

# Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter  
American Guild of Organists  
February 2013



[A message from the Dean...](#)

Greetings,

I want to wish all our members a very Happy Valentine's Day. This is a busy month, starting with our Choral Reading Session. The presenter is our Sub Dean, Quentin Faulkner. He will be introducing us to anthems that can be used for small choirs. The host for this event is James Maes who is the organist/choir director at the First Congregational Church in West Springfield, MA, where we are holding the Choral Reading Session. The date of this event is Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, the arrival time is 9 am and it will end at 12 noon.

February 13<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday, starts the busy season of lent which ends on Easter, March 31<sup>st</sup>, unless you are Orthodox. For the Orthodox, Easter begins on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March and their Easter is May 5<sup>th</sup>, Cinco de Mayo, which is also a special day for many other people. Our Jewish friends will be celebrating Passover beginning the evening of March 25<sup>th</sup> and continuing through the evening of April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Merrimack Valley AGO Chapter will be holding its 15<sup>th</sup> "Mini-Convention" on February 23. The Mini-Convention will be held at First Calvary Baptist Church in North Andover. Coffee and Registration runs from 8:30 to 9 am. If you have questions or wish more information, please call or e-mail Barbara Owen (978-465-2068; [owenbar@juno.com](mailto:owenbar@juno.com)) or Ruth Bowers (978-922-8137; [Ruth.Bowers@comcast.net](mailto:Ruth.Bowers@comcast.net)).

Please mark March 10<sup>th</sup> on your calendar as that is when we are co-sponsoring a Major Concert with "The Brick Church" music series in Deerfield, Ma. The organist is Christopher Houlihan and the concert is at 3 O'clock.

On Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 O'clock, **"The Choral/Hymn Festival on the Apostle's Creed"** will take place at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield, MA. I have heard from several Choir Directors letting me know that they will have members participating in the festival. If you or some of your members are planning to attend would you please let me know so that

we will have an idea how large the choir will be? Any AGO members who are not presently singing in a choir, but would like to take part in this event, should please call or e-mail me soon (413-533-8412; [dehoot@verizon.net](mailto:dehoot@verizon.net)), and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Don Hooton

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CURRENT EVENTS

## *Choral and Hymn Festival on the Apostle's Creed*

This event is for all choir members in churches served by organists and choir directors in the Springfield Chapter.

*Sunday April 14, 2013, 4 pm.*

*Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, Ma.*

Ample Parking!

Becky Isaacson, Organist – Director to be announced

**Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>**, rehearsal 9 to 12

Warm up for the concert will be determined on Saturday

**Anthems for the Festival:** This information is also in the Dean's message.

For the Beauty of the Earth  
Gentle Mary Laid Her Child  
Lamb of God  
On the Third Day

John Rutter  
Joel Raney  
Mark Hayes  
Allen Pote

Hinshaw 245  
Hope C 5245  
Lorenz 10/3929L  
Hope F1000

Becky can supply copies of:

Salvation Is Created

Tschesnokoff

Hymn of Promise

JB Talley

A reception will follow.

This is a great opportunity for the small church choir to be a part of a larger choir to sing to the glory of God. If you are not singing in a choir at this time and want to be a part of this festival please call me so that you can be a part of this event. My email address is, [dehoot@verizon.net](mailto:dehoot@verizon.net) or phone no. is 533-8412.

Please let me know if your choir is going to be a part of this Choral and Hymn Festival and I will let you know how you get the music and cost. I need to know by **February 15, 2013**, if you or any of your church choir will be taking part in this festival.

### **BAY PATH COLLEGE CHORALE & PAGE SINGERS**

Area women are invited to join the Bay Path College Chorale and Page Singers in the premier of a new composition by New York-based composer, Rachel Peters. This piece will be included within Bay Path's April concert, *Prism: A Celebration of Women in the Arts*, centered around the college's annual theme, "Leading With Compassion." Established women's choral groups are welcome to perform a few selections of their choosing. All singers will need to attend a rehearsal for the new Rachel Peters piece on April 19 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. (Rehearsal MP3 files will be emailed to all participants.) Performance dates are April 20 at 8:00 PM and April 21 at 2:00. Singers may participate in one or both of these concerts. All events will be held in the Mills Theater at Bay Path College.

If interested please contact Michael Rheault at [mrheault@baypath.edu](mailto:mrheault@baypath.edu) for further information.

### **SHOW YOUR HEART BENEFIT CONCERT**

The fifth annual Show Your Heart Benefit Concert will be held on **Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.**, in St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield. Four diverse musical ensembles will be performing to raise money for Griffin's Friends, a local and not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to providing support to children with cancer under the auspices of Baystate Health Foundation.

