

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists
May 2011



A message from the Dean...

29 April 2011---We all got married this morning! Gotta love those Brits and the Royal Wedding! Everything timed, everything precise, and all practiced and planned long beforehand to lend an air of great importance to the occasion. And the music! O the music.... Great camera shots of the organ façade, a veritable brigade of royal fanfare trumpeters and even the London symphony! Two great anthems by the Westminster choir of men and boys and three wonderful hymns made glorious with descanting boy sopranos. Special occasions surely call for special music.

Whether your own church recognized it or not, your efforts to make Easter a special occasion this year are applauded by the Guild. Did you employ special instruments? Did you find some hymn variations? Maybe you taught your choir a descant or found a spectacular prelude or postlude. Whatever musical choices you made, they were planned some weeks ago and rehearsed with the music all laid out the day before ...and this behind-the-scenes planning, the details of which are never fully known by anyone else, is the subtle glue that holds the occasion together and gives it the importance it deserves. I heard one commentator say that in spite of all the satirical spoofs of the wedding "dance" going around on youtube and the British love for Monty Python, there would be no satire present at Westminster today because the church and the monarchy still provide the balance of hope and optimism which counters today's cynics. I hope that's true. It may be... because the camera even cut to

Elton John in a tailored suit singing hymns!

Now that Kate and Will have opened the "wedding season" with a church wedding, maybe more couples will choose to be married in your churches instead of the country clubs and the mountain tops. If so, be sure to treat the occasion as "special". Discuss the music with the bride and groom, rehearse with them if possible, be there early to play while people gather and set the mood, lay everything out the night before...add some flourishes or a favorite hymntune that the couple may recognize... Remember that your efforts are an important piece of the tapestry that makes the occasion meaningful, providing a much needed balance to this cynical world.



Console of the Harrison & Harrison organ at Westminster Abbey. Organ music at the wedding of Prince William and Princess Catherine included "Pièce d'Orgue" of Bach, "Veni, Creator Spiritus" of Peter Maxwell Davies and the Widor Toccata.

Springfield Chapter Leadership

Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
Sub Dean	Don Hooton
Secretary	Mary Jeanne Tash
Treasurer	James Barnes
Directors	Barbara Boudo, Quentin Faulkner, Alan Dickinson, Mark Jacobson, Roger LaCross, Larry Picard
Chaplain	Fr. William Wallis
Education	Martha Sienkiewicz, Don Hooton
Membership	Karen Banta
Chiff Chat Editor	Larry Picard
Web Site	Allan Taylor
Investments	Charles Page, E Lary Grossman, William Czelusniak, James Barnes

Final Chapter Event: End-of-year cookout, Friday, June 10 at 4 p.m. at the home of Charles Page, 1 Bridges Road, Enfield, Ct. There will be a demonstration of the 4-rank pipe organ. Burgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Attendees are invited to bring a salad, side or dessert.

Position open: The First Congregational Church, UCC, Chicopee is seeking a organist/pianist who will plan and coordinate, in consultation with the minister, all Worship Service music and play the organ/piano for one weekly Sunday morning service, plus Christmas Eve and Maundy Thursday evening services. The church year is from September through July with no services in August. The position also entails leading/directing the choir for practice on the second and third Sunday, after Worship Service and accompanying them for an Anthem on the fourth Sunday. Salary is based upon the AGO fee schedule and is paid monthly. Please email your resume to jeburns@charter.net.

Position open: St. Mark's Episcopal Church in East Longmeadow, MA seeks a part-time (10 hour per week) Minister of Music beginning July 15, 2011. Responsibilities include playing organ (Southfield, 17 Ranks, 2 manuals + pedal, and draw knob console) and piano (Samick baby grand) for one Sunday morning service (10 am), holidays and other special services. The individual will coordinate all music at the church in conjunction with the Rector. From September through June s/he will rehearse the choir one evening per week and before the Sunday morning service. Other responsibilities include preparing preludes, postludes, and other instrumental music. Flexibility and openness to a variety of musical traditions is important. Compensation and vacation follows AGO guidelines. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Father Swarr, 1 Porter Rd. East Longmeadow, MA 01028 / padre.peter.swarr@gmail.com by June 15th. For more information about St. Mark's, visit www.stmarksma.org.

