

Chiff Chat - October 2016



Happy Columbus Day!

Dean's Message:

The column to the right of this article shows a list of Springfield AGO Chapter officers, and I am proud to be listed among them. They are all serious about the roles they play in this organization and do their jobs well, particularly our Sub Dean, Treasurer and Secretary as well as board members who have stepped up to plan individual Chapter events. That has left me to wonder what my role really is as Dean, other than to chair meetings. I realized the most important thing I can do is keep you interested in being a member and encourage you to take part in Chapter activities. We all know that on any given day there are concerts and events galore, including organ and sacred music presentations, so why should an AGO-sponsored activity be

any more important to us? It is because we exist to promote and encourage the appreciation of organs and great organ music, especially in live concerts, something we can only begin to do by being involved ourselves. So, without further ado, I'll start the cheerleading.

We had a wonderful opening event on September 18. Scott Bailey, Eric Hauser and Paul Coffill presented a beautiful program of chamber music in a space that was just perfect for the event. Lad Pfeifer's old family home seemed to have been built for the occasion. The trio filled the spacious living room with warm sound and the antique pipe organ in the sun room was absolutely alluring. I can't forget to acknowledge the dining room table, which was groaning with great food. The officers were sworn in and we all had a chance to socialize.

We have another event coming up soon, on October 16 at the First Church of Deerfield. Organist Michael Hey is the Assistant Director of Music at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. If you go to his website (michaelhey.com) you can hear a number of his



Dean: Larry Picard

Sub Dean: Becky Rosendahl Isaacson

Directors:

Michael Carney

Sheila Heady

Karen Banta

Joseph DiMarino

Karen Ducharme

David Kidwell

**James Barnes,
Treasurer**

**Martha Sienkiewicz,
Secretary**

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

recordings and he appears to be particularly strong at transcriptions. For this concert he will be playing works of Bach, Mendelssohn and Mozart. I did listen to a few clips on the website, and I can guarantee you will like this concert.

Meanwhile, I have been especially focused lately on our November event, a Veteran's Day organ crawl of instruments in Springfield and Worcester, which happens on Friday the 11th. We will be joined by the Berkshire Chapter, and the day begins at 9 a.m. with a continental breakfast at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield, followed by a tour of the three major organs right there in that area, at St. Michael's, Christ Church Cathedral, and South Congregational Church. Then we're off to Worcester where we will meet Worcester chapter members at 12:30 for lunch at the Oak Barrel (more details about that in the November newsletter). After the lunch, we will tour four instruments in the following order: First Unitarian Church (Aeolian Skinner), Wesley Methodist (E. M. Skinner/Aeolian Skinner/Berkshire), St. Joseph's

Chapel at Holy Cross College (Taylor & Boody) and Pakachog UCC in Auburn (Dobson). The day will end at about 6 p.m. Transportation will be by car and we hope many of you will share rides. In November I will be asking those of you who plan to go to let me know so we can plan breakfast and make reservations for lunch.

Does all of this seem like I'm repeating the schedule that has already been posted twice in previous newsletters? Maybe, but hopefully you're getting a little more information each time that will move the events further up on your list of must-dos. And, if they don't make it all the way to the top, be sure and do something that gets your musical engine going and reminds you what got you interested in the organ in the first place. And, while you're at it, bring someone along who hasn't had the experience yet. Maybe we can start some more engines and get the organ a following for the 21st century.

Larry Picard

Sunday, Nov. 6th, 3:00 p.m., at the Old First Church in Springfield. 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 its wide range of artistic musical offerings everything from concert organists, pianists, and chamber ensembles attracted a very faithful and sizable audience. Though this series has ceased there will be revisiting of Music at First with program by local organists, Larry Picard, Ladislav Pfeifer and Will Lucardi.

Feeding Hills Congregational Church (FHCC) is seeking an organist/music director. We are smaller church, which enjoys a mix of contemporary and traditional music. The position requires working with the choir for rehearsals, musical accompaniment during weekly Sunday worship, and music selection in coordination with the minister. While the ability to play the organ is preferred, we are open to those experienced on other suitable musical instruments. Pay is commensurate with experience. Any interested parties can contact the church office, [413-786-5061](tel:413-786-5061) or FHCCUCC@comcast.net.

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 the Opening Event

Schindledecker Residence



Lad Pfeifer and Larry Picard getting ready to pass out the cake. What a beautiful cake!



Swearing in of Officers for Springfield AGO



Scott Bailey at the Piano





Sacred Music at the Red Door

Mark your calendar now for

Sacred Music at the Red Door Events 2016-2017

Worship Ancient and Beautiful: Choral Evensong *Free admission, donations accepted*

Experience the beautiful, ancient custom of closing the day with graceful readings, prayer and music.

Selected Last Sundays of the Month, 5:00 p.m.

September 25, 2016: St. James's Choir, West Hartford, Vaughn Mauren, Organist/Choirmaster

October 30, 2016: St. John's Youth and Adult Choirs, Scott Lamlein, Organist/Choirmaster

January 29, 2017: Choir of Center Church, Hartford, William Ness, Organist/Choirmaster

February 26, 2017: St. John's Youth Choir

March 26, 2017: Bishop's Choir School of Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, David Pulliam, Organist/Choirmaster

April 30, 2017: St. John's Youth and Adult Choirs

*Followed by Choral Festival and Evensong at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York,
Saturday, May 6, 4:00 p.m.*

The Nields – St John's Block Party *Free!*

Local favorite folk duo, The Nields, present a family-friendly and fun concert on our south lawn – join us for great music, food trucks, and more!

