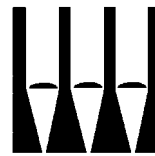


CHATTERVOX



Greater Hartford Chapter American Guild of Organists

MAY 2014

Deanery by Jason Roberts

By a strange turn of fate it turns out that this will be my last deanery column to you. Last month a friend told me about a position at St. Bartholomew's in New York, and I went to audition on a whim, thinking it might be good experience. To my surprise, St. Bart's offered me the job; and I said yes. It's one of those opportunities that is difficult to turn down. So Erik and I are moving to New York in May. We will have been in Hartford for seven years, which is longer than I've lived anywhere in my life. They have been very happy years, and I am really going to miss my friends here. I'm so lucky to have been involved with the AGO chapter in such an exciting time: the new website, the Jolidon bequest, the recitals and workshops (and conventions) we have presented. We really have a good thing going, and I hate to leave it. Kari Miller, who has been sub-dean for a year (and who has pretty much been

doing my job all along), is going to assume the deanship. At last the chapter will have somebody who is responsible, sensible and a great musician to guide it! Thank you, Kari! It has been wonderful having you do my work for me.

Unfortunately, my first day on the job is the Monday of our Annual meeting and dinner, May 19. Although I will not be at the dinner, I certainly hope that I will see many of you before I go. At a party perhaps? As Groucho Marx says, "Champagne for my real friends, and real pain for my sham friends." The chapter is lucky to have so many talented musicians and enough money to make some exciting things happen here. Don't waste this opportunity! Be creative, take some risks and enjoy promoting the music that you love. Last of all, thank you for the chance to be a part of this wonderful organization!



Good Wishes to the Incomparable Jason

The Chapter and the staff of Chattervox wish the best to our dean, Jason Roberts, as he settles into his new position in NYC. Jason, we always knew you were an up-and-comer with a wide-open future. We were lucky to have you! We will miss your good cheer and magic at the keyboard. Be sure to come back and visit. The Hartford area is only two hours away by car.

In This Issue

Reminders.....	3
Toolbox Archive.....	5
Annual Meeting/Dinner Signup.....	Insert



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Joanne Coghill

Chattervox Inserts

Meg Smith

Chattervox Editors

Edward Clark
Joan Pritchard

Membership Renewal Changes

By Mark Child, Registrar

The time for membership renewal is near, and the procedure is going to be somewhat different this year. Since all membership information is currently available through the member's area of our website (<http://www.hartfordago.org/>), we will be using that to maintain member information. This means that it will be up to each individual member to make sure that your information, which includes email and postal addresses, is kept up to date. This, in turn, will simplify the renewal process.

To renew your membership, click on "Join Us" followed by "Registration Forms" and print out a copy of the current form which will no longer contain the membership information section. Return the form with a check to John Coghill at the address on the form. New members should include an email address.

To update your membership information, click "Members Area" followed by "Edit Member Profile." You will be prompted to enter the member password which has been previously released. You are then prompted to enter your last name and your national ID number which can be found on the mailing label of *The American Organist* magazine. Since we do not have the national id number for all, especially new, members we will be emailing a generated ID number to some of you. You will then be presented with a screen containing all of your current membership data. You may, if you wish, enter a brief biography in the "Member Profile Text" box which may be printed in future Chattervox issues. When you are finished updating your profile, click on "Save My Data Now."

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

Reminders!

Annual Meeting Coming Up

Make sure you sign up for the annual meeting and dinner which will be held in the River Room of the Mill on the River, 989 Ellington Road in South Windsor. The date and time are **Monday, May 19 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm**. This is your chance to catch up with colleagues, learn about next year's program and weigh in on chapter events. Plus, the victuals and drinks will please your inner gourmet!

Schedule:

6:30 pm: Drinks (cash bar) and hors d'ouvres

7:00 pm: Dinner (choice of five entrees, salad and rolls).

7:45 pm: Dessert and Annual Meeting

The price per person is only \$15 thanks to a subsidy by the Chapter. Make your reservations on the sign-up form included with this issue.

Membership Renewal Coming Up

The chapter board is asking for your help this year in renewing your membership. Rather than submit all of your ID information (name, address, church, etc.) in writing every year, the board would like you to keep your ID info up-to-date on the chapter website. You can do this at any time during the year. If nothing has changed in your life, then you are all set. This will make record keeping a lot easier for our registrar. However, you will still need to mail a check for your yearly dues to John Coghill using the form that is available on the website. All procedures are described in the article next door on page 2. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with how the membership portion of the website works. And check your vital info to be sure it is correct. Don't forget to send a your renewal fee this month or next so that your TAO subscription won't expire. Thank you!



