

CHIEF CHAT



The Newsletter of the Springfield Chapter, American Guild of Organists

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APRIL EVENT FEATURES PALM SUNDAY MUSIC & PRAYER

Our April Chapter event takes place Palm Sunday, April 4 at 4:00pm, in St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Dwight Rd., Springfield. The event is a celebration of Evening Prayer (Vespers) according to current Roman Catholic practice. While many variations in the structure can exist, the path of the celebration at St. Paul's will strive to strike a mid-point. This is not intended to be the perfect model, but rather an example of one possibility for celebrating Evening Prayer.

A Little Background

The Hebrew people practiced several systems of daily prayer and sacrificed in the temple both in the morning and evening. It would seem reasonable to assume that the early Christians, who were, after all, Jewish, would take along some of these practices to the new religion. There is evidence of regular patterns of prayer at morning, noon, and night among Christian communities as early as the third century. These "patterns of prayer" took many forms, but all involved the psalter and readings from both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. Many included additional hours of the day and night. When schism came with the Protestant Revolution, the various break-away groups maintained their Catholic forms of prayer and eventually placed their own stamp on them, the most notable being Anglican Evensong.

Overall Structure

The liturgy for Sunday, 4 April will include an opening greeting and hymn, followed by an evening thanksgiving, two psalms with antiphons proper for the day, a New Testament Canticle, and finally a reading from scripture. A choral anthem will follow, then the singing of the Magnificat (Mary's Song of Praise). Schola will sing a setting composed by Leo Nestor of the Catholic University of America faculty, for the visit of John Paul II to St. Louis Cathedral in 1999. Then follow petitions for the community and a final prayer, blessing, and hymn. There will be both organ and choral preludes, and a choral postlude. As 4 April is Palm Sunday, Catholic Christians will have heard the reading of the passion as their Sunday gospel. As the antiphons to the psalms and canticles of Morning and Evening Prayer always relate the days scripture readings to our lives, Sunday's antiphons will relate events from Christ's passion to their salvific effects in our lives.

About Schola Nova

Schola Nova was founded in 1982 by Michael Dulac for the performance of sacred choral music. The name changed, in 1996, to Schola Nova. The group numbers about 16-18 singers of varying backgrounds, all members of whom are volunteers. Our current accompanist is Edith Gilbertson who will be retiring in June after 15 years with the group.

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DEAN'S MESSAGE — March-April 2004

Immersed in considerable work pressure for the Easter season, as we all are, this hopes to be a shorter, simpler Dean's message: some news, some requests, no great philosophy. Welcome to Spring, and to better weather! First, two quick reviews—

Our Chapter's Pastor-Organist Dinner on March 15th was a great success at Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield. My thanks to Martha Sienkiewicz for organizing the event, to Peter Beardsley for arranging for Dr. Horace Clarence Boyer's presence and participation, to Pastor Laurie Andersen and the people of Grace Lutheran for their warm and generous hospitality that evening, to the Grace Lutheran Women (and their spouses!) for preparing the excellent meal, and to the fifty-or-so Chapter members and friends who attended, including some very-welcome new faces. The hearty attendance was gratifying to the Chapter and very respectful of the great resource of and presentation by Horace Boyer. Dr. Boyer offered an engaging historical survey of both religion and music in this country, over the last two or three hundred years, to explain the evolution of African-American musical styles in worship. His usual manner of delivery, laced with humor, but pertinent to all, made for a totally enlightening, uplifting, and delightful evening. Thanks to everyone for a terrific gathering.

On Sunday, March 14th, at least six Springfield Chapter members appeared at Tom Murray's dedicatory recital on the new Schoenstein organ at the First Church of Christ in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Clearly, the new organ is a musical masterpiece and a great success in the room, as Tom Murray demonstrated so aptly. The decision to purchase and install a new pipe organ is a complex and demanding process, usually a once-in-a-lifetime one, for any congregation. It is an opportunity to bind people together for a common goal, and to bring members together for cooperation in planning and physical work to prepare for the instrument. These community efforts were present to the fullest in the Glastonbury project, which could serve as a model for any Church. I have asked Allen Langord to write his review of the Schoenstein organ, and of Tom Murray's presentation of it, so I'll simply commend you to Allen's insightful opinions on this project, which will be forthcoming shortly. A new organ,

however, is always an exciting thing, and a cause for celebration, especially when of the outstanding quality and tonal palette as this Schoenstein. Congratulations to our colleagues in Connecticut!

