

CHIEF CHAT

The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists

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MEMBERS GET ORGAN-IZED FOR FEBRUARY EVENT

One of the most enduringly popular events is the Members Recital. This February 8 at 4:00pm, you will have the opportunity to hear several colleagues play the Theodore Gilbert instrument in the spacious acoustics of St. Joseph's Church, Howard St., Springfield. Below are bios of the players, as well as their program selections. It promises to be a fun afternoon. Should our New England weather decide to play any tricks, the following Sunday (February 15) is our alternate date. In either case, the choir of St. Joseph's Church will host a reception in the downstairs hall following the event.

A resident of Springfield, Michael Dulac graduated from Westfield State College in 1975 with a BA in Theory & Composition, and from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1976 with an MM in Music Theory.

He has held organist or music director positions in several churches in the Springfield area and in San Diego. From 1983-1995 he was Music Director at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield. He then spent a year at Our Lady of Grace Parish in El Cajon, California. Returning to Springfield, he was Organist/Choirmaster at United Congregational Church in Holyoke from 1996-1999. He is currently organist at St. Joseph's Church, Howard St., Springfield.

Besides his activities as an organist, Michael is also the founder and director of Schola Nova, a 17-voice choral ensemble dedicated to the performance of sacred music. He was appointed Interim Director of the South Hadley Chorale in 1997, and Artistic Director the following year. Michael is an adjunct faculty member at Westfield State College, and also teaches privately in the Springfield area. He concertizes regularly, in the Pioneer Valley.

Selection: Partita on "Sei Gegrüsset, Jesu Gütig", BWV 768

Christopher Mark Houlihan is a junior year at Somers (Connecticut) High School and this past September he won first prize (high school division) in the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival/USA National Competition at First Church of Christ in Wethersfield.

Christopher is involved in a wide variety of musical activities. At the age of twelve he became choir organist at St. Mary's Parish in East Springfield, Massachusetts, serving there up until last January. From May 2001 to June 2002, he served as an organist and cantor for Holy Name of Jesus Church, also in Springfield. Currently, he serves as an organist at Sacred Heart Church in Springfield.

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DEAN'S MESSAGE — January 2004

HAPPY NEW YEAR! AND THANKS AGAIN...

On Saturday afternoon, December 13th, the Springfield Chapter presented a public Messiah Sing hosted by the First Congregational Church in South Hadley and its Organist, our Past-Dean Larry Schipull. We enjoyed the personable, spirited, and meticulous attention of Conductor Terry Larsen, and the excellent vocal solo work of Chapter member Suzanne Anderson, soprano; alto Lisa Woods of the Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus; and bass Horace Moody of Greenfield (who came afresh to this performance through Chapter member Jean Turner.) AGO Region I Councilor Lois Toepfner traveled from Westborough, Mass. to provide the organ accompaniment for this event. Thanks also go to Lary Grossman, Martha Sienkiewicz, and Jackie Johnson for all their hard work to make this event

occur so smoothly. The publicity for our Messiah Sing was abundant and well-placed.

Unfortunately, the overall results of our Chapter efforts were again bitter-sweet at this event. Primarily, attendance was poor, though there may be some explanation for that in the very fine weather of the afternoon, following [and preceding] other stormy days and weekends. The Chapter planned to undertake this second Messiah Sing after the initial experiment of a year ago brought out more than 100 audience-singers; this year, that group barely reached 40 persons – a disappointing result for our efforts. Despite perseverance, no Tenor appeared for solo work, so a happy trial followed by having the larger group sing those two movements programmed. Lary Grossman engi-

neered to present a half-dozen door prizes at the conclusion of the Sing, which "held the crowd", gave us reason to register those in attendance, and added a good feeling of Christmas-giving festivity. Those who did attend were enthusiastic about the experience and reflected that generosity in a free-will offering. So, while the Messiah Sing was a success for those involved, the number involved was so small as to mandate reconsideration by the Chapter and Board of the wisdom of repeating this programming investment in the future.

