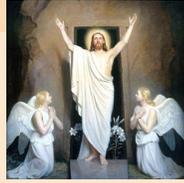


Happy



Easter!

Chiff Chat

April 2016

Dean's Message:

So did you feel a little worn out, tired, and frayed with Easter happening so early this year? Well take heart, Easter will not visit the month of March again till 2024, which is a most encouraging thought.

It's nice to receive or find encouraging thoughts after what can be a grueling week of extended effort. Not long after coming to Springfield from Connecticut I came across the strangest tidbit concerning Sir John Elgar. One day I read words to the effect that he was about to completely abandon music and go back to law as a profession when he finally landed his first real professional job as a musician. He became the music director for a lunatic asylum and ever since then I have felt a very close and enduring bond with the man particularly during Holy Week.

Holy Week can be insane. I'm sure there have been moments when each and every one of us in their career have considered their school, or church as a place for the chronically inept and unthinking. But despite the intensity of the week, there are always moments of personal blessing that push the craziness into the background.

For myself the greatest blessings are the 'returnees'. Returnees are people who once worked or sang with you and have moved on with their lives. For some of my choristers, their ability to attend rehearsals ends when they finally get a part time job in order to buy and insure a car. This inevitably leads to dating and romance. Five former choristers appeared over the course of Holy Week to share their stories and aspirations. Each was with the choir for many years. They didn't keep singing for all those years because of my delightful personality. I may appear to be gracious, but once a boy said, " Mr. Pfeifer, you got the three T's". From my quizzical look he elaborated, "You're a Tartar, a Terror, and a Tyrant". I laughed. Can't remember his name, but I've remembered the words. The first thing that crossed my mind when I got home Easter Sunday was how fortunate I was that the choir and musicians still speak to me.



Chapter Officers:

Dean: Lad Pfeifer

**Sub-Dean—H. David
Pullman**

Treasurer—Jim Barnes

Sec.- Martha Sienkiewicz

Board of Directors:

Michael Carney

Sheila Heady

Mary Jeanne Tash

Elizabeth Zellmer

Other Volunteers:

Rev. William Wallis

Tel. Comm.—Don Hooton

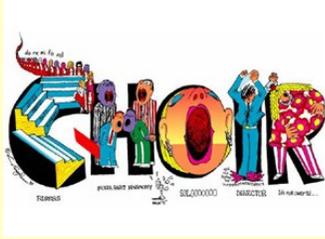
Historian—Don Hooton

Prof. Concerns— Becky

Issacson

Sub website—John Anderson

Webmaster—Allan Taylor



Upcoming event in July 2016:

Sunday, July 17, 7 p.m., the choirs of Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston (adults and child choristers) will present a Choral Evensong service in Abbey Chapel at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA. This event, co-sponsored by MassACDA (American Choral Directors Association) and the Mount Holyoke College Music Department, is part of MassACDA's Summer Conference, but is open to the general public. We are thrilled that the Trinity choirs have accepted our invitation to perform in western Mass before they travel to England in August for residencies at Westminster Abbey and Winchester Cathedral. Their director, esteemed organist, Richard Webster and his associate, Colin Lynch, will perform on both the Skinner and Fisk organs, and there will be opportunities for the audience to join in singing hymns in the resonant acoustics of the neo-gothic Abbey Chapel.



A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.

Mahatma Gandhi

Dean's mssg. continued:

I'm convinced that the emotional power of music keeps people involved in music programs. When life's circumstances change and they can no longer continue with music, they occasionally appear out of no where to reaffirm that a musical connection is something important in their lives. All of us who are practicing musicians give that gift constantly. You may not talk to your 'returnees', but I'm sure there are some who show up for a Holy Week event because you have nourished them in the past. So with spring upon us remember that everyone who has made music with you or has listened to what you have done is part of your musical garden. They may not sprout leaves, but you have nourished and tended them. You have allowed part of their human psyche to flourish. So if you were just a little tired, worn out, and frayed after an early Easter, consider your 'returnees' known and un-

known and continue to nourish those who cross your path. You may not reflect upon it often, but I'm convinced that all of you have nourished, tended, and sustained musical gardens beyond your knowing.

Note from the Dean:

#1—Thank You, Thank You! We have just received word from our Treasurer, Jim Barnes that we meet the POE challenge grant of \$300 announced last month. You are a very generous chapter. Thank You on behalf of the POE.

