

Chiff Chat

SEPTEMBER, 2013

Dean's Message

Greetings,

Welcome back to another wonderful and full year of musical events. I hope you were able to get away for some fun and relaxation during the summer season and were also able to attend some concerts. It has been a pleasure working with Alan Dickinson and Roger LaCross and I thank them for the help they have given our Chapter while serving on the board. I want to welcome our two new board members, John Karalekas and Mary Jeanne Tash and look forward to working with them again.

The planning committee has been busy this summer planning a variety of programs for our chapter members and friends. The 2013/2014 year will start on **September 22nd** with a **"Welcome Reception and Members' Recital"** at St. John's Episcopal Church, Northampton, MA, at 3:00pm. The host is Grant Moss. I would like you to mark this opening event and the following dates on your calendar now so you won't miss any of them.

October 5th, 2013 - 9am-12pm

Choral Reading Session,
First Congregational Church,
West Springfield, MA;
Host: James R. Maes;
Presenter: Quentin Faulkner

November 5, 2013 - 6:00pm

Pastor/Organist Dinner
Grace Lutheran Church,
West Springfield, MA;
Host: Martha Sienkiewicz;

Guest presenter - Martin Jean,
Director of the Yale Institute of
Sacred Music

January 12, 2014 - 3:00pm
**DVD Presentation - "Pulling Out
All the Stops;**
United Congregational Church,
Holyoke, MA;
Host: Donald Hooton

March 1, 2014 - 10am - 12pm
Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza:
**Introducing young students
to the organ;**
South Congregational Church,
Amherst, MA

March 30, 2014
Organ Recital, TBA

May 11, 2014 - 7:00pm
United Congregational Church,
Holyoke, MA;
Host: Donald Hooton;
Silent Movie - "It";
Guest Organist - Peter Krasinski;
Co-Sponsored with Experience
Music at United

June 2014 - Closing Event, TBA

The board members and I look
forward to meeting you at our
opening event on September 22nd,
and hope that you will join us for all
of our programs.

- *Donald Hooton, dean*



Chapter Officers

Chapter Officers

Dean - Donald Hooton
Sub-dean - Quentin Faulkner
Treasurer - Jim Barnes
Secretary - Charles Marshall

Board of Directors

Scott Bailey
Lori Bourret
Elizabeth Dawson
Joe Geehern
John Karalekas
Mary Jeanne Tash

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Chapter Event: Opening Reception and Members' Recital

The Springfield Chapter AGO will host an opening reception and members' recital on **September 22nd at 3:00pm**. This event will be held at *St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton, MA*, located at 48 Elm St.

The gala reception will offer members an opportunity to catch up with old friends or meet new ones. It is also an opportunity to present the chapter events for the year to our members. We are looking for volunteers to serve as the hosting crew to set up the reception hall, serve as ushers, and to prepare the food and beverages.

After the reception, we will host a members' recital. We are looking for members who would like to play something...anything. It could be a major organ work or it could be something from your Sunday morning repertoire. It could be a piece you fell in love with years ago or it could be something brand new that you want to share with people. It can be six or seven minutes long or it can be one or two minutes long.

If you are interested in playing for the members' recital or if you are interested in volunteering for the hosting crew, please contact Scott Bailey at sbailey@westfield.ma.edu or (413) 522-4745.

Deadline for signing up to play is **September 15th**.

Year-End Review: 2012-2013

The 2012-2013 year for the AGO in Springfield, MA has been a banner year under the leadership of Dean Donald Hooton. The various events and activities were quite well attended by members and the general public throughout the year.

The year began with the Annual Installation of Officers on September 30th. It was held at the beautiful South Congregational Church in Springfield. Featured were the Choir of Boys and Adults from St. Michael the Archangel Cathedral singing the Mass in D by Dvorak. The Cathedral's organist, Ladislav Pfeifer, was at the organ and Klaus Becker was the guest conductor. It was a glorious service with a grand procession, congregational singing, beautiful organ music and a superb performance of the Dvorak Mass. Larry Picard was the host. The installation of the new officers was conducted by Larry Schipull, a past dean, with Rev. Wallis, Chaplain, giving the Blessing. A reception, put on by the church, was held at the conclusion of the service.

