



Chiff Chat 2021

December Chiff Chat

The Dean's Message:

Using a Tablet to eliminate music books and page turns for organists or

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What to give an organist for Christmas!

In a recent email, Peter Beardsley asked for advice from his friends about using a digital tablet in place of paper scores. Many of us have wondered how this works and if we should venture into this challenge. My son is a professional trumpeter and has used one for years, turning pages through a foot pedal. John Anderson replied to Peter with the following:

"I've frequently used an iPad with the excellent forScore app for bassoon playing. With a foot pedal for page turns and an Apple Pencil for marking up the music, it's an excellent solution and I don't miss paper

music one bit. Put everything into a "set list" and off you go! There are a number of apps you can use to quickly turn hardcopy music into PDFs to be easily imported into forScore." This works for most musicians but because organists use both hands and feet, the problem is more complex which a foot pedal cannot solve.

1. Here's a creative person who has solved the problem with a "bite switch". (please ignore the youtube ads which you can skip! ☺)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PU0deGXTJpM>

This solution presumes that you have a relaxed jaw while playing. HA! If you are given to grinding your teeth, it probably will not work.



Interview with Firas Hashmi by m.sienkiewicz

Meet 16-year-old Firas Hashmi who has joined our chapter and enrolled in our Organ Academy, taking organ lessons with Prof. Larry Schipull at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley. Born in Springfield, Firas started playing piano at age 7 and along the way tried the double bass, bassoon and tuba. His interest in organ began in 6th grade when he attended an organ concert at Old South Church in Boston and in post concert conversation, the organist allowed him a time at the organ bench. "Using the organ's 115 ranks, every sound imaginable could be played from one seat! It was amazing." Firas attends the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts high school and is excited to study organ for credit. He also takes classes in calculus at Mt. Holyoke and economics at Holyoke Community College. In his spare time, he is establishing an online business at goldpundit.com. He writes articles on digital finance and media trading while currently expanding into website hosting and design. For fun, he flies model airplanes and rockets, is working on a pilot's license and hopes to achieve his eagle scout badge with a possible project of restoring an old cemetery in town or "maybe I'd like to know something about organ restoration" ... His only complaint was that he's over 6 ft tall and the organ bench doesn't crank so they need to use wood blocks and books for him to play pedals properly. Firas is a bright and engaging young man and we salute him at the beginning of his great adventure.

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Upcoming Events

Dec. 5th **Pipes Alive!:** Sunday, December 5 at 12:30pm: This is our ongoing series of half-hour on the first Sunday of each month. December 5th features Natasha Ulyanovsky. Here is the link to the web page with all of the information:

<https://www.reddoormusic.org/event/ulyanovsky/>

Dec 11th The Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on December 11 at 7:30pm at St. Michael's Cathedral, 260 State St in Springfield. This is a long standing tradition in the diocese. For further information contact the Office of worship at worship@diospringfield.org, or by calling (413) 452-0839

Dec. 12th **Candlelight Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 12 at 3:00pm:** This is our annual event of the Christmas Season, featuring the Adult and Youth Choirs of St. John's Episcopal Church (679 Farmington Ave. West hartford, CT) , Scott Lamlein, choirmaster, and Floyd Higgins, organist. Here is the link to the web page with all the information:

<https://www.reddoormusic.org/event/carols21/>

Dec. 12th Springfield AGO member Dick Damon will play organ for Lessons & Carols at Grace Episcopal Church, 14 Boltwood Ave., Amherst, MA, Sunday, Dec. 12th at 4:00 pm. Member Kell Julliard will sing in the choir. The program will include such music as Howells "A Spotless Rose" and Britton's "Deo Gracias" as well as works by Vaughn Williams, Handel, Rutter, Stopford, and Hammerschmidt.

Starting Dec 16th Every 3rd Thursday2. Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral (35 Chestnut St. Springfield) in conjunction with Springfield Museums is offering a free concert at 11:30 every third Thursday of the month preceding the 12 o'clock museum lecture. The short concerts will feature the cathedral organs played by Todd Beckham and occasional instrumentalist /vocalist friends.

Dec 19th On Sunday, December 19, we'll have a Christmas Concert at 4 PM featuring Anthony Pandolfe on the pipe organ and Lindsay Haukom on the harp! You may come to our church in-person with masks. Grace Episcopal Church 15 Highland Terrace, Stafford, CT. Parking is across the street in a municipal lot.

Dec 19th The Choir of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Hanover, NH, presents its 87th Christmas Lessons & Carols at 6:00 on Sunday, Dec. 19. This is the longest uninterrupted run in the country, as far as we know. The event will be live-streamed. Here's the link for St. Thomas Hanover's Lessons & Carols on the 19th @ 6:00: <https://zoom.us/j/170286805>

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Positions available

Minister of Music The First Congregational Church of Stockbridge, MA, seeks an organist-choirmaster to lead and coordinate the music programs of the congregation. This is an approximately one-third time position with commensurate compensation and benefits, to be negotiated depending on actual hours and qualifications. For further information and/or to apply for this position contact Will Garrison, Office Administrator, office@stockbridgeUCC.org or 413-298-3137. Qualifications will be reviewed beginning January 1, 2022, and will continue until the position is filled. There is a Johnson pipe organ/ two pianos ,anadult choir with 3 section leaders, and handbells.

Choir Director The First Congregational Church of South Hadley, UCC (aka Center Church) South Hadley MA, seeks a choir director. This position is for 5 hours a week for 40 weeks. Salary is based on experience and education. For complete job description and/or to apply for this position please contact Thia Jubinville, Office Administrator, centerchurch@verizon.net or 413-532-2262. Choir rehearsals will be on Sundays, prior to the 10am worship and another following worship. The organist and/or assistant organist will accompany the choir.

Pianist/Singer needed. Sunday 11am Protestant service for the veterans at Leeds VA Medical Center. Short ten-minute prelude, three hymns, short postlude. Please contact Chaplin Juanita Hudson, 413-584-4040 x2285. \$150.