

CHIEF CHAT

The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists



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Chiff Chat is published September through June. Closing dates are the 15th of the preceding month for Articles and Calendar/News Items, respectively. Please send material electronically, if possible, to: mdulac@crocker.com. Our website is: www.springfieldago.org.

Pedals, Pipes, Pizza &

Quasimodo?!

St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton and the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present acclaimed organist Peter Krasinski improvising to the silent film classic *Hunchback of Notre Dame* on Friday, October 29, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Church.

Mr. Krasinski won first prize in Improvisation in the American Guild of Organists National Competition in Philadelphia in 2002. His appearances as accompanist for silent film are always eagerly awaited events and have included films such as *Metropolis* (directed by Fritz Lang), *Way Down East* (starring Lillian Gish), *The Gold Rush* (starring Charlie Chaplain), *The General* (starring Buster Keaton) and *Solome* (starring Gloria Swanson).

The 1923 film is of the Victor Hugo novel directed by Wallace Worsley starring Lon Chaney. Following the film will be a discussion by Prof. Roger Rideout of UMASS/Amherst and Mr. Krasinski about the silent film genre, musical adornments to them and of *Hunchback*.



For more information on the instrument, please see the article on the newly rebuilt organ in St. John's Church on p. 4 of this issue.

IN THIS ISSUE

October Dean's Message	p. 2
LA Convention —	
Observations & Thoughts	p. 3
Organ Dedication in Northampton	p. 4
Job Listings	p. 5
Calendar	p. 5

Dean's Message – October 2004

HARD-WORKING BOARD MEMBERS HOST GREAT PROGRAMS

The Springfield Chapter season got underway with the **Opening Event** on Sunday, September 26th, the wonderful gathering at the home of Charles Page on the shores of Shaker Pines Lake, Enfield. No fewer than forty people attended, including several Dual Members and friends from the Berkshire Chapter who made the trip to join us. Also present were our new Board Members: Liz Dawson, Michael Gilman, and Rod Gisick; and, several of our youngest members, including Gavin Mackie and Morgan Markel (whom this Chapter had sent to the Worcester POE in July), Chris Houlihan, and Sheila Heady (young student of Charles Page, and newest Chapter member). A brief ceremony to install officially the Chapter Officers was conducted by our Chaplain, Rev. William H. Wallis, Administrator at Immaculate Conception Church, Easthampton, who was introduced as another new member. Thus, this meeting provided great socializing between Chapter members new and old, youthful and senior, from near and far. An overwhelming and beautiful buffet of refreshments and beverages was provided through the generosity and hard work of Charles Page, Barbara Huber, and Don Hooton. The afternoon concluded with the young organists demonstrating Charles's residence organ. We hope to hear more from the POE students!

Now, Don Hooton, Michael Gilman, Barbara Huber, and June Smith (of the United Congregational Church, Holyoke) are hard at work planning the **Mini-Convention** that our Chapter will hold at that church on **Saturday, November 20th**. The Church is pleased to host our group, and is organizing to provide luncheon refreshments for all those registered. The spacious resources of this church will suit admirably our needs that day, including two ample and contrasting pipe organs, several pianos, and handbells. The artistic schedule for this Mini-Convention is designed to share the wealth of talent in our Chapter with others, again from near and far; the Berkshire Chapter AGO has listed this affair as their major event for the month. Clinicians will include Peter Beardsley, Becky Isaacson, Arlene Howes, Michael



Gilman, among others listed in separate publicity. Workshop subjects will include Children's Choirs and Handbells, among several other topics. Through Mike Gilman's connections, we will be treated to a Masterclass in the afternoon, to the seasoned and spry judgment of Dr. Robert Baker, retired Director of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, and former church and concert musician. We *need* candidates to play for Dr. Baker in this session, and it is the hope of the Board that some of our younger members will avail themselves of this opportunity. Anyone wishing to play in this Masterclass, or to recommend a student to do so, should contact Michael Gilman at the United Church (413-532-1483). It will be a valuable experience for any and all to observe the wisdom and sage advice of this true Master, no matter what age and style in which the players may work today. *Make your reservation* to attend this event, using the form elsewhere in this newsletter.

