

Chiff Chat— November 2017

Dear Springfield Chapter AGO Members and Friends:

If you have ever wondered why you receive your monthly Chiff Chat after we're already well into that issue's month, you can blame your Chapter Dean. If I see him I'll give him a piece of my mind. Oh wait, I'm the Chapter Dean. Well, then, I appreciate your patience with me. Like all of you, my life is packed, and especially at this time of year when I have a bucket load of major projects and performances that require advance attention to detail. Have I ever mentioned that I'm not a detail person? Anyway, special thanks go to the editor of this newsletter, Elizabeth Zellmer, who has to nudge me an awful lot to get to work on the Dean's letter.

So, did you miss Pipescreams? I would like to tell you that it was extremely entertaining and hilarious, but that would be blowing my own horn since it was at my church and I organized and rehearsed most of it. Aw, forget it, it was extremely entertaining and hilarious. Many thanks to all who participated, especially Chapter members Karen Banta, Karen Ducharme, Roberta Morkin, Grant Moss, Lad Pfeifer, Larry Schipull, and Martha Sienkiewicz. You may see pictures (taken by Mary Jean Tash) elsewhere in this issue. Meanwhile, here is a YouTube link sent to me by Jay Ducharme of the finale of the concert: <https://youtu.be/APZ0BY4NDrI>.

And now, the time is coming. Our next Chapter event is our Story Slam on January 27 at 10 a.m., but at this point it's probably the last thing on your mind. The holiday season approaches and soon there will be precious little time in our schedules to think any farther than December 25, even. In past years I have read letters from other AGO Chapter Deans who admonished their colleagues to "take time for yourself" amid all the concert and church service chaos. I'm not sure how you do that. I do know, however, that I learned something some years back from a minister who preached a Christmas Eve sermon about the anxiety we create for ourselves around this particular holiday. His message was that, whether or not you are ready, Christmas still comes.

Or, if I say it in terms that relate more to our profession, it doesn't matter if the swell oboe has a few dead notes, or you have to do one less anthem because you ran out of rehearsal time, or your trumpet player backed out at last minute. Christmas comes anyway, as does Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and the New Year.

And for that we can rejoice.

Larry Picard, Chapter Dean
Lpicard@sococh.org
413-348-3729



Dean: Larry Picard

Sub Dean: Becky Rosendahl Isaacson

Directors:

**Karen Banta
Joseph DiMarino
Karen Ducharme
Roberta Morkin**

**James Barnes,
Treasurer**

Martha Sienkiewicz, Secretary

Rev. William H. Wallis, Chaplain



On Saturday, the 2nd of December, the The First Church of Monson Music Committee will hold its annual Christmas dinner and concert. The OOM-PAH band, a German ensemble produced by David Neill, will perform a program of music thanks to a grant from the Monson Cultural Council. The dinner, with a German theme, includes fruit cup, baked ham, roasted rosemary potatoes, red cabbage, and butternut squash. Dessert will be a warm German chocolate sundae and Christmas cookies. Tickets at \$25.00 may be purchased by contacting Gail Pelletier at 413-267-4818 or GailPelletier73@gmail.com. Dinner will be at 5 P.M. and the concert, which is free and open to the public, will be at 7 P.M. in the sanctuary.



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

Springfield Chapter AGO 2017-2018 Event Schedule:

September 24, 2017 at 4 pm: Our opening event will take place at the home of Grant Moss and Larry Schipull, 101 Pearl Street in South Hadley. The afternoon will include good food and drink, an installation of officers and a short concert of music for two and three pianos. Yes, Grant and Larry's living room is the home of three beautiful grand pianos and Larry Picard will join them in a program of Bach, Rheinbeger, Rossini, Handel and others.

Saturday, October 28 at 4 pm: Come to South Congregational Church in Springfield for a Halloween Pipescreams, featuring organists from our chapter and singers of the South Church Chancel Choir. Chapter members are welcome to play creepy or funny music of any type, and two organs and a Steinway piano in the sanctuary will make for interesting combinations. Costumes will be the order of the day, the church will be decorated appropriately and, there will be refreshments after. Contact Larry Picard if you think you would like to play something.

