

July 2007
Special Edition!

Chiff Chat

Springfield, MA Chapter
American Guild of Organists



A Message from the Dean

Greetings from your new Dean! I guess I have all of you to thank for giving me more things to do! I hope I can fill Lary's BIG shoes adequately. Thanks to him from all of us for the years of giving so much of his time and talents! By the way, I had the chance to see him in action in Providence, RI this week and you would have been proud. A great Regional Councilor he will be!

As I sat through numerous recitals and master classes at the Region I Convention for three days, I realized that my first Chiff Chat article finally had a face. From the truly fabulous recital by Paul Jacobs, whose playing was breathtakingly thrilling, to Dame Gillian Weir's equally exciting all French program on the stunning 126 rank Cassavant at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, to numerous workshops, it was a packed 3 days. Nine recitals tucked around workshops and panel discussions on just about every appropriate topic treated 150 AGO members to plenty of inspiration and food for thought.

For all of us it was a chance to connect to other church musicians, a rare opportunity in our work! From Lary's remarks in the Annual Meeting, where he talked about what a privilege it is to touch people's lives in sacred spaces (that's what we do, isn't it?) to David Morse's comments about what producing the event meant for him and the RI Chapter - "wonder-filled" experience of relationship within the chapter in supporting each other in what we all do - to the Quimby competition and winner's recital as a way to support our successors - to Stephen Martorella's comments at the "Artistry in Worship" panel that reminded us that we are "looking for the love" that binds us together as worship leaders (priests, preachers and musicians) in creating services that say what we want to say -- to hearing a lot of organ and some choral music, it was a packed three days! And, you could have come for just a day!

And what a city Providence is, with time enough for short excursions and eating in the many wonderful restaurants - well, if you weren't there you really missed something! In two years, the Boston Chapter promises a Regional Convention that will take place all in an area of a few blocks, so busses will not even be needed! I encourage you to start saving now! Alternatively, get it on your churches budgets so they can send you!

And, that brings me to what I've also been thinking about saying at this my first opportunity to speak to you as your

Dean. The Springfield Chapter contingent in RI, by the way, met for breakfast Tuesday morning and filled a table for 4. The Chapter events that your Board puts together meticulously and thoughtfully for YOU-- your enlightenment, inspiration, and continuing education -- often draw only a few members, I've noticed. All combined we have almost 100 Chapter members. How are we to know who you are if you never show your faces? How can the Board serve your needs (you MUST have some!) if all you do is send in your money each year?

I would like to see happen during my tenure is to see the Springfield Chapter become a bottom up organization! I would like to see the members (that's YOU!), start generating what YOU need to support you in your church work. I know that your Executive Board supports me in this so let's let the good times roll! How about letting the Dean and the Executive Board know what you want, what you need? How can we TOGETHER create an organization? If it is all about "I don't have time to get involved", then check the schedules of your Executive Board members!

So I am asking you to join with us that we might, together, come into a loving relationship as cohorts in creating magic for our congregations! I challenge you to be heard. Come out of those solitary church closets, shake off the cobwebs and let YOUR Board know what YOU want and need! Participate a little, try out your wings. The benefit? Ours and our congregations worship experiences! Relationship! Excitement about what we do in this "calling"! Fun! Why not?

Please introduce yourselves to me, even if I SHOULD know your name, and let me know who you are, what you need, and how we can help you! I'll see you ALL at our first event in September 9, 3 PM, South Church, Springfield. Be there to help us install the new officers and board members. Be there simply to enjoy music!

May we have a great year together!

Rod Gisick

Pipe Organ Encounter 2007! *Smith College*

The POE Executive Committee has been busy at work for several months planning and preparing for an exciting week for teenagers to explore and learn about the pipe organ. We are thrilled to welcome 42 students to Smith College on Sunday, July 22, 2007! **All are welcome** to join us for any of the evening recitals. If you have any questions about POE events, please contact E Lary Grossman, POE Director, at elg@bradygrossman.com

Monday, July 23, 2007

7:30 pm Meg Irwin-Brandon, organist in recital at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, Massachusetts. Music includes Bach, Buxtehude, and Scarlatti

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

7:30 pm Peter Krasinski, organist accompanies the 1928 silent film *Speedy* starring Harold Lloyd and Babe Ruth, at St John's (Episcopal) Church, Elm Street, Northampton, Massachusetts.