Competition Winner in Recital

Don't miss Justin Murphy-Mancini's recital on **Sunday, May 11 at 3:00 p.m.** He will be playing the Casavant organ at the United Methodist Church of Hartford located at 571 Farmington Avenue in the West End of Hartford. Justin was the winner of the 2013 Hartford Chapter AGO/Quimby regional competition for young organists. A reception will follow. This is a chapter event.

Nominating Committee Report

Kari Miller Magg, Dean

Peter Niedmann, Sub-Dean

John Coghill, Treasurer

Mark Child, Registrar

Amy Vinisko, Secretary

Jerry Davidson (2015) Member-at-Large [completing Peter Neidmann's term]

Ronald Coons (2016) Member-at-Large

Mary DeLibero (2017) Member-at-Large [replacing Meg Smith whose term ends this year]

Nominating Committee consisted of:

Jim Barry, chair

Suzanne Hertel

Mary Rose DiGiovanna

May Calendar

3 Sat at 7:00 pm

Greater Middletown Choral presents the CT premiere of Henry Mollicone's *The Beatitude Mass* (for the Homeless) along with works by Beethoven, Bach, Brahms and Vaughan Williams. Includes the Choral and chamber ensemble directed by Joseph D'Eugenio and accompanied by Allan Conway. Pre-concert lecture by the composer at 6:00 pm. \$55 preferred, \$35 gen. \$30 seniors, \$15 students. Location: Performing Arts Center, Middletown High School, 200 La Rosa Lane, Middletown. For info and tickets, go to www.gmchorale.org or call 860-316-4854.

4 Sun at 4:00 pm

Celebrating Connecticut Composers with the St. John's choirs, the choir of Church of Christ, Congregational in Newington, members of CitySingers of Hartford and a chamber orchestra. Program includes works by Douglas Bruce Johnson (Trinity College, Hartford), John Abdenour (St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fairfield), Gwyneth Walker (New Canaan), Peter Niedmann's *Five New England Songs*, and the premiere of *A Poet's Requiem* by Peter Stoltzfus Berton. Tickets \$15, \$12 seniors/students. Reception following. Made possible in part by a grant from the Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Suggested donation: \$15 gen., \$12 st./sr. Reception follows. St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford. (860) 523-5201 ext. 350

4 Sun at 5:00 pm

Dakota Road in Concert: From Acoustic Ballads to Rocking Anthems. Members of the Christian band Dakota Road from South Dakota will perform original songs of struggle and hope. Acoustic ballads to rock anthems. Free, donations accepted. Emanuel Lutheran Church, 60 Church St., Manchester, CT 06040. 860-643-1193. www.emmanuelmanchester.org

9 Fri at 7:05 pm

Beth Israel Organ Sounds presents Wesleyan University professor Ronald Ebrecht in an organ recital. Music by Fela Sowande, Bernal-Jimenez, Robert Elmore and Charles Ives. Program precedes Shabbat service. Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford.

11 Sun at 3:00 pm

AGO Event: Organ Recital by Justin Mancini-Murphy, winner of the Hartford AGO/Quimby Competition. United Methodist Church of Hartford, Farmington Ave., Hartford.

15 Thu at 12:10 pm

Midday Music at Central Baptist Church presents "Spring Favorites," a short organ recital performed by Kari Miller. Free. Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St., Hartford. 860-522-9275

18 Sun at 4:00 pm

Organ Recital by Edward Clark titled "An Old World Sampler: Baroque Concertos and Variations." Music by Balbastre, Buxtehude, Torelli/Walther, Pasquini, Purcell, Stanley, Dandrieu, Cabezón, Valente and Pachelbel. This event is part of The Richard P. Garmany Music Series sponsored by the Farmington Library. Free admission. Location: First Church of Christ, 75 Main St., Farmington, CT 06032. www.farmingtonlibraries.org

18 Sun at 4:00 pm

South Church Chamber Society presents pianist David Westfall with soprano Amelia Berry, violinist Peter Winograd and cellist Wolfram Koessel in a program of art songs by Richard Strauss, selections from Max Bruch's *Eight Pieces for Cello, Violin and Piano*, Opus 83 and Fauré's *Piano Quartet in C Minor*, Opus 1, No. 15. Reception follows. Free-will donation. The Music Series at South Church, 90 Main St., New Britain, CT 06051. 860-223-7555.

