

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts
Chapter

American Guild of Organists



November 2010

A message from the Dean...

Fantastic is the only word to describe the recent *Phantasmagoria* concert given at South Church to celebrate the spirit of Halloween and try to bring organ music to the general public. Nearly 200 witches, queens, goblins, assorted creatures and humans walked into the lovely neo-Gothic sanctuary dominated by a wall of golden pipes front and center above a three-manual Austin organ with more sounds than you could dream possible. The console was bedecked with cobwebbery underneath the gaze of a particularly magnificent black raven perched above the keyboards. As the hour approached, a hooded ghoul came out and lit the candles and a hush fell over the revelers as the lights dimmed and a white-wigged J. S. Bach appeared to begin the program with his famous Toccata and Fugue in D minor. Then a very young but hideous witch took over and delivered a spine-tingling movement from Vierne... followed by the Mountain King and his priestly friend to play Edvard Grieg. TV shows, the Munsters' theme, the William Tell Overture, and a magnificent finale from PDQ Bach with a variety of orchestration rounded out the evening. At one point a little old church lady took everyone's breath away with a "Fantasy on the name BACH" to which she invited audience participation in the form of howling. It was a howl indeed. Bravo! The organ was never creepier or funnier thanks to Peter, Monica, Larry, Larry, Eugenia and Grant.

But underneath all the magic of the evening is the unspoken question: are creep shows and silent movies (also very popular) the only way people hear this magnificent instrument anymore? Newer churches frequently feature

high-tech sound systems and praise bands, while many older churches are closing and their organs are being dismantled. Sadly, some of the organs in this area have real cobwebs, not the dramatic fake ones of the South Church event. Not even one National Public Radio station in Massachusetts carries *PipeDreams*, a nationally produced radio program that features classical organ music. The good news is that you can listen to *PipeDreams* any time you wish, AND you can help promote interest in classic organ by placing the following paragraph in your church bulletin for the next six weeks or so. Try it. People interested in the organ music you play may not know about *PipeDreams*.

- Martha

Enjoy organ music in its infinite variety on PIPEDREAMS from American Public Media available online at any time (24/7). Each week a new two-hour program appears on the website and hundreds of past broadcasts are accessible in the PIPEDREAMS program archive at www.pipedreams.org.



Monica Czausz and Peter Beardsley played Wagners "Ride of the Valkyries."

Springfield Chapter Leadership

Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
Sub Dean	Don Hooton
Secretary	Mary Jeanne Tash
Treasurer	James Barnes
Directors	Barbara Boudo, Quentin Faulkner, Alan Dickinson, Mark Jacobson, Roger LaCross, Larry Picard
Chaplain	Fr. William Wallis
Education	Martha Sienkiewicz, Don Hooton
Membership	Karen Banta
Chiff Chat Editor	Larry Picard
Web Site	Allan Taylor
Investments	Charles Page, E Lary Grossman, William Czelusniak, James Barnes

Next Chapter Event: Pastor-Organist Dinner, Monday, November 15, 2010 at 6 p.m. at Wilbraham United Church

ABOUT THE PASTOR-ORGANIST DINNER by Karen Banta

The Pastor-Organist Dinner is a traditional event of AGO chapters. "Shouldn't that name be the other way around?" asked my new rector, when I invited her. Well, read The American Organist, and that's what it's always called. Our Springfield Chapter usually hosts this event every other year. The Pastor-Organist Dinner has several purposes: a relaxing time with one's colleagues, the opportunity to meet new people, a good meal. (Remember the Polish dinner at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Easthampton, prepared by its priest, complete with printed wine list?) A main goal is to offer an after-dinner program of interest to both musicians and clergy.

The Rev. Ted Thornton, this year's speaker, possesses a rare skill set and a fascinating program. He is an Episcopal priest and a speaker of Arabic. Ted has been teaching Religious Studies and History at Northfield Mount Hermon School in Gill since 1977. He also teaches Arabic and recently completed translating a book on the concept of tolerance in Islamic thought. Ted will present a short PowerPoint program called "Introduction to Islam." This includes audio clips of chanting, noting the significance of rising and falling pitches. Images of holy sites, architecture, and calligraphy will be shown. I've been fortunate to have seen Ted's presentation once before (he is the Chaplain of my chapter of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross), so I highly commend it to you and your clergy. Islam is foreign to most of us, and people like Ted can help shine a light on its mysteries.

