

Chiff Chat

Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter
American Guild of Organists
September 2011



A message from the Dean...

Musicians, like teachers and many other professionals in the arts, begin the new season in September. It is the New Year...and a time for new beginnings. Hopefully, the summer hiatus has brought you a space in your mind where you have thought deeply about what has been successful and what needs to be improved over last year. The questions are the same whether it's the chapter Board of the AGO or the organist/choir director of a congregation/parish whose music program is in your hands:

Have you reached out to as many people as you could?

Did you provide positive leadership without micro-managing and controlling everything?

Did you delegate tasks to give others the opportunity to contribute?

Did you plan a varied program for a diverse audience, even the "groundlings?"

Did you work well with others, especially the clergy, your choir and the praise band?

Did you encourage new learners, educating rather than criticizing?

Encouraging young learners has been a pleasure during these past two years with Monica Czausz and Griffin McMahon. Both of these students attended the Curtis Institute in late June and the POE Advanced in Boston in July. I was fortunate enough to hear both of them play the mighty Wannamaker Organ in the Central Court at Philadelphia Macy's high noon on July 1. What an experience! They made it rock, let me tell you. Monica will be a senior at

Chicopee High this year, so we may yet hear her during this season. Griffin is leaving for New York and the Julliard School. Each of us now needs to encourage more young people in the excitement and joy of the Organ. Let's keep that goal in mind as we enter our fall schedules. Happy New Year!

Martha

Opening Event: Concert and Installation of Officers

The opening event of the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will take place on September 18th, at 4 o'clock at St. Paul Lutheran Church, East Longmeadow. Dr. Alan Dickinson is the host for this event. Robert Browne, who is the National Convener for Massachusetts will do the Installation of Officers. Emelyn Bashour, who studies organ with Larry Schipull and Sheila Heady, who is the organist at the Whately Congregational Church, will perform at the installation. A reception will follow the installation. The officers of your chapter look forward to seeing you on September 18th at 4 o'clock. – Donald Hooton

Springfield Chapter Leadership

Dean	Martha Sienkiewicz
Sub Dean	Don Hooton
Secretary	Mary Jeanne Tash
Treasurer	James Barnes
Directors	Quentin Faulkner, Alan Dickinson, Mark Jacobson, Roger LaCross, Elizabeth Dawson, Lori Bourret
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

Anthem Reading Session at Church of the Atonement, Westfield

The Springfield Chapter of the AGO will present an anthem reading session on Saturday, October 15th, from 9:30 to 12. Jim Jordan, DMA, who is the Sheet Music Editor and Gregorian Chant Specialist for Paraclete Press, will be the presenter. Each participant will go home with a packet of music from the reading session.

Beauty Unceasing: Choral music designed for varied groups and limited rehearsal time.

This session is designed to offer a wide range of choral works for your choir with the understanding that your choir may range from SATB to SAB to Men/Women, all within the space of a few weeks! Also, we all know that rehearsal time is at a premium these days and that the music we use must fulfill roles of beauty in worship and functionality within our given time frame.

Given these parameters, we will explore choral anthems that range in voicing, styles, and texts for the church year with an emphasis on 3-part works or 4-part that can also be performed in a 3-part version. We will also spend time talking about teaching methods for these pieces so that we can make best use of our rehearsal time.

Dr. Jordan has worked in the sheet music field for over 20 years, working on review committees and editorial boards, which gave him an opportunity to experience a vast number of published and unpublished choral works. For 23 years he has been organist for Gloriam Dei Cantores, whose repertoire ranges from chant to contemporary works through over 1,000 choral works.



If you are planning to attend this event, please send the information to Donald E. Hooton, 43 Prospect St, South Hadley, MA. 01075, email address, dehoot@verizon.net or phone, 533-8412 **by October 1, 2011.**

The fee for the packet of music is \$5.00. This is a great deal for music that you will be able to use with your choirs. When you come, bring some of your choir members with you, and make sure you register them also. I look forward to seeing you on October 15th.

=====

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 4 p.m. (Chapter Event) Opening recital and Installation of Officers. See top of this page for details.

Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 4 p.m. Mark Thallander and Brett Judson perform at First Churches, Northampton.

An interview with Charles W. Marshall



In order to escape the heat and humidity of a July afternoon, two new members of the AGO, Robert Biancuzzo and Charles W. Marshall, got together to enjoy air-conditioning, lunch and conversations about music and organs. Robert Biancuzzo conducted this interview of Charles Marshall with the help of his wife Kristen, who typed up the notes!

Mr. Marshall, who prefers to be called Charlie, has roots in Western Mass, for it was in Granville that his grandparents lived and in Granville that his parents met. The family was frequently on the move : Charlie was born in New Jersey but then relocated to Pennsylvania, Wenham, MA, Pittsfield, MA and Baltimore, MD before settling back in Granville, MA. Charlie found music to be a comfort and when he was 8 years old he developed a desire to learn how to play piano. Finally, when he was 12 years old, the family purchased an upright piano for \$100. He started taking lessons and by the time he was a mere 13 years old he was singing and playing with the Adult Sunday School Class.

