

March/April 2007

Chiff Chat

Springfield, MA Chapter
American Guild of Organists



A Message from the Dean

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful evening we had at the Pastor Organist Dinner last month! Fr. Jim Sipitkowski and many volunteers at Sacred Heart Parish in Easthampton treated us like royalty. Following a recital by the children's choir *Laudamus Singers and Ringers* led by music director and our member Jan Duffé, we moved to the parish hall for appetizers, wine (twelve to choose from!), and *kanapki*. Then the real feast began with a parade of servers bringing out overflowing plates of *kapusta*, *kielbasa*, *pierogi* and *scrod*. After the *naleniki* dessert, Jeffers Englehardt of Amherst College treated us to a provocative talk on the intimate connection of sound with worship. With musical examples including the timeless sounding of the *Shofar*, the *Theotokion* from the Orthodox all-night vigil in Estonia, and the sounding of conches at a Tibetan monastery, Professor Jeffers wove together the seemingly unique elements of individual traditions into a fine tapestry that speaks to all of us humans at a universal level transcending any one religion. It was a very well received lecture and I thank Rod Gisick, our Sub Dean, for introducing Jeffers to us.

The annual Chapter election process has started. Published on page six of this issue is the slate of candidates is published. Additional names may be added by petition (signed by at least five members in good standing) received by the Secretary, Martha Sienkiewicz prior to April 20, 2007. The ballot will be sent May 1, 2007 and must be returned (sealed and signed across the flap) to Barbara Huber, postmarked by May 15, 2007. I am very grateful for the work done by the Nominating Committee: Barbara Huber, chair, Ron Shepard, and Mary Jeanne Tash.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will read about our Saturday, March 24, 2007 presentation of the 1921 film *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* accompanied by organist Peter Krasinski at Holyoke United Congregational Church. In recent years, we have brought Peter here for *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Metropolis*. This epic vehicle for Rudolf Valentino will be just as magnificent so please try to attend and bring your friends. If you have

never seen (or heard) Peter's work, you will be amazed at the seamless and intricate score he creates to the film.

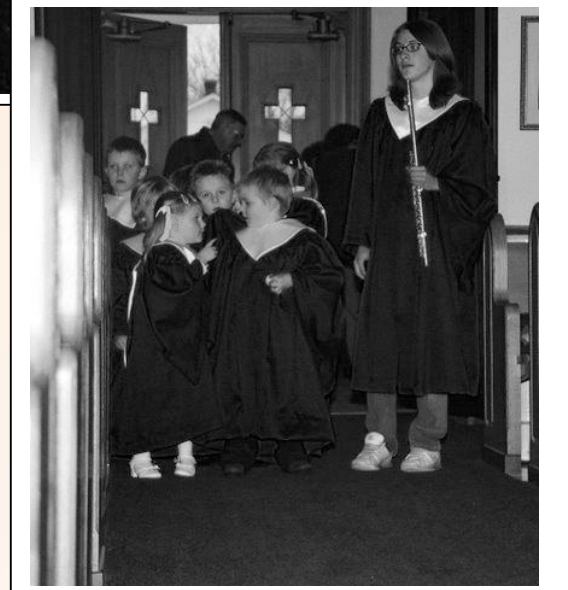
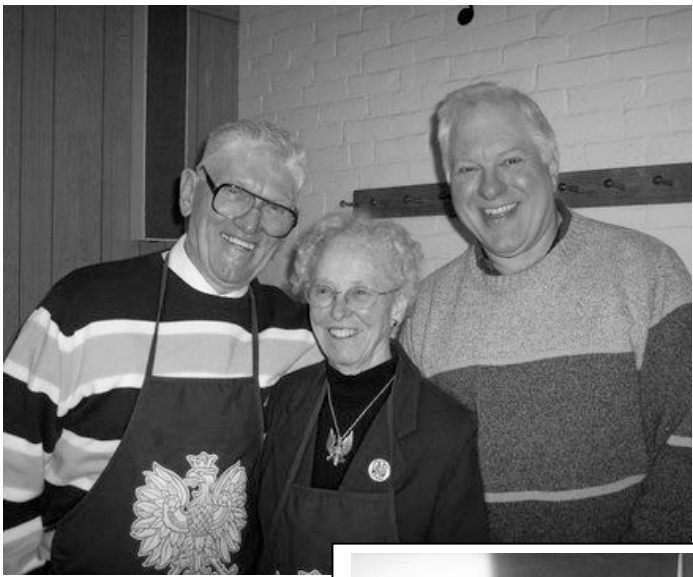
The organizational chart of the AGO starts with President Fred Swann and the other officers: Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. There are then five National Councilors with portfolios of education, professional development, finances, conventions, and competition. The remainder of the National Council comprises nine Regional Councilors each representing members of a geographic area of the United States and Europe. For six years we in Region I – New England were served incredibly by Lois Toepfner of Sudbury, Massachusetts. Last year, upon Lois completing her term-limited service, all of us in Region I elected James Barry of Hartford. Unfortunately, due to Jim's professional work as Director of Artistic Operations at Hartford Symphony Orchestra, he had to resign. This long prelude is to set the stage to announce that the National Council has appointed me to complete the term as Regional Councilor of New England representing twenty chapters in six states. Over the years, your support has made us a stellar chapter in the Guild and that success has helped give the visibility that brought my name forward. For that, I am grateful to each one of you who serves the chapter, gets involved with our programs, and attends our events. I am humbled and honored by this appointment, and have promised Fred and the National Council that I will do my best on behalf of the members of Region I and the Guild.