April 1 marks the deadline to receive nominations from our membership for elected positions in this Chapter's leadership in the forthcoming elections. I am not aware that any additional nominations have surfaced, and I am somewhat disappointed by the difficulty that the Nominating Committee faced in trying to assemble an ample list of willing candidates. It's just that I have this strong personal wish to involve more, and new, people to grow the participation and activity in and of this Chapter, which I have written about before. If you are sitting in the background, debating about stepping forward, it is not too late to organize a write-in campaign for the Chapter election during the coming month. Please contact any Board member to offer your participation and support. Ballots will be mailed soon, so please be sure to express your choices in this election, and return your ballot as instructed once voting begins. Thank you for your attention to this important step in the life cycle of this Chapter, which *does* strive to serve the entire Pioneer Valley!

Becky Isaacson, Peter Beardsley, and Charles Page have been hard at work preparing music, rehearsal schedules, and organizing participation in the Chapter's Choral Festival that will occur on Sunday, May 16th at 3:00 PM at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield. I'm writing about this program now to remind and encourage all of our membership that the Choir for this Festival will be made up of **us**, and of our Church Choirs, as any of them may choose to join the group. Now is the time (though just about the last chance) for any singer to enlist in the massed choir for the Festival, as more participants are still welcome. Please contact Becky, or Peter, or Charles, if you wish to sing in this group, and they will confirm with you the arrangements for music and rehearsals. You will enjoy this learning experience of doing the singing in a larger group, to high standards, under the entertaining command of Bruce McInnes. Sign up **now!**

On Friday, April 30th, Fred Swann will present an Organ Recital at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield. Our

AGO Chapter will be responsible for preparing the reception to follow. Perhaps, some different members would be interested to help us with that presentation? Please volunteer to any Board member, or respond willingly if asked to assist. We will appreciate your participation in this observance for our retiring National President.

As I prepare this month's column, the "Springfield Republican" newspaper has just published the obituary of Stanley F. Ziemienski of East Longmeadow, a long-time musician and retired serviceperson for pianos and organs. Stanley rebuilt and maintained pipe organs in numerous churches in western Massachusetts, but his *magnum opus* would probably be the removal, preservation, and later relocation into Mater Dolorosa R. C. Church, Holyoke, c.1972, of the Skinner Organ Co. Opus 209 of 1913, a 4-manual organ (retaining many ranks from the previous 1881 Steere organ) that had served Old First Church, Court Square, Springfield until its replacement there in 1958 by Æolian-Skinner Opus 1326. The memory of Stanley's work commitments lives on in Holyoke; rest in peace, Stanley.

This AGO Chapter's next event is the Vespers Service at St. Paul's Church, Dwight Road, Springfield, on Palm Sunday afternoon, April 4th, which will feature Schola Nova and make ample use of the excellent 1963 Casavant organ in that beautiful acoustical and worship space. There are more details of that event included in this newsletter. Please join us then for this fortifying gathering and for some social camaraderie as we prepare ourselves for the rigors of Holy Week. See you there!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Bill Czelusniak
Dean



YEARBOOK UPDATES — CORRECTING THE CORRECTIONS

Below is a list of further correction/additions to the Yearbook. New this month, is a list of incorrect or non-working e-mail addresses provided by Sub-Dean, Lary Grossman. Check the list! If you're on it, please provide us with an update. We strive to keep information current, but we need your help. Neither my position nor Lary's comes with working ESP!

ADDITIONAL NEW MEMBERS

Heather Moore (525-4392)
11 Cosgrove St.
E. Longmeadow, MA 01028
First Congregational Church
128 Central St.
Auburn, MA 01501

Jeanne M. Gravelin (583-8016)
84 Bridle Rd.
Ludlow, MA 01056-1105
St. John the Baptist R.C. Church
181 Hubbard St.
Ludlow, MA 01056
583-3467

STUDENT

Matthew Alcombright (652-1348)
172 E. Quincy St.
North Adams, MA 01247
Sacred Heart of Jesus
34 KNipfer Ave.
Easthampton, MA 01027

NEW FRIEND

Agawam Congregational Church
c/o Music Committee Chairman
745 Main St.
Agawam, MA 01001
786-7111
Donna Tapply (786-1413)

The following e-mail addresses NEED CORRECTION

Mary Milkey May
mmay55@aol.com
Melanie Peetz
mspeetz@compuserve.com
Betty Manzi
cmj@webtv.net

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Meg Irwin-Brandon (733-2380)
385 Worthington St., Apt. 3D
Springfield, MA 01103

CORRECTED CORRECTION

Rod Gisick, 191 Elm St., Greenfield
MA, 01301, Phone: 413-773-7139

CHAPTER MEMBERS STANDING FOR ELECTION

With chapter elections rapidly approaching, the Nominating Committee would like to give the constituency a chance to get to know the slate of possible electees for Board positions. The slate of officers (please see September 2003 issue for bios of current officers) remains intact from this year, but three board positions need to be filled. Below are the bios of our several hopefuls.