#2 Calling for ideas, freely given like advice, but every idea will be well received. Our POE has 11 registrants to date. Sheila Heady and Larry Picard have been working the publicity angle to get the word out, however one never knows where a good idea will come from. So that being said if any thought crosses your mind that you think may be useful, please let share it with Sheila or Larry. Over the next two and a half months we hope to leave no stone unturned and avenue unexplored. So if you have an idea, share it! :)



Voices of New England: Spring concerts with Nova Cantori featuring music of Handel and Byrd, Bolcom and Parker, setting of Emily Dickenson's texts and more:

***Sat., April 9, 7:30 p.m.—Immanuel Luthern Church
867 N. Pleasant St., Amherst***

***Sun., April 17, 4:00 p.m.—St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,
335 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow***

***Sat., April 23, 7:30 p.m.—Grace Episcopal Church
55 New Park Avenue, Hartford (part of their Parkville Classics series). Scott Bailey is the organist at all three concerts.***

Tickets in Amherst and Longmeadow are \$12 general/\$10 students. The concert in Hartford is free, donations at door are accepted.

The Springfield Chapter – American Guild of Organists Presents:

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

An introduction to the Pipe 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 BY VISITING EXHIBITS PRESENTED BY BERKSHIRE AGO MEMBERS
- 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 11:30 WITH PIZZA FOR EVERYONE WHO ATTENDS (BOTH STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS).

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

Saturday Apr. 2nd, 2016

10:00AM – 12:00PM

First Congregational Church

18 Broad St.

Westfield, MA

For more information, visit www.springfieldago.org or contact Lad Pfeifer or ljep@diospringfield.org.

The Berkshire Chapter
American Guild of Organists
presents



Sponsored by the
Williams College
Department of Music

SUNDAY APRIL 10TH, 2016 AT 7:00PM

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

Starring LON CHANEY
Live organ accompaniment by PETER KRASINSKI

Suggested Donation
ADULTS: \$15
STUDENTS/SENIORS: \$10

Thompson Memorial Chapel, Williams College
860 Main Street
Williamstown, MA 01267

For more information visit www.berkshirechapterago.org
Email sabaileymusic@gmail.com or call (413) 522-4745.

**St. Michael's Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults
and Strings present:**

**Vive la France
Saturday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.
Featured works are:
Gounod's Messe Chorale #4
Messe Breve of Dilibe and
Couperin's music for cello and strings**



**For more information call 413-452-0845 or
ljep@diospringfield.org.**

The American Guild of Organists Springfield Chapter Presents:

EXULTATE DEO

A Festive Concert and Hymn Sing
May 22nd 2016, 3pm, free admission
Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield MA

Featuring:

***Peter Stoltzfus Berton**, organist and composer
Zabriskie Memorial Church
of Saint John the Evangelist, Newport RI*

***Schola Nova**
Pioneer Valley Cappella
Cantelina Chamber Choir
Pioneer Valley Symphony Chamber Choir
Cathedral Brass of Christ Church
Bishop's Choir School of Christ Church Cathedral*



*Also featuring a newly
commissioned anthem by Mr. Berton.
You don't want to miss this event!*

PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER

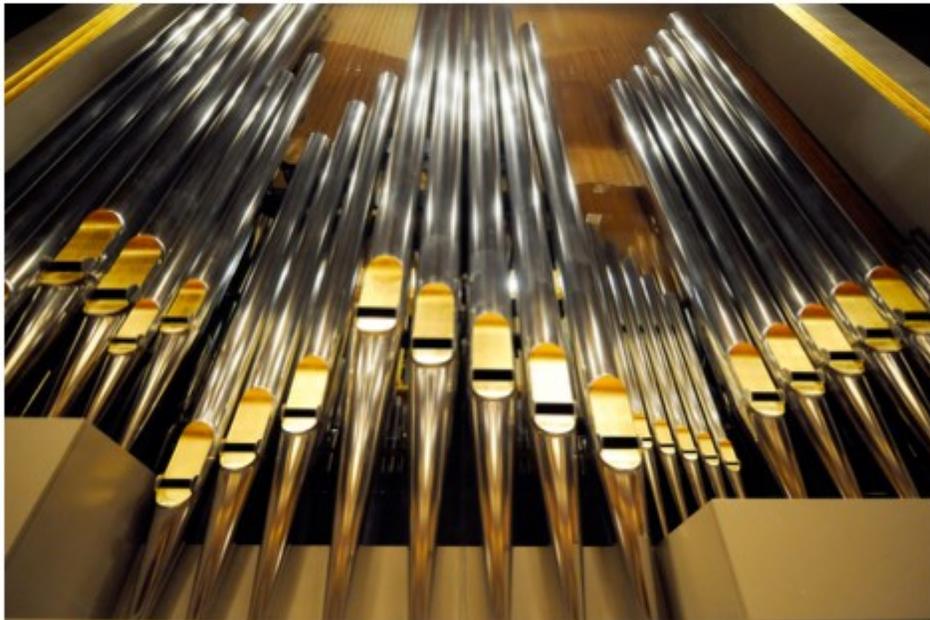
an adventure in learning 'the king of instruments' for keyboard players
ages 13-18