Saturday, January 27, 2018 (snow date February 3), 11:00 am--1:30 pm: St Philip's Episcopal Church, 128 Main Street, Easthampton will host an "ORGANISTS' STORY SLAM: THINGS THAT WENT WRONG." Start preparing your story now: all those bad weddings, playing with injuries, console disasters... Also, bring your giveaway organ music, choral anthems, and CD's. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a gourmet pizza lunch courtesy of our Chapter. Don't miss this post-holiday event!

Saturday, March 10 (morning start time TBA): A handbell workshop will happen at Trinity Methodist Church, led by resident handbell virtuoso Becky Isaacson. Ringing for beginner's, special techniques, and a guest duo will play music for two ringers and three octaves of bells. If you're looking for the confidence to lead or participate in a handbell choir this is the event for you.



18th Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols will be celebrated on Saturday, December 16th, 7:30 PM, at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, Springfield. The Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults will be accompanied by strings, hand bells, and the mighty cathedral organ. Highlights of the service will include the Gloria and Et In Terra Pax from a rarely heard Gloria by Vivaldi, the Benedictus of Sr. John Elgar, and Nunc Dimitits of Herbert Howells. The service consists of nine scripture readings of the season paired with congregational carols and choral anthems. The service begins in darkness and as the story of the nativity progresses the candles and lights of the cathedral are lit. The service is free and open to the public. For more information call [413-452-0845](tel:413-452-0845) or email ljep@diospringfield.org.



Springfield AGO - Pipescreams Event







THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

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SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

BERNHARD KLAPPROTT, *organ*



Bernhard Klapprott, concertizes internationally as a keyboard soloist, continuo player, and conductor. Repertoire for this program will include music by J.S. Bach, C.P.E. Bach, Buxtehude, Pachelbel, and Kellner.

OCTOBER 8, 2017

EDITH WIDAYANI, *piano*



Hailed as one of the most promising young pianists in her home country of Indonesia, she is now at Eastman School of Music pursuing her Doctorate in Performance. Music by Debussy, Poulenc, Chopin, and Ananda Sakarlan, an Indonesian composer, will be heard.

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

ECLECTIC ARTS TRIO



Aaron Lakota, *oboe*

Jean Jeffries,
French horn

Clifton J. Noble, Jr.,
piano

Featuring the diverse sounds of oboe, horn, and piano, the trio, all from the Pioneer Valley, will play varied music across the centuries and genres. Interspersed with classical fare will be arrangements from the American Songbook.

The Centerpiece will be Heinrich von Herzogenberg's *Trio for Oboe, Horn and Piano*.

MARCH 4, 2018

MONICA CZAUSZ, *organ*



In 2016, she was recognized as one of the top 20 organists under 30 by *The Diapason Magazine*.

With Bachelor and Master of Music Degrees from Rice University in Texas, she currently is at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Her program will span four centuries with music by Schildt, Bach, Weaver, and others.

JEAN PITMAN TURNER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 413-774-2657

February 4, 2018
Eclectic Arts Trio:



Aaron Lakota, oboe
Jean Jeffries,
French horn
Clifton J. Noble, Jr.,
piano

Featuring the diverse sounds of oboe, horn and piano, the Eclectic Arts Trio, all from the Pioneer Valley, will perform varied music across the centuries and genres. Interspersed with classical fare, from Mozart to Milhaud, will be a few of Jerry Noble's charming instrumental arrangements from the American Songbook. The centerpiece of the concert will be Heinrich von Herzogenberg's *Trio for Oboe, Horn and Piano*.

March 4, 2018
Monica Czausz, organ



Monica Czausz, a MA native, is currently at The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA, where she is pursuing an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance. She graduated *Summa Cum Laude* in May 2017 from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, Texas, where she completed a five-year combined Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degree program in Organ Performance with professor Ken Cowan. In 2016, she was recognized as one of the top 20 organists under 30 by *The Diapason* magazine.

Her program will span four centuries to fully display the colorful and dynamic possibilities of this organ with music by Schildt, Bach, Weaver, and others.

**"THE BRICK CHURCH"
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2017 – 2018 Season
ORGAN
and
CHAMBER RECITALS**



Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

The First Church of Deerfield
71 Old Main Street
Deerfield, Massachusetts

Email: Office@firstchurchofdeerfield.org
Info: 413-773-5323 or 774-2657
www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org

Suggested Donation at the door: \$10-\$15



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**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists
70th Anniversary**

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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
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Holyoke, MA 01040**