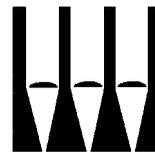


# CHATTERVOX



Greater Hartford Chapter American Guild of Organists

JUNE 2013

## Deanery by Jason Roberts

Sometimes it seems strange to me that as musicians we have to create a demand for what we have to offer. If we play concerts, we have to convince people to attend, and we have to convince them that the music we have to offer is actually worth something. As church musicians, we have to recruit choir members and churchgoers who are essentially our "consumers." There's not much preexisting demand for organ music or church music: we create the demand, hopefully, by inspiring our choir members and listeners to love the music as we do. Then they pay us our salaries. What a strange arrangement!

Although it's a strange arrangement, it seems that it's not an unusual one. Advertising to a large extent is about creating a demand for something that didn't exist before. Coca-cola seems a good example: pre-Coke people weren't wandering around thinking how much they would love a fizzy drink when Coke appeared: Coke appeared first, and advertising convinced people that a soda is what they need.

What makes our situation as musicians difficult is that we're often a one-man show. Coca-cola has

people who manufacture the drink, people who advertise, people who ship it off and sell it, and more people who manage the whole thing. Most of us have to do all of those jobs ourselves. We're the ones making posters for our concerts, preparing the choir, arranging the furniture and folding the programs; all the while trying to keep our own skills up by practicing. Sometimes having musical integrity is enough to convince people of the value of the organ and its music. Most often, however (just as with Coke, which in my opinion is a very mediocre drink in the pantheon of fizzy delights), the actual product matters less than how it's advertised.

With this in mind, I want to tell you that our chapter is working on a new website. A website is really the "front door" to an organization like ours. Anyone moving to the area who is interested in the AGO will do a Google search for us, and the impression they get from the website may determine whether or not they become a member: it's our image and our advertising. I know that our programs and our members individually have both the personal and musical integrity to back up the stunning image we hope to convey!

## It's Membership Renewal Time!

**Please complete the registration form that was mailed to you and return the form and your payment to John Coghill by June 30, 2013.**

## September Issue Deadline

Due to summer vacations, all content for the next issue of Chattervox must reach the editors by **August 10**, no exceptions! Why not submit your articles and events before you go on your own vacation?

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## Calling All Members...Bring a Friend!

by **Deb Gemma**

June is here, and with it the call to renew our membership in the Guild. We are fortunate, as members of the Greater Hartford Chapter, to be part of a large, healthy chapter with many resources available to us. However, the realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are with us; many of our traditional institutions and organizations are experiencing declining membership. We ignore this trend at our peril. It is no longer sufficient to expect participants to seek to join our association, we must proactively reach out to others.

It is not simply about the numbers. We want to encourage new people to get involved with the Guild, not so we can boast of having a large chapter or keep the dues money rolling in, but because we value what the Guild has to offer and think others would benefit as well. Why do you belong to the American Guild of Organists, Greater Hartford Chapter? Is it so you can list affiliation on your resume or receive the journal, or does it go beyond that? I belong to the Guild in part for the workshops and concerts produced by our chapter and in part for the resources online and through the journal. But most importantly, I belong to be part of a community of colleagues. I value my affiliation with all of you: those whom I have sought for advice through the years and those who have sought help from me, friends and acquaintances, people who love the organ and choral music, and understand the particular joys and challenges of our profession. Why do you belong to the Guild? If you care to share, I'd love to hear! (I'll be at the Regional Convention or email [deborahg@aya.yale.edu](mailto:deborahg@aya.yale.edu); please mention AGO in the subject line.)

Our chapter's next program season will open with an Anthem Reading Session on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00am-1:30 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford; details to follow in the September newsletter. We are encouraging everyone to bring a non-member to this event. Who are the organists in the town where you work or live that do not belong to the Guild? A personal invitation is always more effective than a blanket announcement...who can you invite to come? I wish each of you a summer of refreshment and renewal, and look forward to seeing you (and your guest) in September!

