

# CHIEF CHAT



The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists

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*Chiff Chat* is published September through June. Closing dates are the 15th of the preceding month for Articles and Calendar/News Items, respectively. Please send material electronically, if possible, to: [mdulac@crocker.com](mailto:mdulac@crocker.com). Our website is: [www.springfielddago.org](http://www.springfielddago.org).

## ANTHEM READING SESSION AT ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL

Lad Pfeifer and Christine Sylvain of the Springfield Diocese Office of Worship are hosting our biennial Anthem Read at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral at 245 State Street, Springfield Mass. We will gather on Monday, February 28, 2005 at 7 p.m. in the Bishop Marshall Center (accessible directly from the parking lot behind the Church) for desserts, coffee, and socializing. At around 7:30 p.m. we will move to the St. Augustine Chapel for the Anthem Read. In addition to Chapter members, choir members and friends are invited

and encouraged to join in the fun. If you are planning on attending and want to bring an anthem for us to read through, please bring as many copies as you have available and be prepared to say a few words about it and accompany the "choir" (that is, all of us!) on the piano. This event has been very enjoyable in the past and we have all left with one or two new anthems to try. Please R.S.V.P. to Martha Sienkiewicz, the chairperson, at (413-568-8033 or [marthas@fastmail.fm](mailto:marthas@fastmail.fm)) especially if you are bringing an anthem(s).

### From the west

Take I-90 (Mass Pike) east to Exit 4 (West Springfield). Off exit follow signs for I-91 south. Take I-91 south into downtown Springfield, exit at Columbus Avenue (Springfield Center). At the lights take a left onto Boland Way. When you come to the third set of lights, take a right onto Dwight St. Just past the Civic Center parking garage take a left onto State Street. Springfield City Library will be on your left. Just past the library is St. Michael's Cathedral. Take the next left onto Elliot Street. Parking for the Cathedral is on the left.

### From the east

Take I-90 (Mass Pike) east to Exit 6 (Springfield). Off exit follow signs for I-291 west. Stay on I-291 almost to the end. Just as I-291 splits follow to the left and exit immediately on Dwight Street. Take a left on Dwight Street and follow through downtown Springfield. Just past the Civic Center parking garage take a left onto State Street. Springfield City Library will be on your left. Just past the library is St. Michael's Cathedral. Take the next left onto Elliot Street. Parking for the Cathedral is on the left.

### From the north

Take I-91 south into downtown Springfield, exit at Columbus Avenue (Springfield Center). At the lights take a left onto Boland Way. When you come to the third set of lights, take a right onto Dwight St. Just past the Civic Center parking garage take a left onto State Street. Springfield City Library will be on your left. Just past the library is St. Michael's Cathedral. Take the next left onto Elliot Street. Parking for the Cathedral is on the left.

### From the south

Take I-91 north into Springfield. Take exit 3 at Columbus Avenue. Follow through 3 sets of lights. At 4th set of lights, take a right onto State Street. Continue through 3 sets of lights. Cathedral will be on left a few hundred yards past the intersection. Take the next left onto Elliot Street. Parking for the Cathedral is on the left.

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# (Sub) Dean's Message – February 2005

## *Fond greetings to my friends and colleagues!*

Between New England weather (or at least the *forecasted* weather) and the early date for Easter this year, our winter seems like a whirlwind. I look at the calendar, see Holy Week ahead, and wonder what happened to Christmas and New Year!

Our last scheduled Chapter event was the **Mini-convention** on November 20, 2004 at United Congregational Church in Holyoke. Our deepest gratitude goes to Professor Charles Krigbaum who was available on very short notice as the replacement for an ailing Dr. Robert Baker (who subsequently died). Many thanks go to Board member Don Hooten (chair) and his committee, and presenters Arlene Howes, Becky Isaacson, Edwin Lawrence, Mike Gilman, Charles Page, Peter Beardsley, Rod Gissick and others who made this a successful and informative conference.

As planned, the Chapter took a break from programming in December and January, and now we embark on the remaining events of our year. Next Monday, February 28, 2005, we will gather at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Cathedral for an **Anthem Read**. This

event, hosted by past Dean Lad Pfeiffer and Christine Sylvain (both of the Diocesan *Office of Worship*) and chaired by Board member Martha Sienkiewicz, begins at 7 p.m. at the Bishop Marshall Center (located behind the Cathedral) with a coffee and dessert reception. Then we will move to the St. Augustine Chapel for the Anthem Read. Presenters will distribute copies of their anthem(s), say a few words, and then accompany us (the "choir") in a read-through. All members, their choir members, and friends are invited. It has been a very enjoyable event in the past with most of us leaving with one or two new anthems for our choirs. Directions to the Cathedral are elsewhere in this newsletter. Please call Martha (413-568-8033) if you need further information.

