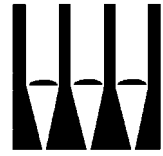


# CHATTERVOX



Greater Hartford Chapter American Guild of Organists

JANUARY 2015

## Deanery by Kari Miller

An organ is not a piano. A piano is not an organ. We all know this, but I wonder how often we stop to consider how very little the two instruments have in common. Both are keyboard instruments and both play music which is usually written in treble and bass clefs. There the similarities end. Most of us need to switch back and forth between the two instruments, but playing respectably on both is not always an easy proposition, no matter which side of the fence we come from. The skills and techniques needed for one or the other may be related, but they are not automatically transferable.

It seems to me that many of our failures and frustrations have to do with not knowing how to properly listen and react to what we hear. We are all taught to 'listen' as we practice, but what exactly are we listening for, beyond the right notes and rhythm? Think about it – a pianist is taught to listen, evaluate and react with hair-trigger response to each sound, to carefully balance each chord, to shape the melody 'just so.' Hours and hours are spent developing the fine finger control to achieve those subtle inflections that are the life-

blood of expressive piano playing. Sadly, very little of it is of any use on the organ. No wonder that to many pianists the organ feels like an unmusical, unwieldy behemoth. Even something as basic as just playing in time can seem difficult without the ability to 'feel' the pulse in one's fingers.

Instead of simply laying the blame on the organ, the pianist-turned-organist needs to approach the task completely differently, to get the ears and brain and imagination working together like a giant super-computer, weighing all available options and choosing the solutions that sound best for the highest percentage of the time. It is a lot like figuring out a puzzle. The good organist listens for the 'big picture,' even while attending to the difficult tasks of keeping hands and feet playing strictly together and achieving the desired touch.

The organist going to the piano has a different set of issues to overcome. Listening only for the big picture on the piano is like playing an organ with only one or two stops to choose from. The organist-turned-pianist may find the piano 'boring,' may complain about the unchanging, bland character of the

sound, or may relegate the instrument solely to the utilitarian arena. What a mistake that is! So many wonderful colors and textures are available on the piano, but they don't happen by themselves (or even at the push of a button). The novice needs to experiment, to actively search for and learn how to produce the wide range of sounds that will bring the music to life.

An organ is not a piano. A piano is not an organ. Yet each is beautiful, demanding and worthy of our best efforts.

Happy  
New  
Year!

## In This Issue

- December Recital Review & Photos.....2-3  
New York Organ Crawl.....4 & Insert  
Pedals, Pipes & Pizza 2015 .....6 & Insert

 Greater Hartford Chapter  
American Guild of Organists



Visit our chapter website:  
[www.HartfordAGO.org](http://www.HartfordAGO.org)  
Amy Vinisko, webmaster

**Chapter Board**

Dean  
**Kari Miller**  
860-379-5612

Sub-Dean  
**Peter Niedmann**  
860-416-0474

Secretary  
**Amy Vinisko**  
860-309-5975

Treasurer  
**John Coghill**  
860-285-8208

Registrar  
**Mark Child**  
860-688-7032

Members-at-Large  
**Jerry Davidson** (2015)  
**Ronald Coons** (2016)  
860-561-8806  
**Mary DeLiberio** (2017)

Professional Concerns  
**Jason Charneski**, Chair  
**Christine Melson**

Job Listing Service  
**Kari Miller**  
860-379-5612

Substitutes  
**Amy Vinisko**

Hospitality  
**Joanne Coghill**

Chattervox Inserts  
**Meg Smith**

Chattervox Editors  
**Edward Clark**  
**Joan Pritchard**

**Photos from Jacobs Recital**

**By Dale Eberhardt**

*Right: Jacobs offers commentary*

*Below left: Host Jason Charneski,  
Simon Thomas Jacobs and  
Dean Kari Miller*

*Below right: Jason Charneski  
offers welcoming remarks*



**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)

# Review of Organ Recital by Simon Thomas Jacobs on December 5

By Vaughn Mauren

The St. Alban's International Organ Competition has a long tradition of providing select young artists with the exposure and career assistance they deserve. As Simon Thomas Jacobs recently demonstrated to his audience at Hartford's Center Church, that legacy continues even into the Internet age, where Facebook and YouTube have broadly challenged the relevancy of traditional competitions. But while social media can be an effective tool for promotion, the rigor and unforgiving nature of competing at St. Alban's means that whoever comes out on top has proven themselves in a multitude of ways.

