



The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

SEPTEMBER 2011

VOLUME 11, #1

Greetings From the Dean...

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a great summer, unquestionably, - with dramatic weather, and just enough extremely hot days to make us appreciate the cooler ones in August. I hope you all had time to relax and refresh, especially if you, like me, are suddenly realizing that it is now 'crunch' time!

Late summer can be one of the busiest times of the year, as we try to plan music in advance, perhaps right through April, May and June of 2012! It's a big effort, whether one works to organize a full year, or just a few months, and requires us to consult with our clergy, the church or temple secretary and her calendar, and the worship committee if there is one. We are all so fortunate to have the ease of communication unheard-of just a few generations ago: texting, phone-messaging, e-mails, documents that can be sent in the blink of an eye. While not a replacement for one-on-one dialogue, all this technology does help our connection with friends and professional colleagues, as long as we don't forget what the main purpose is - to communicate, and to listen.

We will use our listening skills a lot this year! Later in this issue please read about a short series of programs called "Conversations on Professional Challenges" to which you, our Chapter Members, are invited to contribute. Please see the Calendar for 2011-12. While it is not yet complete, you'll find a lot to look forward to.

Last June, the Westchester AGO Chapter was invited by Anthony Thurman, AGO Regional Director of Development and Communications, to consider hosting the 2015 regional convention. Late in July the WAGO board met with him and also with Agnes Armstrong, our Regional Counsellor. After giving this some thought, the Board decided that we need you, the membership, to give us your input. We will have an informal meeting to discuss this exciting possibility at our first program on September 18th beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Church of the Highlands, White Plains. Following a question-and-answer session with Tony Thurman, Dr. Robert Chase will speak on "Westchester AGO, the First 60 Years." Bob Chase found Westchester Chapter's history so interesting he wrote a book about us! Then, at a pot-luck dinner coordinated by Lois Simmonds (see below) we will celebrate our 60th year as a Chapter in the AGO and start this new season off deliciously. For all the above reasons, and for the fun of just getting together again after the summer, you will not want to miss this meeting!

Please call Lois Simmonds with your dish, drink or other contribution!

See you soon!

Alice Avouris

WESTCHESTER AGO EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Westchester AGO

2011-2012 Program Schedule

Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Celebrating 60 Years; Pot-Luck and General Meeting.
Church in the Highlands, 35 Bryant Avenue White Plains, NY 10605.

Host/Speaker: **Robert Chase, ChM, AAGO, EdD,**

"Westchester Chapter: the First 60 Years"

Guest: F. Anthony Thurman, DMA, AGO Director of Development and Communications

Informal Meeting to discuss hosting a Region I&II convention in 2015

Pot-Luck Coordinator: Lois Simmonds

Sunday, October 30

Organ recital & Solemn Evensong, Christ Church, Bronxville Organist/Host: Christopher Wells

3:00 to 4:15: **"Conversations on Professional Challenges"**

4:30: organ recital (on new, 65-rank Casavant organ)

5: p.m. Solemn Evensong with guest conductor, Philip Stopford,

Reception by the WAGO

Saturday, November 12, 10:00 to Noon

"More Conversations on Professional Challenges: Contracts and Organ Maintenance"

The Presbyterian Church of Katonah. Host: **Eileen Laurence**

Tuesday, November 15 at 8:00 p.m. Jon Gillock plays Messiaen

Church of the Ascension, NYC.

