

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists
May 2013



Greetings,

On April 14th, your chapter presented a “Choral and Hymn Festival based on the Apostle’s Creed”. This festival was designed to give our members, who sing in a small choir, a chance to sing in a larger choir and to learn new music that they can use at their church. I want to thank Becky Isaacson who is the organist; choir director and carillonneur at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield who agreed to help me with the planning of this event. She took time out of her busy schedule to plan the vision she had on how to make this festival a success. There was the theme, the anthems, the hymns and having everyone who came participate in the festival.

It was a great way to introduce the new organist and choir master at Christ Church Cathedral, David Pulliam. We hope that he will become active in the chapter. Thank you to the choir directors and their choir members who took time out of their schedule to work on this music and I hope that they will use some of the music this coming year. I am pleased that the Rev. John E. Mueller, minister at Trinity UMC, took part in the program and wish to thank him and those members who put on the reception after the festival.

Thank you to the readers who took part in the service along with the Flutist and the Brass Quartet and Percussion and to the ushers for helping me out on such short notice. In talking with

people after the festival they hope that we will do this again at another time.

On May 11th we will present the Silent Film “Steam Boat Bill, Jr.” starring Buster Keaton. The main character of the movie is the owner and captain of a paddle steamer that has seen better days. He eagerly awaits the arrival of his college student son, whom he has not seen since the lad was a baby.

The organist, Peter Krasinski, will accompany the film with out any music in front of him. It will take place at 7 pm. in the Main Sanctuary of The 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/>. This is so convenient for our members that I sincerely hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity. You won't regret it.

Do to several unexpected happenings, our year-end event needs to be changed; both the date and the location. This is unfortunate but when plans are made so far ahead, things can happen. Please watch for the announcement as to where and when we will gather in June.

I look forward to seeing you at the Silent Film Steam Boat Bill, Jr.

Don Hooton

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CURRENT EVENTS

PICTURE MOMENTS FROM THE “CHORAL AND HYMN FESTIVAL
BASED ON THE APOSTLE’ S CREED”





The pictures are accredited to Mary Jeanne Tash. Thank you so much Mary Jeanne for the wonderful capturing of this special moments. Mary Jeanne will be happy to respond to your inquiry for reprints.

THE JOY OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS VIOLINIST YO-HAO CHANG

On Sunday, May 19th at 4:00 pm, virtuoso violinist Yu-Hao Chang comes to the Joy of Music Concert Series to present a program of solo and chamber works. Yu-Hao, a native of Taiwan, will be playing classical works, including compositions by Handel, Brahms, Ravel and Grieg, in addition to traditional Taiwanese folk songs. Joining him on the program are Li-Chun Hsiao on saxophone, Kum Young You on violin and Lee Hagon on piano. There is a suggested donation of \$10 and refreshments will be served following the program. The Joy of Music Concert Series is held at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 758 Main Street in Wilbraham, MA.

CHORAL VESPERS FOR THE ASCENSION AT ST.MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL

Choral Vespers for the Ascension will be performed by the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults with strings, harpsichord and organ on Saturday, May 11th, at 7:30 PM in St. Michael's Cathedral, 260 State Street, Springfield. The program will include Mozart's Sonate in C; The Magnificat of Pergolesi; and anthems by Nibelle, Stanford, and Titcomb. The event is free and for more information contact: music office (413) 452-0845; ljep@diospringfield.org

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

SCHOLA NOVA PRESENTS 'SICUT CERVUS'

The choral ensemble Schola Nova, Artists in Residence at Our Lady of the Valley Church, concludes its 30th Anniversary Season with performances of settings of Psalm 42 *As a Hart Longs for Flowing Streams*, by William Billings, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, Felix Mendelssohn, Louis Bourgeois, and Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck. Organist Larry Picard will accompany. Admission is free - goodwill donations accepted.

Saturday, June 1, 2013. *Sicut Cervus*. St. John's Lutheran Church, Westfield, Mass., 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 2, 2013. *Sicut Cervus*. Our Lady of the Valley Church, Easthampton, Mass., 3:00 p.m.

Schola Nova is dedicated to the performance of sacred choral repertoire drawn from all historical periods. The ensemble provides music for liturgical occasions as well as concerts of sacred vocal music at venues throughout southern New England.

www.scholanova.org info@scholanova.org terrynlarsen@gmail.com

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.

