

Chiff Chat

SEPTEMBER 2015

DEAN'S MESSAGE

No one is self-sufficient; everyone relies on others. We know this as a fact. Despite the tenacious self sufficient individual determination of our local Yankee culture, we still quote a 17th century English sermon to express the thought of needing others for support when we say "no man is an island". In my lifetime I can actually remember a few sermons that have influenced my life permanently. I may only remember a kernel from them, but they still hold influence over me. None of us heard John Donne preach, but his words, "no man is an island", cross our paths all the time.

When I think of the essence of the guild in a nutshell it's not about the organ, the choir, the synagogue/church, or a school. The essence of the guild is the generous support and comradeship among us. Because we are engaged musically we seek others in the same field. God knows I'm not self-sufficient. Some think I can't chew gum and walk at the same time, but I manage because I receive a lot of support. Members make me glad I'm not an island.

Support, encouragement, and

ideas come from many places. We are so very fortunate to have a group of musical people of various levels and abilities who are all engaged and thoughtful. There is not one among us who is without insights, generosity of spirit, and something to contribute. The diversity of our backgrounds contribute greatly to the mixture and variety help we give each other.

When I email or speak to someone about joining the guild my main point is always the enrichment one receives from other members. I'm particularly lucky at work to be a one minute walk from two other members, but I also email members all the time with questions and it has been a tremendous help to me and my life. When two or three guild members are gathered together I listen intensively. You'd be surprised what you can garner from just keeping your ears open, because when guild members talk shop there is always something to learn and good stories to hear.

We are enriched when we are present to each other and our

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Chapter Officers

Dean- Lad Pfeifer

Sub-dean - H. David Pulliam

Treasurer - Jim Barnes

Secretary - Martha Sienkiewicz

Board of Directors

Klaus Becker, PhD

Michael Carney

Sheila Heady

The Rev. Dr. John Hooker

Mary Jeanne Tash

Elizabeth Zellmer

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world is diminished when we are not. I belong to two chapters and earnestly try to attend events in each chapter every year. It enriches my life and on occasion I hope my presence enriches and supports someone else. We are enriched when we attend. No one is an island. Attending the events of the guild will enrich your world and your presence will enrich the world of others. Being an island is just not good for your soul or health.

This year we are planning a **Chapter Weekend** starting Friday night, November 6th with a celebration of French culture at United Church in Holyoke, an evening of superb organ performance and culinary treats. The weekend will conclude on Sunday, November 8th with The Pastor / Organist dinner at St. Andrew's Church in Longmeadow. Mark your calendars for this special weekend celebrating our work and lives. As no man is an island, this is a perfect time to "reconnect" with friends and colleagues. Mark your calendars and check the rest of the newsletter for details.

Finally, the programs and events of the guild take place because the board and programming committee care about you and the world in which you live. Michael Carney, The Rev. John Hooker, and David Pulliam served as our program committee for this year. A lot of talent and vision went into pulling it all together. Enrich

yourself, your friends and support others with your presence. We are greater when you are there because no man is an island.

Faithfully yours,

Lad Pfeifer, dean

CHIFF CHAT HAS A NEW EDITOR

We all owe such a debt of gratitude to Scott Bailey for his splendid work as *Chiff Chat* editor. As I seek to fill his shoes, I know I can count on your help to make the transition as smooth as possible.

My name is John Hooker, and although I've been an AGO member since I was an undergraduate (too long ago to calculate!), I haven't been very active in our Springfield chapter because we used to spend the winters in Florida.

But we're living full time in Springfield now, and I thought it was time to give something back to the organization that has nourished our profession so abundantly.

The first part of my life was spent as a full-time Church Musician, serving Episcopal parishes in Shreveport, Dallas, Chattanooga, Memphis, and Tucson. Then, in mid-life, I felt and answered a call to ordained ministry. The early part of my priesthood was spent as professor of liturgy and church music at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge. After nearly a decade there, I missed parish life, so I spent the last years before retirement as first associate rector, then rector of my own parish in Ipswich. Currently I serve part-time in a very small parish, Grace Church, Broad Brook, Connecticut.

