

Chiff Chat - September



Dean's Message:

As your brand-new Chapter Dean, let me be the first to welcome you to the 70th anniversary season of the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. It promises to be a year of activities of interest to all, beginning with our Opening Collationem on September 18 at 2 p.m. I still can't pronounce Collationem, but likely the name was chosen to portray the charm and elegance of both the venue and the entertainment. It will be held at the beautiful Shindlecker Residence at 25 Green Lane in Springfield's Atwater Park. The new officers of the chapter will be installed, and the entertainment will be provided by the piano/cello/flute & sax trio of Scott Bailey, Eric Hauser and Paul Coffill. Wine, hors d'oeuvres, and 70th anniversary cake will be available. Come and celebrate with your colleagues and friends!

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a list of Chapter Events through next May and I hope you will find your way to them. Attending and socializing with others in your field of interest is a source of hope and encouragement. In spite of all the bad news we often hear about church closings and "new" music formats, there remains a lot of high-quality music happening in our churches and performing groups, which means there are reasons to celebrate, and celebrations are always more fun with a crowd.

And, speaking of crowds, as of this writing there are about 25 of you out there who have not renewed your memberships yet. AGO National Headquarters in New York tells me that there is a two-month grace period, meaning that you continue to receive the magazine and other benefits until September 1. Locally, it is important that you renew your membership soon so we don't omit your name and contact information from the Chapter Directory. You can renew pretty quickly by using the ONCARD: agohq.org/ONCARD-login. You can also call headquarters and renew by credit card or check.



Dean: Larry Picard

Sub Dean: Becky Rosendahl Isaacson

Directors:

**Michael Carney
Sheila Heady
Karen Banta
Joseph DiMarino
Karen Ducharm
David Kidwell**

**James Barnes,
Treasurer**

**Martha Sienkiewicz,
Secretary**

**Rev. William H. Wallis,
Chaplain**

My greatest reluctance in taking over this position from Lad Pfeifer is that I can't imagine ever writing a Dean's letter better than he did. I am going to quote the last paragraph of his last letter in the June, 2016 Chiff Chat: "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 supposed 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." So, here we are at the end of the summer. Did you relax? I'm guessing many of you didn't, because so many of you were instrumental in hosting a bang-up Pipe Organ Encounter that gave twenty-odd teenagers memories of a lifetime. Lad, especially, deserves extra kudos for doing the work of a super hero on this project. But, back to my question - were you aware of the hunger out there, as well as your own hunger for what we as church musicians, educators,

performers and supporters of music have to give? It is what our Guild is all about. Let us nourish and be nourished together.

Larry Picard

Farewell and Good Wishes! It is bittersweet to say that David Pulliam of Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral has accepted a new position as Music Director for St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Darien, CT.

Though David has been with our Chapter for a very short time, he has done many things to enrich our musical experiences during his time as Sub Dean. David made a big splash soon after his arrival in conducting a large Guild event with choirs, organ, and brass at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield. David was also a key figure in organizing last years successful "Chapter Weekend" with a great guest recitalist, Jack Mitchener. and the fun Parisian Cafe reception in the vestibule of United Church in Holyoke. This was followed by the pastor/organist dinner on Sunday at St. Andrew's in Longmeadow. In addition, David organized the "Together In Song" event and was instrumental in helping Michael Carney and John Hooker organize the choral, organ, and brass extravaganza which raised the roof off Christ Church and closed our season last year. That's quite a contribution to the life of our Chapter in a short span of time.

David, you will be sorely missed.
Thank you for all you have done.
May St. Luke's be a great blessing in your life.

The Springfield Central Cultural District is sponsoring a Music At First Event on Sunday, Nov. 6th, Old First Church, Springfield, 3 p.m. The well known former "Music at First Series," under the guidance of Charles Page, was a beloved concert series on Sunday afternoons in Springfield. Noted for it's wide range of artistic musical offerings, including everything from concert organists, pianists, and chamber ensembles, attracted a very faithful and sizable audience. Though this series has ceased, **The Springfield Central Cultural District is hoping to rekindle the "Music at First Series" with program by local organists, Larry Picard, Ladislav Pfeifer, and Will Lucardi.**

THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA

presents

“THE BRICK CHURCH” MUSIC SERIES

with

MICHAEL HEY, *organ*

Sunday, October 16, 2016

3:00 p.m.

A Juilliard School graduate,
Michael Hey’s organ recitals are
described as “flashy” and “exciting”.

As Assistant Organist of
St. Patrick’s Cathedral in NYC
he performs for thousands
of people each year.

He will be playing works by
J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Mozart,
Debussy, and others.