31 Sat at 7:00 pm

CitySingers of Hartford and Mesa College Vocal Ensemble of San Diego join together to present "Coast-to-Coast: Joining in Song to Celebrate Spring." The Mesa College Vocal Ensemble is an auditioned choir of 24 singers directed by South Windsor High alum and UConn graduate Richard Chagnon. CitySingers of Hartford is an auditioned vocal chamber ensemble that has performed in the central CT area for 30 years. The program includes a variety of songs ranging from classical to traditional folk songs as well as works by Handel, Vaughan Williams, Copland, Monteverdi and Britten. Free admission. West Hartford United Methodist Church, 1358 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, CT 06110. 860-521-7766

June 2014 Events

1 Sun at 4:00 pm

Spring Pops with choirs, soloists and band. *Mamma Mia*, *Oklahoma*, Neidmann's *Five New England Songs*, patriotic medley and more. Peter Niedmann, music director. Free-will offering. Reception. Church of Christ, Congregational (UCC), 1075 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. 860-666-4689. Newingtonucc.org

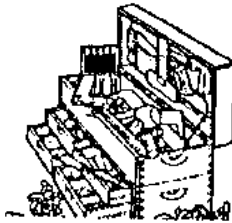
8 Sun at 4:00 pm

Celebrate Life! A Pulpit Musical/Drama featuring the Pilgrim Youth Choir, Alumni and the Carol Choir in an energetic musical drama by Courtney Ragan and Beryl Red that presents a brief tour of the life of Jesus. David Spicer, musical director and Newton R. Gilchrist, staging director and production manager. Free-will offering. First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109. 860-529-1575 x209. www.firstchurch.org

The TOOL BOX ARCHIVE

by Mike Foley

Ed. We've dug deep into the toolbox to find this gem for you, which was first published in Chattervox in 2000.



CAN YOU SAY WHAT'S WRONG?

Many organists may play like angels but cannot describe what's wrong with the instrument they're using. Remember:

1. Ciphers are really not "stuck keys." To a technician, a stuck key is one that's physically sticking down.
2. Is the organ really out of tune or have the division pitches simply wandered making one celeste with the other? The cures are very different.
3. Swell shoes and Crescendo shoes have very different functions. Using the wrong term could only confuse things and possibly get the wrong fix.
4. If you're reporting a rattle or buzzing noise, remember that organ tones are pungent and can cause items in the choir loft to shake and rattle. Put a pencil under the key, cup your ears and aim-in on the source. You may well find it's something totally unrelated to the organ and that you can easily adjust yourself.
5. Most all organs require air and DC current to operate. If the organ's dead because the blower isn't starting you really need an electrician, not an organ technician. If it is running and the organ's still dead, check to be sure the Unisons aren't off.
6. Chimes do not go off pitch, organs do. The same usually goes for the sanctuary piano. If you're using them together, be sure the room heat is correct.
7. Couplers cannot be tuned.
8. Are the "Pedals" out of tune, or is it really the manual stops you're coupling down to them?

These are just some of the more common complaints that often confuse a technician's phone diagnosis and estimates. Best to say it right.

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. Stephen's Episcopal, East Haddam, CT

Summer substitute, June 8 through August 10 with 1 Sunday (organist's choice) off. 1 Sunday service.
\$175 per Sunday.
Contact: Maryann McCary, 860-873-9164, maryann0320@aol.com

Unitarian Society of Hartford Music Director

18 hours per week. 1 Sunday service.
1 adult choir. 3-manual Austin organ, Mason Hamlin piano.
Salary range: \$16,500-\$18,500.
Contact: musicsearch@ushartford.com

Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford Two positions:

Associate Organist

12 hours per week.
1 Sunday service.
1 adult choir.
3-manual Austin organ.
Salary range: \$12,000-\$16,000 and use of Cathedral apartment
Contact: Joshua Slater, Interim Music Director, 860-527-7231, jmailto:joshua.slater@cccathedral.org

Long-term Substitute for position listed above: starting Sunday March 9 until permanent organist is found.
\$200 per week.

Somers Congregational Church Organist/Choir Director

15 hours per week.
2 Sunday services.
Adult, children's and bell choirs.
Richards, Fowkes organ, new
Salary range: \$16,000-\$17,000.
Contact: Bill Kirkpatrick, wkirkpatrick1@cox.net

Greater Hartford Chapter AGO 2013-2014 Programs

Sunday, May 11, 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
Mill on the River, 989 Ellington Road, South Windsor

Roberta Bitgood Scholarship Available to All

Keyboardists of all ages and abilities are invited to apply for the Roberta Bitgood Scholarship administered by the New London County Chapter AGO. This year's scholarship is \$750. The application deadline is June 13, 2014. For more information, contact Jesse N. Glaude at ccsartsmail@yahoo.com. Also check out www.bitgood.electronics.net.