Unfortunately, the problems of organizing and presenting this Messiah Sing were even more frustrating than the superficial appearance of the event. Your Dean feels obliged to comment, for edification of the Chapter, that other challenges included the scheduling and promotion of other events by Chapter members in direct competition with the previously-announced timing of our Messiah Sing. Secondly, your Dean did not, apparently, work hard enough to identify local members who could have played the organ accompaniment for our own Messiah. While we were very happy to host our Regional Councilor for her participation, it came to light later that one of our Chapter members played the organ accompaniment for a public Messiah Sing in Westfield on the evening of the same day – an event of which our Chapter and Board had never been informed at all. The greatest discouragement in this scenario is the lack of communication and apparent cooperation between our members... a condition that I wish to rectify as soon as possible, for our mutual and collective benefit!

On Sunday, January 18th, the Board and Officers held a regular meeting, a good portion of which was devoted to a brainstorming and discussion session, led by the Dean, to consider the nature of the Chapter's functioning, the organization of its committees and duties, and the thrust of future events and objectives. I did suggest broad views of these considerations to the membership in my last Dean's Message, and this short paragraph is to report that the Dean and Board have commenced to put some of those changes into effect. At the very least, the Chapter programming design should not squander our precious funds. There is no need for the Chapter to be expending great effort on public events that are competitive of time and audi-

PASTOR-ORGANIST DINNER

MONDAY, MARCH 15 6 PM

Grace Lutheran Church rte. 20 West Springfield

Featuring guest speaker: **Horace Boyer**

\$12.00 per person

Hors-d'oeuvres
tossed salad
baked stuffed chicken breast*
oven roasted potatoes
vegetable du jour
rolls, butter
hot apple crisp with ice cream
coffee, tea, wine

*vegetarian alternative: baked stuffed squash

Name _____ # of persons _____

vegetarian alternative? Y N (circle one)

Please enclose payment with registration.

Make checks payable to: *GLC Women in Christ*

SEND TO: Martha Sienkiewicz 760 Pochassic Rd. Westfield, MA 01085

Registration must be received by March 7.

For more information contact marthas@fastmail.fm

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ence, and then ill-supported. There are other and better ways to serve our membership; and, there are other ways to involve our membership in mutual support and cooperation. *That* will be the thrust of the New Year in this Chapter. We'll need to effect some changes to make this happen, but I know that we can make some worthy improvements. I hope that all members will be interested in and supportive of this effort; I know, as well, that we will attract some new subscribers by providing more effective services and attractive events for our general membership.

That's where we stand for today. Stay tuned for more news of the progressive work of your Board and Officers. If you have any comments, concerns, suggestions, or criticisms for the Chapter leadership about our condition, operation, foresight, or planning, please feel free to speak up to any of us. Chapter officers are listed in your yearbook and in this newsletter. We'll be very happy and attentive to hear from any member about their personal interests.

The next Chapter event will be the Members' Recital on Sunday, February 8th at St. Joseph's Church, Springfield. Complete details of that concert, its participants, and alternative date for weather concerns are reported elsewhere in this newsletter. Please support your fellow AGO members as they step forward to share their skills, and to take practice in a public recital setting! They deserve our best attention. See you then.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Bill Czelusniak
Dean

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is very interested in hearing from any Chapter members who may be interested in serving on the Executive Board for the coming year (July 2004 through June 2005). If you have an interest in serving, or even if you only think you might have an interest, please call Ron Shepard at (413) 783-4280, or contact him by e-mail at rpshepard@bigfoot.com. It is important that you do this as soon as possible, since the committee must present the proposed ballot to the Board by mid-March. Thank you!

PLAN NOW TO SING IN OUR MAY CHORAL FESTIVAL

Dear AGO Friends:

New Years Greetings to all of you. I hope you are all rested and ready for new year responsibilities.