**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)

# Regions I and II Convention: It's Time!

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By Jason Charneski, Convention Coordinator

The 2013 AGO Regions I and II Convention occurs in Hartford (and environs) later this month beginning with competition practice sessions on June 26, concluding with a post-concert reception at the hotel on July 3. It's your time to shine, members of the Greater Hartford chapter! Having each member of the chapter participate in some manner is a goal: if you can volunteer to do something – anything! – please let Mary Rose DiGiovanna, volunteers coordinator, know by e-mail at [mrdigiovanna@comcast.net](mailto:mrdigiovanna@comcast.net), or phone at 860-966-4415). We will need assistance with many things, including having volunteers available to make sure the competitions run smoothly, greet convention registrants at the hospitality and registration desks, serve as bus captains, help with placement of signs, help with placing materials into the convention totebags.

If you cannot assist physically, please consider assisting the convention with a financial gift: \$55 would cover the cost for a student to attend the convention banquet; \$125 would pay one-half of the fee to a workshop presenter; larger gifts can help to underwrite a concert performance. Be creative: pool resources with your friends – there is strength in numbers! Please let me know what you'd like to do by calling me at 860-249-5631, ext. 19, or writing me at [jasoncharneski@gmail.com](mailto:jasoncharneski@gmail.com).

Please let organ students know about the special \$50 registration rate for them. This, coupled to the fact that the convention will pay for their banquet ticket (a \$55 value), means the convention is actually PAYING them to come! Day registrations are available, too, for all. Full registrations will be accepted through the convention's opening day (Sunday, June 30). Online registration, through the convention's website: [www.hartfordago2013.org](http://www.hartfordago2013.org), is convenient. Should you have any questions or wish to register in a more personal way, please contact Jason Roberts, registrar, via phone at 860-521-0245.

## Three important updates:

All exhibit space has been sold. We're thrilled to have 20 exhibitors. Good news, indeed, and here's more good news: there are two ways for you to promote your products or events: 1. place an ad in the program book – the deadline is June 24. Please be in communication with Floyd Higgins, program book coordinator, via e-mail at [advertising@hartfordago2013.org](mailto:advertising@hartfordago2013.org) or phone at 860-729-4161; or, 2. place a flyer or a trinket in the convention totebag (\$50 for 300 copies) – please be in communication with Jason Roberts, registrar, about that. Jason's phone number is 860-521-0245. He also can be contacted via e-mail at [jasonnroberts@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonnroberts@yahoo.com) (note the second "n" in his e-mail address).

The convention rate for hotel rooms (\$99 for a double or a king) is available for reservations made through June 7. Please call the hotel – the Ramada Plaza Hartford Downtown – directly at 860-549-2400 to make your reservation. You need to mention the American Guild of Organists' convention in order to get the convention rate. There have been some issues with the hotel reservations system indicating that convention-rate rooms are not available, but this is incorrect. Should you encounter any difficulty securing the \$99 convention rate, please let David Chrzanowski, hotel coordinator, know. David may be reached via phone at 860-205-5829 or e-mail at [djcruz@comcast.net](mailto:djcruz@comcast.net).

Major Event Venue Change: Nathan Laube's concert – the last of the convention – will be given at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford (date and time remain the same – July 3, at 8:00 p.m.) instead of at South Church in New Britain. The advantage of this change is location, location, location.

Please check the convention website ([www.hartfordago2013.org](http://www.hartfordago2013.org)) regularly for updates. Tell your friends about the public events (see schedule on the next page). It's an exciting time. Come. Appear. Inspire!

# 2013 AGO Regions I and II Convention: Events Open to the Public \_\_\_\_\_

## Saturday, June 29

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **AGO/Quimby Region II Competition for Young Organists**

Center Church, 675 Main Street, Hartford.

3:15 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.

### **AGO/Quimby Region I Competition for Young Organists**

Center Church, 675 Main Street, Hartford.

## Sunday, June 30

5:00 p.m.

