

Chiff Chat

JUNE 2015

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Part I

Hope does spring eternal. Most of us are nearing the final moments of their academic or ecclesial year even though most calendars don't end when our year ends or starts anew. I am always panicking in the spring due to recruitment of new choristers. People who work with me know the annual cycle pretty well as my anxiety levels slowly increase as rejections outpace interest in a choral program. That will probably always be true about rejections outpacing interest, however this year is proving to be outstanding in that the rejections are not bothering me at all. As of today I have 11 new choristers signed up for next year and six more appointments with parents to go. I haven't the slightest clue as to why this year is being so successful. It may be a bumper crop of kids before a famine, but to me it says "Hope Springs Eternal". If you feel that you are constantly toiling away on rocky ground, remember that hope springs eternal.

Work with what you have been given. Most years I worry about the future of the choir. I worry if six or seven new boys a year are enough and then I remember that the Emperor Maximilian started the choir at Innsbruck with five boys, who may or may not have been exceptional, and a few men and they succeeded over time. If Maximilian can have a functioning choir with five kids then so can I.

Take Pictures of your students, choirs, and different aspects of your musical life. Looking back at past pictures can give you a real fresh perspective when you think things are not going well. When I enter one of my high anxiety worried states I sometimes pass by and glance at a past choir photo. In that passing glance one can realize that in the past it may not have been much of a group, picking may have been slim, but you still made music together, changed peoples hearts and moved souls.

Hope springs eternal. Work with what you got. Take pictures. You will also be a little surprised at the number of people who take more than a passing glance at such pictures. Pictures might reveal the ebb and flow of your music making. You should also remember that even during a low ebb tide there is still the same dedication and consistency of your work and the unknown benefits that came from other peoples' labors of love because you were there. So as another season ends take stock of where you are, where you'd like your music making to be and go for it. Hope does spring eternal.

Part II

In a past message I mentioned and encouraged each of us to think of someone who should be in our company of friends. The person I

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Chapter Officers

Dean – Lad Pfeifer
Sub-dean – H. David Pulliam
Treasurer – Jim Barnes
Secretary – Martha Sienkiewicz

Board of Directors

Scott Bailey
 Michael Carney
 Joe Geehern
 Sheila Heady
 Rev. Dr. John Hooker
 Mary Jeanne Tash

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personally thought I should make a point to visit I have 'Yet' to do so, however other opportunities of promoting the guild came my way. The main points remain the same. The AGO is a terrific vehicle to help ensure the future of the organ and choral music. We are dedicated to passing on the torch, working with the young, and supporting the not so young. Not every effort paid off, but one did and Hope springs eternal.

I say this because the AGO is a gift to all of us. I've had a musical life because of AGO members. Promoting the guild should be a joy cause what we do changes lives, gives hope, and serves as an oasis of inspiration in a harried world. Think about it and don't hesitate to invite someone. We are an active chapter with good programming and projects that benefit all like the upcoming Pipe Organ Encounter for teens in July of 2016 at Mount Holyoke College and a January Jubilee 'mini convention' in 2018. Your chapter is "a'movin'" so spread the word and join the action. We are here for you.

Part III

Refresh yourself! Indulge in some idle chat, companionship, food, and Great Music on a local King of Instruments. Hope springs eternal especially when you consider the young talent that has sprung from the Springfield area in recent years.

The Organ Historical Society is kicking off their week-long discovery of the great organs of western Mass with Chris Houlihan performing on what is perhaps the greatest remaining organ from Springfield's Golden Age when money was no object and even Rolls Royce was made in Springfield. It is the OHS opening Gala Concert and our Final Event of the season. Treat yourself to

a fun night out. With food, company, and music can you really ask for anything more? Invite a friend and come to St. Michael's for relaxing night out. Let someone else make dinner and do the music for You!

Faithfully yours,

Lad Pfeifer, dean

CHIFF CHAT SEEKS A NEW EDITOR

Yes, alas! It is time for me to hang up my editorial cap and shuffle off along the ol' dusty trail. This issue of Chiff Chat will be my last for the Springfield Chapter for the time being.

I grew up in the Berkshire Chapter of the AGO and have always held a special place in my heart for the members who did so much for me when I was a young budding organist. Now the chapter has asked for me to assume a leadership position and I feel both gratitude (that they wish to have me as a leader) and a great sense of responsibility. I would not be the organist I am today without the Berkshire Chapter and it is that sense of duty that is calling me back to serve their chapter as best as I am able. This means that I must take my time away from the Springfield Chapter for now.

If you have any desire to serve as editor of the Chiff Chat, please contact Lad Pfeifer (ljep@diospringfield.org) or contact me (sbailey@westfield.ma.edu) and I will walk you though all of the necessary duties.

All the best!

