



The Trompette



The Newsletter of the Westchester Chapter - American Guild of Organists

JULY 2011

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From the Dean's Bench...

Summer is here, and opportunities abound for getting a fresh perspective on our music. Traveling to distant places gives us a chance to experience how other worshipping communities operate, and how their use of music is different from our own. With spirits made buoyant by sunny days, we're inspired to introduce new styles of choral music into our less formal summer services, or tuck away more ambitious musical revelations for the fall.

A lucky chance recently gave me the opportunity to hear King's College Chapel Choir sing evensong (yes; the one that sings *Lessons and Carols* at Christmas) in their Chapel at Cambridge, England. It was overwhelming, sitting literally in the pew right next to these amazing choir boys and men. For years our little Reformed Church choir has been very happy to sing a wide variety of music, but we have avoided the challenge of early Baroque, really polyphonic music. I hadn't realized how gorgeous this music can be, and how expressive. Now the challenge is to make 5 voices sing 8 parts!

Our May 22nd program with Professor Gavin Black gave us new insights to some well-known organ works, such as J.S. Bach's *Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor*. An engaging speaker, it was refreshing to hear that there is more than one way to sit and play the organ, and that because of physical differences, what works for one person may be impossible for another. We held the general meeting and induction ceremony for our new board members, **Eileen Laurence** and **Frank Miller**, and our new Chaplain, **John Ceconi** asked for blessings on our proceedings. Thanks to **Tom Zachacz** for arranging for Prof. Black's visit and for the refreshments. Thank you also to **Mi-Won Kim** and **Jeremy Goldsmith** for hosting us at The Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow.

Also inspiring was the recital **Frank Miller** gave Saturday, June 11th at First Baptist Church, White Plains for their 140th anniversary celebration. Frank arranged almost all of the music on the program himself. According to him, he was just responding to requests from a previous audience. Among his many transcriptions, we were entertained by Johann Strauss' "The Blue Danube," Richard Rogers' "South Pacific" and Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever". The wonderful creativity of sound, the lushness of much of his registrations (there were 'three organs in one' – liturgical, theater and orchestral, plus MIDI and some very special effects!) but most of all Frank's skillful and dedicated performance in the spirit of each of the composers, made for an unforgettable evening. And I learned that I need to use a wider range of dynamics on the organ!

Good luck with your own fresh starts!

Alice Avouris

Dean

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Website:

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Westchester AGO
2010-2011 Chapter Events

"Wanamaker Organ Day"

Saturday, June 25th

Kevin Walsh
Host

Macy's Department Store
Philadelphia, PA

**Van pick-up at 7:00 am at
Valhalla United Methodist Church
200 Columbus Ave., Valhalla, NY**

**You may bring a bag lunch
Arrive at Macy's at 10 am
Van pick-up at Macy's at 7:00 pm
Arrive back in Valhalla around 10 pm**

(Included as a reminder to our electronic subscribers)

Concert Calendar

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 peace of great churches be for you,
Where the players of lofty pipe organs
Practice old lovely fragments alone.*

Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) "For You"

We have a new member:

Chia-Li Sung

Reminder:

***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 preparing a history for Westchester Chapter. However, he has absolutely no program information for the years 1973-1998. If anyone has any information, even if it's only one Chapter program, please contact Bob at his email address, so the blanks can be filled in. He also has no data on the Dean, Frederick Young (1971-72).

Reads & Mixtures

On Sunday, June 5th, our colleague **Margaret Kim** played a well-attended recital at the Scarsdale Community Baptist Church. The occasion was the rededication of the Richard Minnich organ, which was rebuilt by John Randolph. Aside from some lavish hymn arrangements, Margaret's program included some real standouts. The first solo on the program was Bach's *Passacaglia & Fugue*, which was very neatly played. This is quite a feat, considering that this fugue is usually regarded as Bach's most difficult organ work. Other showpieces on the program (*Toccatas* by Boëllmann and Dubois, and Vierne's *Carillon de Westminster*) were played very clearly and accurately. Margaret handled the sizeable organ with apparent ease, and the audience was unanimous in its appreciation.

-Review provided by **Tom Zachacz**

The Board met to discuss programming for next year. Many intriguing ideas were shared and discussed – and you'll have to wait till at least the August newsletter to learn more! Meanwhile, call or send Alice your own ideas and we will try to incorporate them.

We hope to see lots of the membership at the Region I and II convention, coming up soon! For information, please check www.AGO2011NJ.COM or look in the latest TAO magazine.

AGO National has announced "Grow the Guild", a grass-roots effort to strengthen its membership nationwide by empowering local chapters to focus on recruitment and retention. Westchester Chapter will be participating in this program. It is a friendly challenge to chapters: Increase membership by (net growth of) 2 percent or 2 members, whichever is greater. The Chapter wins either way, through the influx of new members and prizes for chapters that win by meeting the challenge goal. The program will run from June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012. Winners will be determined after chapters have let Membership know that they have met the 2% growth and after national dues reconciliation has been completed, which ends 3/15/12.

Prizes in store for the first-, second-, and third-place chapters are:

- Third Prize: \$500 to chapter to use as they wish
- Second Prize: \$1,000 for a rising star recital
- First Prize: \$3,500 for a major concert artist recital

Church Bloopers from **Frank Miller**:

- Please stand and sin for the Hymns.
- Potluck Supper for Thursday night. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Parents, for those of you that have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- To help celebrate Easter, Mary Lewis will lay an egg on the altar during the offering.
- A special collection is being taken for the new chancel carpet. Anyone wishing to do something on the new carpet should come forward during the offering and do it.
- Please plan to attend the National Prayer and Fasting Conference at our church. Your registration includes three meals.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. This is a chance to get rid of those things you don't want to keep. Don't forget your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you – let the church help.
- The Sermon topic is, "Where is Hell?" Come early and listen to the choir warm up.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.
- Bible Study will be at 10:30 am on Thurs. A light lunch will be served after the BS.

Empty Benches

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCARSDALE, NY

Seeking a part-time organist for Sunday service: 10 AM worship. We have 40-50 worshipers, a "new start" congregation, many of whom can sing, and mostly young families who appreciate a mixture of contemporary/praise song and traditional hymns from the Lutheran Book of Worship and With One Voice. The congregation enjoys both organ and piano, is growing and attracting new members who seek community and who love music of all kinds. The position currently pays \$175 per service with no choir - negotiable with growth and additional benefactors. If you are interested, send a resume and note to: pastor@gracelutheranscarsdale.org.

In Memoriam

David A. Pizarro, AAGO

Died on February 23, 2011 at age 79

Dean of the Westchester Chapter 1982-1984

His obituary may be found in the June TAO

To the Board of the Westchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists:

I want to be sure to express my heartfelt thanks for your great kindness on the occasion of the Three Organists Spectacular. I was very moved by your generous words and will cherish your gifts forever. It truly has been an honor and privilege to know you all and to work with you in keeping our Chapter healthy (since 1975!). I know that I can trust you to ROCK ON. Furthermore, as I embark on a journey of new endeavors, I wish each of you happiness and fulfillment in your own.

Very truly yours,

Tom

P.S. - The cake was awesome!

To Tom, from the Chapter:

We think YOU are awesome. Good luck!

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; Concert Schedule;
Wanamaker Organ Event; "Grow the
Guild" Program ...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