The next event was quite "eventful" with extra "bells and whistles and loud alarms" that were not part of the schedule. Quentin Faulkner was leading a small group of AGO members in a workshop entitled "Introduction to the Service Playing Exam." It was held at St. Andrew's

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Memorial Concert for Arlene Howes

Calvary Presbyterian Church in Enfield, CT is hosting a concert in memory of Arlene Howes on **Sunday, November 3, 2013 at 4:00pm**. Arlene served as the organist and choir director for Calvary Presbyterian Church for 38 years and also directed the Second Baptist Church Handbell Choir in Suffield, CT. Arlene performed with the Springfield Symphony Chorus for over 40 years and with the St. Michael's Players of East Longmeadow, MA. She was a longtime member and former treasurer of the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

The church would like *you* to be a part of this celebration. Springfield Chapter members are invited to perform a short piece of music that would best suit this special event. If you are interested in performing, please contact Lori Bourret at lopobo@cox.net and let her know what you intend to play.



Arlene Howes: 1935 - 2013



Featured Organ

Heath Union Evangelical Church
Heath, MA

Wm. A. Johnson, Westfield, Massachusetts, Opus 16, 1850
14 stops, 12 ranks

By now, the name Nathan Laube should be familiar to all members of the AGO and OHS, since this peerless young star has played for numerous conventions of each organization, always with profound insight to the repertoire, compelling rhythms, and scrupulous preparation of registrations – usually all from memory. This autumn, he will begin his appointment as Assistant Professor of Organ at the prestigious Eastman School of Music.

On Sunday, July 21st, residents of western New England had an unusually rare and unique opportunity to experience Nathan Laube in the intimate setting of the **Union Evangelical Church in Heath, MA**, where he inaugurated the restored 1850 Wm. A. Johnson organ. Mr. Laube's superlative talents were not lost on this simple early American organ, but exemplified the style, music, and sweetness of tone that were typical of the period – both in musical composition and organ building style. His intuitive approach to the instrument defined the program, drawing upon appropriate repertoire, including English and American, to

demonstrate the colorful combinations available on this uniquely American instrument. This was an historically rare event in western Massachusetts.

Heath is the third home of this landmark pipe organ, the oldest surviving instrument built by one of New England's foremost organ builders, William A. Johnson of Westfield, Massachusetts. Only the second two-manual instrument attempted by the then-fledgling builder, Opus 16 was begun on speculation in 1849, to a G-compass design, and purchased unfinished by Joel Hayden, Sr. for the Haydenville Congregational Church, then also under construction. Hayden was founder of the village bearing his name, owner of the large brass works established there, and later Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts.

The organ was modified considerably prior to its late-1850 installation in the unfinished church, including conversion to C-compass. It was pumped from 1850-1854 by a youth named Cyrus Burnett Smith, whose numerous signatures were pivotal in the process of dating and solving puzzling questions associated with the organ's early history. His later life as a noted surgeon in the Civil War is a story unto itself. Opus 16 was replaced in 1874 by a larger Johnson instrument purchased to

Stoplist

I. Great – 54 notes (unenclosed)

Open Diapason 8'
Dulciana 8'
Stopped Diapason 8'
Stopped Diapason Bass 8'
Principal 4'
Flute 4'
Twelfth 2-2/3'
Fifteenth 2'

II. Swell – 37 notes (expressive)

Open Diapason 8'
Stopped Diapason 8'
Principal 4'
Hautboy 8'
Stopped Diapason Bass 8'

III. Pedal – 17 notes (unenclosed)

Double Open Diapason 16'

IV. Couplers and Accessories

Swell to Great Manual
Great to Pedal

Swell Expression Hitch-down
Toe Lever for horizontal shades (by gravity)