**Bach Vespers**, offered by an ensemble from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New York City, directed by Richard Erickson. St. James's Episcopal Church, 19 Walden Street (at the corner with Farmington Avenue), West Hartford.

8:30 p.m.

### **Opening Concert: Isabelle Demers, organist**

St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford.

Donations received at the door.

*This concert is made possible through the generosity of Foley-Baker, Inc., Pipe Organ Services, Tolland, Connecticut.*

## Monday, July 1

9:15 a.m.

### **Winner's Concert: AGO/Quimby Region I Competition for Young Organists**

Center Church, 675 Main Street, Hartford.

10:00 a.m.

### **Convention Convocation**

Center Church, 675 Main Street, Hartford.

11:00 a.m.

### **Winner's Concert: AGO/Quimby Region II Competition for Young Organists**

Center Church, 675 Main Street, Hartford.

12:00 p.m.

### **Concert: Anne Kirk Laver, organist**

Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland Street (at the corner of Farmington Avenue), Hartford.

Donations received at the door.

8:00 p.m.

**Concert: CONCORA** (Connecticut Choral Artists); Richard Coffey, conductor; Jeffrey Wood, organist and pianist. Music by Britten, Rorem, Whittacre, and the premier of the work for choir and organ commissioned by the convention, "God's Grandeur," by Martha Sullivan (text by Gerard Manley Hopkins).

St. Patrick/St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street, Hartford.

Donations received at the door.

*This concert is supported in part by the Greater Hartford Arts Council's United Arts Campaign and is made possible by a gift from the Richard P. Garmany Fund of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.*

## Tuesday, July 2

10:00 a.m.

### **Concert: Jason Roberts, organist**

Cathedral of Saint Joseph, 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford

Donations received at the door.

*This concert is made possible through the generosity of the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists*

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12:00 p.m.

**Concert: Christa Rakich, organist, with instruments**

St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant Street, West Hartford

Donations received at the door.

8:00 p.m

**Concert: Christopher Houlihan, organist**

Trinity College Chapel. Trinity College, 300 Summit Street, Hartford.

*This concert is made possible through the generosity of Trinity College.*

**Wednesday, July 3**

10:30 a.m.

**Concert: Todd Wilson, organist**, featuring the premiere of “Ostinato Fantasia,” the work by Kenneth Fuchs, for organ, commissioned by the convention.

Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 814 Asylum Avenue, Hartford

Donations received at the door.

8:00 p.m.

**Closing Concert: Nathan Laube, organist**

Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street (at Main Street), Hartford

Donations received at the door.

*This concert is made possible through the generosity of Messrs. Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc., Organbuilders, Northampton, Massachusetts.*

## 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 Chat-tervovox as they will not be posted.

### Congregational Church in South Glastonbury

**Interim Organist**

Starting Aug. or Sept.

8-10 hrs. per week.

1 Sunday service.

1 adult choir.

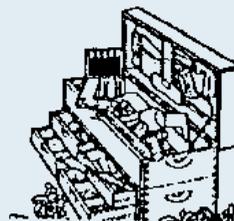
2-manual Schlicker pipe organ.

Salary range: \$7,000-\$9,000.

Contact: Diane, dianek2@gmail.com or 860-659-3167

## The TOOL BOX

by Mike Foley



### HISTORY

Few things are more impressive to a technician than to have the organist recite the history of the instrument he or she plays. Your knowledge is a signal of high interest in quality work.

Whether or not you want to impress anyone, knowing your instrument’s history—starting with the donor’s name(s)—can give you much greater insight and appreciation for this important musical tool you use so often. Your investigation may also uncover some pleasant surprises that could even prove beneficial. See your church’s historian and good luck!

# Review of Annual Dinner and Meeting

By Marnie Clark

We all enjoyed visiting with each other before dinner at our recent annual meeting at Mill on the River in South Windsor. The four choices of entrees were especially appreciated.