In April we will welcome organist **Ken Cowan** to Abbey Chapel at Mount Holyoke College for a concert on Friday, April 8, 2005 at 8 p.m. and a Masterclass on Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 10 a.m. We have enclosed a flyer with this newsletter for your review and posting. The Chapter and the Music Department of Mount Holyoke College are co-sponsoring these free events. Please keep these dates open and look for additional infor-

mation in the next newsletter. Contact Charles Page (860-749-7829) if you have any interest in playing in the Masterclass.

The approach of spring brings also our **annual election**. The Board at its February meeting appointed the nominating committee chaired by Barbara Huber. It has begun the process to develop a slate of candidates for various Board openings. If you are interested in serving the Chapter in a leadership role, please contact Barbara (413-525-6142). Likewise, if a member of the committee calls you, please consider giving your time and talents to the Chapters operation.

As usual, the newsletter's calendar is full of area musical events involving our membership. Please make an extra effort to attend and support our colleagues.

May the blessings of the season be upon us all!

E Lary Grossman  
Sub Dean

## BOOK REVIEW: THE ALTO WORE TWEED

*A Liturgical Mystery by Mark Schweizer*

If you're familiar with the St. James Music Press ([www.sjmp.com](http://www.sjmp.com)), you already know about Mark Schweizer's hilarious book. If you're a fan of Garrison Keillor, you'll recognize traces of *Guy Noir*, *Private Eye* in this genre. If you're of a certain age, then you'll recognize Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammet as the butts of Schweizer's good-natured spoof.

"I pulled my fedora low over my eyes and a sneer played across my lips as I opened the hymnal looking for an old favorite containing sound theological doctrine. They were there, all right. A few of them, but they were hard to spot. Lurking in dark Bach chorales, hiding inside dimly lit Renaissance carols, stashed neatly away in the Old Scottish Psalter. It was my job to ferret them out. Sometimes, I thought to myself, it pays to be a professional."

"She was lying like Ted Koppel's hairpiece."

There is, in addition to the church music setting and the string of clues, a healthy dose of literary slapstick.

"The bagpipe version of *Frosty the Snowman* caused the camel (an adolescent last year but now a full-grown bull) to look around the stable and try to find just what or who was bellowing the mating call of the dromedary."

Our Hero is a part-time organist/choirmaster with a degree in criminal justice who moonlights as the local police detective.

"There's a body in the choir loft. So what else is new?"



PRAISE FOR  
**THE ALTO WORE TWEED**

"Although Schweizer uses words the way a demented dentist might use a dull and rusty drill, his punctuation is extraordinary!"

*Sandy Cavanah, English Professor*

"I believe that with correct and careful treatment, Dr. Schweizer could eventually become a productive member of society."

*Lynn Askew, Registered Nurse*

"Like *Mitford* meets *Jurassic Park* only without the wisteria and the dinosaurs."

*Martha Hatteberg, Alto*

"How did you get this number? I'm calling the police!"

*John Rutter, Orthodontist  
Great Falls, Montana*

# JOB LISTINGS

## Organist

St. Aloysius Church  
58 Church St., Gilbertville, MA 01031  
Description: Organist for 1 Saturday evening Mass and Holy Days (Christmas, Easter, Good Friday, etc.) BM or BA required; Hook&Hastings organ - newly restored and revoiced  
Salary: \$100-125 per service  
Contact: Fr. Paul La Palme  
413-477-6493

## Organist/Choir Director

Second Congregational Church of Stafford, 197 West Stafford Rd., Stafford Springs, CT 06076  
Description: 1 Adult Choir (6 members); minimal experience required; 5-7 hours work weekly; Hammond organ  
Salary: \$6859.93  
Contact: Sheila Hoefle, 860-872-8837

## Organist/Choir Director

Somersville Congregational Church  
Somersville, CT 06072  
Description: 1 Adult Choir, Children's Choir to be developed; 10 hours per week; new Allen Organ  
Contact: Church Office:  
860-749-7741  
E-mail: somcong@aol.com  
Fax resume to: 860-749-5132

## Organist/Choir Director

Congregational Church of South Hadley Falls, 11 North Main St., South Hadley, MA 01075  
Description: 1 Adult Choir, BM or BA required, 14 hours per week. Organ: 1984 Rodgers  
Salary: \$8500  
Contact: Laurie Novak 413-736-2919

## Organist/Choir Director

South Church, Pittsfield, MA  
Description: Adult Choir (14 members), Church School Choir, Handbell Choir. Organ: 3-manual Estey, rebuilt by Berkshire in the 1970's. Two Steinway pianos in good condition — 1 in church, 1 in choir room. Music budget and Special Music Fund for hiring instrumentalists and to support special projects.  
Contact: Rev. Joel Huntington  
(413) 442-7357 (church)  
Christine Noble (chair)  
(413) 655-2249