Sunday, September 18, 2016, 1:00 p.m. (Block party 12-3 p.m.)

Winners Recital: Albert Schweitzer International Organ Competition *Free!*

Celebrating 25 years of launching the careers of the brightest stars in the pipe organ world, the winners of last year's competition present an inspiring recital.

Saturday, October 1, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols *Free admission, suggested donation \$20*

The St. John's Adult and Youth Choirs

Scott Lamlein, director; Floyd Higgins, organ

Sunday, December 11, 2016, 3:00 p.m.

Gospel at the Red Door: Legacy of Spirituals Singers *Free admission, suggested donation \$20*

An evening of joyful Gospel music, under the direction of Hartford's own G. Ingrid Faniel.

Saturday, March 11, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

Celebrity Organ Concert: Chelsea Chen, organist, with Joseph Lee, cello

Free admission, suggested donation \$20

Co-sponsored by the Greater Hartford Chapter, American Guild of Organists

Sunday, June 4, 2017, 4:00 p.m.

Pipes Alive! Organ Series – First Sundays in 2017 – 12:30pm *Free admission, donations accepted*

February 5: Scott Lamlein

March 5: Floyd Higgins

April 2: Christa Rakich

May 7: Peter Niedmann

St. John's Episcopal Church – 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06119 – 860-523-5201
www.reddoormusic.org

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, 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.



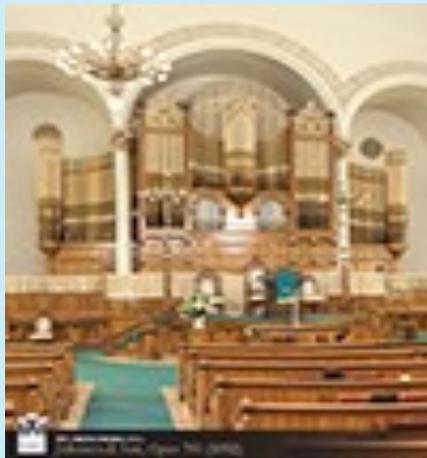
Spring of 2017

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

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

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  ir  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 clari-

net. Karen Banta is chair for this event with Mary Murrell and Quentin Faulkner as hosts.



An due Musik, has moved to Wednesday 7-8am on Valley Free Radio, 103.3FM, live streaming at valleyfreeradio.org.

The Organ Academy

One of the stated purposes of the American Guild of Organists is to “improve the proficiency of organists and choral conductors.” With a desire to further that goal, the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has established the Organ Academy. Chapter members are able to study with a local teacher, and have the cost of lessons subsidized by the Chapter. The current amount available per student is \$250 per year, payable in 10 installments directly to the teacher. For further information and application materials, please contact “Education and Outreach,” Martha Sienkiewicz, Martha@sienkiewicz.org.

The first concert for Experience Music at United is the following: "Dúo Fusión" on Sunday, October 23, 2016, 2 p.m. Sarah Swersey (flute) and Joe Belmont (guitar) . It will take place in Skinner Memorial Chapel, with a reception following the concert.

ORGAN FESTIVAL WEEK AT WORCESTER MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

The Return of the 1933 Kimball – long silenced due to building closure (and roof leaks!)

www.WorcAUD.com

Organists, technicians, tuners, hall electricians, cleaners, . . . have been working tirelessly to prepare for this

re-opening (as such) of the Worc AUD, and showcasing of the Mighty 1933 Kimball.

\$5 Chair [online purchase](#) is recommended (*the AUD is empty/unoccupied and chairs are being rented at AGO expense*)

Oct 9 Sunday

*(with **Chamber Music Concerts** in Memorial Hall at 3PM, 5:30 & 6PM, and tours & organ demos throughout)*

Kimball 1933 IV/107 at Worcester Memorial Auditorium

4PM William Ness in Concert(Wagner Meistersingers, Wood Fugue, Demarest America the Beautiful, Vierne Scherzo, and more)[reception following]

6:30PM Silent Film– *Wings Over Worcester* accpd by Peter Krasinski (full-length 2-hour Academy award winning film) introduced with Flag Color Guard

Oct 14 Friday

*(with **Chamber Music Concerts** in Memorial Hall at 6PM, and tours & organ demos throughout)*

Worcester Auditorium 1933 IV/107 Kimball

7PM Organ recital by international artist **Peter Richard Conte** (Wanamaker Organist) on the mighty Kimball introduced with Flag Color Guard[reception following]

Other local calendar events *(click to view details)*

[Sat Oct 8 7:00 PM](#) - **Gilbertville, MA** Memorial Concert for Donald Boothman

[Sun Oct 9 4:00 PM](#) - Worc AUD Kimball Comes back to life with WILLIAM NESS, organist - *Reception following*

[Sun Oct 9 6:30 PM](#) - Worc AUD Kimball - First-ever Silent Film at AUD - WINGS (1927) – accpd by Peter Krasinski

[Fri Oct 14 7:00 PM](#) - Worc AUD Kimball: Peter Richard Conte, organist - *Reception following*

Recently scheduled **mini-organ-crawls** in Worcester:

Monday Oct 10 (Columbus Day) Mechanics Hall (time tbd)

Friday Nov 11 (Veterans Day *Afternoon in Worcester*) 12:30 Lunch; 1:30 Wesley-1stU-HolyCross-Pakachoag

July 2-6, 2017 [Montreal Organ Festival](#)

On December 11, 2016, Holyoke High School Choirs will present their holiday concert under the direction of Mark Todd. He is currently the Choral Music Department Head of the Holyoke Public School. He has produced numerous musicals and his choirs have performed four times at the Hatch Shell in Boston.

***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, but 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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