

Chiff Chat

DECEMBER, 2013

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

It does not seem possible that Thanksgiving is this coming week. I want to wish you and your family a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. I received some sad news when I returned home from visiting our daughter and her family in Maryland; it was the passing of Jackie Johnson, a very faithful member of our chapter. I had spoken with Jackie at the reception following the Tuesday Morning Music Club meeting on November 5. Jackie was always willing to help whenever she could and we will miss her. She loved playing at St. Paul the Apostle church in Springfield and they will also miss her. Mostly, she will be missed by her family and friends. We extend our most sincere sympathy to them.

I want to thank Martha Sienkiewicz for hosting the Pastor/Organist Dinner on the 4th of November. I also want to thank the members of the Grace Lutheran Church for putting on the dinner and for allowing us to have this event at their church. The guest speaker for this event was Martin Jean who is the Director at Yale Institute of Sacred Music. It was a very informative program.

The next program that your chapter has planned for you is a DVD Presentation – "Pulling Out All the

Stops", it will take place on January 12, 2014 at 3 pm. at United Congregational Church. If you have piano or organ students, please bring them to this event to view a very informative DVD.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 1, for "Pedals, Pipes, Pizza, and Introducing Students to the Organ. It will take place at the South Congregational Church, Amherst at 10 am.

As Church Musicians, one of our busiest seasons is now approaching and I look forward to seeing you at some of the many Holiday Concerts. I want to wish you and your family a very blessed holiday.

Donald Hooton, Dean

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Springfield Chapter American Guild of Organists.



CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dean – Donald Hooton
Sub-dean – Quentin Faulkner
Treasurer – Jim Barnes
Secretary – Charles Marshall

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Bailey
Lori Bourret
Elizabeth Dawson
Joe Geehern
John Karalekas
Mary Jeanne Tash

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*Next Chapter Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 7th, 2014 – 7:00pm
United Congregational Church, Holyoke*

PASTOR/ORGANIST DINNER

MONDAY, NOV. 4TH, 2013



(Photos by Mary Jeanne Tash)

Our Pastor/Organist dinner was a great success this year. The guest presenter was Martin Jean, head of the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. Twenty-eight chapter members and clergy attended. Martin Jean's presentation was titled "Sounding out God: Hearing music theologically."

The event was hosted and by Grace Lutheran Church in West Springfield. Attendees were treated to a delicious ham dinner with mashed potatoes,

corn, salad, and pumpkin pie. A special thank you to Martha Sienkiewicz for her work as host and for organizing a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, engaging discussion, and friendly conversation.

Our annual Pastor/Organist dinner is one of the staples of our programming year. We hope that you will join us next year!

-Scott Bailey, CAGO

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December Events

6 Fri. at 7:00pm

St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble will perform a concert of sacred music and Russian folk songs. Faith United Methodist Church, 191 Montcalm St. Chicopee MA. *Free will offering will be collected.* Refreshments will follow the performance.

7 Sat. at 4:00pm

Novi Cantori will perform at the annual Carol Festival held at the First Congregational Church in Westfield, MA.

7 Sat. at 7:30pm

Children's Chorus of Springfield sings a Jerry Noble holiday medley at the Springfield Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Pops concert.

8 Sun. at 2:30pm

Trinity Chamber Singers, Handbell Choir, and Chamberettes will perform in a Christmas Concert "Sing with the Angels" at Providence Place Chapel, Gamelin Street, Holyoke.

8 Sun. at 3:00pm

Thomas Pousont will present an organ recital commemorating his 10th Anniversary as Organist and Director of Music at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA, and the 10th Anniversary of the installation of the Richards, Fowkes tracker organ, Opus 13. There is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door with a reception following in the Caswell Library at Deerfield Academy.

14 Sat. at 3:00pm

Novi Cantori will perform at the Old Meetinghouse, 683 Main Rd., Granville, MA.

15 Sun. at 2:00pm

Experience Music at United Congregational Church in Holyoke presents the Holyoke High School Choirs directed by Mark Todd. Suggested donation of \$10, \$5 for students and senior citizens.

www.uccholyoke.org/concerts

15 Sun. at 3:00pm

Trinity Chamber Singers, Handbell Choir, and Chamberettes will perform in a Christmas Concert "Sing with the Angels" at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

15 Sun. at 4:00pm

Novi Cantori will perform at South Congregational Church, 45 Maple St., Springfield, MA. A freewill offering will be accepted to help benefit the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity.