## Organist/Choir Director

United Church of Christ, 23 Central Sq., Keene, NH 03431  
Description: Adult Choir, Children's Choir, 2 Handbell Choirs; 30 hours weekly; 4 weeks vacation; Medical insurance, annuity; Berkshire/Gilbert Organ  
Salary: \$22,000 - 26,000  
Contact: Dan Harris  
email: danielharris@allstate.com  
603-357-7000 (day)  
603-352-1360 (night)  
603-352-9412 (fax)

## Tenor/Bass Section Leaders

United Congregational Church, High & Appleton Sts., Holyoke, MA  
Description: Service at 10:30 on Sunday, rehearsal at 7:30 on Thursday.  
Salary: \$25 for rehearsal and \$25 for the service.  
Contact: Michael Gilman at the church office, 413-532-1483, or by e-mail: asbestos103@yahoo.com

To list a position in the *Chiff Chat*, please contact Becky Isaacson either by phone at (413) 734-1623 or e-mail her: beckyisaacson@aol.com

# CALENDAR

Springfield AGO Chapter events are enclosed within a box. In addition, chapter events are on the website with links as appropriate to the venue, performer, etc. In some cases, the venue may even have directions available on their website. If you wish to have an event listed in the *Chiff Chat*, please e-mail me at mdulac@crocker.com

## February 27

**7:00pm**  
Greenfield Methodist Church, Greenfield, MA  
Choir Festival

## February 28

**7:00pm**  
St. Michael's Cathedral, State St., Springfield  
Anthem Reading Session

## March 1

**10:30am**  
Tuesday Morning Music Club, First Congregational Church, Westfield  
Performance with Allen Taylor, Sonja Funk-Olin, soprano, and Devon Bakum, soprano.  
Admission free.

## March 6

**3:00pm**  
First Congregational Church, 165 Main St., Amherst  
Music on Main presents Univ. of Mass. Choirs, E. Wayne Abercrombie, conductor, Rodney Gisick, organist, in Kodaly's 'Missa Brevis' and other works. Tickets \$10 for piano rebuilding fund.

## 3:00 pm

The First Church of Deerfield, Old Deerfield, MA  
Organ Concert Series featuring Michael Nix, classical guitar, banjar (classical sevenstring banjo), mandolin, with the NixWorks Ensemble (Charlie Moser, mandolin, bass, Chris Devine, violin, mandolin, Greg Sedeker, cello, and Tom Pousont, organ. Suggested donation \$10.00.

## March 8

**7:30pm**  
Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield  
The Choir of WAGNER COLLEGE  
Staten Island, New York City  
Dr. Roger Wesby, Director

## March 9

**7:00**  
Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield  
The Choirs & Orchestra of  
LONGMEADOW HIGH SCHOOL  
Kayla Werlin, Director  
featuring the Vivaldi GLORIA

## March 13

**3:30pm**  
Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
Music at First presents Catabile, a vocal octet.

## March 20

**6:00 pm**  
First Congregational Church, Manchester, NH  
"Jesus and the City" an original musical score by Kenneth Grinnell and Rev. Christopher Emerson. Reserved seats by calling Barbara Yacek, at 603-625-5093. No charge although a donation of \$10 is suggested..

**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**

**March 22**

**7:00 pm**

First Congregational Church, Manchester, NH  
"Jesus and the City"

**March 25**

**8:00 pm**

First Congregational Church, Manchester, NH  
"Jesus and the City"

**9:00pm**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,  
Longmeadow St., Longmeadow, MA  
A Service of Tenebræ with the musicians of  
Schola Nova, including works of Gibbons,  
diLasso, Powell, Schütz, Sumsion, others

**March 29**

**7:30 pm**

Porter Lake Keyboard Konzert  
245 Porter Lake Drive, Springfield  
Danny Holt, piano; Admission \$10,  
\$9.00 with a non-perishable item for the  
Food Bank. Tickets at the door.

**April 8**

8:00pm

Abbey Chapel, Mount Holyoke College,  
South Hadley  
Ken Cowan in Recital

**April 9**

10:00am

Abbey Chapel, Mount Holyoke College,  
South Hadley  
Masterclass with Ken Cowan

**April 24**

**3:30pm**

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield  
Music at First presents the Schrade/James  
Family Pianists

**April 29**

**7:30 pm**

The First Church of Deerfield, Old Deerfield, MA  
Organ Concert Series featuring Michael  
Dulac, organ, with Robert Howe, oboe and  
English horn. Suggested donation \$10.00.

**June 3**

6:30pm

Storrowton Tavern, Exposition Grounds, West  
Springfield  
Springfield AGO Chapter Annual Banquet