

## Chiff Chat- – September 2019



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**Rev. William H. Wallis**

I sure hope you all had a restful and peaceful summer. and that you managed to stay cool during the long heat wave we experienced. Cheer up, fall is right around the corner.

Many thanks to Treasurer Jim Barnes, and Past Dean and Website Manager Allan Taylor, for a wonderful closing event at First Congregational Church on the green in Westfield. Thank you, also, to Robert Brown, a retired history professor at Westfield State University, for a most interesting presentation on the history of organ building in Westfield. And once again, to Jim Barnes for a great meal at the Tavern Restaurant afterwards.

Our opening event will be held on Saturday, October 5, from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at Grace Lutheran Church, Westfield Street, in West Springfield. We will have coffee and donuts at 9:30, followed by the Installation of Officers and an anthem read at 10:00 A.M. Remember to bring your choir members. We can all learn from each other. Thank you to Martha Sienkiewicz for hosting.

On October 27, Sunday, at 3:00 P.M., at the Brick Church in Deerfield, the Springfield Chapter will be cosponsoring with the church's music series, organist William Porter. Widely known as a performer in the United States and Europe, he will perform works by Bach. George Bohm, as well as do a demonstration on

improvisation. A reception will follow. Thank you to Jean Turner for hosting.

On Saturday, March 14, at 7:00 P.M., the Springfield Chapter will cosponsor with United Congregational Church in Holyoke, the ever popular Silent Movie with renowned organist Peter Krasinski. If you have never been before, you are in for a treat.

Other things in the works include a Pedals, Pipes. and Pizza, hooking up with Becky lassacson for the Boar's Head Festival in January, and our Pastor-Organist Dinner the end of the year.

Am looking forward to seeing you all on October 5, at Grace Lutheran.

God's peace and blessings!!!/JOE!!!

## Opening Event: Anthem Reading/Installation of Officers

**When?** Saturday Oct. 5, 2019

9:30—coffee/donuts installation of officers 10:00—12:00 SING!

**Where?** Grace Lutheran Church  
1552 Westfield St. West Springfield, MA

**What?** Members bring copies of favorite anthems. Everyone there sings through the anthems with guidance from the director who brought them. Copies are returned to the owner. Secretary will put title and order info of each anthem on a list to be given to participants at the end of the event.

**Who?** Chapter members and interested choir members.

**Why?** To find some new ideas for your choir this season. To enjoy singing interesting anthems under someone else's direction.

Come be with us for a few hours AND get some ideas for your choir.

2019-2020 Member Rosters will be available for pick-up by those who attend.



Ernest May of our chapter is starting a new chamber music series at All Saints Episcopal Church in South Hadley. The opening press release is given below.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Amanda Stenroos, General Manager & Co-Artistic Director [norwottuckchamber@gmail.com](mailto:norwottuckchamber@gmail.com), 413-310-7774

**SOUTH HADLEY (MA)** – [All Saints' Episcopal Church](#) has announced a new chamber music series to take place in South Hadley this fall. [Norwottuck Chamber Concerts](#) (NCC) will present a series of concerts spanning October 2019 through June 2020 that feature many of the area's fine artists as well as young and rising musicians from all over the valley. NCC will open its inaugural 2019-2020 season with a gala concert of music for trumpet, organ, voice, violin, and viola on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 5:00 pm. Featured performers will include Brooks Holmes (trumpet), Ernest May (organ), Amanda Stenroos (violin), Lesley Hogg (viola), as well as supporting artists Olivia Heinrich (soprano), Natalie Lewis (mezzo), Kyle Ransom (tenor), Colin Mann (baritone), Amanda Provost (cello), and Kristen Flanagan (piano). The program will include works by Purcell, Handel, Krebs, Mendelssohn, Mouret, and Martinu. A reception will follow and proceeds of the concert (admission by donation) will benefit the inaugural NCC season.

“There are so many supremely accomplished—as well as up-and-coming musicians in the Norwottuck region—from the Great Falls of South Hadley to Mount Sugarloaf!” says Dr. Ernest May, Professor Emeritus of Musicology and Organ at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Norwottuck Chamber Concerts Artistic Director. “While there are numerous concert series in the area, most take place in relatively large, formal concert halls.” The series of approximately nine concerts will take place at All Saints' Episcopal Church in South Hadley, which provides a “warm, intimate architectural venue for chamber music, with generous acoustics and excellent musical instruments.”

“All Saints' Episcopal Church has long been a community that values music and hospitality,” says All Saints' Rector Tanya Wallace, who is also one of the producers of the series, “and our building has for 22 years been known for its intimate setting, stunning acoustics, and welcoming feel. We are so excited to bring together these commitments and charisms to offer the Norwottuck Chamber Concerts.”

