

The Worcester Organist



The Newsletter of the Worcester Chapter American Guild of Organists

February/March 2005

In this issue:

- 1.....2004-2005 Guild Events
- 2.....Dean's Message: *The Competition Circuit*
- 3.....Grant from the Fuller Foundation
- 4.....Chapter Business
- 4.....Region I Convention, Hartford
- 6.....Calendar
- 9.....Placement

The Worcester Organist is published six times per year and is available online at www.worcesterago.org

Frank Corbin, *Editor*
Will Sherwood, *Webmaster*

1

WORCESTER CHAPTER AGO EVENTS - 2004-2005

Sunday, February 13th at 3:00pm

Scholarship Recital

Pakachoag Church, 203 Pakachoag Street, Auburn

Coordinator: Debra LeBrun: debra@lebruns.com 978-692-1309

Saturday, March 5th from 10:00am to 3:00pm

Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza

Wesley United Methodist Church, 114 Main Street, Worcester

Coordinator: Patricia Snyder: psnyder1@charter.net 860-923-3690

Saturday, March 12th at 1:00pm

Regional Young Organists Competition

Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster & Salisbury Streets, Worcester

Coordinator: Donald Meineke: drmeineke@trinityworc.org 508-667-4568

Saturday, April 16th from 10:00am to 1:30pm

Prelude & Postlude Repertoire Workshop for Organists with William Ness, Will Sherwood, & Peter Stoltzfus Berton

First Congregational Church, Shrewsbury, On the Common

Coordinator: Peter Stoltzfus Berton: peter@allsaintsw.org 508-752-3766 x 17

Monday, May 9th at 6:00pm (Dinner) & 8:00pm (Recital)

Annual Meeting: Potluck Dinner, Meeting, & Members' Recital

Celebrating the release of the Worcester Chapter's CD recording

Great Pipe Organs of Worcester

First Baptist Church, Salisbury Street and Park Avenue, Worcester

Coordinator: Frank Corbin: frank.corbin@verizon.net 508-756-7508

Region I Convention

June 26-29, Hartford, Connecticut

See article, page 4

Save the Date:

Tuesday, October 25, 2005, 7:30pm

John Scott, Organist & Choirmaster of St. Thomas Church, New York

All Saints Church, 10 Irving Street, Worcester

Coordinator: Peter Stoltzfus Berton: peter@allsaintsw.org 508-752-3766 x 17

DEAN'S MESSAGE

February/March 05: *The Competition Circuit*

During the next few months, Chapters and Regions will be hosting the AGO/Quimby Regional Young Organists Competition. For better or worse, competition seems to be an elemental force in just about every aspect of human endeavor. Better in that it gives one the opportunity to prepare rigorously, perform under pressure, get a sense of one's strengths and weaknesses, interact with others in the profession, and gain valuable exposure. Worse in that not winning feels rotten, no matter what comforting words may be offered at the time, and sometimes like in sports, business, politics, or whatever, things can seem to get a little out of hand, particularly on the sidelines.

Fortunately, the AGO has developed excellent rules and guidelines for ensuring that its contests are well run, fair, and if approached with a levelheaded attitude by all involved, can result in a positive experience for each person who participates. On the other hand, with the pressures that are frequently put on young people to be perfect and win everything all the time, from Abercrombie and Fitch ads to parents beating each other's brains out at Little League games, it makes one wonder if there aren't better ways to encourage and nurture high standards, whatever the activity, than having a contest about it.

In any case, if one does decide to enter one of the many competitions now available, it's more important than ever in our winner-take-all society to keep things in perspective as much as possible. Toward that aim, I'd like to offer a few words of advice to competitors as a former contestant who has won some and lost some:

1) Prepare as thoroughly as possible and leave nothing to chance. The more prepared you are, the more relaxed you will be, and the more free you will be to focus on making music. Above all, make music.

2) Losing graciously can sometimes be more important than winning. It tells a lot about character, and people do notice.

3) If a judge, music critic, or observer makes a comment in a cutting, sarcastic, or negative way, ignore everything they have to say. Someone with better intentions will always turn up who can tell you what you need to hear.

4) Regardless of the result, enter the next competition. Persistence eventually pays off, though not always in the manner one might expect.

Good luck!

