scott Bailey, Music Department at Westfield State University

Charles Marshall, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Agawam, MA; Piano Instructor at Berkshire Music School, Founder, Director & Instructor at Marshall Arts Academy of Music

Larry Bishop, Director of Music, First Baptist Church, Adams, MA

THE CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR HELP

I have just been informed that our present editor of the “Chiff Chat” is resigning to continue his education. Klaus has done an excellent job this year, but is now planning to go back and finish his medical school training that he abandoned earlier. He has all the information ready to hand over to the next editor. I really need your help to keep communication with all our members. Please email me or call me if you are interested in becoming the editor.

Don Hooton

GREATER WESTFIELD CHORAL ASSOCIATION SPRING CONCERT 2013 – A GREAT EXTRAVAGANZA!!

I used to think that experiencing fine, quality music in Western Massachusetts was found mostly in the Berkshires. However, I was wrong. Last Spring I attended the Annual Spring Concert of the Greater Westfield Choral Association (better known by the singers as GWCA - pronounced gwahcuh) and was enamored by the director, **Marc Winer**, the singers and the orchestra. Impressed by the excellent concert, I approached Marc after the performance, congratulated him and said that I would like to join the group the following season. (He was glad to know that I was a Tenor.) He told me that the group would commence in the fall, for the first time in many years, and that he would contact me when the time to rehearse was approaching.

Rehearsals commenced on September 23, 2012 in Bates Hall at Westfield State University on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. We began our rehearsals for the Winter Concert, which was held in December. The concert was in conjunction with the Festival Chorus under the direction of **Allan Taylor**, past Dean and **Chiff Chat** Editor, and was **well received** by the audience.

On January 6, 2013, we began the rehearsal cycle for the Spring Concert, which was held on Sunday, March 10, 2013 at First Congregational Church, the church on the Green, in Westfield. Our preparation time was somewhat hindered by the weather, but as the old postal service adage goes, neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow could stop the mail from being delivered; the same principal premise is characteristic of GWCA. We had a concert to prepare for, so we just had longer rehearsals to make up for lost time!

The Spring Concert on Sunday, March 10 was **magnificent**. Marc did a brilliant job conducting the Mozart **Missa Brevis in D** and the **Te Deum** by Rutter, as well as the varied music for the second part of the program: **Shenandoah, Among the Leaves So Green-O, Clare Benediction**, etc. Each one in the *Chorus* and the *Soloists* (who were singers in GWCA!) worked hard all season and produced an excellent program because of their talent and Marc's leadership. The *Orchestra, Organist (AGO Member Scott Bailey), and Brass Ensemble* were top-notch as well!

There are two reasons why I have chosen to write this article for the **Chiff Chat**. First of all, if you are a singer and are looking

for a Chorus to join, **this is the one!** We have an enjoyable time together, working hard and reaping the benefits of presenting quality music and pleasing the audience. Marc is a wonderful director. He is very personable, very professional and precise in his conducting techniques. We work hard, yet, at the same time, have fun! I have been in several community-based choral groups; he is one of the best directors under whom I have rehearsed and performed. Secondly, for those who like to participate by being members of the audience, **this is the concert to attend!** The music is varied, presented professionally, and enjoyable to hear.

If you are interested becoming a choral member or a sponsor of the Greater Westfield Choral Association, please visit their website: www.westfieldchoral.org or contact Marc Winer at director@westfieldchoral.org.

Charles Marshall, Member of GWCA and AGO, Springfield Chapter Board Member

ORGAN CONCERT COMMEMORATING THE 850th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATHEDRAL OF NOTRE DAME IN PARIS

On **Monday, May 6** at **7:00PM** **Quentin & Mary Murrell Faulkner** will play a concert of music composed by organists who have served the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, France, including Marcel Dupré, Maurice Duruflé, and Louis Vierne (see: <http://www.notredamedeparis.fr/spip.php?article414>). On that date the Cathedral is organizing 850 organ recitals around the world, celebrating its 850th anniversary (<http://www.notredamedeparis2013.com/>). The recital will take place at St. James Episcopal Church, Federal Street and Church Street in Greenfield, MA. St. James' 200th anniversary also falls on May 6. The organ recital is designed to celebrate both events.

SPRINGFIELD SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA EXPERIENCE MUSIC at UNITED in HOLYOKE

On **April 7th**, at **3:00PM(!!)** the **Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra** will perform under their conductor Jonathan Lam. Jonathan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Quantitative Economics from Tufts University and a Masters in Music degree in Orchestral Conducting from Southern Illinois University. In addition to his role with the Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra,

he is Music Director/Conductor for the Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra and has a role with the Nashoba Youth Orchestras.

**AMANDA KOHL, SOPRANO and PAULA BIEDMA FIERRO, PIANO
AT THE JOY OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES**

On **Sunday, April 7 at 4:00PM** The Joy of Music Concert Series presents the Re Vera Duo, featuring soprano Amanda Kohl and pianist Paula Biedma Fierro, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 758 Main Street in Wilbraham, MA. The duo will be performing a dynamic program of classical music, show tunes and Broadway favorites, as well as a selection of Spanish music. There is a suggested donation of \$10 and refreshments will be served following the performance.

