

# CHIEF CHAT

The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists

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# MESSIAH

## Sing-Along

**Saturday, December 13, 2003 2:30pm**

**Center Congregational Church**  
Rte. 116, South Hadley, Mass

### SPONSORED BY

**The Springfield Chapter AGO**

with

**Terry Larsen, conductor**  
**Lois Toepfner, organist**

soloists from Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus and  
Springfield Chapter AGO

**NOTE: Please bring scores if you have them;  
only a limited number will be available at the church.**

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# DEAN'S MESSAGE — December 2003

## OUR HARD WORK BENEFITS OTHERS, AS IT SHOULD...

On November 17th, this Chapter organized a Potluck Supper and Anthem-sharing program hosted by the Second Congregational Church in Westfield. This was a most successful and heartening event for the attendance, participation, and appreciation shared amongst all that evening. First, I'll offer my sincerest thanks to Barbara Huber, Don Hooton, and Karen Lampiasi from the Chapter, and to Pastor Ruth Brandon, Scott Caron, and Jack Lampiasi from the Church for organizing, hosting and producing this event. Secondly, I thank Becky Isaacson, Liz Dawson, Larry Bishop, Dottie Case, and Charles Page for stepping forth to present their anthem selections to all in attendance. The array of food was plentiful and every choice delicious, thanks to everyone present. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find for your reference, the printed list and sources of anthems presented at the workshop.

As I have taken to noting, I'll offer a report of attendance: a total of 28 souls were present, the breakdown being: Springfield AGO = 17; Church members or friends = 10; Berkshire AGO = 1. The feeling of certain success in this event comes as follows: from the number of people present, and their enthusiastic participation in preparation of food, socializing before and during dinner, singing, and offering appreciation at the end. Then, that at least two new members of this Chapter were willing, and not shy, to offer their anthem choices to the group. Furthermore, some members not seen often or recently chose to attend this event, perhaps because it was held, for a change, in Westfield, or perhaps because the AGO offered a valuable workshop. Finally, the Second Congregational Church has been searching for a new Organist - Music Director. I was more than gratified to have some Church members speak to me at the conclusion of the anthem session about their positive impressions of the AGO, our strength of presence that evening, and about the high level of music-making. I hope and expect that our Chapter's visit to this Church truly was of mutual benefit. The event was a success socially and musically; the Chapter has encouraged the Church in their quest; perhaps, we also have drawn good attention to this warm Congregation and their excellent facilities and musical interests, as a worthy professional opportunity. Thus, I left Westfield thinking that we just had a near-perfect event, which confirmed for me

what the mission of the AGO really should be about these days.

Similarly, I wish to report that, unbeknownst to most, your Sub-Dean Lary Grossman has been very active during the autumn months assisting several Roman Catholic churches in the Hampshire Deanery to obtain Organist-Directors, or their services for coverage of specific Masses. Lary's efforts have involved and benefited a number of our Chapter members, not to mention the value in the field of providing quality music for worship. Maintaining a musical program does not come easily, and Lary's success often involved some last-minute scrambling. One important result, however, was that jobs were filled, or covered, always to the credit of the Springfield Chapter, AGO. I thank Lary personally for his commitment to good music-making in churches, and for his personal drive to provide satisfaction in these situations.

As a result of these recent episodes, I am motivated to consider that thrust of activity in which our Chapter invests on an annual basis. It is clear to me that we could be more pro-active in the employment arena, or in what National has come to call Professional Development. Conversely, we may not need to invest so heavily in promoting concerts, which have become so competitive of time, attention, and funding these days, even amongst our own membership. Either way, education and outreach are matters of critical concern, including the development of young organists. Inasmuch as all of us are entering one of the busiest work times of the year, I'll leave my thoughts at that until the New Year. However, I can foresee some resolutions that I can offer to our membership as we enter that new year, in hopes that the commitments that we each make to this Chapter of the American Guild of Organists can be most efficient and effective for the preservation, maintenance, and advancement of our art. In the meanwhile, I offer to every member my warmest, personal wishes for a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, all success in your musical endeavors, and for some spiritual nourishment and renewal for yourselves during this demanding but endearing season!

In closing, let me remind you of, and encourage you to participate in, our second public Messiah Sing, at the Center Church, South Hadley, this Saturday afternoon, December 13th. Terry

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Larsen of the Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus will conduct, and Lois Toepfner, AGO Region I Councillor, will accompany on the organ. Plans for this event have shaped up nicely, with extensive publicity in the works, so we hope for great attendance. Every voice counts, though; don't leave it to someone else! The Committee has assembled some fine holiday gifts to distribute as door prizes at the Messiah Sing, so there will be extra celebration, too. Come join us! See you in South Hadley Saturday afternoon.

