

# THE Worcester Organist

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORCESTER CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS... VOL. III No. 4

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

APRIL 1985

This will be a very busy month, and I have a very long Dean's Message for you—and that's no April Fools' joke. The three major events of the chapter's year all occur in April. You have received by now, I hope, a brochure with details on all of them. (Bulk mailing being what it is, we're also including a brochure in this issue of the newsletter.) Herewith is a review of them all.

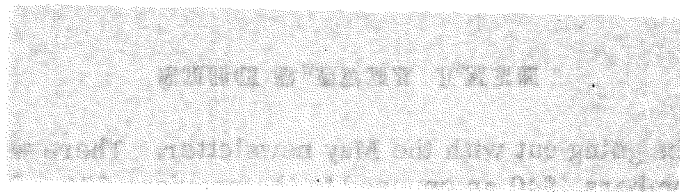
**THE PATRIOTS' DAY ORGAN CRAWL, MONDAY, APRIL 15.** This will be our fourth organ crawl, and no one does these things better than we do. Anyone who has been on one of these is sure to go again—it's that good. The churches and organs to be seen on this season's crawl are fascinating. If you've never been on one of our "crawls" go on this one. It promises to be a thoroughly delightful day.

**BRIAN JONES: A ROMANTIC ORGAN WORKSHOP, SUNDAY, APRIL 21.** We are experiencing, fortunately, a "Romantic Revival" of sorts, and Brian Jones will bring this period of organ music to our attention using an instrument that is perfect for it: the 1933 sixty-four stop Casavant at St. Cecilia's Church in Leominster. This event has something to appeal to each member of the Guild from the serious student of this period to those who merely like listening to romantic music (like me!) Plan on attending.

**SIMON PRESTON AT MECHANICS HALL, TUESDAY, APRIL 23.** There are few organists more respected than Simon Preston, and his concert with the Worcester Orchestra makes two firsts. It will be the first time that the Hook organ or an organist is featured as a part of the Worcester Orchestra's regular concert season. We've waited three years for this. It will also be the premiere of the Hook organ with its new, larger blower which is being installed on Easter Monday. To be honest, it took a lot of work to convince the Music Association to "risk" having an organist as a featured artist at one of its concerts, and the possibility of it happening again hinges largely on the response to this concert. Please support it with your presence. Tickets for Guild members are reduced to \$10.00 and there will be a special reception afterwards.

Looking ahead—Thanks to those of you who returned the information I requested to the

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AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
WORCESTER CHAPTER  
MECHANICS HALL  
321 MAIN STREET  
WORCESTER, MA 01608

## SERMON FOR THE FIRST DAY OF APRIL

"Let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one."

Jesus Christ

"Let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one."

Ronald Reagan, defending arms build-up

"As if Christ, who taught nothing but patience and meekness, meant the sword used by bandits and murderers rather than the sword of the Spirit. Our exegete thinks that Christ equipped the apostles with lances, crossbows, slings, and muskets.

Dame Folly, (from The Praise of Folly  
by Erasmus)

tus illud, μισῶ μνάμονα συμπόταμ. Nouū hoc, μισῶ μνάμονα ἀκροα. *Οὐκ ἐπιμένοντα ἀκροα.*  
Quare ualete, plaudite, uiuite, bibite, Moria celeberrimi Mylta. ΜΟΡΙΑΣ ΕΙΣΚΟΜΙΩΝ Feliciter absolutum.



Holbein. Drawing from Erasmus's copy of *In Praise of Folly*

(continued from preceding page)

Guild office for our Guild Service, Dinner, and Annual Meeting on June 2 at the First Church in Spencer. Once again, this is a must-attend. I cannot stress how important it is that the full membership be present. One reason of course, is because we are inviting all the clergy, bishops, etc., and we don't want them to outnumber us. But the second reason is that during our annual meeting we will be voting on the Executive Board's recommendation to (hold onto your organ benches!) host a national AGO Convention in 1990. This is a decision of great importance and we need you to make it.

The service will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will be highlighted by a long-awaited address from our Chaplain, Wallace W. Robbins. We adjourn to dinner and the meeting afterwards. Speaking of dinners, those of you who attended 1983's Fall Crawl know of the culinary abilities of the ladies of First Church, so we are assured of a delicious meal before we begin our deliberations. Full details next month.

Ballots for next year's officers are enclosed in this newsletter. The nominating Committee did an excellent job, and we thank them. Please return the ballots to the Guild office. They must be postmarked no later than April 30. Only full members and dual members may vote. Your name must be on the outside of the envelope.

Our Bach-a-thon was a success for all those who performed as well as financially. Our efforts raised approximately \$500.00 towards chapter activities, but perhaps the best part of the event was the chance so many of our members had to perform a public (albeit brief) recital on a noteworthy instrument. We have a lot of darn good players! Bravo and Brava to each of you, and special Bravas for Lucy Falco and Karen Wielsma who organized it. Trinity Church and Steve Long also receive our thanks for their ever-present hospitality, as does Trinity's building manager, Dave Brockway, for extending his hours and himself for us. Lucy, you should publish your Bachish chorale prelude arrangement of Happy Birthday.