22 Sun. at 4:00pm

The St. Mary's (Westfield) Adult Choir will present their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols Service in the Upper Church. All are welcome. Free admission.

January Events

10 Friday at 7:30pm

Boar's Head Festival, Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, MA. Tickets \$25 for adults, \$15 for children, \$10 for Transept seating, (limited view). For tickets call: 413-733-4759

11 Sat. at 3:00pm and 7:30pm

Boar's Head Festival, Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, MA. Tickets \$25 for adults, \$15 for children, \$10 for Transept seating, (limited view). For tickets call: 413-733-4759

12 Sun. at 3:00pm and 7:30pm

Boar's Head Festival, Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, MA. Tickets \$25 for adults, \$15 for children, \$10 for Transept seating, (limited view). For tickets call: 413-733-4759



Visit our website!!!
www.springfieldago.org

SHOW YOUR HEART CONCERT



The finale from the "Show your Heart Concert" at St. Michael's Cathedral on Nov. 9th, 2013. Proceeds went to the Open Pantry in Springfield. AGO members included: Lad Pfeifer (coordinated the event), Charles Marshall, and Joe Geehern.

Groups present: St. Michael's Cathedral of Boys and Adults, Spectrum from Pioneer Valley Performing High School, Bay Path Chorale and Page Singers and the Greater Westfield Choral Association.

-Photo by Mary Jeanne Tash

MORE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

What is the most important and worthwhile single goal that the Springfield Chapter should strive to accomplish, in your view?

1. Organist's education or training, create e-mail group, chat group, to discuss issues on going all the time.
2. Increase membership in AGO Organ Academy, perhaps increase current subsidy, if applicable, to help support student organists.

What has the Springfield Chapter failed to do that it should have done, in the last several years?

1. Identify Catholic and Evangelical keyboard musicians and organize them into one or two sub groups so they know each other. They would come to events just to meet face to face.
2. Utilize AGO Organ Academy to fullest potential, with current or future students.

Don't forget to take the membership survey. Go to Page 7 in this issue or visit www.springfieldago.org and click on the link for the survey.

JOB POSTINGS

Immanuel Lutheran Church Amherst, MA

Part-time position starting in January, 2014. Duties include directing the adult choir, participating on the Worship Committee, planning services in cooperation with the pastor and organist, recruiting choir members and other musicians, maintaining the music library, and supporting other musical activities of the congregation. Immanuel has a very active and well-supported music program. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. Please send cover letter and resume to Choir Director Search Committee, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 867 North Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002, or email immanuelamherstaff@gmail.com. For more information about the church and the music program, see the website www.immanuel-amherst.org or call Anne or Bob Weaver, 413-367-2846.

* * * * *

A small but enthusiastic Episcopalian parish is searching for an organist to lead them in song and praise. Hymns taken from the 1982 Episcopalian Hymnal. No Choir. One service a week: Sunday 9:00am. No music during July and August. Church located in East Springfield. A Hammond organ (presets and drawbars) recently maintained and in excellent condition. Must be able to "read" music and not rely on chord playing. Present organist retiring 12/29/13.

Send resume to: Helen O. McDonald, P.O. Box 287, 2 Mason Street, Palmer, MA 01069-0287. Phone: 413-289-0166

REMEMBERING JACKIE

Jackie was a long-time Associate Member of The Tuesday Morning Music Club. She was a loyal and active member on many committees especially that of the office of Treasurer for a number of years. Her attention to detail in her work was always commended, but it was her warm and generous personality that endeared her to all. Jackie was always interested in attending organ concerts presented by her colleagues or supporting The Brick Church Music Series at The First Church of Deerfield whenever there were organists featured. Many will miss her presence at musical gatherings.

*-Jean Pitman Turner
(member of TMMC,
AGO/Springfield, Artistic Director
of BCMS)*



*Jackie Johnson
January 19th, 1939 -
November 8th, 2013*

Two things about Jackie stand out for me: 1) her warm friendliness, and 2) the fact that a few years ago, when asked to play in a Members' Recital, she very much wanted to, but upon reflection decided that her finger dexterity wasn't what it had been. Both things were impressive: that she had the self-confidence to want to perform, but the self-observation to decline. Rest in peace, Jackie.