After 25 years away from the organ, **Rod Gisick** has come back with a vengeance. He's been studying baroque technique with good teachers and finding that this "first passion" (organ) was just lying in wait through all those years of singing and teaching voice.

Other than learning new Renaissance to Contemporary repertoire, and teaching voice privately and at Amherst College, Rod has just purchased a house in Greenfield and is dying to get into the garden. Anyone want to help? He is

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NEED A SUB?

Not the boat kind, not the sandwich kind, but the "I need a weekend off" kind. Springfield AGO member, John Anderson, has established a subbing website for himself and others. It can be reached by typing in:
www.SpringfieldAGO.org and selecting the item "Sunday Substitutes."

The screen shot at right should give you some idea what to expect when you get there. This should be a big help in easily getting coverage for yourself when you need it. It will become an even better tool, as you, the members, start signing in and letting the rest of us know of your availability. To get on the list, contact John Anderson by phone (567-9453) or e-mail (john.anderson@bigfoot.com), and get a login name and password. That's all there is to it! Oh yes, enjoy your day off.

Western Massachusetts Substitute Organists

Schedules

No substitutes are currently available on **Red** dates. **Green** dates have at least one substitute potentially available -- their names can be viewed by resting the mouse pointer on a date.

Organist Info

Parentheses around a substitute's name indicate *tentative* commitment on that date.

Login

Availability is never guaranteed! You must contact the substitute to verify and reserve a date. Contact information is available from the "Organist Info" link to the left.

Apr 2004	4	11	18	25
May 2004	2	9	16	23 30
Jun 2004	6	13	20	27
Jul 2004	4	11	18	25
Aug 2004	1	8	15	22 29
Sep 2004	5	12	19	26
Oct 2004	3	10	17	24 31
Nov 2004	7	14	21	28
Dec 2004	5	12	19	26
Jan 2005	2	9	16	23 30
Feb 2005	6	13	20	27
Mar 2005	6	13	20	27

First Church, Deerfield Organ Dedication

cont'd from p. 3

On April 25, 2004, The First Church of Deerfield, Old Deerfield, welcomes all to attend the Worship and formal Organ Dedication Service at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Thomas Pousont, organist and Director of Music Ministries, and the Meetinghouse Choir will provide the music at this morning service.

At 3:00 p.m., on April 25, William Porter, distinguished organist and recitalist, will present a Dedicatory Recital on the newly installed Opus 13 built by Richards & Fowkes Co., Ooltewah, Tennessee. His program will include: works by Johann Sebastian Bach, including the Passacaglia, Sonata in D by Felix Mendelssohn, new works by Daniel Aune and Kola Owolabi, and some improvisations of which he is a master. Following the recital there will be a reception in the Lobby of the Memorial Building at Deerfield Academy. This program is free and open to the public. Come and celebrate this wonderful instrument built for the glory of God.



(Editor: This significant, new instrument in our area was given a feature article in the December 2002 Chiff Chat. The organ was played and heard by several of our chapter members, friends, and members of neighboring chapters, as part of our October 2003 chapter event. An article on that event was included in the October 2003 Chiff Chat. If you do not have these past issues, they are available online at the chapter website: www.SpringfieldAGO.org. Go the website and select the option for "Newsletter.")

Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue (BWV 564) Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

"Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr'" (BWV 662) Bach
(All glory be to God on high")

Sonata V Felix Mendelssohn
Andante 1809-1847
Andante con moto
Allegro Maestoso

Two settings of the chorale, "O sacred head now wounded"
Trio Kola Owolabi (b.1977)
Chorale Daniel Aune (b.1977)

Improvisations on hymn tunes
Le Cantique de Siméon, Voices United #392
Lauda Anima, Voices United #399

Passacaglia (BWV 582) Bach

also looking for places to do recitals, so if you have a venue, he has the repertoire!

