



Chiff Chat January 2023

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:

Happy new year to all!

I wish everyone best wishes for 2023 as we look back in the rearview at Christmas and Advent 2022 and forward to the new year 2023. . We have so many carols, hymns and songs for Christmas and Hanukkah but what music is your favorite for New Year's celebrations? The obvious is the Scottish tune Auld Lang Syne which can be heard in the iconic movie "It's a Wonderful Life.

One of my favorite tunes to celebrate the New Year is by Benjamin Britten and is contained in his collection called "Friday Afternoons" written in 1936 for a Welsh school choir that met at that time. The text may refer to a ritual of washing that comes from Wales but may also refer to the Virgin Mary and images of the Holy Communion. Here is the text :

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.

Chorus (after each verse):

Sing levy-dew, sing levy-dew, the water and the wine,
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe;
Open you the West Door and turn the Old Year go.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin;
Open you the East Door and let the New Year in.

Chorus (twice after each verse):

Residue sing Residue, the water and the wine,
Seven bright gold wires and the trumpets doth shine.

Other verses not set by Britten:

Here comes the maiden with gold on her toe;
Open the West gate and let the Old Year go.

Here comes the maiden with gold on her shoe;
Open the South gate and let the New Year through.

Here comes the maiden with gold on her chin;
Open the East gate and let the New Year in.

Here comes the maiden with gold in her eye;
Open the North gate and let the Old Year by.

REQUIESCET IN PACE

With sorrow we announce the passing of Hedley Yost, a long time member of our chapter and active musician. His obituary is as follows:

Hedley E. Yost

Shelburne Falls, MA - On December 13, 2022, Hedley Yost, 87, died after a brief period of declining health, shortly after the death of his beloved partner Gordon Dean.

Hedley was born in York County, Pennsylvania, in Spring Grove. He was the youngest son of Emanuel Jacob and Helen Alverta (Beck) Yost and brother to Jay and Roberta.

Church music and the organ were Hedley's passion, and he had a rich and long career as organist and music director. He landed his first organist job at 15 and went on to earn both Bachelor's and Master's of Music degrees from Westminster Choir College where he studied with renowned organist Alexander McCurdy. He held positions at Stanford University, Morristown, NJ, and New York City. He often spoke of his time in Paris where he studied with Nadia Boulanger in the 1960s. Hedley's longest position was at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Canaan, CT, where he was organist and choir director for 25 years.

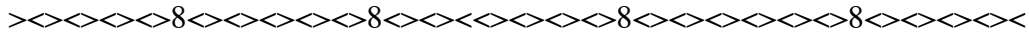
Hedley and Gordon moved to Buckland, MA in the late 90s. Although he maintained that he was retired, Hedley joined St. John's Episcopal Church in Ashfield, MA as Director of Music.

Hedley was a raconteur who wove travel, music, and people into fascinating tales. He was loved by his friends and organ students alike, and he had a rich social life. Hedley was not afraid to let you know how he felt. A favorite saying, particularly around cocktail hour was, "Water is not a drink!"

Hedley is survived by Gordon's children Allen Dean of Byfield, MA, Joy O'Connor and husband Bill of Londonderry, NH, Laurence Dean and wife, Karin Hammer-Williamson of Essex, VT, Evelyn Casey and husband John of Westfield, MA.

A celebratory concert for Hedley is planned. Information will be posted at <https://link.inmemori.com/Euy8DB>, where you can also add your memories.

Memorial contributions may be made to St John's Ashfield (<https://www.stjohnsashfield.org/>) or Marlboro Music (<https://www.marlboromusic.org/>).



Max Reger Celebrates His 150th

Worcester Nov 3-5

The Worcester Chapter is inviting us to join them for their events as part of their REGER celebration days, Nov. 3, 4 & 5 of 2023, which are open to all. Coordinators of the event are William Ness, Marjorie Ness (subdean), and Ronna Davis (dean).

More details will follow in our February Chiff Chat, but the basic outline is as follows.

Nov. 3 Recital 7:30 PM // Nov 4 Three workshops all day 9 until 3:30 // Members recital 7:30 pm Op. 59

Nov. 5 Recital 4 PM // Closing Reception

For additional information call Marjorie Ness at 508-335-8234

Upcoming Chapter Events

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.

CHORAL FESTIVAL: Time, Location, and format are to be determined

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Other Events

January 18th @ 6:00 PM Grace Church, 14 Boltwood Ave, Amherst

Joy: A Pipe Organ Contemplation In this half hour contemplation, two organ pieces (one each by Bach and Pachelbel played by Dick Damon and Kell Julliard) will provide the context for an exploration of the nature of joy. Supplemented by readings from poetry and scripture and moments of silent meditation, we will go more deeply into each piece and what it has to say about joy.

