



Chiff Chat

November 2022

Dean:

Todd Beckham

Directors:

Lori Bourret

Kell Julliard

Dianne Rechel

Martha Sienkiewicz

Treasurer:

James Barnes

Secretary:

Karen Banta

Chaplain:

Rev. William H. Wallis

Dean's Message:

November is a month that we fall back with our clocks, enjoy the last bits of Fall color and for us church musicians, Christmas is becoming a more present thought.

In one of the messages from "National", a question was asked about whether we are inclusive in our work as an educational institution. Do we represent the entire organist and music director population? One of the greatest training grounds for me was playing at a reformed temple for about ten years. I learned several things: There are many similarities in liturgical practice between reformed Judaism and my own Christian denomination (Episcopalian) including traditions, use of a prayer book and some elements of theology. Improvisation is a key element to Jewish and Episcopal Cathedral liturgies. We need to look for these similarities in our divided world to try to bring people together. In Jewish worship the organ has not had a prominent place except in 19th century reformed traditions where the organ came into use by Christian influence. This was mostly in Germany and later was brought to the US in urban areas. Attention to these traditions is important if they are to survive. Consider adding a Jewish choral piece such as *Sim Shalom* or *Aveinu Malkeinu* by Max Janowski or other Jewish choral works.

On Sunday November 20, 2022 at 4 PM our chapter will host a meeting for all members to welcome new members to the Springfield Chapter. I encourage everyone to attend for an interesting informative evening with chapter member Dick Damon, organist at Grace Episcopal Church Amherst, MA and tracker organ builder, Stephan Maier. This promises to be a great opportunity to hear the Stuart Organ Co./Richard Hedgebeth organ, a locally built instrument and builder from the early days of the revival of classic organ building. I didn't know Mr

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE SPRINGFIELD AGO

On Sunday afternoon, October 16th, Monica Czausz Berney performed a concert to celebrate the restoration of the Johnson & Son Organ, Opus 781, 1892. She chose a variety of pieces to “show off” the glorious sounds of our instrument. All the stops were pulled and the power and potential of the Johnson were on full display. The program began with Fanfare for the Common Man, by Aaron Copland, followed by Sonata per Organo, No. 2 by Paul Hindemith. As she explained prior to her next number, Sei gegrusset, Jesu gutig, BWV 768 by Johann Sebastian Bach has anywhere from eleven to fifteen variations and she played them all with passion. Roulade Op.3 No. 9 by Czechoslovakian composer Seth Bingham was a fanciful piece which made the audience want to dance! The fine sounds of romanticism were apparent in Sechs Stucke fur Klavier, Op. 118 by Johannes Brahms. The piece consisted of Intermezzo in A minor, Intermezzo in A major and Ballade in G minor. Many people in the audience were spiritually moved especially by the last piece Finale from Sunday Music which depicted musically the war between good and evil. As Monica explained, the piece ends with Salve Regina and gives us hope that someday good will triumph forever. Betty Manzi, long time Monson resident and former organist at First Church, described the concert as “DAZZLING.



Special appreciation was expressed to the Community Preservation Committee and the residents of the Town of Monson for allocating the funds to First Church for the restoration of the wind supply of the organ. A power point presentation of the restoration was created from the documentation provided by Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc. who dedicated a year to the project. The video which will be posted on the First Church web site was created by church members and will be available for all to see on the First Church web site.

The concert was funded by grants from the Monson Cultural Council, the American Guild of Organists, Springfield Chapter, and from many Angel Sponsors from First Church and the surrounding communities. The Music Committee provided the refreshments for the reception; there were lots of cookies and a delicious punch. The concert was attended by at least 200 people filling the church for a memorable afternoon of celebration.

Submitted by Gay Paluch

YOU ARE INVITED ☺

The Northampton & District Organist Association in good old UK, our sister chapter, is sponsoring a showing of a new feature documentary “Organ Stops – Saving the King of Instruments” on Saturday 19th November at 7pm UK time, 2pm Eastern. More details are on the attached flyer attached to this newsletter – the film is about the issue of how to preserve and celebrate pipe organs in the current environment.

