



June 2016

# Chiff Chat

## Dean's Message:

Have you had "Tummy Hunger"? Who among us does not know where our next meal is coming from? On occasion you might say I'm hungry or I'm famished, but in reality you have probably already eaten something previously that day.

In recent weeks, I've had conversations with Guild members about the state of local churches, the health of the Judeo-Christian life, and the pursuits of our epoch. They are all related. In some ways they feed off each other and satisfy different hungers.

Recently, I attended a birthday party for a one-year-old child. Most attendees were young couples and their children. Their conversations spoke about their concerns, the pursuits of their world. The conversations demonstrated a hunger for possessions, property, income and living without restraints. Out of all the families there was one young dad who surprisingly said he was blest. It is not in the general vocabulary for modern couples to say they are blest. As a husband and a father of three, he is concerned about property, business,

and income. Yet his interest in these things is tempered by something else. He said he is 'blest' and though he is concerned about things of the world, the world is not that which is the closest to the center of his heart. Without being preachy or pietistic you knew that he was grounded in something steadfast. As I see it, every person on the earth is a person of belief. Everyone has a god. God is whatever is closest to one's heart.

In the 1950's, faith was as solid as a rock across this country. Some faith communities expire due to a change in demographics. However, the strongest cause in our country is a change of heart, a change in what is valued most. We are in an age where the philosophical/theological question of 'Why?' is not prominent on the radar screen. In current culture a dualism between science, the 'How', and the philosophical/theological quest for 'Why?' has come to exist. This is nothing new as the pendulum of thought and wants has slowly swung back and forth through history. As that pendulum swings so does the hunger and wants of suc-

ceeding generations.

There is hunger for food, the physical, and there is a hunger for the very ground of our existence. The world around us seemingly becomes more crazed in pursuit of the transient, it transversely becomes hungrier for something authentic, truthful, and purely good. Our world is in some ways troubled. Because of that you should be more keenly aware of your presence and value. As musicians you are on the front line so to speak. For every person in our country, who is physically hungry, there may be another hundred who are desperately pursuing things that never fully satisfy their hunger. A whole hearted pursuit of the physical discourages contemplation of things eternal and indelible.

Entertainment is good, fine, and wonderful, but you didn't become an organist or choral director to solely entertain. Be mindful the world has many hungers and you have something of real sustenance to give. You have a mission and though I'm suppose to tell you to relax this summer, I will say think, ponder, and plan ahead for the hungry are with us always and they need what you have to give.



## Chapter Officers:

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

## Board of Directors:

- Michael Carney**
- Sheila Heady**
- Mary Jeanne Tash**

## Other Volunteers:

- Rev. William Wallis**
- Tel. Comm.-Don Hooton**
- Historian-Don Hooton**
- Prof. Concerns-Becky Issacson**

- Sub website-John Anderson**
- Webmaster-Allan Taylor**

Glory Hallelujah! New Leadership for the Guild.

This is certainly unorthodox and yes, we have never done it this way, but there is an old adage in English Law that Silence denotes Consent.

Therefore, unless you email, snail mail, or call a member of the nominating committee by July 1<sup>st</sup> to say 'nay' the nominating committee (Charles Page, Larry Picard, and Ladislav Pfeifer) are taking your silence as a Resounding Yeah!!

### **New Officers**

Dean: Larry Picard

Sub Dean: Becky Rosendahl Isaacson

Directors with a three year term to expire June of 2019

Karen Banta & Joseph DiMarino

Directors with a two year term to expire June of 2018

Karen Ducharme & David Kidwell

Continuing Officers: James Barnes, Treasurer; Martha Sienkiewicz, Secretary; and Rev. William H. Wallis, Chaplain

Continuing Directors: Michael Carney and Sheila Heady

Finally, on behalf of the membership I sincerely wish to thank everyone who has in some way or another helped the Guild along in our musical mission, particularly the unsung heroes on committees. In addition it should be publicly noted that because life is unpredictable Elizabeth Zellmer and Rev. John Hooker were unfortunately unable to finish their terms as directors. David Pulliam has taken on additional duties at Christ Church which does not allow him to move up to being the Chapter Dean. Terms as Directors that end this year are Mary Jeanne Tash and Klaus Becker. For the personal efforts, good will, and wisdom of all these members we are certainly indebted and grateful. Thank You, Everyone!

**Join the Ranks! Your Final Opportunity.**

Four out of twenty-four students attending the POE this summer are from families living in our Chapter. We will be giving them a one year membership to our Chapter as part of the program. If you are able and so moved by the spirit and good will of this important educational project to financially contribute towards funding the POE, please do so now! The amount is not important. Whatever you are able to contribute is helpful. Your contribution whether great or small makes you part of the noble work of passing on the art of organ playing to the next generation.

With appreciation, the POE committee.

