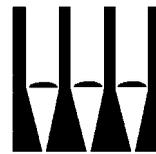


CHATTERVOX



Greater Hartford Chapter American Guild of Organists

SEPTEMBER 2014

Deanery by Kari Miller

It's been quite a few years since I attended school, yet every year when September rolls around I still get that "back to school" feeling. It's a weird mixture of excitement and dread, with hope and fear jostling for supremacy as the blank slate of a new year looms ahead. We bustle about gathering our supplies, getting ourselves ready, preparing for either the familiar or the unknown, or both at the same time. There is a faint tinge of sadness hovering around the edges, sadness at the passing of the carefree days of summer, but then the new routine kicks in and we are on our way.

They say that most people have dreams about their schooldays throughout their entire lives. I certainly do; the dreams of high school always feature a lost locker combination and the college-era dreams usually involve an impending final exam in a class that I didn't attend but forgot to drop. (That one is more like a nightmare, but not as bad as a performance-anxiety dream!) All kidding aside though, somehow my school days do not seem so far away or long ago, and I do not feel myself to be so different from the person I was then. I am still learning and studying and yes, (in the school of life)

still taking tests and making good or bad grades.

We probably all feel ourselves to be educators of some sort, whether or not we officially "teach." We are constantly educating our choirs and our congregations, sharing our ideas and insights with those who find our music a somewhat mysterious business. We should remember that we all are also students. Our student days never end. If we are to thrive and grow as musicians (and as people) we need to keep on learning - learning all sorts of things. We learn by practicing and performing, by attending concerts and workshops, by reading, by talking with colleagues, by following our trails of interest, by asking questions (and listening to the answers); we even learn from our failures and disappointments. If we pay attention, we can learn a lot every day about ourselves, about other people, the world, life and of course music.

What a privilege to be in a profession which offers so many opportunities to learn! There will always be a new organ piece or choir anthem to add to the repertoire, a new modulation or unusual registration to experiment with, a new skill to

add to the toolbox. We are never too old or too accomplished to learn something new. Hopefully we are never too set in our ways or too bored to be interested in learning something new. Learning new things, things that we choose

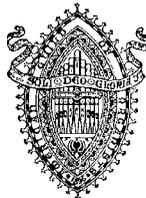
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Pipescreams Needs Yooooooooo!

Start thinking about the piece you want to play in our chapter's annual Halloween concert on Friday, Oct. 24 at Church of Christ, Congregational, 1075 Main St., Newington. Pipescreams isn't scary without organists. Don't forget the costume! More next month.

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Preparing inserts the Chattervox way – revised for your edification!

Please (clip and) **save** these directions.
Please share this or a copy with your publicity folks.

Required:

- For the e-mail recipients: Your flyer, in pdf format, needs to be e-mailed by the 20th to Ed Clark (EdwardC517@aol.com).
- For the surface mail recipients:
80 paper copies, pre-folded to fit a business-sized envelope.
Send or bring to:

Meg Smith at 70 Allen Place, Apartment C-7, Hartford (06106)

They should arrive by the 20th of the preceding month.
Unfolded inserts or those not accompanied by a payment can not be processed.

Please mark envelopes and/or boxes left at Meg's building clearly with her name, and make sure they are sealed shut for maximum security and privacy.

A check for \$20.00, made payable to the Greater Hartford Chapter AGO, should either be enclosed with your inserts or mailed directly to John Coghill, 5 RiverTown Road, Windsor. If you are distributing only e-file, please make your check out for \$10.00 and mail to John Coghill.

Suggested: Consider a Z-fold. This means that at least one printed side will show when folks go through the envelope. Color on the document or for the paper may get it more notice, but consider the possibility that lighter shaded backgrounds may be easier to read by people with limited vision, once posted.

Finally: Please consult our chapter website (www.HartfordAGO.org) for these directions throughout the year. You can also contact our Registrar directly for a set of labels for doing your own mailing: RegistrarHartfordAGO@comcast.net.

