



# Chiff Chat— February 2018



## Dean's Message:

Dear Springfield Chapter AGO Members and Friends: When you read this we will have just had our annual State of the Union address from the White House. As your Chapter Dean I thought I would offer a "State of the Chapter" article this month.

Financially, the Springfield Chapter AGO is as sound as it has ever been, with somewhere around \$100K in the bank. Our membership continues to hover around 80 souls, with comings and goings for various reasons. We sponsor five or six events per year and have produced two Pipe Organ Encounters in the past ten years. Our members include full-time and part-time church and synagogue musicians as well as those fully retired from the profession or retired and working as subs. We also have members who are just fans of the pipe organ. We give scholarship money to students of the organ.

Looking at areas where we might have room to grow, our member participation is underwhelming, and perhaps even weakening. I've kept an informal count these past few years and member attendance at chapter events is 10 to 15 percent, which, in an 80-member organization, is only eight to twelve people. An even greater challenge has been getting chapter members to serve on the Board of Directors, to the extent that we do not even hold elections, grateful as we are to get anyone to commit to a term of service. We still have one empty seat on the board.

I know some of you are thinking that numbers don't matter, and you're not wrong. At our most recent event, the Story Slam, ten participants had a great time sharing stories, CDs, anthems and pizza. I also acknowledge that before I was "convinced" to serve a term as Dean, I was as non-participatory as anyone. There was always a gig, rehearsal, event, or just a heavy need for down time that kept me away, and I predict that will again be the case when my term expires this coming June and I return to "civilian" life. What I would ask us all to do, though, is to think five or ten years down the road. The futures of many AGO chapters around the country are cloudy, with traditional churches and synagogues gradually closing and fewer musicians pursuing pipe organ study. How will that impact us as a chapter, and what will be our role in the Guild? In a few months we'll be appealing to the membership to fill expiring terms on the board, including Dean, Sub Dean and three members at-large. Here are a couple of questions for you to ponder. What do we want to be about going forward? If the traditional chapter model we use is not serving needs, how can we restructure to make ourselves stronger, leaner and more relevant?

I believe there is a place for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Let's envision it now.

Larry  
Larry Picard  
[Lpicard@sococh.org](mailto:Lpicard@sococh.org)  
413-348-3729



- Dean: Larry Picard**
- Sub Dean: Becky Rosendahl Isaacson**
- Directors:**
  - Karen Banta**
  - Joseph DiMarino**
  - Karen Ducharme**
  - Roberta Morkin**
  - Joseph Geehern**
- James Barnes, Treasurer**
- Martha Sienkiewicz, Secretary**
- Rev. William H. Wallis, Chaplain**

# Organist Story Slam







Greetings from Eugene, Oregon, where applications are now open for the Organ Institute at the Oregon Bach Festival. Please share this email with your colleagues and students, the deadline for auditions is **March 21, 2018**.

The OBF Organ Institute, directed by Grammy-award winning organist Paul Jacobs, offers organists the opportunity to immerse themselves in the masterworks of organ repertoire, and to explore technique and interpretation through specialized seminars, master classes, and performance. The gift of a generous grant from The Reed Foundation provides these talented musicians tuition-free access to the six-day course of master classes and performances, with no cost for room and board.

More information, including audition requirements, can be found on our [website](#). Contact us with any questions at [obforgan@uoregon.edu](mailto:obforgan@uoregon.edu). We look forward to seeing you here next summer!

Mark Stevens  
Coordinator for Education and Operations  
Oregon Bach Festival  
(541) 346-1320

[oregonbachfestival.com](http://oregonbachfestival.com)



The poster features a white background with a black circular logo at the top center containing the letters 'OBF'. Below the logo, the text 'OREGON BACH FESTIVAL' is in black, and 'ORGAN INSTITUTE' is in large blue letters. The dates 'July 6 - 12, 2018' are in blue. The text 'Led by Grammy Award-winning organist Paul Jacobs' is in black, with 'Paul Jacobs' in blue. A list of activities includes 'Daily master classes', 'Seminars on music theory, history, and organ design', 'Tour of Portland organs', and 'Recital performance in the Festival'. A grant from 'The Reed Foundation' provides 'free tuition, room, and board'. Auditions are due by 'March 21, 2018', and enrollment is through 'June 1'. A website link is provided at the bottom. On the right, a photograph shows Paul Jacobs playing an organ with three students watching. The University of Oregon logo is in the bottom right corner of the photo.

**OREGON BACH FESTIVAL**  
**ORGAN INSTITUTE**

July 6 - 12, 2018

Led by Grammy Award-winning organist  
**Paul Jacobs**

Daily master classes • Seminars on music theory, history, and organ design  
Tour of Portland organs • Recital performance in the Festival

A generous grant from **The Reed Foundation** provides  
**free tuition, room, and board** for Institute participants.