If you are able to send a cheque, please make it payable to: Springfield AGO/POE and send it to Jim Barnes, 27 Carriage Lane, Westfield, MA .

Organist needed to accompany choir and work with director for the choir of St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church, East Longmeadow for Sunday morning services, mid-September through mid-June, and some evening rehearsals.

Part time (not every Sunday) would be considered. The organ is an electronic three year old Allen. The liturgical music for the Orthodox Liturgy is basically a continuous response with the priest and not extremely difficult.

Anyone interested to learn more information and details, salary, etc. is encouraged to call choir director, Cindy Rodolakis 413-567-0044 or e-mail [crodolakis@yahoo.com](mailto:crodolakis@yahoo.com).

**Organ Music, Organ CDs, and More Organ Music!**

Are parts of your organ music library overloaded? Do you have six copies of Bach's Little Organ Book and only use two? Do you have a collections of duplicate CD's you have yet to hear? If you have extra music and inspiring CD's that you would like to donate to the Pipe Organ Encounter Students please let me know. We have 22 students that have a hunger for decent useable music and a thirst for great organ CD's. If you'd like to give it away; it will go to a good home. Please contact James Barnes at [860-759-0914](tel:860-759-0914) or [intwmass@aol.com](mailto:intwmass@aol.com).

Many Thanks  
POE Lad

## Photos from Exultate Deo Performance on May 22, 2016



From left to right: H. David Pullman, Michael Carney, Peter Stoltzfus Berton, and Rev. John Hooker



Michael Carney directed combined choirs accompanied by Peter Stoltzfus Berton on the organ as he performed his newly composed anthem.



Left to right: Charles Page, Peter Stoltzfus Berton, and Lad Pfeifer



Rev. John Hooker explains the development of the text he wrote for the newly performed anthem.



**All choirs front and center.**



People join in singing hymns



On June 16th a dozen students from the Renaissance Magnet School in Springfield selected to spend a day investigating things musical in downtown Springfield. They spent time at Symphony Hall, the Community Music School, and an hour going through the Cathedral organ. Their organ tour took them up into the tower to the swell chamber where they were able to walk around and witness the opening and closing of the swell shades from inside! This is the second school group to visit the organ this year.



*Go to [Masslive.com](http://Masslive.com) and check out the inside look at the historic Tanglewood organ, a 1946 Aeolian-Skinner. This organ received a major makeover by Bill Czelusniak's company, Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc.*

*Gary Smith on the job!*



*A Season to Remember is in the making!*

**Fall of 2016 Opening Collationem** September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Enjoy a glass of wine, some tasty hors d'oeuvres, and the enjoyable dulcet tones of a musical trio with Scott Bailey (pianoforte), Eric Hauser (cello), and Paul Coffill (flute/sax) at the Shindledecker Residence, 25 Green Lane a gracious old family home in Springfield's Atwater Park. Did we mention the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake? Well come for some of that too!



**Major Recital** October 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Michael T.C. Hey, noted flashy and exciting young organist since his 2010 NYC debut at Alice Tully Hall. Michael will captivate you with the sounds of the twenty stop Richard Fowkes Organ. Richard Fowkes Organ at the Old First Church in Historic Deerfield.



**Don't Run! Crawl !!** Come and enjoy a Veterans Day Organ Crawl of Springfield and Worcester on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Start your day with a continental second breakfast at St. Michael's Cathedral and tour the three mighty organs in the center of Springfield before heading off to the Organ Capital of New England for a day of fantastic exploration. Worcester certainly is unchallenged in calling herself the Organ Capital of New England come find out why and be amazed.

### **Spring of 2017**

**It may be cold outside,** but a good Singing Experience will warm you up! Join Michael Carney for an anthem reading session. Date/Details/ and Time to be announced.

**What Nature Destroys, Loving Hands Rebuild, a Members Recital and Dinner** on March 26<sup>th</sup> celebrating the Spirit of Monson after the devastating tornado of June 2012 supporting her efforts to preserve and rebuild. The First Church of Monson is home to a magnificent 1891 three manual and pedal organ by Johnson & Son of Westfield MA. It will be a fun and delicious event! Details to be announced.



**Adieu or Closing Soirée** at St. James Episcopal Church in Greenfield. Enjoy this charming Franklin County setting for our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner/Annual Meeting on the evening of June 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by the lively entertainment of Jerry Noble and his jazz buddy, Bob Sparkman on clarinet.



[Paraclete Sacred Music](#)  
**Announcing Summer Organ Music Packets**

**Featuring previously unpublished work by Gerre Hancock: [An Evocation of Urbs Beata Jerusalem](#).**

**Paraclete Press is delighted to announce the first in a series of publications of the organ music of Gerre Hancock (1934-2012).**

**Published for the first time, this evocation captures the spirit of the chant in a series of colorful variations. Medium difficult, this work could be used either in church or concert.**



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***Passing on the torch...***



Surprises never cease. This morning there was an email from a boy I haven't seen in years. He was a soprano in the cathedral choir for two maybe three years at the most before moving away. He was just appointed tenor section leader for an elite group at his school. He basically wrote me to say 'thank you' for giving him the gift of music.