Thank you!

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

Anthem Reading Session

We kick off the new program year on **Saturday, September 27** with an Anthem Reading Session. Last year's session was so helpful and fun, many attendees asked for it to be repeated. This year's event will be held at First Church of Christ, Congregational, 2183 Main Street, Glastonbury. We start at 9:30 am and finish at 1:00.

We encourage you to bring a potential new AGO member if possible. Also, bring 1 or 2 of your favorite anthems (less well-known encouraged). A wonderful lunch will be provided at no cost to attendees. The program will provide plenty of time for singing, sharing, and socializing.

The anthem reading session will emphasize works accessible to small choirs. Please bring enough copies to share (at least 12). Participants serve as the choir, sight-singing each anthem. You can accompany the anthem you bring, or someone else will be happy to play. A list of titles will be compiled as a resource for all.

In order to help our planning, please email Mary De-Libero (marydelibero@comcast.net) by September 22nd if you are attending. Let her know who's coming and the anthem titles, composers, voicings, publishers.

Come and get some great fresh ideas for your choirs'



Directions to First Church, Glastonbury

From points West of Hartford

Take 84 East to exit 55, Route 2 East to Norwich-New London. Route 2 to exit 8, Hebron Avenue/Route 94, take right off exit. Go 1/2 mile to stop sign at Main Street. Take left onto Main Street. Church is 2/10 of a mile down on the right.

From points East of Hartford

Take 84 West to exit 55, Route 2 East to Norwich-New London. Route 2 to exit 8, Hebron Avenue/Route 94, take right off exit. Go 1/2 mile to stop sign at Main Street. Take left onto Main Street. Church is 2/10 of a mile down on the right.

From points South of Hartford

Take Route 91 North to exit 25, Route 3 North. Follow over bridge and follow signs for Route 2 East-Norwich. Take exit 8, Hebron Avenue, take right off exit. Go 1/2 mile to stop sign at Main Street. Take left onto Main Street. Church is 2/10 of a mile down on the right.

From points North of Hartford

Take Route 91 South to exit 25N. Follow over bridge and follow signs for Route 2 East-Norwich. Take exit 8, Hebron Avenue, take right off exit. Go 1/2 mile to stop sign at Main Street. Take left onto Main Street. Church is 2/10 of a mile down on the right.

From points East of Glastonbury

Take Route 2 West to exit 8. Take right off exit, then a quick left onto Route 94, Hebron Avenue. Go 1 mile to stop sign at Main Street. Take left onto Main Street. Church is 2/10 of a mile down on the right.

Deanery, continued from p. 1

to learn, things that truly engage us, can be tremendously rewarding and empowering.

So, even though a few of my lazy bones are groaning, even though my inner child is screaming "too soon!" even though I didn't get through half of my summer 'to-do' list, I still say - it's September and it's "back to school" for me!

Who Was Marjorie Jolidon?

Jim Gower, chair

Jolidon Fund Subcommittee

Marjorie Jolidon was the benefactor of what will be a "life changing" (if we can apply that term to an organization) bequest to the Greater Hartford Chapter of the AGO. Since Marge's active role in the chapter was some years back, we've asked chapter members who knew Marge to share their memories. We are grateful to members Nancy Robbins, John Coghill, and Mike Foley for these recollections.

Marge was a lover of good music, the theater, and traveling. She had season tickets every year to the Hartford Stage, the Goodspeed Opera House, and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. She was also active in the Musical Club of Hartford, of which she was a past president. Nancy Robbins recalls the beginning of her friendship with Marge, enjoying Marge and her husband Charlie's hospitality on many occasions when the two women met at Marge's Hartford south end home to rehearse organ duets for a program of the Musical Club of Hartford.