As we continue our church-year journey and approach Holy Week, it is easy to overlook the beauty and importance we bring to our churches and parishioners. Let us all share that magical moment at the first notes of the prelude when the *day-to-day* fades and the call to worship begins.

E Lary Grossman

Pastor/Organist Dinner

Sunday, February 25, 2007



Silent Film with Peter Krasinski, Organist

Saturday, March 24, 2007, 7:00pm, UCC, Holyoke

On Saturday, March 24th 2007, at 7:00 p.m., the United Congregational Church of Holyoke, in downtown Holyoke MA, and the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present the immortal 1921 silent film, **The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse**, starring RUDOLPH VALENTINO, with live organ accompaniment performed by **Peter Krasinski** on the great Skinner organ.

Mr. Krasinski is currently Director of Choral Arts at Beaver Country Day School in Chestnut Hill, and Artistic Director of Youth pro Musica, the Greater Boston Youth Chorus. He is organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Providence, Rhode Island, and Beth El Temple Center Synagogue in Belmont, Massachusetts. He has appeared at prestigious venues around the world, including Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. His Bach playing has been hailed in the press as "sublimely spiritual," and his improvisations have been called "stunning" and "seamless." In March of 2006, Mr. Krasinski gave an outstanding performance accompanying the 1927 silent film, *Metropolis*, here at United Church; that performance drew rave reviews.

The organ of the United Congregational Church in Holyoke is one of the largest and finest in the United States. It was built in 1921 by legendary American organ builder Ernest M. Skinner, and remains in its original condition – a rarity for these instruments. It is well maintained by the church. This organ has many of Mr. Skinner's patented and famous stops, including French horn, English horn, orchestral strings, orchestral oboe, heckelphone and clarinet, plus full-length 32 foot stops in the pedal to provide a thundering bass.

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, with its extended scenes of the devastated French countryside and personalized story of loss, is considered to be among the greatest war films ever made. It won wide acclaim and ranks among the top 100 highest grossing films of all time. The film has held up very well – the acting is naturalistic, the story moves at a quick pace, the actors do not wear the heavy make-up that we today associate with the silent cinema – in short, this is a very modern film. Near the beginning of the film is one of cinema's most famous scenes, of Valentino dancing the tango in a waterfront dive in Buenos Aires. This is most certainly a film not to be missed!

