

Chiff Chat **December-2020**



The Dean's Message

Dean's Message Christmas 2020

As we approach the season of joy and great music, we are both challenged and saddened by the restrictions we must observe this year due to the covid pandemic. Some churches are totally closed and plan to remain so relying on virtual internet sources. Some churches are very much open and adding extra masses to accommodate everyone in small batches. Others have found a hybrid path. One thing is certain — everyone's circumstance is not the stuff of dreams and inspiration that we love about music at Christmas. But musicians will find a way and the creative juices will flow. To that end, your chapter would like to help in any way we can. We are hosting monthly zoom chats which share many ideas; the next one is Sunday Dec. 6 at 5 pm. An invite will be sent to everyone and all you need to do is click the link and follow the prompts. We plan to send out occasional weblinks for concerts and other events.. Many such events can be found on the national website: <https://www.agohq.org/> Finally, please contact us with ideas, suggestions, and events that you wish to share or questions for the leadership through **our**

Dean:

Martha Sienkiewicz

Directors:

Klaus Becker

Lori Bourret

Joe Geehern

Dianne Rechel

Treasurer:

James Barnes

Secretary:

Karen Banta

Chaplain:

Rev. William H. Wallis

new website: <https://agospringfieldma.org> or fill out the survey which will be coming to you shortly. May the joy of Christmas continue to inspire you through the darkest

times and the light of hope lead you to a New Year rich with God's promises and new beginnings.

A New Member Profile courtesy of Klaus Becker

I want to introduce to you our new member, Margaret Patel, who joined our chapter earlier this year. She grew up playing the piano and flute during High School, where she joined wind ensembles, a jazz band and even a rock band. Following, she attended Saint Michael's College. She graduated this year with a double major in music and religious studies.

Margaret came to the organ, like many of us, by introduction from a teacher. At St. Michael's College she studied piano with Susan Summerfield. In order to improve her fingering and keyboard technique, her teacher suggested trying the organ. She admits it was 'love found at first sound'. Being drawn by the versatility of the organ and the colors of individual stops, she included organ playing alongside the piano for the last two years of her college education.

Out of college, she joined the AGO and our organ academy program. Here she became my student and is preparing to take the Service Playing Certification next year. She is already helping out playing the piano and organ at St. Francis of Assisi in Belchertown and Most Holy Redeemer in Hadley. Outside of her liturgical commitments she works as a freelance audio designer and composer.

Please see Margaret's photo on the next page.



Yes! Despite Covid there are some events!

The Holyoke Civic Symphony, conducted by David Kidwell, will present its second virtual concert of the season on Sunday, December 13 at 3:15pm. The concert, entitled "Home (of course!) for the Holidays," will feature a mix of classical and holiday pieces. Free. <http://www.holyokecivicsymphony.org/home-for-the-holidays/>

Music at the Red Door will present two holiday-related events

All events will be live-streamed; we hope to be able to welcome in-person audiences later in the season. Organ info at <https://www.reddoormusic.org/organ/>

Sunday, December 6, 2020, 12:30 pm

Livestreamed: Pipes Alive! Organist Peter Niedmann in Concert

The 2020-2021 Pipes Alive! recital series, and the celebration of the 25th anniversary of St. John's Austin Organ, continue with a performance by Peter Niedmann, playing a selection of his new organ compositions for Advent and Christmas. Join us for half-hour organ concerts featuring St. John's magnificent Austin pipe organ, on the first Sunday of the month, November through June, 12:30 p.m. with regional organists. Free! Due to COVID-19, this is likely to be a livestream-only event. More info and link to livestream at

<https://www.reddoormusic.org/event/pipes-alive-peter-niedmann-organist-2/>

Organ info: <https://www.reddoormusic.org/organ/>

Sunday, December 13, 2020, 3:00 pm

Livestreamed: A Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

An amazing start to the Advent season – this year, online! In the tradition of King's College, Cambridge, prepare your soul for the Christmas miracle with carols for choir and organ. This event is a long-standing tradition at St. John's – a "must" to center your soul during the Advent season. This live-stream only event features choral music from the St. John's Adult and Youth Choirs, and the St. John's Schola, with organists Ted Babbitt and choirmaster Scott Lamlein.

More info: <https://www.reddoormusic.org/event/candlelight-festival-of-nine-lessons-and-carols-6/>

Organ info: <https://www.reddoormusic.org/organ/>

Lori Bourrret, a member of our board of directors, would like you to know that the chapter will email you a brief survey in the near future. It's purpose is to help assess the needs of our membership which is You! So please be kind and take a moment to respond. If you do not receive one, please contact Lori at 860-749-9155 or email lopobo@cox.net

Invitation to AGO December Party

Inbox



Greetings, Springfield AGO members!

We miss seeing all of you in-person! While we can't do that right now, we are trying to "pivot" the best of the current situation.

The board has decided to hold its December meeting as a **virtual party and carol sing!**

Sunday December 6th from 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Bring your favorite beverage, a festive snack, don your Santa hat and join us for a fun time! your smiling face on our computer screens and hope that you will join us.

In order to enjoy live music over Zoom as much as possible, here are the Zoom requirements. These will apply to our meeting as well as anytime you use Zoom for music. The you let us know that you are coming.

