

# Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter  
American Guild of Organists  
March 2013



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

Greetings,

This is a very busy month for everyone as we are in the season of Lent. Don't forget that on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March we return to Day Light Saving time when we spring ahead and loose an hour of sleep. On March 20<sup>th</sup> we begin spring. Everyone will be looking for the first robin and watching to see the first crocuses blooming. On March 24<sup>th</sup> we start Holy week which comes to a close on March 31<sup>st</sup>, Easter Sunday.

Another very special thing happening on March 10<sup>th</sup> is our major Concert with Christopher Houlihan, organist. We are co-hosting this event with the Brick Church music series in Deerfield, MA. It begins at 3 pm. and is followed with a reception in Caswell Library at Deerfield Academy. Christopher will be playing music by J. S. Bach and Louis Vierne. He is a graduate of Trinity College in Connecticut where he studied with John Rose, who had been his organ teacher from the age of twelve. He did his graduate degree work at The Juilliard School in New York where he studied with the Grammy Award winning organist Paul Jacobs. He earned the "Prix de Perfectionnement" (equivalent to a university artist's diploma in the US) from the French National Regional Conservatory in Versailles, and while in France served as assistant musician at the American Cathedral in Paris where he had the honor of performing

for the then President and First Lady of the United States, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bush.

It is time to register for the Hartford Regional which will run from Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Register now and save big on the registration fee. Here is a link to the website, <http://hartfordago2013.org/>

A big congratulation to Justin Murphy-Mancini, who is a student member of our chapter, as he has won the Hartford Quimby competition. Justin will perform on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at our Annual Meeting and our annual End-Of-Year get together which this year will be a picnic at the home of Charles Page.

The Boston and Fairfield West competitions will both be held on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. All three winners will compete in Hartford on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Young, Southeastern Mass Dean is our new Regional Education Coordinator and Alain Bojarski, Merrimack Sub-Dean is our new District Convener for Massachusetts and we will be hearing more from both of them.

The next big event that the chapter has is our “Choral/Hymn Festival on the Apostle’s Creed”. This will take place on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. at Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, MA. The choir will consist of members from nine choirs plus some who are not presently singing in a choir. There will be brass players, organ, a flute player and the congregation being the larger choir. There will be a reception following where you may meet and greet the directors and the performers. We need everyone to help promote this event by inviting a friend or relative for a very inspiring event.

I look forward to meeting you at Chris Houlihan recital and at our Choral/Hymn Festival.

Happy Holidays,

Don Hooton

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CURRENT EVENTS**

### **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 - 8:30PM. (Rehearsal MP3 files will be emailed to all participants.) Performance dates are **April 20** at 8:00PM and **April 21** at 2:00PM. 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.

### THE CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR HELP

I have just been informed that our present editor of the "Chiff Chat" is resigning to continue his education. Klaus has done an excellent job this year, but is now planning to go back and finish his medical school training that he abandoned earlier. He has all the information ready to hand over to the next editor. I really need your help to keep communication with all our members. Please email me or call me if you are interested in becoming the editor.

Don Hooton

### 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.

**Official Press Release:** "The Brick Church" Music Series will present organist CHRISTOPHER HOULIHAN, a charismatic and gifted musician performing on the Richards & Fowkes tracker organ, Opus 13, on SUNDAY, MARCH 10th, at 3:00 p.m., at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA. This is a fund-raiser for the church with a suggested donation of \$10 at the door. This concert is co-sponsored with the AGO (American Guild of Organists) Springfield Chapter. Music by J. S. Bach and Louis Vierne will be heard. A reception will follow in the Caswell Library, Deerfield Academy. For further information call: 774-2657.

SPRINGFIELD SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
EXPERIENCE MUSIC at UNITED in HOLYOKE

On **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, at **2:00PM** the **Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra** will perform under their conductor Jonathan Lam. Jonathan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Quantitative Economics from Tufts University and a Masters in Music degree in Orchestral Conducting from Southern Illinois University. In addition to his role with the Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra, he is Music Director/Conductor for the Bay Youth Symphony Orchestra and has a role with the Nashoba Youth Orchestras.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE COMMUNITY SURVIVAL CENTER  
OF SPRINGFIELD

On Saturday, **March 9th at 7:30 p.m.** there will be a Benefit Concert for the Community Survival Center of Springfield held at the Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel located at 423 Main Street in Wilbraham, MA. The program will feature talented vocal soloists from all over the east coast, as well as a performance of Rene Clausen's "A New Creation" with a community choir and professional orchestra under the direction of Lee Hagon. Come hear beautiful music and learn more about the amazing work done at the Community Survival Center in Springfield. There is a ten dollar suggested donation and additional donations of clothing and food will be gratefully accepted.

JOHN ANDERSON in CONCERT

John Anderson will give an organ concert at All Saints Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge Street, in South Hadley, MA at 3:00PM on Sunday, **September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013**. Members of the Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra will join him. Program details will be announced later.

## ORGAN CONCERT in MEMORY of ARLENE HOWES

There are plans for an organ concert in memory of Arlene Howes, former organist at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Enfield, CT. Guild members are welcome to play the Schantz organ.

### SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

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

Wilbraham & Monson Academy Chapel, 423 Main Street, Wilbraham. A Benefit Concert for the Community Survival Center of Springfield – Rene Clausen’s “A New Creation”.

**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.

**APRIL 7, 2013 at 2:00PM**

United Congregational Church of Holyoke, Maple Street, Holyoke, at the intersection of Appleton (Rt. 141) and Maple Street. The Springfield Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform under their conductor Jonathan Lam.

**APRIL 21, 2013 at 4:00PM**

St. Mary’s Church, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA. Klaus Becker will perform on the piano.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2013 at 3:00PM**

All Saints Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley. John Anderson, organ, and members of the Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra.

**CHIFF CHAT**

**American Guild of Organists**

**Springfield, MA Chapter**

Klaus Becker, Newsletter Editor

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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 [klanbe@gmail.com](mailto:klanbe@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)