Finally, I want to thank our Dean, Lad Pfeifer for trusting me with this work. With your help, I'll do everything I can to continue the high standards set by Scott Bailey!

*Faithfully yours,
John Hooker, editor*



Monthly Deadlines

Our goal is to have the newsletter in your hands during the first week of the month ... so ... please make sure I get any programs to be publicized, concert flyers, any articles or items for inclusion, and news of members by the 20th of the preceding month. *That means the deadline for the October issue is September 20.*

JOB POSTING

First Parish of Bolton, MA

Welcoming, ecumenical, progressive congregation that values traditional liturgies and music seeks a part-time organist. Senior Minister is AGO Chaplain.

- Position is available immediately
- 19 stop Hook & Hastings tracker organ rebuilt and installed by Andover Organ Co. (2012)
- Sunday mornings only; small choir rehearses Sunday mornings; sings once a month
- \$15,000 a year, 2 Sundays off
- Additional compensation for Christmas, Holy Week, weddings and funerals

Contact The Rev'd Richard F. Jones at rjbolton@aol.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September Events

13 Sun 4:00pm

"Frederick the Fabulous," a multi-media event commemorating J.S. Bach's visit to the Court of Frederick the Great. **Quentin Faulkner**, narrator and slides; Emil Ngai, baroque violin; Christa Rakich, organ and harpsichord; Alice Robbins, viola da gamba; Wendy Rolfe, traverse. \$10 requested donation. Somers Congregational Church, 599 Main Street, Somers, CT. See flyer on page 5.

14 Mon 4:00pm

Rehearsals start for **The Bishop's Choir School**, an exciting new venture led by **H. David Pulliam** under the aegis of the **Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts** and affiliated with **The Royal School of Church Music**. See flyer on page 6 for fuller details or contact Mr. Pulliam dpulliam@cccspfld.org.

20 Sun 3:00pm

"Bach to Broadway" features **Scott Bailey**, organ/piano; Paul Coffil, flute/sax; Eric Hauser, cello; Sam Asuque, tenor; **Martha Sienkiewicz**, piano, and Linda Lefever, flute. In memory of the late Nelson Barnes (brother of our treasurer, **Jim Barnes**), this is the inaugural recital of a new series, *"Music @ Atonement."* Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 36 Court Street, Westfield, MA. Free will offering will be received; refreshments follow the program.

Please don't let this space go to waste ... send details of your recitals, concerts, and programs by the 20th of the month to:
revdrhooker@comcast.net



The Bishop's Choir School

There is a fabulous new opportunity for treble voices: Girls in Grades K-12 and Boys from K until their voices change are all invited to be part of the inaugural year of **The Bishop's Choir School**.

This new initiative of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts is the brain child of our own sub-dean, **David Pulliam**, who also serves as Organist-Choirmaster of Christ Church Cathedral and Diocesan Director of Music.

Modeled along the lines of traditional English cathedral choir schools and affiliated with **The Royal School of Church Music** in America, The Bishop's Choir School aims at providing a well-rounded musical education for all of its singers, who certainly do not need to be Episcopalian to participate.

Rehearsals are conveniently located at St. Andrew's (Episcopal) Church, Longmeadow, where there is plenty of parking, but since they begin the week of September 14, 2015, there's not a moment to lose! All that's required for consideration is a simple interview which can be scheduled at your convenience. For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact **David Pulliam** at 413/736-2742 or email him at dpulliam@cccspfld.org



A Festival Year of Celebration

The 2015-2016 Springfield Chapter Program Year

An AGO November
Weekend

First event

*La Belle France:
An Evening of French
Music, Food, & Wine*
Friday, 6 November 2015

Jack Mitchener,
Organ Recitalist

Second Event

*Annual
Pastor/Organist
Dinner:
Making Music Together
in the 21st Century*
Sunday, 8 November 2015