*Soli Deo Gloria,*  
Bill Czelusniak  
Dean

## POST SCRIPT — The Palmer Fire

As reported in detail in the Springfield "Republican", a devastating early morning fire on Friday, December 5th, at 1011 Central Street in downtown Palmer, Mass., claimed a two-story building owned by Nelson and Beverly Pease, destroying a huge number of reed organs, melodians, seraphines, and other antique instruments contained therein, which were the greater substance of the Pease Collection of Historical Instruments. Other portions of the Pease's collection survive in buildings on Main and Foundry Streets in Palmer. The newspaper article describes the Pease's long history of collecting, but one could hardly imagine the quantity and value of the instruments lost in this fire. Mr. Pease's quote of "priceless" is, at least, honest fact, or even understatement. Some years ago, Richard M. Frary, Jr. and I toured the now-lost building with Nelson Pease, in search of some reeds, and the rare and beautiful instruments seen there were mind-boggling: parlor organs from the early 1800's, rosewood cases, other rare woods and remarkable caseworks, and a large number of varied remarkable old instruments. We extend our sincerest condolences to our colleagues Nelson and Beverly Pease on their great and personal loss last week in Palmer. May they continue their important preservative work with good spirit.

# MUSIC FROM THE ANTHEM READING SESSION

The following is the list of anthems presented at the anthem reading on Monday, November 17, at Second Congregational Church, Westfield.

## Becky Isaacson

1. "No Rose of Such Virtue" by Eugene Butler SATB *Coronet* publication.
2. "Be in My Seeing" by James Quinn and Wayne Wold SATB *Selah* pub.
3. "Twins in the Moon of Wintertime" by Anthony Baldwin SATB *Oxford University Press*.
4. "The Everlasting God" by Green/Crescenz SATB piano and 2 trumpets *Hinshaw* publication
5. "Open Thou Mine Eyes" by Benjamin Harlan SATB *Glory Sound* pub.

## Liz Dawson

"What I have I will Give Thee" by Mark Patterson SATB *Harold Flammer*

## Larry Bishop

1. "Morning Song" by Austin Lovelace. 2 pt. *McAfee Music* pub.
  2. "Break the Bread" by Natalie Sleeth. SAB *Hinshaw* pub.
- (Also recommended "Were you there on Christmas Night" by Natalie Sleeth)

## Dottie Case

1. "Many Gifts, One Spirit" by Allen Pote SATB *Coronet Press*
2. "Psalm 139" by Allen Pote. SATB Choristers Guild (*Lorenz Corp*)

## Charles Page

1. "Chorister's Prayer" by Bruce Neswick. Unison. *Paraclete* press.
2. "Immortal Love For Ever Full" by Richard DeLong SATB *ECS publishing*
3. "A Lenten Prayer" by David A. White. 2 pt. w/opt. Flute. *Paraclete Press*.
4. "Grace" by Mark Hayes. SATB *Beckenhorst Press Inc.*

## CALENDAR

To have your event included, please send it (preferably by e-mail) to:  
m.dulac@verizon.net

### December 13

#### 2:30PM

Center Congregational Church, South Hadley  
Second annual Messiah sing with Terry Larsen, conductor, and Lois Toepfner, organ.

#### 3:00PM

St. Andrew's Church, Longmeadow  
Family Christmas Carol Festival with New England Brass Quartet, organ music for Advent and Christmas, Novi Cantori, directed by Allan Taylor. A Christmas Cookie reception will follow.

#### 7:30PM

St. Michael's Cathedral, State St., Springfield  
Candlelight Lessons&Carols with the Cathedral Choir of Boys and Adults, string ensemble and saxophone, directed by Lad Pfeifer.

### December 14

#### 1:00PM

Old Meeting House, Granville  
Christmas with Novi Cantori, Novi's fine arts program, directed by Allan Taylor

#### 3:30PM

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
*Music at First* presents Christmas Candlelight Concert with Old First Church Choir and Soloists, Charles Page, organist and choir director, and The Westfield State College Wind Symphony, Karen LaVoie, conductor.

#### 4:00PM

United Congregational Church, Skinner Chapel, Holyoke  
Christmas Candlelight Vespers, with Chorus, Handbells, Brass & Organ works of: Berlioz, Clarence Dickenson, and traditional Lessons & Carols  
Secured Parking is available

#### 5:00PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 N. Pleasant St., Amherst  
The Immanuel choir will present Ron Nelson's, "The Christmas Story", with soloists and instrumentalists. Donations will benefit the newly renamed VNA and Hospice of Cooley Dickinson.

