

Chiff Chat

FEBRUARY 2015

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Every so often I receive a choral repertoire list from a church listing every anthem, hymn, and canticle that the choir will be singing each week for the entire calendar year. One has to marvel at the diligence and planning required. This is certainly one extreme and I confess to personally enjoying the peace of mind knowing what is being performed by the choir for a few months in advanced, but I've never been able to plan beyond half a year.

The other extreme is the music director who merely shows up at rehearsal and asks what the choir would like to sing this week. Such a method seems incomprehensible when one considers the care that many give to making sure that the worship experience is well appointed with all elements striving towards a certain goal.

I also keep in memory two conversations concerning choirs and their workload. One was with an AGO member, who expounded on all that was expected of the choir to learn on a weekly basis. This included a few anthems and assorted responses. I sensed at the time

that the inference was that the choir and the music program was "better" because they did more repertoire.

The other conversation was with one of those venerable British choirmasters who periodically travel around the USA dispersing wisdom backed by centuries of tradition. One such choirmaster said something that has never left my mind. He said that the quality of his famed choir improved tremendously when he abandoned the practice of constantly having new repertoire and cut the amount of new repertoire learned in a season in half by recycling as many pieces as possible over a season.

I believe in choirs. In the sacred context they are often a real bridge between heaven and earth. They are not an ornament of worship. They are another means for the divine to touch hearts. My choristers begin every rehearsal with a few warm ups and their sung pledge. "I promise today to do my best so my voice will honor God, uplift my neighbor, and inspire those in need. Amen."

(continued on page 2)



Chapter Officers

Dean – Lad Pfeifer
Sub-dean – H. David Pulliam
Treasurer – Jim Barnes
Secretary – Martha Sienkiewicz

Board of Directors

Scott Bailey
 Michael Carney
 Joe Geehern
 Sheila Heady
 Rev. Dr. John Hooker
 Mary Jeanne Tash

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(Dean's Message Continued)

I constantly tell young choristers a legend surrounding St. Augustine, who while contemplating suicide, caught himself and turned his life around upon accidentally hearing a choir singing in Milan.

In conclusion I ask you to remember St. Augustine and never sell the life changing possibilities that your choir may have. Secondly, try to find a balance between the choir that is 'doing more' and the choir that 'recycles more'. Recycling lets people come to know literature. We know famous symphonies and masterworks because they are recycled and we learn more of their treasure over time. Give your choir a prominent place in worship with plenty for them to do as voices from heaven, but help them to be better by having the time to really absorb a large part of their choral music, which

means finding appropriate places for anthems to be repeated in a season. The same anthem could be used once as a prelude, an offertory, a communion piece, or a postlude. I'm real pleased with myself because I've found several 'slots' for the anthem "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" this coming spring. The choir (and organist) will end up knowing it very well, the congregation will get more spiritual nourishment from it too as they become more familiar with the piece and take it into their minds and hearts like a known prayer.

We belong to the American Guild of Organists. We are united around the organ as an instrument, but we're devoted too much more. I encourage you to love and honor your choir because they too are part of what we are all about.

Lad Pfeifer, dean

AGO REGION 1 CONVENTION - NEW HAVEN JUNE 28TH - JULY 1ST 2015

*****Take advantage of the reduced rate if you register by
March 1st!*****

Convention Fees:

Early Member/Chapter Friend (AGO or ACDA)	\$320
Member/Chapter Friend (AGO or ACDA) after Mar. 1	\$360
Early Senior/Guest/Disabled	\$290
Regular Senior/Guest/Disabled (after Mar. 1)	\$320
Daily	\$150
Early Non-member	\$410
Regular Non-member	\$450
Student (scholarships available, contact the registrar)	\$50
Optional bus trip to Stonington, Wednesday, July 1	\$30
Banquet, Tuesday, July 30 (free for students)	\$65

JOB POSTINGS

Mittineague United Methodist Church in West Springfield seeks a part time Organist/Director of Music to play for Sunday morning services (9:00 A.M.), as well as for other services and events throughout the year. Must be proficient in playing hymns from the Methodist Hymnal, as well as from The Faith We Sing. Salary is \$100.00 per service. Contact Reverend Bruce Arbour(788-0304), or AFDChaplain@juno.com.