Julio proved a break-through role for Rudolph Valentino, who would go on to become one of the biggest stars of all time. When he died, at the age of 31 on August 23, 1926, several women attempted suicide, and over 100,000 people passed by his open casket to pay their respects at his funeral. The event was a drama in itself: one floral arrangement, sent by actress Pola Negri, consisted of 4,000 red roses, and windows were smashed as fans tried to get in.

Admission to this presentation is free and open to all. **A suggested donation of \$8 for adults, and \$5 for students and senior citizens** will be collected at the door. 100% of all monies collected will be donated to the Pipe Organ Encounter of the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, a week-long summer camp for young organists age 12 to 18, to be held July 22nd to 27th on the campus of Smith College.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is located on the block bounded by Maple, Appleton (Route 141), and High Streets – the church address is 395 High Street, and the main entrance of the church is on Maple Street. There is ample free parking, and the church is just up the block from Holyoke Police Headquarters. There will be security personnel on hand. The church is fully handicapped accessible. For further information, including directions to the church, call the church office at: 413-532-1483.

POSTERS in 11" x 17" format are available for the event - Please contact Peter Beardsley at 732-6437 or jp51beardsley2@the-spa.com. **Also please tear off and post the poster on page 7!**

POE 2007!

What is a Pipe Organ Encounter (POE)?

A POE is a 4-5 day regional event organized by a local AGO chapter under the sponsorship of the national organization. It introduces teenagers and young adults to the world of the pipe organ.

Pipe Organ Encounters:

- . Provide individual and group instruction in the basic rudiments of pipe organ technique and service playing.
- . Give a general overview of organ literature, history, and related topics.
- . Expose the participants to various concepts and examples of pipe organ construction and design.
- . Offer opportunities to participate in ecumenical worship, so as to experience the role of the sacred musician.
- . Provide an invaluable opportunity for young musicians to meet others with similar interests.

2007 Pipe Organ Encounters

June 12-16, 2007 OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA (Oklahoma City University) Oklahoma City Chapter Timothy Olsen Wanda L. Bass School of Music Oklahoma City University 2501 N. Blackwelder Oklahoma City, OK 73106-1493 (405) 208-5013 tolsen@okcu.edu www.okcu.edu/music/organ/poe

June 24-29, 2007 DE LAND, FLORIDA (Stetson University) Central Florida Chapter Daniel V. Weimer 989 Whippoorwill Drive Port Orange, FL 32127-1132 (386) 756-3421 AGOdean55@aol.com http://homepage.mac.com/cf_ago/cf_ago/index.html

July 8-13, 2007 RICHMOND, VA (Mary Mother of the Church Benedictine Abbey Retreat & Conference Center) Richmond Chapter Judy M. Fiske Tabernacle Baptist Church 1925 Grove Ave. Richmond, VA 23220-4507 (804) 355-0134 judy@tbcrichmond.org www.richmondago.org

July 15-20, 2007 ATHENS, OHIO (Ohio University) Ohio University/Southeast Ohio Chapter, Paul T. Barte School of Music Ohio University Athens, OH 45701-2979 (740) 593-4253 barte@ohio.edu www.agohq.org/chapters/seohio

July 22-27, 2007 NORTHAMPTON, MA (Smith College) Springfield Chapter, E Lary Grossman 24 King St. Hatfield, MA 01038-9750 (413) 247-9426 elg@bradygrossman.com www.springfieldago.org

July 22-27, 2007 SPOKANE, WA (Gonzaga University) Spokane Chapter Rita Stoess 2121 E. 48th Ave. Spokane, WA 99223-6501 (509) 443-0174 hrstoess@msn.com www.spokaneago.org

Upcoming Events

March 2007

Thursday, March 15, 2007 - 7:00pm

UMass and Springfield Symphony Present the Brahms Requiem, University of Massachusetts Choral Ensembles, Wayne Abercromie, *conductor*.