The Rev'd Joseph O. Robinson,
Speaker

Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza

Saturday, 2 April 2016

Scott Bailey
Allan Taylor, Presenters



Exultate Deo:

**A Festival of Choirs, Brass,
& Organ**

Trinity Sunday, 22 May 2016

Peter Stoltzfus Berton

*including the premiere of a new
Trinity anthem commissioned
by our Chapter for this event!*

*What a feast it was ... Mary Jeanne Tash's photographs
from our festive end-of-the-year bash at
St. Michael's Cathedral*



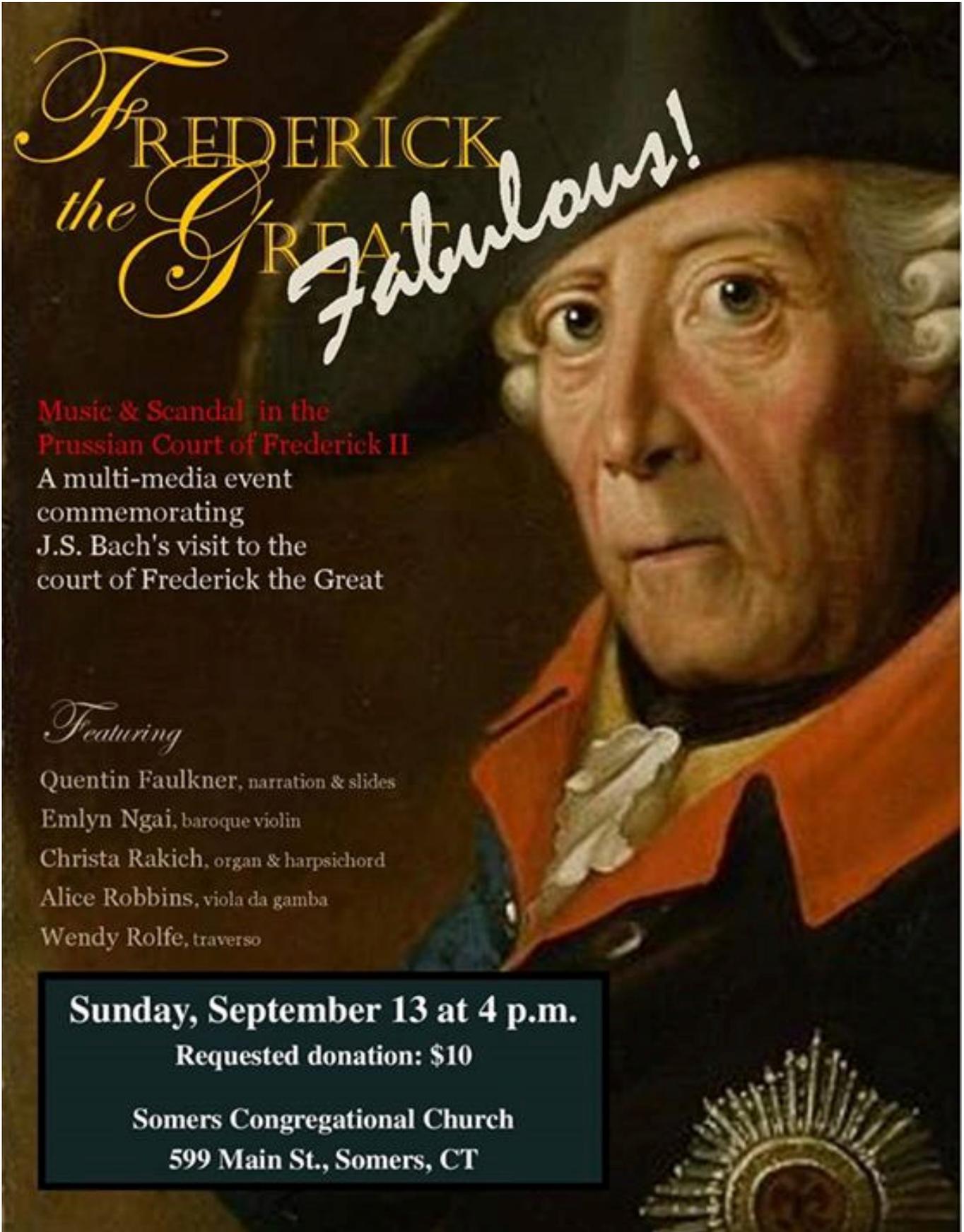
Everyone is hungry, waiting for dinner!