MONICA CZAUSZ IN RECITAL AT THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH IN WORCESTER

Our own **MONICA CZAUSZ** will be playing an organ recital on **Friday May 17 at 7 pm**. The recital will take place at the **First Unitarian Church on 90 Main St. in Worcester** as part of their Young Artists Showcase series with Monica labeled as a "rising star on the international stage". Monica is currently studying with Ken Cowan at Rice University in Houston, TX. This has been her first year there and she has grown enormously. Let's show Worcester that we, too, recognize her stellar talent and show up in large numbers. Anyone who wishes to go and needs a ride, contact Martha Sienkiewicz at [413 568-8033](tel:4135688033) (She has a very empty car....)

NATHAN LAUBE TO INAUGURATE HEATH ORGAN IN SUMMER RECITAL

By now, the name Nathan Laube should be familiar to all members of the AGO and OHS, since this peerless young star has played for numerous conventions of each organization, always with profound insight to the repertoire, compelling rhythms, and scrupulous preparation of registrations – usually all from memory. This autumn, he will begin his appointment as Assistant Professor of Organ at the prestigious Eastman School of Music.

On Sunday, July 21st, residents of western New England will have an unusually rare and unique opportunity to experience Nathan Laube in the intimate setting of the **Union Evangelical Church, 5 East Main Street, Heath, Massachusetts**, where he will inaugurate the restored 1850 Wm. A. Johnson organ. Mr. Laube's superlative talents will not be lost on this simple early American organ, but will exemplify the style, music, and sweetness of tone that were typical of the period – both in musical composition and organbuilding style. His intuitive approach to the instrument will define the program, drawing upon appropriate repertoire, including English and American, to demonstrate the colorful combinations available on this uniquely American instrument. This is a historically rare event in Western Massachusetts – an opportunity that should not be missed



*Nathan Laube at The Mother
Church,
Boston, July 2011.*

Heath is the third home of this landmark pipe organ, the oldest surviving instrument built by one of New England's foremost organbuilders, William A. Johnson of Westfield, Massachusetts. Only the second two-manual instrument attempted by the then-fledgling builder, Opus 16 was begun on speculation in 1849, to a G-compass design, and purchased unfinished by Joel Hayden, Sr. for the Haydenville Congregational Church, then also under construction. Hayden was founder of the town bearing his name, owner of the large brass works established there, and later Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts. The organ was modified considerably prior to its late-1850 installation in the unfinished church, including conversion to C-compass. It was pumped from 1850-1854 by a youth named Cyrus Burnett Smith, whose numerous signatures were pivotal in the process of dating and solving puzzling questions associated with the organ's early history. His later life as a noted surgeon in the Civil War is a story unto itself.

Opus 16 was replaced in 1874 by a larger Johnson instrument purchased to memorialize the recently deceased Hayden; and, the church narrowly escaped the infamous April 1874 flooding of the Mill River which brought unprecedented devastation along its path from Williamsburg to Florence. The organ was moved then to the nearby Congregational Church of Whately, fitted with a new case to the taste of the day. In 1914, the Whately Church replaced the Johnson with a smaller but more modern Estey organ, provided with grant assistance from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The Johnson organ was relocated to Heath, where it was installed without further alteration, nor even much maintenance, save for the later addition of an electric blower. Nearly one hundred years later, age and fatigue had taken their toll on this venerable instrument; and for more than a decade, the Heath congregation worked to raise the funds, with strong support from surrounding communities, for a full and proper restoration of this organ, now recognized as a pivotal milestone in American organ building.

In March 2013, the Stonington, Connecticut firm of S. L. Huntington & Co. completed a thorough renovation of this notable instrument. The restoration has followed strictly the newly revised OHS Guidelines for Conservation, carefully analyzing details of the organ's history and construction, recreating the original casework and faux-grain decoration, including the reinstatement of the 1850 gilded façade pipes (found still in use but well hidden inside the 1874 case), and replication of a missing rank of Stopped Diapason pipes. The painstaking, even microscopic efforts of Scot Huntington and his collaborators (including Marylou Davis of Woodstock, Conn., the country's leading expert on antique pipe organ decoration) to understand the mechanical design and construction, the history, and the musical sounds before them, has led to an exemplary restoration project of worthy acclaim. The entire Heath community looks forward to this summer's celebration of their pride in and commitment to this venerable organ, and to sharing the preservation of this treasure with the public.

At the behest of Scot Huntington, and with gracious accommodation by the Union Evangelical Church, the premier international star among young organists, **Nathan J. Laube**, will present a recital in Heath on **Sunday afternoon, July 21st at 4 o'clock**, including program notes by both performer and restorers, to illuminate further the history and unique musical context of the priceless instrument. The concert is open to the public without charge, but free-will contributions for the continued maintenance of the organ will be accepted gratefully.