Most urgently for your attention, please come to the next and imminent Chapter event, as nationally-acclaimed improviser, **Peter Krasinski** of Brookline, Mass., accompanies live on the stunning new Austin organ at St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton, Mass., the classic silent film, "**Hunchback of Notre Dame**" on the evening of **Friday, October 29th**. This presentation began in concept as a Pedal, Pipes, and Pizza event, our AGO outreach to young music students, to awaken and encourage interest in the pipe organ. As the programming evolved, it just became more efficient to present this movie, with live organ music, and with a Halloween theme. To have Peter Krasinski in our midst to play his live improvisation and accompaniment to the film is a most noteworthy engagement. **Do not miss** this program! To maintain our outreach effort to young musicians, we are planning a demonstration and limited tour of the Austin pipe organ beginning at 5:30 PM, and posters have gone to the Community Music Schools with this notice. The Chapter will provide a supper of pizza and soft drinks to all those in attendance at 6:15 PM, and the film program will follow in the early evening. In addition to the Board members pre-

paring this event, we are indebted to the generosity of St. John's Church, and its Organist-Director, our member Christopher T. Thornley, for the use of the church, organ, and kitchen facilities, and for their collective help with publicity and facilities set-up. There's still a need for help, however, so we'll welcome any Chapter volunteers that evening to assist with the supper and program.

Other recent, successful, organ programs included a Recital on Chant Themes by Michael Dulac at St. Joseph's Church, Springfield (September 12th), a recital at First Congregational Church, by another board member, Rod Gisick (October 3rd), the brilliant playing of Herndon Spillman at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield (October 1st), and those performed by Chapter members, including: the duo-organ recital by Larry Schipull and Grant Moss, with Linda Laderach on Violin, at the United Congregational Church, Holyoke (October 10th); Grant Moss's participation in the Springfield Symphony Orchestra concert (October 16th) playing in the Saint-Saens [Organ] Symphony #3; and, a solo organ recital by Allan Taylor at the Immaculate Conception R. C. Church, Easthampton, Mass. (October 24th). The Holyoke program was very well attended; Grant Moss received good reviews for his work in Springfield; and, Allan Taylor's recital has helped to build awareness and support for a new and on-going Parish music program. Thanks, congratulations, and admiration to all Chapter members who sacrifice their time and effort, who work hard to prepare, and who share their talents and accomplishments with the rest of us in these inspiring recitals!

Please avail yourselves of our Chapter's events. Your participation is essential to the success of our activities, and the Board can always use more help to carry out our programs. Don't miss the forthcoming programs at St. John's Church, Northampton: first Peter Krasinski and the film for Halloween; then, the Tom Murray recital and the UMass Orchestra with organ (and Chapter members) in November! **See you there!!**

Soli Deo Gloria,
Bill Czelusniak
Dean



THE LOS ANGELES NATIONAL CONVENTION

Some Observations and Thoughts

Allen Langord

Our Chapter was represented by three registered attendees – Charles Page, and Allen & Judy Langord. Early pre-registration permitted us all to get the sizable discount. Charles was super early receiving Registration # 4! Judy and I were 513 and 514 yet we pre-registered in January. Also Meg Irwin-Brandon was with her daughter from LA at several events. Lois Toepfner attended in her capacity Region I Councillor.

Convention “Reports” in the October issue of TAO covered events, competitions and the banquet. Between Charles and myself, we attended probably everything included a number of workshops. Some personal perspectives and observations may interest *Chiff Chat* readers.

