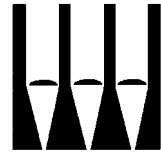


CHATTERVOX



Greater Hartford Chapter American Guild of Organists

JANUARY 2014

Deanery by Jason Roberts

There has been a lot of talk in our chapter about our bequest from Marge Jolidan- and rightfully so, since we are one of very few AGO chapters to have such a great resource at our command with no strings attached. As money often does, it creates many questions for us to answer: now that we can do almost anything we want, what is it that we should be doing? Our mission to promote the organ and its music could be interpreted in so many ways, and sometimes the most meaningful things we can do really don't involve money at all (or very little).

The board is working on setting up a fair and deliberate process for deciding how best to use what we have been given. Every member will have a chance to put forward ideas, and everyone's ideas will be considered equally. However, since I happen to be the dean at the moment I'm going to make a few suggestions of my own: after all there has to be some benefit to writing all these Chattervox articles!

First of all, I think that the money should go to something which is highly visible. We could present some wonderful concerts, but often our attendance is so small

that even a fantastic performance has less impact than it should. It's good that the chapter looks after the needs of its members, but this is not promoting the organ. I think we should not simply support programs that already exist: we need to do something that is new and uniquely us. To me, the more wild the idea, the better. One thought I had (though not the most practical I admit) is to build an organ out of soda cans and put it in the mall- it seems that with something like this we wouldn't have to advertise. It would be novel enough that the advertising would take care of itself. Another thought is a silent film accompaniment competition: such a thing has never happened before anywhere and might actually attract an audience. AGO conventions seem to be something that generates great excitement in a chapter: perhaps some sort of a festival could include many ideas at once.

It's fun to dream, and no doubt I'll have to control my imagination (don't worry- the board is actually mostly made up of sensible people). The most important point I want to make is this: while we want to be slow and deliberate while deciding how best to use this money,

we shouldn't be cautious with our ideas. We should be willing to try a few wild things. After all, don't organists just want to have fun?

Upcoming Events

Grapes and Grapes

January 24 at 7:00 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
West Hartford

January Jubilee

(New London Chapter AGO)
Saturday, January 25, 8-5
Norwich, CT

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Monday February 17, 9:30-2
First Church of Christ
Wethersfield

The enclosed substitute form is due January 20th. Don't delay!

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“Grapes and Gripes”

Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
St. John’s Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford

“Grapes and Gripes” is coming up later this month - we hope you have Friday, January 24th marked on your calendar. We will meet at 7:00 pm at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. This is a social event - there will be plenty of wine, cheese and other goodies, so do come, even if you don’t have anything particular to gripe about. (And that’s hard to believe!)

Sometimes the life of a church musician can feel pretty crazy. The high points can be so high (yes, sublime) and the low points so disappointingly mundane and annoying. Most people can’t even imagine, let alone understand, all the things we do in a typical week’s work. No surprise that it can be hard to find a sympathetic ear when we have a problem or just need to let off a little steam.

This is where “Grapes and Gripes” comes in. While our jobs may all be different, with differing congregations and responsibilities, the challenges and areas of difficulty are probably quite similar. What better place to speak out and raise one’s concerns than amongst supportive colleagues? Maybe one of them will have a creative solution or an encouraging suggestion. Maybe just realizing that there are others in the same boat will make you feel better. Without either descending into wallowing self-pity or whipping ourselves into peaks of righteous indignation, perhaps together we can move from ‘gripping’ to some serious brainstorming. Or, failing that, at least we will have a good time sharing our stories over a glass of wine (or Coke).

The discussion will be moderated by John Coghill. See you there!

New London AGO January Jubilee

The New London County Chapter AGO is sponsoring a one-day workshop event for church musicians on Saturday, January 25 from 8 to 5 p.m. at Central Baptist Church and United Congregational Church in Norwich, CT. The event features practical information, good food and good company. Lois Fyfe Music will have a full display of music and items for browsing and purchase. The schedule includes two choices of workshops for each time period.

