

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts
Chapter

American Guild of Organists

December 2009/January 2010



A Note from the Editor...

Dean Grant Moss has graciously given up his space this month to allow me to say a few words. Well, he didn't actually put up much of a fight, claiming for some reason that he is busy with professional matters at this time of year. Go figure.

I read with interest the article by Haig Mardirosian on page 50 of the December issue of *The American Organist*. He commented on the demise of the era of print journalism and the takeover of electronic news media, which contrasts with the durability of trade journals like TAO and others like it. His point is that those of us who read TAO are already passionate to varying degrees about the subject matter. The article is worth a look.

Coincidentally, there was an article in the ACDA Choral Journal this month about new ways younger generations are exchanging information. The author, Philip Copeland, avoided the temptation to lament an impending apocalypse thanks to the internet, cell phones, Ipods, blogs, PDAs, and all those other innovations we aging baby boomers seem to find so intrusive to our sensibilities. (Don't try and deny it – a quick scan of the Springfield chapter directory confirmed for me that most of us are indeed aging baby boomers.) Anyway, Mr. Copeland chose instead to instruct in this article, showing that modern means of communication are actually extremely useful to us as music directors, even those of us who think we are too old to learn new technology.

So if TAO as the national trade magazine gives us what we need to know what is going on in our business globally, what should we expect from Chiff Chat as a chapter periodical? And what does that word *periodical* mean anymore? Is it a collection of papers with information that starts becoming obsolete the minute it leaves the printer, or, through electronic media, is it something that can be updated much more frequently with more comprehensive content. Think of our website, www.springfieldago.org. Much of what is printed in Chiff Chat is or can be posted on the site, including a PDF copy of the newsletter itself. But wait, doesn't it follow then, that the site itself would be the newsletter? Imagine job postings going public as soon as they come up and an entire year of concert and event listings available to you with the ability to change and correct misinformation quickly. This isn't something new I'm proposing; it has been happening for years.

Okay, I am old enough that I will miss traditional newspapers when they finally go the way of the typewriter, but I am also aware that the generations coming after us are not waiting around for us to move forward. We can have more young people in our profession and in our guild chapters, but I encourage you to read the two articles mentioned in this column. If we truly believe we want to pass on a legacy to younger generations, is it not time to learn how to meet them halfway, at least?

Larry Picard

Springfield Chapter Leadership

Dean	Grant Moss
Sub Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
Secretary	Mary Jeanne Tash
Treasurer	James Barnes
Directors	Karen Banta, Barbara Boudo, Quentin Faulkner, Don Hooton, Mark Jacobson, Larry Picard
Chaplain	Fr. William Wallis
Education	Martha Sienkiewicz, Don Hooton
Membership	Karen Banta
Chiff Chat Editor	Larry Picard
Yearbook Editor	Peter Beardsley
Investments	Charles Page, E Lary Grossman, William Czelusniak, James Barnes

Chapter Events 2009-2010

February 13 (Saturday) 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield, **Mini-convention**, with workshops, publisher's reps., music giveaway and lunch. See insert for more info and registration.

March 13 (Saturday) 10:00 AM at the Brick Church in Old Deerfield, **Organ Master Class with Stephen Hamilton**.

March 21 (Sunday) 4:00 PM, **Members' Recital** at St. Patrick's, Monson, reception to follow.

April 24 (Saturday) 7:00 PM, **Peter Krasinski accompanies the silent movie "For Heaven's Sake"** at United Congregational Church of Holyoke.

June 7 (Monday) 6:30 PM at St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield, **Annual Banquet**.

Substitute update...Lori Bourret writes "There's another substitute Organist/Choir Director available on Sundays (me)! I am no longer the Music Director of Poquonock Community Church, Congregational. Please update your directories/substitute list. Thanks!"

A correction to the October issue...

Hedley Yost writes, in response to last month's article on John Cheney, that the 1868 Johnson organ at the Church on the Hill in Lenox is actually not the oldest Johnson still in service. Hedley regularly plays services on an 1860 Johnson, opus 95, in St. John's Episcopal Church in Ashfield. He says there is also an 1851 Johnson at United Church in Heath, currently being restored.

And an apology from the editor...

When I began work on the November issue I discovered that very little had been submitted and I didn't have enough material to fill even three pages. After a quick consultation with Dean Grant we decided to forgo a November issue. My apologies to those of you who had event listings for November. You will note that this issue covers December and January, so send in those articles of interest for February by Jan. 20!

Upcoming Events

December 2009

Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents the annual Holiday concert at Trinity Methodist Church, Sumner Avenue, Springfield. Music of Gabrielli, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and others will be played the Epic Brass Quintet and Becky Isaacson, organist. Free admission.

Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 2 p.m.

The Holyoke High School Choirs perform at United Congregational Church, Holyoke. www.uccholyoke.org.

Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Novi Cantori, directed by Allan Taylor, sings at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, Chicopee. <http://www.novicantori.org>

Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Novi Cantori sings at the Family Carol Festival, First Congregational Church, Westfield. www.novicantori.org

Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, State St., Springfield: The service of Lessons & Carols will be presented by the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults, with strings, organ, classical guitar, and hand bells. The program will include music by Elgar, Gassmann, Willcocks and others. Festive reception to follow. www.diospringfield.org.

Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Christmas with Novi Cantori at the Old Meeting House, Granville. www.novicantori.org

Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Schola Nova presents "Once in Royal David's City," a program of Lessons and Carols including carol arrangements and choral masterworks. Immaculate Conception Parish, Easthampton. www.scholanova.org

Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 4 p.m. A festival of nine lessons and carols will take place at South Church, 90 Main Street, New Britain, CT. Richard Coffey directs with David Westfall at the organ. www.southchurch.org.

January 2010

Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Schola Nova presents "Once in Royal David's City," a program of Lessons and Carols including carol arrangements and choral masterworks. South Congregational Church UCC, 45 Maple Street, Springfield. Free-will offering. www.scholanova.org.

Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Schola Nova presents "Once in Royal David's City," a program of Lessons and Carols including carol arrangements and choral masterworks. Church in the Acres, 1383 Wilbraham Road, Springfield. Free-will offering. www.scholanova.org.

The next **Carlene Neihart International Pipe Organ Competition** will be held on April 10, 2010 in Kansas City, Missouri at the Second Presbyterian Church. **Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc.** will underwrite the 1st place award (\$2500) and the second place award (\$1500) is sponsored by **Casavant Freres and Caroll Hanson**. The third place award is \$1000. The web site organcompetitions.com has more information.

Looking for memories...

Nancy Osborne, former student of Claire Coci, is researching her career in hopes of compiling a book to honor her life & legacy. She seeks photos, articles, programs, and other memories from colleagues, students, acquaintances, friends & family. Please contact: Nancy Osborne 119 Hadley Road South Burlington, VT 05403 802.863.0086 vermontgang@comcast.net

CHIFF CHAT

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

Larry Picard, Newsletter Editor

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Chiff Chat Newsletter

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Celebrating 62 Years as a chapter!**

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email newsletter@agospringfield.org. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month.

Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org!

*Next Chapter Event - Mini-Convention at St. Michael's
Cathedral, Springfield - Saturday, February 13 at 9 a.m.*