## JOB LISTINGS

### Organist/Choir Director

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Main and South Street  
Ashfield, MA 01330

Description: choir sings only on major festivals; William Johnson Organ - mechanical action

Salary: \$8,500

Contact: Peter Elenois 413-625-2338

### Children/Youth Choir Director (pre-k-12th grade)

First Church of Christ Congregational  
81 High Street, Suffield, CT 06078

Description: 8-10 hours/week

September - June

Contact: Deb Banks McIntosh  
860-668-7223

### Organist/Choir Director

Hope United Methodist Church  
31 Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007

Description: 12-15 hours per week

1 Adult choir (21 members)

1 service (10:00 AM), 1 rehearsal (Thursday - 6:30-8:00 PM); 2 manual Rodgers organ; Choir does not sing during July and August

Salary: \$8684 per year  
4 weeks vacation

#### Contact:

Rev. Bruce Arbour (413) 323-7584  
Email - Bruce523@juno.com

### Interim Organist/Choir Director

Wesley United Methodist Church  
114 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608

Description: 12-15 hours per week

1 Adult Choir, 1 Handbell choir

E.M. Skinner Organ

B.M. or B.A. required

Salary: \$13,000-18,000

Contact: Brent Drajesk 508-799-6993

### Artistic Director

Arcadia Players, a professional ensemble in the Five-College area of Western Massachusetts is seeking an enterprising musician as Artistic Director. Now in its fifteenth year, the organization is committed to historically-informed performance of both chamber and orchestral/choral music. Upon the retirement of its founding director, AP is looking to hire a dynamic individual who can plan and occasionally conduct and perform a variety of programs as well as participate in audience development and fundraising in concert with the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. Send letter of interest and resume to: Artistic Director Search Committee, Arcadia Players, POB 387, Northampton, MA 01061.

**American Guild of Organists  
Springfield, Mass. Chapter**

Michael Dulac — Newsletter Editor  
41 Riverview St.  
Springfield, MA 01108-1634

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Calendar, cont'd**

**January 4, 2004**

**4:00PM**

St. Cecilia's Church, Main St., Wilbraham  
Epiphany Concert by Schola Nova, Michael  
Dulac, director. Featuring "A Ceremony of  
Carols" by Benjamin Britten.

**February 1**

**4:00PM**

St. Paul's Church, Dwight Rd., Springfield  
A celebration of the 40th anniversary of the  
dedication of the Casavant organ. Recital by  
chapter members Jackie Johnson (current  
organist), Edith Gilbertson, and Michael  
Dulac

**February 8, 2004**

**4:00PM**

St. Joseph's Church, Howard St., Springfield  
Members' Recital on the Theodore Gilbert  
organ.

**February 29**

**3:30PM**

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
*Music at First* presents New England Winds  
(wind quintet) of the United States Air Force.

**March 7**

**3:00PM**

First Church Amherst, 165 Main St., Amherst  
Danny Holt, pianist, part of the new *Music on  
Main Concert Series*. Admission.

**March 15**

**6:00PM**

Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield  
Annual Pastor/Organist Dinner with keynote  
speaker, Horace Boyer.

**March 21**

**3:30PM**

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
*Music at First* presents The University of  
Connecticut Concert Choir, Peter Bagley,  
conductor.

**April 4**

**4:00PM**

St. Paul's Church, Dwight Rd., Springfield  
Part of the church's Ecumenical Vespers  
Series, featuring Schola Nova, Michael Dulac,  
director, and organist, Edith Gilbertson.

**April 25**

**3:00PM**

First Church Amherst, 165 Main St., Amherst  
Honest Harmony A Cappella Vocal Quartet.  
part of the new *Music on Main Concert Series*.  
Admission.

**3:30PM**

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
*Music at First* presents The Long Piano Duo  
with Christina and Beatrice Long.

**April 30**

**7:30PM**

St. Michael's Cathedral, State St., Springfield  
75th Anniversary of the Cathedral Organ,  
featuring well-known recitalist and National  
President of the AGO, Fred Swann.

**May 16**

**3:00PM**

Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral,  
Springfield  
Featuring several area choirs under the  
direction of Bruce McInnes.

**June 7**

**6:00PM**

Faculty Club, University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst  
In addition to dinner, there will be a tour of  
the "new" Bezanson Recital Hall, and a visit to  
the Oberlinger pipe organ in room 36 of the  
UMass Fine Arts Center.