Charlie joined his high school choir as a tenor and one year, just before the Spring concert, the choir director kept the choir practicing the night before until 11 pm. The next morning Charlie woke up with laryngitis and his mom used every remedy in the book to help him regain his voice. He knew he was the only tenor and, giving it his all, he had just enough voice left to sing the two Madrigal songs and then he mouthed the words for the remainder of the concert. The sparking moment of interest in the organ happened during graduation when Charlie was asked to play for a singing group but the setting had no piano only an organ. He found the experience exhilarating.

Gordon College in Wenham, MA is a Christian Liberal Arts College where Charlie was convinced to become a music major in his Sophomore year, graduating in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education, piano concentration. While taking a course taught by Dr. R. Rice Nutting, Charlie's interest in "the king of instruments" ignited. Dr. Nutting was formerly the organist of the Park Street Congregational Church near Wenham, MA and while turning pages for Dr. Nutting during a church organ dedication, Charlie remembers distinctly the Franz Liszt piece because "the page was completely black from all the notes on the page." He couldn't follow but Dr. Nutting would slightly nod his head and Charlie would turn the page. His biggest fears: he would turn too many pages or he would drop the book onto Dr. Nutting's hands. The switch from piano to organ offered some challenges for Charlie and he indicated that switching over to finger substitutions and learning double manuals while maintaining a beat were the two most challenging aspects of this transition.

In 1994, Charlie was living in Baltimore, MD, where he began a business called Marshall Arts, a music school which offered piano and voice lessons to over 35 students, Charlie also sang in a 100-voice church choir, often featured as a soloist. By 2009, Charlie had relocated to Dalton, MA and served the First Congregational Church as interim director of music. During his time there, the church organ was refurbished under his guidance. Charlie now lives in Granville, MA and is playing piano on Wednesday evenings at Word of Grace Church in Westfield, MA. He is currently studying organ with Dr. Matthew McConnell, minister of music at All Saints Church in North Adams. Charlie's long term goals include opening his own music school facilities in an old Victorian home, and offering music lessons for students of all ages.

When asked for advice he tells his students "Play accurately even if as slow as a turtle, Tempo comes last." Sounds like good advice for life. Welcome to the AGO, Mr. Marshall!

THOMAS MURRAY HONORED BY AGO NATIONAL COUNCIL

The American Guild of Organists presented its eighth annual Recital and Gala Benefit Reception on Sunday, May 15, at Yale University. An estimated audience of 500 colleagues, students and friends came together to celebrate the lifetime achievements of Thomas Murray on the occasion of his thirtieth anniversary at Yale.

The event raised \$30,000 to be invested in the AGO Endowment Fund in Thomas Murray's honor.



The recital, which was played by Thomas Murray on the world renowned Newberry Memorial Organ in Woolsey Hall, was introduced by Craig Whitney, New York Times assistant managing editor (retired) and author of *All the Stops: The Glorious Pipe Organ and Its American Masters*. Professor Murray's program included Bach's Toccata in F Major (BWV 540), Sonata II (1937) by Hindemith, selections from Symphony I on Gregorian Themes (1932) by Guy Weitz, and the Symphony in D Minor by Franck, transcribed by Calvin Hampton.

Established in 1994, the AGO Endowment Fund provides income to expand programs for leadership development among AGO members; educate new organists; and cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. Tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income support for essential Guild programs and educational projects.

Those unable to attend the gala will receive a copy of the souvenir program book with their contribution of \$25 or more to the Endowment Fund. Contributions in honor of Thomas Murray can be made online at www.agohq.org or by mailing a check to: AGO Endowment Fund, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115. All gifts will be acknowledged in The American Organist. For information, please call 212-870-2311 (ext. 4308) or e-mail gala@agohq.org.

AGO NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY TO BE PRESENTED IN COOPERATION WITH EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The American Guild of Organists and the Eastman School of Music are partnering to produce the 16th biennial AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy, November 10–13, 2011, in Rochester, N.Y. The conference, designed in cooperation between the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education and the 10th annual Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival, will present the topic of organ improvisation through a variety of compositional techniques and styles. Information and online registration: www.esm.rochester.edu/eroi/festival-2011.php. Early registration discounts are available through August 15.

The four-day conference will present master classes featuring students at a variety of levels, panel discussions addressing the teaching of improvisation, and sessions that will provide attendees with resource material in the pedagogy of improvisation. The keynote address, *Why Is Improvisation So Difficult?*, will be given by Eastman faculty member William Porter.

A distinguished faculty of internationally renowned organists and teachers working in organ improvisation will include Jeffrey Brillhart, Tony Caramia, Sophie-Veronique Cauchefer-Choplin, Hans Davidsson, Michael Dodds, Gerre Hancock, David Higgs, Denise Lanning, Rudolf Lutz, William Marvin, Bruce Neswick, David Peckham, McNeil Robinson, Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra, John R. Shannon, and Daniel Zager.

For further information, please contact please contact EROI Festival Coordinator Annie Laver at 585-274-1564 or e-mail anne.laver@rochester.edu.

CHIFF CHAT

**American Guild of Organists
Springfield, MA Chapter**

Larry Picard, Newsletter Editor
173 Thompson Street
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!

*September Chapter Event: Recital and Installation of
Officers at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, East
Longmeadow. Emelyn Bashour performs, Sept. 18 at 4 p.m.*