

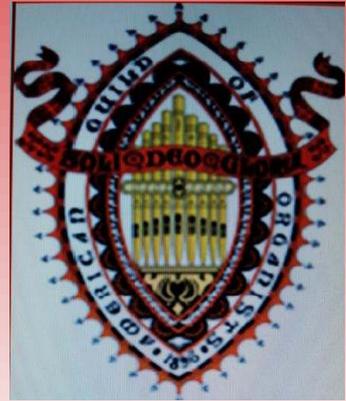
Dean's Message:

Well, almost as if to chastise me for addressing low attendance at chapter events in last month's Chiff Chat, the anthem reading on January 28 was extremely well-attended, especially because some chapter members brought members of their choirs. The event, which happened at Trinity Methodist Church Springfield, began with an *incredible* breakfast prepared by none other than Becky Isaacson. After filling our bellies full singing might have seemed unthinkable, but everyone was ready to go, and Michael Carney led the reading of some wonderful anthems with skill and grace. The event was as entertaining as it was informational. I hope more of you will consider attending future anthem readings.

So, we look forward to the next event, our member's recital on March 26. Hosted by Gay Paluch and the First Church of Monson, we will enjoy a dinner and recital featuring six of our chapter members playing on the Johnson & Son (Westfield)

organ which was rebuilt and refurbished after the tornado of June, 2011. See elsewhere in this issue for the mouth-watering 5 p.m. dinner menu. The 7 p.m. concert will be preceded by a talk about the organ by Bill Celusniak, after which our chapter members will take over. At this point I need to tell you a quick story that might motivate you to come and hear this organ. Some years ago I attended the AGO National Convention in Seattle, and one of the workshops I attended was entitled "The Westfield Organ Builders." I couldn't believe I was attending a lecture in Seattle about organs that were built barely fifteen miles from where I grew up in Massachusetts, but sure enough, the lecturer talked about Johnson organs as well as those of Steere (and Turner). These builders were highly respected, so I hope you will come and hear for yourself why that was so.

So, have you thought about other ideas for chapter events? Planning for next year will begin soon and I hope the board and I will be able to present a calendar of absolutely irresistible programs. By the way, were you involved in the Pipe Organ Encounter last summer? The Greater Hartford Chapter is producing a POE at Trinity College July 16-21. If you know of students



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

Dean's message continued:

who might be interested or perhaps you want to volunteer in some way, more information will be forthcoming.

Lastly, the 2017 Northeast Regional Convention is at the Montreal Organ Festival! See you there?

Larry Picard

Dianne Rechel, Director of Music Ministries at Avon Congregational Church and also a dual member of the Hartford and Springfield AGO chapters, sends out this appeal:

Sunday March 12 at 3PM
Bach's Birthday Bash
Avon Congregational Church
(corner of Routes 44&10), Avon, CT

Bach's birthday is being celebrated by area musicians volunteering to play works by the great master. Pipe organ and console piano are available and other instrumentalists/singers are welcome. An ideal recital opportunity for that advance student or for professionals wanting to prepare for upcoming concert.

It is being offered free-of-charge to the public with birthday cake reception afterward. I am the new Music Director there and this is my fledgling program- can anyone sign on?

Dianne Rechel
Director of Music Ministries
Avon Congregational Church
[860.678.0488](tel:860.678.0488)



Obituary of David Spicer 1946—2017

David Spicer died peacefully at the home of his daughter in Malvern, PA surrounded by family on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. At the time of his death, he was Minister of Music & the Arts at the First Church of Christ, Wethersfield, CT, Adjunct Professor of Music at Tunxis Community College and host of "Glory, Praise and Song" on radio station WIHS. Before assuming the Wethersfield position in October 1986, Spicer was Director of Music at the First Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, and taught church music at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Prior to this he was Organist/Choirmaster at the Wayne (Pennsylvania) Presbyterian Church. A native of Austin, Texas, Spicer received his first musical training from his parents, playing the organ in church at the age of eight. Spicer was a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he was an Artist/Scholar under the renowned Dr. Alexander McCurdy. Graduate studies were completed at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, also in Philadelphia. Further organ study was done under Dr. Robert Elmore. Spicer acknowledges Dr. Virgil Fox as a source of inspiration for his own style of organ playing. As a recitalist, David Spicer always involved his audience and liked to feel that they "walked away with a greater understanding of the king of instruments." Spicer was house organist at the Bushnell Center for Performing Arts in Hartford and had taught at Central Connecticut State University. A gifted conductor, Spicer presented several area premier performances. As a teacher, he had the distinction of having had three of his students win full scholarships to his alma mater, the Curtis Institute of Music. He was a member of the American Guild of Organists and the American Federation of Musicians. In 1997 he co-founded the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival/USA. This national competition is for high school student organists and those in college (through age 26), the Young Professional division. David Spicer is survived by his wife Dana, seven children, sixteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was dedicated to the idea that Christianity and music, two of the greatest forces in our world, could effectively merge to wash away "the dust of everyday life" from our souls. A memorial service will be held at the First Church of Christ, 250 Main Street, Wethersfield on Saturday, February 11 at 11 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival/USA, 31 Church St., Wethersfield, CT 06109.

- See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartfordcourant/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=183679157#sthash.V3hzIVMV.dpuf>

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

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.



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.

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.



