

CHIEF CHAT

The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists

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FALL, FOLIAGE, FOWKES

Springfield AGO October Event

The Chapter's October Event will be on Monday, October 20th at the First Church of Deerfield starting at 7:00 PM. This event will feature the new Richards & Fowkes organ in both demonstration and "open console".

This stunning instrument, both visually and tonally, is a unique new addition to the organs in our area and is a magnificent example of the latest work of this young firm located in Tennessee.

We will first be welcomed by Chapter Member Jean Pitman Turner, who is also a member of the church. She is a very articulate person, and has been closely associated with this organ project and with the accompanying extensive renovations to the church, including significant improvements to the acoustics.

The organ will be demonstrated by Chapter members Grant Moss (Organist to Smith College and faculty member) and Larry Schipull (Recent past Dean, Organist to Mt. Holyoke College, and faculty member).

The demonstration will include a demonstration the controls of this in-

strument, the tuning temperament, the compasses of the manuals and pedal divisions, and other interesting aspects. The stops will be demonstrated individually and in combination. Also, several pieces will be played so members can enjoy hearing some literature played in entirety.

Following the demonstration, there will be an "open console" for member to try out this most interesting organ. Often, some members are reluctant to play, but we strongly encourage all attendees to acquaint yourself with this organ. If you wish, Grant and Larry will be most pleased to help

you explore this fine new instrument.

The program duration will be about 1-1/2 hours, after which those interested are invited to walk a few steps to the historic Deerfield Inn to continue with conversations and fellowship.

Finally, the Chapter congratulates Chapter member Tom Pousont for being the successful candidate selected fill the position of Organist and Choir Director at this historic and beautiful church.



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DEAN'S MESSAGE — October 2003

THEMES AND THANKS!

Last month, I wrote fairly clearly about a pivotal question: "where are we going?", *Quo Vadis!*. This month's theme is "how will we get there?". The answer, from my experience, is simply by hard work, or in our profession, *Ora et Labora*.

If we invest our own hard work on behalf of this Chapter, it will never stop paying us back, through sharing with our membership, in the quality of our events, and for our own professional development. All of these objectives were realized handsomely in the Springfield Chapter's opening event, the Installation of Officers, Evensong, and new organ demonstration at St. Andrew's Church, Longmeadow on September 14th. For that success, we owe a debt of gratitude to Karen McCarthy, who worked very hard to prepare and present the variegated program and the classy reception following. The Chapter also thanks The Rev'd. Lawrence C. Provenzano, Rector, for his participation and for the hospitality of the Church, Michael Dulac and Schola Nova for the Evensong music, Edith Gilbertson for her usual excellent organ performance, Charles Page for his Installation of our Officers, and John Anderson for his very effective demonstration of the new Southfield pipe organ.

The opening event in Longmeadow was very well attended, with good turnout by Springfield Chapter members, with a helpful presence from St. Andrew's Parish, and with gratifying support from the Berkshire Chapter Dean, Sub-Dean, and at least one member. Fr. Provenzano's brief comments during Evensong eloquently reminded us of at least two important points which bear repeating here: the pipe organs that we use and enjoy regularly are not ours personally nor just the property of the Church, but that they belong to the people of God, to whom we minister with music. Father Larry's repeated use of the word "instrument" to refer to these organs impressed me greatly, as by definition an instrument is a tool to implement greater work, which is, ultimately, the function of an organ in worship. Still, that perspective upon the organ does not diminish the challenges and the responsibilities of David Melrose, of myself, and of any other organbuilder, in our daily duties, to exercise our creativity to the maximum for artistic success, for musical fulfillment, and ultimately for the glory of God.

~ Recent Travels ~

On the weekend of September 27th, I attended the AGO Region I Dean's Re-

present in Framingham, Mass., as did Charles Page. We reported to the assembled group on the condition and activities of our Chapter, and learned much about the ideas and efforts being expended in other Chapters for the advancement of our art, our local programs, and our professionalism. It was a very stimulating meeting and discussion, and Charles and I left there inspired to pursue new ideas, especially for the growth of our Chapter and for the support of youth studying organ playing. There were lots of ideas, and a great deal of enthusiasm, and we left there very stimulated. During my drive home, however, the truth hit: How will we do it? How can we make any of those ideas work profitably for this Chapter? The answers require a great deal of hard work by Chapter leaders, and by members, as well. Are we up to this challenge, or will we languish and dwindle? You'll be hearing more from me and from Charles in the coming months about things at which we can work together to grow this Chapter and our good effects in the world of church music. Please be ready and willing to participate!