Hand-pumping bellows and mechanisms restored to use under the double-rise wind reservoir New Laukhuff blower applied to the wind system, 2013

memorialize the recently deceased Hayden; and, the church narrowly escaped

(Continued on page 5)

Calendar of Events

September Events

15 Sun. at 3:00pm

Larry Schipull will present a recital at South Congregational Church, 1066 S. East St., Amherst, MA on the recently installed Casavant Op. 76 (1896). Music of Bach, Bonnet, Pierné and Alain. Diana Chou will play the Bach/Vivaldi D minor concerto and Linda Laderach will join Larry for selections from Rheinberger's Suite, op. 166 for violin and organ. Admission is free.

21 Sat. at 4:00pm

Peter Beardsley will present an Organ Recital at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Hanover, NH. The recital will feature Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals with narration by Dartmouth Professor Peter Saccio.

22 Sun. at 3:00pm

Chapter Event

The Springfield AGO will host an **Opening Reception and Members' Recital** at St. John's Episcopal Church, 48 Elm St., Northampton, MA. Springfield AGO members are invited to play. (More information can be found on page 2 of this issue.)

29 Sun. at 3:00pm

All Saints Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge St., South Hadley, MA, presents organist **John Anderson** in concert, joined by members of the Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra. Admission is free.

October Events

4 Sat. at 9:00am

Chapter Event

Anthem Reading Session at the **First Congregational Church of West Springfield, MA.** Presented by Quentin Faulkner.

13 Sun. at 3:00pm

The First Church of Deerfield's "The Brick Church" Music Series will feature **ENSEMBLE SCHUMANN**, with Sally Pinkas, Steve Larson, viola, and Tom Gallant, oboe. Music by Kahn, Saint-Saens, Bruch, Reutter, and Mozart. There is a *suggested donation of \$10* at the door with a reception following at Deerfield Academy.

19 Sat. at 7:30pm

The Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel presents **Viva Italia!** a festival of Italian choral and instrumental music with the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults, strings, trumpet, and oboe. Music includes Vivaldi's Concerto for four violins, Concerto for oboe and strings, & the Gloria in D, Pergolesi's Magnificat, and trumpet sonatas of Gabrielli. *Donations accepted.*

20 Sun. at 4:00pm

Grant Moss will present an organ concert at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield to honor the career of **Peter Beardsley**, organist and choirmaster of the Cathedral for 36 years. Music includes the premiere of a work commissioned by the Cathedral (James Monroe, Dean) called *Hymnos* by Ronald Perera, Professor Emeritus at Smith

College. Also music by Bach, Vivaldi, and more.

November Events

3 Sun. at 10:00am

St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Hanover, NH presents Duruflé's Requiem with Dr. Gerald Weale, conducting and Peter Beardsley, Accompanist.

3 Sun. at 2:00pm

Children's Chorus of Springfield performance at Springfield City Library. Admission is free.

3 Sun. at 4:00pm

Calvary Presbyterian Church in Enfield, CT is hosting a concert in memory of Arlene Howes. Springfield AGO members are invited to play. (see page 2 for more information.)

4 Mon. at 6:00pm

Chapter Event

Pastor/Organist Dinner with guest speaker Martin Jean from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield, MA.

9 Sat. at 7:30pm

Sixth Annual Show Your Heart Concert at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel. Benefit concert on behalf of the Open Pantry. Music is being provided by the Pioneer Valley School for the Performing Arts, Bath Path College, Greater Westfield Choral Association, and the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults. Suggested donations: \$10 General Public: \$5 Students and Seniors.

Heath (Continued from page 3)

the infamous April 1874 flooding of the Mill River which brought unprecedented devastation along its path from Williamsburg to Florence.

The organ was moved in March of that year to the nearby Congregational Church of Whately, and fitted with a new case to the taste of the day. In 1914, the Whately Church replaced the Johnson with a smaller but more modern Estey organ, provided with grant assistance from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The Johnson organ was relocated to Heath, where it was installed without further alteration, nor even much maintenance, save for the later addition of an electric blower.

