

Chiff Chat—April 2017



Dean's Message:

Our Springfield AGO chapter has some pretty good events, usually, except when we have *really great events*, like the Members Recital at First Church of Monson that happened on March 26. I have been to members recitals in the past, here in Springfield and in other chapters to which I've belonged, and on more than one occasion they have been small gatherings of organists and organ enthusiasts who got together and played for each other. Not so this time. Besides for the 96 people who had signed up for the dinner, at least that many again who could not get tickets for the dinner showed up at 7 p.m. for the concert. Yes, there were upwards of 200 people in attendance. The next time I want to make a special effort to advertise an event I'm going to hire Gay Paluch to handle it, because she worked tirelessly to make sure every living soul within a 25-mile radius knew about this concert. In fact, my back-fence neighbors here in Springfield attended without even knowing I would be there because

they saw it advertised at their church in Sixteen Acres.

Four of our members, Alan Durfee, Joe DiMarino, Lad Pfeifer and I were performers along with the First Church organists David and Permelia Sears. Bill Celusniak, who restored the instrument after the tornado damaged it, spoke about the history of the church and the instrument. Everyone involved really put their best foot forward, but what was really remarkable to me was the audience. They seemed to be absolutely wild about hearing this organ played. There were standing ovations after several of the performances and such animation and joy on their faces as they listened. It was a joy to be there and be part of it, and I thank everyone who made it possible.

Now, I believe there is a message here that might tell us what we want to be as an AGO chapter going forward. Lots of churches are closing or have closed and lots of organs are being scrapped or just sit silently. I also hear about colleges and universities that have scrapped their organ departments or organ faculties, or even the actual instruments. One would think that interest in organ music has really taken a dive, but the Monson concert would tell us otherwise. There is a thirst out there, to be sure.



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:

A few months back I asked for ideas for programming for next year. I'm sure the reason I haven't heard from any of you on that subject is that your list of ideas is just too long and you haven't finished organizing it yet. We already have some tried and true methods of reaching out to the public, like members recitals, Pipescreams, and solo concerts by well-known performers. Can you think of other ways to get more of the general public interested and excited? The Board will be meeting after Easter to work on next year's program season. We would love to have your ideas, or better yet, come to the meeting (time and date to be announced). We promise not to try to drag you onto the board. Yet.

Larry Picard

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER

70th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017

The Episcopal Church of Sts James and Andrew
8 Church Street, Greenfield

5:30 hors d'oeuvres and wine
6:00 dinner

Jazz and favorite songs by Jerry Noble, piano
and Bob Sparkman, clarinet

Buffet featuring chicken, fish, and a gluten-free vegetarian entrée

Salad, fresh vegetables, rice pilaf, rolls and butter

Dessert buffet, water, coffee, tea

Red and white wine courtesy of our Chapter, in celebration!

\$20 per person...bring a friend, partner, or clergy, too!

Checks ("Springfield Chapter AGO") by May 20 to:

Karen Banta, 292 Main Road, Westhampton, MA 01027

Tenebrae Service
at
St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield
Good Friday, April 14, 2017
At 7:30 p.m.





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 professional chamber choir *Novi Cantori* will host "New Editions: A choral singers and composers' forum" during the weekend of April 7-8. The capstone concert of the weekend will take place on Sat., April 8 at 3:00 pm at the Community Music School of Springfield.

Seven composers from around the country applied and were selected to compose music for *Novi Cantori*. They will spend the weekend together as *Novi Cantori* rehearses and offers feedback on their works, concluding with a final performance at the Robyn Newhouse Hall on Saturday.

As part of the community outreach of *Novi Cantori* - all of the texts selected for the forum are connected to Shriners Hospital, and based on themes of hope and healing.