-Karen Banta

Jackie was a kind woman who was totally devoted to God and her music. She will be sorely missed. May her soul, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

-Joe Geehern

ANTHEM READING SESSION ADDITION

The anthem by William Pasch and Bob Weaver that was presented and given out at the anthem reading session in October was actually "What Can It Mean That Jesus Is Arisen" - published by Augsburg Fortress, (Not "To the Everlasting Hills" published by Morning Star, as was mentioned in the Dean's Message.) Bob was kind enough to offer some extra background information about the piece.

"What can it Mean That Jesus Is Arisen," published last year by Augsburg Fortress, is especially appropriate for the Easter season as it speaks of followers of Jesus finding the empty tomb, it's meaning for them, and it's meaning for us today.

Information on this anthem can be found at <http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/18119/What-Can-It-Mean-That-Jesus-Is-Arisen>.

The hymn on which this anthem is based is available for free download at <http://www.lutheranforum.org/hymns/what-can-it-mean-that-jesus-is-arisen>.

This is a second collaboration by Bill Pasch (of Atlanta) and (our local) Bob Weaver following the final hymn /anthem sung last April at the Springfield Chapter AGO's hymn festival at Trinity United Methodist in Springfield.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Class	2013/2014	2012/2013	2011/2012	2010/2011	2009/2010
Friend	23	24	19	25	24
Dual	8	9	9	13	10
Partner	3	3	3	2	3
Regular	40	44	37	51	51
Special	22	24	24	32	31
Student	4	5	4	4	11
Totals	100	109	96	127	130

THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA

presents

“THE BRICK CHURCH” MUSIC SERIES

with

THOMAS POUSONT, *organ*



Richards, Fowkes, Opus 13



playing: Bach, Ligeti, Mendelssohn, and Muffat

Celebrating his tenth year as Organist and Director of Music

at The First Church of Deerfield

Sunday, December 8, 2013, 3:00 p.m.

Suggested donation \$10.00 Reception following concert

Information: 413-774-2657

Novi Cantori
A choir of chamber singers
Ellen Gilson Voth, Director

Presents

Journeys: Choral Sounds of Christmas



Sat., December 7
4:00 pm
Carol festival at
First Congregational
Church, Westfield

Sat., December 14
3:00 pm
Granville Meetinghouse,
Granville

Sun., December 15
4:00 pm
South Congregational
Church,
Springfield

 www.novicantori.org

Concert supporting the
Greater Springfield
Habitat for Humanity

**Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Membership Survey, 2013 - 2014**

1. Please rate the following program topics according to your own professional interests on a scale of 1-5 (5 being the most appropriate, 1 being the least appropriate).

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ recitals by guest artists | _____ organ and instruments programs |
| _____ recitals by chapter members | _____ choral music reading/workshops |
| _____ Guild service | _____ choral concerts |
| _____ organ playing/repertory workshops | _____ professional development programs |
| _____ organ building and design programs | |

2. Please rate the following program topics according to your view of the needs of the community (scale as above).

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ recitals by guest artists | _____ organ and instruments programs |
| _____ recitals by chapter members | _____ choral music reading/workshops |
| _____ Guild service | _____ choral concerts |
| _____ organ playing/repertory workshops | _____ professional development programs |
| _____ organ building and design programs | |

3. What evening is best for you to attend Chapter events? _____
What evening is worst for you to attend? _____

4. What is the most important and worthwhile single goal that the Springfield Chapter should strive to accomplish, in your view?

5. What has the Springfield Chapter failed to do that it should have done in the last several years?

6. Are you currently a member of the Springfield Chapter, AGO? _____ Yes _____ No

Optional

Name: _____

Age (circle one): < 18 18 - 35 35 - 50 50 - 65 65 - 80 80+

Are you currently a church musician? _____ Yes _____ No

*This survey can also be found on the home page at our website www.springfieldago.org.
(password = springfieldago)*

You can send this form to: Scott Bailey, 50 Woodbridge Ln. Westfield, MA 01085.

Chiff Chat Newsletter

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Celebrating 64 years as a chapter.

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email Scott Bailey at sbailey@westfield.ma.edu. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org

**Next chapter event: DVD Presentation:
Pulling Out All the Stops
Sunday Jan. 12th, 2014, 3:00pm,
United Congregational Church, 300 Appleton St. Holyoke, MA**

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this we:

*Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
Nurture future generations of organists;
Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.*

Chiff Chat
American Guild of Organists
Springfield, MA Chapter
Scott Bailey, newsletter editor
50 Woodbridge Ln.
Westfield, MA 01085