"Meditations on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity (1969)"

Carpooling, tickets, etc.: **Kathy Jones**

Sunday, January 7, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. (Snow Date: January 14th)

TWELFTH NIGHT PARTY

At the home of **Dr. Robert Chase**, White Plains

February 2012– Date and venue to be determined

"Hymnfest of Members' favorite African-American, Hispanic & Other Non-traditional, Ethnic Hymns"

March 2012 – Date and venue to be determined

Members' Compositions program

April 22, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Choral Reading

The Larchmont Temple

Host/Presenter: **Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist**

May 20, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Member Recital: Transcriptions

The Mount Kisco Presbyterian Church

Host: **Terrence Flanagan**

Coordinator: Sub-Dean **Judith Abel**

June 2012 – Date and venue to be determined

Theatre Organ Excursion or Organ Crawl

Date and venue to be determined

Concert Calendar

The Osborn Chapel

101 Theall Road
Rye, NY 10580

"2ND SUNDAYS at THE OSBORN"

30-minute Organ Recitals at The Osborn Chapel at 2 PM

Sep. 11, 2011: Lyudmila German

Oct. 9, 2011: Susan Paisley & Paul Jordan

Nov. 13, 2011: **Judith Barber Abel**

Dec. 11, 2011: **Jayson Rodovsky Engquist**

Admission is FREE -- All are welcome:

For Information call: (914) 777-1660

To view the schedule of music events at Grace Church, White Plains, go to:

www.dtmusic.org/

To view the schedule of musical events at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Scarsdale, go to:

www.hitchcockpresby.org/secondary/4_0.html

The New Haven AGO Chapter now has a website dedicated to promoting organ, sacred vocal and choral music events in Greater New Haven: www.sacredmusicCT.org

Reminders:

Dues are due! If you haven't already done so please send your dues and advertisement payments to the Registrar.

Please note:

Bob Chase is looking for the Directory for 1998-1999 season, or any *Trompette* from that same season. Please check your files to see if you might have one.

.Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Reads & Mixtures

A NOTE OF THANKS

My deepest gratitude for your cards, phone calls, visits, and gifts during my recent hospital stay. Your support and prayers contributed greatly to my recovery.

Sincerely, Joyce Gardner

PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES

Do you have a story you'd like to share about a problem you may have had as a professional musician in your house of worship? We would like to include your story in the first of two programs on *Conversations about Professional Challenges*, October 30th at 3:00 p.m. at Christ Church, Bronxville. (After *Conversations*, we will attend Christopher Wells' organ recital at 4:30 and Solemn Evensong at 5:00 p.m.) Here are some examples of what we mean:

- 1) I don't know what to do about a choir member whose hearing (and pitch) has gone, or whose voice is overpowering the choir.
- 2) A member of the congregation or clergy makes musical repertoire decisions for me.
- 3) After 10 years I need someone to talk to about a contract or job expectations.
- 4) My minister always seems too busy to talk with me about things!
- 5) The pipe organ in my house of worship needs renovating and I don't know who to contact. I have heard some horror stories!
- 6) I would like to present some major choral works with my choir during morning worship. How can I do that without ruffling feathers?

If you have none of these problems, you're lucky! We're hoping that those who have had experience dealing with these kinds of questions will be interested in sharing with other Chapter Members. Please contact Alice Avouris or Eileen Laurence to volunteer your story for *Conversations*, and thank you!

AGO NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the Eastman School of Music are partnering to produce the 16th biennial AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy, November 10–13, 2011, in Rochester, N.Y. The conference, designed in cooperation between the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education and the 10th annual Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival, will present the topic of organ improvisation through a variety of compositional techniques and styles. Complete information, including online registration, is available from the Coordinator. Early registration discounts are available through August 15. For further information, please contact please contact EROI Festival Coordinator Annie Laver at e-mail anne.laver@rochester.edu

BYE-BYE TO THE ARTS (From Frank Miller)

A typical, tunnel-visioned New York legislator who is also on the Board of Regents was convinced to use a complimentary ticket for an orchestra concert. The ensemble was made up of the finest High School and college musicians in the state performing Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony." The next day he was asked how he enjoyed it, and instead of a few plausible observations, he handed over a memorandum which read as follows:

1. The pictures and extra border frills on the program are a waste of time and ink.
2. The use of colored ink on the programs is more expensive and unnecessary.
3. For a considerable period, the oboe players had nothing to do. Their number should be reduced and their work spread over the whole orchestra, thus avoiding peaks of inactivity.
4. All twelve violins were playing identical notes. This seems to be unnecessary duplication and the staff of this section should be drastically cut. If a large volume of sound is really required, this should be obtained through the use of an amplifier and speakers.
5. Much effort was involved in playing very quick notes which are called "sixteenth notes" for some strange reason. This seems as excessive refinement, and it is recommended that all notes should be rounded up to the slower "eighth note." If this is done, it would be possible to use disadvantaged participants instead of show-off musicians.
6. No useful purpose is served by repeating with horns the passage that has already been handled by the strings. If all such redundant passages were eliminated, the concert could be reduced from two hours to twenty minutes.
7. This symphony has two movements. If Schubert did not achieve his musical goals by the end of the first movement, then he should have stopped there. The second movement is unnecessary and should be cut.

In light of the above, one can only conclude that had Schubert given attention to these matters, he would have had time to finish his symphony, ink and time would not have been wasted on the program, much electrical power could have been saved in the concert hall and additional money would have been saved by using fewer musicians.

I am up for my fourth re-election. Thank you for your support. Please remember me again when you vote.

THE NOSEY DEAN (with thanks to Doris Dubac for the suggestion):

If you were getting married now, and had complete control over it, what you would want played and/or sung at your own wedding? Please send or call in your response to Alice Avouris! Meanwhile, here are a few e-mail responses:

Processional: "Get Me to the Church On Time"

Recessional: "Promises, Promises"

From **Ken Potter**: "If I told my wife of 17 years that I was getting married, she'd kill me. Okay, theoretically speaking, down the aisle to a piper playing "Highland Cathedral" with organ, using Jim Wetherald's arrangement. Recess to the finale to "Sonata on the 94th Psalm" to make sure the organist had to work really hard. Revenge can be sweet! "Actually we got married in our house with my best friend/best man playing some assorted English voluntaries on my little Flentrop. I was in shock, so don't ask me what he played. After the ceremony we

changed into jeans and T shirts and had a barbecue. Then, since Nyack was having Grucci Fireworks on the Hudson to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Nyack Hospital, we all marched down to Memorial Park with kazoos playing an improvised “1812 Overture” and “The Dum Dum Song” (don't ask....) Many of my students witnessed this and knew at last that Mr. Potter was indeed crazy!”

From **Alice Avouris**: For me, a perfect processional would be the same one my husband and I walked down the family stairs to 35 years ago. We had the stereo play “Shepherd’s Dance” from the Henry the 8th Suite by Edward German. Maybe someone should transcribe this for the organ! I think a perfect recessional would be the Toccata on “All You Need Is Love” by Paul Ayres.

INTERVIEW WITH AN ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR/HANDBELL DIRECTOR(!)

A long-time member, **Eileen Laurence** joined the WAGO Board at the beginning of the summer. She is enormously energetic, which is lucky, because her roster of positions puts me in awe! A fan of all kinds and styles of music, her position at Katonah Presbyterian has her directing vocal and handbell choirs for adults and young people, as well as serving as organist. She conducts for national and international handbell festivals, and in 2012 the Katonah Celebration Ringers are planning a trip to a festival in Liverpool. (The choir was featured on the CBS Charles Kuralt Show and the ringers have been guest artists with the Canadian Brass and the Paramount Brass. And the Katonah Celebration Ringers have just released a CD, *Around the World with KCR.*)

Eileen received her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the Juilliard School of Music, with a major in voice under Belle Julie Soudant and a minor in organ under Vernon deTar. After graduation, Eileen sang freelance in New York City for 20 years, soloing with such renowned conductors as Leonard Bernstein and Pierre Boulez. She recorded for Decca and Columbia labels. Her initial training in handbells comes from Robert Ivey at the Westminster Choir School in Princeton, NJ. Eileen is accredited by the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers as a Full Director and Massed Conductor.