**Participant auditions are due by March 21, 2018.**  
Auditors can enroll through June 1.

For more information about the Organ Institute please visit  
[oregonbachfestival.com/organ-institute](http://oregonbachfestival.com/organ-institute)

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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2017-2018 Season

Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

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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"**  
MUSIC SERIES  
2017 – 2018 Season  
ORGAN  
and  
CHAMBER RECITALS



Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

The First Church of Deerfield  
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Deerfield, Massachusetts

Email: [Office@firstchurchofdeerfield.org](mailto:Office@firstchurchofdeerfield.org)  
Info: 413-773-5323 or 774-2657  
[www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org](http://www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org)

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



The First Church of Deerfield  
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Deerfield, MA 01342  
Return Service Requested

Parish Musician

The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew

The Episcopal Church of Saint James and Andrew in Greenfield, MA seeks a part-time Parish Musician to begin September 1, 2018. We are a lively, mission-oriented, growing congregation that values both tradition and experimentation. We seek an organist and choir director interested in working collaboratively to plan and provide music for a weekly Sunday service as well as other services throughout the liturgical year, leading and enhancing our worship through inclusion of music and encouraging learning for all. 13-15 hours per week; compensation commensurate with education and experience. Applicants may submit their resumes to [heather.blais@gmail.com](mailto:heather.blais@gmail.com) Learn more about the church at [www.saintsjamesandandrew.org](http://www.saintsjamesandandrew.org)



***Tenebrae with the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults with strings will take place on Friday, March 30th, at 7:30 PM in the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, Springfield. This service which focuses on the extinguishing of light will feature the famed setting of Miserere Mei, Deus (Have Mercy on Me, O God) of Allegri in both the original and "adorned" versions, and anthems by Scheidt, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn and others. In addition to the readings and choral anthems, each segment includes congregational song using well known hymns in special arrangements for the night. For more information please contact the Office of Worship at [worship@diospringfield.org](mailto:worship@diospringfield.org) or [413-452-0845](tel:413-452-0845).***



**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.



**Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 4pm**

**Bach Organ Recital with Peter Sykes, organ**

Unitarian Universalist Church, 1089 Main Street, Housatonic, MA

The Berkshire Bach Society

PO Box 1002, Great Barrington, MA 01230 info @ berkshirebach.org | 413.528.9555

**THE WORCESTER CHAPTER  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
P.O. Box 20208  
Worcester, MA 01602**

**Sunday February 25, 2018 4:00 PM - Worcester, MA**

Music at Trinity

Trinity Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster Street

Cost: Free Will Offering

Performing: Clara Gerdes, Organist

Details: Clara Gerdes, from Davidson, North Carolina, is a fourth-year student at Curtis Institute of Music (Philadelphia) where she studies organ with Alan Morrison. She has performed around the East Coast, including Princeton University, Washington National Cathedral and St. John the Divine, as well as at the Oregon Bach Festival and Spoleto. She received first place in the AGO-Quimby Mid-Atlantic Regional, Albert Schweitzer and University of North Carolina School of the Arts competitions, and is a frequent collaborator and chamber musician, studying harpsichord with Leon Schelhase and working with Choral Arts Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Composers' Guild, student ensembles and as a faculty member of the Curtis Summerfest Adult Chamber music intensive. She is one of two organ scholars at Saint Mark's Church, Locust Street and a Curtis resident assistant. The concert is free. All are welcome. An offering will be received to benefit the Music at Trinity series.



Chinese New Year  
February 16, 2018

Yo-Yo Ma was born in Paris on October 7, 1955, to Chinese parents and had a musical upbringing. His mother, Marina Lu, was a singer and his father, Hiao-Tsiun Ma, was a violinist and professor of music at Nanjing National Central University (predecessor of the present-day Nanjing University).<sup>[6]</sup> The family moved to New York when Ma was seven years old.<sup>[7][8]</sup>

At a young age, Ma began studying violin and piano and later viola, finally settling on the cello in 1960 at age four. According to Ma, his first choice was the double bass due to its large size, but he compromised and took up cello instead. The child prodigy began performing before audiences at age five and performed for Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy when he was seven.<sup>[9][10]</sup> At age eight, he appeared on American television with his sister, Yeou-Cheng Ma,<sup>[11]</sup> in a concert conducted by Leonard Bernstein. In 1964, Isaac Stern introduced them on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson, and they performed the Sonata of Sammartini. He attended Trinity School in New York but transferred to the Professional Children's School, from which he graduated at age 15.<sup>[12]</sup> He appeared as a soloist with the Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra in a performance of the Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations.

Ma studied at The Juilliard School at age 19 with Leonard Rose and attended Columbia University but dropped out. He later enrolled at Harvard College. Prior to entering Harvard, Ma played in the Marlboro Festival Orchestra under the direction of cellist and conductor Pablo Casals. Ma would ultimately spend four summers at the Marlboro Music Festival after meeting and falling in love with Mount Holyoke College sophomore and festival administrator, Jill Horner, his first summer there in 1972.<sup>[13]</sup>

However, even before that time, Ma had steadily gained fame and had performed with many of the world's major orchestras. He has also played chamber music, often with the pianist Emanuel Ax, with whom he has a close friendship back from their days together at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. Ma received his bachelor's degree from Harvard in 1976.<sup>[14]</sup> In 1991, he received an honorary doctorate from Harvard.<sup>[15]</sup>

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

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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  
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