Mike Foley met Marge in 1981 while she was organist at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Hartford. Mike then learned that Marge had a 6 rank unit organ in her home that needed a lot of work. Mike was invited to come and take a look. While working on the organ over the course of the next months, Mike got to know Marge and Charlie as warm, hospitable people who always looked forward to his visits, which were as much about friendship as they were about organ service.

John Coghill and Marge were colleagues while both were teaching in the Bloomfield Schools. Marge was a music teacher and John in the classroom. He remembers that she was a "big force." One time, John and Marge together directed a Gilbert & Sullivan performance by the fifth and sixth grades, and he remembers that Marge nearly tore her hair out dealing with the kids. The audience filled the room and the students did a wonderful job. Marge had a short fuse, which meant she got after the kids.

Marge also loved animals, often trapping stray cats in her neighborhood with a humane trap, taking them

to her vet, and keeping them for pets. All three contributors to this piece mentioned the cats and excited, yapping dogs present at every visit.

Marge and Charlie owned a very nice beach cottage in Cornfield Point, Old Saybrook. They spent years renovating it with their own sweat equity when they were younger, turning it into a year-round home. In addition to her pipe organ and grand piano in Hartford, she had an electronic organ and an upright piano side by side in Old Saybrook. On one of her many visits to Old Saybrook, Nancy Robbins recalls how Marge told her of the fun times she used to have when the church choir members would go there, many of whom would remain overnight sleeping all over the house. She and Charlie had planned to retire there, but his death changed their plans. Marge did, however, eventually sell their Hartford home and stayed in Old Saybrook until she died.

We have a portrait of a warm, generous, and hospitable woman who was devoted to her husband, her pets, and to good music and the arts. While it was clear she had the means to meet her needs, she lived a modest life. Her legacy continues, and has been entrusted to us and others. In addition to the Greater Hartford Chapter AGO, the other beneficiaries of her \$2.5 million estate were the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, The Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook, The Goodspeed Opera House, and the Musical Club of Hartford.

Brainstorm with Us

The Jolidon Fund Committee has received some very intriguing ideas for projects that the chapter can undertake using the Jolidon funds. But we still need to hear from most of you. No idea is too small or too wacky to consider. This gift from Marjorie Jolidon is an opportunity for our chapter to do amazing things. Send your ideas to Jim Gower at jimg42@aol.com.

Meet Your New and Returning Board Members



Kari Miller Magg, Dean, is a graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music and Indiana University, where she earned her masters and doctoral degrees. She is currently director of music and organist at Central Baptist Church in Hartford, where her monthly noontime recital series, "Midday Music", is entering its seventh season.



Amy Vinisko is currently on the Music Faculty at the Canterbury School in New Milford, CT where she accompanies the Canterbury Chorale and Schola Cantorum and teaches piano. In July 2012, she accepted the position as Director of Music at First Congregational Church in New Milford, acting as organist, pianist and

Director of the Senior Choir and the Village Ringers Handbell Ensemble. She previously served as Minister of Music at New Preston Congregational Church in New Preston, CT for fourteen years.

Since relocating to Connecticut from Nebraska, she has accompanied the St. John's Chorale in Washington, CT, acted as Director of the Music Division at the Nutmeg Conservatory for the Arts in Torrington, CT, where she was also a Principal Ballet Accompanist, appeared at the Warner Theater in Torrington, CT, and has performed and taught as a member of the Piano faculty at both the Connecticut Conservatory of the Performing Arts in New Milford, CT and at the Wooster School in Danbury, CT.

Amy maintains a private studio, where she offers private piano lessons, performs solo piano and organ works, and accompanies various soloists and ensembles. Most recently, she recorded a CD of classical cello and piano works with cellist Vit Fiala, OFM.

She holds Bachelor of Music degrees in both Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy from Hastings College, Hastings, NE where she studied with Ruth Moore. She continued her training with Eleanor Hancock, a founding member of the Taubman Institute in New York. She

has participated in the Aspen Music Festival in Aspen, CO, including performing as soloist, accompanist and ensemble pianist. She has also attended the Britten-Pears Festival in Aldeburgh, England and Rocky Ridge Music Center in Estes Park, CO.