In addition to the notoriety his recent competition win has created, several concertgoers were also familiar with Simon from his tenure as Associate Director of Music at Christ Church Episcopal, Greenwich, Connecticut – a job he took upon graduation from Oxford. Since then, Simon has been in the midst of a very busy performance schedule and academic life. He is finishing an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance at Oberlin College Conservatory and touring the world as a recitalist. Until this past summer, he was also the Fellow in Sacred Music at Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal), Indianapolis, Indiana.

For an organist, graduate school provides that rare time in life when your daily interactions with colleagues include passionate conversations about your favorite composers and organists. It was no surprise then that Simon offered interesting and informative commentary throughout the concert.

Overall, Simon's program featured music from France and Germany. He gave a rhythmically driving and sparkly performance of Krebs' E Major Toccata and Fugue and then delighted the audience with Georg Böhm's Partita on "Comfort, Comfort ye my people." Simon's use of contrasting registrations and wonderfully clear technique brought the piece to life in a way that is uncommon in performances of early baroque repertoire. It was also nice to hear three of J. S. Bach's settings of "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland." Along with the Böhm, the Bach pieces remind us of how creatively the great baroque composers could accompany a theme.

The second half of the concert featured music of France, beginning with the whimsical Fantasia and Fugue in B-flat by Alexandre Boëly. In his commentary, Simon painted a portrait of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century composer as an insouciant curmudgeon, hanging on to classicism and angrily rejecting the Romantic movement. It offered a possible explanation for why the Fantasia has a flair of sarcasm, with all of those dissonances on strong beats, disrupting otherwise lovely arpeggios.

Then it was on to Franck's lush E Major Chorale. It takes a lot of guts to perform this piece because for many, the interpretive choices are so personal. Nevertheless, I thoroughly enjoyed Simon's performance. While his tempo was on the quicker side, it worked well with the instrument and served to highlight the composition's internal structure.

Jehan Alain's Scherzo, from *Suite pour orgue*, was a highlight. Played with rhythmic exuberance, the organ sounded at its best (save for the encore, which I'll get to) because it gave the piece its needed tonal palette and clarity.

"Dieu parmi nous," from Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur*, closed the program. As the piece came to an end with that famous final E Major added sixth chord, Simon rightly noted that the audience deserved a fun encore. This we received in Leon Jessel's *Parade of the Tin Soldiers*. While Messiaen's music painted Christ's Nativity as mysterious and awe-inspiring, Jessel's piece conjured up memories of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, leaving everyone in the audience with a youthful grin on their face before walking outside and into the rain.

-----

*Simon's concert was hosted by Jason Charneski at Center Church, and co-sponsored by the parish's Music and the Arts committee and the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.*

# GHC-AGO Organ Crawl to New York City on Monday, January 19

**Registration and Payment Due Friday, January 9**

*Join us! Bring a friend. Mail your check now!*

- **Date:** January 19, 2015 (Martin Luther King Day)
- **Cost:** \$25 per person
- **Visiting:** The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Grace Church and St. Bartholomew
- **Meet/Park:** St. Mark, the Evangelist, 467 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford
- **Time:** Gather at 8:30AM for Coffee and....departure 9:00AM SHARP
- **Lunch:** On your own at restaurants near the cathedral – must be back at the cathedral for a 1PM organ demo/tour
- **Dinner:** Bus will stop at a highway canteen on the way back to West Hartford
- **Arrival at West Hartford:** approximately 8PM
- **Deadline:** Sign-up and check due Friday, January 9, 2015. Mail to Treasurer John Coghill
- **Use the sign-up form included with this issue of Chattervox.**

