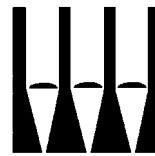


# CHATTERVOX



Greater Hartford Chapter American Guild of Organists

FEBRUARY 2012



*This once-familiar landmark in the center of Somers was destroyed by fire on the night of January 1st. Read more on page 6.*

## Deanery by Kevin Jones

v. **inspire, inspired, inspiring...**

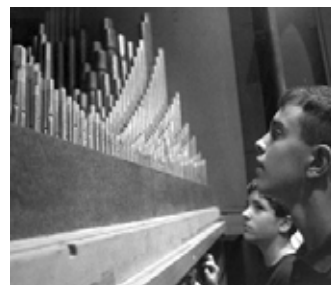
- to exert a stimulating or beneficial effect upon; animate or invigorate
- to affect, guide or arouse
- to stimulate to action; motivate

I'm thinking to a year ago as I sit to write this article. I'm remembering the piles of endless snow, the Olympic luge track that was my driveway, the bitter cold and our seven-year-old Siberian Husky in utter delight every time she got walked! I'm so thankful that none of this has happened this year, well... at least not YET. As we encounter this wintertime I'm always reminded that even though we can't see things renewing and growing, they are. The trees may not be blooming, the grass may be dormant, but the energy is there inside them ready to burst out as soon as the warm weather of spring activates them. It's a wonderful time of year to remember how we influence those with whom we work – the seeds of our work are transforming people's lives through music. Maybe we can't always see it, but our musical work through teaching, performing, conducting, writing... all inspires others to respond to the best in themselves. Perhaps they, in turn, inspire others, too.

As I live through the short days of winter, I'm grateful to have this time to think and renew—to inspire, to be inspired and to be inspiring.

Happy February,

Kevin



## Pedals, Pipes and Pizza is coming up! —

Remember that you, the AGO, have a great opportunity to promote the pipe organ and its music among young musicians. It's great for them to see that playing the organ is "cool" and that there are others their age who are interested. They will also get to play two of Hartford's most impressive organs at Christ Church Cathedral and the Cathedral of St. Joseph. The date is February 20 with a snow date on February 25. For a registration form, contact Jason Roberts at [music@stjameswh.org](mailto:music@stjameswh.org).

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Greater Hartford Chapter  
American Guild of Organists



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**#1206 - Old is New...** instruments at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and the Catholic Cathedral in La Crosse, Wisconsin demonstrate divergent ways of approaching the 'classical organ'.

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**CHATTERVOX** is published monthly, except during July & August, by the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. It is circulated free of charge to all Chapter members as a benefit of AGO membership. The deadline for items to be included in CHATTERVOX is the 10th of the preceding month. All submissions should be in writing, accompanied by the author's name and phone number(s). Send copy to Edward Clark, CHATTERVOX Editor, 196 Terry Road, Hartford, CT 06105. E-mail: [EdwardClark@snet.net](mailto:EdwardClark@snet.net)

## In Memoriam: Bruce Porter \_\_\_\_\_

Chattervov has received word that long time chapter member **Bruce E. Porter** passed away on his 76th birthday, December 26, 2011, surrounded by his wife, Barbara, his children, and Bach organ music. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance from Oberlin Conservatory and a Master of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary. He served as Minister of Music at Hope Congregational Church in Springfield, MA; United Church of Christ in Keene, NH; Central Congregational Church in Worcester, MA; and for the past 21 years at South Congregational Church in Granby, CT. Along with Dita Englund, he founded the Keene Chorale and directed that group for 7 years. He was a member of the American Guild of Organists and served as Treasurer of the Springfield Chapter and Dean of the Monadnock Chapter. He was a member of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and served as Area I President. He has directed Ringers on the Square in Keene, as well as handbell choirs in Worcester and Granby. Recently Mr. Porter instituted a concert series at South Church in Granby, and was also actively involved in performing Baroque chamber music with friends.

A memorial service will be held at South Congregational Church, 242 Salmon Brook Street, Granby, Connecticut, on Sunday, May 6, at 3:00 p.m. His family has requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to South Congregational Church, Attn: Bruce Porter Memorial Concert Fund, 242 Salmon Brook Street, Granby, CT 06035.

On Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 3 pm, the Bruce Porter Memorial Music Series at South Congregational Church, 242 Salmon Brook St, Granby, CT opens its inaugural season when Portuguese pianist Miguel Campinho returns to Granby to perform music by Schumann, Strauss, Mozart, Wagner, Rorem and others with baritone Luke Scott.

We send our condolences to Bruce's widow, Barbara, and to his entire family.