Alice: Eileen, do you have an important early musical memory?

Eileen: I begged my parents for music lessons as a child, and they made me wait until I was 6 years old before letting me take piano lessons. At 10 I added voice lessons to the mix, with organ starting when I was about 12. I knew from an early age that music would be my profession.

Alice: You must have had several music teachers even at a young age. Can you talk a little about what influences they had on you?

Eileen: I had wonderful teachers in school and privately. My sister, who was 9 years older than I, first heard me sing at a church function, and told my parents to give me lessons because I “had a voice.” At least that’s the story in the family. (Perhaps I was so bad she told them to PLEASE let me have lessons!) My music teachers at public school advised me that if I could be happy in any other profession than music, to go in that direction. But I would not hear of it! I don’t know when I heard of Juilliard from my small chicken farm in Delaware, but that was my dream. I took an advisory audition at Juilliard when I was 15 and was advised by the teachers there to audition for entrance upon my graduation from high

school. I entered Juilliard when I was 16. I must have skipped some grades in public school. I have no recollection of that. I just did what people told me to do.

Alice: What advice do you have for beginning organists, or organists just starting out in a church/temple job?

Eileen: Learn to sing so you breathe with your playing. Learn to listen to your people. Learn to handle the church budget. Be kind.

Alice: You have a really busy schedule. Balancing family life and your professional work, not to mention volunteering, must be challenging. Any advice?

Eileen: Hang on!

Alice: Organist, handbell director, choral director, soloist – do you have a favorite?

Eileen: I have gone from piano, to singing, to organ, to composing to conducting. Love them all, except I don't sing anymore. You don't dabble in singing. You either sing or not and I have chosen to stop. I went into conducting and composing late in life. I did not see any role models for those branches of music when I entered Juilliard in 1955. I am beginning to see a change in the gender equality with regard to conducting, but Americans have a long way to go. (And might I say that much the same goes for being in leadership roles in government.) And how many female composers do you know? In my experience, the most open possibilities for that are in the handbell world.

Alice: Thank you, Eileen.

THE POSTLUDE

(From **Frank Miller**)

I go from page to page and book to book,
Sometimes, it's for days that I look.
All that time is well spent in the search –
It's for God's service in my church.
I practice every note 'till I get it right –
Sometimes I work until late at night.
After the Benediction the sounds pour forth –
I'm now playing for all I'm worth.
Then my eyes glance away from the score.
I'm amazed at what I see on the floor.
While I was playing and being quite deft-
All the people got up and left!

Empty Benches

MUSIC DIRECTOR

(August 2011)

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

55 Ryder Road

Ossining, N.Y.

Job involves being on call for funerals, special masses, and any other organ/piano/choir duties the Maryknoll organization desires. Information on rate of pay was not given.

Contact:

Fr. Michael Duggan, M.M.

914-941-7636, x 2546 or 2211

ORGANIST

(Sept. 2011)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Somers, N.Y.

One service Sunday mornings at 9:30, and two Thursday evening rehearsals per month. Short choir rehearsal Sundays at 8:45.

Extra services during Holy Week and Christmas.

Contact:

Joyce Ottinger, Director of Music at

joyce_ottinger@yahoo.com

Note: In addition to the local listings above, Members should check the National AGO website / TAO and the ChoralNet website for jobs within the Region

NOTICE FROM YOUR PLACEMENT COORDINATOR

Remember to check the National website, www.agohq.org, for jobs available. The Career Services link has been updated and is quite user-friendly, now. Also, check the Choral Directors of America website, www.choralnet.org/list/classified. Your local chapter PC person will continue to notify you of local jobs that come directly to our attention.

