

Mother's Day



Dean's Message:

Here in New England we seem to encounter history fairly often and sometimes without knowing it is there. A great example is our rich heritage of 19th and early 20th century pipe organs, many of which can be found in small churches all over the countryside. It seems more frequent in recent years that the congregations of these churches are feeling a renewed urgency to restore and preserve these historic instruments, and they are certainly to be commended for that. I'm going to tell you about two in particular that have come to my attention. One is at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield, a church that many of my mother's forebears likely attended since her grandmother's family lived in Ashfield for many generations. The organ at that church is an 18-rank, 1903 George Reed tracker instrument, and the Ashfield congregation has launched a capital campaign to address several issues in their facility, restoration of this organ not being the least.

In the email this newsletter was attached to you'll find another attachment, a nine-page document with a history of the builder and the installation, as well as pictures and the instrument's specification. If you receive this newsletter by post you will have attachment included.

Another project of interest was one I got to see up close. At the Orchard Covenant Church in Indian Orchard (a "village" nestled in a corner of Springfield) sits an 1860 William A. Johnson tracker organ of about 20 ranks (some are unusable at the moment). Covenant Church has launched a fund drive of their own to buy a new blower motor. Grant Moss and I visited it a few months back and it is quite a unique instrument. It was installed in the church in 1920, but before that it is said to have resided in the home of Mr. Johnson. There are a couple of pictures on the next page. I guess I bring these two instruments to your attention as both congregations are seeking funding from any interested donors, and as organists you may be, or know of someone who would be among those interested. Information about how to donate to the Ashfield organ is in the attached document.



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:

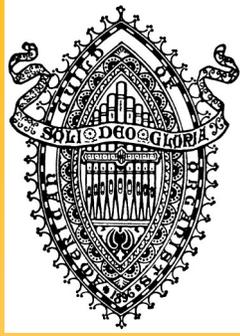
For the Indian Orchard organ you could go to the church's website: orchard-covenant.org.

And I leave you with a reminder that we have one more program happening this season. Send in your reservations now for the year-end banquet to Karen Banta – more information elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope to see you there!

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

Reservations are now coming in for our Banquet. Please be sure yours arrives in my mailbox by May 20. Thanks to hosts Quentin and Mary Murrell Faulkner, those arriving early should take advantage of an "open console" from 5:00 to 5:30. See you in the organ loft! Following dinner, past Deans in attendance will be invited to give a memory or two. We look forward to your presence at this celebratory evening! KAREN BANTA, kdbanta@gmail.com/413-548-5076

Free Workshop for Church Organists and Pianists

Friday May 12, 2017

6:30 PM

Avon Congregational Church

6 W. Main St (corner of Rte 44/10/202)

Avon, CT 06001

Calling all church organists and pianists! Do you sometimes wish you could better enliven those traditional hymn accompaniments? Do you want to vary your accompaniments, especially the ones with eight verses? Has your congregation expressed an interest in singing more Gospel music? When presented with a traditional spiritual, do you wonder how to enhance it?

The Department of Music Ministries at Avon Congregational Church is presenting a free workshop for you given by Wayne Dixon, Gospel Musician Extraordinaire!

On Friday May 12th, 2017 from 6:30-9PM Wayne Dixon, Music Minister at Union Baptist Church, will present a workshop for us sharing his knowledge and expertise. Wayne will show you some simple techniques to free you from executing those long whole notes that are- well, way too long! Wayne will surely educate, entertain and inspire. He is a busy church musician in the Hartford area and if you ever get a chance to hear him sing, don't miss it! He is a joy to be around and he can vamp 'til the cows come home!

All are welcome. For planning purposes, please indicate your interest in attending by emailing Di-



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 (AGO). 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 .

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

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 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.



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)

Experience Music at United



Concert Organist

JOEY FALA

Performing on the Historic, E.M.
Skinner Pipe Organs at the
United Congregational Church of
Holyoke, MA

The United Congregational Church
of Holyoke, Appleton (Rte 141) and
Maple Streets - *Free Parking*

www.uccholyoke.org

(413) 532-1483

Suggested Donation:
\$10 (\$5 Students and Seniors)

Reception following the concert

2pm Sunday June 18, 2017





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***