WHEN: July 10-15, 2016

WHERE: Smith College Northampton, MA

learn from professionals, stay for a week on campus (all meals included),
enjoy a major concert by Chris Houlihan and a fun silent movie with Peter
Krasinski. \$450. Scholarship assistance available.

call Martha 413 568-8033 or email: greatestpoe@yahoo.com



Pipe Organ Encounter PLUS (POE+) 2016 (not for teenagers)

Harrisburg Chapter AGO will host a POE+ at Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania

July 10-14, 2016

A Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) is an educational outreach program of the American Guild of Organists.

Visit our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/POEPLUS2016

What is POE+?

Is a 4-5 day event organized by a local AGO chapter under the sponsorship of the national organization.

Is a national program sponsored by the American Guild of Organists. Students are admitted to POE+s on a first-come, first-served basis, regardless of attendance at prior POEs, and regardless of state or country of residence, as long as they meet the following eligibility guidelines: Students should be 19 or older, want to play the organ or currently play the organ in a church or synagogue, and be interested in improving their organ skills.

FACULTY

The following faculty members include distinguished organ teachers, university professors and concert organists from the region: Chelsea Barton, Tyler Canonico, Rhonda Edgington, Charles Grove, Brenda Leach, Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, Keith Reas, Claire Rozier, David Schelat, Victoria Shields, Aaron Sunstein, and Brett Terry.

(This faculty list is subject to change without notice)

ACCOMMODATIONS/TRAVEL

Lodging will be available on the beautiful campus of Messiah College. Meals will be at the dining hall on campus. The registration fee includes five nights lodging and all meals during the POE+. Participants commuting to the POE+ will have all lunches and dinners included in their registration fee. Free parking is available on campus. Directions are available on the chapter website.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE POE+

For more information contact POE+ director:

Ellen Hunt, POE+ Director

23 North Homestead Road

McAlisterville, PA 17049

Phone: (717) 463-9012

Poeplus2016@harrisburgago.org

APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION

The registration fee covers tuition, materials, local transportation, room & board and special event fees. Unless you are applying for scholarship funds from your home chapter full payment is due at the time of registration.

Registration is limited to 30 participants.

Early registration deadline is April 1, 2016.

Final registration deadline is May 1, 2016.

- Single occupancy - \$495. \$445 if registered by April 1.
- Double occupancy - \$425. \$375 if registered by April 1.
- Commuter (includes lunch and dinner) - \$325. \$275 if registered by April 1.

Cancellations received electronically or post-marked prior to June 1, 2016 will receive a full refund minus \$30 processing fee.

CHIFF CHAT NEWSLETTER
FOR APRIL 2016

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Visit our website at www.springfieldata.org & “like” us on Facebook!

Dear Members:

If you have email, please consider receiving the monthly Chiff Chat at your email address. It is easy to access. It never gets lost or misplaced and will put some of your yearly dues to another use. We currently spend approximately \$250 mailing out the monthly Chiff Chat to members over a year. We are very happy to mail a Chiff Chat to anyone who is not on the internet and needs a hard copy, but if you are getting a snail mail copy out of force of habit, please consider instant delivery through email. You can email Lad Pfeifer or Elizabeth Zellmer if you wish to change from snail mail to email. Thanks. :)

Springfield Chapter American Guild of Organists
Chiff Chat Monthly Newsletter
Elizabeth Zellmer, Editor
601 Northampton Street
Holyoke, MA 01104