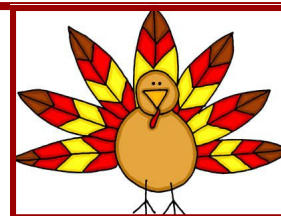


CHIEF CHAT



November 2015

Dean's Message ...

Great Expectations or a dose of reality?

Somehow or another we're all just a little flawed. None of us are the perfect person whether we are someone's roommate, soul mate, employer, or spouse. We may come close to being that ideal person, but in some way we probably fall short.

I have personally felt that one of the major factors in our high divorce rate, as a nation, is the unrealistic expectations couples may have when contracting a marriage. There is often the erroneous expectation that the other will completely fulfill all our needs. That's a heavy burden to place on another person. I think marriages that last are loving and without unreasonable expectations. They are without the undue burden of having the other party be the fulfiller of every expectation.

This may be for some a difficult tight rope to navigate; yet others do it with ease and enduring success. We may likewise often harbor unrealistic expectations of employers especially when employed by the church

or situations when one is responsible directly to the clergy. We want our clergy to be supportive, good administrators, excellent homilists, someone with "presence" in the sanctuary, musically astute, pastoral, kind in manner, and the list goes on. For some people the list would take a page or more. Some churches spend years replacing a pastor with the expectations of eventually finding the "just right" match.

The "just right" or perfect someone is not there. Over the past year I've heard several stories of working unhappiness. Over the last 35 plus years I have worked with some truly remarkable people, a few less so, and to be honest ... one man from hell. When I've not been perfectly content with my clergy I've sometimes asked if I might be expecting too much of them. I have found life easier and more enjoyable when I've adjusted my expectations to something in line with the present reality. Acknowledge the shortcomings and emphasize the positive.

It's very much a two way street. It may cause me to laugh, but I



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can envision clergy with their list of “just right” attributes for the parish musician. The reality of life is that this musician doesn’t exist. Bach was not easy to get along with, and I’m sure I and some others are not so easy too.

Adjusting expectations has made my life easier, even joyful. It may help your situation go better, as well. If your situation is in the unfortunate category, remember that life is too short to constantly endure frustrated expectations. If you expect a little less from someone she or he may not be so bad after all. This does not mean that you’ve lowered your standards, but it may mean that you’ve made your life livable. You’ll recognize their strengths and their failings. It’s much easier to live and work with someone that you see as they truly are rather than as you’d hope they would be.

With this in mind it may be the right time to invite the yet-to-be-invited pastor to the Pastor/Organist dinner. If for any reason your pastor declines, remember: You have friends waiting for you at the dinner when you get there. *Making Music in the 21st Century* is a topic in which we all have an interest. Bring a pastor, bring a choir member, or friend, but most importantly bring yourself.

Faithfully yours,
Lad



Calendar of events ...

Friday, 6 November: *La Belle France, our spectacular opening festival weekend* begins with a **recital of French Organ Music** by **Jack Mitchener** at 7:00 PM, French wine, cheese, and pastries follow: United Congregational Church, 300 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA.

—Sorry: no crepes beforehand—

But bring your own glorious creations to share at the reception which follows!

Sunday, 8 November: *our spectacular festival weekend continues* at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 335 Longmeadow St, Longmeadow, MA, **Pastor/Organist Dinner:** 5:00 PM Installation of Officers, 6:00 PM Dinner; reservations required.

Sunday, 8 November 2015, 3:00 PM, **Recital** by French Organist, **Vincent Dubois**, at Salisbury Congregational Church, 30 Main St, Salisbury, CT. Admission free, but donations accepted to benefit the Albert Sly Guest Musicians’ Fund.

Sunday, 15 November 2015, 5:00 PM, **Evensong** sung by choristers of **The Bishop’s Choir School** in their premiere appearance; The Rt. Rev’d Douglas Fisher, *Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western MA*, officiating; Bishop Fisher will also commission these new choristers. Christ Church Cathedral, 35 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA.

Sunday, 15 November 2015, 3:00 PM, **The Farelo Duo, Tanya Anisimova & Pi-Hsun Shin**, Cello and Piano playing music by Beethoven, Schubert, Locatelli, and Anisimova, at First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA. Suggested donation at the door \$10; reception follows.

Saturday, 5 December 2015, 4:00 PM, **Novi Cantori’s Annual Community Carol Festival**—First Congregational Church, 18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA. Admission by donation at the door.

Calendar of events, *cont'd*

Sunday, 13 December 2015, 7:00 PM,
Eastern Skies: Christmas with Novi Cantori, featuring music of Bach, Tallis, Locklair, Rorem, MacMillan, and more—St. Stanislaus Basilica, 40 Cyman Dr, Chicopee, MA. Admission by donation at the door, with proceeds shared with the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee.

Sunday, 20 December 2015, 4:00 PM,
Eastern Skies: Christmas with Novi Cantori, same program as on December 13, but at Granville Federated Church, 16 Granby Rd, Granville, MA. Donations at the door.

Saturday, 12 December 2015, 7:30 PM
The Cathedral Choir of Boys and Adults sing Advent-Christmas Lessons and Carols accompanied by Organ, Strings, Handbells, and Percussion led by Ladislav Pfeifer. Highlights include Purcell's "Rejoice in the Lord always," Handel's "For unto us a child is born," Delibes's *Gloria*, Biebl's "Ave Maria," and the Corelli *Christmas Concerto*.

