



Chiff Chat **September 2021**

The Dean's Message:

Newsletters are still a great way to stay connected, inform about events, review recent happenings, and advertise job openings. Our Northampton partners have shown us that a newsletter can also be a center for discussion of best practices, annotating favorite composers or manuscripts, and sharing thoughts on how to keep choirs and congregations interested in the music. Luckily for us, we have an excellent editor in Lad Pfeifer who is patient with us as we try to have more contributors, namely assigning the board members to write articles and send them in.

As a board, however, our experiences are limited to the few of us and the newsletter would greatly benefit if YOU, our talented membership, would consider contributing articles of best practices and discussions of preludes and postludes, choir anthems,

etc. that you have found to be useful. If so, I hope you would write something for our coming editions, include a photo if you can and send it on to me:

martha@sienkiewicz.org We need your contributions to inspire, inform and connect us. Think about it seriously.... and i hope you overwhelm my inbox!

Dean:

Martha Sienkiewicz

Directors:

Klaus Becker

Lori Bourret

Joe Geehern

Dianne Rechel

Treasurer:

James Barnes

Secretary:

Karen Banta

Chaplain:

Rev. William H. Wallis

MEMBERS' RECITAL AND BANQUET IN 2022?

by Karen Banta

The Springfield Chapter hoped to hold a members' recital, followed by a restaurant banquet, in June 2020. The pandemic cancelled that and everything else. We couldn't even try in June 2021. What about June 2022? With Covid numbers currently on the rise, we are not putting this on the calendar yet. However, let's hope that conditions will allow us to celebrate our chapter's 75th anniversary with this event. Stay tuned.

**OMG !!!! Monica Czauscz invites YOU to her September 4th wedding!!
With Ken Cowan as the grand organiste!**

So here's the scoop. The venue is the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel on State St. in Springfield. Ken Cowan will start the prelude around 11:15 and perhaps earlier if he senses attentive organists. Monica plans (all brides plan....well maybe not all) to process down the isle on time at 11:30.

Monica ia a daughter of our chapter and a terrific artist. I know that many of you will enjoy being there to wish her well.

parking tip: cathedral musicians usually park on the lawn between the library and the cathedral. There is access via a drive alongside the library. // also there is a parking lot across from the library on State Street.



Photo by Hairy Stage

1801 x 2560



History: Past, Present and FutureLori Bourret

I don't know exactly when I joined the chapter, but I have been a member for a few years at least. During that time, I have prospered from interaction with colleagues for workshops, recitals, meals and more! One of the highlights was playing in a members' recital. It was an opportunity to play a piece that would not be played for a church service. I am looking forward to playing in the next members' recital. There will be one when the Board determines that the time is right to do so.

In recent history we have "gathered" in unique ways such as Zoom meetings. These included Happy Chats. There have been joint online programs with our sister chapter from Northampton England. Through the national AGO we had the opportunity to "attend" online workshops and an organ festival. We are emerging from COVID restrictions with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

In the near future, November will be the 75th anniversary of the Springfield chapter AGO! A fitting celebration is being planned. Beyond that what we do in the future as an AGO chapter for ourselves and upcoming organists will become our history, also! What do you wish to read in the next chapter of the Springfield Chapter AGO history book? It takes all of us to keep the chapter vibrant and alive. Consider writing a Chiff Chat article, serving on the Board or doing something in between. Then our future "history" will be assured. Shall we make history together?

Above Photo:sanctuary of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Enfield, CT, including the Schantz pipe organ where Lori Bourret is Music Director & Organist

Meet Katherine Roqueza, our latest member. Katherine is 14, entering 9th grade, lives in Chicopee, finished St. Stanislaus school (preK-8) and will now attend Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford. Kathy has a twin sister, Kelly...they were born one minute apart. They have both attended the same school in the same grade and will continue to do so in West Hartford where they both take weekly organ lessons at St. John's church under the tutelage of Scott Lamlein. Katherine says "he's the best!". Their 'twinness' has mysterious consequences sometimes. One time, in the elementary grades, they got the same answer wrong on the same test by choosing the same incorrect response. The teacher, suspecting something fishy, changed their seats to opposite sides of the room but the same thing happened again on a subsequent test. There's lots to be learned about twins.

At the same time, Katherine says they are really quite different. Her sister is quiet and a straight A student while she (Katherine) is more extroverted and tends to the A-B side of grades. Katherine says all this with great confidence in who she is and obvious admiration for her sister. The pandemic has taught them to help each other and have greater patience.