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

6:00 pm Christopher Houlihan, organist in recital at Trinity College Chapel, Hartford, Connecticut. Music of Bach, Widor, and Vierne.

7:00 pm Carillon Recital at Trinity College Chapel

Thursday, July 26, 2007

6:30 pm Smith College Carillon Demonstration, College Hall Tower, George Matthew

7:30 pm Performance/Master Class with Paul Jacobs, Organist, John M. Greene Hall, Smith College

Friday, July 27, 2007

11:00 am POE Student Recitals at St. John's Church, John M Greene Hall, Smith College, and Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College.

1:30 pm POE Student Recitals at St. John's Church, John M Greene Hall, Smith College, and Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College.

Springfield Chapter 2007-2008 Program Schedule

The Springfield Chapter is happy to announce the 2007-2008 program season! Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming issues of *Chiff Chat*!

September 9, 3:00 pm

Organ Recital, Ian Watson
South Congregational Church, Maple Street, Springfield, MA
\$10 donation to benefit the Arcadia Players
Reception by the Springfield AGO Chapter

October 7 & 8, 2007

Organ Crawl to Albany, NY, with the Worcester, MA and Albany, NY Chapters
The registration form may be found online:
<http://organweb.com/worcester/onlineorder/crawl.html>

October 12, 2007, 8:00 pm

Organ Recital, Robert Lind
St. Paul the Apostle, Springfield, MA
Reception by the Springfield AGO Chapter

November 4, 2007, 4:00pm

YALE CAMERATA
Marguerite Brooks, conductor & Thomas Murray, organist
United Congregational Church, Holyoke, MA

January 27, 2008, 3:00 pm

Anthem Read
All Saints Church, South Hadley, MA

April 12, 2008, 7:00 pm

SILENT MOVIE "Flesh and the Devil" featuring Greta Garbo
Peter Krasinski, Organ
United Congregational Church, Holyoke
\$8 Suggested Donation

June 10, 2008 Dinner, Organ Crawl, & Mini Concert, 6:00 pm

Wesley United Methodist Church, 98 North Maple St., Hadley, MA, 6:00pm
Dinner at *Goten of Japan*, Rte. 116, Sunderland, MA, 7:00pm

Upcoming Events

July 2007

Wednesday, July 18, 12:15pm, Music for a Summer Day, First Congregational Church, 65 Main Street, Amherst, MA. (feel free to bring your lunch) Gospel Classics arranged for piano by Mark Hayes.

Saturday July 21, 12 noon, Midday Music in Old Deerfield. Mariana Rennó Jelen, *viola* Thomas Pousont, *piano, organ, and harpsichord* Performing works by Rebecca Clarke, Nicholas de Grigny, & J.S. Bach. First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, Massachusetts.

August 2007

Sunday, August 5th 1:00pm, Midday Music in Old Deerfield. Hilary Philipp, *oboe and English horn* Thomas Pousont, *organ* Performing works by Jan Koetsier, Clara Schumann, G.F. Handel, & J.S. Bach. First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, Massachusetts.

Saturday, August 11th noon, Midday Music in Old Deerfield, Duets for two singers and two organists. Deanna Joseph, *soprano*, Grant Moss, *piano and organ*, Thomas Pousont, *tenor and organ*, Performing works by Mozart, Saint Saens, Robert Schumann, & J.S. Bach. First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, Massachusetts.

Wednesday, August 15, 12:15 p.m. Music for a Summer Day, First Congregational Church, 65 Main St, Amherst, MA. Piano and organ Favorites - may even be some wild stuff! Presented by Rod Gisick, Director of Music.

Sunday, July 22 – Friday, July 27, 2007

Springfield Chapter presents: Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) 2007, Smith College. For more information, see the brochure on the Springfield AGO website, or contact E Lary Grossman, POE Director.

95th SUMMER ON THE KOTZSCHMAR 2007 - Merrill Auditorium, Portland, Maine

Don't miss the spectacular line-up of great organists! All summer concerts begin at 7:30 pm, with Pre-concert talks at 6:30 pm. Admission \$10.00 suggested at the door.