AGO convention attendance for some years has averaged 2000. The 2100-plus registrants this year posed a more daunting than usual logistics task

of “getting everybody to the church on time” because of the infamous LA freeway traffic and long distances between some venues. Brilliantly, the Convention Committee scheduled events starting on July 3rd and over the July 4th weekend, which extended to the Monday holiday. Thus, traffic didn’t exist for the first three days. Later in the week, buses were boarded very early in the morning to prevent schedule delays. Fortunately, conventioners could walk to two of the newest and most spectacular venues – the Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Roman Catholic Cathedral of



Our Lady of the Angels. And the Banquet event was held in the convention hotel. Buses are always a fun and valuable part of any convention, but the Convention Committee warned they were a MUST for LA.

Two new buildings, vastly different, of incredibly stunning architecture, and having large pathfinder pipe organs deserve special emphasis — the Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Words, photographs, and recordings can never begin to convey the sheer daring and awe of these venues and their new pipe organs. Both spaces simply must be “*experienced*” personally. Fortunately for Conventioners, both venues were a short walk from each other, and also from the convention hotel. Thus one could arrive early and linger afterwards (or go several more times on your own) to savor these creations of such gifted architects and pipe organ builders.

In one of the very well attended workshops devoted to the Disney Hall and Organ, we also learned that the architect, Frank Gehry, pushed the organ team hard to think “out-of-the-box” into uncharted waters for a unique pipe façade design. From the facade photographs you probably have seen by now, the organ looks as if the whole world has gone wrong. Yet within the total visual context of the concert hall, wherein the organ is centrally located in a commanding position behind and above the stage, the organ and the overall hall architecture “match” perfectly with a highly attractive result — the pipe façade looks just right, and not at all bizarre.

Built by the German firm of Glatzer-Götz, the organ was designed, installed and voiced by Manuel Rosales. For acoustical design, Gehry formed a collaboration with Japanese acoustician, Yasuhisa Toyota. This turned out to be an outstanding decision. The acoustics are stupendous – not at all Cathedral acoustics, but magnificent concert hall acoustics which favor, at once, both the orchestra and the organ. These are the best concert hall acoustics this writer has ever heard. As a testament to the musical acceptance of these acoustics, after the intermission before the second half of the program began, words of welcome and appreciation were given by AGO President Fred

Swann and others. Frank Gehry, Manuel Rosales, Caspar von Glatter-Götz, and Yasuhisa stood for deserved recognition. All were applauded in turn, but absolutely tumultuous applause was received by Toyota! Now that certainly speaks volumes from the over 2000 organists at the concert.

The new Roman Catholic Cathedral exists because the former building was condemned as a result of an earthquake.

The design competition was won by Spanish architect Rafael Moneo. The large pipe organ was built by Dobson. Again, this is a building that must be experienced personally. Words and photographs in no way can convey the sense of this space. From the exterior, the building appears rather uninteresting and monolithic without even a hint at what's to be found inside. Entrance is through a side street courtyard, and the first clue that this complex is something very special is seen in the huge iron gates opening into a large gallery. The worship space is enormous having an aspect ratio uncommon in churches. Of course it is contemporary, but it evokes, strongly, a sense of architecture thousands of years old.

Lynn Dobson told me that the present off-center right side location (no real transepts exist) was not the original desire of the architect. It resulted from extensive discussions with the architect and church authorities by the Dobson firm on where best to locate the organ and why. Kudos to Dobson for negotiating successfully a good location, and for building a marvelous pipe organ.

Acoustically, the Cathedral does not have the kind of natural acoustics one would expect from such a vast volume of space. This is due to the structural design of the ceiling and associated architectural issues. This placed extraordinary demands on the organbuilder. Happily, the organ needs no amplification for total success. However, the choir must be amplified and a special system has been designed and installed for use with the choir.

Of particular local interest here at home is that Richard Frary, Vice President of Messrs. Czelusniak et Dugal, helped to install this organ! Congratulations to Richard and to Bill's company.

Both Disney Hall and its pipe organ, and the Cathedral and its pipe organ are a MUST visit for your future vacations plans. Numerous other famous organs and buildings are also in the LA area.