CONTRIBUTE TO CHIFF CHAT

Things that you can contribute to the Chiff Chat newsletter:

- Concert reviews
- Member profiles
- Your church's organ specifications or organ history
- Events for the calendar
- Articles about organs, organ music, organ events, etc.
- Photos with captions
- Commentary
- Organ concert flyers



Visit our website!!!
www.springfieldago.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February Events

3 Tue. 10:30am

The Tuesday Morning Music Club will host a concert featuring Diane Lipari, soprano, Kimberly Figueroa, flute, and Miguel Campinho, piano. The concert will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

15 Sun. 3:00pm

The Brick Church Music Series will host a recital by Justin Murphy-Mancini, organ. This Wilbraham native, a recent graduate of Oberlin College, is now working on his Ph.D. in composition in San Diego, CA. He performs internationally as an organ and harpsichord soloist as well as a chamber musician. He will play pieces by J.S. Bach, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Tunder, and Kerll. The concert will be held at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA. There is a *suggested donation* of \$10.00.

17 Tue. 10:30am

The Tuesday Morning Music Club will host a concert featuring Mark Fraser, cello, Estela Olevsky, piano, and Eileen Ruby, mezzo-soprano. The concert will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

21 Sat. 8:30am - 3:30pm

American Guild of Organists Jubilee. North Andover, MA. A day of workshops for all church musicians and students,

sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Chapter, AGO.
www.merrimackago.com

22 Sun. 6:00pm

Compline by Candlelight, Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut St., Springfield. Under the direction of Cathedral Musician, H. David Pulliam, the Compline Choir presents a service of evening prayers and chant in the soothing light of this historic space. A wine and cheese reception in the Brooks Foyer precedes the service at 5:30 PM.

March Events

1 Sun. 2:00pm

The Tuesday Morning Music Club will host an open meeting along with a program by the junior extension. The meeting and program will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

7 Sat. 10:00am-12:00pm

Chapter Event

The Springfield Chapter AGO will host a **Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza: Introducing Young People to the Organ** at the United Church of Bernardston, 58 Church Street, Bernardston, MA 01337. All are welcome but we especially encourage chapter members to seek out piano students ages 8+ who have an interest in the organ.

8 Sun 4:00pm

Choral Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut Street., Springfield. The Cathedral's Junior Choristers join the Choir School of Hartford (Bert Landman, Director) to present the service. Music will include the Evening Canticles in C Minor by George Dyson, Preces and Responses by Harry Brama, the anthem "Ex ore innocentium" by John Ireland, and other works.

15 Mar 3:00pm

The Brick Church Music Series will host a concert featuring the **Hirsch-Pinkas Piano Duo**. Four-hand piano works by Byrd, Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, Ravel, Bolcom, or Copland. The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA. There is a *suggested donation* of \$10.00.

15 Sun. 4:00pm

The Greater Westfield Choral Association will present their spring concert at the First Congregational Church of Westfield, 18 Broad Street. Bruckner *Requiem* with other works by Rutter, Sumsion, Chilcott, and Ducharme.

17 Tue 10:30am

The Tuesday Morning Music Club will host a concert featuring a reed trio comprised of Zeke Hecker, oboe, Karen Bressett, clarinet, and Diane Lipartito, bassoon. Also featuring pianist Margarita Nuller. Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.



**JOIN US FOR A MARVELOUS HALF DAY OF WORKSHOPS
ADDRESSING THE ABILITY TO GET ALL LEVELS OF YOUNG
PEOPLE SINGING AND HOW TO CREATE
MUSICAL AND ARTISTIC RESULTS!**

PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

**MARY W. HUFF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
THE NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S CHORUS**

**BERT LANDMAN, PRESIDENT,
THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC
IN AMERICA**

**ENID OBERHOLTZER, PRESIDENT,
THE CHOIR SCHOOL OF HARTFORD**

APRIL 11, 2015

10 AM – 2 PM

**ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL, 260 STATE ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
\$15 CHAPTER MEMBERS* - \$20 NON-MEMBERS***

TO PRE-REGISTER, CONTACT DPULLIAM@CCCSPFLD.ORG

**SPONSORED BY THE SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

*** LUNCH INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION**



February 2015

THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA

presents

“THE BRICK CHURCH” MUSIC SERIES

with

JUSTIN MURPHY-MANCINI, *organ*

This Wilbraham native,
a recent graduate of Oberlin College,
is now working on his Ph.D.
in composition in San Diego, CA.

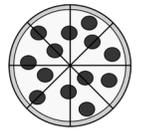
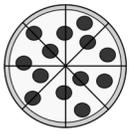
He performs internationally
as an organ and harpsichord soloist
as well as a chamber musician.

Repertoire will include pieces by:
J.S. Bach, Schumann,
Mendelssohn, Tunder, and Kerll.