**This concert is co-sponsored by the AGO,
American Guild of Organists, Springfield Chapter.**

Suggested donation \$10.00

Reception following concert

Jean Pitman Turner, Artistic Director

Information: 413-774-2657

THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, Massachusetts

PRESENTS

“THE BRICK CHURCH” MUSIC SERIES

Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Suggested Donation \$10.00

OCTOBER 16, 2016

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

MICHAEL T.C. HEY, organ

ADASKIN STRING TRIO



A Juilliard School graduate and Assistant Director of Music and Organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC, will be playing J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, and Mozart.



The trio, currently based in New England and originally from Canada, will play works by Alexis Roland-Manuel, Michael White, and Ludwig van Beethoven.

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

MARCH 26, 2017

SIRENA HUANG, violin

PATRICIA SNYDER, organ

This Taiwanese-American concert violinist, a rising star, performs world-wide to critical acclaim, having had her early training at Hartt College in Hartford and Juilliard School in NYC.



PI-HSUN SHIH, piano

She enjoys a versatile career as soloist, collaborative pianist, and teacher at the Hartt College in Hartford. A featured soloist with many symphony orchestras, she and Ms. Huang will play Stravinsky, Isaye, Ravel, and Wieniawski.



Director of Music Ministry at Storrs Congregational Church on the UConn campus, she has taught organ at Mt. Holyoke College, Smith College, and UMass, Amherst. She will play music by Bach, Böhm, Vierne, and Wammes.

JEAN PITMAN TURNER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, 413-774-2657

PICS FROM POE 2016



Learning to improvise with Peter Krasinski.



Watching pouring of molten zinc for organ pipes at Austin Organs, Inc.



Hymn playing class with David Spicer.



Preparing for the closing recital.

**Annual Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, Springfield, Saturday,
December 10th, 7:30 pm. This popular Springfield tradition is
presented by the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults, with
strings, hand bells,
and the majestic 1929 Casavant Organ.**



A Season to Remember

Fall of 2016

Opening Social and Installation of Officers September 18th at 25 Green Lane, Springfield, 2:00 pm. Enjoy a glass of wine, tasty hors d'oeuvres, and the enjoyable dulcet tones of Scott Bailey (pianoforte), Eric Hauser (cello), and Paul Coffill (flute/sax) at the Shindledecker Residence, a gracious old family home in Springfield's Atwater Park. Did we mention the Springfield Chapter's 70th Anniversary Cake? Well come for some of that too! Martha Sienkiewicz & Lad Pfeifer, hosts.



Major Recital October 16th at 4:00 pm. Michael T.C. Hey, 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 at the

First Church, 71 Main St., Historic Deerfield. Jeanne Turner, Host.



Don't Run! Crawl !! Come and enjoy a Veterans Day Organ Crawl of Worcester on Friday, November 11th at 9:00 am. Start your day with a continental second breakfast at St. Michael's Cathedral and visit 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. This is a joint venture of the the Berkshire and Springfield Chapters with Scott Bailey & Larry Picard as chairs.

Spring of 2017

It may be cold outside, but a good Singing Experience starting at 10:00 am followed by brunch will warm you up . On Saturday, January 28th Michael Carney and Becky R. Isaacson will chair this vocal training, and anthem reading event at Trinity United Methodist Church on Sumner Ave in Springfield. More details to follow.

What Nature Destroys, Loving Hands Rebuild, a Members Recital and Dinner on March 26th celebrating the Spirit of Monson after the devastating tornado of June 2012. The First Church of Monson is home to a magnificent 1891 three manual and pedal organ by Johnson & Son of Westfield

MA. The Church is planning on having a baked chicken dinner at \$10 a plate starting at 5:00pm followed by the concert at 7:00pm. A free will offering will be taken for the Eva Farr Organ Fund for the preservation of the historic Johnson Organ. It will be a fun and delicious event! Gay Paluch is our host. Anyone interested in performing on this remarkable instrument should please contact Larry Picard at lpicard@sococh.org.



70th Anniversary Dinner & Closing S oir e at St. James Episcopal Church in Greenfield. Enjoy this charming Franklin County setting for our 70th Anniversary Dinner/Annual Meeting on the evening of June 3rd followed by the lively entertainment of Jerry Noble and his jazz buddy, Bob Sparkman on clarinet. Karen Banta is chair for this event with Mary Murrell and Quentin Faulkner as hosts.



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

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

Dear Members:

If you have e-mail, please consider receiving the monthly Chiff Chat at your e-mail 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. If you are getting a snail mail copy out of force of habit, please consider instant delivery through e-mail. You can e-mail Lad Pfeifer or Elizabeth Zellmer if you wish to change from snail mail to e-mail.

Thank you.

***Springfield Chapter American Guild of Organists
Chiff Chat Monthly Newsletter
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Holyoke, MA 01040***