University of Massachusetts Orchestra, Lanfranco Marcelletti, Jr., *director*. Smith College Chorus, Deanna Joseph, *conductor*. Springfield Symphony Chorus, Nikki Stoia, *conductor*. Laura Klock, *horn soloist*, Kristi Kelly, *soprano*, Andrew Garland, *baritone*. UMass Fine Arts Center, Massachusetts Avenue, Amherst, MA.

Sunday, March 18, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. "The Brick Church" Music Series at THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD, 71 Main Street, Deerfield, MA. Russian-born pianist, MARGARITA NULLER, will present a classical piano concert with compositions by Haydn, Brahms, Liszt and Chopin. A graduate of St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music, Russia, she has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician in the New York City area and in New England. Recent solo performances have been in Russia, New York City, Connecticut, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00. A reception will follow in the Caswell Library, Deerfield Academy. For information please call: 413-774-2657.

Sunday, March 18, 2007 – 4:00pm Lois Toepfner, organist. Works of Buxtehude, Franck & Mendelssohn. MUSIC AT MISSION - Geo. S. Hutchings Op. 410 Organ Series. Mission Church (Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help), 1545 Tremont St, Boston - minutes from MBTA Greenline E / Brigham Circle stop. Wheelchair accessible. Suggested Donation \$15 (\$10 for students/seniors). (617) 445-2600, www.themissionchurch.com

Sunday, March 18, 2007, 3:00pm
Choir Festival at 3:00 p.m. at the United Church of Bernardston. The title of the program is "Prelude to Easter".

Saturday, March 24, 2007- 10:00am
Master class with James David Christie (and update/tour of the Worcester Chapter AGO Library Cataloguing Project) St. Joseph Memorial Chapel, College of the Holy Cross.

Saturday, March 24, 2007 – 7:00pm Silent Film AGO Event – Silent Movie, with Peter Krasinski, Organist, featuring "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," United Congregational Church, 395 High St. Holyoke, MA. A stunning combination of instrument and performer, and a rare opportunity to experience what movie-going life was like in the age before recorded sound. (\$8 suggested contribution)

Sunday, March 25, 2007 - 3:00pm

South Hadley Chorale, Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. South Hadley Chorale and Children's Chorus Spring Concert. Deanna Joseph, *Conductor*. Children's Chorus, Cathy Melhorn, *Conductor* Abbey Memorial Chapel, Mount Holyoke College campus. Tickets: \$12.00/General Admission, \$10.00/Senior Citizens, \$5.00/Students and Children. Tickets may be purchased from members of the Chorale, at the Odyssey Book Shop in South Hadley or at the door on the day of the concert.

Sunday, March 25, 2007, 4:00pm, Woodland Concert Series - Messiah Sing-In!, Woodland Concert Series, Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT. \$10 suggested donation at the door.

Friday, March 30, 2007 at 7:30pm Trinity Organ Series, Trinity College Chapel, 300 Summit St, Hartford, CT. Jason Roberts, Organist. Jason Roberts is a graduate of Rice University and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. He was finalist in the recent American Guild of Organists Improvisation Competition, and winner of the Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition, Young Professional Division, 2005.

Saturday, March 31, 2007, 8:00pm

Exhilarate! Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Andrew Clark, Music Director Anton Belov, baritone Kathryn Jennings, soprano Pamela Dellal, mezzosoprano Ray Bauwens, tenor Mechanics Hall. Tickets \$37, \$39. www.musicworcester.org

Saturday, March 31, 2007 - 8:00pm

Smith College and the Navel Academy Glee Clubs present "From Tribulation to Triumph"
Works by Orff, Verdi, Mozart, Brahms, Bach and

And More Events!

Mahler. The Naval Academy Men's Glee Club & The Smith College College Glee Club and Orchestra. Jonathan Hirsh, *director*, John M. Greene Hall, Smith College, Elm Street, Northampton, MA.