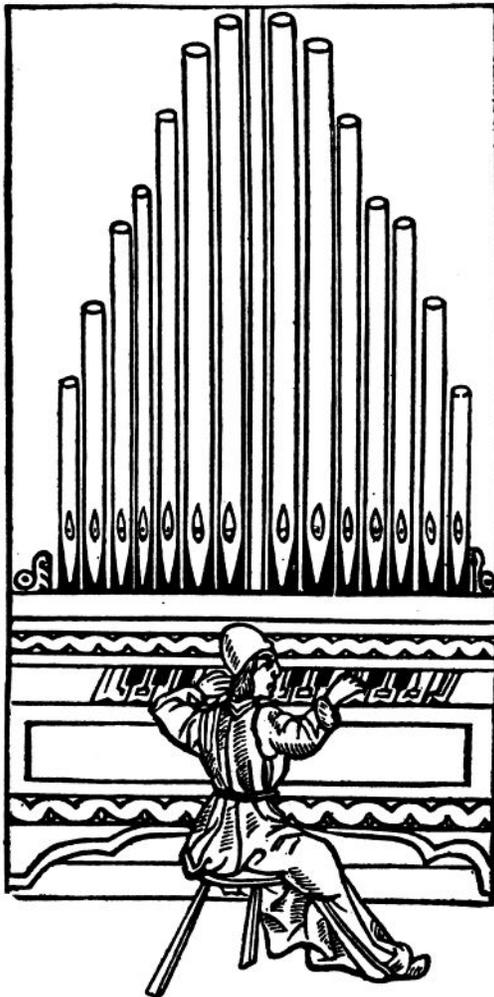
Sunday, February 15, 2015
3:00 p.m.

Suggested donation \$10.00 Reception following concert
Information: 413-774-2657



Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

Introducing Young Students to the Organ



STUDENTS—ESPECIALLY THOSE STUDYING THE PIANO—AND THEIR PARENTS ARE INVITED TO A HANDS-ON ENCOUNTER WITH A PIPE ORGAN.

- GET A CHANCE TO PLAY THE ORGAN
- EXPLORE HOW IT WORKS
- LISTEN TO DEMONSTRATIONS BY ORGANISTS SHOWING OFF THE MANY SOUNDS
- SEE ALL OF THE VARIOUS KINDS OF PIPES
- DISCOVER HOW PLAYING THE ORGAN IS DIFFERENT FROM PLAYING THE PIANO

THE EVENT WILL CONCLUDE AT NOON WITH PIZZA FOR EVERYONE WHO ATTENDS (BOTH STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS).

THIS EVENT IS **FREE** TO ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS WHO ATTEND.

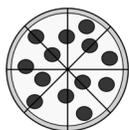
SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH, 2015,

10:00AM-12:00PM

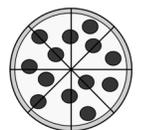
UNITED CHURCH OF BERNARDSTON

58 CHURCH STREET

BERNARDSTON, MA 01337



PRESENTED BY THE SPRINGFIELD
CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN
GUILD OF ORGANISTS.



REGIONAL NEWS

**American Guild of
Organists**

Jubilee

**February 21, 2015
North Andover, MA**

A day of workshops for
All Church Musicians and Students,
sponsored by the
Merrimack Valley Chapter, AGO

www.merrimackago.com

Looking for fresh ideas?
Not enough practice time?
Too few stops?
Need new music?
Seeking inspirations?
Better choir practices?

**The Jubilee is
here for you!**

*Any questions? Call Alain Bojarski
(978) 263-3979 or email to
MVAGOjubilee@gmail.com*



**Welcome to
New Haven!
June 28-July 1, 2015**

Join us for an energetic and inspiring
**Northeast Regional Convention for the
American Guild of Organists!**

Combining the instruments at Yale University and those at churches in the downtown area, New Haven offers a wealth of organs of different styles, housed in interesting and beautiful locations. Within walking distance of the elegant Omni Hotel, convention participants can experience world-class organs, a distinguished music library, and a famous instrument collection, along with the beautiful Yale campus and New Haven's renowned restaurant scene.

*For more information, visit
www.newhavenago2015.org.*

Chiff Chat Newsletter

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Celebrating 65 years as a chapter.

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email Scott Bailey at sbailey@westfield.ma.edu. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org

Next chapter event:

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza: Introducing Young People to the Organ
March 7th, 2015, 10:00am - 12:00pm
United Church of Bernardston
58 Church Street
Bernardston, MA 01337

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this we:

Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
Nurture future generations of organists;
Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

Chiff Chat
American Guild of Organists
Springfield, MA Chapter
Scott Bailey, newsletter editor
50 Woodbridge Ln.
Westfield, MA 01085