I invite each of you and your choristers to consider singing in the AGO Choral Festival planned for this May. We are fortunate to have Bruce McInnes as Director of the Festival. Bruce was Choral Director at Amherst College for many years, and subsequently was Organist and Choir Director at Grace Church, New York City. This past summer, his Mastersingers USA took first place at the prestigious Eisteddfod Festival in Wales.

In addition, the New England Brass will join us for this Festival. You may order music directly from your usual source, or you may make arrangements for music packets through Peter Beardsley, organist for the Festival. Peter may be reached at Christ Church Cathedral 413-732-6437 or via email at jpbeardsley@the-spa.com.

Listed below are details related to the Festival:

Concert:

Sunday, May 16, 2004, 4 PM
Warm-up Rehearsal 3 PM
Christ Church Cathedral
35 Chestnut Street
Springfield, MA

Rehearsals: at Christ Church Cathedral,
Trinity United Methodist Church, Old
First Church. [Take your pick of the
most convenient location]
Thursday, April 29, 2004, 8 - 9 PM
Thursday, May 13, 8 - 9 PM

Joint Rehearsals: at Christ Church Cathedral

Thursday, May 6, 6:30 - 9 PM
Saturday, May 15, 9 - 11 AM (With the New England Brass)

Repertoire: A CONCERT OF PSALM SETTINGS

C. Hubert H. Parry: "I was glad" (Psalm 122, vv 1-3, 6, 7)
H. W. Gray Publications: GCMR2404

Allen Pote: "An Acclamation of Praise" (based on Psalm 89)
Hope Publishing Company: F 1021 (brass parts: F 1021B)

Rene Clausen: "Bless the Lord, O my soul" (Psalm 104)
Mark Foster Music Company: MF2125

Herbert Howells: "O, pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Psalm 122, vv. 6 & 7)
Oxford University Press: Catalogue # 42.064

Keith Chapman: "Psalm 121" McAfee Music Corp. M1141
Out of Print. (Copies will be provided - contact Peter)

William Mathias: "Rejoice in the Lord" (from Psalm 33)
Oxford University Press: A359 ISBN 0 19 350394 8

Heinrich Schutz: "Sing to the Lord a new song" (Psalm 98)
G. Schirmer's Octavo Church Music, No. 5962
Copyright renewal assigned, 1929 — number on score: 15969

Jean Berger: "The eyes of all wait upon Thee" (Psalm 145, vv. 15-16)
Augsburg Publishing House: 11-1264

Gustav Holst: "Turn back o man" (Psalm ???)
Stainer & Bell, Ltd. Galaxy Music Corp: S. & B. 2152

Colin Mawby: "Christus Vincit" (Psalm 67, vv. 29-30; 33-36)
Mayhew Brodt, Kevin Mayhew Ltd: KM140

I hope that it might be possible for you and your choristers to join us for this very special event. If you have questions, please feel free to give me a call at: Church 737-1411, Home: 1-860-749-7829 or email at pagenor@aol.com.

Charles Page, *Chairman*

MINI-CONVENTION VI

Saturday, February 28, 2004

Sponsored by
THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAPTER, A.G.O.

Yes! It's time for our *sixth* annual Mini-Convention, and we look forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces and a lot of new ones. We have another all-star lineup for you this year, largely based on requests by last year's attendees, who thought it was time for another youth choir presentation as well as repeats of a couple of popular programs from previous years. Yesterday/Cambridge Music will be bringing a consignment of organ and choral music for browsing and purchase, and attendees are welcome to bring "pre-owned" music for our Scholarship Fund flea market table. Raspberries of Andover will be providing another tasty catered lunch, and there will be time for socializing and browsing. Here's the schedule:

8:30 – 9:00	Coffee and Registration
9:00 – 9:45	Marie Stultz – "Developing Youth Choir Tone through Repertoire"
10:00 – 10:45	Anthem Reading by Dan McKinley and Maggie Marshall
11:00 – 11:45	Michael Kleinschmidt – "Bringing Hymn Singing to Life"
12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:30 – 2:15	John Ogasapian – "19th Century New England Organ Composers"
2:30 – 3:15	Nancy Armstrong – "Healthy Habits for Healthy Voices"

The 2004 Mini-Convention will be held at First Calvary Baptist Church, at the intersection of Route 125 and Massachusetts Ave. in North Andover (same location as last year). From I-495 take Exit 43 (Massachusetts Ave. – North Andover); follow Mass. Ave. south about two miles until you see a traffic light ahead (Rte. 125). The church is a modern building on the left, and entrance to the parking lot is just before you get to the church.

Inflation has finally caught up with our long-held registration fees, but not by too much. Full day is now \$48.00, and either a morning or afternoon half-day session is \$32.00. Lunch is included in all registrations, whether full-day or half-day. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To register, cut and complete the form below, enclose a check or money order payable to MVAGO Mini-Convention and mail to Ruth Bowers, Registrar, by February 20, 2004.

Membership in the American Guild of Organists is not required for attendance at this mini-convention. Please feel free to photocopy and pass this flyer around to your colleagues, students, and friends. If you have any questions, please call Barbara Owen (978/465-2068) or Dan McKinley (978/412-8174).

Convention Registration

Name _____
Street _____
City, State, Zip _____
E-Mail _____
All Day _____ Morning only _____ Afternoon only _____
Amount enclosed _____

Mail this form with your registration fee to Ruth H. Bowers, 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915-3729 before February 20, 2004.

FEBRUARY EVENT from p. 1

At school, Christopher sings in the jazz choir, accompanies the Chorus, and in the spring of 2003, was musical director of the drama club's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. In March 2003, he sang in the Connecticut All-State High School Music Festival Chorus.

He has been an organ student of John Rose of Trinity College (Hartford) for the past four years and also studies piano with Dr. Linda Laurent of Central Connecticut State University.

At 16 years old, Christopher is the youngest member of the Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In 2001, that chapter awarded him a partial scholarship to attend a Pipe Organ Encounter in Danbury, Connecticut. Christopher performed in the Chapter's 2002 Member's Recital.

Selections:

Felix Mendelssohn, Sonata #6,
Variations and Fugue
Leo Sowerby, Toccata

Michael-Thomas Gilman is a native of Monson, Massachusetts. He holds degrees from The University of Massachusetts and Yale University. He is currently organist/choirmaster of United Congregational Church in Holyoke. He has written extensively on the piano sonatas of Beethoven for Carnegie Hall Stagebill, and is currently at work producing a six-CD retrospective of the choral and organ performances of Dr. Robert S. Baker for Yale University Press.

He lives in Monson with his two dogs, Spark and Scout.

Selection:

J. S. Bach, Toccata, Adagio and
Fugue in C, BWV 564

Leah Wood is a seventeen years old and a home-schooled high-school senior. She started playing the piano at age four and the organ at seven. Leah studies piano with Chonghyo Shin and organ with Hedley Yost. In 2003, she was one of three winners of the Windham Orchestra Concerto Competition playing the Mendelssohn concerto in D-minor. Playing at churches since age 7, she was hired at Leyden Methodist Church at the age of 9.

Leah has been the Organist/Choir director for the Congregational church of Somersville CT since 2001. She will be leaving next month (Feb, 2004) to begin as Music Director of 2nd Congregational, Greenfield, MA.

Selections:

J.S. Bach, Prelude and Fugue in
F-major from "Eight Little Preludes
and Fugues

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Felix Mendelssohn, Prelude #2
Jean Langlais, Prelude

Peter Beardsley, a native of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, has been Organist/Choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in Springfield since 1976, where he directs an active music program. The Cathedral Choir under his direction has twice visited England, most recently this past summer, where they were the resident Choir at Litchfield Cathedral for a week, singing daily Evensong. He has written several anthems and other sacred music for his own choirs, and has had a setting of Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis published in England.