"We are thrilled that this forum allows us to celebrate new music, brings singers and composers together, and draws attention to Shriners in Springfield and their outstanding work," says Ellen Gilson Voth, Artistic Director. One of the participating composers, Maryland native Joshua Fishbein, writes this: "I am so looking forward to collaborating with Ellen and *Novi Cantori*...a valuable opportunity to gain feedback from an experienced conductor and professional ensemble on a newly composed choral work, to meet other composers and hear their works as well."

The New Editions' composers forum is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Springfield Cultural Council, and Westfield State University. The concert on Saturday afternoon is free and open to all. For more information, visit www.novicantori.org .

Novi Cantori presents:

"Music for a Great Space"

Music of Gabrieli, Bach, Duruflé, Paulus and more

combined with choirs from Northfield Mt. Hermon School, the Hampshire Young People's Chorus, and Longmeadow High School

and featuring organist Aymeric Dupré la Tour (<http://www.greaterbridgeportago.org/our-team/member-bios/dupre-la-tour,-dr.-aymeric.html>)

Sunday, April 30, 2017 - 7:00 pm - Grace Episcopal Church, 14 Boltwood Avenue, Amherst, MA

Sunday, May 7, 2017 - 4:00 pm - St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 335 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA

Admission: \$12 general, \$10 students/seniors. All venues handicap accessible.

For more information, please visit www.novicantori.org .

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

THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA

presents

“THE BRICK CHURCH” MUSIC SERIES

with

SIRENA HUANG, *violin*

and

PI-HSUN SHIH, *piano*

Sunday, April 30, 2017

3:00 p.m.

Music by Stravinsky, Paganini, He Zhan-Hao and Chen Gang,
Brahms, and Saint-Saëns, will be heard.



Sirena Huang:
Taiwanese-American
concert violinist,
performs world-wide
to critical acclaim.



Pi-Hsun Shih:
Enjoys a versatile
career as a soloist,
collaborative pianist,
and teacher at Hartt
College in Hartford.

Suggested donation \$10.00

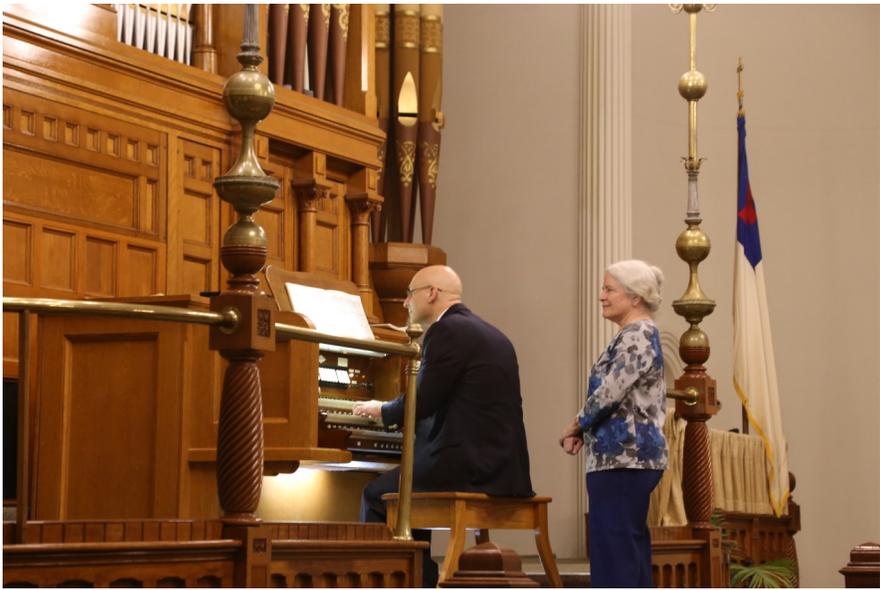
Reception following concert

Jean Pitman Turner, Artistic Director

Information: 413-774-2657

The First Church of Monson









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

70th Anniversary Dinner & Closing Soirée 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.



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.

Contact Worcesterago.org

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, y 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***