

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists
November 2012



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

Greetings:

On Saturday October 13th, as you arrived to the church for our *Introduction to the Service Playing Exam* you saw, “Pumpkins on the Hill” an event where you could buy baked goods and pumpkins. I want to thank Karen McCarthy for making sure everything was ready for the workshop and to the members of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church for allowing us to have this event at their church.

Our Sub Dean, Quentin Faulkner was the presenter who did an excellent job explaining what to expect when you take the exam. Within a short period of time during the presentation, we had a surprise when a malfunction in the fire-alarm system sent us, and everyone else fleeing from the building. We had heard someone say that they were cooking meatballs in the kitchen. It took those in charge a couple of tries before it was silent again. There were five members in attendance who I feel will work towards taking this exam. Quentin had handouts for those in attendance and if you were unable to attend today and would like one, I will have them at the Pastor Organist Dinner. In the presentation Quentin covered two sections, S2, which covered Transposition and S8 that covered Sight-reading. These are two areas that will help any organist.

Today I attended the Dedicatory Concert for the Restored 1896 Casavant Organ at the South Congregational Church in South Amherst. This 1896 Casavant organ, Opus 74 is the oldest surviving Casavant organ in the United States. The instrument represents a rare example of mechanical action organs built during the Casavant brothers’ directorship. Grant Moss, a past dean of our chapter was the guest organist who demonstrated what this instrument could do and did an excellent job.

The next event for our chapter is the Pastor/Organist dinner on Monday November 12th at 6 PM at the Church of the Atonement, 36 Court Street, Westfield, MA. The cost for this event is \$20 per person. The featured speaker will be The Rev. Matthew Alcombright a former Chapter member. The title of his speech is, **“From Organ to Altar: Understanding both sides of the equation.”** The deadline for this event is Monday, November 5, 2012. Reservations are to be sent to Jim Barnes, 27 Carriage Lane, Westfield, MA. 01085.

I look forward to seeing you on November 12th.

Don

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CURRENT EVENTS

MEMBER NEWS

Springfield Chapter AGO member, Arlene H. Howes was officially honored as Music Director Emerita of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Enfield on June 26, 2012. Arlene has retired as of September 1, having served the church for 38 years! Among her many credits, she has served the chapter as Treasurer. Personally, when I joined the chapter she was especially welcoming to me as a new member. -- Lori Bourret

PERFORMANCE VENUES NEEDED

There's a need for a venue to give a small brass concert next year in Westfield, Holyoke or Chicopee.... This would be of no cost to the hosting church as the group is applying for a grant from the cultural council. The concert would consist of four brass (2 trumpet, 2 trombone) soloists and piano accompaniment. All of the players are very professional and known locally. Is there anyone out there interested in bringing this to your church? If so, please contact David Neil at [413-732 4137](tel:413-732-4137) or email him at tbn8@aol.com.

HARPSICHORD FOR RENT

Mark Wojcik offers his harpsichord for rent in the Springfield – Hartford area. The rental fee includes delivery and tuning. The instrument is a Flemish, single manual harpsichord, and a historically accurate copy built by Adam J. Decker in 2003. Disposition: 1x8', 1x4' and buff. Compass: 57 notes GG-d". Pitch: A415 and A440. Dr. Decker's harpsichords have been played at venues such as the Boston Early Music Festival. If interested, contact Mark at (413) 563-5125.

TOGETHER IN SONG III

WGBY's Together in Song III – Call for Entries is open. Enter now through November 21, 2012. The Studio tapings are January and February 2013, and the Festival Finale is Sunday, April 28, 2013.