By the way, the Pastor-Organist Dinner is open to anyone. So if you don't have a pastor, please come yourself, and feel free to invite a partner/spouse, friend, non-member organist, choir singer, or anyone interested. The registration form is included with this newsletter.

And more chapter events...

February 19 (Saturday) 10:00 AM at Church of the Atonement, Westfield, **Anthem Reading.**

March 20 (Sunday) 3:00 PM, **Members' Recital** at All Saint's Episcopal Church, South Hadley.

April 9 (Saturday) 7:00 PM, **Peter Krazinski accompanies the silent movie "The General"** at United Congregational Church of Holyoke.

June 5 (Sunday) 2:00 PM, **End-of-year cookout** at the home of Charles Page, Enfield, Ct.

AN INTERVIEW WITH SCOTT BAILEY, CAGO

by Karen Banta, Membership Chair

One of our new members—and we hope to feature others, too—is Scott Bailey of Westfield. Like many musicians, he holds multiple positions. Scott is Staff Accompanist at Westfield State University and Accompanist of the Hampshire Choral Society. He is Music Director at First Congregational Church of North Adams, UCC, a post he held pre-college (1996-99) and returned to (2004-present). Scott is a Dual Member with the Berkshire Chapter. Welcome, Scott!

KB: When and how did you start playing the organ?

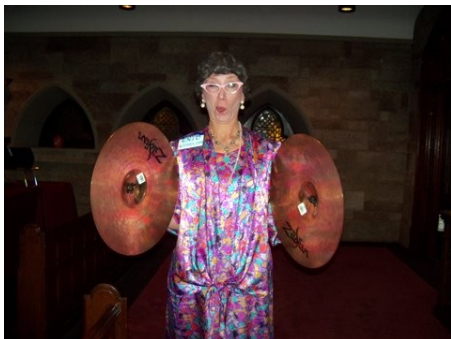
SB: I started to play at the age of 11. I had taken piano for about 4 years by that time and the organist in my church at the time, (Tom Frost) decided to have me try out the organ. I began taking lessons and even attended the Pipe Organ Encounters that were held in 1992 and 1993 in North Andover, MA. After that, I took lessons regularly with Dr. Dwight Killam, often taking part in Berkshire Chapter AGO events.

KB: What's the funniest, worst, or most moving experience you've had as an organist?

SB: Maybe this counts as the most moving, but I would say that my most rewarding experience so far has been taking the Colleague Exam this past May. My interest in the organ had waned throughout the 00's, but deciding to take the exam put me back on the organ study track. It gave me an opportunity to reconnect with organ playing in a way that I hadn't felt in years.

KB: What inspired you to join the Springfield Chapter, and what are you hoping to gain from membership?

SB: Since I live in Westfield and work in Berkshire County, I wanted to broaden my connections with organists beyond the Berkshire Chapter. I also wanted to know more about organ events in the Pioneer Valley and possibly, at some point in the future, have the connections necessary to search for a position in the area. I am certainly interested in learning about what the Springfield Chapter does in terms of outreach and education about the organ, particularly to students (not necessarily organ students).



More pictures from the recent chapter event, Phantasmogoria. At Church Lady Eugenia Sullivan shows that her cymbals don't clash her dress. At right, Monster Mark Jacobson strikes fear the heart of the most Rev. Grant Moss.



left, with into



Lower left, Rev. Moss and Mountain King Larry Schipull perform Grieg, while the entire ensemble came together for a movement from PDQ Bach's "A Little Pickle Book."