## 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. Peter's Episcopal Church, Hebron Choir Director**

3 hours per week. 1 Sunday service. 1 adult choir. \$40-\$50 per hour. Contact: Stephanie Wheeler, 860-228-9043 or church phone 860-228-3244, stpetershebron@sbcglobal.net

### **St. Joseph Church, Shelton, CT Music Director**

35 hours per week. 4-5 weekend masses, holy days. Adult, children's choirs, contemporary and Hispanic folk groups. 100-year-old pipe organ recently rebuilt by Austin. Salary range: \$35,000-\$40,000. Contact: Music Director Search Committee, stjosephmusicdirector2014@gmail.com

# January Calendar

## 4 Sun at 4:00 pm

**Annual Greater Hartford Handel's Messiah Community Sing** for singers and audience. Singers should arrive by 3:30 pm to participate in the choir (no prior rehearsing needed). To audition for a solo, contact Director Bob Gilbert at 860-298-8985 or 860-966-3920 or r.f.gilbert@sbcglobal.net. Reception follows. Trinity United Methodist Church, 180 Park Ave., Windsor, CT. [www.tumcwindSOR.org](http://www.tumcwindSOR.org)

## 9 Fri at 7:00 pm

**Silent Film: Steamboat Bill Jr.** featuring Buster Keaton. Live piano accompaniment provided by Patrick Miller. \$20 suggested donation. St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119. [www.reddoormusic.org](http://www.reddoormusic.org)

## 15 Thu at 12:10 pm

**Midday Music at Central Baptist Church.** A short organ recital featuring music by Bach, Peeters, Rossini and more. Kari Miller, organist. Free. Coffee and cookies. Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St., Hartford. 860-522-9275

## 23 Fri at 7:00 pm

**A Night at the Movies!** with organist **Jason Roberts** accompanying the Buster Keaton film *Steamboat Bill Jr.* Snow date: Jan. 30 at 7:00 pm. South Congregational Church, 242 Salmon Brook St., Granby, CT.

## 25 Sun at 4:00 pm

**Super Bell XXIII Concert** featuring the five handbell choirs of First Church. Free-will offering. First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109. 860-529-1575. [www.firstchurch.org](http://www.firstchurch.org)

## 25 Sun at 7:30 pm

**Organ Recital by David Higgs.** Music of Sowerby, Howells, Whitlock, Creeston, Widor and others. Woolsey Hall, Yale University, 500 College St., New Haven, CT.

## 31 Sat at 5:30 pm

**Soup n' Silents** featuring **Clark Wilson.** Hampton Congregational Church has again engaged Hollywood's special silent movie organist Clark Wilson to accompany the Buster Keaton silent comedy *Seven Chances.*

The event starts with a soup and bread dinner at 5:30 pm at the church's Holt Hall. The movie starts at 7:00 pm. Adults are \$15, children 5 - 12 are \$5 and families are \$30. Admission includes the dinner and movie. Hampton Congregational Church, 263 Main Street, Hampton, CT. For more info: 860-455-9677 or [soupsilents@gmail.com](mailto:soupsilents@gmail.com)

## 31 Sat at 8:00 pm

**Music of the Jewish Soul** featuring Monika Krajewska, mezzo-soprano; Natasha Ulyanovsky, organ and piano; and Peter Dzialo, cello. Program includes Five Pieces for Cello and Piano by Ernest Bloch and Jewish and Yiddish songs by many composers. Free. Trinity College Chapel, Hartford, CT.