PIANO DUO LUIZ and BRIDGET DE MOURA CASTRO

April 14th at 4:00PM Luiz and Bridget de Moura Castro.give a Four-hand recital at the Church of St.James, 3 Mountain Road Farmington, CT. Donations are appreciated. Handicapped accessible. Reception to follow in church hall.

EXPERIENCE MUSIC at UNITED in HOLYOKE

Peter Krasinski will be returning to play another silent movie, "Steamboat Bill Jr.", taking place on **May 11th, at 7:00PM (!!)**. Steamboat is a 1928 feature-length comedy silent film featuring Buster Keaton. "Steamboat Bill" is the owner and captain of a paddle steamer that has seen better days. He eagerly awaits the arrival of his college student son, who he has not seen since the lad was a baby. The captain is in for a big surprise. This will be co-sponsored with the *Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists*.

BOSTON CHAPTER BIENNIAL ORGAN PLAYING COMPETITION

I am pleased to announce that the Boston Chapter's biennial organ playing competition for young people will be held on April 6, 2013, at Old South Church, Copley Square. I have been the coordinator for the competitions for several years, and this year's competition has attracted five exceptionally talented young organists, so much so that finding a neutral venue was particularly challenging. Old

South is home to a terrific E.M. Skinner organ, see <http://oldsouth.org/music/organs>, and we are delighted that Old South filled the bill, so to speak.

We are grateful to Harry Huff, Minister of Music; George Sargeant, Assoc. Organist, Choirmaster; and the clergy and staff of Old South for their generosity in hosting this event. The AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists, which begin with chapter level competitions, are made possible by a generous grant from Michael Quimby, President, Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.

The performances begin at about 1 p.m. The public is cordially invited.

Communicated by David Baker, dgb137@mac.com.

JOHN ANDERSON in CONCERT

John Anderson will give an organ concert at All Saints Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge Street, in South Hadley, MA at 3:00PM on Sunday, **September 29th, 2013**. Members of the Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra will join him. Program details will be announced later.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

APRIL 7, 2013 at 3:00PM

United Congregational Church of Holyoke, Maple Street, Holyoke, at the intersection of Appleton (Rt. 141) and Maple Street. The Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform under their conductor Jonathan Lam. More info at <http://www.uccholyoke.org>.

APRIL 7, 2013 at 4:00PM

Joy of Music Concert Series at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA, presents Amanda Kohl, soprano and Paula Biedma Fierro on the piano. More info at <http://www.AmandaKohlSoprano.com>, <http://www.ChristTheKingLutheranChurch.org>.

APRIL 14, 2013 at 4:00PM

Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA. Choral and Hymn Festival. <http://TrinitySpringfield.org/wp/>.

APRIL 14, 2013 at 4:00PM

Church of St. James, 3 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT, presents piano duo Luiz and Bridget de Moura Castro. More info at <http://www.LuizDeMouraCastro.com>,
<http://www.StJamesFarmington.CtDiocese.org>.

APRIL 21, 2013 at 4:00PM

St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA. Klaus Becker will perform on the piano sonatas by Mozart and Beethoven. More info at <http://www.KlausABecker.com>,
<http://www.StMaryLong.org>.

MAY 5, 2013 at 5:00PM

St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA celebrating the 850th Anniversary of Notre Dame in Paris, France, with Klaus Becker organ. More info at <http://www.KlausABecker.com>, <http://www.StMaryLong.org>.

MAY 6, 2013 at 7:00PM

St. James Episcopal Chruch, 8 Church Street, Greenfield, MA commemorating the 850th Anniversary of Notre Dame di Pari, France and 200th Anniversary of St. James with organists Quentin and Mary Murrell Faulkner. More info at <http://www.SaintJamesGreenfield.org>.

MAY 11, 2013 at 7:00PM

United Congregational Church of Holyoke, Maple Street, Holyoke, at the intersection of Appleton (Rt. 141) and Maple Street. Peter Krasinski returns to play the silent movie "Steamboat Bill". More info at <http://www.krasinki.org>, <http://www.uccholyoke.org>,
<http://www.springfieldago.org>.

MAY 12, 2013 at 5:00PM

The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue, New York – Klaus Becker performs on the Great Organ being part of the "It's Sunday" series. More info at <http://www.KlausABecker.com>,
<http://www.StJohnDivine.org/ItsSunday.html>.

Choral and Hymn Festival

(on the Apostle's Creed)

Sponsored by the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Sunday, April 14th
4:00 PM

Trinity United Methodist Church
361 Sumner Avenue
Springfield, Massachusetts
(next to Forest Park)

Participating Churches:

Calvary Presbyterian Church, Enfield, CT
Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Westfield, MA
First Baptist Church, Agawam, MA
First United Methodist Church, Westfield, MA
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Westfield, MA
St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Longmeadow, MA
Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, MA
United Church, Bernardston, MA
United Congregational Church, Holyoke, MA

Director: David Pulliam
Organist: Becky Rosendahl Isaacson
Flutist: Janet Dixon-Metcalf
Brass Quartet and Percussion

Great Choral Anthems and Congregational Singing

Reception to follow in Asbury Hall
The public is cordially invited to attend this free event.

CHIFF CHAT

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