Fine playing was in great abundance. So many organists were so excellent. This writer particularly singles out Ken Cowan and George Baker for

their consummate artistry, which transcended the instrument and the music. And not one of the 2100 organists attending the banquet will ever forget the musical wizardry and dazzling technique of organist Hector Olivera! Imagine – four wildly affirming standing ovations in 40 minutes!

Finally, it was concerning to note the aging of the AGO. In former years there seemed to be in attendance many young organists and students as well as younger seasoned organists well-established in their careers. In LA this writer was, frankly, shocked at the small number of young attendees in comparison to the overall attendance, and in ever rapidly increasing contrast to previous conventions. The future of our beloved instrument, the artform, and literature will be with new young artists of talent.



Rededication Events Scheduled in Northampton

Saint John's Church (Episcopal) located at 48 Elm Street in Northampton, has recently completed a major rebuild of their pipe organ. The original instrument in the building was by Hutchings and installed in 1893. E.M. Skinner worked on the organ in the early 20th century, adding pipework, electrifying the action, and expanding it to three manuals. Subsequent work was performed by various builders including the Carter Brothers of Springfield, William Baker & Co., and David Harris.

In consultation with organ consultant, John Ogasapian, the church signed a contract with Austin Organs, Inc. of Hartford, Connecticut. The majority of the Hutchings and Skinner pipework was retained, along with the Harris console. Careful attention was paid to the refinishing of the instrument's tonal resources, so that the organ retains its original romantic character. In addition, there is an all new winding system and new chestwork, allowing repositioning of some divisions for better tonal egress. A new façade and casework, along with the removal of carpeting and refinishing of wood floors, rounds out this extensive project.

Three events planned this fall to celebrate the recent completion of this endeavor:

Friday, October 29th starting at 5:30pm

AGO sponsored event featuring Peter Krasinski accompanying the silent film "Hunchback"

The young artists presented in competition and in recital certainly brought distinction and hope to our profession. The efforts of our National Organization to encourage young people to the organ are to be applauded. As Guild members, we must do everything possible, individually and collectively, to establish programs and provide mentoring that really work. We must set high standards and develop an ambience that will inspire youth of musical talent to choose the organ and this noble profession for their career.

PS – It has just been announced that Frank Gehry, architect of the Disney Concert Hall, has won the competition and has been awarded the contract to design the new performing arts center as part of the structures to be built replacing the World Trade Center buildings in New York City that were destroyed in the 9/11 tragedy.

5:30 - welcome and introduction to the instrument including a limited access tour.

6:15 - Pizza and Soda in the Undercroft

7:00 - Introduction of Peter Krasinski and the film

8:00 (or whenever the film has ended) - brief talk by Peter Krasinski and Roger Rideout (Professor in the Department of Music and Dance at UMass Amherst on silent film scoring and accompaniment (especially on organ)

Sunday, November 14th at 4:00pm

Dedicatory Recital played by Tom Murray to include works by Bach, Vivaldi, Karg-Elert, Bridge, and Jongen

Sunday, November 21st at 5:00pm

University of Massachusetts Orchestra, Lanfranco Marcelletti, Conductor Organists Grant Moss and Christopher Thornley. PROGRAM: Concerto for Organ and Orchestra, Opus 33, Richard Bartmuss, Grant Moss, Organist; Variation on a Theme by Joseph Haydn, Opus 56A, Johannes Brahms, Maracus Ariaki, Conductor; Symphony No. 3 in C-minor ("Organ"), Opus 78, Camille Saint Saens, Christopher Thornley, Organist

All events are open to the public and free of charge. A free will offering may be taken for the benefit of The Organ Renovation Fund at Saint John's Church for the last two events. There will also be a free will offering to help the Guild defray the costs of the October 29th event.