Katherine is working on a piece entitled "Elegy" and remembers with fondness conquering "Prelude in F" which she still likes to take out and play. "It's a real privilege to play the magnificent organ at St. John's", she says. Attending school in West Hartford now will probably give her more opportunity to do just that. Her Dad will be spending lots of quality time with the girls as he commutes them to West Hartford daily this school year. Katherine says he's been helping her practice getting up earlier in the morning so she'll be ready for the trip. She also got long-car-ride practice recently on a trip to Florida to visit a cousin.

Kathine's future goal is to attend an Ivy league school for pre-med, as she wishes to follow her mother's footsteps and become a pediatrician. She is also very interested in athletics; swimming, basketball, archery, golf, tennis and chess were mentioned. The Guild wishes this delightful girl all the best as she begins her great adventure. She has great ideas and we think the "King of Instruments" is a natural choice. May you always have music in your life, Katherine..

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The First Church of Deerfield at 71 Old Main Street in historic Deerfield will be presenting “The Brick Church” Music Series, Sundays at 3:00pm with a suggested donation of \$10-\$20. Please open the attached Flyer with pictures of the performers and make copies for posting at places of interest.

The rooster is as follows:

Sept. 19th The New World Trio (vl, vlc, piano)

October 3rd Mark Steinbach, organ

February 6th Jiayan Sun, piano

May 1st Th. Pousont & Th. Bergeron (organ & tpt)

JEAN PITMAN TURNER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 413-774-2657

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Carillon Concert by Joe Geehern
At Stanley Park : 400 Western Ave. Westfield, MA
Sunday/September 12 from 1:30 P.M.-2:30 P.M

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Position available :

Wesley United Methodist Church of Hadley, MA, a Reconciling Congregation, is looking for a Part-time Music Director/Accompanist. The Music Director/Accompanist works in partnership with the pastor, staff, and church leadership to provide a broad range of musical opportunities for choir members and non-choir members in Sunday worship services and special church year services during the liturgical year. For more details about this position, click [here](#). To submit a resume and cover letter, please email Kathy Blaisdell, Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee, at kathy.blaisdell222@gmail.com



First Congregational Church of Ashfield at 429 Main Street announces plans for the long-awaited Organ Celebration Series marking the recent restoration of the church’s 1903 George W. Reed pipe organ by Messrs. Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc. The first event will be a recital by organist Grant Moss, scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 19 at the church. Masks may be required inside the sanctuary. Organizers at the church are also welcoming attendees to bring a folding chair or blanket for social distancing outdoors if they choose to listen from the lawn. Therefore, a rain date of Saturday, September 18 has been reserved. Event information and last minute rain date scheduling will be available at www.ashfielducc.org

Moss will perform a selection of pieces he has chosen to show the many colors of the restored organ, “from the softest whispers of the beautiful string stops, to the full organ, which fills the room like a big hug from your favorite aunt.” (Quote from Grant Moss.) The planned program spans the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. Composers include two women, Maria-Theresia von Paradis and Florence B. Price as well as J.S. Bach, Thomas Arne, A.P.F. Boëly, César Franck, Healey Willan, and Hermann Schroeder.

Future Organ Celebrations be as follows:

- Saturday, October 30, 2:00 p.m. (Rain date Sunday, Oct. 31)
Jerry Noble, Organ and Piano; Bob Sparkman, Clarinet;
Kara Noble, Bass; and Tinky Weisblat, Soprano
- Sunday, November 21, 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Service with Organ Re-dedication

- Sunday, April 24, 2022, 4:00 p.m. (Rain date Saturday, April 23)

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Lad Pfeifer, past dean (twice) has retired as Director of Music for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield and Cathedral Organist and Choir Director after 22 years. Prior to the Cathedral, he was organist at two parishes in Connecticut and St. Peter's Lutheran and Holy Family Parish in Holyoke. Though there are many adventures, people and things to remember, stories to tell about his musical career that lasted 50 yrs, in my humble opinion (as someone who has known him since the 1980's) his crowning achievement was The Choir of Boys and Adults at St. Michael's Cathedral which pre Covid was 53 choristers. Lad had an innate ability to connect with youngsters, challenging them with discipline, difficult music and loyalty to the choir therefore creating musically and theologically sound young men. He had a reward system of medals/awards and steps up in the choir, hot dogs and other goodies, and a great sense of humor. Lad is genuine and the boys knew it. When the boys hit puberty and their voices started to change he found ways to blend their changing voices with the adult men. No small task to be sure.