July 17 - Carlo Curley, International Concert Artist

July 31 - Christa Rakich, Distinguished Artist in Residence, First Lutheran Church, Boston

August 7 - Alan Morrison, Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia PA (John Weaver Celebratory Concert)

August 14 - Thomas Heywood, Melbourne, Australia

August 21- R. Jelani Eddington, New York City, NY

August 28 - Raúl Prieto Ramírez, Barcelona, Spain

September 2007

September 9, 2007 3 PM

Ian Watson, Organist

Benefit Concert, South Congregational Church, Springfield

Hampshire Choral Society Fall Semester, Gabriel

Fauré's *Requiem in D minor*. Auditions, 6:30 PM, Sept. 11, 2007, 6:30 PM, Sept. 18, 2007. Rehearsals, Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 PM beginning Tuesday, September 11, 2007. Concert: Nov.18, 2007 Abbey Chapel, South Hadley.

Saturday, September 15, 07, 9:00am, Introductory Workshop on Certification Exams with Ken Grinnell, United Congregational Church, 6 Institute Road, Worcester, MA. Free to Members - no pre-registration required.

Positions

Organist/Choir Director wanted for Church Director of Music Position-- Christ United Methodist Church (271 Rocky Hill Road [Rt. 66] Serving Northampton and Easthampton). Position includes responsibility for developing a comprehensive program of music for the church. Must be able to play organ, piano, and direct choirs. Church music experience preferred. Contact Rev. Mike Stotts, 584-5935 or 586-9446 or send resume to P.O. Box 701, Northampton, MA 01061. The church's web site is: <http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/christ-ma/>. The Director of Music is responsible for developing a comprehensive program of music for the church. They must have proficiency in playing the organ, piano, and choir direction, with church music experience preferred. The Director of Music should have an appreciation for the important role that music plays in all aspects of the life of the church.

Specific responsibilities include:

1. Selection of music for the adult choir, for anthems expected every Sunday morning, for the morning worship.
2. Rehearsing with the choir one evening a week (currently Wed. evening rehearsals) for at least an hour.
3. Encouraging the young people of the church musically, and seeking to recruit and begin a children's choir.
4. Giving support, where possible, for the use of music in the church school.
5. Work with the Pastor, when requested on selection of hymns for the Sunday service, and on including and enhancing other music elements of the service.
6. Being present to play for weddings and funerals where possible, and for wedding rehearsals.
7. Playing and providing special music and/or leading the choir for special Christian holidays (Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday). It's important for the Director of Music to be able to work well with people, and have good leadership abilities, while being flexible in working with other church leaders. A music education background would be an important asset for this position. The Director would be a salaried, part-time employee. A minimum of 10-15 hours of work would be expected weekly. Salary information available on request. Contact, Rev. Mike Stotts, 584-5935 or 586-9446 for further information. The church's website is: <http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/christ-ma/>

St. John's Episcopal Church in Bristol, Connecticut, Part-time Organist and Choir Director, 10-hours per week, weekly choir rehearsal and one Sunday service. Electronic organ and piano in the church with excellent acoustics. Salary range is \$8,000 to \$9,000. For more information and to apply, contact Audrey Murdock with a resume, at (860) 583-5445, home number (860)314-2335, or cell: (802) 236-6154. Position available mid August.

First Congregational Church of Stockbridge, Main Street, Stockbridge, MA, 01262. 413-298-3137. **Part-time Director of Music** (15-20 hours per week) at historic church in historic village of Norman Rockwell fame with a rich tradition of good music and talented musicians in a relatively small parish. The Director of Music will provide organ/piano music at weekly Sunday service and seasonal and special services; recruit, direct and rehearse adult and children's choir; work with existing hand bell choir and coordinate their participation in the Sunday worship service; meet weekly with church staff to integrate music into Sunday morning service; maintain music library and annual music budget; hire soloists and guest musicians, be available for weddings and funerals. Church has two manual Johnson organ and Steinway B grand piano. 16 voice chancel choir. Salary is commensurate with experience, skill, and education, with four weeks paid vacation and potential for individual health insurance compensation. Send resume and two references to Rev. Steve Bridges at First Congregational Church of Stockbridge.