Pastor-Organist Dinner

Monday, November 15, 6:00 PM

Wilbraham United Church

500 Main Street

Wilbraham Massachusetts, 01095

The Menu

Salad with Signature Dressings

Rolls and Butter

Roasted Stuffed Turkey with Gravy, Cranberry

Veggie stuffed Peppers

Scalloped Sweet and White Potato with Turnip

Chef's Vegetable

Apple Cobbler with Whipped Crème Fraiche

Coffee

Guest Speaker

Rev. Ted Thorton on "Islam"

Cost: \$20 per person

Please make checks payable to:

American Guild of Organists – Spfld. Chapter

and mail with this form to:

Mark Jacobson

104 Pondview Drive

Springfield, MA 01118

Name _____

Number of persons attending _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Upcoming Events

November 2010

Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Mark Fraser, cello, Edward Rosser, piano, and John Salvi, baritone. Trinity UMC, Sumner Avenue, Springfield.

www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org

Sunday, November 7, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. Schola Nova performs at **Providence Place**, Holyoke. Works by Allegri, Byrd, Martinaitis, Pärt, Whitacre, Luboff and the rousing **Das Glaut Zu Speyer**. www.scholanova.org

Sunday, November 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. Martin Kasik, pianist from Prague, Czech Republic, will play music by Chopin and Rachmaninoff at the First Church of Deerfield, 71 Main Street, Old Deerfield. Kasik will be piano soloist with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, November 3rd. Suggested donation \$10. www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org

Sunday, November 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Anthology, a Boston women's a cappella group, performs at a historic Forest Park home as part of the CityMusic Springfield Series. Free-will donation, but please contact Larry Picard for a reservation.

lpicard@sococh.org or 413-732-0117.

Monday, November 15, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

(Chapter event) Pastor-organist dinner at Wilbraham United Church. See insert for details.

Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club presents Sonya Funk, soprano, and Estela Olevsky, piano. Trinity United Methodist Church, Sumner Avenue, Springfield.

www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org

Sunday, November 21, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Larry Schipull is the soloist playing with the UMass Orchestra, Lanfranco Marcelletti, Jr., conductor. United Congregational Church, Holyoke. Suggested donation \$10.

www.uccholyoke.org.

December 2010

Friday, December 3, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

Schola Nova performs a service of Lessons and Carols at Saint Michael's Catholic Church, East Longmeadow.

www.scholanova.org

Sunday, December 5, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. Schola Nova performs a service of Lessons and Carols at the Church of the Acres, Springfield.

www.scholanova.org

Sunday, December 5, 2010 at 4:00 pm

Christmas with Novi Cantori at the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, 566 Front Street, Chicopee.

www.novicantori.org

Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 4:00 pm

Novi Cantori Carol Festival at First Congregational Church, 18 Broad Street Westfield. www.novicantori.org

Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 1:00 pm

Christmas with Novi Cantori at the Old Meetinghouse, Granville. www.novicantori.org

Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

The Holyoke High School choirs perform at United Congregational Church, Holyoke.

www.uccholyoke.org.

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#### **Wanted: Choir Director**

The Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC, Granby, seeks a Choir Director, to start before Jan. 1. Paid position, including a rehearsal night and Sunday worship. Contact the church office at 413-467-9742, or email a resume to [uccgranby@gogtt.net](mailto:uccgranby@gogtt.net).

#### **Instrument needs a home**

Baldwin Organ, Model #48C. Two manuals (61 notes) & pedal (32 notes). All keys and pedals work. Free of charge to anyone who will remove it from my home. Contact Karen Greene, Montague, MA, 413/522-4626, email: [coachlove76@hotmail.com](mailto:coachlove76@hotmail.com).

**CHIFF CHAT**

**American Guild of Organists  
Springfield, MA Chapter**

Larry Picard, Newsletter Editor  
173 Thompson Street  
Springfield, MA 01109-4036

## *Chiff Chat Newsletter*

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
Celebrating 62 Years as a chapter!**

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email [newsletter@springfieldago.org](mailto:newsletter@springfieldago.org). Submissions are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Also, visit our website at [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org)!

***November Chapter Event: Pastor-Organist dinner at  
Wilbraham United Church, Monday, Nov. 15 at 6 p.m.***