Nearly one hundred years later, age and fatigue had taken their toll on this venerable instrument; and for more than a decade, the Heath congregation worked to raise the funds, with strong support from surrounding communities, for a full and proper restoration of this organ now recognized as a pivotal milestone in American organ building.

In March 2013, the Stonington, Connecticut firm of S. L. Huntington & Co. completed a thorough renovation of this notable instrument. The restoration has followed strictly the newly revised OHS Guidelines for Conservation, carefully analyzing details of the organ's history and construction, recreating the original casework and faux-grain decoration,

including the reinstatement of the 1850 gilded façade pipes (found still in use but well hidden inside the 1874 case), and replication of a missing rank of Stopped Diapason pipes.

The painstaking, even microscopic efforts of Scot Huntington and his collaborators (including Marylou Davis of Woodstock, Conn., the country's leading expert on antique pipe organ decoration) to understand the mechanical design and construction, the history, and the musical sounds before them, has led to an exemplary restoration project of worthy acclaim.

-Special thanks to Scot Huntington and Bill Czelusniak for contributing to this article.

Organ Academy

This month's issue of Chiff Chat will feature our chapter's guidelines regarding the Organ Academy. This year, we are encouraging chapter members to inform prospective students about the academy and the scholarship possibility for all students at any stage of their training. Chapter members looking to improve their skills through lessons are also encouraged to apply. Each application will be decided on a person-by-person basis.

We are also featuring our most recent student, Mateus Marcinowski who took lessons through the academy during the last chapter year. All of this can be found on **pages 8-9**.

JOB POSTINGS

First Congregational Church of Dalton, MA, UCC

The first Congregational Church of Dalton, UCC seeks a candidate for the position of Music Director. 10 hrs/week. Adult choir. 1-2 rehearsals/week. Two Sunday services. Salary: \$10,000-\$12,000, negotiable.

Contact:

John Kittredge (413) 684-0271
(jkittredge@crane.com)

OR

Carlton Dodge (413) 684-3117
(CDODGE1@berkshire.rr.com)

FOR SALE

Rodgers electronic instrument for sale:

Late 1980's York model, with two speaker towers and two sub-woofers.

AGO standard, two manuals and pedal.

Oak console in great condition. \$2,000.

For more information, contact Grant at: gmoos@smith.edu

Pioneer Valley Substitute Organists Website

www.pioneervalleyorganists.com

Terms of Use for the website

This is a privately developed and run site, neither sponsored nor supported by the AGO. It exists to serve the needs of local substitute organists and to be a valuable resource for area churches in need of substitutes.

To be listed on the website as a substitute organist, send an e-mail stating your interest in being listed to John Anderson at bassooner@gmail.com.

In order to provide maximum value for churches, contact information must be current. If your availability is shown in the public calendar ("Show in Calendar" is checked on your profile), you are expected to keep your own calendar reasonably up to date. The less accurate the

availability information is in the public calendar, the less useful this site will be perceived to be and the less traffic it will get.

Therefore, the system will apply the following actions to any user account which has not logged in for a period of time:

If your availability is visible in the public calendar, failure to log in for three months will result in your name being removed from the calendar listing ("Show in Calendar" will be unchecked). Your contact information will still be available in the list of organists, and you can still log in to update your schedule and put yourself back into the calendar.

Failure to log in for six months will result in your account being

deactivated, and you will appear in neither the calendar availability listing nor the list of organists. You will have to contact the webmaster to have your account reactivated. Failure to log in for one year will result in your account and all your information being deleted from the system.

- Thank you to John Anderson for providing this information.



Visit our website!!!

www.springfieldago.org

Choral Auditions

Da Camera Singers,

<http://www.facebook.com/DaCameraSingers>

Da Camera Singers auditioning for tenors and basses. Please contact Sheila Heffernon by email (heffernon@gmail.com) or by phone (413-768-8390).