- Use Zoom on a computer. For best sound, avoid a phone or tablet.
-
- Within that Zoom account, you will want to go into your Audio settings (hover over an order to find it).
-
- Click on Advanced in the lower right, Turn on original sound.
-
- Make sure it says "Enable Original Sound" in the upper left of your screen
-
- Make sure that your volume bar on both mic and speaker is increased to the right. / volume on your laptop or desktop so that we can hear you!
-
- Underneath the mic bar, uncheck the "Auto adjust"
-
- Do not check echo cancellation as it will create weird sounds.
-

We look forward to seeing many of you and having a joyous on-line party. Normally, we would sing, wear festive garb. Well, we're looking forward to doing all of that online together! Access to this event will be sent to you on December 3rd.

Best wishes,

Dianne Rechel

for the AGO board

ORGAN ACADEMY

Our chapter provides financial assistance to anyone wishing to take organ lessons. This might be a good time to consider doing so. We currently have three students of all ages studying through the Organ Academy. They are Margaret Patel studying with Klaus Becker, teacher Paul Dinan studying with Joe DeMarino, teacher Dianne Rechel studying with Scott Lamlein, teacher If you are interested in applying for the Organ Academy, please contact us through the website with your information and an application will be sent to you. This opportunity is for members only.

A Much needed and timely FYI

Copyright Discussion

If you are presenting music on line for your congregation through any of the social media, it is considered "publishing" and you must be aware that copyright laws need

to be followed. If the music is standard and written before 1924, you can check to see if it is in the “public domain”. If so, the copyright laws no longer apply and it is safe to use unacknowledged.

If, however, the music has a special arrangement or is a more contemporary prelude, anthem or hymn, then you need to check on the copyright, obtain permission and acknowledge the copyright with the proper information (much like footnoting quotes in a major research essay).

Many of our members’ churches have subscribed to a service called “One License”. (<https://onelicense.net/>) This service will compensate the license holders for you but you need to report usage and acknowledge the copyright holder with the correct information when you use the music. Much good information about this whole process can be found at a webinar listed on the national website. Go to:

<https://www.agohq.org/> click on ‘Education’, hover over the top entry (upcoming webinars) and then hover over and click ‘past webinars’. Scroll down to Sept 23, a webinar entitled ”Streaming Music Legally in Churches and Recitals”. It has an invaluable discussion of all the details. While you are at it, peruse the many other educational offerings that the national website offers.

Aside from the informational and moral value of copyright acknowledgement, please be aware that there is also a legal responsibility. There is something called web search robots that crawl around the internet looking for copyright infringements. If you are caught, the fines can be more than your church or institution can pay. You need to be extra careful during this time of virtual sessions that include music. If you find unusually large numbers of views on your church’s facebook page, suspect that the robots have been active and proceed with caution. We hope this article has been helpful. If you have further questions, please contact us through the website:

<https://agospringfieldma.org/>

Welcome New Members: In a time of social distancing, masks, and few public events it is hard to meet and really welcome new members. Despite the times, please know that everyone associated with the Springfield AGO is happy to have you join us. We all share a passion for music and the organ and wish to share that with you. So please accept our best wishes with this simple ‘Hello & welcome’!

New member

Mr. Cyrus T. Arwade

71 Salem St.

Amherst, MA 01002

Email meri.clark@gmail.com

AGO Springfield Membership Roster Corrections 2020 These are

An editorial aside from the editor....When I was a real beginning organist one of my early Bach pieces was from the little organ book “Alle Menschen Mussen Sterben’ and it had the poetic translation of ‘Harken to the voice that sayeth all men are mortal’. Well to prove that point here are a list of some corrections that we know about.... Humans and errors go well together!

1. Czelusniak, Bill eliminate the Fax and Home numbers (no longer valid)
2. Frary, Richard correct email= richandthea@verizon.net
3. Lissandri, Barara correct email= tdmheavyiron@yahoo.com
4. Paluch, Gay correct email= gay.paluch@comcast.net
5. Shepard, Ronald delete office number (no longer valid)
6. Smith, Michele delete office number (no longer valid)
7. Starke, Wallace zip code should be 01013
8. Wallis, Rev. William Church name is St. PeteR (add R)

From the editor: As most of us know Charlie Page recently passed away in Florida. As soon as an obituary is available it will be forwarded to the membership. Charlie was interested in everyone. He was very generous in his time and opinions. He smiled easily and listened carefully. The musical climate in western mass was greatly enriched by him and the people he attracted for decades. Inspirational moments were a staple of Sunday afternoon concerts at Old First Church. His musical and organizational influence spread far and wide. Right now all of us are busy with holidays and other events upon, but do take a moment to think of Charlie, his partner Malcolm Bosma and other loved ones left behind. In the meantime quietly do an act of kindness or something musical as a personal thank you to Charlie for one who gave so much. May perpetual light shine upon him.

With sorrow,

Lad

Charlie listening attentively on the right.



On Tue, Feb 18, 2020, 1:30 PM Donald DiSalvo <ddisalvo44@gmail.com> wrote:

To Mr Joseph Geehern, Jr

I was directed to you by Marcia Sommers of the Organ Historical Society.
I have an 1880's Estey reed pump organ in working condition that I would like to donate somewhere.
It is currently housed in northwestern Connecticut. I would hope that it can find a suitable "second home". I would be grateful for any assistance you can provide.

Thank you



Don Di Salvo

Chiff Chat editor, Lad Pfeifer, may be contacted at lep@diospringfield.org