



## **Chiff Chat**

### **February 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:** Dear Everyone,  
February marks a period when we honor the heritage of Afro-Americans who helped build our country and especially for those artists and musicians who shaped cultures and in particular music. I think of the people that I had the privilege to know and to hear their great music making such as Wendel Whalum of Morehouse College Choirs fame and David Stills who served as organist to Dr. King as well as later serving as sub-organist at Atlanta's St. Philip's Episcopal Cathedral. I think of the tremendous amount of choral and organ compositions by David Hurd who greatly influenced me after meeting him at Oberlin's Summer Organ Workshop and in the same summer won the improvisation competition at the 1977 International Congress of Organists in Philadelphia. I think of Florence Price who came from the Jim Crow South to earn music degrees from New England Conservatory at a time when women and, heaven forbid, a black woman would earn a degree. I think of Herndon Spillman who studied with Maurice Duruflé, Andre Marchal and Marie-Claire Alain and who was the only Afro-American for many years to grace the back cover of the Diapason and the American Organist where the organists under concert management are showcased.

We honor this rich heritage especially this month and I hope that we who are members of the AGO will take a moment in your music planning to include hymns which honor the Afro-American musical traditions. We don't have to be able to duplicate southern gospel style to do this. I think I'll improvise a French Toccata with an old spiritual theme in the pedals for a postlude voluntary in honor of a great musician such as Herdon Spillman.

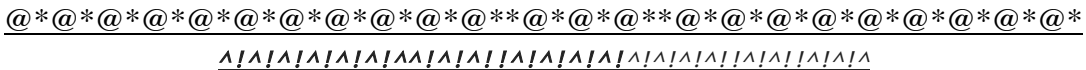
Happy Pipings!     Todd

# The Boar's Head Festival is BACK!

*January 13th-15th*

After a two year hiatus due to the pandemic, Trinity United Methodist Church on Sumner Ave in Springfield brought to life their 40th presentation of the Christmas Story in Medieval style...and what a production it was! Hundreds (not exaggerated) of people dressed in authentic 1463 a.d. costumes, roamed the sanctuary singing, telling stories, admonishing street urchins, chasing a roaming rat, performing tricks, hauling in yule logs and a boar's head feast while some nuns were blessing participants with holy relics. Once the atmosphere of merriment had been set, the lights dimmed, a sprite entered to light the altar candles, followed by the Boar's Head fanfare and Carol sung by all. The majestic organ then began the Procession with Gigout's "Grand (very grand) Choeur Dialogue" which ushered in Lord and Lady Asbury who hosted the event. The many scenes that followed you must see for yourself—Wenceslas, the woodsmen, father Christmas, shepherds, three kings, dancers, bagpipers, gargoyles, and children. Adding to the excitement were the captivating array of live animals including geese, llamas, horse, falcon, goats, sheep, donkey, and three very regal camels.... —the entire universe it seems to have come to adore the infant Jesus, the highlight of the festival. Every new arrival was accompanied by a fanfare or a organ/choral composition in a delightful concert of music that was on-going by the church choirs led by our own AGO member, Dr. Michael Carney, who himself was dressed as troubador Ricardo d'Amor (pictured far right)—reflecting the obvious: that directing this music was truly a labor of love. Be sure to put this one on your calendar for next year.

Submitted by Martha Sienkiewicz



## *Max Reger Celebrates His 150<sup>th</sup>*

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 a latter 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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*678967896789 know why 6 doesn't like being next to 7? Cause 7 8 9*

