

CHIFF CHAT - JANUARY 2016

Dean's Message:

To start, I encourage all of you to visit springfieldago.org and tap on the POE icon. You can't miss it. It's huge and fun! Get an inside view of what we are about to do.

A big part of our mission as a guild is education. No social set of values or skills passes on to another generation by itself. For some time now the Guild has asked every region to annually host a Pipe Organ Encounter for moderate/advanced keyboard students in their teen years. Hosting one of these events is no small undertaking. However, from my personal observation, I believe that our last POE, in 2007, really energized and united our Chapter in common purpose. I also know that many of the teens that attended our last POE still have the "organ bug" running through their veins. One of the students we had with us that week was pivotal. He was a pianist who never played the organ before. Within a year he talked his parents into getting him a used Allen organ so he could practice at home. Since then the organ has been a constant in his musical life.

Right now several top notch organ professionals like Chris Houlihan, Peter Krasinski, and Christa Rackich are donating their time and services. They know that on the national level Guild Headquarters consider POE's extremely important and a lifeline to our future.

Some people contacted me months ago because they wanted to be involved. The jobs and things that needed to be done are many and varied. This event is meant to strengthen the future of the music we love. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to change, influence, and open the doors for a young student to experience the world we all love with a passion.

There are glamorous and less glamorous tasks that need to be done. They are all equally important. Whether a driver of a rented van, chaperone, recreation advocate, or teacher, every role is vital. If someone calls on you to help, say "YES," and if you are inspired now, call me or Martha Sienkiewicz and volunteer!



Chapter Officers:

Dean: Lad Pfeifer
Sub-Dean: H. David Pullman
Treasurer: Jim Barnes
Sec.: Martha Sienkiewicz

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In This Issue

Dean's Message - Pages 1,2
Diapason notice &
Calendar of events - Page 2
Workshop Info - Pages 3,4

(continued on page 2)

Dean's Mssg. Continued:

It will be time in your life well spent. You will treasure it. The gift of your time does not go unnoticed. We all have things that we can do for ourselves and our enjoyment, but helping make a POE successful is more than a casual professional endeavor. It is an opportunity to pass on the musical joy you have known for years. When we are long gone, organs will still be inspiring lives if we pass it on. Springfield POE, July 10-15 is your opportunity to pass on your light.

Again, visit springfielddago.org and tap on the POE icon.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Sappy New Year

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Happy New Year!

The Diapason

Nominations are being accepted for 2016's "20 under 30" until February 1, 2016.

The organ and church music fields have a wealth of young talent, and *THE DIAPASON* wishes to recognize the best of the best.

These young performers, builders, technicians, composers, and church musicians will play a major role in shaping the future of our fields, and we would like to identify, salute, and encourage them.

To nominate someone go to www.thediapason.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016

Schola Nova, celebrating its 33rd season of dedication to the performance of Sacred music, presents "This Night," a Program of Nine Lessons and Carols. Karen McCarthy will be assisting as flutist.

Saturday, January 9, 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam, MA

Sunday, January 10, 3 p.m. at Our Lady of the Valley Church, 33 Adams St., Easthampton, MA.

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza:

Introducing young students to the Pipe organ.

*April 2, 2016 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. – Noon
First Congregational Church
18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
Scott Bailey and Allan Taylor - Presenters*

*Exultate Deo – A Festival of Choirs
Brass and Organ*

*May 22, 2016 (Sunday) time TBA
Christ Church Cathedral
35 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA*

*Featuring a newly commissioned anthem
By Peter Stoltzfus Berton*

Pianist's Introduction to the Organ- free workshop

Spread the word!

Members, Friends and All are invited to join the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists for a Pianist's Introduction to the Organ workshop. This free event, which includes a complimentary lunch, will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 from 9:30 to 1:30 at St. James Episcopal Church located at 1018 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford.

The day is especially designed for adult pianists who find themselves in transition from playing the piano to playing the

organ. With our local churches encountering a shortage of organists, pianists are often called upon to lead a congregation with little or no experience at the organ. If you or someone you know is skilled at the piano keyboard but intimidated or confused by the organ console, this workshop offers an opportunity to learn some of the basics in a friendly, hands-on setting where you can ask those questions you have been too embarrassed to ask! Several GHO-AGO organists will explain, demonstrate and guide the pianist into the wonderful world of organ playing. Method books and easy organ music will be available for review, as well as a take-home music packet to get you through the early stages of leading a congregation. *Discussion topics will include:*

A General Introduction to the Organ - through a demonstration of St. James pipe organ you will learn what to expect and look for when encountering any new instrument.

Organ registration (the various sounds and colors of the organ) will be introduced and discussed throughout the day.

Practical Organ Technique - will focus on the differences between playing the organ and the piano and will offer useful advice for playing both **manuals** (keyboards) and **pedals**.

Hymns, Hymn Settings and Easy Organ Repertoire - further demonstration of organ technique will continue with an introduction to hymn playing and easily accessible organ repertoire.

Playing for Service and Leading - discussion of the joys and challenges of leading a worship service from the organ console.

To reserve your place or for more information, contact Vaughn Mauren at vmauren@gmail.com or call 860-521-9620 by January 15, 2016.

Chiff Chat Newsletter For January, 2016

*Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Celebrating 66 years of life!*

Visit our website at www.springfieldago.org & “like” us on Facebook!

*Springfield Chapter American Guild of Organists
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