April 2007

Saturday, April 14, 2007 - 8:00pm

Smith College and UMass Present the Brahms Requiem. Smith College Chorus, Deanna Joseph, *conductor*. University of Massachusetts Choral Ensembles, Wayne Abercromie, *conductor*. St. Mary's Catholic Church, 3 Elm St., Northampton, MA.

Sunday, April 15, 2007 at 3:00 pm, "The Brick Church"

Music Series at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Main Street, Deerfield, MA, Robert Barney, organist and Director of Music for Trinity Episcopal Church in Concord, MA, will present an organ recital of varied repertoire on our Richards, Fowkes tracker organ, assisted by Chris Hawes, trumpeter, a well-traveled musician much in demand as a soloist. Suggested donation: \$10.00 Reception: Caswell Library, Deerfield Academy Information: Jean Pitman Turner, 413-774-2657

Friday, April 20, 2007 at 7:30pm Vaughn Mauren, Organist Assistant Organist, Trinity College Chapel Organist, Unitarian Society of Hartford

May 2007

Saturday, May 19 2007 - 12:30pm

Smith College Commencement Choral Concert Smith College Glee Club and Chamber Singers, Jonathan Hirsh, *director*. Sweeney Recital Hall, Sage Hall, Smith College, Northampton, MA.

June 2007

June 12, 2007, 6:00pm, Springfield AGO End of Year Banquet/Cookout, Residence of Charles Page, One Bridges Road, Enfield, CT. Our closing event is also a social occasion! Join fellow AGO chapter members in welcoming the summer. Organist Amanda Mole will demonstrate the Austin residence organ.

Sunday, June 17 2007 - 3:00pm

HCS Presents Haydn's The Seasons, The Hampshire Choral Society, Allan Taylor, *conductor*, John M. Greene Hall, Elm Street, Northampton, MA.

June 24 to 27 - 2007 REGIONAL CONVENTION

The AGO Region I Convention will occur from Sunday, June 24, 2007 through Wednesday, June 27, 2007, in Providence, Rhode Island. AGO Region I members will receive a brochure with registration details before year-end. Accommodations will be at the Providence Marriott. The Convention will include recitals by Patricia Snyder, Mark Steinbach, Paul Jacobs, Brink Bush (in Middletown/Newport!), Andrew Galuska and Hope Davis, as well as a "grand finalé" recital on Wednesday, June 27 with Gillian Weir. If you need more details prior to receiving the brochure, contact the Rhode Island Chapter, Doris Alberg, Registrar, 665 Maureen Circle, Mapleville, RI 02839 dorisja@cox.net.

July 2007

July 22 – 27, 2007, Springfield Chapter AGO Pipe Organ Encounter, Smith College. For more information, see page 4, or contact Lary Grossman, Dean & POE Director.

Slate for 2007-08 Chapter Election

Terms begin July 1, 2007 and end June 30, 2008

All terms are one year unless otherwise noted.

DEAN: Rod Gisick

SUB-DEAN: Ron Trunzo

TREASURER: Mike Gilman

SECRETARY: Martha Sienkiewicz

DIRECTORS to 2010 (2 vacancies):

Karen Banta & The Rev. Jerry True

To fill the vacancy created by Ron Trunzo

resigning to run for Sub Dean

DIRECTOR to 2008: Nicholas Russotto (student member)

In accordance with AGO guidelines, members may submit additional candidates to this slate via a petition signed by at least five members and delivered by mail or in-person to the Secretary, Martha Sienkiewicz. These submissions must arrive prior to April 20, 2007. Ballots will be mailed on May 1, 2007 and must be returned to Barbara Huber in a sealed and signed envelope (sign across flap) postmarked by May 15, 2007.

Respectfully submitted to the Membership,
2007 Nominating Committee
Barbara Huber, chair
Ron Shepard
M. J. Tash

Springfield, MA
Chapter,
American Guild
of Organists

Chiff Chat Newsletter

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email newsletter@springfieldago.org. Submissions for the May issue is due April 15, 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!

CHIFF CHAT

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

R. Trunzo, Newsletter Editor

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