This message was delayed more than I had hoped by my absence for a week in Atlanta, Georgia to attend the annual convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders. The visit to a new area was most informative, the professional exchanges were enlightening and affirming, the array of organs visited was stimulating, and the overall effect of the event was exhilarating. The highlight organs, for me, were new ones by Schoenstein, Rosales, and Mander, and hearing the Spivey Hall Ruffati and the Fox Theatre Möller. Probably, the highlight church visit was to the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, with the Mander — 6000 members, \$26.5 million for a new sanctuary and building renovations, \$2 million for the new organ project, and a total of 3 pipe organs in the building! The convention program included wonderful performances by Todd Wilson, Paul Oakley, and the irrepressible Richard Morris.

Amongst our lectures, an earlier proposal to standardize current console accessories, design, and construction was presented again as a virtual impossibility in today's technology, suggesting instead to keep console accessories and controls simple, logical, and clear to control, if still abundant of generals and in memory levels (seemingly the most desirable of common accessories). The

objectives of logic and simplicity still uphold Gillian Weir's plea to us organbuilders given in Colorado Springs, a couple of years ago. I am happy to return home and to work, refreshed and enlightened in my field, and ready for new creative challenges that will benefit organists wherever we may work.

~ Forthcoming Programs ~

Our next Chapter event will occur on Monday, October 20th, at 7:00 PM in the Brick Church, Deerfield: Introduction, Demonstration & Passacaglia upon the Richards-Fowkes organ. (Please refer to Allen Langord's detailed description elsewhere in this newsletter.) This new instrument, built faithfully in historical style, is a true work of art as well as a consummate musical instrument. I hope that most of our members will take this opportunity to get up close and personal with this notable installation. Furthermore, I ask you now, strenuously, please to take this opportunity to invite other organists, your friends, and anyone you know to be interested in the organ, to come to see and hear this exemplary new instrument, and to invite them, as well, to join our AGO Chapter at the appropriate level of membership. This next event will be unusually exciting, to become acquainted with a very special instrument new to our valley. Let's all take this opportunity to encourage Chapter membership and participation. Reach out and bring in your friends.

The Dean has heard of intentions for a pre-Halloween presentation of "The Phantom of the Opera" silent movie at The Hippodrome (the former Paramount Theatre), Main Street, Springfield, with live accompaniment on the WurliTzer pipe organ. The instrument is the genuine article, if in mediocre condition right now, but there is some excitement in the awareness of the owners to maintain and preserve this historic theater pipe organ. Their use of the instrument for its original intention deserves our support by attendance. If you are interested, please check publicity forthcoming in the Springfield newspapers for more certain details.

Our Chapter event for November will occur on Monday the 17th at the Second Congregational Church, Western Avenue, Westfield, Mass., right at the State College campus. This potluck supper and anthem-sharing session is a much-requested event, but its success will depend upon the active participation of our members. A committee is at work on the details, but please mark your calendars for this date, be thinking of some music that you might like to present to your colleagues, and do volunteer to help if called upon for this event. The success of this evening will be, in good part, in the social aspects of

sharing food, camaraderie, and music! The more the merrier! Please add to the fun of the evening with *your* presence.

And looking further ahead... contrary to notice in the last Chiff-Chat, member Lad Pfeifer has informed us that a generous benefactor will support St. Michael's R.C. Cathedral, Springfield, in presenting Fred Swann in recital on Friday, April 30, 2004, as previously scheduled. This should be a noteworthy event as our national President retires from his concert career; this Chapter should publicize and support the concert as much as possible, though the AGO no longer will have any production responsibility for this event. That which was canceled, however, is now reinstated, with great enthusiasm!

~ Another Plea ~

The success of the Springfield Chapter will be the direct product of the active participation and hard work of its members. Don't leave it all to your leaders; volunteer, attend, participate, join in! Together, we can make light work of our duties to advance the mission of the AGO. But, you can probably hear it coming... it's not just hard work; it takes money. That is for the next installment. The Chapter is refining its budget now, and we will need to embark upon some creative fund-raising ideas to make more money available for programming, for education, and to assist young organists. Be thinking of how you can help, and do offer your ideas!

Finally, I'll extend a gentle plea on behalf of AGO National Headquarters for the Annual Fund. As in any arts organization these days, money is tight; as in most organizations, dues (and subscriptions) alone do not cover the cost of programming activity, especially that for outreach and education. Therefore, our additional and individual help in the form of contributions to the Annual Fund is critical to the activity, the success, and the stature of the American Guild of Organists. Furthermore, in the world of fund-raising, statistics are important. The amount of your contribution is not so important as the fact that you will make one; the numbers of members supporting the Annual Fund is an important indicator to other funding sources and for grants to the AGO. I've sent in a check myself: I wanted to be out of the glass house before I started throwing stones! Please join me in sending promptly any affordable amount to the AGO Annual Fund.