The Twenty First Annual
**L. Cameron Johnson Memorial
ORGAN COMPETITION**

For High School Students

Saturday, May 17, 2014, 11 o'clock am

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

on the Campus of the University of Connecticut

- 1st prize \$1,500 offered by Storrs Congregational Church
- 2nd prize \$750 offered by the Northeastern Connecticut & Greater Hartford Chapters, American Guild of Organists
- 3rd prize \$300 offered by Johannus New England

*Entries must be submitted by **March 31, 2014** containing one composition from each of the following periods:*

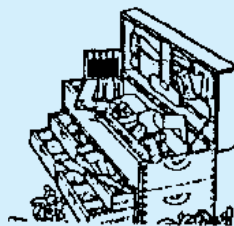
Baroque, Romantic, and 20th or 21st Century

Rules and application forms available online at www.northeasternctago.org

The L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition is sponsored jointly by the Northeastern Connecticut Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Storrs Congregational Church.

The TOOL BOX

by Mike Foley



WETTER WEATHER'S ON ITS WAY ... AND ALL THE ORGANS SAY HOORAY!

This column has often discussed the problems of the drying effects of our central heating systems. That's when we hear leaks, weepers, ciphers and badly out of tune flutes. Now the opposite's about to occur; wet weather. The furnaces turn off and the humidity starts to rise and rise. Some organs experience crackling dry atmospheres as low as 5% in the winter but in summer, the humidity can easily reach 75%! Wood and leather that had shrunk and shriveled will now start to bulge with the water they absorb. These differences often physically expand the organ's components to a degree easily measured with a ruler.

Which does the organ like better? If it had a choice, it would ask for the humidity. Perfect is 70 degrees and 50% humidity. Dryness simply isn't good and as long as we heat our Connecticut churches our poor organs will have to try and hold themselves together under the strain. Perhaps an analogy would be like losing 25 pounds every December and gaining it back in June. Think of what that would be like every year of your life! There's not much you can do but listen closely to your technician and keep a good watch over your instrument's basics. Some praying might not hurt.

Inserts for May 2014

Winner's Recital
2013 Hartford Chapter AGO/Quimby Competition
Greater Hartford Chapter AGO

Annual Meeting Sign-Up
Greater Hartford Chapter AGO

South Church Chamber Music Society
The Music Series at South Church

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
American Guild of Organists**

**Presents in recital Mr. Justin Murphy-Mancini
Winner of the 2013 Hartford Chapter AGO/Quimby
Regional Competition for Young Organists**

3 PM on Sunday May 11, 2014



United Methodist Church of Hartford

571 Farmington Ave. Hartford Ct. 06105

All are welcome to attend the recital and reception which follows.

Enter at lower level off parking lot for those persons needing elevator access.



Greater Hartford Chapter AGO

Annual Meeting and Dinner

Monday, May 19, 2014

6:30 pm Cash bar and Hors D'oeuvres

7:00 pm Dinner

7:45 pm Dessert and Meeting

THE MILL ON THE RIVER RESTAURANT

989 Ellington Road (Rt. 30), South Windsor
860-289-7929

Directions:

From I-91 take exit 35A (Rt. 291); take exit 4 off Rt. 291. Stay to the left and go straight through the light to Rt. 30 (you will be facing granite signs that say "Welcome to South Windsor") Follow Rt. 30 approximately 2 miles and we will be on the right-hand side.

From east of Manchester: I-84 West to exit 63. At the end of exit ramp make a left onto Rt. 30. Follow Rt. 30 for 5 miles and we will be on the left hand side.

Buffet Menu

Salad Station

Choice of Five Entrees

Rolls, Coffee & Tea, Dessert

Cost: \$15 per person

Reservations required!

Must be paid and received by May 12, 2014.



The program includes a peek at the 2014-2015 season, election of officers and approval of the budget. Enjoy chatting with your colleagues!

Reservation Form

Name(s) _____

Phone and/or e-mail address _____

Make checks payable to **GHC-AGO** and **mail by May 12, 2014** to:

John Coghill, 5 River Town Road, Windsor, CT 06095

Write "Annual Meeting" in the memo portion of the check



THE MUSIC SERIES
at SOUTH CHURCH
2013 – 2014 SEASON

The South Church Chamber Music Society

David Westfall, Pianist and Artistic Director

with

Amelia Berry, soprano, Peter Winograd, violinist,
and Wolfram Koessel, cellist



David Westfall



Amelia Berry



Peter Winograd



Wolfram Koessel

Sunday, May 18, 2014
4:00 PM

Free-will Donation
Reception Follows

Repertoire includes:

Selections from Max Bruch's
*Eight Pieces for Cello, Violin,
and Piano, Opus 83*

Songs by Richard Strauss and
Gabriel Fauré

Gabriel Fauré's *Piano Quartet in
C Minor, Opus 1, No. 15*

The Music Series at South Church
Richard Coffey, Artistic Director
Christine Laird, Managing Director
Telephone: 860-223-7555
www.musicseries.org



Supported in part by the
United Arts Campaign



South Church
90 Main Street
New Britain, Connecticut