Scott Bailey, editor

JOB POSTINGS

First Church of Monson MA seeks a Director of Music. This part time position (10-14 hours) will be available in September, 2015. Responsibilities include playing for one Sunday service, direction of adult and youth choirs, and coordination of the music program of the church. Instruments available are a three manual 1891 Johnson pipe organ as well as a Yamaha grand piano. Salary is negotiable. Send resume or inquiries to Music Committee /Mary Newland at office@firstchurchmonson.org

VOLUNTEER ORGANISTS

NEEDED: Volunteer--say what? And on an electronic organ? That's right...but there's more! Adelynrood Retreat and Conference Center in quiet Byfield, MA will offer you 3 gourmet meals a day and your own sweet room in exchange for playing 3 simple services a day. Adelynrood, owned by the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross (an Episcopal women's organization), hosts retreats and programs open to all. Walk the labyrinth, read in the 5 libraries, deepen your spirituality if you wish. Open dates as of press time: June 8-14, June 22-28, June 29-July 3, September 7-14, September 15-20. Full weeks are preferred, but partial weeks are also welcome. Interested in a working vacation amidst beautiful grounds and a lovely chapel? Know another organist who would enjoy this opportunity? Contact Karen Banta, SCHC (and Springfield AGO member): kdbanta@gmail.com, 413-548-5076. www.adelynrood.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June Events

5 Fri 7:00pm

Organist **Nicholas Capozzoli**, winner of the 2013 Region III AGO/Quimby award will present works by Guilman, Shearing, and Jongen. *Free admission.* First Unitarian Church, 90 Main St., Worcester, MA.
Contact Will Sherwood at will@sherwoodphoto.com for more information.

6 Sat 7:00pm

Schola Nova concludes its 32nd season with a concert of music by Tomás Luis de Victoria. Selections to include the famous Christmas motet *O magnum mysterium* and selections from powerful and so personal *Tenebrae Responsories*. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 335 Longmeadow St., Longmeadow, MA 01106. *Free admission. A free-will offering will be gladly accepted.*

7 Sun 3:00pm

Schola Nova concludes its 32nd season with a concert of music by Tomás Luis de Victoria (see above) *Our Lady of the Valley* Church, 33 Adams St., Easthampton, MA 01027. *Free admission. A free-will offering will be gladly accepted.*

10 Wed 8:00pm

The Methuen Memorial Music Hall begins it's summer series of organ concerts on Wednesday evenings May 20th – Aug. 26th featuring organists from around the country including the Springfield Chapter's own **Monica Czausz** on Aug. 12th. \$12 adults, \$5 children. 192 Broadway, Methuen, MA.
www.mmmh.org

14 Sun 3:00pm

The **Music at United** series will host a concert featuring organist **Amanda Mole**. *Suggested donation \$10 (\$5 for seniors and students).* United Congregational Church, 300 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA.

20 Sat 7:30pm

Novi Cantori will perform a joint concert with the **Tapiola Chamber Choir** from Finland at the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, 36 Court Street, Westfield, MA. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 students and seniors.

28 Sun 6:00pm

Chapter Event

The Springfield AGO will host a dinner at the Cathedral of Saint Michael in Springfield, 260 State Street. The dinner will be followed by a recital by **Christopher Houlihan** at 8:00pm as part of the Organ Historical Society Convention. *Cost is \$20 per person.*

JOB POSTINGS

Mittineague United Methodist Church in West Springfield seeks a part time Organist/Director of Music to play for Sunday morning services (9:00 A.M.), as well as for other services and events throughout the year. Must be proficient in playing hymns from the Methodist Hymnal, as well as from The Faith We Sing. Salary is \$100.00 per service. Contact Reverend Bruce Arbour(788-0304), or AFDChaplain@juno.com.

Faith United Church in Springfield is seeking a part-time Organist to play for Sunday morning services (9:00AM meet with choir and 10:00AM is the actual service). The Organist would be needed to accompany choir rehearsals as well on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30PM and for any other special services and or events that might arise throughout the year. They must be able to play hymns from the New Century Hymnal and Pilgrim Hymnal. Salary is \$175.00 per week. Contact Eduardo Ortiz via email eortiz112285@gmail.com or cellphone 786-400-9998.

Our Lady of the Cross in Holyoke is looking for a part-time Music Director/Organist wanted. Must be experienced choir director and organist with Roman Catholic experience. Four weekend Masses, Holy Days, choir rehearsal and build cantor program. Wicks pipe organ. AGO salary range. Available immediately. Please send or email materials to Fr. Albert, 23 Sycamore St, Holyoke MA 01040. 413-532-5661, x-207, fatheraws@aol.com

The Village Church in Cummington seeks a permanent, part-time organist for 10 AM services the first and third Sunday mornings of the month, September to June, as well as Christmas Eve and other possible occasions during the year. We have a Pomplitz pipe organ. Applicant should be able to conduct an occasional choir. We are an inter-denominational church that is open and affirming. Send applications to Village Church, Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 by June 7, 2015. Phone inquiries to 413-634-5320.