In the meanwhile, I look forward to seeing many of you, to seeing a huge crowd, please!, at the Brick Church, Deerfield next week.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Bill Czelusniak

Dean

JOB LISTINGS

Organist/Choir Director

St. John's Episcopal Church
Main and South Street
Ashfield, MA 01330

Description: choir sings only on major festivals; William Johnson Organ - mechanical action

Salary: \$8500.00

Contact: Peter Elenois 413-625-2338

Children/Youth Choir Director (pre-k-12th grade)

First Church of Christ Congregational
81 High Street
Suffield, CT 06078

Description: 8-10 hours/week

September - June

Contact: Deb Banks McIntosh
860-668-7223

Music Director

Second Congregational Church,
16 Court Sq., Greenfield, Mass.

Description: 15-20 hours per week; adult choir (12+) & youth choir (12+); potential for handbell choir, 4 octave set; 1925 Möller pipe organ

Salary: \$12,000; additional \$1,000 for youth choir

Contact: Theresa Hall

w. (413) 545-1584

e-mail: tlhall@admin.umass.edu

Organist/Choir Director

Sts. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church, Three Rivers, MA (Palmer)

Description: 2 choirs - 1 Polish (older) 1 English (younger). Does not require an understanding of the Polish language

Organ: 2 manual Casavant

Salary: negotiable (low to mid \$20's)

Contact: Fr. Stefan Niemczyk
413-283-6030

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE, or so they say,

and VARIETY IS WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER

YOUR PALATE ☺ YOUR MUSICAL TASTE

Who

All members of Springfield Chapter and their guests are invited to . . .

What

A **Pot-Luck Supper and Anthem Reading Session** on . . .

When

Monday evening, November 17: We'll socialize at 6 p.m., Supper begins at 6:30, and the Music about 7:30

Where

United Church of Christ - Second Congregational,
487 Western Ave. (next to Westfield State College), Westfield

Why

To enjoy each other's company, share each other's best fare, and spread the wealth of good anthems for a variety of levels (unison, two part, SSA and SATB; some easy and others ranging up to the more difficult) for a variety of musical seasons.

Please check your recipes (we need some of each category — casseroles, salads and desserts) and then give our hostess, Karen Lampiasi, a call (413-562-0646) to say what you'll be bringing toward the dinner. The committee will provide the hors d'oeuvres, rolls, butter and beverages. After dinner will be moving into the Sanctuary and enjoy our musical treat for the evening.

If you have an anthem you'd like to share, we'd like to know that, too. Call Barbara Huber (413-525-6142) or Don Hooton, (413-533-8412) to sign on for the program. Second Congo has both a piano and organ available in the sanctuary for you to use to accompany your musical offering. Please bring as many copies as you can to share with those in attendance; you'll get them all back.

This evening really proves out the saying, "*The More The Merrier,*" so plan to come and share in the variety of good friends, good food and good music.

American Guild of Organists
Springfield, Mass. Chapter

Michael Dulac — Newsletter Editor
41 Riverview St.
Springfield, MA 01108-1634

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR

October 20
7:00PM

First Church of Deerfield, Deerfield, Mass.
Open console at the Richards&Fowkes organ,
op.13.

October 26
3:30PM

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield
Music at First presents The Boston
Connection, with Tim Macri, flute, and Glen
Goda, organ.

October 28
7:00PM

October meeting of the Springfield AGO
Executive Board at Old First Church, Court
Sq., Springfield. All members are welcome to
attend.

November 4
7:30 PM

Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester,
MA
Thomas Trotter, Organist, in Concert
Tickets: \$20; \$15 for members of the AGO
tickets, call: 508-799-4191 x107

November 9
2:00 p.m.

United Congregational Church, Holyoke
An organ recital by Michael Thomas Gilman
playing works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Roberts,
Widor, and Franck.

November 16
3:30PM

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield
Music at First presents Young Artist Showcase
with Leonid Makarov, piano.

November 17
6:00PM

Second Congregational Church, Westfield,
MA
Anthem Reading and Potluck Supper

November 23
3:00PM

Abbey Chapel, Mt. Holyoke College
Rutter Requiem and more, Hampshire Choral
Society, directed by Allan Taylor,
accompanied by Larry Schipull, organ, and
chamber orchestra. Also featured are Young
Singers of Greater Westfield, directed by
Janet St. Jean

December 6
4:00PM

First Church of Christ, Westfield
Family Carol Festival with Novi Cantori,
directed by Allan Taylor, and featuring
Christmas arrangements by the New England
Brass Quartet, organ solo, a selection of
seasonal music and audience participation
on carols. Reception follows.

December 7
4:00PM

St. Joseph Church, Springfield
Christmas with Novi Cantori, Novi's fine arts
program, directed by Allan Taylor

7:30PM

Marsh Chapel, Springfield College,
Springfield
Christmas Concert by Schola Nova, Michael
Dulac, director. Featuring "A Ceremony of
Carols" by Benjamin Britten.

December 13
2:30PM

Center Congregational Church, South Hadley
Second annual Messiah sing with Terry
Larsen, conductor, and Lois Toeppner, organ.

A complete calendar listing of December events will be in the November issue of Chiff Chat