JOB LISTINGS

Organist/Choir Director

First Church in Jaffrey
14 Laban Ainsworth Way
Jaffrey, NH 03452

www.FirstChurchinJaffrey.net

Description: 1 Adult Choir, 10 hours weekly; John Wessel Pipe Organ

Contact: John Van Ness,
603-532-6834

Organist/Choir Director

Somersville Congregational Church
Somerville, CT 06072

Description: 1 Adult Choir, Children's Choir to be developed; 10 hours per week; new Allen Organ

Contact: Church Office:
860-749-7741

E-mail: somcong@aol.com

Fax resume to: 860-749-5132

Baritone/Bass Vocalist/Section Leader

Cathedral of St. Michael, State St.,
Springfield

Description: Rehearsal: Thursdays 7:00-9:00 PM

Salary: Competitive

Contact: Ladislav Pfeifer 413-452-0839

CALENDAR

Springfield AGO Chapter events are enclosed within a box. They are included among YOUR calendar items. In addition, chapter events are on the website with links as appropriate to the venue, performer, etc. In some cases, the venue may even have directions available on their website.

I do my best to keep everything updated, but if you find a discrepancy, please let me know so that it may be corrected. If you wish to have an event listed in the Chiff Chat, please e-mail me at mdulac@crocker.com



Organist/Choir Director

Congregational Church of South Hadley
Falls, 11 North Main St., South Hadley,
MA 01075

Description: 1 Adult Choir, BM or BA required, 14 hours per week. Organ: 1984 Rodgers

Salary: \$8500

Contact: Laurie Novak 413-736-2919

Organist/Choir Director

Faith United Parish, 820 Main Street,
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Description: Available immediately, minimal education and experience required. Austin Organ (3 manual, 27 ranks)

Salary: \$8000-10,000, 5 weeks vacation

Contact: Rev. Patricia Hough
978-343-3307 or 978-342-4856

e-mail: fup@net1plus.com

Organist/Choir Director

South Church, Pittsfield, MA

Description: Adult Choir (14 members), Church School Choir, Handbell Choir. Organ: 3-manual Estey, rebuilt by BERKSHIRE in the 1970's.

Two Steinway pianos in good condition — 1 in church, 1 in choir room. Music budget and Special Music Fund for hiring instrumentalists and to support special projects.

Contact: Rev. Joel Huntington
(413)442-7537

To list a position in the *Chiff Chat*, please contact Becky Isaacson either by phone at (413) 734-1623 or e-mail her: beckyisaacson@aol.com

Instrument For Sale

Available Immediately! Saville Sovereign 9923 Custom Electronic Organ, 2 manuals and pedal. Stops: Great, 12; Swell, 16; Pedal, 12. Purchased new in 2001 by Trinity Church, Lenox, MA for \$31,500, and used for two years in the 300-seat sanctuary while their pipe organ was being restored. Included are the console, bench, amplifiers, four speakers including subwoofer, and connecting cables.

This is a handsome looking, fully professional instrument in excellent condition, capable of filling a medium size building with beautiful sound. Come play it yourself! Asking: \$19,000

For additional details or to schedule a demo, please contact: Spike Dana, (413) 637-0451, SpikeDana@adelphia.net

October 29

5:30

St. John's Episcopal Church, Elm St., Northampton

Young People's Event featuring Peter Krasinski, organ, accompanying the silent film, Hunchback. Discussion following the showing with Krasinski, and UMass faculty member, Roger Rideout.

October 31

3:30pm

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield
Music at First EXTRA presents Luiz de Moura Castro and Leonid Makarov in a recital to benefit the Steinway Piano Restoration Fund. Ticketed event: \$15 per person, \$5 students

November 12

7:30 pm

First Baptist Church, 111 Park Avenue
Worcester MA

William Ness, organist, in recital featuring 20th Century Organ Music by Copland, Messiaen, Locklair, Pinkham, Hakim, Albright, Bolcom; Worcester premiere of The Last Judgement (1999) of Naji Hakim.