Rather than categorizing by choir age, group and size, Together in Song III will be categorized by age group and music genre. There will be a total of 10 categories. Out of these 10 categories, 4 will be for children (Elementary and Middle School Choirs): Classical; Folk/World; Gospel; Pop/Fun/Musical Theater/Jazz. All other choirs (High School, College and Adult Choirs): Barbershop; Folk/World; Gospel; Pop/Doo Wop/Jazz; Sacred Classical (example Bach Motet "Jesu, meine Freude"); Secular Classical (example Randall Thompson "The Road Not Taken")

SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

November 12, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Pastor-Organist Dinner of the AGO Springfield Chapter at The Episcopal Church of the Atonement, Court Street, Westfield, MA. Guest speaker is Father Matthew Alcombright. Use attached form of this newsletter for RSVP.

November 16, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Gala Brass & Organ Concert by WPI Brass & Percussion Ensemble, Douglas Weeks, conductor, and William Ness, organ at First Baptist Church, 111 Park Avenue, Worcester, MA.

November 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Silent Film at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke, Maple Street, Holyoke, MA. The Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MIFA) will present a Gala Music & Film Night to benefit the Victory Theatre. *Alexander Nevsky*, a film by Sergei Eisenstein, will be accompanied by Peter Krasinski, performing the original score by Sergei Prokofiev, on the historic 70 rank E. M. Skinner pipe organ. In addition Holyoke High School choirs under the direction of Mark Todd will perform. Tickets are \$125 (includes Gala reception before the film); \$45 for general admission, and \$25 for students. Further information is available at <http://www.mifafestival.org> or at the church website <http://www.uccholyoke.org>.

November 18, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

The Joy of Music Concert Series continuous at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 758 Main Street, in Wilbraham, MA. Virtuoso violinist Fernando Vizcayno will present an exhilarating program of some of the most difficult and beautiful music for violin, among them the sonata by Cesar Franck. Fernando will be accompanied by pianist Patricia Guadagnoli. Don't miss your chance to hear world class performers within reach of your neighborhood, in Wilbraham. There is a \$10 suggested donation, and refreshments will be served.

December 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Canite Tuba! at St. Frances Cabrini, 475 Main Street, West Springfield, MA.

December 2, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Canite Tuba! At St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA
"Canite Tuba!" (The Sound of the Trumpet" – Schola Nova, under the direction of Terry Larsen, celebrates the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany holidays with Charpentier's delightful Messe de Minuit de Noel, carols, and motets by the masters of the renaissance such as, Byrd, Handl, Palestrina and Philips. For more details you can also visit www.scholanova.org.

December 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Joint concert with the Greater Westfield Choral Association, under the direction of Mark Winer, and the Festival Chorus of Westfield, under the direction of Allan Tayler, at the Deer Auditorium of Westfield State University, Westfield, MA. You will hear Psalm 95 "Come Let Us Sing" by Felix Bartholdy Mendelssohn, as well as music by Jerry Noble, Jr. "Alice".

December 8, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

G.F. Händel's Messiah at St. Mary's Church, 519 Longmeadow St., Longmeadow, MA

December 9, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

G.F. Händel's Messiah at Our Lady of the Valley Church, 33 Adam Street, Easthampton, MA

Terry Larsen will lead Community Choirs of experienced choral singers in Händel's Messiah Christmas section, Hallelujah Chorus, and Great Amen. The two performances are part of the Cornucopia Benefit Concerts (www.cornucopiaconcerts.com), and all proceeds are to benefit the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

December 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

The Adult Choir of St. Mary's Parish in Westfield, under the direction of Robert LePage presents "Lessons and Carols" at St. Mary's Church, 30 Bartlett Street, in Westfield, MA. Compositions by Hopson, Snyder, and others will be performed. Admission is free.

December 9, 2012 at 2:00 p. m.

The Holyoke High School Choirs at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke, Maple Street, Holyoke, MA. They will present a holiday concert under the direction of Mark Todd. Mr. Todd is currently the Choral Music Department Head of the Holyoke Public Schools. He has produced over 16 musicals and has performed four times at the Hatch Shell in Boston upon winning the State Jazz Vocal Title.

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American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

Klaus Becker, Newsletter Editor

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Amherst, MA 01002

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**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. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org