Ronald Coons first joined the AGO as a member of the now defunct DePauw University Chapter in Greencastle, Indiana, as a college freshman in 1954; subsequently he has been a member of the Boston, Northeast Connecticut, and Greater Hartford Chapters. He moved to West Hartford

in 2002 upon retiring from the University of Connecticut in Storrs after teaching for 36 years modern European history with a specialty in the modern history of the Habsburg Monarchy. He began organ study with Wilbur Chenoweth as a high school student in West Los Angeles, California, and continued formal study with Van Denman Thompson at DePauw. As a graduate student at Harvard, from which he earned a Ph.D. in 1966, he studied informally with John Ferris at Memorial Church and Melville Smith at the Longy School; he has also studied voice with Olga Averino at Longy and privately with Herbert Burtis. Ron is a communicant of St. James's Episcopal Church in West Hartford, where he sings in the choir, serves on the vestry, and occasionally substitutes at the organ.



Mary DeLibero is Organist and Choir Director at Rocky Hill Congregational Church in Rocky Hill. A graduate of Queens University, Charlotte, and Hartt College of Music, Mary studied piano with Howard Parsons, Anita Bultman, and Raymond Hanson.

Mary has served on the piano faculties of Westfield University, Hartt School Community Division, Hartford Conservatory, and Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts. After training as a pianist, and working in the corporate sector, she now is realizing her lifelong dream of playing the organ, and is honored to serve the GHC-AGO as Member –at – Large for the upcoming term.

More on next page



In retirement, **Dr. Jerry Davidson** serves as organist/choirmaster for Trinity Episcopal Church in Torrington and also plays oboe and english horn with the Torrington Symphony.

A member of ASCAP, his prior positions have included visiting professor of music theory at Loyola U. of New

Orleans, chair of the Music Department of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and Associate Dean of the School of Music of Louisiana State University. He is a graduate of Northwestern University, Union Theological Seminary, and the University of Arkansas and has served four AGO chapters as dean. He holds the AAGO and ChM degrees from the American Guild of Organists and served as State Convenor for Arkansas. In 1996 he was one of seven semifinalists for the National Competition in Organ Improvisation.

He has served churches in New Jersey, Illinois, Louisiana and Arkansas and was director of the Hot Springs Community Band, the Hot Springs/Arkadelphia Bach Choir and Orchestra and in Hot Springs Village directed the Cedar Mountain Singers and was music director for the Village Players.

On the lighter side, he is a member of ACE, the American Coaster Enthusiasts (mostly crazy people who enjoy riding roller coasters) and plays duplicate bridge when he gets a chance.

Jerry is married to the Rev. Susan L. Davidson, priest-in-charge of All Saints Episcopal Church in Wolcott, and they have two sons, one grandson and two granddaughters.

Also on the board are:

Peter Niedmann, Sub-Dean

John Coghill, Treasurer

Mark Child, Registrar

Jolidon Fund Can Help You!

The Jolidon Fund Committee is open to any kind of requests from you, our chapter members, that will help support your careers as organists, especially if lack of money is a stumbling block. Perhaps you play for a small worshiping community that can't give you enough money for a continuing education conference that you'd love to attend. If they can pitch in a little, and you can pitch in a little, then we might pitch in a little, too. Maybe you want to do a special choral piece with your choir but your music budget can't handle the entire cost of sheet music. Let us know. Perhaps you've never had an instrumentalist come and play in church because money was tight. Maybe you are a pianist hired to play for a church and a "starter pack" of organ lessons would help get you going. Or you know of a young piano student that might take to the organ with a few lessons. Or \$50 would get you that book of jazz arrangements for organ if only you had the money. Let us know. No matter how small or personal, if you have a need for yourself or your worship community that could use that extra few dollars to make the experience better, contact us. Use the form that you received in the mail this summer or write to Jim Gower at jimg42@aol.com to have a copy emailed to you. The deadline for the first round of applications is Sept. 30. We look forward to working with you.