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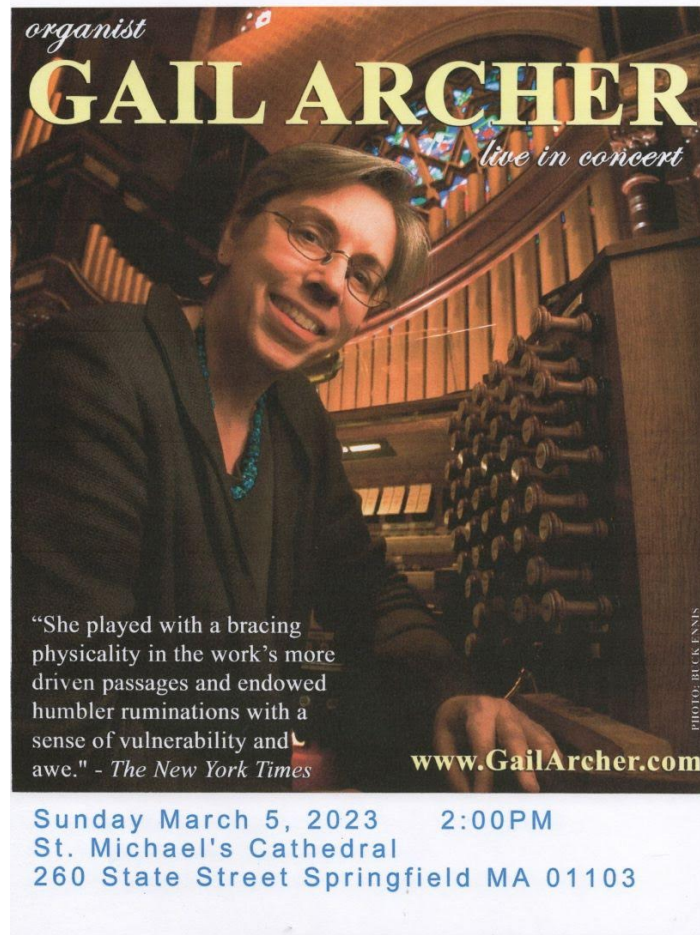
## *Other Events*

### ***"A Few of My Favorite Things"***

*Dedicatory Organ Recital*

John Anderson, Organist

Saturday, February 18, 3:00 PM at Christ the King-Epiphany Church, 758 Main St., Wilbraham  
music of Bach, Ore, Howells and others



**A Concert for Peace** is being given by Gail Archer presenting music by Ukrainian & Russian composers on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM in St. Michael's Cathedral, 260 State Street, Springfield.

**(\*)**

**Upcoming Brick Church Concerts @ 3:00 pm**

**71 Old Main St, Deerfield**

**Nathaniel Gumbs, organ    March 26th**

**Frisson Wind Trio & Piano    April 16<sup>th</sup>**



## MUSIC AT THE RED DOOR

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

The February & March Events at St. John's are given below.

**FEBRUARY 5 @ 12:30 PM [PIPES ALIVE! – MANUEL PIAZZA, ORGANIST](#)**

The Pipes Alive! series continues with organist Manuel Piazza playing the St. John's organ. The concert is free admission – donations welcome in any amount.

**FEBRUARY 10 @ 7:30 PM [JAZZ AT THE RED DOOR: NAT REEVES AND FRIENDS](#)**

Join us in the marvelous acoustics of St. John's Church, for an evening of incredible jazz with the inimitable Nat Reeves. This is always a sell-out event by Hartford's top bassist, who has made a strong impact on the world of jazz through education and performance.

**FEBRUARY 26 @ 5:00 PM [CHORAL EVENSONG – ST. PATRICK-ST. ANTHONY GALLERY CHOIR](#)**

The ancient and beautiful service of Choral Evensong sung by the Gallery Choir of St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church, Hartford; Gabriel Löfvall, choirmaster. This event is free admission, donations welcome.

**MARCH 5 @ 3:00 PM [CHORAL MUSIC FOR THE SOUL: FAURÉ & SAINT-SAËNS](#)**

The St. John's Choir School & Adult Choir presents Choral Music for the Soul, featuring the Farmington Valley Symphony Orchestra. Join us on Sunday, March 5 at 3:00pm, in the marvelous acoustics of St. John's Church, for the sublime Requiem by Gabriel Fauré and Symphony No. 3 ("Organ") by Camille Saint-Saëns. Jonathan Edward Brennand, conductor; Scott [...]

**MARCH 19 @ 2:00 PM. [NEW WORLD TRIO: ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE](#)**

Join us on Sunday, March 19, at 2:00pm, for New World Trio, Ensemble-in-Residence at Music at the Red Door. These concerts are free admission, suggested donation \$20. Checks payable to New World Trio. Details at [www.newworldtrio.org](http://www.newworldtrio.org) About New World Trio For more than three decades, the New World Trio has brought the excitement and intimacy [...]

**MARCH 26 @ 5:00 PM. [CHORAL EVENSONG – TREBLES FROM FIVE CHURCHES](#)**

**Note that this is an offsite event. Join us at Trinity College Chapel!** This event will be in-person only. It will not be available by livestream.

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

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### ***Position Available:***

First Unitarian Church is seeking candidates for a Director of Music position. Please investigate the link below for more information.

Sue Stafford  
DM Search Committee/First Unitarian Church  
90 Main Street, Worcester, MA

<https://www.firstunitarian.com/music/director-of-music-search/>