Letter to the Editor of *The American Organist* from one of our members

At first I was very excited to see Stephen Pinel's review, "The Organ Historical Society in the Pioneer Valley" (*TAO* Nov. 2015) because the Springfield Chapter of the AGO, of which I am a board member, was co-hosting the OHS Annual Convention at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel in Springfield which is my home parish. Mr. Pinel, OHS members, AGO members, parishioners, clergy and many others came as welcomed guests to our worship home, but he was the only one who decided to discredit our organ nationally in the *TAO*. He was complimentary about Christopher Houlihan's playing of this instrument, though he may not know that Chris is well acquainted with the organ because he has played here before. So too have other accomplished organists such as Fredrick Swann.

St. Michael's Cathedral organ is a fine instrument that leads us in song and prayer each weekend. I do not appreciate his disparaging remarks about it. I find it offensive and in bad taste that a guest in our home of worship would choose to voice his personal displeasure about the organ in this most public way.

Springfield Chapter Dean, Ladislav Pfeifer, commented to me that "Obviously the OHS planning committee thought otherwise and wanted to start the convention with one of the best;" Lad continued, "It is one of the great treasures of Western New England". In my opinion, Mr. Pinel's questions and comments about the questionable "integrity of the instrument" and "why it was chosen" should have been left to an OHS meeting.

The event was considered by those of us at St. Michael's Cathedral and the members of the Springfield AGO Chapter as a great success.

Mary Jeanne Tash
Springfield Chapter

Can you help our Chapter?

Sadly, with only three issues to my credit, it is necessary for me to resign as your *Chiff Chat* editor, effective with this issue. It's been a great joy to serve you in this capacity, and it's work that I'd hoped to do for some time.

For the last several months, our family has had to take on duties we never thought would come our way, but come they have. Please accept my gratitude to all of you for the joy and privilege of editing our newsletter. At the same time, surely there is someone in our chapter who would relish the opportunity to take on this creative work. If this is speaking to you, then please come forward and contact our Dean, Lad Pfeifer at ljep@diospringfield.org.

The other sad thing I must tell you is that because of our situation, we will be returning to Snowbird status, living in Springfield only during the summer months. I will deeply miss being involved in Guild work with all of you, but on the other hand, these changes have reminded us that nothing is forever, and we might very well be right back here before too long.

With affectionate thanks, I am always,

Faithfully yours,
John Hooker+

Don't miss our spectacular Springfield AGO Weekend!

*La Belle France ... an evening of
French music, wine, cheese, & delights
United Church of Holyoke—300 Appleton Street
Friday evening, November 6, 2015*



**7:00 PM—Recital of French Organ Music
on the Mighty E.M. Skinner Organ by
virtuoso**

Jack Mitchener

**7:45 PM—Meet the artist as you sample
French wine, cheese, and other delights**

Free will offering taken

Sunday, November 8, 2015

The Annual Pastor/Organist Dinner

**5:00 PM—Installation of Officers in the
Church**

**6:00 PM—Dinner in St. Andrew's Great
Hall—Reservations Required—\$20 each
with complimentary wine**

*The Rev'd Joseph Robinson,
Rector, Christ Church,
Cambridge—Speaker*



THE ORGAN MEDIA FOUNDATION

There is yet another way to experience great organ music online. The Organ Media Foundation has rolled out its third Internet streaming audio station, The Organ Experience. This station broadcasts classical organ music 24 hours a day via its website at www.organexperience.com. A built-in web player automatically handles connecting listeners to the stream, and complete information about each work being played is displayed on the site.

This station is automated, and generates its own creative playlists. The music is grouped into 30-minute, 1 hour, or 2 hour blocks. The music of each block is chosen based on a specific theme. To give you an idea, a few randomly chosen themes one might hear are:

- German Music on French Organs
- Music from Canada
- Baroque Music
- American Music on Aeolian-Skinner Organs
- Organs by Casavant
- French Music on North American Organs
- Music of Dieterich Buxtehude
- Romantic French Music on Cavaillé-Coll organs
- Recordings from the Pro Organo Label

Some themes are broad, others very specific, there are currently more than 80 different themes up for selection. The information about each block of music can be found on the website, as well as a listing of upcoming blocks.

For each work, the listener is presented with the work title, the composer and dates with a link to the composer's biography, the performer with a link to his or her biography, the length of the work, the organ being played and a link to its specification, the album title and artwork, label and catalog, and links to purchase the album online either as a CD or as MP3 if available. In addition, there are frequently links to purchase the sheet music of the work, and often a link to a free PDF score if the work is public domain.

All of the music heard is from the ever growing broadcast library of the Organ Media Foundation, which currently holds just shy of 20,000 tracks from more than 1500 albums. The Organ Media Foundation is a listener-support non-profit 501(c)3 organization. All of its broadcasts are free to hear, and are commercial-free.

This newest station joins the Organ Media Foundation's other two outlets, Organlive.com and PositivelyBaroque.com. All of these stations have their own web players, but are also available on internet radio devices, AppleTV, Roku, Iphone, Ipad, and Android devices. For more information about the Foundation and it's projects, visit organmedia.org, and to tune in to The Organ Experience, visit organexperience.org.

The Organ Experience – 8622 Michigan Ave., St. Louis, MO 63111

Chiff Chat Newsletter for November, 2015

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

Visit our website at www.springfieldago.org & "Like" us on Facebook!

Springfield Chapter American Guild of Organists
Chiff Chat Monthly Newsletter
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