Recitalist Chris Houlihan & Dean/Host Lad Pfeifer



Splendid playing and such a glorious sound from that noble Casavant ...

A portrait of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, wearing a black military-style coat with a prominent orange collar and a large, ornate silver and gold sunburst medal on his chest. The background is dark and textured.

FREDERICK the GREAT *Fabulous!*

**Music & Scandal in the
Prussian Court of Frederick II**
A multi-media event
commemorating
J.S. Bach's visit to the
court of Frederick the Great

Featuring

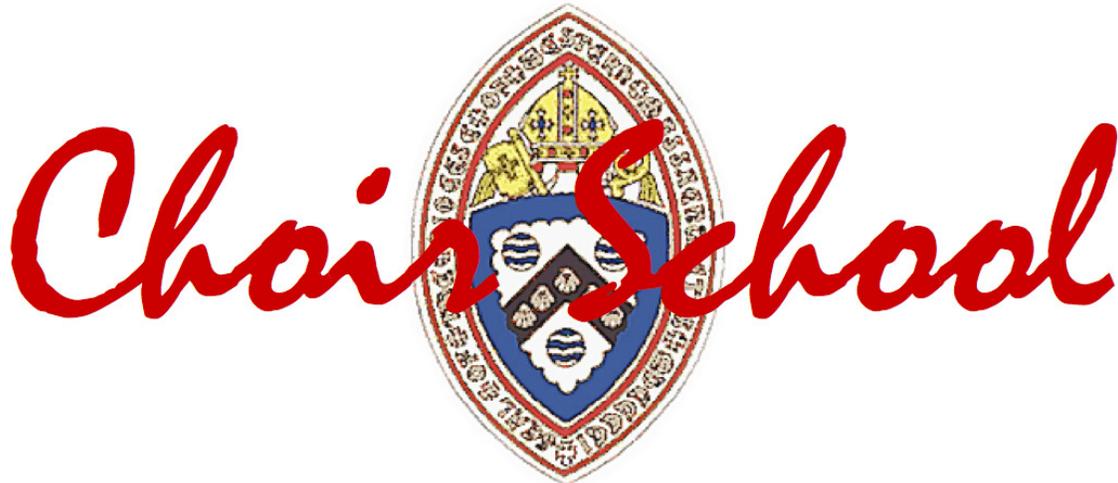
Quentin Faulkner, narration & slides
Emlyn Ngai, baroque violin
Christa Rakich, organ & harpsichord
Alice Robbins, viola da gamba
Wendy Rolfe, traverso

Sunday, September 13 at 4 p.m.

Requested donation: \$10

**Somers Congregational Church
599 Main St., Somers, CT**

The Bishop's



announces

Interviews for Singers

Currently Interviewing

Girls: Grades K–12

Boys: K–Voice Change

- Simple interviews scheduled at your convenience
- Rehearsal Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Longmeadow
- Rehearsals Begin the week of September 14, 2015
- To schedule an interview,

or for more information about the Choir School, contact:

David Pulliam, Diocesan Director of Music

413.736.2742 – dpulliam@cccspfld.org

A new initiative of

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Affiliated with

The Royal School of Church Music in America

Chiff Chat Newsletter

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Celebrating 65 years of life!**

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email

John Hooker at revdrhooker@comcast.net.

Submissions are due by the 20th of each month.

Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org



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.
