

Happy New Year!



Dean's Message:

Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was happy and successful and the inevitable stress that accompanies the season wasn't overwhelming. Many times in the past I have read newsletters from AGO chapter deans that advise readers to rest and take care of themselves. Sage advice, although some find their rejuvenation not through rest and relaxation, but with the undertaking of new projects or studies. If you are that person, then, onward! *Carpe diem!*

A project I am thinking about for the New Year is thinking about next year, meaning 2017-2018. Crazy, huh? Well, since becoming Dean of this Chapter I am more aware of the how things are these days, not only in our Chapter and those around us, but in many around the country, too. My experience in the fall was that, while those who participated in the Chapter events were enthusiastic, attendance as a percentage of the Chapter membership was lower than I anticipated. To be sure, the programs were substantive, interesting and of good quality, but I couldn't help wondering if they addressed the

needs of enough of our membership in the 21st century.

Some of you who know me well are probably already thinking about the color of pots and kettles right now, because you know that, before this year I wasn't very good about attending Chapter events myself. Very true. A lot of that was due to performing conflicts, but sometimes I would come to the end of a week of endless rehearsals, meetings and performances and I just wanted to stay home and relax more than anything else in the world. There, I said it, and maybe it's true for you, too, maybe it's a universal truth these days. I spoke recently to a friend in the Cleveland Chapter and he agreed that attendance at Cleveland Chapter events was also way down.

So, back to my project. Before too long the board will start talking about next year's programs. Organ crawls, anthem readings, members' recitals, etc., are all very worthwhile and they are also the sort of thing we should be doing – but – can we take it a little farther? Can we raise the bar a little bit? Or maybe a lot? Wouldn't it be amazing if we came up with a programming schedule that would make everyone look at any one program and say, "Well, I can't miss THAT!"



Dean: Larry Picard

Sub Dean: Becky Rosen-dahl 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**

Dean's message continued:

My New Year's challenge to you is to participate in this planning. No, you do not have to come to planning meetings; you just need to ask yourself a few questions. 1) Why am I a member of this AGO Chapter in 2016? 2) What can this Chapter do to help, nourish, and enlighten me in my relationship with the organ and organ music? Then let yourself brainstorm. Come up with crazy ideas that would be too time-consuming to plan and cost too much to produce and then email those crazy ideas to me. I'll take them to the board and we'll see if something practical and affordable, yet magnificent and appealing, comes up for us.

And then wouldn't it be great if the Cleveland and other chapters around the country came to us to find out what we are doing right?

Larry Picard

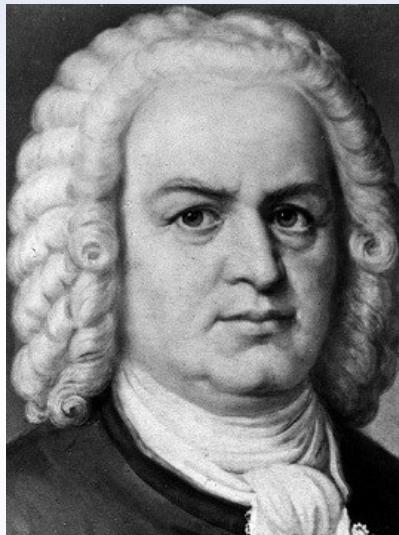
Nov 30 Wed Noon – Co-sponsored Worcester Organ Concert at Mechanics Hall – “**All that Holiday Jazz**” Hook Organ with WPI Jazz Ensemble; broadcast live on WICN

- 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.



"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."

Johann Sebastian Bach



I worked hard. Anyone who works as hard as I did can achieve the same results.

~ Johann Sebastian Bach

AZ QUOTES

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.

OCTOBER 16, 2016

MICHAEL T.C. HEY, *organ*



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.

Suggested Donation \$10.00

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

ADASKIN STRING TRIO



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

SIRENA HUANG, *violin*

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.