- *Frank Corbin*

3

The George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation awards \$12,500 grant to the **Worcester Chapter AGO** to fund *Great Pipe Organs of Worcester* project

- Frank Corbin

The Chapter was notified on Christmas Eve that its proposal to the Fuller Foundation requesting financial assistance for the production costs of its CD project, *Great Pipe Organs of Worcester*, was approved. The total amount requested was awarded and the Chapter is deeply grateful to the Foundation for its support of the project. Many thanks are also due Nancy Avila who provided valuable advice in the writing of the proposal.

As the recording sessions get under way over the next six weeks, Dr. Charles Paquette will be a busy man. The Chapter owes Dr. Paquette a huge thank you for volunteering his time, talents, state-of-the-art equipment, and vast archive of recordings of Worcester area concerts from the past 30 years. In some cases, archival material will be used instead of new recordings.

If all goes according to plan, the master recording and program booklet should be completed by the end of March, allowing four weeks for manufacture and duplication by Disc Makers. The 2-CD set should be ready for distribution by the time of our annual meeting on May 9th. The instruments at the following venues will be featured:

- All Saints Church
- Assumption College
- College of the Holy Cross
- First Baptist Church
- First Unitarian Church
- Mechanics Hall
- Our Lady of the Angels
- Pakachoag Church
- Salem Covenant Church
- Saint Joseph's Church
- Saint Paul's Cathedral
- Saint Peter's Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- United Congregational Church
- Wesley United Methodist Church
- Worcester Art Museum
- Worcester Auditorium

This promises to be one of the most exciting projects the Chapter has undertaken. It has already generated enough interest for Assumption's Office of Public Affairs to do an article which may be viewed online at:

http://www.assumption.edu/news/newshp/current_news/corbin.html

CHAPTER BUSINESS

The Executive Committee met on December 12th at the home of Frank Corbin. Present were Ronna Archbold, Peter Stolfus Berton, Frank Corbin, Greg Martiros, Donald Meineke, James Moore, Lois Toepfner.

It was suggested that the Chapter make a \$500 donation to the Region I Convention in Hartford this summer. The committee was unanimously in favor and the Finance Committee subsequently approved it by email vote.

The future work of the membership committee was discussed as the Chapter seeks to bring in new members and encourage those who didn't renew last summer to consider doing so during the next membership registration period.

The members of the executive committee present along with the Region I Councilor signed the formal copy of the new Operating Procedures, which were approved by the general membership and officially adopted November 1, 2004. This copy was subsequently sent to the National Vice President for her signature and has been returned. Once the remaining signatures of the current executive committee members have been obtained, it will be held by the Secretary as the official keeper of records for the Chapter.

CONVENTION UPDATE

SUPERSTARS to perform at 2005 AGO Region I Convention June 26-29, Hartford, Connecticut

Top organists from around the world, nation, and region will dazzle us with significant programs on first-rate instruments at the 2005 AGO Region I Convention, to be held in Hartford, Connecticut, June 26-29.

Brilliant interpreter and improviser **David Briggs**, most recently of Gloucester Cathedral, will open the convention on Sunday evening, June 26, with a concert on the recently restored and –enhanced Austin organ at Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal/Anglican). Christ Church Cathedral is but a one-block walk from the convention hotel, and a festive opening reception will be sure to keep people talking after the concert.

Monday, June 27 will feature two sure-to-be-exciting programs. We will hear **Bradley Hunter Welch** (most recent winner of the Dallas International Organ Competition and recent Yale graduate) on the largest church organ in Connecticut, the 137-rank Austin, at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph. Noted for its outstanding modern twentieth century architecture, the cathedral's windows function as its walls. Their 70-foot height and brilliant colors cannot be missed. Then we will travel to

5

Congregation Beth Israel for a program, given by **Patricia Snyder** (the newly-appointed associate in organ at the Hartt School, University of Hartford), on another recently restored and –upgraded Austin. Of note on this instrument is a “shofar” stop that is used to herald the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah).

A wonderful “field trip” is slated for Tuesday, June 28. Our late afternoon and evening will be spent on the lovely grounds of Trinity College. **John Rose** will offer a program for organ and instruments on the 79-rank Austin in the college’s glorious Gothic-revival chapel. Following a wine-and-cheese reception with musical entertainment provided on the college’s carillon and the convention banquet, we will return to the chapel to experience **Paul Jacobs’s** masterful handling of instrument and music (Paul, as many of may be aware, is a recent Yale graduate who was named chair of the organ department at the Juilliard School).