Pioneer Valley Cappella,

www.pioneervalleycappella.org

Pioneer Valley Cappella seeks experienced singers on all parts. For details, email contact@pioneervalleycappella.org.

The South Hadley Chorale,

<http://www.southhadleychorale.org>

SHC welcomes new singers of all voice parts and levels of experience. No audition required. mail@southhadleychorale.org for information.

Illuminati Ensemble, illuminatiensemble.org

The Illuminati Vocal Arts Ensemble is auditioning. Visit illuminatiensemble.org.

The Hampshire Choral Society seeking tenors and

basses. Auditions on September 10, 2013
HampshireChoral@gmail.com or 413-626-5270.

Early Music Auditions,

<http://www.fivecolleges.edu/earlymusic>

The Five College Early Music Program invites community members to audition for one or more ensembles, or to consider learning a historical instrument. For more information, contact Robert Eisenstein, Director of Early Music - 413-538-2079, reisenst@music.umass.edu

Episcopal Church in Longmeadow. A group from the church had a special harvest-type fair going on at the same time, which involved using the ovens in the church kitchen. Thus, the fire alarm went off several times during the workshop! (No real fire, thank goodness.) Each time we had to vacate the building! Despite all the interruptions, Quentin, with great skill and expertise, was able to complete the workshop by noon!

On November 12, the church of the Atonement put on a wonderful chicken dinner for the twenty-seven Pastors and Organists. Janet Duffé and Jim Barnes were our most gracious hosts. Rev. Matthew Alcombright, priest and church organist, was the guest speaker. He spoke on the change in his calling from church musician to priest. It was a very inspiring talk. There were no AGO events scheduled for December and January.

On February 9th we were scheduled for a Choral Reading Session at First Congregational Church in West Springfield from 9 until Noon. Quentin Faulkner was to be the session leader. Jim Maes, the church organist, was to be the host. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate (remember the BIG February storm!). The Session has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013.

The organ at the Brick Church in Deerfield resounded with beautiful music performed by Christopher Houlihan to a full house on Sunday, March 10th. The event was co-hosted by the

church and the Springfield Chapter of the AGO. Approximately 15 AGO members attended for the splendid concert. Peter Beardsley was the page-turner and registrant extraordinaire. All were pleased with the concert!

A highlight of the AGO Springfield Chapter year was the Choral and Hymn Festival held on Sunday, April 14 at 4:00 PM in a wonderful acoustical and awe-inspiring space: Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield. Becky Rosendahl Isaacson, the church's organist, choir director, carillonneur and coordinator of the Festival, planned and executed a fantastic service of music and the Word based on the Apostle's Creed. About 60 choir members from nine churches sang under the outstanding and precise direction of David Pulliam, the new organist and choirmaster of Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield. From the first notes of the prelude, the resplendent processional, the uplifting words of the Apostle's Creed and the Scriptures, the beautiful and reflective hymns and choral pieces, the magnificent organ, the brilliant brass and wind instruments, to the final hymn, *We All Believe*, by Robert Weaver (present in the choir) and William Pasch, to the Benediction by Rev. Mueller, and the glorious Postlude, *In Thee Is Gladness* by Burkhardt; we were all awestruck by the beauty, majesty, and holiness of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It was an afternoon of tremendous inspiration and encouragement; we all hope there will be other Festivals in the near future!

On May 11th in conjunction with United Congregational Church in Holyoke, we witnessed the classic silent film, *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*, starring Buster Keaton. Peter Krasinski, organist, did a superb job interpreting the movie's plot and action on the organ.

Today, June 23rd, our concluding event, we are going to enjoy an organ concert by Justin Murphy-Mancini (winner of the Hartford Quimby competition this year) being held at a beautiful, sacred space: All Saints Episcopal Church in South Hadley. We will be enjoying refreshments, as well, at the conclusion of the program.

We wish to thank Klaus Becker our editor of the Chiff Chat for the great work that he has done on the newsletter this year. Due to schedule restraints, he will not be able to continue in this position. Scott Bailey, a director on the Springfield AGO board (and dual member of the Berkshire Chapter) will take over the reins for the 2013-2014 year.