MARCH 26, 2017

PATRICIA SNYDER, *organ*

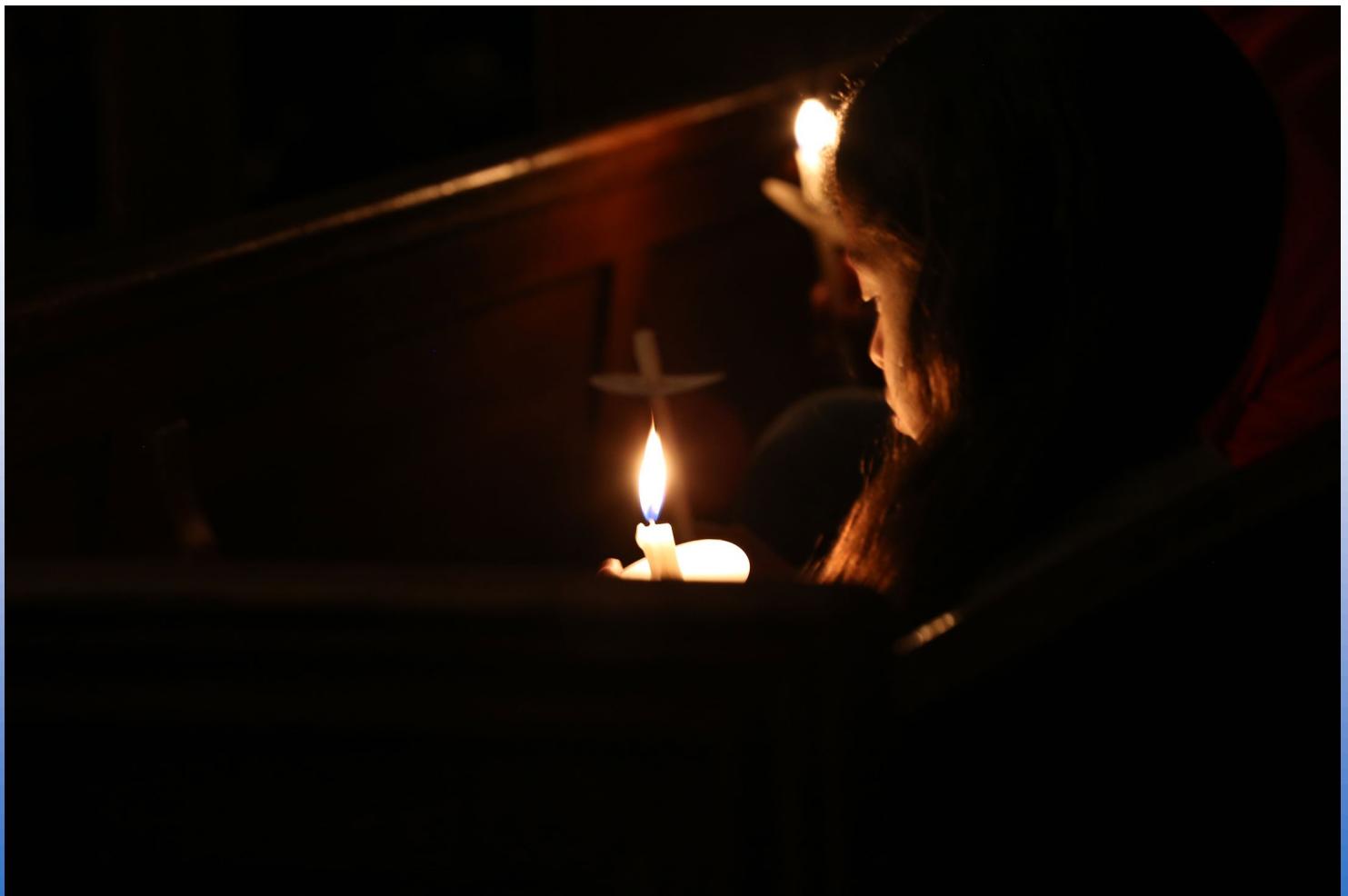


Director of Music Ministry at Storrs Congregational Church on the UConn campus, she has taught organ at Mt. Holyoke College, Smith College, and UMass, Amherst. She will play music by Bach, Böhm, Vierne, and Wammes.

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

Lessons and Carols at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield





The following information is from the regional councilor:

Competitions and Scholarships

Several important deadlines are looming:

The Pogorzelski – Yankee Scholarship online application period begins January 1, 2017; the deadline for submission is February, 15, 2017.

Online applications for competitors are now being accepted for the 2017 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists; application deadline is January 15, 2017.

Online applications for competitors are now being accepted for the 2018 National Competition in Organ Improvisation; the application deadline is January 2, 2017.

Online applications for young composers are now being accepted for the AGOYO North Central Young Composers Competition; deadline is March 10, 2017.