Rhode Island Invitation

The Rhode Island AGO chapter has invited us to join them for an evening with the Rev. Dr. Victoria Sirota, well-known organist and author of *Preaching to the Choir, Claiming the Role of Musician*. She is the guest speaker at their opening kick-off event on September 19 at 7:00 p.m. The evening includes a buffet dinner at a cost of \$25 per person. Location: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 50 Park Place, Pawtucket, RI. Dr. Sirota's book is available for a reduced cost of \$10 to the first 20 people who request a copy when making reservations. Send your dinner checks payable to RIAGO (\$25 pp) to Kathy Hart, RIAGO Dean, 11 Aldine St., Providence, RI 02909. Indicate if you'd like a copy of the book and see if you are one the lucky winners.

September Calendar

ALBERT SCHWEITZER ORGAN FESTIVAL

The 17th Annual Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival is centered around a national competition for young organists and takes place from the Fri. Sept. 5 to Sun. Sept. 7 at the **First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield**. The judges for this year's competition are Diane Meredith Belcher, Charles Callahan and Ken Cowan. The public is invited to attend the following events. For more info, go to the ministries tab at www.firstchurch.org or call 860-529-1575, ext. 209.

5 Fri at 7:30 pm

Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Celebration Concert -- A Celebration Concert featuring the three judges performing music of their choice and the Festival Choir under the direction of David Spicer, Minister of Music, and co-founder of the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival. An offering will be received. Childcare is available for ages 8 and under. A reception will follow.

6 Sat at 9:00 – 5:00 pm

Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition will take place. The High School Division from 9:00-12:00 noon features finalists Clara Gerdes of Davidson, NC; Richard Gress of Newmarket, NH; and Alexander Pattavina of Stoughton, MA. The Young Professional Division from 2:00 pm -5:00 pm features finalists Evan Cogswell of Glastonbury, CT; Brian Glikes of Rochester, NY; and Nicholas Quardokus of Bridgman, MI.

7 Sun at 8:45 and 10:30 am

Albert Schweitzer Sunday Morning Worship. The finalists will participate in the morning worship services.

7 Sun at 1:30 pm

Albert Schweitzer Master Class features all finalists participating in a master class with the three judges. Awards will be presented.

9 Tue at 1:00 pm

My Heart Is In Israel, a program of Israeli music presented by Cantor Siskin, Ale Brider men's choral group and accompanist Natasha Ulyanovsky. Free. Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford.

October 2014

10 Fri at 7:00 pm

Beth Israel Organ Sounds presents German Romantic pieces for organ featuring organist Natasha Ulyanovsky. Program includes five pieces by Sigfrid Karg-Elert: Idyl, op. 47; Rejoice Greatly, O My Soul, Op. 65; Now Thank We All Our God, op. 65; Legend, op. 27 #3; Praise the Lord with the Drums and Cymbals, op. 101. Also Cantilena by Rheinberger and Introdution und Passacaglia d-moll by Reger. Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford.

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.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, W. Hartford

Director of Music

26-28 hours per week. 1 Sunday service.

1 adult, 1 children's choir, oversee bell choir.

2-manual Schlicker (1972), Foley-Baker modifications (1989). Salary range: \$25,000-\$29,000.

Contact: musicdirectorsearch@westpresby.org

St. James Parish, Farmington, CT

Director of Music

8-12 hours per week. 1 Sunday service. 1 adult choir, 1 children's choir. 29-rank Casavant pipe organ, Steinway grand piano. Salary range: AGO guidelines.

Contact: Fr. George C. Roberts, 860-677-1564

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron, CT

2 positions, may be combined: Organist, Choir Director
Organist 4 hours per week, Director 3 hours per week.