## Mini-Convention XIV in North Andover, Massachusetts \_\_\_\_\_

For those willing to travel a bit, the Merrimack Valley Chapter AGO is holding their 14<sup>th</sup> annual mini-convention in North Andover, Massachusetts on Saturday, February 25, 2012. All events will take place at the First Calvary Baptist Church at the intersection of Rt. 125 and Massachusetts Avenue. The full day registration cost is \$48 and half day is \$32. Students can take \$10 off. Lunch is included. The schedule:

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:45	Anthem Reading session by MVAGO members
10:00 – 10:45	Cheryl Duerr: The SPC Exam, A Valuable Professional Asset
11:00 – 11:45	John & Carolyn Skelton: For 2 to Play, Duets You Can Do
noon	Lunch
1:30 – 2:15	Richard Bunbury: Energizing Children's and Youth Choirs
2:30 – 3:30	Joan Lippincott: Master Class on Hymn Playing

Pre-registration is required. Checks should be made out to MVAGO Mini-Convention and mailed to Ruth Bower, 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915-3729. Include a note with your name, address, email and choice of morning, afternoon or all day registration. The deadline to sign up is February 20<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Contact Barbara Owen at 978-465-2068, owenbar@juno.com or Ruth Bowers at 978-922-8137, ruth.bowers@comcast.net.

## In Memoriam: Gerre Hancock \_\_\_\_\_

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of a legend in the world of organ and church music. Dr. Gerre Hancock died on Saturday, January 22, 2012, with his wife Judy at his side. He had taken ill during a routine heart stress test at his doctor's office earlier in the week and then was subsequently hospitalized.

Dr. Hancock taught literally thousands of young voices throughout his career and thrilled us all with his amazing improvisatory, interpretive and technical skill at the organ. Rest in peace, Gerre.

## 1 Wed at 12:15 pm

**Midweek Musical Meditations** is a short, 15 minute presentation featuring one part of the complete Christmas cycle with organist Jason Charneski and the Rev. Paulo Gustavo Franca at lector. This week focuses on Revelation. Center Church, 675 Main St., Hartford. 860-249-5631

## 1 Wed at 6:00 pm

**Choral Evensong** with the Cathedral Choristers. Joseph Ripka, organist and Kevin Jones, conductor. Eve of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Preces by Morley, Psalm 84, chant: C.H.H. Parry, Canticles Tallis "Short." Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

## 5 Sun at 5:00 pm

**Sacred Music at the Red Door** presents Choral Evensong, sung by the St. John's Choirs. Evensong is preceded by Tea at 4:00 p.m. and followed by a brief 30 minute organ recital by Graham Schultz, Lloyd Cast Organ Fellow at The Cathedral of All Saints, Albany, NY. St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. 860-523-5201

## 7 Tue at 12:35 pm

**Midday Organ Recital** with Kevin Jones playing Music of J.S. Bach: The "Schubler" Chorales; Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 547. Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

## 8 Wed at 12:15 pm

**Midweek Musical Meditations** is a short, 15 minute presentation featuring one of six themes from the Christmas cycle with organist Jason Charneski and the Rev. Paulo Gustavo Franca at lector. This week focuses on Invitation. Center Church, 675 Main St., Hartford. 860-249-5631

## 10 Fri at 7:05 pm

**Beth Israel Organ Sounds** presents music for cello and organ: Abendlied, Pastorale and Elegie by Reinberger and a sonata by Tessarini. Cellist Peter Dzialo and Organist Natasha Ulyanovsky. Precedes Shabbat

Service. Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119. 860-233-8215

## 12 Sun at 4:00 pm

**The Inner World of Feeling: Organ and Vocal Music of J.S. Bach** with organist Christa Rakich and soprano Miranda Bergmeier. Using the Orgelbuchlein, the program paints an aural picture of Bach's world and faith, highlighting the personal drama of his music as it depicts profound joy and deepest sorrow. \$25 gen, \$20 AGO members, students free. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 67 East St., Pittsfield, MA.

## 14 Tue at 12:35 pm

**Midday Organ Recital** with Kevin Jones playing Fredrik's Healey Willan's Introduction, passacaglia and Fugue. Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

## 15 Wed at 12:15 pm

**Midweek Musical Meditations** is a short, 15 minute presentation featuring one part of the complete Christmas cycle with organist Jason Charneski and the Rev. Paulo Gustavo Franca at lector. This week focuses on Transfiguration. Center Church, 675 Main St., Hartford. 860-249-5631

## 15 Wed at 6:00 pm

**Choral Evensong** with the Cathedral Choristers and Schola Cantorum. Joseph Ripka, organist and Kevin Jones, conductor. 6 Epiphany, Preces by Ayleward, Psalm 119:121-128, chant: J. Soaper, Canticles by Vaughan Williams. Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

## 16 Thu at 12:10 pm

**Midday Music at Central Baptist Church** presents "February Suites," a short recital by organist Kari Miller featuring works of Bach, Peeters and others. Free. Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St., Hartford. 860-522-9275