On behalf of the board, we wish to thank all of you for your support and involvement in the Springfield Chapter events this year. We look forward to another banner year 2013-2014.

Respectfully submitted,

-Charles W. Marshall, Secretary of the AGO, Springfield Chapter Board

Springfield AGO Organ Academy

Mateus Marcinowski is seated at the organ with his teacher, Janet Duffé, who is giving him some last minute help before his recital for family and friends. This recital was held at Grace Lutheran Church in West Springfield on Saturday August 24 at 4:00 pm. Eighteen people attended. This recital was to fulfill the Organ Academy regulation that students perform for an audience at least once during the lesson year.

Mat produced a bulletin which included music for hymns. His format was the format of the Catholic Mass. His goal is to be able to play for his church. He began with a prelude, included four hymns, an offertory, and chanting from the organ a portion of the liturgy, self-accompanied. He finished with a postlude. The audience was encouraged to sing because he explained that he needed the practice to lead a congregation. Mat never touched a keyboard in his life until



three years ago and his recital was an exciting moment for all. He plans to continue taking lessons from Jan this coming year, subsidized by the AGO organ academy.

-Thanks to Martha Sienkiewicz for this article.

Springfield AGO Organ Academy Guidelines

1. The Purpose of the Organ Academy scholarship is to encourage the development and proficiency of the individual organist and/or choir master. All applicants, regardless of age or economic status, who demonstrate a genuine interest in the field of church music are welcome to apply.

2. The Education and Outreach Committee will administer the scholarships.

3. All students who receive the Organ Academy subsidy are required to be regular, special or student members of the chapter and are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in various chapter events. Applications of the Organ Academy Scholarship must be submitted to the Education and Outreach Committee annually. This committee will notify the Chapter Treasurer of all necessary information on each student following his/her acceptance into the Organ Academy and the Chapter Treasurer will get all the appropriate form to the teacher.

4. The total Organ Academy allocation and the scholarship per student are subject to annual Executive Board review. Currently, the subsidy is set at \$25 per lesson and \$250 per student for the

academy year which runs from September 1 to the following August 31. The scholarship is intended for organ or choir master study only.

5. The per lesson subsidy is paid directly to the teacher upon receipt by the Chapter Treasurer of a properly completed and signed Reimbursement Request Form. Both the student and the teacher must sign each request form. The student is responsible for the remainder of the cost of each lesson which is to be paid directly to the teacher.

6. All teachers must be members in good standing of the American Guild of Organists and accepted by the Education and Outreach Committee and the Executive Board.

7. All Organ Academy participants will be expected to perform once annually in some form of a program as determined by the Executive Board and the Education and Outreach Committee.

8. Re-Application for an Organ Academy Scholarship is required on an annual basis; acceptance will be determined by the Education and Outreach Committee along with the Executive Board.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR ORGAN ACADEMY
Springfield (MA) Chapter, American Guild of Organists

Name _____ Phone _____ Age _____

Address _____

How much do you pay for each organ lesson? _____ Length of lesson _____

Amount received from other organizations for organ scholarships? _____

Have you studied organ previously? _____ If so, for how long? _____

Names of teachers _____

Your most representative repertoire: _____

Have you studied piano? _____ If so, for how long? _____

Names of teachers _____

Your most representative repertoire _____

Other instruments that you play _____

Do you have singing experience? _____ Explain _____

Comment on why the award is desired and how it will be used and add your signature.

Chiff Chat Newsletter

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Celebrating 64 years as a chapter.**

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email Scott Bailey at sbailey@westfield.ma.edu. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org

***Next chapter event: Opening Reception and Members' Recital
Sunday, Sept. 22nd - 3:00pm
St. John's Episcopal Church, 48 Elm St. Northampton, MA***

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;*
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;*
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;*
- Nurture future generations of organists;*
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and*
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.*

Chiff Chat

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

Scott Bailey, newsletter editor

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