Under the artistic supervision of Ted Gilbert and David Johnston, Pete has overseen, and done much of the mechanical work on, a major tonal and mechanical restructuring of the large 1953 (V/53) Austin organ there.

Prior to his position in Springfield, he served at First Methodist Church in Pittsfield, and worked for the late organ-builder Rock D. Spencer. Before that, he taught music in El Salvador as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the early 70's.

Pete holds degrees from Indiana University at Bloomington (where he was a student of Oswald Ragatz), and the FAGO degree. He has studied or coached with Allan Wicks (England), André Marchal (France), Arthur Poister, and others.

Pete is a Past Dean of the Springfield Chapter, and currently serves as Treasurer, a position to which he was elected owing to his outstanding musical talent.

Selections:

J. S. Bach Prelude in C Minor,
BWV 546
Copland "Fanfare for the Common Man" (transcribed by this player for a recital on this organ many years ago)

HELP US UPDATE DIRECTORY INFORMATION

In our next issue of Chiff Chat, we are planning to update any member information that may have changed, or been listed incorrectly in the 2003-2004 Yearbook. If you need to make corrections to your current directory listing, please mail them to me at m.dulac@verizon.net. Lary Grossman has especially asked for corrections to e-mail addresses so that he may keep his broadcast list up to date.

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

Organist/Choir Director

Christ United Methodist Church
271 Rocky Hill Road, PO Box 701
Northampton, MA 01061

Description: 1 Adult Choir;
Children's Choir to be developed; organ unknown

Salary: \$8,000.00, 4 weeks vacation

Contact: Rev. Peter Hey 413-584-5935

Organist

St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church
9 East Parkview Drive,
South Hadley, MA 01075

Description: 3 Masses per weekend;
accompany one choir rehearsal per week (40 weeks); 2 Masses per Holy Day of Obligation (6 per year). Experience and

knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy required. 1970 Allen Organ.

Salary: \$15,500

Available June 1, 2004

Contact: Fr. Richard Bondi

413-532-3228 ext. 11

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

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

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 6

7:30PM

The First Church of Deerfield, Main St.,
Deerfield, MA
Lynn Edwards Butler, organist, playing works of Johann Sebastian Bach on the new organ by Richards & Fowkes, opus 13. Reception following the concert.
Suggested donation: \$10.00

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 5

7:00PM

Westfield High School Auditorium.
Leonid Makarov in Concert: Classic piano works played by a seventeen year old prodigy. Free will offering.

March 7

3:00PM

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

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

March 14

3:00 PM

Abbey Chapel, Mount Holyoke College,
South Hadley
South Hadley Chorale presents Dvorak, Mass
in D, and Mozart, Regina Coeli, with orchestra
and soloists. Tickets at the door. Reception
follows.

4:00 PM

First Church, Westfield,
Greater Westfield Choral Association Spring
Concert, Schubert Mass in Bb, with chamber
orchestra. tix available at the door

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.

March 27

2:00PM

Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, CT
Festival of Singing Children, Lucy Ding, guest
conductor. Joint event with Springfield-
Hartford Choristers Guild.

March 28

3:00PM

The First Church of Deerfield, Main St.,
Deerfield, MA
New England Ringers (handbells),
with Thomas Pousont, organist. Reception
following the concert.
Suggested donation: \$10.00

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

The First Church of Deerfield, Main St.,
Deerfield, MA

10:00AM

Worship and Dedication Service

3:00PM

Dedicatory Recital by William Porter, organist.
Reception following the concert. Free
admission

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.

May 30

7:00PM

St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Rt 5,
Longmeadow
Music at St Andrew's presents John
Anderson, organ recital. Strawberry
reception to follow. Free admission.