Session I: Practical Approach to Organ Registration or Hands on Handbells

Session II: Organ Repertoire for the New Organist or Building Children’s Choirs & Older Adult Choirs

Session III: Improvisation for the Church Organist or Technology, Sibelius Software Demo

Session IV: Digital/Electronic Organs -- New Direction or The Care and Feeding of Choirs

The featured presenter is Jeffrey Brillhart of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. The cost after January 10 is \$30 per person, which includes lunch. For more info and to register online, go to <http://www.newlondonago.org/january-jubilee.html>. You can also contact the registrar, Maryann McCary, at 9 Barberry Lane, Moodus, CT 06469. 860-873-9164. Email: maryann0320@aol.com

This is one of three January Jubilee events sponsored this month by AGO chapters across the USA. The other two are being held the same day in Kansas City, Missouri and Duluth, Minnesota. January Jubilees exist to nurture the many part-time musicians working for religious institutions, introducing these musicians to the AGO and its work and mission, and encouraging them to become members of the Guild. Any AGO chapter can sponsor a January Jubilee with assistance from the national AGO.

January Calendar

5 Sun at 4:00 pm

Annual Greater Hartford Handel's Messiah Community Sing (Christmas Portion) with soloists, choir and audience participation. Scores provided. Reception follows. Free admission. Snow date: Monday, Jan. 6 at 7:00 pm. Sacred Sounds Concert Series, Trinity United Methodist Church, 180 Park Ave., Windsor, CT. 860-688-9245. www.tumcwindson.org

10 Fri at 7:00 pm

Bruce Porter Memorial Music Series presents Go to the Movies! with improviser Jason Roberts playing live accompaniment on the Austin organ to the classic silent film "The Kid" starring Charlie Chaplin. Lasting just over an hour, the film is suitable for all ages. Free, donations accepted. South Congregational Church, 242 Salmon Brook St., Granby, CT 06035. 860-653-7289. Snow date: Fri., Jan. 17 at 7:00 pm

24 Fri at 7:00 pm

AGO Event: Grapes and Gripes. Come spend an evening with your colleagues sharing grapes and war stories while enjoying wine and cheese. Perhaps your issue will be solved. St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT

25 Sat at 8 - 5 pm

New London Chapter January Jubilee – a full day of workshops for the church organist hosted by two churches in downtown Norwich, CT. Includes display of music for purchase. Keynote speaker is Jeffrey Brillhart. For more info, go to www.newlondonago.org.

26 Sun at 4:00 pm

Super Bell XXII Concert featuring the five handbell choirs of First Church of Christ: Carol, Laudate, Campanella, Belles & Beaux, Soli Deo Gloria and the very young Kristal Bell Ringers (directors are David Spicer, Linda Henderson and Vicki Andersen). Also featuring the Hendersen quartet: David, Linda, Andrea and Benjamin. The guest director for the concert is David Harris who is the director of the Raleigh (NC) Ringers.

Handbells by Whitechapel (English), Malmark (American), Petit & Fritsen (Holland) and choir chimes will be used. Free-will offering. Reception follows. First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109. 860-529-1575 x209. www.firstchurch.org

February Events

8 Sat at 10 – 1 pm

New Haven AGO Pedals, Pipes and Pizza for kids. A hands-on introduction to the pipe organ for young pianists ages 8-18. All participants get coaching time on one of the organs. Free. Starts at St. Thomas Church (Episcopal), 830 Whitney Ave. and ends at First Presbyterian Church, 704 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. Contact Lars Gjerde for info and to sign up: lars@larsgjerde.com. 585-200-8903

9 Sun at 4:00 pm

Organ Recital by Bradley Hunter Welch. Free-will donation. The Music Series at South Church, 90 Main St., New Britain, CT 06051. 860-223-7555.