1 Sunday service. 1 adult choir. 1857 Johnson tracker organ. Salary range: Organist \$8,600 or higher, Director \$40-\$50 per hour, Combined position \$13,000-\$15,000. Contact: Stephanie Wheeler, 860-228-9043 or church phone 860-228-3244, stpetershebron@sbcglobal.net

First United Methodist Church, Shelton, CT

Organist/Director of Music

8-10 hours per week. 1 Sunday service. 1 adult choir, possible children's choir. Moeller pipe organ.

Salary range: starting at \$12,000.

Contact: 203-929-3537, office@umcshelton.org
September 26 application deadline.

Holy Advent Episcopal Church, Clinton, CT

Organist/Choir Director

8 hours per week. 1 Sunday service. 1 adult choir
1962 John Waggoner pipe organ (II/14), modified in 1997 by McNeeley, Kawai piano. Salary range: \$15,000-\$18,000. Contact: The Rev. Peter Larom, 914-282-2450, richardlarom@gmail.com

Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC

Organist/Director of Choirs

20 hours per week. 1 Sunday service.

1 adult choir, 1 youth choir, 1 bell choir.

2-manual Austin pipe organ.

Salary range: \$21,000-\$22,000.

Contact: churchoffice@uccplainville.org

Greater Hartford Chapter AGO 2014-2015 Programs

Mark these dates on your calendar now!

Saturday, September 27, 2014, 9:30 am - 1 pm

Anthem Reading Session
First Church of Christ, Congregational, Glastonbury
2183 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Friday, October 24, 2014, 7 pm

PIPESCREAMS!
Church of Christ, Congregational, Newington
1075 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111

Friday, December 5, 2014, 7 pm

Organ Recital: Simon Thomas Jacobs, winner of 2013
St. Alban's Competition
Co-sponsored by Center Church, Hartford
675 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Monday, January 19, 2015 (tentative date)

Trip to NY city
Details TBA

Monday, February 16, 2015, 9:30 am - 2 pm

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza: a program for young people
First Church of Christ, Wethersfield
250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Saturday, March 21, 2015, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

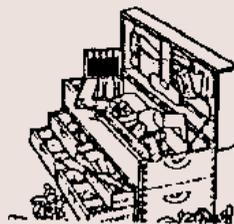
"Bach in Somers" with Christa Rakich
Somers Congregational Church
599 Main Street, Somers, CT 06071

Monday, May 18, 2015, 6:30 pm

Annual Meeting and Dinner
Location TBA

The TOOL BOX

by Mike Foley



Welcome back to the new year and all those little problems that can be frustrating. Let's start the year off with ---- **TIGHT ROLL TOPS:**

If your console's graced with a roll-top cover and if the cover's difficult to move, know that there are ways to help it. Some are as simple as lubricating the channels on each side of the console through which the edges of the roll top slide. Lubricants can be as simple a graphite or a paste wax rubbed into the channels. Some use common bar soap.

If yours is a large console with a large roll top, there should be at least one roller-pin (looks like mini, kitchen rolling pin) built into the top of the console. These hold the roll top up (supports the weight of the center) during its travels. More exotic assists can be a horizontal cradle that's sprung loaded and, whilst you're pulling, it can help push the top closed. Another possibility is to install small rubber wheels at the rear/top of the console interior; the idea being that they can further elevate the outside edges of a large roll top as it tries to maneuver those channel turns as the top travels back and forth/in and out of the back of the console.

Perhaps your roll top's been rebacked? A thorough job is time consuming and requires that tiny spacers be put between each rib. This little added task takes the rigidity out of a roll top and leaves it flexible. When removed, a roll top should easily roll up into a cylinder small enough that it proves the extended roll top can, in fact, easily maneuver the turns it faces in its travels. Rebacking a roll top is time consuming and therefore, can get expensive. Be sure the removed roll demonstrates that it's flexible. If it's too stiff, it will naturally resist the turns it must take.

As always....talk to your tech and again...welcome back!