## 16 Thu at 7:00 pm

**Sacred Music at the Red Door** presents *Passion and Folly in Baroque Song*, Marian Maccarone, soprano; Tim Stella, harpsichord. Valentine themed reception follows. \$10 gen., \$7 st/sr, 2 for 1 with LetsGoArts card. St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. 860-523-5201 ext. 350

## 19 Sun at 3:00 pm

**Bruce Porter Memorial Music Series** opens its inaugural season with pianist Miguel Campinho and baritone Luke Scott performing music by Schumann, Strauss, Mozart, Wagner, Rorem and others. Suggested donation. South Congregational Church, 242 Salmon Brook St., Granby. 860-653-7289

## 20 Mon at 9:30 am–2 pm

**Pedals, Pipes and Pizza:** a half day of organ events designed to introduce the pipe organ to young people. Visit Hartford organs at Christ Church Cathedral and St. Joseph Cathedral. \$10 per child ages 8-17. For info write to Jason Roberts at [music@tjameswh.org](mailto:music@tjameswh.org). Sponsored by the Greater Hartford Chapter AGO. Snow date: Feb. 25.

## 21 Tue at 12:35 pm

**Midday Organ Recital** with Woosung Kang playing Vienne's Toccata in b-flat minor, Widor's *Cantilène* (Symphonie-Romane), Mews' *Gigue de Pan*, Tournemire's Choral-Improvisation on *Victimae paschal laudes*. Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

## 24 Fri at 8:00 pm

**Festival Dubois** opens with "Dubois a L'Orgue," an organ recital featuring Argentinean-born Dubois scholar Diego Innocenzi playing music by Dubois and his French contemporaries: Saint Saens, Franck and Baptiste. Free-will offering. Sacred Sounds Concert Series, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 140 Farmington Ave., Hartford CT.

## February Events, continued

### 26 Sun at 10:00 am

**Festival Dubois** continues with "La Voix du Dubois," a concert featuring the Cathedral Choir, Cathedral organist Ezequiel Menendez and organist Diego Innocenzi performing French sacred music written for two organs and choir by Dubois and Vierne. Free-will offering. Sacred Sounds Concert Series, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 140 Farmington Ave., Hartford CT.

### 26 Sun at 4:00 pm

**A Concert of Spirituals** featuring the Legacy of Spirituals Choir (affiliated with Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church) directed by G. Ingrid Faniel and the First Church choirs directed by David Spicer. Free-will offering. Reception follows. First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield. 860-529-1575, ext. 209 or www.firstchurch.org

### 26 Sun at 4:00 pm

**The Colorado String Quartet with pianist David Westfall.** Featuring Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor. Free-will donation. Reception follows. The Music Series at South Church, 90 Main St., New Britain, CT 06051. 860-223-7555. www.musicseries.org

### 28 Tue at 12:35 pm

**Midday Organ Recital** with Kevin Jones playing Louis Vierne's Symphony I, op. 14 (Prelude, Allegro, Vivace, Andante, Final). Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

### 29 Wed at 6:00 pm

**Choral Evensong** with the Cathedral Choristers. Joseph Ripka, organist and Kevin Jones, conductor. Lent I, *Preces Seabury* by Jones, Psalm 49:1-10, chant: Cambridge Chant, Canticles in D by Stanford. Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

## March Events

### 4 Sun at 3:30 pm

**Solemn Choral Evensong** for the Second Sunday in Lent offered by the Cathedral Choristers with Joseph Ripka, organist and Kevin Jones, conductor. Paul Rudio's Canticles (commission – world premiere), Rob Lehman's *Preces*, Finzi's "Lo, the full final sacrifice." Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

### 6 Tue at 12:35 pm

**Midday Organ Recital** with Kevin Jones playing Clerambault's *Suite du Deuxieme Ton*. Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

### 9 Fri at 7:05 pm

**Beth Israel Organ Sounds** presents organist Natasha Ulyanovsky playing classical music for organ: Sonata in a minor by C.P.E. Bach, Adagio in F major by Beethoven, Allegro in G major by Beethoven and Concerto in C major by Mozart. Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119. 860-233-8215

### 11 Sun at 5:00 p.m.

**Sacred Music at the Red Door** presents Choral Evensong, sung by the St. John's Adult Choir. Evensong is preceded by Tea at 4:00 p.m. and followed by a brief organ recital by Cheryl Wadsworth, Music Director and Organist of the United Methodist Church of Hartford. St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. 860-523-5201

### 11 Sun at 7:30 pm

**Sacred Sounds Concert Series** presents "Hartt at the Cathedral," an instrumental concert featuring the Hartt Symphony Orchestra conducted by Edward Cumming with organ soloist Dr. Ezequiel Menendez. Saint-Saens "Organ" Symphony No. 3 and Richard Strauss' tone poem *Also sprach Zarathustra*. Free-will offering. Sacred Sounds Concert Series, Cathedral of St. Joseph, 140 Farmington Ave., Hartford CT.