The Ten Commandments of Organ Practise

1. Thou shalt practise every day, even if only for a short period.
2. Thou shalt NEVER practise faster than thou canst play perfectly, for it is written: Perfect Practise Makes Perfect.
3. Thou shalt NOT put off working on the hard parts; David did not invite Goliath to come back after tea.
4. Thou shalt work out a usable fingering, inscribe it on thy papyrus and NEVER vary from same, for Fumble Fingers Find Fate Fickle.
5. Thou shalt never apologise for thy playing, nor say "Oops!" when thou makest a mistake, for thou wilt only draw attention to things which otherwise would never be noticed by the thick people.
6. Thou shalt practise each composition in short segments; that thy fingers may not break off more than thy mind can chew.
7. Thou shalt listen ... and not only to organists, for it is written: What this untidy world needs is fewer organists and more musicians who can play the organ
8. Thou shalt NOT play pedals without shoes, for thy Odor-Eaters may be spent, and besides, it leads to sloppy playing.
9. Thou shalt begin and end each practise session with something thou canst play readily, that thou mayest not be discouraged.
10. Thou shalt always remember that thy practise is a labour of love and that by persistence (oft proved by thyself in other undertakings) thou canst bring to pass many wonders.

Upcoming Events

May 2011

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

The Tuesday Morning Music Club holds its Annual Meeting & luncheon at Trinity Methodist Church, Springfield. The Amherst High School Select Chorus, Anita Cooper, Director, will perform.

www.tuesdaymorningmusicconcerts.org

Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

CityMusic Springfield and South Congregational Church, Springfield, present *An Old-School Cabaret* in the atrium of Classical High School Condos. Singers from South Church include Hillarie O'Toole, Carol Wroblewski, Alan Schneider and Tom O'Toole, joined by guest artist Matt Meers. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

Contact Larry Picard at 413-732-0117 x28 or lpicard@sococh.org

Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. The Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults at St. Michael's Cathedral, Springfield, presents an evening of choral and instrumental music including Pergolesi's *Magnificat*, three Mozart pieces and ancient and modern motets. Free-will offering. For more info contact Paula Shindledecker at (413) 452-0839 or worship@diospringfiled.org

Sunday, May 15, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. Sally Pinkas, Pianist-in-Residence of the Hopkins Center at Dartmouth College, plays a piano recital of compositions by Brahms and Ravel at the First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield. Suggested donation \$10. For more info contact Jean Turner at 413-774-2657. www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org

Friday, May 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Schola Nova performs *Deep River-choral classics to stir the spirit* at Old First Church, Court Square, Springfield. Works by Pachelbel, Mozart, Pärt, Martinatis, Eric Whitacre and spirituals. Free-will offering. www.scholanova.org

Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Organ Recital by Hans Hielscher, Organist-Carillonneur at The Marktkirche in Wiesbaden, Germany and Municipal Organist at Wiesbaden Kurhaus Concert Hall, at the United Congregational Church Holyoke. *This project is supported in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.* (\$10 suggested donation -- \$5 seniors and students - no one turned away.) www.uccholyoke.org

June 2011

Friday, June 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Schola Nova performs *Deep River-choral classics to stir the spirit* at Our Lady of the Valley Church, Easthampton. Works by Pachelbel, Mozart, Pärt, Martinatis, Eric Whitacre and spirituals. Free-will offering. www.scholanova.org

Sunday, June 5, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Schola Nova performs *Deep River-choral classics to stir the spirit* at Church of the Epiphany, Wilbraham. Works by Pachelbel, Mozart, Pärt, Martinatis, Eric Whitacre and spirituals. Free-will offering. www.scholanova.org

Wednesday, June 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. Lecture recital by Joel Speerstra: "J.S. Bach & the Pedal Clavichord," featuring the six trio sonatas at Gordon Chapel, Old South Church, Boston. Free. More info: [781-891-0814](tel:781-891-0814)

Wednesday, June 13, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. Lecture recital by Christa Rakich & David Schulenberg: "The Clavichord as Ensemble Instrument," a lecture recital featuring duets of C.P.E. & W.F. Bach at Gordon Chapel, Old South Church, Boston. Free. More info: [781-891-0814](tel:781-891-0814)

CHIFF CHAT

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

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Springfield, MA 01109-4036

Chiff Chat Newsletter

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Celebrating 62 Years as a chapter!

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

Editor's Note: This will be the last issue of Chiff Chat until September, unless breaking news causes an unscheduled firing-up of the presses. Got events for next season to advertise? Send me your line-up and I will keep it on file, entering concerts on the calendar as they come up. - Larry

Next chapter event: Year-end cookout at the home of Charles Page. See p. 2 for details.