Organist & Choirmaster, The Church of S. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church. 43 Foreside Road, Falmouth, ME 04105, (207) 781-3366. Service Times: Sunday, 8:00 & 10:00 AM. Priest & Contact Name: Father James P. Dalton-Thompson. Contact Phone Numbers:(Church)207-781-3366, (Rectory)207-781-2371. Salary: \$15,000. 1979, 2-manual Cassavant; tracker with flat pedal board. Position opens: September 1, 2007. Additional Notes: Please contact Fr. Dalton-Thompson for complete job description. S. Mary's is a wonderful, vibrant, and growing parish where music is given major emphasis.

Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield, 245 Porter Lake Drive, Springfield, MA 01106. (413) 736-2324. **Interim Music Director (Choir Director and Organist)** Half-time position for August 27, 2007 - June 15, 2008. The UUSGS enjoys a music program emphasizing the quality and variety of musical style and genre based on historical and contemporary expressions of faith. The congregation is a singing congregation, and the choir, averaging 18-20 volunteers, adds vitality to the worship experience, as do other members of the congregation who contribute their talents on their respective instruments. The Society's organ is a three manual, 38 rank Aeolian Skinner, and the sanctuary piano is a Steinway the choir sings twice a month, rehearses weekly from September to June. Rehearsals are held Thursday, 7:30-9 p.m., and prior to the 10:30 service on Sundays when the choir sings. We would like to fill this position by June 1, 2007, but will accept applications until the position is filled. The salary range is \$15,000-18,000, depending on qualifications and experience. For complete job description and additional information, please access our website at www.uuspringfield.org <<http://www.uuspringfield.org>>. To apply, send cover letter, resume, and the names and contact information of three references to the Society, or by email to: uusgs@uuspringfield.org

Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal), 1336 Pawtucket Ave., Rumford, RI 02916. (401) 434-5012.
www.epiphanyep.org.

We are looking for an accomplished organist/choral director for a half-time position (20 hrs/wk) to serve at a transitional-size, energetic Episcopal church (members: 323, ASA: 170) with a growing music ministry. One weekly service. Two choirs: adult (10), youth (2). Additional events include congregational and choral evensong, community hymn sings, and talent shows. Salary: \$25, 280+ (commensurate with experience and AGO guidelines). Paid vacation: 4 weeks. Continuing education: 1 week + \$300 allowance. Book/music allowance: \$400. Organ: two-manual 1929 Moller. Piano: recently refurbished Packard baby grand. Handbells: 3 octaves on long-term loan.

Candidates should have a degree in music, knowledge of and passion for Episcopal liturgy and music, an understanding of their unique gifts and commitment as ministry in the service of God, the desire to support others in discovering and using their unique gifts for music ministry, experience with and enthusiasm for working with all ages, and a sense of humor. Although this is a half-time position, there may be an opportunity to increase it to more than half time, based on the applicant's interest and ability to contribute to a future alternative service.

Church of the Epiphany is a growing Episcopal church in a middle-class suburb of Providence, RI. Over the last several years we have redefined our mission and developed new ministries. We have actively sought growth by improving our worship, developing programs for all ages, and offering ministry beyond our church through outreach. It is one of our mission principles to offer unconditional and gracious hospitality to all people. Please see our website for a full job description. To apply, send a cover letter, resume, and references to the Beth Dench, Parish Administrator, by email (beth@epiphanyep.org) or post (address above). Application deadline: September 15.

Announcements

CHURCH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

In 2008 the Charlotte Hoyt Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians will hold a competition for high school musicians. The scholarship will grant awards of \$300 to \$1500 for the study of religions music and liturgy. High school students studying organ with an interest in church music are eligible to apply. The scholarship can be used for a variety of music studies including:

- Organ lessons
- High school and college level studies related to organ or religious music
- Participation in organ festivals, seminars, music camps, etc.

Information and applications can be obtained by visiting the scholarship website <http://www.chbscholarship.com>, or by writing "The Charlotte H. Bagnall Scholarship" at 17 Beaverbrook Rd., West Simsbury, CT 06092. Applications are due by December 31, 2007.

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Chiff Chat Newsletter

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email newsletter@springfieldago.org. Submissions for the August/September issue are due July 20, 2007.

If you prefer to receive an electronic copy of Chiff Chat newsletters, please let us know! Visit us on the web at www.springfieldago.org.

Celebrating 60 Years as a Chapter!

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Springfield, MA Chapter

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