In response I said he was remembered, and I was thrilled to hear from him. I also pointed out that what the cathedral and I really did was provide him a place to discover the gifts that lay within. In our professional capacity we do that all the time.

Most organists are choral directors by default. It comes with the job. Few of us have voice as part of our academic background. Regardless of your personal background the guild is the place for you. There are many talented people with real choral/vocal training to assist you. Never be shy about asking someone with more knowledge about choirs a question. People 'in the know' want to share insights and be of some help. If you ask them a question you help give them some self worth. On the other hand, when you ask a question you raise your capabilities of nurturing and developing others.

I am not a great choral person. I have more talent in nurturing others and seeking help from those with real skill than in anything else. There is no shame in seeking advice, ideas, or help. One should only feel less than great when one fails to ask, seek advice, or take advantage of opportunities provided for improvement.

Whether you are the small fish in the big pond or the big fish in the little pond, we are all in the exact same pond. We are all treading the same water and trying to accomplish the same things. The guild is here so we can network and improve our capabilities in a friendly and congenial way.

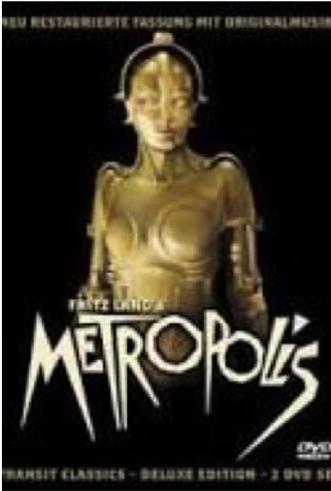
We have all received an occasional 'thank you', but remember that for every one there are hundreds that were intended; yet never actualized. Your influence as a fish in the pond is greater than you think. So use the guild, it's friendships, and opportunities to your advantage. As one cagy old high school teacher use to say 'a word to the wise should prove sufficient'. Take advantage of your guild membership. It has certainly helped me. Lad

Peter Krasinski performs on organ accompanying movie at United Church in Holyoke, MA.



POE Events

Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> *Metropolis*, an amazing night out with Peter Krasinski, as he improvises a live accompaniment to the epic science fiction drama *Metropolis*, a monumental 1927 silent film. John M. Greene Hall, Smith College 8:00 PM



Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> Christa Rakich will be performing on the very charming Organ. Returning from a European Concert Tour Christa will be presenting a program geared to inspire. The standard \$10 donation for Old Brick Church events applies. 7:30 PM , Old Brick Church, Deerfield.



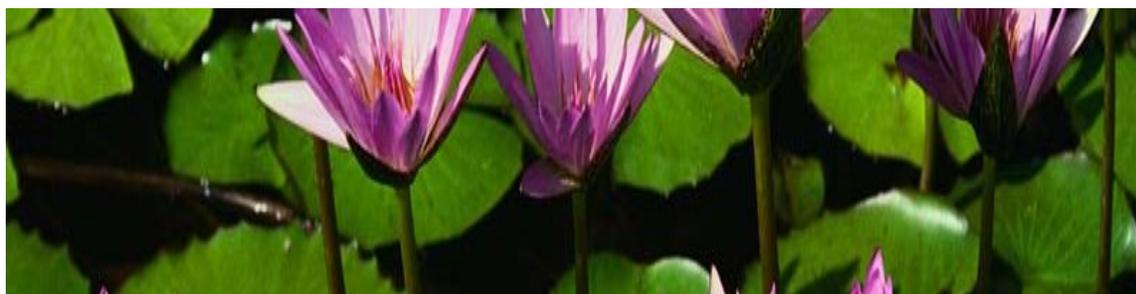
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**Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> Christopher Houlihan, artist in residence at Trinity College, will be presenting a special recital for the POE. The program will include music combining organ and marimba played by Doug Perry. Trinity College Chapel 6:00PM followed by a carillon concert featuring Mathieu Polak of Rotterdam, The Netherlands at 7:00 p.m.**

**We all know the THREE TENORS!!**

**Announcing a Coming attraction:  
The Three Organists in Concert:  
A Taste of Summer**



**Bob Hansler**

St. John's Episcopal Church, Williamstown

**Charlie Marshall**

All Saints' Episcopal Church, North Adams

**Matt McConnell**

First Baptist Church, North Adams

At: All Saints' Episcopal Church, 59 Summer St.,

North Adams on *Sunday, July 10, 2016 at 3 PM*

**Free-Will Offering to benefit**

Berkshire Food Project and the 3 Churches Music Ministries

**Refreshments after the concert!**

***Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
70th Anniversary***

***Visit our website at [www.springfieldata.org](http://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  
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