One final word—we extend our warmest congratulations to Worcester Chapter Anglophile, Barry Wood. We received word this week that Barry has been given the unusual honor of being named to the Order of the British Empire by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. To be named to this order, one must have performed special service for the benefit of the British Commonwealth, and we understand that in naming Barry, Buckingham Palace said, "There is now a Walker Organ in nearly every village in the colonies, due to Mr. Wood's efforts." Congratulations, Barry, and April fools!



**PLACEMENT**

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HOLLISTON, MA. O/D. 1 choir. 1 service. \$4,000. Contact Fr. George Hearn, 429-4248

**NEXT YEAR'S DUES**

Dues notices will be going out with the May newsletter. There will be an increase in dues for voting members, \$40 as opposed to the previous \$34. PLEASE REFER TO THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE AMERICAN ORGANIST, page 7, for an explanation of this increase. More will be said about this issue in the May newsletter, however, for those who have read page 7 of the TAO, it should be clear that due to National's new policy of receiving (demanding) \$20 per chapter member the new mandatory minimum is \$37. In accordance with National's guidelines, the Worcester Chapter Executive Committee passed a motion at its last meeting to likewise raise its share of each member's dues to \$20, i. e. the Worcester Chapter keeps \$20 and National gets \$20—total \$40. NOTE: Chapter Subscriber and Dual Member fees will NOT go up.

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**VOTING RULES**  
**FOR ENCLOSED BALLOT**

ONLY FULL VOTING MEMBERS AND DUAL MEMBERS MAY VOTE.

ALL BALLOTS MUST ARRIVE IN A SEALED ENVELOPE MARKED BALLOT WITH SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS.

BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 30.

SEND BALLOTS TO THE CHAPTER OFFICE:

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS  
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321 MAIN STREET  
WORCESTER, MA 01608

MARK YOUR CHOICE BY FILLING IN THE CIRCLE ADJACENT TO THE NAME, THUS, ● .  
BLANK LINES ARE FOR WRITE-INS.

CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

JEAN M. DAVIS

B. A. in Music, Wellesley College. Organ study with Clarence Watters and Carl Weinrich. Summer study at Andover Organ Institute, Harvard, Tanglewood, Kodaly Institute, Kecskemet, Hungary, and Wellesley. Voice study with Homer Mowe at Yale. Held Music Department chair at Bancroft School, Worcester for 20 years and Notre Dame Academy, Worcester for 5 years. Previously organist/director of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, First Church Congregational, both of Worcester. Presently O/D at St. John's Episcopal Church, Worcester.

CHARLES H. KING

In high school, studied piano with Madeline Levenson and organ with Alan Walker, then Music Director at Central Church. At that time, participated in several AGO student recitals. In 1969, received his Bachelor of Music Degree in Church Music from Westminster Choir College. Organist and Choir Director of Grace Baptist Church from 1971 to 1974 and a member of the Worcester Chapter AGO at that time. In 1974 became Organist and Choirmaster of Valley Forge Military Academy, Wayne, Pennsylvania. In 1982, returned to New England and assumed present position as Music Director at First Congregational Church, Worcester. Has appeared in recital at First Church and Mechanics Hall and recently in the Bach-a-thon. When in Pennsylvania, was a member of the Southeastern Chapter AGO.

BRUCE PORTER

Bachelor of Music in Organ from Oberlin Conservatory, Ohio; Master of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music. Studied organ with Fenner Douglass and Vernon de Tar. Former positions include: Minister of Music, Hope Congregational Church, Springfield, MA, 1961-67; Minister of Music, United Church of Christ in Keene, Keene, NH, 1967-83; M.M., United Congregational Church, Worcester, 1983 to present. Former Treasurer of Springfield Chapter AGO. Former Dean of Monadnock Chapter AGO, NH. Chairman-elect Area I (New England), American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. Former Director of Keene Chorale, and Adjunct Faculty, Keene State College.

PAUL F. ROY

Bachelor of Music degree in organ and liturgical music from the Hartt School of Music of the University of Hartford. Winner of the Organ Playing Competition for the Worcester Chapter AGO and first runner-up in the 1983 New England Regional AGO Competition held in Worcester. Organ studies began in Springfield, MA with Betty Manzi and Charles Page and continued under John Holtz at Hartt. Presently pursuing graduate work in organ performance with Barclay Wood of Worcester. Presently Organist and Choirmaster at Pakachoag Church, UCC and Instructor in organ and piano at the Pakachoag Community Music School. Has been a frequent recitalist throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut, last appearing as soloist at Mechanics Hall, Worcester.