

Happy Holidays!



Dean's Message:

I take my dog with me to the church most mornings, and she has gotten to learn that around 10:30 a.m. we go outside for a walk around the Maple Hill/ Quadrangle area. She starts pestering me to go around 10:15, so today we went a little early, out the back door onto High Street and toward School Street. There is a very old house just past the church and standing in front of it was an elderly woman who I had not seen in a long time. A car had pulled up to the curb and a young woman had gotten out and was speaking Russian to the woman.

Even though I recognized her right away as a woman who attended South Church for a while during the past ten years, I didn't say anything. My experience with the elderly, especially those who may be entering the world of Alzheimer's disease, is

that they can be frightened by people they don't recognize or have forgotten. Daisy and I walked slowly past her and I waited to see if she might recognize me. She looked at me briefly and then looked away and walked to the car.

I remembered her as Eugenia (pronounced Yehf-GEN-ya, more or less, in Russian) and she would often appear in our sanctuary a good half-hour before the beginning of the service while I was still rehearsing the choir. She knew very little English. "My son - doctor," and "music," was what she could say to me, but not much more. She always had a bright smile and would come to me after a service and do her best to express her appreciation for the music, mainly with gestures. One day I had a youth anthem scheduled. My youth choir at the time consisted of six African-American boys who were all very good singers. As usual, Eugenia was there for their pre-service rehearsal, and when they finished singing the song they were going to present in worship she stood up, walked up to them with a beaming smile and kissed them one by one on both cheeks.



Dean: Larry Picard

Sub Dean: Becky Rosendahl Isaacson

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

Dean's message continued:
Eventually Eugenia stopped appearing and for a while I feared that she had passed on, but nobody knew where she lived or how to contact her. She had left an impression on me, though, and in the years since then I have tried to describe her to new ministers and staff members, who nod blankly at me and smile.

So, as she was getting into the car today I called out to the young woman who picked her up. "Isn't that Eugenia?" I asked. She smiled and said yes, and I told her how I knew her. She said that Eugenia now goes to a Russian Church. I smiled and waved to Eugenia but she didn't appear to recognize me. As I continued down High Street another woman in a hospital uniform was getting into her car. She smiled at me, too, and asked how I knew the old Russian woman. I told her, and her smile got wider. Apparently Eugenia has been a bright star in the neighborhood.

Are you waiting for me to tell you that the point of this story is that music is the universal language? That could easily be your take-away. Here is what it was about for me. I don't get the Christmas spirit every year. Too often I am swamped with seasonal happenings at the church and outside gigs with choral groups, the Pioneer

Valley Symphony, local high schools, etc. This morning, though, I got it. For me, it wasn't about what my music did for Eugenia. It was about what Eugenia did for me and everyone else around her. The Christmas Spirit is with me, and I'm not letting go.

May the Spirit, however you perceive it, be with you, too! Happy Holidays!

Larry Picard

Nov 30 Wed Noon – Co-sponsored Worcester Organ Concert at Mechanics Hall – **"All that Holiday Jazz"** Hook Organ with WPI Jazz Ensemble; broadcast live on WICN

- Friday, January 6 - **12th Night Social Event**, casual

- May 15 Monday 7PM **Scholarship Recital**

- *To Be Finalized soon:* Saturday 10AM **Pedals, Pipes and Pizza** (invite your piano and organ students (and yourself!), all ages) – Intro to the Pipe Organ

- For more information contact:
www.Worcesterago.com.

An Appeal from Isabelle Demers and the Committee on the New Organist (CONO)

CONO is a newly formed committee whose primary goal is to provide pianists and entry-level organists (“new organists”) with educational resources that will enable them to increase their skill level at the organ. Like many of you, we are concerned by diminishing numbers in the AGO and the organ world in general, and by the dearth of organists in smaller communities. Our work will encompass a variety of mediums, including social media, but today I’m writing with a simpler request.

One of our first goals is to create a list of organ teachers per region/area, including people willing to teach via Facetime, Skype, or other lesson types. To that extent, could you ask your members to fill out the following table? It goes without saying that they should only include information that they feel comfortable sharing (for example, listing their work phone number or email if they are worried about online privacy).

Name _____

Affiliation (work, AGO Chapter) _____

Brief vitae (education, work) _____

Contact info (email, phone) _____

Preferred level (beginner, intermediate, advanced) _____

Are you willing to offer a few (3) pro bono lessons to beginners? _____

Are you comfortable teaching using Skype, Facetime, or other new mediums? _____

Note: All Springfield Chapter members who are interested in participating should send the completed forms to Martha Sienkiewicz at martha@sienkiewicz.org.

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

Worcester Organ Crawl



Worcester Organ Crawl Continued



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.



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

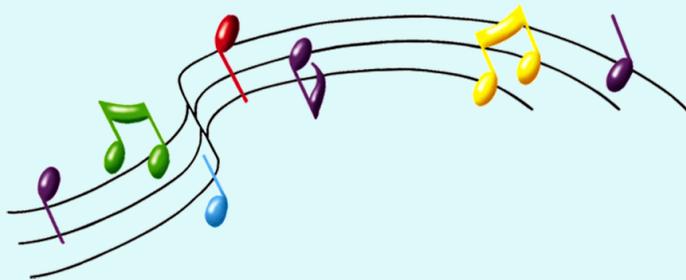


70th Anniversary Dinner & Closing S  ir  e at St. James Episcopal Church in Greenfield. Enjoy this charming Franklin County setting for our 70th Anniversary Dinner/Annual Meeting on the evening of June 3rd followed by the lively entertainment of Jerry Noble and his jazz buddy, Bob Sparkman on clarinet.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





The AGO would like to invite you to a Brunch and Anthem Sing on 1/28/17 at 10 am at Springfield Trinity Church. We will be offering a tasty brunch followed by festive singing and camaraderie. Music packets are available to participants and the event will only be a small fee. Choir members and other singers are welcome to attend. If you are planning to attend this event, please e-mail Michael Carney at mikecarneymusic@gmail.com by January 1st with the number of people attending.



Novi Cantori presents:

"Resounding Joy"

Music of Bach, Sweelinck, and carols familiar and new

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 - 4:00 pm - Community Carol festival, First Congregational Church, 18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016 - 4:00 pm - Granville Federated Church, 16 Granby Road, Granville, MA

Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016 - 7:00 pm - St. Rose de Lima Parish, 600 Grattan Street, Chicopee, MA

Patricia Snyder will be our organist in Westfield; Scott Bailey will be our organist/accompanist in Granville and Chicopee.

Admission is by donation at the door. Proceeds in Chicopee will be shared with the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee.

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

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.



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

***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 are very happy to mail a Chiff Chat to anyone who is not on the internet and needs a hard copy. 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
Elizabeth Zellmer, Editor
601 Northampton Street
Holyoke, MA 01040***