14 Fri at 7:05 pm

Beth Israel Organ Sounds presents "Beautiful Music for Saxophone and Organ" with Max Schwimmer, saxophone and Natasha Ulyanovsky, organ. Traumerei by Schumann, Far More Blue by Brubeck, Apres un reve by Fauré, Maple Leaf Rag by Joplin, Aria by E. Bozza and The Devil's Rag by Jean Mattia. Program precedes Shabbat service. Congregation Beth Israel, 201 Farmington Ave., West Hartford.

17 Mon at 9:30 – 2 pm

Hartford AGO Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, an introduction to the organ for kids ages 8 - 17. Each child will have a mini-lesson and all will participate in a mini-recital at the end of the program. Free. To be held at the First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield. For more info and to sign up, contact Kari Magg at kari.magg@snet.net.

17 Mon at ? am

Organ Tour of the Newberry Organ in Woolsey Hall at Yale University, New Haven

in the morning (time TBA). Thomas Murray and Joe Dzeda will guide crawlers through the instrument; open console time will be available. Group lunch available. This is a fundraiser for 2015 New Haven AGO Regional Convention. Save the date! More info, including exact time, will be available by February 1st. Contact Lars Gjerde for more info: lars@larsgjerde.com. 585-200-8903

21 Fri at 7:30 pm

Organ Concert by Benjamin Sheen, winner of the Pierre S. DuPont First Prize at the 2013 inaugural Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition. Free admission. Trinity Organ Series, Trinity College Chapel, 300 Summit St., Hartford.

22 Sat at 7:30 pm

CONCORA presents "Great Music of the Russian Orthodox Tradition" conducted by Richard Coffey. Music by Gretchaninoff, Ippolitov-Ivanov, Kalinnikov, Kastalsky, Sviridov, Tolstiaikov and Rachmaninoff. \$45 preferred, \$25 gen., \$10 st. St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, 872 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT. For tickets and info: www.concora.org

22 Sat at 5:00 pm

Charlie Chaplin with Organist Jason Roberts. See Charlie Chaplin's silent film, *The Kid*, with improvised accompaniment by Jason Roberts. Two screens will provide views of both the film and the organist. The evening will begin with a 15 minute improvisation on a theme submitted by an audience member. \$10 per person with a maximum of \$25 per family of 3 or more. First Congregational Church, 37 Main St., Southington, CT 06489.

23 Sun at 4:00 pm

Concert of Spirituals featuring the Legacy of Spiritual Choir directed by G. Ingrid Faniel and the choirs of First Church of Christ directed by David Spicer. The Legacy of Spiritual Choir is affiliated with the Metropolitan AME Zion Church, Hartford. Free-will offering. First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109. 860-529-1575 x209. www.firstchurch.org

Greater Hartford Chapter AGO 2013-2014 Programs

Friday, January 24, 2014, 7:00 pm

"Grapes and Gripes"

A wine and cheese get-together

St. John's Episcopal Church, West Hartford

Monday, February 17, 2014

9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza:

An Introduction to the Organ

First Church of Christ, Wethersfield

Saturday, March 8, 2014, 7:30 pm

Organ and Orchestra - a concerto concert with

soloists Ezequiel Menendez and Natasha

Ulyanovsky

Trinity College Chapel, Hartford

Sunday, May 4, 2014, 3:00 pm

Hartford AGO/Quimby Competition Winner

Justin Mancini-Murphy in recital

United Methodist Church, Hartford

Monday, May 19, 2014, 6:30 pm

Hartford AGO Chapter Annual Dinner

Location TBA

Please pardon the delay in delivering this month's issue of Chattervox to you. We wanted you to have the latest information on Pedals, Pipes and Pizza.

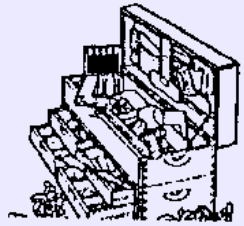
No job listings this month.

Maybe next month...

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.

The TOOL BOX

by Mike Foley



If January's frigid temperatures teach us anything, it is the effects of dryness on the instruments we use.