November 14

3:00pm

St. Joseph's Church, Hamilton St., Worcester
Lois Toepfner in recital on the church's 1928, op. 1239 Casavant organ. Program will include Dan Locklair's, "In Mystery and Wonder: The Casavant Diptych" played in honor of the firm's 125th anniversary. Freewill offering. Reception follows.

3:30pm

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield
Music at First presents the Westfield Chamber Players, members of the WSC faculty.

4:00pm

St. John's Episcopal Church, Elm St., Northampton
Dedicatory recital of the new Austin organ (3 man., 39 ranks), featuring Tom Murray.

November 20

9:00am-3:00pm

United Congregational Church, corner of Maple & High Sts., Holyoke
Mini-Convention (*see insert in this newsletter*)

continues on back cover

American Guild of Organists
Springfield, Mass. Chapter

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

November 21
5:00pm

St. John's Episcopal Church, Elm St., Northampton
University of Massachusetts Orchestra, Lanfranco Marcelletti, conductor. Program includes Saint-Saëns, Symphony #3 (Organ Symphony) and other works for orchestra.

December 11
7:30pm

The Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, State St., Springfield
The Cathedral Choir of Boys and Adults present their 4th annual candlelight celebration of Lessons and Carols; music with bells, strings, soloists, harpsichord & organ along with the choir. Reception follows.

December 12
3:30pm

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield
Music at First presents a Christmas Concert with the Westfield State College Wind Symphony and Old First Church Choir and Soloists.

January 2
4:00pm

St. Cecilia's Church, Main St., Wilbraham
Schola Nova, Michael Dulac, director, presents an Epiphany Concert featuring music of various composers, including a performance of the Christmas Cantata by Daniel Pinkham.

January 14, 2005

6:30pm
12th Night Party, location TBA

February 20
3:30pm

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield
Music at First presents Jerry Noble and Friends

February 28

7:00pm
St. Michael's Cathedral, State St., Springfield
Anthem Reading Session

March 6
3:00pm

First Congregational Church, 165 Main St., Amherst
Music on Main presents Univ. of Mass. Choirs, E. Wayne Abercrombie, conductor, Rodney Gisick, organist, in Kodaly's 'Missa Brevis' and other works. Tickets \$10 for piano rebuilding fund.

March 13
3:30pm

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield
Music at First presents Catabile, a vocal octet.

April 8

8:00pm
Abbey Chapel, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley
Ken Cowan in Recital

April 9

10:00am
Abbey Chapel, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley
Masterclass with Ken Cowan

EVERYONE IS INVITED

to

“A MINI CONVENTION”

Sponsored by

SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER, AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Saturday, November 20, 2004 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(8:30 a.m. — Registration and Coffee)

at

UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

395 High Street, Holyoke Massachusetts

Workshops (listed on back)

and

Master Class

by

DR. ROBERT BAKER

Free to all members of Springfield A.G.O.—— Fee for Guests \$10

Donation for Luncheon \$5 (Luncheon reservation deadline, 11/15)

For more information, call Don Hooton at (413) 533-8412 or e-mail him at dehoot@gis.net.

Registration Form (please send to Don Hooton, 43 Prospect St., So. Hadley, MA 01075)

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Lunch Reservations: _____ Check, payable to Spfld. AGO, enclosed in the amount of: _____

Please number your workshop choices in order of preference (1, most desired to 6, the least).

Adult Choirs

Handbells

AGO Professional Resources

Music Software

Hymn Playing

Children's Choirs

Mini Convention Schedule

Workshops:

9 to 10	Working with Adult Choirs	Charles Page
	Music software	Peter Beardsley
10:15 to 11:15	Handbells for young & old	Arlene Howes
	Hymn playing/preludes	Michael-Thomas Gilman
11:30 to 12:30	Lunch	
12:45 to 1:45	AGO Professional Resource	Edward Lawrence
	Children's Choir	Becky Isaacson
1:45 to 3:30	Master Class	Dr. Robert Baker