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

Anthem Sing and Breakfast



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

**“What Nature Destroys, Loving Hands Rebuild”
Celebrating the Spirit of Monson**



ORGAN CONCERT, MARCH 26th, 7:00

Members' Recital Open to the Public Free of Charge

**Sponsored by the American Guild of Organists, Springfield Chapter
and the First Church of Monson Music Committee**

First Church of Monson, 5 High Street

Pre-Concert Dinner, 5:00, \$12 donation

**Menu: Chicken and rice, maple glazed carrots, 3 bean
salad, cranberry sauce, ice cream sundae and chocolate
chip cookies**

**To reserve tickets call Gail Pelletier at 413-267-4818 or email
gail.pelletier73@gmail.com by 3-19-17**

Spring of 2017

A Special Event: March 26th

What nature destroys, loving hands rebuild, a Members Recital and Dinner hosted by the First Church of Monson Music Committee and Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be held on Sunday, March 26th and will celebrate the Johnson Organ rebuilt and refurbished after the tornado of June, 2011. The evening will begin with a dinner of baked chicken, rice, three bean salad, carrots, bread, and dessert of chocolate ice cream sundaes and homemade chocolate chip cookies at 5 P.M. The meal will be followed by a concert at 7 P.M. Several area organists will perform on the magnificent 1891 three manual and pedal organ by Johnson and Son of Westfield. A free will offering will be taken for the Eva Farr Organ Fund for the preservation of the historic organ. For dinner tickets, which are \$12.00. please contact Gail Pelletier at 413 267-4818 or gail.pelletier73@gmail.com. The concert is free and open to the public.

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

**Daniel Roth, French organ virtuoso, performs at the Church of the Transfiguration, Orleans, MA
March 30th, 7:30PM**

Widely acclaimed as one of the leading French organ virtuosos, Daniel Roth from Paris, will perform at the Church of the Transfiguration, Rock Harbor, Orleans, MA on Thursday, March 30th. Mr. Roth has held numerous prestigious positions including over 30 years as Titular Organist at St. Sulpice in Paris, and as Artist-in-Residence at the National Shrine in Washington, DC. As a graduate of the Paris Conservatory, he studied with Rolande Falcinelli and Maurice Duruflé.

**Experience the musicality and rich interpretation of this renowned organist and improviser, performed on the “overwhelmingly breathtaking” E.M. Skinner Organ.
www.churchofthetransfiguration**

Tickets: [508-240-2400](tel:508-240-2400)

Third graders build pipe organ at school.

<http://kval.com/news/local/fame-meets-stem-third-graders-build-pipe-organ-at-school>



SUNDAYS AT 3.30PM

19 MARCH German Masterworks including Julius Reubke's monumental Sonata on the 94th Psalm

30 APRIL Music by living Hollywood composer Dr. Craig Phillips

21 MAY French Masterworks including Widor's Toccata from the Fifth Symphony for organ

35 CHESTNUT STREET ■ SPRINGFIELD, MA

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

JOSEPH O'BERRY, ORGANIST

FREE ADMISSION WITH RETIRING COLLECTION AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Joseph O'Berry is Interim Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, Massachusetts where he oversees the administration of the Music Department, conducts the Cathedral Choir and Bishops Choir School for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Before his appointment in Springfield, Mr. O'Berry was Organ Scholar at Blackburn Cathedral and Truro Cathedral in England. Whilst in England he participated in more than 700 services, some of which included the attendance of Dignitaries and members of the Royal Family, and thus shared responsibilities in playing the daily offices of Choral Evensong/Eucharist, training the probationer boys, conducting the Cathedral Choirs, and participating fully in the administration of the music department which included Cathedral Music Outreach. A native of Atlanta, Joseph was Director of Music at Holy Trinity Parish, Chapel Organist for the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and sang with the professional Schola at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta during which time the Schola went on pilgrimage to England singing two week residencies, respectively, at St Paul's Cathedral, London and Canterbury Cathedral. Joseph studied organ performance, with secondary emphasis in early music and collaborative piano, at The Townsend School of Music at Mercer University and is a Colleague of the American Guild of Organists (CAGO). He has appeared as a solo and collaborative recitalist across the United States, Canada, England, and Australia and is well-respected for his skills as a choir trainer and service player.

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.westfieldchoral.org
789-2568(HOME)
374-2599(CELL)

Worcester AGO

Feb 25 Sat. – 8:30AM **MVAGO** MidWinter Jubilee Mini-Convention First Calvary, N Andover
March 18 Saturday **BOSTON** Bach Festival (all day)

Friday March 24 7:30PM – Assumption Chapel – Dr. Loreto Aramendi, Organist of Santa Maria Basilica, San Sebastian, Spain
(co-sponsored by WorcAGO)

Saturday, April 8 10AM-noon PPP- Pedals Pipes and Pizza – an introduction to the pipe organ. Brett Maguire, presenter & host Wesley United Methodist, 110 Main St, Worcester Free Pizza at noon.
Please RSVP—click twice on icon

Worcesterago.com

Regional Convention in Montreal – July 2-7, 2017

Get your passports updated!
This regional convention is a special affair because it is being planned jointly with the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Performers include Roomful of Teeth, Cherry Rhodes, Nathan Laube, Olivier Latry, and the choir of Kings College Cambridge which will do evensong each evening of the convention, among many other notable performers.
Our 2017 regional convention coincides with the Montreal Jazz Festival, www.montrealjazzfest.com/default-en.aspx, The 150th Anniversary of Canada, canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1468262573081, and the 375th anniversary of the founding of Montreal, www.tourisme-montreal.org/blog/montreals-375th-celebrations-2017/. It is sure to be an exciting week.
Registration is now open at www.Montrealorganfestival.org and the deadline for early registration is March 2, 2017. Today's exchange rate is .7573 American dollars to equal a Canadian dollar, making the member rate before March 2nd \$300.
Also find us on Facebook at Montreal Organ Festival. The Festival is the Regional Convention for the Northeast Region, the National Convention for the RCCO (Royal Canadian College of Organists, and the CIOC (Canadian International Organ Competition).



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***