Among its many natural, academic and cultural riches, the Pioneer Valley is home to many active musicians. “Since graduating from UMass four years ago, I have been performing and organizing in the Valley. I am pleased to have created a great network of musicians and friends with whom I look forward to including on this new series.” says Amanda Stenroos, violinist, co-Artistic Director and General Manager of NCC. Amanda is also co-founder and producer of UMass Amherst's biennial Bach Festival and Symposium. “There is a great community of fine artists in the area and we are always looking for beautiful spaces in which we can perform - All Saints' is the perfect venue!” On the first of December, NCC will present Handel's *Messiah* in a “singalong” format conducted by Wayne Abercrombie, Professor of Music Emeritus and former Director of Choral Activities at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; it will feature soloists Olivia Heinrich, Natalie Lewis, Kyle Ransom and Cailin Marcel Manson, as well as a chamber orchestra of local professionals. In this holiday favorite, the audience will be invited to sing along on the choruses of the Christmas

portion of Handel's familiar masterwork. A reception will be held afterwards in the church's Kidder Hall. Tickets will be available for \$20 general admission, \$17 students and seniors; proceeds will benefit the homeless.

On Sunday, January 19, 2020 accomplished baritone Cailin Marcel Manson, accompanied by pianist Hugh Keelan, will honor the legacy and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through a concert highlighting the African-American voice in concert music. The repertoire will include concert arrangements of Spirituals, sacred songs, and art songs by Moses Hogan, Harry Thacker Burleigh, William Grant Still, John Daniels Carter, Florence Price, Margaret Bonds and James Rosamund Johnson.

Continuing its mission to serve as a venue for up and coming artists and projects, the 2019-2020 NCC season will welcome a new chamber music series to the Valley, *Cultivate*, directed by pianist Kristen Flanagan, who recently began her masters degree with pianist Gilles Vonsattel at UMass Amherst.

"*Cultivate* is a chamber music series which presents creative concert programming and supports local artists and businesses in Western Massachusetts," says Flanagan. "Our inaugural season consists of three unique concert experiences: on November 9, *Nacht und Träume* juxtaposes the introspective lieder of Franz Schubert and Robert Schumann with Felix Mendelssohn's dazzling Piano Trio in C Minor. Celebrating folk, jazz, and classical among other American styles, *Americana* on February 1, premieres a chamber work based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, by Longmeadow native, composer Anthony Ferreira. Vocalists and instrumentalists will come together for various chamber settings by American composers in pieces such as *Dover Beach* by Samuel Barber and *Songs America Loves To Sing* by John Harbison. Our final concert, *Mozart & Opera*, May 9, is for opera and chamber music lovers alike. This exciting finale to our season highlights Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and will include his Piano Trio in B-flat Major, K502, and arias from his beloved operas."

*Cultivate* concerts will start at 7:30 PM, with a pre-concert social hour at 6:45 PM, where guests can interact with the artists and enjoy local wine and refreshments. Suggested donation for *Cultivate* concerts is \$20: [cultivatechambermusic.com](http://cultivatechambermusic.com)

While many of the initial NCC programs are classical, "Norwottuck Chamber Concerts will be dedicated to presenting a variety of repertoire—ranging from popular classics and virtuoso "show-stoppers" to more challenging "cutting edge" repertoire in a variety of styles and genres" continues Dr. May.

NCC's mission is also to provide an opportunity for in-person interaction among performers and listeners. "With so much fine music available over the internet, in the media, and in large concert hall settings," explains Dr. May, "what is unique about this concert series will be the "high-touch," in-person experience that it will offer in a beautiful venue for music." NCC will also hold a post-concert reception after each program for the socialization and enjoyment of all!

The first set of 2019-2020 concerts will take place from October through January, with spring concerts being added this fall. For more information, including ticket prices, reservations and program listings, please visit <https://www.allsaintsallwelcome.org/norwottuckchamber>

Norwottuck Chamber Concerts

*Musical ENRICHMENT for the All Saints' congregation and Western Massachusetts an intimate VENUE for artists and ensembles in the region*

*OPPORTUNITY for in-person interaction among performers and listeners.*

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## **Members take note and plan Now!**

### **Reserve the Date! Saturday, June 6, 2020: Members' Recital and Dinner**

4:00 PM: recital at All Saints Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley

5:30 PM: dinner at the Yarde Tavern, 3 Hadley Street, South Hadley

**Concerning programming for the June 6<sup>th</sup> members recital Ernie May, Organist/Choir Director of All Saints wrote that** In addition to the nice organ, we have a Steinway M and a Roland digital continuo organ/harpsichord that are used regularly.

Besides solo organ literature, music for organ with other instruments or voices would also be welcome

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The 20<sup>th</sup> Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Will be held at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel

On Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December at 7:30 PM

Music provided by the Cathedral Choir of Boys and Adults, strings, and organ

**SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF AMERICAN  
GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

Visit our website at [www.springfieldago.com](http://www.springfieldago.com).

Please contact Lad Pfeifer at [lep@diospringfield.org](mailto:lep@diospringfield.org) if you have any questions. Thank you.

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