We will start Wednesday, June 29 with a concert by **Reneé Louprette** (former Greater Hartford dean, most recently returned from two years’ study and work in Toulouse) on the unaltered E.M. Skinner organ at the Second Church of Christ, Scientist (just across the street from the state capitol building and next to the state library and supreme court). Get ready to experience a Flûte triangulaire! Our musical time together will conclude with a program by **Mary Preston** (Dallas Symphony organist) on the recently re-voiced and restored Aeolian-Skinner organ at Asylum Hill Congregational Church. The festivities will continue that evening with a glorious reception to be held on the top floor of The Hartford’s office tower (adjacent to Asylum Hill Congregational Church).

Are you getting excited? Can’t wait to sign-up? If you have not yet received a registration form, pay close attention to your mail. Fill out the required information and send it to the convention registrar. For more information the convention, including these performers and these instruments, visit www.HartfordAGO.org.

I look forward to meeting you at the end of June!

All best,
Jason Charneski, Dean
Greater Hartford Chapter, AGO

Publicity Chair, 2005 AGO Region I Convention

CALENDAR**Friday, February 4, 2005 at 8:00pm**

Borodin *Polovetsian Dances from "Prince Igor"*, Guilmant *Symphony No. 1 for Organ and Orchestra*, and Mahler *Symphony No. 1 in D minor*. To benefit Music Worcester, in honor of its 145th Anniversary. The Worcester Chorus, The Bay State Philharmonic Orchestra, and featuring England's Ian Watson, performing on the magnificent Hook organ. Mechanics Hall, Worcester. For tickets and information, call 508-754-3231 or www.musicworcester.org

Sunday, February 6, 2005 at 12:15pm

Pipes Alive! Series of Organ Recitals. *Monumental Mendelssohn*, in honor of the month of Felix Mendelssohn's birth, in 1809. Scott Lamlein, organist. Works include Sonatas II and Sonata III, plus the well-known "Midsummer Night's Dream" Wedding March. Wesley United Methodist Church, 114 Main Street, Worcester. 1927 E. M. Skinner organ. Open to general public; free-will donations. Information: 508-799-4191 x107, or scott@wesleychurchworcester.org

Tuesday, February 8, 2005 at 8:00pm

Peter Sykes, organ and harpsichord. Ach, was soll ich Sunder machen, BWV 770; Partita 3, BWV 827; Christ, der du bist der helle Tag, BWV 1120 (Neumeister), and BWV 766. Partita 6, BWV 830. First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge MA. \$10 suggested donation. 617-661-0570 or www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info.

Sunday, February 13, 2005 at 2:00pm

Enid Katahn - Amy Dorfman, duo pianists. Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Assumption College, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester. Admission free. 508-767-7000 or www.assumption.edu

Sunday, February 13th at 3:00pm

AGO Scholarship Recital
Pakachoag Church, 203 Pakachoag Street, Auburn
Coordinator: Debra LeBrun: debra@lebruns.com 978-692-1309

Sunday, February 20, 2005 at 5:00pm

Concert by the Yale Spizzwinks(?), America's oldest underclassmen a cappella ensemble. Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster & Salisbury Streets, Worcester.

Sunday February 20, 2005 at 4:00pm

The Arcadia Players Baroque Ensemble play Vivaldi *Four Seasons*. Dana Maiben, soloist. St. Paul's Cathedral, Chatham & High Streets, Worcester. Admission free.

Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 8:00pm

Christa Rakich and Peter Sykes, organ. Fantasia and Fugue in c minor (unfinished), BWV 561; Chorale Preludes for Lent and Passiontide; Fantasia in C Major, BWV 570. The First Lutheran Church of Boston, 299 Berkeley Street, Boston. \$10 suggested donation. 617-661-0570 or www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info.