Performing are ensembles from Bay Path College, The Greater Westfield Choral Association, Spectrum A Cappella from The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter School, and the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults.

There is a free will offering at the door with a suggested donation of \$10.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for students and seniors. Every dollar raised goes directly to the charity and benefits people in our community.

The Show Your Heart Concerts were started to raise awareness and resources for local grassroots charity organizations through the celebration of area musical talent. Every year a different organization is selected. Past recipients include Open Pantry, Head Start, The Gray House, and Hospice Care through the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA). Since the inception of this series \$4,940 dollars has been raised for the benefit of peoples lives in our area.

### GREATER WESTFIELD CHORAL ASSOCIATION

The Greater Westfield Choral Association, under the direction of Marc Winer, will present their 36th Annual Spring Concert on Sunday, **March 10, at 4:00 P.M.**, in the sanctuary of First Congregational Church, 18 Broad Street, Westfield. Major works this year are Mozart's Missa Brevis in D, and John Rutter's Te Deum. Admission is free; however a free will offering will be accepted.

### ORGAN CONCERTS at THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

**Sunday, March 10, 2013, 3:00 p.m.**, "The Brick Church" Music Series at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, will feature **CHRISTOPHER HOULIHAN**, organ, playing works by J. S Bach and Mendelssohn among others on tracker organ Opus 13 by Richards, Fowkes. Suggested donation \$10.00 with a reception following. This concert is co-sponsored by the American Guild of Organists/Springfield Chapter.

### SPRINGFIELD AGO CHAPTER MEETING

February's Springfield AGO Chapter meeting, Saturday, Feb. 9, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, will be a choral reading session, led by Quentin Faulkner. Some of the anthems to be introduced are not difficult, some are more challenging, but all of them are unison or two-part (either SA/TB or high/low voices), and can be sung successfully by small choirs. The meeting will be held at First Congregational Church, 20 Lathrop Street, West Springfield.

## SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 9, 2013 at 9:00AM**

First Congregational Church, 20 Lathrop Street, West Springfield. February's Springfield AGO Chapter meeting.

**FEBRUARY 9, 2013 at 7:30PM**

Cathedral of St. Michael, 254 State Street, Springfield. Show Your Heart Benefit Concert.

**FEBRUARY 10, 2013 at 4:00PM**

Joy of Music Concert Series at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 758 Main Street in Wilbraham, presents talented saxophonist Kendra Emery. The program will feature late 19th and early 20th century French music, including works by Milhaud and Ravel. These compositions show the deep influence of Spanish and South American music in France at the turn of the century. Come enjoy the beautiful French harmonies and exciting Latin rhythms of Samba, Merengue, Mambo and Habanera. Suggested donation is \$10 and refreshments will be served following the concert.

**FEBRUARY 10, 2013 at 2:00PM**

United Congregational Church of Holyoke, Maple Street, Holyoke, at the intersection of Appleton (Rt.141) and Maple Street. Please use the Maple Street entrances. The *Pioneer Valley Fiddlers* will be returning on February 10<sup>th</sup> with a snow date of **February 17<sup>th</sup>**. The Pioneer Valley Fiddlers were the inspiration of a Western Massachusetts health practitioner and fiddler, Chris Keenan, in 1992. Through her tireless efforts, this non-for-profit club has grown throughout the years to become an important part of the Pioneer Valley fiddle scene teaching and performing traditional New England fiddle tunes throughout the region.

**FEBRUARY 10, 2013 at 3:00PM**

Our Lady of the Valley, 33 Adams Street, Easthampton. Klaus Becker on the organ and music by: Bach, Gigout, Mendelssohn, Rheinberger, and Reger.

**FEBRUARY 24, 2013 at 3:00PM**

Saint Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow. A Lenten Meditation with Alice Matteson, soprano, and Klaus Becker on the piano, with music by Bach, Liszt, Piazzolla, Barber, Faure, and Durufle.

**MARCH 10, 2013 at 3:00PM**

The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield. Christopher Houlihan, organ.

**MARCH 10, 2013 at 4:00PM**

First Congregational Church, 18 Broad Street, in Westfield. The Greater Westfield Choral Association presents their 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Concert.

**CHIFF CHAT**

**American Guild of Organists**

**Springfield, MA Chapter**

Klaus Becker, Newsletter Editor

333 Shays Street

Amherst, MA 01002

*Chiff Chat Newsletter*

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
Celebrating 63 Years as a chapter!**

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email [kulanbe@gmail.com](mailto:kulanbe@gmail.com). Submissions are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Also, visit our website at [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)