The film runs for approximately 70 minutes and will be followed by an online discussion with the film-maker James Dawson and the organ-builder Martin Renshaw, and will include a discussion of the new charity Pipe Up for Pipe Organs. A trailer for the film is at <https://vimeo.com/579930833> and details of the Pipe Up for Pipe Organs charity at [PIPE UP FOR PIPE ORGANS | Heritage charity fighting to save the King of Instruments \(pipe-up.org.uk\)](https://www.pipe-up.org.uk).

Springfield AGO members are very welcome to join the event, our English colleagues hope that it might be of interest to all of us. It’s great to live in an age when we can readily share such events of mutual concern simultaneously.

The Zoom link for the meeting is as follows:

Topic: Organ Stops: Saving the King of Instruments

Time: Nov 19, 2022 07:00 PM London (02:00 PM Eastern)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89978502936?pwd=enRReHoxdVY0OTJ3dTbzK3FmZDFiZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 7850 2936

Passcode: 181541

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Next Chapter Events

Sun 11/20 at 4 pm NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION AND ORGAN DEMONSTRATION: Grace Episcopal Church, 14 Boltwood Ave, Amherst

New members and old members alike (plus significant others) - please come to Grace Church to welcome our new members to the chapter and have fun seeing the inner workings of its 1977 Richard Hedgebeth tracker organ! Grace organist/composer Dick Damon joined by organ builder and technician [Stefan Maier](#) will give a behind-the-scenes cook’s tour, and Dick will play a couple of contrasting compositions to showcase the organ’s qualities. Bring music if you would like to give the organ a try! A reception will follow in the room adjacent to the sanctuary.

Sun 3/19/2023 ALL SAINTS WORCESTER CHOIR EVENSONG: Pre-service organ recital by Todd Beckham All Bach at Christ Church Cathedral.

Sun 3/26/2023 NATHANIEL GUMBS CONCERT: at 3 pm, Brick Church, Deerfield. We are co-sponsoring.

Sun 4/30/2023 CHORAL FESTIVAL: Time TBD at Trinity Methodist, Springfield. Chapter member composers with a Festival Choir of our choir singers.

Other Events



St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT
860-523-5201 ext. 324

Please visit the following link for more details: <https://www.reddoormusic.org>

NOVEMBER 6, 2022 @ 12:30 PM

PIPES ALIVE! – ALAN MURCHIE, ORGANIST

The Pipes Alive! series opens with organist Alan Murchie playing the St. John's organ on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 12:30pm. The concert is free admission – donations welcomed.

DECEMBER 4, 2022 @ 12:30 PM

PIPES ALIVE! – SUSAN CARROLL, ORGANIST

The Pipes Alive! series continues with organist Susan Carroll playing the St. John's organ on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 12:30pm. The concert is free admission – donations welcomed.

DECEMBER 11, 2022 @ 3:00 PM [CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS](#)

A “must” to center your soul during the Advent season! 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 – arrive early to get a good seat!

Please visit the following link for more details: <https://www.reddoormusic.org>

Upcoming Brick Church Concerts @ 3:00 pm

71 Old Main St, Deerfield

Nathaniel Gumbs, organ March 26th

Frisson Wind Trio & Piano April 16th



Novi Cantori, Sunday, December 11, 2022 @ 2:00 pm

Ste. Rose de Lima Church, Chicopee, MA

Novi Cantori, Sunday, December 18, 2022 @ 2:00 pm

Granville Federated Church, Granville, MA

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Positions Available

Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 36 Court Street, Westfield, MA 01085

Director of Music Ministry will serve The Episcopal Church of the Atonement (ECOTA) in developing, coordinating, and overseeing the year-round music ministry. The DMM will plan and implement, in conjunction with the Rector, a variety of musical offerings to enrich and complement the liturgy. The DMM will conduct the adult choir and bell choir, serve as the organist, and work toward engaging families and children in the musical life of the church. Additionally, we would strongly desire for the DMM to continue with the ECOTA Choral Scholar Program which supports the development of 2-3 Choral Scholars from Westfield State University in the Fall and Spring semesters. A detailed job description is available. Part-Time - approx. 10-12 hours/week

Salary - \$12,000-\$18,000, commensurate with experience. Annual allowance for professional development. Resumes and replies to: Rev. Sandi Albom, Interim Rector,

Episcopal Church of the Atonement
36 Court St., Westfield MA 01085

revsandi@atonementwestfield.org