## Job Listing Service

For up-to-date information on available jobs or to list a job opening, contact Kari Miller Magg at 860-379-5612 or kari.magg@snet.net. Do NOT send job listings directly to Chattervox as they will not be posted.

### St. Monica Catholic Church Northford (North Branford), CT

#### Music Director/Organist/Cantor

Under 10 hours per week. 1 Saturday, 2 Sunday services. 1 adult choir. Allen 2 manual. Salary range: \$11,000 - \$13,000. Contact Joseph Marena (203)410-3861 jmarena@gmail.com

### The Unitarian Congregation of Mendon and Uxbridge (MA)

#### Music Director or Organist/Choir Director

10 hours per week (September through June). 1 Sunday service. Adult choir. 4-rank pipe organ (William Laws, Sr.), Steinway grand piano. Salary range \$7,000-\$12,000. Contact Rev. Ralph Clarke (978)808-3770/revrtclarke@comcast.net

### 12 Mon at 7:30 pm

**Organ Recital by Canon Precentor Kevin Jones** to benefit the 2012 Cathedral Choir pilgrimage to Lincoln Cathedral, UK. Tickets: \$25/\$20/\$15. Call 860-527-7231. Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford.

### 13 Tue at 12:35 pm

**Midday Organ Recital** with Kevin Jones playing Bach's Passacaglia, BWV 582 and Buxtehude's Toccata in d. Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

### 14 Wed at 6:00 pm

**Choral Evensong** with the Cathedral Choristers and Choristers of St. John's Parish, West Hartford. Peter Stoltzfus Berton and Kevin Jones, conductor.s. Lent III. Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford. 860-527-7231 ext. 112

## Greater Hartford Chapter AGO 2011-2012 Programs

**Monday, February 20, 2012, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

PEDALS, PIPES & PIZZA

Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church St., Hartford  
(Snow date: Saturday, February 25)

**Saturday, April 14, 2012, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

DAVID HIGGS MASTERCLASS

Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Ave.,  
Hartford

**Sunday, April 15, 2012, 4 p.m.**

DAVID HIGGS IN RECITAL

South Church, 90 Main St., New Britain

**Monday, May 21, 2012, 6:30 p.m.**

ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER, Location TBD

## Impact of Fire at Somers Church

It was impossible to miss the news about the fire that leveled the 170 year-old meeting house of the Somers Congregational Church late at night on the first of January. The fire took along with it the 1970 Casavant II/22 pipe organ, two electronic keyboards and the place that was central to the minds and hearts of a congregation. It also drastically changed the job of the director of music, **Jacqueline Nappi**, who is a member of our chapter. She reports that their music room is located in a building extension that survived and they still have their hymnals, choir music and choir robes. The congregation met for worship at the town hall for three weeks and is now gathering at the Community Education Building on the campus of Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs. Committees have been formed, including an organ replacement committee, which is facing up to the fact that insurance might not cover the cost of a new instrument. The fire was a disaster of epic proportions for the 600-member church, but they are quickly moving forward on recovery and restoration.

Next month, Jackie will share more with us about the situation and how we might help. In the meantime, updates and information are available on the church's website at [www.somerscongregational.org](http://www.somerscongregational.org).

## The TOOL BOX

by Mike Foley



### ORGAN ISSUES! USE YOUR TECH!

If you're finding that you don't know where to start with approaching the powers-that-be about repairs you feel are necessary, consider asking the board/vestry/parish council to give you and your tech a half hour's time at their next meeting. If you can include a brief show 'n tell you may come away with at least all new appreciation for the treasure that lives behind the façade. If the pipe chambers are too inaccessible, take and show some good photos. Do a powerful, power-point demo. Be as brief as possible. Keep it dynamic and interesting. Don't forget to mention how much the organ would cost new.

These are usually always win-win meetings. Don't be surprised if they ask for a plan for the organ's future needs. You'll come away with all new respect. Your tech probably will too. The organ usually loves the attention.

## Roberta Bitgood Scholarship

The New London County AGO chapter is sponsoring the Roberta Bitgood Scholarship, which was created to support pianists and beginning organists wishing to study the organ in depth and planning to seek employment as a church musician. This year's cash award of \$750 will be paid directly to the winner's organ teacher to cover a minimum of 25 – 30 lessons. To be considered, applicants must be a Connecticut resident and must fulfill certain requirements, such as an audition. The deadline for applications is Friday, May 4, 2012. For complete guidelines and application forms, contact:

Mr. Jesse N. Glaude, Director of Music, Christ Episcopal Church, 78 Washington St., Norwich, CT 06360  
860-425-0663; [ccsartsmail@yahoo.com](mailto:ccsartsmail@yahoo.com)