Montreal Organ Festival

Preparations for our 2017 Regional Convention produced collaboratively with the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) and the Canadian International Organ Competition (CIOC) are moving at a rapid clip. Please encourage your members to register for the convention and hotel in January, if possible, since our date to adjust the room block with the hotel is January 31st. Thomas Leslie is the coordinator thomas.leslie@ciocm.org

We would like to make it possible for any student who wishes to attend to come to the festival. Anyone or any chapter can sponsor a student for \$750 CAD which is approximately \$563 in today's exchange rate (approx 25% discount) - this included room and convention registration and a small per diem for meals, misc. Student sponsors may choose to meet the student(s) they sponsor and have lunch (on the festival) with the students.

Festival website - Book the hotel from the website to be sure to get the convention rate.

<http://www.montrealorganfestival.org>

Hartford POE, July 16-21, 2017

Our 2017 POE is in Hartford, CT, housed at Trinity College, a highly regarded small college with a beautiful campus. Vaughn Mauren is the Coordinator vmauren@gmail.com

Here is a link to their webpage where you can find information, a brochure and register

<http://www.hartfordago.org/poe-2017/>

Regional Nominating Committee

Between April and the Regional Convention, the Regional Nominating Committee will be choosing 2 candidates for Regional Councilor for the 2018 elections. If you are interested in having your name put forth, or if you know an ideal candidate, please contact Lars Gjerde, committee chair lars@larsgjerde.com. . Others on the committee are Michael Hey michael.hey@gmail.com, Katelyn Emerson katelyn.emerson@gmail.com, Kevin Walsh krwkrwkrw@aol.com, and Alain Bojarski alain.bojarski@comcast.net

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. Any-one interested in performing on this remarkable instrument should please contact Larry Picard at lpicard@sococh.org

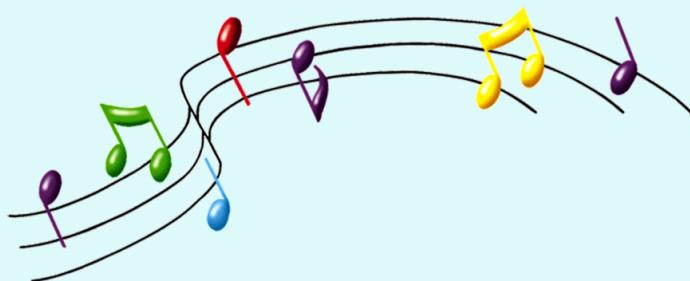


70th Anniversary Dinner & Closing Sóirée at St. James Episcopal Church in Greenfield. Enjoy this charming Franklin County setting for our 70th Anniversary Dinner/Annual Meeting on the evening of June 3rd followed by the lively entertainment of Jerry Noble and his jazz buddy, Bob Sparkman on clarinet.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



**Dear Singers, Choir Directors,
and music Lovers,**

**I hope to see you at our annual
Messiah Community Sing on Sun-
day, January 8!**

Event: 11th Annual Greater Hartford Handel's Messiah Community Sing for Hartford Area Singers and Audience (Xmas portion and Hallelujah Chorus) **Date:** Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 4 p.m.. Singers arrive and seated by 3:30 p.m.—snow date Monday January 9, 2017 at 7 p.m. – singers arrive by 6:30 p.m. (optional rehearsal on Saturday, January 7 at 9 a.m.) **Location:** Trinity United Methodist Church, 180 Park Avenue, Windsor, CT. (exit 36 off I-91). **Suggested Attire:** Come as you are or women, holiday colors, men white shirt and dark pants.

This annual event provides a powerful and enjoyable experience as more than a 100 singers from the region join together to sing this timeless masterpiece. It is also a joy to hear many outstanding Hartford/Connecticut soloists provide the solo work. Free child care and ample parking is provided on this afternoon as well as a festive reception at the conclusion of the sing.

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 Greater Westfield Choral Association is celebrating its 40th Season in 2017 and would like to invite all singers to participate in the April 2 performance at St. Mary's Church. We will be performing Schubert's "Mass in E-Flat" with full orchestra and soloists.

GWCA is a community chorus, open to all who have choral experience of any kind, no audition of any kind, no audition required. Rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons from 4-6 P.M. at Westfield State University and will begin on January 8, 2017. Please come join us for the first rehearsal.

For more information, contact Marc Winer, Director:

director@westfieldchoral.org
www.westfield_choral.org
789-2568(HOME)
374-2599(CELL)



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*