The bucolic route to Heath, which follows Avery Brook Road north of the scenic Mohawk Trail (Route 2), west of Shelburne and east of Charlemont, will make a spectacular but relaxing ride on a mid-summer's afternoon. The cool breezes at the 1,875-foot summit of Heath Center will ensure a pleasant atmosphere for this festive and stimulating gathering. A light reception will follow. Please make your plans to join in the celebration, and for this once-in-a-lifetime musical event, in Heath on July 21st!

*The Stoplist at Heath,
Massachusetts*
Wm. A. Johnson, Westfield,
Massachusetts
Opus 16, 1850

I. Great 54 notes, unenclosed

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Op. Diapason | 8' |
| 2. St. Diapason Treble (<i>new</i>) | 8' |
| 3. Dulciana | 8' |
| 4. St. Diapason Bass | 8' |
| 5. Principal | 4' |
| 6. Flute | 4' |
| 7. Twelfth | 2-2/3' |
| 8. Fifteenth | 2' |

II. Swell 37 notes, enclosed

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| 9. Op. Diapason | 8' |
| 10. St. Diapason | 8' |
| 11. Principal | 4' |
| 12. Hautboy | 8' |
| 13. St. Diap. Bass* | 8' |

III. Pedal 17 notes, unenclosed

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 14. Dou. Op. Diapason** | 16' |
|-------------------------|-----|

IV. Couplers

15. Couple Gt. & Sw.
16. Pedal Coupler (Great)

Swell expression by hitch-down toe-lever

Hand-pumping feeders and mechanisms restored to use

* later addition by Wm. Johnson

** G-compass Open Diapason pipes converted in 1850 to a C-compass

Bourdon



*Wm. A. Johnson's restored Opus 16 is shown here in the
process of rebuilding on site by S. L. Huntington & Co.,
at Heath, Mass., during December 2012*

Notes prepared by Scot L. Huntington
401-348-8298 slhorgans@aol.com
Monday, April 29, 2013

SALE!!

Klaus Becker has an Allen electronic practice instrument (no external speakers) and in great condition for sale. In addition, a pedal board (AGO spec.) with bench – perhaps ready to add MIDI. He also has a collection of sheet music, in mint condition, and the best German publishers of various composers at a reduced price available. If interested, or get a list of the sheet music contact him via e-mail klanbe@gmail.com.

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*.

The closing concert of our series will be an organ recital on **June 9th, at 2:00PM (!!)**. The organist will be **James Jordan** who is currently Artist-in-Residence for the Gloriam Dei Artes Foundation and frequently performs and records with the choir, Gloriam Dei Cantores as organ soloist, accompanist, and assistant conductor. James Jordan has performed as an organ accompanist and soloist throughout the United States, Eastern and Western Europe, and was one of the first American organists to concertize in Siberia. This recital will feature the E.M. Skinner organs in both the chapel and main sanctuary.

“THE NEW TESTAMENT” at ST. MARY’S CHURCH

Klaus Becker will perform in a series of 24 concerts all 32 piano sonatas of Ludwig van Beethoven every Sunday at noon. The first performance will be at June 16th, 2013, starting with Opus 2 No. 1, and will end with Christ the King on Sunday, November 24th, with Opus 111. All sonatas will be recorded at his local studio, and are available on his website after the performance. St. Mary’s Church is on 519 Longmeadow Street, in Longmeadow, MA. For more information see his website: <http://www.KlausABecker.com>.

CHORAL AND HYMN FESTIVAL RECEIVES RAVE REVIEWS!

Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 4:00 in the afternoon was a delightful and heart-rending musical and spiritual experience based on the Apostle's Creed. It was held in a beautiful and magnificent Sacred Space: Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield. Becky Rosendahl Isaacson, the church's Choir Master and Organist, was the creator, organizer, and facilitator of this well-attended event.

The idea began as a seed thought while Becky was on vacation last summer. She, very creatively and meticulously, put together a resplendent program, which came to fruition on that day! Bravo, Becky!

From the opening notes of the Prelude, *Fugue in E flat major (St. Anne)* by J.S. Bach to the closing sounds of the Postlude, *In Thee Is Gladness* by Michael Burkhart, the congregation and the musicians experienced the presence of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit thorough the spoken Word of God, the Apostle's Creed and the hymns and anthems.