SUBSTITUTE LIST

Judith Abel (Protestant and Catholic services,
Weddings and funerals)
Dorothy Beach
Carolyn Karlsrud
Virginia Bender
Michael Goodman (Christian & Jewish)
Marilyn Ballantine
Eileen Laurence (Saturday services, Christian & Jewish)
Richard Piluso (Catholic services)
Timothy Keenan-Devlin (Catholic weddings, funerals,
and Saturday night masses)
John Dominick
Rick Tripodi
Jayson Rodovsky –Engquist
Chia Li Sung
Alla Borzova

Note: If you would like your name added or subtracted from this list, please contact Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist

PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

As of August, 2011, **Jayson Rodovsky-Engquist** and **Judith Abel** are working as co-placement coordinators for the WestchesterAGO Chapter. Members, if you request a sub by e-mail, please send to both Jayson and Judith, or you may send to: placement@agowestchester.org . You may contact Judith by phone, but contact Jayson only by e-mail. Jayson is responsible for broadcasting the sub request to our sub list. He will also be broadcasting notices for sub jobs that come from the Fairfield West Chapter. Members, please send information about Empty Benches that come to your attention to both Jayson and Judith. Judith is responsible for broadcasting Empty Bench notices by e-mail to the entire Chapter membership. The Trompette will publish only the Empty Bench notices in which the parties searching for an organist have asked for their notice to be run in our newsletter, or that are for positions in our immediate Westchester area. Additional notices for jobs outside Westchester will be sent only by e-mail. Please note that other jobs can be found by searching national websites like AGO and ChoralNet and individual denomination websites.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR MEMBERS ON THE SUB LIST

At the last Board meeting, it was recommended that our Chapter members who are on our Substitute List, which is posted on our AGO Westchester website, should have their phone numbers listed next to their name, if they so desire. Those members need to be aware that the website can be freely accessed by anyone in the world. Therefore, phone numbers listed there are available to anyone in the world and anyone who allows their phone number to be posted is taking a risk. To legally protect ourselves, the Chapter must have written permission, which will be kept on file, from sub list members before your phone number will be posted on our website next to your name. You may send a letter by U.S. Mail to:

Judith B. Abel

or you may hand your written permission to her at one of our Chapter meetings. If you have a question about this policy, you may call Judy or e-mail her.

From Your Newsletter Editors...

The Dean and the Executive Committee encourage you to send informative articles and any other items of interest for publication in the Newsletter.

The Trompette is sent out by email, and by regular mail to those members without an email address. The electronic versions are sent out immediately after finalization, but processing the printed copies can take a week or more, plus the delivery of the regular postal mail can additionally take a week or more. If you have an email address, but are presently receiving your copy by postal mail, consider receiving it electronically instead, saving the Chapter postage expense. Send your email address to: Lois Simmonds

Please send us your material by the **20th of each month** to ensure that we will be able to deliver the Newsletter to the membership on or about the 1st of each month. If still relevant, late submissions will be published in the subsequent issue.

Do not send in items more than once. For the Concert Calendar, include event, date, time, location, cost (if any) and an information phone number. (Incomplete or unclear submissions cannot be printed.) Due to space constraints, articles and notices are frequently edited.

If you have provided a notice for the “Empty Benches” section, please be advised that postings will be carried for 3 calendar months unless we are advised that the position has either been filled or is still active. Newest listings appear first. Listings carried more than one month will be arranged alphabetically by organization and will indicate the month they were first run. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping *The Trompette* accurate and up-to-date.

Send your concert notices, articles, and other materials to:

John Cecconi (MS Word is preferred)

Be sure to visit the Chapter Website: www.agowestchester.org.

Thank you!

John Cecconi
Lois Simmonds
The Trompette Editors

*Here is the LATEST issue of the
Westchester Chapter AGO Newsletter.....*

Inside:

**Alice's musings; New 2011-2012 Program
Schedule; Concert Schedule; Current
Substitute listing; Job postings ...and much
more!**

*Mark your calendar now and you won't miss an
important date!*

Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
The Trompette
John Cecconi &
Lois Simmonds, Editors