Elizabeth Dawson is the organist and choir accompanist at the United Church of Bernardston. Prior to her position at the United Church of Bernardston, she sang in the choir at Greenfield's Second Congregational Church for many years. She studies organ with Grant Moss.

Two of her original piano pieces are included on the CD "Songs of the System", a collection of music celebrating the Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System. She has a degree in Architecture from Carnegie-Mellon University and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts. She works as an Architect for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She served on the Greenfield Planning Board for three years and chaired the Board for one year.

Michael-Thomas Gilman is a native of Monson, and currently Organist-Choirmaster of United Congregational Church in Holyoke. He is a graduate of UMass and of Yale. Hobbies are travel, eating good food, and taking naps. He is just finishing up production of a six-cd retrospective of the organ and choral performances of Dr. Robert S. Baker for Yale University. Michael lives in Monson with his terriers Spark and Scout.

Cindy Morrell has been involved in church music since joining the Angel Choir early in her elementary school years. Early work under Marjorie Long and then under Barbara Conant shaped her choral singing. She moved from piano to organ lessons in junior high with Barbara Conant and continued with lessons through her years at Mount Holyoke with Myrtle Regier. She accompanied senior high worship services during those four years. She has been serving as a "substitute" or summer organist since high school at Center Church in South Hadley and branched out to other substitute jobs in later years. She was named Associate in Music at Center Church two years ago. Both she and her husband sing in the Center Church choir. In her other life, she is a senior administrative assistant in physics and astronomy at Mount Holyoke. She has also been very active in volunteer work for MHC, serving as a class president, a class agent and in various position in her local alumane club. She has also served on a number of her church's committees.

JOB LISTINGS

Choir Director

First Congregational Church, One Church Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

Description: Vibrant and growing 300 member church with a strong music tradition seeks a Choir Director to be part of a team with dynamic new pastor, active music committee and accomplished organist. Responsible for weekly rehearsals of senior choir plus one Sunday service with possibilities for children and youth. Must have keyboard skills adequate for rehearsals.

Salary: Forty week position with competitive compensation.

Contact: Bobbie Ayers, Ayebre@aol.com

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

Organist/Choir Director

Hope United Methodist Church 31 Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007

Description: 12-15 hours per week 1 Adult choir (21 members) 1 service (10:00 AM), 1 rehearsal (Thursday - 6:30-8:00 PM); 2 manual Rodgers organ; Choir does not sing during July and August

Salary: \$8684 per year 4 weeks vacation

Contact:

Rev. Bruce Arbour (413) 323-7584
Email - Bruce523@juno.com

Organist/Choir Director

Christ United Methodist Church 271 Rocky Hill Road, PO Box 701 Northampton, MA 01061

Description: 1 Adult Choir; Children's Choir to be developed; organ unknown

Salary: \$8,000.00, 4 weeks vacation

Contact: Rev. Peter Hey 413-584-5935

Organist

St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church 9 East Parkview Drive, South Hadley, MA 01075

Description: 3 Masses per weekend; accompany one choir rehearsal per week (40 weeks); 2 Masses per Holy Day of Obligation (6 per year). Experience and knowledge of Roman Catholic liturgy required. 1970 Allen Organ.

Salary: \$15,500

Available June 1, 2004

Contact: Fr. Richard Bondi 413-532-3228 ext. 11

Choral Director

Description: The Hilltown Choral Society, a 48 year old organization of around 30 singers of primarily untrained voices, is seeking a new choral director. The group presents two Christmas concerts in early December preceded by a ten week rehearsal schedule.

Contact: Judy Dodge: 413-442-7237, or mail your resume to The Hilltown Choral Society, P.O. Box 534, Worthington, MA 01098-0534 by April 1st, 2004.

Organist/Choir Director

First Congregational Church 43 Silver St., Greenfield, MA

Description: Adult Choir, Youth Choir BM/BA preferred. After 6 months 1 week vacation and 1 week sick leave 2 manual Estey Pipe Organ

Salary: \$12,000 (negotiable)

Starting date: June 2004

Contact: Ruby Agnir 413-774-7032

Organist/Choir Director

Agawam Congregational Church 745 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001

Description: Adult Choir, Praise Band, 14 hours weekly. Emmons Howard organ - rebuilt 2001 with midi. B.M. or B.A. (choir master equivalent) required

Salary: \$12,000 - negotiable

Contact: Donna Tapply 786-1413

Organist/Director of Music Ministries

Wesley United Methodist Church 114 Main St., Worcester, MA 01608

Description: full time (40 hours) position includes Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, Handbell Choir, and Concert Series. B.M. or B.A. required

Salary: \$37,00-45,000 (based on AGO guidelines); 2-4 weeks vacation, retirement plan, health plan, and continuing education funds available. Organ is a 1925 E.M. Skinner, 73 ranks in good condition.