Saturday, February 26, 2005 at 7:30pm

Clark Wilson, theatre organist. Knight Auditorium, Babson College, Wellesley. www.EMCATOS.com

Sunday, February 27, 2005 at 2:30pm

Clark Wilson, theatre organist, playing the Wurlitzer organ. Shanklin Music Hall, Groton, MA. www.EMCATOS.com

Worcester Chapter AGO Event

Saturday, March 5th from 10:00am to 3:00pm

Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza

Wesley United Methodist Church, 114 Main Street, Worcester

Coordinator: Patricia Snyder: psnyder1@charter.net 860-923-3690

Saturday, March 5, 2005 at 8:00pm

Two Women of Canada: Ruth Watson Henderson *Voices of Earth*, and Eleanor Daley *Requiem*. The Master Singers of Worcester, Malcolm Halliday, Artistic Director. First Unitarian Church, 90 Main Street, Worcester. Tickets \$18/general; \$15/student-senior.

Sunday, March 6, 2005 at 12:15pm

Pipes Alive! Series of Organ Recitals.

Great Hymns of the Faith. Scott Lamlein, organist. Hymn arrangements by composers of all eras will be presented in this program of prayer and inspiration. Wesley United Methodist Church, 114 Main Street, Worcester. 1927 E. M. Skinner organ. Open to general public; free-will donations. Information: 508-799-4191 x107, or scott@wesleychurchworchester.org

Sunday, March 6, 2005 at 4:00pm

Lauridsen *Lux Aeterna*, Raminsh *Magnificat*. Assabet Valley Mastersingers, Dr. Robert P. Eaton, Artistic Director; with organ and Pamela Dellal, alto. St. Rose of Lima Church, Northborough. Information: 978-562-9838 or www.avmsingers.org

Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at 8:00pm

Christa Rakich, harpsichord and organ. Praeludium and Fughetta in d minor, BWV 899; French Suite #6, BWV 817; Fugue in c minor, BWV 575; Fugue in G Major, BWV 577; Fugue in b minor on a subject of Corelli, BWV 579; Fuga supra il Magnificat, BWV 733. St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul Street, Brookline MA \$10 suggested donation. 617-661-0570 or www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info

Saturday, March 12th at 1:00pm

Regional Young Organists Competition
Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster & Salisbury Streets, Worcester
Coordinator: Donald Meineke: drmeineke@trinityworc.org
508-667-4568

Friday, March 18, 2005 at 7:00pm

Stations of the Cross with dramatic reading, choir, and organ improvisation. Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster & Salisbury Streets, Worcester.

Sunday, March 20, 2005 at 3:00pm

James David Christie, organist (Distinguished Artist in Residence, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, and Organist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra). St. Joseph's Chapel, College of the Holy Cross, Route 290 Exit 11, College Square, Worcester. Admission free; handicapped accessible.

Sunday, March 20, 2005 at 7.30pm

Choral Tenebrae, St. Paul's Cathedral, Chatham & High Streets, Worcester. Admission free.

Monday, March 21, 2005 at 8:00pm

Christa Rakich and Peter Sykes, organ. Chorale Preludes from the Leipzig collection, BWV 651-668. Old West Church, 131 Cambridge Street, Boston. \$10 suggested donation. 617-661-0570 or www.tuesdayswithsebastian.info.

9

Friday, March 25, 2005 at 7:00pm

Musical Interpretations of the Seven Last Words from the Cross. Vocal soloists, William E. Nierintz, organist. First Congregational Church, 26 Central Street, West Boylston, MA 01583.

Sunday, April 3, 2005 at 12:15pm

Pipes Alive! Series of Organ Recitals. *Bach to Basics*. Great music by the greatest of the great composers. Scott Lamlein, organist. Works will include the Prelude and Fugue in C Major (9/8) and the Prelude and Fugue in C minor. Wesley United Methodist Church, 114 Main Street, Worcester. 1927 E. M. Skinner organ. Open to general public; free-will donations. Information: 508-799-4191 x107, or scott@wesleychurchworcester.org

Sunday, April 3, 2005 at 2:00pm

Hesperus and Andes Manta. Ancestors: African and indigenous music from New Spain. Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Assumption College, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester. Admission free. 508-767-7000 or www.assumption.edu

Sunday, April 3, 2005 at 3:00pm

William Peterson, organist (The Harry S. and Madge Rice Thatcher Professor of Music and College Organist, Pomona College, Claremont, CA). St. Joseph's Chapel, College of the Holy Cross, Route 290 Exit 11, College Square, Worcester. Admission free; handicapped accessible.