One wonders if there is anyone who does not experience at least a stuck key, cipher, dead note or tuning problems? At times our indoor humidity levels fall as low as 7%!

Tremendous wood contraction occurs.

As the weather warms, natural humidity rises and an organ's wood actually expands. Connecticut summers can easily reach 75%+ humidity. Luckily, organs like high humidity and often only present us with stuck keys. It's that winter dryness that hurts.

What to do in winter? Frankly, we're essentially helpless. Even elaborate humidity control systems often only touch the surface. Here are a few considerations:

1. Lower the heat! The cooler the wetter.
2. Replace chest gaskets! If you're considering any major work, be certain all new chest gaskets are included. Remember, pneumatic and bellows leather isn't the only important leather in the organ.
3. Get a Hygrometer! These are simple hardware store items that look like dial thermometers except they measure the amount (percentage) of water in the air. Keep it on the console and check it regularly. When it starts to get into the 30% and lower range, you'll know the organ's hurting (pianos too).
4. Shut off the blower: But, only if you sense trouble such as pitch sag with ensemble playing. If your blower shuts itself off it's telling you it's hurting and cannot keep up with the leakage. Don't restart it until your technician's checked things out. An amperage check of the motor can offer lots of information.

Don't panic. This has been going on as long as there have been organs. Do however be considerate. Hopefully, some of the above will increase your awareness. Talk to your technician.

Inserts for January 2014

Sub List Sign Up Form
Greater Hartford Chapter AGO

PPP Flyer and Registration Form
Greater Hartford Chapter AGO

For best results when printing any of the following inserts you should use the Page Scaling option: "Fit to Printable Area" on your print menu.

Greater Hartford Chapter AGO

Sub List Form – January 2014

To be included in the next Substitute List, please fill out this form and mail to:

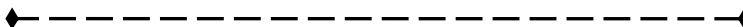
Amy Vinisko
50 Old Turnpike Road
Bantam, CT 06750

You can also email the form (or the equivalent information) to:

lakesidemusic@hotmail.com

Questions: phone 860- 567-1972

Please return this form by January 20, 2014



Are you available on Sunday?

Yes

No

Are you available on Saturday?

Yes

No

Are you available on weekdays?

Yes

No

Which days?

Please provide the following contact information:

Name

Work Phone

Home Phone

Home Town

E-mail

I will sub in the following denominations:

Degree(s)/Experience:



Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

A great opportunity for young musicians to learn about the King of Instruments!

Sponsored by the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Monday, February 17, 2014 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM
(snow date: Saturday, February 22, 2014)

First Church of Christ

250 Main St. Wethersfield, CT 06109

For music students age 8-17

For more information, write to Kari Magg at
kari.magg@snet.net



The Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Registration Form

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

(snow date: Saturday, February 22, 2014)

First Church of Christ, 250 Main St. Wethersfield, CT 06109

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza is a great opportunity for young musicians to experience the wonderful sounds of the pipe organ. This year's program will feature an exploration and a chance to play and have a lesson on the Austin organ at First Church in Wethersfield. Any young person between the ages of 8 and 17 is welcome to attend. We will meet at 9:30 am in the lobby at First Church. The day will include a pizza lunch, and we will conclude at 2:00 pm.

Please fill in the registration form below and send to the PPP coordinator: Kari Magg, Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St, Hartford 06103. The deadline is February 13. Kari may be reached via email (kari.magg@snet.net) or phone (860-522-9275).

Student name _____

Age _____ Years of piano study _____ Organ study _____ Other instruments _____

Parent/Guardian name _____

Home phone _____ Emergency phone contact _____

Address _____

Parent's email address _____

Music teacher _____

Known allergies _____

I give permission for my child to participate in in the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" program on February 17, 2014. I understand that my child may be included in photographs taken during the program. These photos might be used on the Chapter website, its newsletter or in the AGO magazine. We will not refer to your child's name without your permission nor use the pictures in any other manner.

Signed _____

Date _____