Dean Jason Roberts led the meeting. Last year's minutes were read by Nancy Robbins and approved. Officers for the coming year were elected: Dean Jason Roberts, Sub-Dean Kari Magg, Treasurer John Coghill, Secretary Amy Vinisko, Registrar Mark Child, Members-at-Large Meg Smith (term ending 2014), Peter Niedmann (term ending June 30, 2015), and Ronald Coons (term ending June 30, 2016). Programs were reviewed for next year by Kari Magg. The roster is quite full and varied with something for everyone. See elsewhere in *The Chattervox* for listings and dates.

Sue Smith is retiring as webmaster. Scott Lamlein is in the progress of making a new website, including a way to update your membership information. This may also include a regional concert calendar. We will need someone to help maintain the website.

The most astounding news came from John Coghill, Treasurer. The chapter has received \$400,000 as a bequest from the estate of Marjorie Jolidon, a former member! We will be receiving still more money from the sale of Marjorie's home. Marjorie was organist at Blue Hills Baptist Church and taught music in the Bloomfield Public Schools. John and the board are looking for a financial advisor to help them decide how to best invest the funds. John took several questions and suggestions from the floor. We passed a resolution to approve John Coghill, Treasurer, and Jason Roberts, Dean, as signatures on the Jolidon Fund.

John Coghill presented the budget for the coming year and it was approved. \$10,000 has been taken from our existing CD to cover the cost of the new web-site and other operating expenses. The CD matures in 2016 and we will need to decide what to do with those funds.

Jason Charneski spoke about the upcoming Convention. He still needs volunteers to help with the buses.

If you are planning to stay at the Ramada hotel, be sure to call the local hotel rather than the national one. Exhibits have sold out. Space for program booklet ads is still available. Phil Truckenbrod brought free CDs of Christopher Houlihan and Isabelle Demers, two of the artists who will be performing at the Convention.

It was a lovely night and a good time was had by all.



*Top to bottom: Jason Roberts, John Coghill, Nancy Robbins, Cheryl Wadsworth, Kari Magg, Michael Watson and Bev Simpson*



## June Calendar

### 1 Sat at 5:00 pm

**A Chorus of Peace** is presented by CitySingers of Hartford in a repeat performance of music, visual art and dance. (See above.) Voluntary offering. St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. 860-523-5201. [www.citysingers.org](http://www.citysingers.org). PLEASE NOTE: This is a new day, time and venue that replaces the concert previously planned for June 2 at Trinity College Chapel.

### 2 Sun at 4:00 pm

**Spring Concert** featuring songs from West Side Story, Les Misérables, Beauty and the Beast, Freedom Trilogy and more. Senior, Junior and Handbell choirs with special guests, soloists and band perform a delightful program perfect for families. Free-will offering. 1075 Main St., Newington. 860-666-4689. [newingtonucc.org](http://newingtonucc.org)

### 9 Sun at 7:00 pm

**ASOF Winners' Concert** featuring the winners of last year's Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival competition playing their favorite works. First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109. 860-529-1575 x209

### 23 Sun at 4:00 pm

**The Raleigh Ringers** from Raleigh, North Carolina will present a handbell concert featuring a variety of music including their trademark arrangements of classic rock 'n' roll. The Raleigh Ringers are in their 24<sup>th</sup> season and are directed by David Harris. Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Wethersfield. Location: Wethersfield High School, 411 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield. \$18 advanced, \$20 at the door, \$15 for groups of 10 or more. For tickets, contact Linda Henderson at 860-529-1575 x209 or [music@firstchurch.org](mailto:music@firstchurch.org).

### 30 Sun at 8:30 pm

**Organ Recital by Isabelle Demers**, an internationally renowned concert organist. Demers' recital is the opening concert of the 2013 AGO Regional I and II Convention. A limited number of tickets will be available for purchase by

the general public at the door. St. John's Episcopal, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford (860) 523-5201. For program and other info: [www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net)

### Sun June 30 – Wed July 3

**2013 AGO Regions I and II Convention.** All details are available at [www.hartfordago2013.org](http://www.hartfordago2013.org). See pages 4-5 for events open to the public.