PLACEMENT

Organist/Choir Director - Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

79 Cross St., Gardner, MA 01440

Conn Electronic, 2 manuals, Yamaha Keyboard, upright piano, 1 adult choir (10 people). \$8,000-\$8,500; 4 weeks vacation

Fr. John Leahy, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

79 Cross St., Gardner, MA 01440

978-632-0825, Fax: 978-632-9935, frjohnleahy@msn.com

Director of Music/Organist - Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester

90 Holden St., Worcester, MA 01606

Hammond Organ, antique Steinway piano, Soloists, Adult Choir, possibly others to be developed. approx. \$6000

Rev. Aaron R. Payson

90 Holden St.

Worcester, MA 01606

508-853-1942, Fax: 508-853-4188, uuchurch@gis.net

10

Minister of Music -Trinity Episcopal Church

33 Linwood Ave, Whitinsville, MA 01588

1946 Aeolian-Skinner, 14 ranks; Pearl River piano in Chancel; Lester piano in choir room. Adult Choir (Sept-Mid-June), Jr. Choir (Sept-April)

\$10,000 - \$12,000; 15-18 hours per week. 4 weeks vac, additional Sundays off can be negotiated.

Rev. Charles Sutton

Trinity Episcopal Church, 33 Linwood Ave, Whitinsville, MA 01588

508-234-5303, day, 508-234-7222, eve. Fax: 508-234-5202

trinitywhitinsville@juno.com

Organist & Choir Director – Unitarian Universalist Society of Gardner

66 Elm St., Po Box 637, Gardner, MA 01440

Well maintained 1902 Tracker organ by J.W. Steere & Son, Springfield; upright piano; 8-10 hours per week, negotiable. 10 a.m. worship service. Organ and Adult Choir (Sept.-Mid-June); Summers off; Growing church with intimate choir. Musical depth in congregation. Try us out as a Substitute O and/or C/D. Pianist/choir director may be a successful candidate. \$6000

Search Committee

Victoria V. Heidorn, Chairperson

PO Box 637

Gardner, MA 01440

vvheidorn@net1plus.com

Director of Music/Organist – United Church of Christ

23 Central Square, Keene, NH 03431

Berkshire/Gilbert from late 1800's, 3 manuals, electric action, in excellent condition. Will be responsible for directing all music programs related to worship, playing the organ/piano at worship services (Sunday AM at 10:15 and special services), preparing and directing the choirs, and hiring soloists and instrumentalists. There is an adult choir of 36 members with 4 paid section leaders, children's choirs, and two handbell choirs.

We desire a director who will seek to broaden and enhance the congregation's worship music experience. There are approx. 20 weddings and funerals per year. \$22,000-\$26,00 plus benefits (Medical, FICA, Continuing Ed, Annuity). Approx. 30 hours per week.

Dan Harris, c/o Allstate

403 Winchester St.

Keene, NH 03431

Day: 603-357-7000 Eve: 603-352-1360 Fax: 603-352-9412

Calendar

To have an event listed in the Calendar section of the Newsletter and on the Website, please send all information to:

Karin Gustafson: Karin.j.gustafson@worldnet.att.net 508-879-7262
1296 Worcester Road Apt 2411
Framingham, MA 01702

Please e-mail Calendar items by the 15th of the preceding month. The Worcester Organist Calendar of Events lists organ and choral recitals and concert events given by and for Chapter members. Non-member and other music events of interest may be included as space permits.

Placement

To have a position listed in the Placement section of the Newsletter and on the Website, please contact:

Debra LeBrun: debra@lebruns.com 978-692-1309
68R Stony Brook Road
Westford, MA 01886

The cost to place an ad for four months is \$20. Checks should be made payable to Worcester Chapter AGO and mailed to Debra LeBrun at the above address.

To request copies of the following publications and materials, contact:

Chapter Membership Application Form

Claudette Belair: cabtrazom@aol.com 508-865-9768
2 Carlton Road
Millbury, MA 01527

Professional Certification Exams Information & Application Forms

Dr. Marjorie Ness: drmadgel@aol.com 978-365-2416
344 South Meadow Raod
Lancaster, MA 01523

Worcester Chapter Work and Compensation Guidelines

Renea Waligora: rwdinda@verizon.net 978-345-0933
534 Ashburnham Hill Road
Fitchburg, MA 01420

The website for the National Headquarters of the AGO is a marvelous resource for this and other types of information pertaining to guild services: **www.agohq.org**