Chapter Dinner and Gala Concert Organ Historical Society Convention

June 28th, 2015

Cathedral of Saint Michael, 260 State Street, Springfield, MA

6:00pm Cocktails and Buffet Dinner

8:00pm Recital by **Christopher Houlihan**



Appetizers:

Cocktails

Cheese and crackers

Dinner:

House Salad

Homemade bread

Carafes of Red & White Wine

Penne & Broccoli

Roast Sirloin of Beef

Eggplant Parmigiano

Scalloped Potatoes

Tiramisu

Coffee/Tea

Dessert

This evening is being catered by **Leone's Restaurant** of Springfield. ***Cost per person is \$20.***

Chris Houlihan's Recital Program

Johannes Brahms - Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, WoO 9, O Welt, ich muss dich lassen, opus 122, no. 11

Henry Martin - Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major (2014)

Johann Sebastian Bach - Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548

Louis Vierne - Symphony No. 4 in G Minor, opus 32

Please be sure to include on this form any dietary needs: vegan? vegetarian? gluten free? If people tell us ahead of time, we can offer each of these options.

Email your reservation to intwmass@aol.com, or phone Jim Barnes at 413-568-8477

or mail this form with check payable to **AGO Springfield**

to: Jim Barnes, 27 Carriage Lane, Westfield, MA, 01085

Deadline is Monday June 22nd, 2015!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ e-mail _____

Number of persons attending _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND ONCARD

So, those of you who renewed your membership last June using ONCARD, you have already received your renewal notice for this year via email.

For those of you who are new to the chapter, or who need a refresher about ONCARD, here are some tips:

How do I renew my membership?

Go to <https://www.agohq.org/oncard/>. Click the button that says "ONCARD Login/Renew". Follow the instructions on the page to log in. Click on "Renew Dues and Subscriptions." Once you are in, you can update your information and pay online via your credit card. They even have a link with a six minute long video instruction guide to help you with the whole process.

But I don't want to pay with my credit card!

Go to <https://www.agohq.org/oncard-login/>. Follow the instructions on the page to log in. Click on "Renew Dues and Subscriptions." After you proceed with the process, you will get to a screen which gives you the dues balance, any updated information, and your invoice number in red. If you want to print the invoice, click on the red invoice number and a new screen will appear which will allow you to print your invoice. Print it out, write out your check for the proper amount, and then mail it to national.

My church pays for my dues...

Follow the procedure above and have the church cut the check instead of you.

What about dual membership?

I was able to sign up for my dual membership and it worked fine. Others have not been so lucky. If you have issues with your dual membership you will have to contact the national office (www.agohq.com)

I never go online. What do I do?

Contact your dean, Lad Pfeifer (ljep@diospringfield.org or 860-227-6961). He will provide you with your invoice via national headquarters. If your email address is not registered with National, you will automatically receive a paper renewal form.

I'm a chapter friend, not a regular member. How do I renew?

Send your regular dues amount to Jim Barnes. Chapter friends are not technically part of the national organization so they do not fall under the ONCARD umbrella. The best option is to contact our treasurer Jim Barnes (intwmass@aol.com or 413-568-8477) to see what steps should be taken.

AGO REGION 1 CONVENTION - NEW HAVEN JUNE 28TH - JULY 1ST 2015

CONTRIBUTE TO CHIFF CHAT

Things that you can contribute to the Chiff Chat newsletter:

- Concert reviews
- Member profiles
- Your church's organ specifications or organ history
- Events for the calendar
- Articles about organs, organ music, organ events, etc.
- Photos with captions
- Commentary
- Organ concert flyers

Convention Fees:

Member/Chapter Friend (AGO or ACDA) after Mar. 1	\$360
Regular Senior/Guest/Disabled (after Mar. 1)	\$320
Daily	\$150
Early Non-member	\$410
Regular Non-member	\$450
Student (scholarships available, contact the registrar)	\$50
Optional bus trip to Stonington, Wednesday, July 1	\$30
Banquet, Tuesday, July 30 (free for students)	\$65



Visit our website!!!
www.springfieldago.org

Chiff Chat Newsletter

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Celebrating 65 years as a chapter.

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email Scott Bailey at sbailey@westfield.ma.edu. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org

**Next chapter event:
Chapter Dinner and Concert with Chris Houlihan
Organ Historical Society Convention
Sunday June 28th, 6:00pm dinner, 8:00 concert
Cathedral of Saint Michael
260 State Street, Springfield, MA**

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this we:

*Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
Nurture future generations of organists;
Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.*

Chiff Chat
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