## July 2013 Events

### 21 Sun at 4:00 pm

**Organ Recital by Nathan Laube** to celebrate the restoration of the 1850 Johnson Organ, Opus 16. Union Evangelical Church, 5 East Main St., Heath, Massachusetts. Free-will donation. Reception follows.

### 27 Sat at 4:00 pm

**Brahms Requiem** for soloists and chorus in an arrangement with piano/four hands, organ, harp and timpani. Directed by Richard Coffey. This concert is the culmination of CONCORA's weeklong summer festival held at Bethany Covenant Church, Berlin, CT. For more information, go to [www.concora.org](http://www.concora.org).

## Member News

**Richard Coffey** has announced that he will step down as CONCORA's Artistic Director after the 2013-2014 season. His final concert with CONCORA will be a performance of J.S. Bach's *B Minor Mass* on March 30, 2014, at Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford. Rick will continue as Minister of Music at South Church, New Britain and as Music Director of the Hartford Chorale.

## Oldest Johnson Organ Featured in Recital

If you hear Nathan Laube perform at the upcoming Hartford AGO regional convention and want to hear him again, or if you missed him, you will have another chance on Sunday, July 21 at 4:00 p.m. at the Union Evangelical Church in Heath, Massachusetts. He will be playing a small, but significant Johnson organ that was recently restored by the firm of S. L. Huntington & Co. William Johnson's Opus 16 was only the second two-manual instrument that the fledging builder undertook when he started building it on speculation in 1849. It was modified by the time it was installed in its original location in late 1850 and it survived two moves to its current home in 1914 where it remained largely unaltered. Today, the organ is the oldest known Johnson organ in existence.

Laube's organ recital is the culmination of over ten years of fundraising by the church for the restoration project. The surrounding community provided considerable support and feels a sense of pride in its historical treasure. All are invited to attend the concert and enjoy the reception that will follow. The town of Heath is located in northwestern Massachusetts near the Vermont border just west of I-91. The ride up will provide a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beautiful countryside. The church is located at 5 East Main Street.

# Greater Hartford Chapter AGO 2013-2014 Programs

**Saturday, September 21, 2013, 10:00 am - 1:30 pm**

**Anthem Reading Session**, with emphasis on works for the smaller choir. Membership event with lunch. Bring a favorite anthem (or two) and invite a potential new member. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2080 Boulevard, West Hartford

**Friday, October 25, 2013, 7:00 pm**

**Pipescreams! A Halloween extravaganza**  
Church of Christ, Congregational UCC, 1075 Main St., Newington

**Saturday, November 16, 2013, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm**

**Workshop: Music Arranging and Music Notation Software**  
With Peter Niedmann. \$10 fee includes lunch.  
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, 26 Wintonbury Ave., Bloomfield

**Friday, January 24, 2014, 7:00 pm**

**"Grapes and Gripes" - a wine and cheese get-together**  
Eat, drink and be whiney! Share your organ-related concerns with sympathetic colleagues, search for creative solutions. St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford

**Monday, February 17, 2014, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm**

**Pedals, Pipes and Pizza: An Introduction to the organ**  
For young musicians. \$5 fee includes lunch. Contact Kari Magg at kari.magg@snet.net to register. First Church of Christ, Wethersfield, 50 Main St., Wethersfield

**Saturday, March 8, 2014, 7:30 pm**

**Organ and Orchestra - a concerto concert**  
With soloists Ezequiel Menendez and Natasha Ulyanovsky  
Trinity College Chapel, 300 Summit St., Hartford

**Sunday, May 4, 2014, 3:00 pm**

**Hartford AGO/Quimby Competition Winner Justin Mancini-Murphy in recital**  
United Methodist Church, 571 Farmington Ave., Hartford

**Monday, May 19, 2014, 6:30 pm**

**Hartford AGO Chapter Annual Dinner**  
Location TBA