# February Events

## 6 Fri at 7:00 pm

**Organ Recital by Jonathan Dimmock** in a program titled "Paris: Between the Wars." Mr. Dimmock is well-known internationally as a performer and currently serves as organist for the San Francisco Symphony. He has held positions at St. John the Divine in NYC, St. Mark's in Minneapolis and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Free-will offering. Cathedral of Saint Joseph, 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT, 06105

## 8 Sun at 4:00 pm

**Organ Recital by Raúl Prieto Ramírez,** the first Spanish organist of recent times to establish an international reputation. Free-will donation. South Church, 90 Main St., New Britain, CT.

## 8 Sun at 7:30 pm

**Organ Recital by Jonathan Dimmock.** Sweelinck: Master of the Dutch Renaissance. Marquand Chapel, Yale Divinity School, 409 Prospect St., New Haven, CT.

## 13 Fri at 7:00 pm

**Beth Israel Organ Sounds** presents Italian Old Masters with Max Schwimmer, saxophone and Natasha Ulyanovsky, organ. Larghetto by Giovanni Battista Bassani (organ); Prelude and Fugue by Girolamo Frescobaldi (organ); Allegro by Giovanni Pescetti (organ); Concerto in d minor by Benedetto Marcello (sax and organ). Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford

## 15 Sun at 3:00 pm

**Cameron Carpenter** in concert. Unorthodox, controversial, and flamboyant, he amazes audiences with his astounding technique and he breaks preconceptions of the pipe organ. \$32 floor, \$28 mezzanine, \$15 students. Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, UConn campus, Storrs, CT. For tickets, call 860-486-4226 or go to [jorgensen.uconn.edu](http://jorgensen.uconn.edu).

## 16 Mon at 9:30-2:00

**AGO Event: Pedals, Pipes and Pizza,** a program introducing the organ to young people. See insert. First Church of Christ, 250 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109

## 20 Fri at 7:00 pm

**Boston Brass** presents an evening of virtuosity and eclectic entertainment. \$40 premium, \$25 gen., \$15 St/Sr. Center Church, 675 Main St., Hartford.

## 20 Fri at 7:00 pm

**Organ Recital by Esteban Landart.** He was born in Spain and studied in France. Free-will offering. Cathedral of Saint Joseph, 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT, 06105

## 21 Sat at 8:30-3:30 pm

**Merrimack Jubilee** featuring a day of workshops, an organ demonstration, music for sale and lunch. Sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Chapter AGO. Cost: \$25. (\$30 after Jan. 31). Location: First Calvary Baptist Church, 586 Massachusetts Ave., North Andover, MA 01845. For full info and a brochure, go to [www.merrimackago.com](http://www.merrimackago.com) and click on the link for February Jubilee.

## 22 Sun at 12:30 pm

**Organ Fireworks** featuring organist Scott Lamlein in a half-hour concert. Free. Sacred Music at the Red Door, St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119. [www.reddoormusic.org](http://www.reddoormusic.org)

# March Events

## 13 Fri at 7:00 pm

**Beth Israel Organ Sounds** presents organist Natasha Ulyanovsky playing Sonata in B-flat Major by C.P.E. Bach and Sonata in C Minor #3 by A. Guilman. Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave., West Hartford

# Greater Hartford Chapter AGO

## 2014-2015 Programs

**Monday, January 19, 2015**

Trip to New York City  
Details on page 2; see insert

**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 at 6:30 pm**

Annual Meeting and Dinner; Location TBA

## Election of Officers Preview

Election of Officers for 2015-2016 will take place at our next Annual Meeting on May 18, 2015. The Nominating Committee will be Deborah Gemma (Chair), Lori Bourret, Robert Gilbert and Bruce Henley. They will submit a slate of candidates, one for each position on the Executive Committee. If you would like to be considered, or would like to recommend another member, please contact Deb Gemma by January 15 at debgem1325@yahoo.com or 860-267-2978. After the slate of candidates is announced in March, additional nominations may be made in petition of at least five voting members in good standing and should be received by the Secretary no later than 30 days after the slate has been announced.

## Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza will be held this year at First Church of Christ in Wethersfield on Monday, February 16. This is a great chance for young people to learn about the organ in an entertaining, hands-on way. The event is free, but registration is required and enrollment is limited, so don't wait to sign up (registration form enclosed/attached). If you know of a young piano student or chorister in your church who might like to attend, please spread the word. The PPP Coordinator is Mary DeLibero (marydelibero@comcast.net).

## The TOOL BOX

by Mike Foley



### WAS THAT A TAIL I SAW IN THE MIXTURE?

Possibly so. Here they come. All those nice squirrels have been eyeing those attic louvers for months and now that it's getting cold, they're going to chomp away and eat a couple of them out so they can get into the nice warm, dry church. And then guess what: they chew their way into the organ chamber. And then guess what: they start using your diapasons for acorn storage. Yes indeed. Mrs. Squirrel goes to the acorn tree and selects the days' menu and then deposits them into those nice perfectly-sized Diapason treble pipes for good, safe storage. Then, for Sunday dinner, Mr. Squirrel runs down the rack board to just the right depository and then, starting at the upper lip, proceeds to chew his way through the front of the metal pipe. When the pipe's sufficiently ruined, out pops the acorn du jour and Viola! Dinner is on! 'Couldn't be easier but, it can sure be expensive....to the church.

Thank goodness, not everyone's "blessed" with squirrels in the organ but over the last two weeks I've been reminded of this issue that's common as winter's cold approaches. Last month, one of the little devils ate their way through the console cable of a nice ol' Estey. The fix was over \$1000. And, so you know, there's no insurance available that covers rodent damage.

What can you do? Look for evidence. It often comes in the form of nut shells scattered around the choir loft, basement, organ chamber or, horrors: under the pedalboard. Keep an eye out. Perhaps get a Have-a-Heart trap and learn how to use it so you can move them out of town. As always ....talk with your technician. (I can see your Diapasons shuddering from here.)

# Inserts for January 2015

**New York City Organ Crawl 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.

# Organ Crawl to New York City

**January 19, 2015 (MLK Day)**

Visiting: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Grace Church and St. Bart's

Meet/Park: St. Mark, the Evangelist, 467 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford

Time: Gather at 8:30AM for Coffee and....departure 9:00AM SHARP

Lunch: On your own at restaurants near the cathedral - must be back at the cathedral for a 1PM organ demo./tour

Dinner: Bus will stop at a highway canteen on the way back to W. Hartford

Arrival at W. Hartford approximately 8PM

---

## *Reservation Form*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations @ \$25 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Total due by Friday, January 9, 2015 \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **GHC-AGO** and **mail** to:  
John Coghill, 5 River Town Road, Windsor, CT 06095  
Write "Organ Crawl" in the memo portion of the check





# 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 16, 2015 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

(snow date: Saturday, February 21, 2015)

First Church of Christ

250 Main St. Wethersfield, CT 06109

For music students age 8-17

For more information, write to Mary DeLibero at [marydelibero@comcast.net](mailto:marydelibero@comcast.net)



The Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

# Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

## Registration Form

Monday, February 16, 2015 - 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

(Snow date: Saturday, February 21, 2015)

First Church of Christ, 250 Main St. Wethersfield CT

**Pedals, Pipes and Pizza** is a great opportunity for young musicians to experience the wonderful sounds of the pipe organ. Our 2015 program will be held at First Church of Christ, Wethersfield. Any interested young person between the ages of 8 and 17 is welcome to attend. We will meet at 9:30 am at First Church of Christ, 250 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109. Parking is available next to the church. The day includes a pizza lunch, and will conclude at 2:00 pm.

Please fill in the registration form below and send to the PPP coordinator: Mary DeLibero, 14 Randal Ave., West Hartford CT 06110. The registration deadline is February 12. Mary may be reached via email ([marydelibero@comcast.net](mailto:marydelibero@comcast.net)) or phone (860-558-2647).

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 the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" program on February 16 or 23, 2013. 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 \_\_\_\_\_