Available: July 1, 2004

Contact: send resume to Brent Drajesk, Chairman of Search Committee at the church address.

Accompanist

The South Hadley Choral is seeking an accompanist for the 85-voice group. Season runs from January-March, culminating in a mid-March concert with orchestra. Rehearsals are Wednesday night from 7-9pm.

Salary: negotiable

Contact: Bobbie Ayers, 533-3833

CALENDAR

To have your event included, please send it (preferably by e-mail) to: m.dulac@verizon.net

April 3

7:30PM

Second Congregational Church, Western Ave., Westfield, MA
Westfield Festival Chorus and Orchestra, Dr. Theodore Davidovich, conductor, Spring Concert featuring, Bach, Cantata #71, *Gott ist mein König*, and *Requiem* of Marc-Antoine Charpentier. Admission #10/\$5.

April 4

3:00PM

First Church of Christ, Scientists, Putney Rd., Brattleboro, VT
"Organ Flights and Fancies" a recital by Phil Stimmel featuring music of Bach, Debussy, D'Aquin, Clokey, Bridge, Kriesler, Langlais and Vierre.

4:00PM

St. Paul's Church, Dwight Rd., Springfield
Part of the church's Ecumenical Vespers Series, featuring Schola Nova, Michael Dulac, director, and organist, Edith Gilbertson.

7:30PM

St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Howard St., Springfield
Westfield Festival Chorus and Orchestra, Dr. Theodore Davidovich, conductor, Spring Concert featuring, Bach, Cantata #71, *Gott ist mein König*, and *Requiem* of Marc-Antoine Charpentier. Admission #10/\$5.

April 9

8:30PM

St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Rt 5, Longmeadow
Tenebræ Service for Good Friday, with Schola Nova, Michael Dulac, director. Featuring music of Nestor, Ferko, Thompson, Gibbons, others.

April 18

4:00PM

Hatfield Congregational Church, Hatfield
Novi Cantori Spring Concert featuring the Vittoria *Requiem*.

April 24

7:00 PM

Wesley United Methodist Church, 55 North Main St., East Windsor, CT
Organ recital by Robert Barney on the 1874 Johnson&Son tracker organ recently cited by OHS. Program includes work of Bach, Handel, and Mendelssohn, among others. Free-will offering.

American Guild of Organists
Springfield, Mass. Chapter

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 25

The First Church of Deerfield, Main St.,
Deerfield, MA

10:00AM

Worship and Dedication Service

3:00PM

Dedicatory Recital by William Porter, organist.
Reception following the concert. Free
admission

3:00PM

First Church Amherst, 165 Main St., Amherst
Honest Harmony A Cappella Vocal Quartet.
Part of the new *Music on Main Concert Series*.
Admission.

3:30PM

Old First Church, Court Sq., Springfield
Music at First presents The Long Piano Duo
with Christina and Beatrice Long.

April 30

7:30PM

St. Michael's Cathedral, State St., Springfield
75th Anniversary of the Cathedral Organ,
featuring well-known recitalist and National
President of the AGO, Fred Swann.

May 2

4:00 PM

Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield
Novi Cantori Spring Concert featuring the
Vittoria Requiem.

May 16

3:00PM

Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral,
Springfield
Featuring several area choirs under the
direction of Bruce McInnes.

May 23

4:00 PM

St. Stanislaus Basilica, Chicopee
Organ recital, Allan Taylor, featuring Bach,
Handel, Vierne, Dupré.

May 30

7:00PM

St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Rt 5,
Longmeadow
Music at St Andrew's presents John
Anderson, organ recital. Strawberry
reception to follow. Free admission.

June 7

6:00PM

Faculty Club, UMass, Amherst
In addition to dinner, there will be a tour of
the "new" Bezanson Recital Hall, and a visit to
the Oberlinger pipe organ in room 36 of the
UMass Fine Arts Center.

June 14

7:30PM

St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Howard St.,
Springfield
Schola Nova concert featuring Rheinberger,
Trinity Mass, and works by Thompson, Nestor,
Palestrina, others. Free-will offering to benefit
the organ fund.