Participants in the program were as follows:

Rev. John F. Mueller, Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church

Choral Director: **David Pulliam**, Christ Church Cathedral

Organist: **Becky Isaacson**, Trinity United Methodist Church

Flute: **Janet Dixon-Metcalf**

Trumpets: **Pat Lennon** and **Christopher Collins**

Trombones: **Daniel Hendricks** and **Michael Ferrigno**

Percussion: **Kevin Barker**

Apostle's Creed: **David Snyder**

Liturgist: **Paul Kniskern**

Wind Chimes: **Barbara Hill**

Choirs from nine area Churches and their Directors

Included are some comments from AGO members.

"The event was well planned."

"Becky gave great attention to detail."

"Wonderful involvement of the congregation."

"The Choir directors prepared their choirs well."

"The display of colorful robes was magnificent."

"John Rutter is always beautiful." "For the Beauty of the Earth

[Rutter] is well written...

"On the Third Day by Allen Pote featured all the bells (literally) and whistles."

“The final anthem [*We All Believe* by Robert Weaver and William Pasch] was stirring and seemed to be close to the hearts of those in attendance.”

“Awesome experience.”

“It was good to experience David Pulliam, [new Choir Master and Organist] at Christ Church Cathedral.”

The consensus was that we should definitely have another Choral and Hymn Festival again!

Submitted by Charles Marshall
Secretary AGO, Springfield Chapter Board

MAGNIFICENT ACOUSTICS ENHANCE CHAMBER SINGERS BLEND

Novi Cantori, a choir of chamber singers, directed by Ellen Gilson Voth, performed Three Spring Concerts this year in the Pioneer Valley. I had the great privilege of experiencing their first concert at the Granville Federated Church on Sunday, April 7 at 4:00 PM. The program was entitled, “New Horizons” and featured music from William Byrd, Schubert, Brahms and Copeland to modern day composers such as Libby Larsen and Stephen Paulus.

The blend of the singers and the preciseness and expressiveness of the conductor, Ellen Gilson Voth was thrilling to experience! The group celebrated its thirty-fourth season this year and performs in Western and Central Massachusetts. The singers are selected by audition “for their vocal ability and musicianship.”

“Novi Cantori is known for the high quality of its performances and for the precision and expressiveness with which its members sing,” according to the program notes. Indeed, this was my experience at the concert!

In the middle of the program, Scott Bailey (AGO Springfield Board Member and accomplished accompanist at the concert) performed *Choral Nr. 3 in a minor* by César Frank. He played it brilliantly and with great eloquence and technique. I had the privilege of experiencing the sounds he created and watching him play on the church’s new pipe organ [2006] first hand, as I turned pages for him.

The Novi Cantori was a joy to hear and well worth attending! More information on the group and the concerts they will be performing can be found on their website, www.novicantori.org.

Submitted by Charles Marshall

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

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 Church, 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.krasinski.org>, <http://www.uccholyoke.org>, <http://www.springfieldago.org>.

MAY 11, 2013 at 7:30PM

Choral Vespers for the Ascension at St. Michael's Cathedral, 260 State Street, Springfield, MA.

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>.

MAY 17, 2013 at 7:00PM

First Unitarian Church, 90 Main Street, in Worcester, MA, presents Monica Czausz in recital.

MAY 19, 2013 at **4:00PM**

The Joy of Music Concert Series at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 758 Main Street in Wilbraham, MA, present violinist Yu-Hao Chang accompanied by Lee Hagon on the piano.

JUNE 1, 2013 at **7:00PM**

St. John's Lutheran Church, 60 Broad Street, in Westfield, MA

JUNE 2, 2013 at **3:00PM**

Our Lady of the Valley, 33 Adams Street, in Easthampton, MA

Present a choral concert entitled "Sicut Cervus" with the Schola Nova, Terry Larson at the helm, and accompanied by Larry Picard on the organ.

JUNE 9, 2013 at **2:00PM**

United Congregational Church of Holyoke, Maple Street, Holyoke, at the intersection of Appleton (Rt. 141) and Maple Street presents organist James Jordan. The performance will feature the E.M. Skinner organs of both the chapel and the main sanctuary. More information available at <http://www.uccholyoke.org>.

JUNE 16, 2013 at **Noon**

St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow Street, in Longmeadow, MA.

Begin of weekly presentation of "The New Testament" – 32 piano sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven with Klaus Becker.

More information available at <http://www.KlausABecker.com>.

JULY 21, 2013 at **4:00PM**

Union Evangelical Church, 5 East Main Street, in Heath, MA.

Nathan Laube inaugurates the restored "oldest surviving instrument (1849)" from the shop of William A. Johnson, Westfield, MA.

SEPTEMBER 29 at **3:00PM**

All Saints Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge Street, in South Hadley, MA, presents organist John Anderson in concert, joined by members of the Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra.

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 klaube@gmail.com. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org