When Covid restricted singing, he gave instruction in handbells along with musical theory. They were able to play at several Masses once the restrictions were lifted. One young boy wanted so badly to sing and Lad promised him in September he would. Besides a musical education, they had a male role model that was solid, caring and creative. He helped them put faith into action by serving the diocese and he told them that by singing at Mass they were also serving God and helping people in the pews experience the grandeur of the Lord. They learned to serve others through their music. I always said that the boys in this choir received the best religious education that anyone could give.

Seriousness aside, Lad had the energy of a 16 yr old and a soul from the distant past. He told the boys he was born in 1610 and printed it on some music; some kids believed him. He would stand and conduct from the organ bench in the loft precariously close to the edge. When our 90 yrs old pipe organ got cranky, he fixed what he could climbing inside amidst

ladders and crawl spaces that would give one pause (at least it did me) and did not hurt the delicate pipes (I can't say as much for me)

Lad's image of a Cathedral was of the great ones in Europe and big cities. He felt when you come to our Cathedral it should feel different than a regular parish. It is the home of the Bishop's chair. The architecture speaks of the glory of God and so should our music.

For that and much more, thanks Lad for your vision, energy and commitment to the Cathedral.

MJ Tash , author & photographer



Above: early years at Holy Family, Holyoke



Above: St. Mary's, Newington, CT/ choir for boys & adults/ choir for girls



rehearsing with the cathedral choir



Tenebrae at the cathedral

And The Best Part.....New and Returning Members!

Nothing says it better than having new members joining us and of course rejoicing when former members return 😊

Norman Bliss

78 Garfield St.
Springfield MA 01108
Phone 413-391-7636
Email bellboy@blissweb.org
New Member

Michael Carney

218 Oakwood Dr.
Belchertown, MA 01007
email mikecarneymusic@gmail.com
Returning member

Sarah T. Dzialo

363 Main St.
Glastonbury, CT 06073
Home Phone 212-585-0547
Cell 646-775-1939
email sarah.rodeo@yale.edu
New member/ Young organist

Dr. Pablo C. Gorin

179 Eagle St. Apt. 1
Albany, NY 12202
Dual with Boston
Phone 786-371-9637
Email pablocesargorin@gmail.com
New member

Katherine Roqueza

53 Green Lane
Holyoke, MA 01040
Phone 413-533-3283
Email CheetahKGR@gmail.com
New member/ Young organist

Andrus Madsen

Dual with Boston
New memb

Maxwell Swisher

14 Clinton St.
Easthampton, MA 01027
Phone 408-355-4503
Email me@maxswisher.com
New member/ Young organist

Dick Damon

270 Boardman Street
Belchertown, MA 01007
Phone number: 413-549-3857
Email: ddamon@gracechurchamherst.org
New member

Stephen Monska

817 Ryan Rd, Florence, MA 01062
02/11/1984
no phone number given
smonska@gmail.com
New member

Thomas Stockton

31 South Main St. Apt A
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-0946
tstockton@earthlink.net
Re-activated

Dr. Ernest May

366 Station Rd.
Amherst, MA 01002-3413
Phone 413-256-6114
email emay@music.umass.edu
Returning member

Dan inglis

4 First Ave.
Easthampton, MA 01027
Phone 931-200-1368
email dan.inglis.music@gmail.com
Returning member

Kieth Rollinson

56 Shattuck St.
Greenfield, MA 01301-1904
Phone 503-295-0551
email ktrollinson@gmail.com
New member

And To Close!

On June 6th, our chapter celebrated the beginning of summer with a picnic on the grounds of the idyllic lawn of St. Mary's parish in the middle of Longmeadow. Our dean, Martha, called for the official 'end' of the pandemic, and 29 of us followed the call. The host, Father C. J. Waitikus joined the resounding welcome with entertaining stories underlining the healthy dialog between music ministers and clergy. Tasty sandwiches from Panera, and 'Sienkiewicz homemade lemonade®' kept us intermittingly busy while listening giving others a chance to talk. We also had a huge sheet music swap spanning several tables. Thank you, Jim, for hauling trunk loads of valuables to our gathering. Our lovely gathering ended with well wishes to Lad Pfeiffer, who just recently began his new chapter of life, also called retirement. Everyone dissipated with a resounding response to gather more often in the near future. Klaus Becker

Post Scriptum: There is a musical moment at St. Mary's on the 19th of September at 2:00pm with music for organ, flute, and piano. Please open the attached poster and post!

